

Rendcombian

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, Cirencester





Rendcombian

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Front Cover (Outside): Artists

(Inside): Community Service

Back Cover (Outside): Buggy Malone

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Contents

The Record 1

Rendcomb Diary.....	3
Col Sir Martin Gibbs.....	9
Lord Dulverton.....	10
Staff Changes.....	12

Reports

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.....	16
The Friends of Rendcomb.....	16
The Library.....	16
The Parents' Association.....	17
Community Service.....	18
Computing.....	18
The Junior House.....	19
Chaplain's Notes.....	20
Bursar's Notes.....	22
Careers.....	22

Founder's Day

The Chairman of Governors.....	23
The Head Master.....	23
The Guest Speaker.....	24
The Head Boy.....	25

Talks

Radon.....	25
Light Entertainment.....	26

Viewpoints

A New Boy's <i>Vade-mecum</i>	27
A Day in Lawn House.....	28
Being Thirteen.....	29
Rendcomb Hustings.....	30

Activity

Art.....	37
QP Concerts Revived.....	38
Concert in Cirencester.....	38
The English Guitar Quartet.....	38
Christmas Concert.....	39
Informal Concerts.....	39
The Choir.....	39
<i>Late Edition</i>	41
<i>The Trivial Things</i>	41
Debate.....	42
Cycling for the Diocese.....	43
Outdoor Pursuits.....	43
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	44
<i>Bugsy Malone</i>	45
Bell Ringing.....	46
Bridge Club.....	46
Photographic Society.....	46
Conservation.....	47
Rock Climbing.....	48
Creative Writing.....	48

Academic

University.....	49
Entrance Scholarships.....	49
'A' Level.....	50
GCSE.....	51

The Record 2

College and Meeting Officers.....	52
Valete, Salvete.....	52
OR Society Officers.....	53
News of Recent Leavers.....	53

Outings

Junior House at Jodrell Bank.....	54
Rugby in Canada.....	54
The John Wright Studios.....	56
Artists in Amsterdam.....	57
Stratford Theatre Trips.....	58
'Duke of Edinburgh' in Scotland.....	58
First-Year Biology Trips.....	59
<i>Carter USM</i>	60
Ridgeway Ride.....	60
Geography/Biology Field Trip.....	61
Rendcomb Air Show.....	61
Junior Citizenship.....	62

Sport

Rugby Football.....	63
Hockey.....	69
Cricket.....	76
Tennis.....	82
Judo.....	83
Netball.....	83
Archery.....	84



Rendcombian is now ten years old.

The Record 1

Rendcomb Diary

Births: On 2nd February 1991, to Anne and Chris Vickery a son, John Edward.

On 30th July 1991, to Marie and Lindsay Haslett a daughter, Katherine Victoria.

On 4th October 1991, to Aileen and Martin Graham a daughter, Laura Helen.

Deaths: On 17th December 1991, Emily May Fry, who worked in the College for 26 years, from 1952.

On 8th February 1992, Colonel Sir Martin St John Valentine Gibbs, KCVO, CB, DSO, TD, JP, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, friend and supporter of the College.

On 17th February 1992, Frederick Anthony Hamilton Wills CBE, TD, DL, second Baron Dulverton, for many years Trustee and Governor of the College.

Christmas Term 1991 September

1. Term began.



2. The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition returned from Snowdonia. During the whole week members of the Junior House took part in a Gloucestershire County Council Cycling Course leading to the Silver Cycle Award.
3. Higher Education Meeting for members of 6A.

4. General Meeting Elections: Andrew Pollard elected Chairman, James Grafton Speaker and Samantha Cato Secretary.
8. The Junior House visited Blenheim Palace.
Stable House Outdoor Pursuits.
9. During this week the new Activities Scheme began.
10. Community Service Scheme restarted.
12. First General Meeting of the year.
Talk given by a group of Samaritans to pupils in 6A and 6B.
14. Junior Forms' Sponsored Cycle Ride in aid of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches, in which 30 pupils and 10 adults took part.
The marriage of David Mead, College groundsman, and Gloria Hayman was blessed in the Parish Church. Parish Jumble Sale in the Village Hall.
15. A large number of members of the College attended the Inaugural Air Display and Open Day on the occasion of the re-opening of the First World War Rendcomb Airfield.
Junior and Godman Houses Treasure Trail and Barbecue.
20. Parish Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.
21. Several Rendcomb musicians took part in a concert in Chalford Church; the programme included works by Purcell and Britten.
22. Harvest Thanksgiving Service in the Parish Church.
23. 6A Business Studies students went to a Conference on 'Europe' at Wycliffe College. Mr Neville Home gave a talk on the Royal National Lifeboat Institute to the Junior House.



24. A party of 6A pupils went by minibus to London University's Open Day.
26. Mrs Valerie Elson, Admissions Tutor of Christchurch College, Oxford, visited and met pupils in 6A and 6B.
27. 6A Parents' Meeting.
28. ISIS Exhibition in Cheltenham.
29. The Parents' Association gave a reception for new parents in the Reading Room at 8 p. m. This was the first time such an event had been held, and it was greatly appreciated.

October

1. Visit by Primary School Heads. 6B Business Studies students were taken round new office premises in Swindon by an architect.
2. Dillie Keane gave her Cabaret Show, 'Citizen Keane' in the Dulverton Hall.



4. Baroness Warnock, a Governor of the College, introduced a Boarding Schools Association Conference in the Connaught Rooms in London, to start 'National Boarding Week'. Delegates included 200 Heads of British boarding schools.
5. Rendcomb College Open Day.
6. Informal Concert.
Godman House Outdoor Pursuits. Fourth Year outing to Cherington. Choir sang Harvest Evensong at Bremhill, Wiltshire.
8. Sixth Form English students saw *Romeo and Juliet* at the RSC, Stratford.
9. Visit of Primary School Heads.
12. Rendcomb musicians took part in the MusicMarathon in Cirencester Parish Church, in support of Christian Aid.
13. Stable House Outdoor Pursuits.
17. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Assessment Expedition to the Black Mountains.
18. Parents' Association Annual General Meeting.
29. The Choir sang the Deanery Evensong in the Parish Church.
31. Debate: *This House would make Euthanasia legal*. The motion was passed by a substantial majority.
Trip to London galleries for GCSE and 'A' level Art students.

November

3. Informal Concert.
Rendcomb musicians gave a concert in Stratton Church. Junior House Bonfire.
4. 6B 'Study Skills' Day, with evaluation of 'A' level courses.



10. Remembrance Sunday Service in Parish Church, attended by North Cerney Branch of the British Legion.
14. Debate: *This House believes that Press Censorship should be abolished*. The motion was defeated.
18. Oxford University Entrance Examinations.
22. Visit by Mr Sleightholm, Her Majesty's Inspector, who spent a day attending lessons and meeting staff and pupils.
Christmas Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
23. School Rock Group played at joint 6A/6Bbar in Park House.
28. *Twelfth Night* performed in the DulvertonHall.
29. *Twelfth Night*.
30. *Twelfth Night*.

December

1. Advent Carol Service in the Parish Church.
4. Rendcomb Rugby ClubDinner.
5. Christmas Dinner, Forms 1, 2 and 3.
6. Christmas Dinner, Forms 4 and 5.
7. Christmas Dinner and Dance, Sixth Form.
8. Carol Service, Cirencester Parish Church.
Term ended.

Easter Term 1992

January

5. Term began.
6. Higher Education Meeting for 6A.
7. Higher Education Meeting for 6B.
16. Visit of 24 Sri Lankan Education Officers with Mr Bob Smith from the London Institute of Education. In the evening a concert of dance and music performed by our visitors and by musicians from the college.
18. Parents' Association Bums Night Dinner. Toast to the Bard: Mr Allan Hare, Association Chairman. Guest Speaker: Mr Alec Hamilton.

February

1. 6B went to see *Affairs in a Tent* by Alan Ayckbourn at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham.
2. QP Concert: Janet Upton, flute, and Gail Darby, clarinet.
8. Visit of James Flecker, Head Master of Ardingly College, and Mrs Flecker, to address a staff meeting. Weekend Conference of the Holbrook Group. Staff discussion of the Children Act with guests including Peter Stone, Head of the Social Services Inspectorate, Brian Fitzgerald, Senior HMI with responsibility for Boarding, and Evan Anderson, Research Officer of the Boarding Schools Association.
9. Informal Concert: third-year pupils.
13. Debate: *This House would go fox-hunting*. The motion was passed by 43 to 23.
14. 'A' level artists in Amsterdam until 17th.
15. Cotswold Hunt Ball.
19. Open Meeting in the Dulverton Hall with Vivian Anthony, Secretary of the Head Master's Conference: 'The Future of the Sixth Form'.
21. Wind Band Workshop evening.
23. Informal Concert: Wind Band performance.
24. The Choir sang at Lord Dulverton's funeral in Batsford Church.
29. Sixth Form Open Day.
Rock Concert by *The Trivial Things* in the Dulverton Hall.

March

1. Confirmation by the Bishop of Tewkesbury: 19 candidates from school and village were confirmed.
2. Entrance scholarship exams began.



The Christian Brann Challenge Cup, for the highest sum of money raised by a Youth Group, was presented to Rendcomb's team in the Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride.

3. Rendcomb musicians gave a concert at Ashton Keynes.
4. The Choir sang Evensong for Ash Wednesday in the Parish Church.
8. A talk was given to members of 6B and their parents on 'University Entry' by Brian Heap in the Dulverton Hall.
12. The Choir sang Choral Evensong in Bristol Cathedral.
14. First Form Concert in the Reading Room.
17. A visit by Mrs Carolyn Humphry, an Inspector from the Social Services Department.
The College was represented at the Memorial Service for Sir Martin Gibbs in Gloucester Cathedral.
19. The ninth Michael Wills Memorial Lecture, on Radon, was given by Dr Dennis Henshaw of Bristol University.
20. The College was represented at the Memorial Service for Lord Dulverton in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford.
21. Paul Sumsion sang Stanford's *Sea Songs*, Elisa Diihmke played the solo part in Mozart's Piano Concerto no 23 and the Choral Society sang Britten's *Saint Nicholas*, with invited orchestra conducted by David White, in Cirencester Parish Church.
22. Term ended.

Summer Term 1992

May

1. First Form Biology trip to Slimbridge.
2. Orchestral Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
5. Gloucestershire Classics teachers met at Rendcomb.
6. The Sixth Form saw *The Taming of the Shrew* at Stratford.
7. Geography GCSE 4th-year Course work Field Trip.
9. 6B visited Bristol University Open Day.
12. Geography GCSE 4th-year Coursework Field Trip.
13. Choral Evensong in the Church, followed by the Choir Dinner.
14. Secondary Heads Association AGM and Annual Dinner at Rendcomb.



17. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' two-day Practice Expedition
21. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition to Ben Nevis.
22. 'A' level Artists' Exhibition Private View.
23. Founder's Day: Guest Speaker Martin Rogers, Esq., Director of the Farmington Institute.
28. The Junior Play, *Bugsy Malone*, in the Dulverton Hall.
29. *Bugsy Malone*.
30. *Bugsy Malone*.

June

1. The First Form attended the Gloucestershire Police Junior Citizenship Course.
3. Dinner for the Committee of the Society of Heads of Independent Schools.
5. Informal Guitar Concert in the Reading Room.
7. Parents' Association Cricket Match against Staff, followed by Barbecue - match drawn despite innings of 76 not out by the Deputy Head Master - £1, 500 raised for Geography Department computer equipment.
9. 3rd-year pupils took part in key stage 3 National Curriculum Pilot Tests.
13. Third Form Band Rock Concert in Stable House.
Fifth Form Farewell Barbecue.
Talk in Reading Room by Jonathan James-Moore, Head of BBC Radio Light Entertainment.
19. Leavers' Dinner. Chairman: Mr Jonathan Powell. Speakers: Mr Michael Craddock and Mr Antony Palin.
20. Leavers' Service. Preacher: Mr Bill White. Reader: Mr Michael Craddock.
Buffet lunch for leavers and their parents.
'Cello Recital by Rachel Howgego in aid of Cotswold Care.
21. Third Form Barbecue at Godman House.
23. Introductory Visit for new third-formers and their parents.
24. 6B Business Studies students went to Burmah Castrol conference.
27. Cricket Week began.
Trip to Reading University Open Day.
28. Old Rendcombian Day. OR Society AGM. Cricket match, won by school. Lunch for ORs in the Dulverton Hall.
29. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' overnight expedition.
30. 6B trip to Oxford: Pembroke College Open Day and Science Faculty Open Day.

July

1. Three-day Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Award Expedition to Dartmoor.
2. Trip to Lord's for the 'Varsity Match, J. Carroll (OR) playing for Cambridge.
Fourth Form trip to the Tate Gallery.
3. 6B trip to the Higher Education Fair, Islington.
Cricket team from Victoria College, Jersey, stayed overnight.
Cricket Week ended.
4. Barbecue for 6B and Fourth Forms.
5. Term ended.
18. Two one-day international cricket matches, Wales U15 XI against England
19. U14 XI. Teams stayed overnight.

Rendcomb's 75th Anniversary

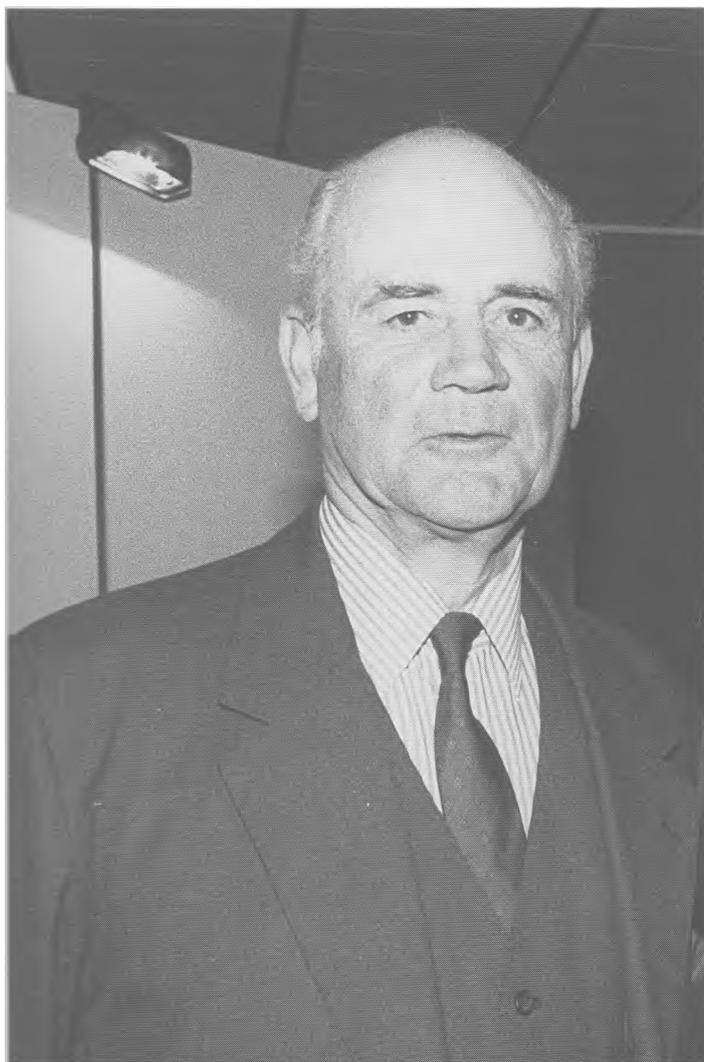
The College Future Policy Working Party has been asked by the Governors to act as an initiator, recipient and co-ordinator of ideas for the celebration in 1995 of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the College.

The Working Party would welcome any suggestions for the suitable marking of this occasion; please pass them to me at no 17, Rendcomb.

DAVID SELLS



Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs



Rank Xerox News

We were greatly saddened, on the morning of 9th February, to hear of the sudden death the previous evening of Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, less than 24 hours before he was due to carry out his last engagement as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, representing the Queen at a service in Gloucester Cathedral to mark the fortieth anniversary of her accession.

Sir Martin, or 'Colonel Tim' as he was affectionately called by most people, was educated at Eton and commissioned into the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry in 1937. On the outbreak of the Second World War he went with them to Palestine and subsequently to Iraq, Persia and the Lebanon before the regiment joined the 8th Army in North Africa. During the battle of El Alamein the RWY was in the vanguard of the attack and, with Colonel Gibbs in command, played a vital role in the early stages of the battle. The success of their mission, despite heavy losses, was largely due to his tactical skill and leadership and, though he was seriously wounded, his ability to maintain morale in such desperate conditions was outstanding and led to his being awarded the DSO.

After the war he returned to farming and public service in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, serving as High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1958, appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire in 1972 and succeeding the Duke of Beaufort as Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire in 1978.

In 1947 he married Mrs 'Maimie' Wills, the widow of Captain Michael Wills, MC, the elder son of the Founder, and he began his long association with Rendcomb. For a number of years he was concerned with the administration of the Rendcomb Estate and was a familiar figure in the village, but even after he handed that responsibility over to Major Tom Wills, the Founder's grandson, he maintained his interest in village and college and was regularly to be seen at Founder's Day and other college functions.

Colonel Tim was a great friend of Rendcomb, always pleased to give advice, to help in any way he could. We shall all miss his cheerful smile, his great sense of humour and his keen interest in anything to do with young people, and we extend our deepest sympathy to Lady Gibbs and the other members of his family at their great loss.

P. J. S



Lord Dulverton

It was with a sense of shock and sadness that we learnt of Lord Dulverton's death on 17th February; he had been a friend and benefactor of Rendcomb for so long. As usual with the passing of a friend, whose familiar presence and support one comes to take for granted, after the shock we began to assess and realise our loss.

Lord Dulverton was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford. Essentially a countryman, listing his occupation as 'forester', he became a leading expert in that field. He served as President of the Timber Growers' Organisation and as Chairman of the Forestry Committee of Great Britain. Those of us fortunate enough to have visited his arboretum at Batsford have been profoundly struck by its breath-taking beauty.

His interests in the country, apart from forestry, were catholic. He was a conservationist long before the word became common currency: unlike many 'conservationists' today, he approached the problems of the countryside with the practical realism of wide experience. A Trustee of the World Wide Fund for Nature and of the Wildfowl Trust, expert on the husbandry of deer, wildlife photographer and writer on country matters, he combined artistic sensitivity with plain common sense.

It was perhaps his concern for the country that led him to a keen interest in territorial soldiering. He was commissioned into the Lovat Scouts (TA) in 1935 and served with them during the Second World War. After the war he conceived the idea of the Overlord Embroidery, 34 panels each eight feet by three, which he commissioned and presented to the nation. It now hangs in the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth, a spirited riposte to the Bayeux tapestry.

In 1949 the first Lord Dulverton had founded the Dulverton Trust, which was to concentrate its activities in two fields, conservation and youth.

When, on his father's death in 1956, Lord Dulverton became Chairman of the Trust, his interest in the second of these two fields led him to become a Trustee and Governor of Rendcomb College, founded 36 years earlier by his uncle, Noel Wills.

During the following years, until and indeed after his resignation as a Governor and Trustee of the College in 1983, Rendcomb enjoyed not only the wise and sympathetic counsel of this distinguished and sensitive man, but also a series of material benefactions from the Dulverton Trust and from Lord Dulverton himself. These started with the gift in 1954 of a magnificent organ for the Parish Church, to be used by countless Rendcombians learning to play the instrument, and continued to include the gift - with Sir David Wills - of the swimming pool in 1961, followed by the Language Laboratory in 1968 and a substantial interest-free loan in 1977. The development plan, completed in 1987, could not have been realised without very generous

support from the Dulverton Trust. This year, which sees Rendcomb's first day pupils, the College received further support from the Trust for five day scholarships. Finally, there are those Old Rendcombians who owe their education here to Lord Dulverton personally.

It is fitting that the Assembly Hall, made from the old conservatory and opened in 1982, should be called the Dulverton Hall, thus allowing the name of one of the College's chief benefactors to become a household word for generations of Rendcombians. It is fitting too that the young trees planted in front of the College in what used to be called 'the flying field', which will give pleasure to everyone for many years to come, were Lord Dulverton's personal gift.

In the latter years, like all of us, he was prey to the infirmities of age, in his case increasing deafness, which led him at times to a trenchant expression of his views, a gruffness behind which his kind-hearted humanity was always discernible. I recall with pleasure his intervention at lunch on Founder's Day 1991, sadly to be his last visit to the school, when he pointed out that Rendcomb must not be ashamed of the fact that it owed its existence to the tobacco industry.

The nation has lost a true Englishman, practical, accomplished, sensitive and generous; the countryside has lost a keen champion. Rendcomb's loss, closer to home, has been grievous indeed.

D. deG. S.



Staff Changes

Last September we welcomed Mr Ian Patterson, who joined us to teach Physics and Technology, and Mr Michael Slark, who came to teach Business Studies. Interviews with them, and with Mr Russell Riste, the new College Caterer, will be found elsewhere in this issue.

This summer we say goodbye to Michael Craddock, David Bowman, Miranda Mather and Sian Roberts. Appreciations of their work at Rendcomb follow.

Next term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Lorraine Harrison, from Hatherop Castle School, who will replace Dr Craddock for one term before Mr John Watson, from Holmewood Preparatory School, arrives to join the English Department.

Michael Craddock

Mike Craddock came to us in September 1985. Already on his arrival he was highly qualified, with a First in English at York University, and he eventually managed to add to this a D. Phil from York, his specialist area being Cervantes. To manage this while working full-time at Rendcomb was no small achievement.

At the College he was a great help in sustaining academic standards within the English Department and taught at all levels, from the diminutive Form 1 brigade to lofty Oxbridge hopefuls. He was patient with the ignorant, less so (rightly) with the indolent, and stimulating to 'A' level travellers; four Oxbridge entries in English were obtained during his time here.

He will be particularly remembered, perhaps, for his colourful and imaginative dramatic productions of all shapes and sizes. Gilbert and Sullivan (taboo for some

years here) productions were a huge success: first *HMS Pinafore* and then the even more ambitious *Pirates of Penzance*, the latter with Denis Price as 'the very model of a modern major-general' supported by choruses of sixth-form beauties and some rugby-playing police. A cascade of some of the great Shakespeare comedies followed: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado about Nothing* (with Jessica Naish outstanding as Beatrice) and the recent *Twelfth Night*. All were conspicuous by their inventiveness and attention to detail, triumphing over limited resources in many cases. One remembers also the excellent *The Real Inspector Hound* (Tom Stoppard), which a talented 6B group put on with Mike's assistance, *The Government Inspector*, junior productions like *Animal Farm* and *Our Day Out*, and others.

Mike has, in addition, co-ordinated the school magazine and, with David Sells and some hard-working editorial staff, helped to raise the standard considerably in the past few years. Many hours of patient, unobtrusive toil have been put in here. He has also used his talents occasionally on piano and organ and, last but certainly not least, has acted in recent years as a sympathetic tutor to year-groups in School House.

For all the above, the College can be extremely grateful, as Mike leaves us to take on the job of Head of the English Department at King's, Gloucester. For my own part, too, I deeply appreciate his friendship and support over seven years - like Polonius, the other side of the arras! - and will remember our many visits together to faculty conferences, the theatre and the opera, sharing our enthusiasm for Shakespeare, Mozart, Verdi *et alia*.

We congratulate him warmly, then, on his elevation and wish him luck in the next stage of his career; at least he has the good sense to remain in Gloucestershire, so the cord may not be wholly severed.

J. N. H.



David Bowman

David Bowman came to us in September 1990 after a spell teaching in Barrow Hills, a prep school in Surrey, and taking a Maths degree and a PGCE at Cambridge. He threw himself with tremendous energy and enthusiasm into everything he did here. His teaching in the Maths Department was innovative and inspirational, and he always demanded that the pupils themselves were at the very centre of their learning process. He devoted himself to encouraging the pupils to think and to find out for themselves and spent many hours helping them on their way to greater understanding. He was also a valuable sports coach, always concerned above all that the pupils thoroughly enjoyed whatever they were doing, and encouraging many on various expeditions to try out new sports and adventures.

David had a deep belief in all the pupils he came across and was always keen to do his best for them. At times he found some of the routines of boarding-school life inhibiting; he was refreshingly ready to question educational priorities and values that he felt had become unthinkingly accepted. In this he was always inspired by a strong belief in the pupils and a faith in the ultimate value of education.

David will certainly be remembered very fondly by many of the pupils for his almost legendary hours of extra-curricular supervision. Whether it was evening swimming sessions, surfing trips to Newquay in Cornwall or many patient hours of advice and counselling to members of Lawn House, David was always at his best when helping the pupils, many of whom owe him a deep debt of gratitude. We wish him good luck in his new job in September, as he undertakes his African safari to Hillcrest Secondary School in Nairobi.

M. C. C.

Miranda Mather

This year we see the departure of Miranda Mather, Assistant Matron since September 1990. Miranda settled very quickly into the role of helping Julie Rogers run Sick Bay and impressed staff and students alike with her patience, kindness and efficiency. In a busy boarding school such as Rendcomb, matrons' duties tend to extend far beyond the important job of tending the sick and ailing, and Miranda found herself doing all manner of things, from sewing costumes for school plays to serving cricket teas. All these things she has done with great good humour, and she will be missed by everyone for her calm, professional approach to her work and for her interest in the school, which went far beyond her allocated duties.

I personally shall miss her wonderful sense of humour and fun, which has been a marvellous tonic at

staff supper after a long, hard day at the chalk face. Her sense of perspective has made her a particularly valuable person to have around in a lively and busy school, and many staff and students alike will miss her level-headed, sensible approach to life. We would all like to wish her the very best of luck for the future, as she pursues a Health Studies Course at Thames Polytechnic.

M. C. C.

Sian Roberts

Sian came to join the Biology Department two years ago, when numbers in the Sixth Form became 'too hot to handle'. She had previously taught 'A' level Biology at Wycliffe College and Cheltenham Technical College.

From the first, nothing was too much trouble. She unstintingly gave of her time, impressing her quiet, calm good sense on me and all the students who encountered her. Modest by nature, and as a mother of three herself, she always had the care and well-being of her select band at heart. It was with this privileged group of seven that she became such an integral part of the Rendcomb Biology Department. She will be remembered with affection on many scores, but not least for her inexhaustible supplies of maggots!

B. M. G.



Michael Slark



Interviewed by Hugh Costelloe

Mr Slark came to Rendcomb in September to teach Business Studies. He has been married to Ann for nine years, and they have a two-year-old daughter, Emily. He was educated at a London preparatory school and at Canford School in Dorset and then took his degree at Hull University. He has had a varied teaching career to date, including a spell teaching French just after university, History and Economics at KCS, Wimbledon, and five years as Head of Business Studies at Pierrepont School in Surrey.

Why did you come to Rendcomb?

I had been at Pierrepont for five years, and it was enough; I felt that I was not contributing anything new and I wanted to avoid the possibility of getting into a rut. I miss my colleagues, but I don't regret my move; I think it is important to be mobile in the early part of your career.

Are you trying to escape from boredom, as far as teaching goes?

I am certainly looking for new challenges. One of the interesting aspects of the job here is that it involves lecturing at the Royal Agricultural College; this is a new departure for me, and I enjoy the variety. Also, I feel that perhaps I don't have a great natural rapport with younger children, so teaching sixth-formers and undergraduates tends to suit my approach.

You say you don't like to get into a rut; does that imply that your future at Rendcomb is undecided?

I'll be here for a while yet, well into next week, I'm sure!

Rendcomb claims to be an unpretentious, friendly, non-competitive school. Do you think this is the right attitude to take?

I admire the atmosphere here very much, although it can be a bit bewildering at first, especially if you are used to a more formal routine. For example, I am not at my best in the mornings and, when I walk from my house to the main building, it is quite amazing the number of people who greet me; the prospect of saying 'good morning' to what seems like every pupil in the school is quite daunting to someone barely prepared to speak to his wife before nine o'clock.

Do you think that first-formers should be treated differently from members of the Sixth Form, and how much freedom should the sixth-former be given?

There has to be a difference between what you expect from younger pupils and from, say, sixth-formers. I think that, once a student reaches the Sixth Form, he or she should have a sense of academic responsibility, and this should develop with maturity. In general, I feel that someone who has opted for an 'A' level course should be sufficiently motivated to do the work without having to be prodded all the time.

When you are breaking in a set of sixth-formers, what attitude and method do you use?

Well, what I try to do is make it clear from the start what I expect. I believe, as I have said, in instilling a strong degree of academic responsibility.

As you have intimate knowledge of the business world, why did you choose to teach the subject, as opposed to setting up in business yourself?

My father has been a successful business-man, but he has been prepared to devote his life to it; I prefer a more balanced existence.

Are you particularly interested in sport?

Yes, most sports, but rugby in particular. I played for Dorset and Wiltshire as a schoolboy - not a particularly high standard, really - and I played a lot at university, but I didn't allow my social life to be dictated by it. And when I arrived at Pierrepont I found that I was only ever talking to colleagues about the school, so to break out of this I joined Farnham RFC, where I became quite heavily involved. However, I broke my wrist two years ago, in the last game of the season, and since then I have damaged my back playing cricket, so my playing days are probably over.

What do you think of Rendcomb rugby?

This year I have run the U15 'A' team - quite a change from the Pierrepoint 1st XV - but at least it gives me some contact with pupils outside the Sixth Form. All I ask from any team is that they give me one hundred per cent, which the boys here generally do. I've watched the 1st XV a bit and I'm impressed by their commitment.

Also, Mr Slark paid tribute to his predecessor, Gareth Thomas, and the enormous amount of goodwill he generated. He was going to be a hard act to follow, but Mr Slark was pleased to be working closely with him at the Royal Agricultural College.

We wish him the very best of luck at Rendcomb and at the RAC, and we hope he will continue to enjoy himself as much as he is obviously doing now.

Ian Patterson

Interviewed by Ben Greene

We are pleased to welcome Mr Ian Patterson to his post as teacher of Physics and Information Technology, filling the vacancy left by Mr Bradfield. Mr Patterson was born on 4th June 1957 in Birkenhead, Merseyside, the only child of his family.

It was in Merseyside that he spent most of his youth, going first to Wallasey Grammar School and then on to Technical College to obtain his Ordinary National Diploma in science. He comments that he was always a hard-working pupil and enjoyed his education. He completed this at Coventry Polytechnic, where he obtained qualifications in Biology and Chemistry, and Walsall College of Higher Education, where he took his PGCE. Throughout his education Mr Patterson managed to maintain his interest and talent in cross-country running. He also enjoys parascending, and his sporting skills are already being widely used at Rendcomb.

His first job was at Rushy Mead School, Leicester, where he taught from 1981 until 1988, before going on to another state school, Ramsey Abbey in Cambridgeshire, where he became a member of the Ramsey Roadrunners cross-country team.

Mr Patterson recalls how impressed he was by Rendcomb when he came for his interview, particularly by its relaxed and friendly atmosphere. He had long been interested in the idea of working in a boarding school, and he wanted a school where the quality of teaching and education in general were higher.

His initial impressions and expectations of the school have been fully confirmed, and he remains very impressed by the range of opportunities, especially in subjects such as music, which, he observes, simply are not available in state schools. Being at school seven

days a week opens up opportunities for so much more activity, particularly at weekends. He feels also that the boarding houses at Rendcomb are excellent compared to many he has seen, and he is delighted by the friendliness of both staff and pupils. He comments also on the size and splendour of the school grounds, which he did not fully appreciate until he arrived.

Apart from teaching Physics and Information Technology, Mr Patterson takes part in cross-country running and coaches rugby and hockey; he is impressed by the way in which rugby is flourishing in the school. His only real criticism of the students is that they do not always make full or good enough use of their spare time; there are so many opportunities here, and it is a shame that they are not always fully employed.

Mr Patterson's good humour and dedication have already begun to make their mark at Rendcomb, and he is thoroughly enjoying his time here. We wish him, his wife Yvonne and his sons Jon-Paul and Ashley, a happy, fulfilling and long stay with us.



Russell Riste

Russell Riste, who came to Rendcomb as our new Catering Manager on 17th February, was interviewed by Sarah Fox and Helen Hall-Wright.

Russell Riste was born in Portsmouth and first became interested in catering at about the age of 14, whilst he was still at school. On leaving school, he attended Highbury Technical College, where he studied catering for three years and obtained a City and Guilds qualification and a Diploma in Professional Catering in his final year.

In 1979 he joined Fairfields catering company. His first job with them was at a girls' school at Bexhill-on-Sea and lasted for two years. During the next six years he worked as a chef at a number of hotels, enjoying the practical side of catering.

Russell found, after working in the hotel business, that it was ideal for a single person, but after marrying four years ago he decided to go back to catering in schools, the working hours being more convenient for a family man. This time he went into the management of

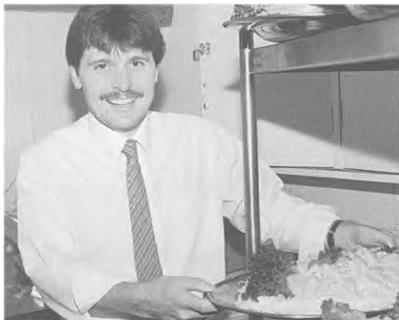
school catering in the private sector, again with Fairfields.

Since Russell came to Rendcomb there have been many changes in the dining hall, including an improvement on the presentation of the hot-plate and a healthy change from whole-cream milk to semi-skimmed. Also much enjoyed was the 'Italian theme day', which was an experience for us all.

He has many other plans to introduce between summer and Christmas, such as new menus, restructuring the salad bar and providing generally more healthy foods. Also, the catering team are planning to have a 'theme day' every term, the next one to be organised by the kitchen staff, and subsequently perhaps in consultation with the Head Boy, Head Girl and other pupils.

Russell was attracted to his job at Rendcomb by the new experience of living in the country after many years in busy towns. He feels comfortable in the new surroundings, enjoying a new house and a better environment for his children to grow up in. He commented in particular on the friendliness of the staff at Rendcomb and the ease with which everyone gets on together.

Outside his work, Russell has enjoyed fishing since he was a child; living on the coast, it was very easy for his father to take him frequently. He has been quickly accepted here at Rendcomb, and we hope that he will continue to enjoy his job as much as he obviously does at present.



Reports

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

Statistically this was a year of very considerable success. The usual high percentage of fourth-year pupils gained their 'Bronze' Awards, presented to them at the Cotswold Area Award ceremony held early in the New Year. At the same time a number of our 'Gold' candidates achieved well-earned recognition when they also were given their badge or brooch.

The tally of successful 'Gold' candidates has been remarkable over the last 12 months, with no less than 18

pupils achieving this coveted award. The first Rendcomb girl, Sarah McIndoe, to reach the standard marked a new stage in the development of the Award Scheme at Rendcomb, and the success has been matched by several other girls. To date none of our successful candidates has visited St James's Palace to meet Prince Philip, but I am sure they will enjoy the experience when the occasion arises.

The usual wide range of skills were undertaken by candidates at all levels. Cookery remains as popular as ever, as does the 'D of E' tea which marks the point of assessment for the candidates and a social highlight for the staff. Photography presents a challenge to the experienced and beginner alike, and some delightful work has resulted. Community Service remains popular in the Service Section, with the incentive of assessment for the award ensuring that little extra commitment. The guided walks under the auspices of the Cotswold Wardens are now a regular feature of the summer calendar.

Expeditions were undertaken in the Peak District, Mid-Wales and the Lake District, with the assessment for 'Gold' taking place in the Black Mountains under the critical but fair eye of Mr Willson. The Bronze Award was assessed in the Forest of Dean under the control of Mr Newby and the novice but valued volunteer, Mr Thomas.

My thanks go to the expedition team, Dominic O'Connor, Mike Newby, Bridget Goldsmith and Gareth Thomas, and to all the members of the staff who so willingly give of their time to make the scheme the success it is at Rendcomb.

C. P. M. K.

The Friends of Rendcomb

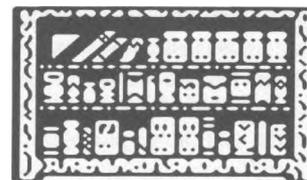
During the past year we have made a number of new Friends, and a number of old ones whose covenants had expired have generously renewed - and in some cases increased - them.

Wise investment of our funds by Messrs Cazenove has materially increased the market value of our assets.

The present economic difficulties once again underline the importance of our work; we are most grateful for the support we have received, and we hope to continue adding new Friends to the roll during the coming year.

D. de G. S.

Library



After the general reorganisation last year, the main focus of attention for the librarians has been the

individual sections of the library. With the co-operation of several department heads, many books have been added which will be useful for coursework and reference, both for GCSE and 'A' level. As more and more books are now available only in paperback format, both these and the similar books already in the library are being fitted with plastic covers.

The introduction of a selection of magazines has been a great success. Andrew Martin, who takes over as Head Librarian this year, has been responsible for keeping the display up to date and passing various issues on to the appropriate departments.

While we continue with the day-to-day work of the library, it is clear that a major revision of the catalogue is needed. In the present form it is of very limited use and is also probably rather inaccurate. It is likely that, if a computer is placed in the library for reference to careers information, it will be used also for producing a new catalogue.

After two years of excellent service to the library, both Linda Eklöf and Paul Sumsion have left. We are fortunate that Andrew remains to carry on the good work that all three of them have done. As Head Librarian, Linda was outstanding, and much of the recent success of the library is due to her efforts.

D. A. H.

The Parents' Association

The past year has seen sterling support of all the association's activities, in spite of the economic climate.

It was with this in mind that my Committee strove to lay emphasis upon the social aspect of our functions, whilst at the same time recognising that the school would certainly appreciate our financial efforts. Three very useful pieces of equipment were provided for the college:

Video camera and recording equipment	£1,500
Computer for Maths Department	£1,500
Satellite dish and equipment to receive global weather information for the	
Geography Department	£2,200

together with some smaller contributions:

Cricket nets	£360
Contribution to sixth form art-trip to Amsterdam	£500
Audio mixer for the Dulverton Hall	£100



Our first social event of the year was the New Parents' Evening, an opportunity for new parents to meet the Parents' Association Committee and some members of the staff over drinks and nibbles in a very informal setting in the Reading Room. This new idea was so well received that it will be a permanent feature in the school calendar.

The Bam Dance late in the autumn, with the talented, popular and persuasive *Odd Piece*, proved to be as popular and affordable as ever and has also become an annual event.

Bums Night was an altogether more serious affair, with great effort required from both the organisers and participants in the form of dress and manners appropriate to 'north of the border'. In what was to be his last great gastronomic performance at Rendcomb, Tom Gomersall excelled with Haggis and true ritual and, whilst accents left a lot to be desired - our tremendous guest speaker excepted - the formal gave way with great humour to energetic, albeit wayward, Scottish country dancing.



It is hard to imagine life at Rendcomb without the annual Family Day, Parent/Teacher Cricket Match and Pupil/Parent Tennis Tournament. As usual, the pupils, staff and parents worked hard behind the stalls and side-shows to put on a great event, and those in attendance seemed more numerous than ever before. Meanwhile the staff claimed a moral victory in the cricket match, a draw being declared just as the parents were on their last two pairs of legs, woefully short of runs and, finally, short of overs. The evening continued with the now familiar barbecue outside the Dulverton Hall, the terrace littered with relaxing and chattering parents,



pupils and staff, creating that rather special Rendcomb family atmosphere. Our thanks go to Russell Riste - on his inaugural Association event - and to his staff for the high standard of catering at this and every function. The financial result of this team effort was that, instead of merely *starting* to save funds for the Geography Department's weather equipment; we will be able to purchase this in time for the beginning of the autumn term.

It is the aim of the Parents' Association to give support to Rendcomb College in many different ways and to encourage a coming together of parents, pupils and staff not just through social events but with healthy dialogue, especially in these times of change for the school. We are grateful to the Head Master and all his Staff for their belief in and commitment to a strong Parents' Association, and above all we say 'thank you' to parents for their enthusiastic support.

ALLAN G. HARE
CHAIRMAN

Community Service

At the beginning of June the Head Master received a letter from the Manager of the Cirencester District Volunteer Bureau, which began, 'It is my pleasure to write to thank you, your staff and pupils for all the hard work that has gone into making the lives of our elderly much happier'. Whilst it is always nice to be the subject of complimentary letters, this one was particularly special, because it confirmed that we are achieving the aim we set ourselves at the beginning of each year: improving the quality of life of those senior citizens of Cirencester who have been entrusted to our care. One visit per week may not sound very much, but those visited do appreciate the company and help, and there is real evidence that they become less dependent on local medical resources. The value of the scheme was once again recognised by the Trustees of the Bingham Library Trust, who awarded us a generous grant towards our travelling expenses.

This year the scheme has involved 40 members of the Sixth Form, visiting 11 senior citizens on Tuesday afternoons. Some of those visited have been associated with the scheme since it began several years ago, and it is nice to know that many of them receive letters and cards from their original 'minders'. Mr Scrivens of Silver Street was just such a person, and we were all saddened to learn of his death when we returned from the Easter holidays. He was a great character, and we shall all miss him.

Last year we introduced the idea of an 'End of Year Tea Party' at Rendcomb, and following its success we repeated the venture this year. It was a splendid day, with the college and its grounds looking their best (see inside front cover). Sadly, not all our elderly friends felt up to the trip, but those able to come thoroughly

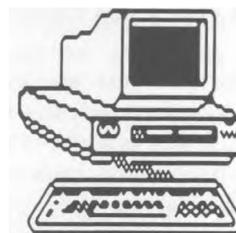
enjoyed their visit. If all goes well, next year we may try to go a little further afield.

As always, we shall lose half the members of the scheme at the end of the year. I know that they will all have gained something from it, and I hope that they will continue to give of their time and talents wherever they go. On behalf of those they have visited and befriended and on behalf of the college, whose reputation they have enhanced, we wish them well. To those who hope to continue with the scheme next year and to those who hope to join it: keep up the good work. We have a high standard to maintain.

Those involved in the scheme this year were: Melanie Caseldine, Samantha Cato, Zoë Davis, Shivnee Deen, Julia Dymock, Rowen Elmes, Rebecca Fowler, Sarah Fox, James Grafton, Helen Hall-Wright, Kate Hodgkinson, Tom Hughes, William Hunter-Smart, Tara Keegan, Mathieu Laroche, Graham Lawton, Alice Lethbridge, Nerys Machin, Ben Maybey, Danielle Meyers, Charles Morgan-Harris, Joanna Morse, Rosie Moser, Sonya Naish, Clare Newman, Matthew Norman, Lucy Payne, Andrew Pollard, Theo Ramsden-Hare, Kate Ravell, Patricia Renny, Jeremy Sawtell, Tanya Sayegh, Matthew Smith, Emily Tabassi, John Talbot, Sarah Thayne, Emma Thwaites, Juliette Ward and Clair Watson.

P. J. S.

Computing



Now that we have had the Nimbus network in use for two years, it is clear that the capabilities of the system have resulted in a raising of the standard of work produced by students at all levels. It is encouraging to note that members of the junior forms are showing an appreciation of the advantages of using Information Technology techniques in a wide variety of applications.

Computing continues to be a popular activity outside formal lesson time. This enables those who have not opted for a timetabled course to gain valuable experience. It results also in an increased rate of module completion by those who take the opportunity to do extra work.

Although we present the results only of those fifth-formers who have pursued the Cambridge Information Technology course as a GCSE option, it should be noted that several of those not completing five modules in the fifth year do so in the first year in the Sixth Form. Also, others start a course in the Sixth Form, obtaining as many modules as they can in the time available.

The following obtained the number of CIT module certificates shown after their names:

J. Bainbridge (5), P. Barry (3), N. Barton (5), P. Bigg-Wither (5), D. Chalk (5), B. Davies (5), M. Gee (7), D. Irving (7), C. Mason (5), C. Millard (5), M. Pentney (7), C. Waters (4).

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

D. A. H.

The Junior House

Mr Patterson and Miss Goldsmith provided two new smiling faces in the evenings when they were on duty, and the ever-resourceful Rosie Moser and Emily Tabassi proved to be outstanding house prefects. Physical changes included the refurbishing of Dormitory 2 with bunk-beds, tables and chairs, giving a



more civilised air to the room, the installation of a payphone, the replacement of the common-room chairs with seating of a much more comfortable design, and the fitting of more carpets to cut down on noise. More changes are planned for the coming year. A significant change to routine has been the moving of prep to the earlier time of 6.15 p. m., allowing the pupils more time for relaxation before bed.

Since cycling is so popular among the juniors, the Gloucestershire Road Safety Unit ran a Silver Cycling Course at Rendcomb at the start of the year. This is much more difficult than basic cycling proficiency schemes, and it included negotiating traffic on busy country roads. Skills learned during that week were then put into practice on the sponsored cycle ride round Gloucestershire churches, in which Team Rendcomb won the Christian Brann Trophy for raising the most money and which is reported separately. Enthusiasm for cycling did not wane during the year, and most of Form

2 rode mountain bikes over 50 miles of the Ridgeway, demonstrating impressive determination and stamina. It was good to see so many boys wearing helmets, which will be a compulsory accessory next year.

Early in the school year families of Godman and Junior House boys enjoyed an afternoon of 'quiz trails', which introduced new boys and their parents to the countryside round Rendcomb, whilst testing their powers of observation and deduction. The clue that caused the most consternation was *where would you find a chieftain with a grade A?* The event ended with a barbecue in the school grounds.



Parents' support at matches, plays and concerts was very good this year, and they were always willing to help out with activities, giving a real family atmosphere to the house.

In line with changes in the senior school, the juniors were subjected to a stricter programme of activities. This year, however, they were allowed to sample as many as possible, and the number was supplemented by several outside ones, such as caving and windsurfing, tirelessly run by Mr Bowman. Target club remained as popular as ever, and most members achieved a NSRA standard, the outstanding shot in Form 1 being Oliver Blackwell.

Several enjoyable outings took place, ranging from the serene grounds of Blenheim Palace to the bustle and excitement of the rides at Drayton Manor Park and Zoo. On a national theme, the confined conditions of the submarine *HMS Alliance* were noted during the visit to Portsmouth, which also included a close view of sharks and rays at the Sea Life Centre and an appreciation of the significance of 6th June 1944 at the D-Day Museum. The visit seemed most appropriate, because Lord Dulverton had commissioned the embroidery for the museum, and several juniors sang at his memorial service on the next day. The only person who took the national theme too far was Charles Barton, when he

slipped into the sea!

In the summer term we had a great deal to do with the emergency services in several ways: James Gibbs had a ride in an ambulance when he injured himself after one of his daring stunts; a team selected from Form 2 took part in the Gloucestershire Fire Quiz and were unlucky to be eliminated by too many specialist questions pertaining to agriculture; Form 1 attended the Gloucestershire Junior Citizenship Course, which is reported elsewhere.

It has been good to see members of this house really throwing themselves into sport, activities, *Bugsy Malone*, Christmas party sketches, Wilderness wars and examinations. They seem to have enjoyed this year as much as I have.



1938



1987



1992

P. S. Accelerated Change

Boys have slept in the Junior House for many years and, in the 50 years between the photographs taken of Dormitory 4, only duvets, curtains and an electronic alarm to waken the bellman signal the passing of time. However, in 1989 this large room was converted into two study bedrooms for the first girl prefects who, with subsequent pairs, have ensured the continuation of the scheme, originated by the Chaplain, by mixing sympathy, help and discipline in the right proportions, to ease new boys into the routine of boarding and to support the housemaster.

Now in 1992 we look forward to welcoming a number of junior girls and even more changes associated with their arrival. I wonder what I shall be writing in 1995, the 75th anniversary of the school's foundation?

C. J. W.

Chaplain's Notes

At Rendcomb we are fortunate to have the use of an old and beautiful church as our College Chapel. It stands in the centre of the college grounds and is a constant reminder to us as we go about our daily business, as it has been to the people of Rendcomb since 1520, that there is a spiritual side to our existence and that one aspect of our response to that side is best expressed when we come together as a worshipping community.

Consequently, it is a great pleasure to report that this year nearly all our memorable services have involved sharing the church with other Christians, joining with them to praise God and to thank him for all the blessings we enjoy. At the Harvest Thanksgiving in September College and Parish got together; at the Deanery Evensong in October it was College, Parish and the representatives of the churches of the Cirencester Deanery; in November the College and Parish welcomed the local branch of the Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday; at Advent and on St David's Day members of the College were joined by parents and friends for the Advent Carol Service and Confirmation Service respectively.

On all these occasions the Choir has given a strong lead in the singing and enhanced the beauty of the worship by the rendering of psalms, canticles and anthems. In addition to these 'home fixtures' the Choir has also 'played away', and its members have been great ambassadors for Rendcomb on a number of occasions, an account of which can be found in the Choir report.

The Confirmation Service is always a high spot in the year, and in March we were pleased to welcome, once again, the Bishop of Tewkesbury to conduct the service. A packed church heard the Bishop encouraging the candidates to allow the Holy Spirit to work in them

and through them for the good of all and the Choir singing Stanford's *Te Deum* and Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*. In all, it was a most inspiring service and one which all who attended, and especially the candidates, will remember for a very long time. Those confirmed were: Francis Barton, Steffan Bartlett, Charles Dudbridge, Sarah Essenhig, James Fairbank, Alistar Harris, Robert Hart, Giles Head, George Langlands, Matthew Morris, James Moore, Joanna Morse, Luke Nicholls, Christopher Oliver, Nicholas Pollard, Luke Prosser, Michael Steen, Juliette Ward, Tony Winstone.

Other visitors during the year included the Revd Nick Earle, former Head Master of Bromsgrove School, the Revd David Brindley from the Hereford and Gloucester School of Ministry, the Revd Howard Cocks from the group of parishes between Rendcomb and Cirencester and Mr Tim Greenslade from the Scripture Union. We are grateful to them all for taking the time to come and communicate the gospel to us in their respective and most interesting ways.

The last major service of the year is always the Leavers' Service. It has become traditional for those leaving to invite the preacher and also to choose the hymns. Once again this year, Mr Bill White was on splendid form as he reminded the leavers of what Rendcomb stood for, how they had benefited and could still benefit from what they had learned here, and how they could apply it in their post-Rendcomb existence for the good of others as well as for themselves. Dr Michael Craddock, a leaver himself, read the lesson, and the favourite hymns, *Jerusalem*, *Cwm Rhondda* and *To be a pilgrim* were sung with great enthusiasm. The influence of the Rugby World Cup was noticed this year with the inclusion of *I vow to thee, my country* as the fourth hymn. I always feel that such a service is a wonderful way for pupils to end their time at Rendcomb, and it is fitting that parents are able to join with them on what has become such a great day.

I have mentioned how much our worship is enhanced by the singing of the Choir, and I would like to thank them all, and especially those who are leaving, for their dedication and commitment during the year. Thanks are due also to Mr David White and Mr Stephen Lea for all that they do to encourage, train, conduct and accompany choir and congregation throughout the year. Mr David Hawkswell and Dr Graham Smith have continued to assist with administration of the chalice at Holy Communion, and this year Hamish Auld, Zoë Davis and Sonya Naish have undertaken the ushering and organisation of the offertory procession. The welcoming of worshippers and the seating arrangements at Sunday Morning Services and the organisation of Morning Prayers have been in the capable hands of our outstanding ushers, Rosie Moser, Iain Richardson, Jason Smith, Emily Tabassi and John Wheeler, whilst Mr Bill White has been an effective 'long stop', unobtrusively fielding anything that gets through the 'slips'. To all who have helped in any way I offer a very

big 'thank you'; it makes it much more of a community Church when so many people are actively involved.



Tim Shaw

We hear much today of the Church in a particular place being the members of the Christian community there, rather than the building itself. Whilst I support this view and believe that at Rendcomb the Church, identified in those terms, is flourishing, nevertheless, as I said at the beginning, we are blessed with an old and hallowed building, and it must be our duty and our joy to love and care for it. To this end I am most grateful to all those who have helped care for the Church during the past year, to Mr Frank Fry, who with his late wife Emily has looked after the Churchyard so well for so long - we were all greatly saddened to hear of Emily's death in December, and we shall miss seeing her putting flowers on the graves and keeping them tidy - to Mr Paul Kampe and his band of workers for all that they do inside and outside the Church, to Mrs Pat Edwards and her staff for the regular cleaning and tidying of the Church and to the talented band of ladies on the Flower Rota who keep it so beautifully decorated.

I hope that for those of you who are leaving Rendcomb the Church will remain a focal point in your memories of your time here, that when you think of Rendcomb you will be reminded of the Church itself, of the hymns you sang in it, of some of the readings, sermons, addresses and talks you heard during your time here, or perhaps of the peace of just sitting in silence or whilst the organ has been playing.

The Church will remain here, and I hope that you will come back and visit it and us in the years to come. But I hope that you will also remember that the real Church is the community of Christians wherever you are, and that you will not hesitate to make contact with it. On behalf of the Church community here, I wish you God speed and all the very best for the future.

P. J. S

Bursar's Notes

In September we welcome day-girl entrants into the lower forms and, from my point of view, we are doing our best to make them comfortable. We shall provide them with a small day-room in the Old Rectory, and they will have the use of the girl prefects' washing facilities. They will, of course, have full facilities also in Park House.

You will have read elsewhere in this issue that, sadly, our second Matron, Miranda Mather, is leaving us. She is being replaced by Mrs Judy Hunt, who is coincidentally a parent of a third-former joining in September. She is highly qualified and has much casualty experience; I hope that this will not be tested too often. I am confident that she and Julie Rogers will make a great team.

Tom Gomersall, our splendid caterer, has left us on promotion to Marlborough College. Whilst he was here, nothing was too much trouble for him and his staff, and we enjoyed a very high standard of food. Tom was always available, full of good humour, and he set high standards compatible with a rigorous cost-economy.



Our catering staff with awards received this year.

We warmly welcome his successor from Fairfields, Russell Riste, who has shown quite clearly that he intends to continue the same high standards and also to incorporate new ideas of his own. We had a splendid 'Italian Day' this term, which was much enjoyed by all, and I am sure that the 6A leavers and their parents will admit to partaking of a superb lunch before they left.

A first for Rendcomb was the letting of the Reading Room to the Fosseway Artists for the annual exhibition over the Easter bank holiday. This was a resounding success, and they are keen to return next year, possibly for a longer exhibition. Rendcomb was host also to the Cotswold Hunt Ball; this too was a great event.

Legislation on how the Bursar conducts his business seems to increase with monotonous regularity, and this places a strain on our tightly controlled resources. This legislation - the Children Act, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Act and the Food Safety Act, to name but three - seems also to generate inspections and paperwork. In February we received a visit from the

Cotswold District Council Environmental Health Officer, who came without notice to look at the kitchens. In May the Bristol Health and Safety Office sent two inspectors, giving me half a day's notice, to look at all aspects of our Health and Safety organisation. In June we were visited by an inspector from Her Majesty's Inspectorate, looking at our boarding arrangements in preparation for a Directorate of Social Services inspection sometime in the future.

We do welcome these inspections, made to ensure that we are not contravening the more important of the myriad regulations. All three inspectors expressed themselves content with the 'feel' of Rendcomb and found nothing untoward. Our kitchens were reported as being of a high standard, our Health and Safety precautions were pronounced sound and our boarding facilities found to be of a very high standard indeed.

We now look forward to the start of the new school year with more expectancy than usual, because of the change in our status from being an exclusively boarding school to accepting a few day-pupils and accepting girls at 11 and 13.

E. T. T.

Careers

This year's activities have followed the well-established pattern of previous years with two significant additions.

As an alternative to the Morrisby Aptitude Tests, we introduced 'Quest-5' from Cambridge Occupational Analysts. This was sampled by ten fifth-form students, and initial analysis suggests that it will again be available next year.

The Careers Convention, always held on the first Friday in March, was extended to a Careers Day, with the RAF Engineering Team giving a presentation for fourth-year pupils and the Engineering Council providing experts for the School Link Scheme.

Work Experience again provided a range of activities for those in the fifth year. In addition to the usual law, banking, estate agency, building society and retail management, we included hotel management, agricultural engineering, motor sales, service and management, and media studies.

R. K.



Founder's Day

The Chairman of Governors

Welcoming everyone to Founder's Day, Mr Torquil Norman, remarking on the brevity of the address made annually by one of his predecessors, Colonel John Godman, said he intended to make only a few comments. He spoke first of the school's sadness at the deaths during the year of Lord Dulverton and Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs, both staunch friends of Rendcomb, who had given wise counsel and help in so many ways.

He went on to thank the parents for their co-operation with the questionnaire sent out in January. Their comments had helped the Governors in their review of policy and led them to the decision to accept girls throughout the school. He was conscious that the school must be well organised to receive them and envisaged their arrival as an increase not only in numbers, but also in the breadth of the character of the school.

Mr Norman went on to thank the Parents' Association for their help with so many of the school's activities, including substantial financial support for a number of them.

Commenting on the importance of links with the maintained sector of education, he welcomed the Head Master's election as President of the Secondary Heads Association in the South-West of England.

In conclusion, he thanked the Governors and Trustees for their support during the past year, also the Dulverton Trust for their help with the recent development programme and beyond it, the Head Master and his wife, the Bursar and all the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for their work during the year, which went far beyond the limits of the curriculum and which made so much difference to the character of the school.

The Head Master's Report

The Head Master opened his report by remarking on a happy coincidence: it was just 20 years ago that Rendcomb had first admitted girls to the Sixth Form, and now they were to be welcomed into the school at all ages. The decision, once made, now seemed inevitable, even overdue.

The style of the school conceived by Noel Wills, friendly, cultured, free of aggressive competition, hospitable to art and music, valuing the individual above the pack and encouraging individual development, not very encouraging of clubs or cliques, such a style welcomed new comers. Rendcomb's aim would be simply to make the new girls feel part of the school as soon as possible.



Visit by pupils from Querns School.

Much could be learnt from other schools which had taken this step, but a more important element in Rendcomb's preparations was the experience and enthusiasm of Mrs Charlotte Holdaway. She had seen the girls in at the start, as Girls' Tutor, and for the past four years she and her husband John had lived with them in Park House. The school's optimism about the future was a great credit to the work the Holdaways and others, including the girls themselves, had done to make sixth-form coeducation such a success; he was delighted that Mr and Mrs Holdaway were the ones to guide Rendcomb into this new phase of its history.

The Head Master asked whether the school would then achieve perfection, at the top of all the 'league tables'. These judged performance wholly by exam results, and drew up an 'order of merit'. He was reminded of Thomas Gradgrind in *Hard Times*, 'a man of realities, a man of facts and calculations...'

Of course, exams did matter, and the school was proud of the five Oxbridge places gained this year. There were, however, many other achievements to be weighed in the scale: the success of Rendcomb's Gloucestershire Schools under 16 Cross Country Champion, now about to compete for a place in the English Schools' 3,000 metres Championship, remarkable piano playing and solo and choral singing, the achievements in art recently praised by HMI as 'quite outstanding', fine acting, librarianship, the winning of more than half the Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Awards in the county, the achievement of the cyclists who had again won the Christian Brann Trophy, of the Community Service team who made so many friends in Cirencester.

Also to be weighed in the scale were the school's superb surroundings, kept beautiful by the dedicated efforts of the Clerk of Works and the ground and domestic staff, and the sport, so much a feature of Rendcomb life that it tended to be taken for granted. Nevertheless it was an important part of education: it helped people to cope with success and failure, to demonstrate and develop physical courage and leadership, and simply to get on with other people. It

delighted him to see sport playing an important part in the lives of so many Rendcombians, taken in the right spirit of purpose and sportsmanship, whatever the result. This attitude, the participants would be the first to recognise, was absorbed from the staff. To all those who served Rendcomb's physical education, and to all the willing participants, he gave thanks and congratulations.

In spite of his mistrust of the simplistic values of league tables, the Head Master went on, it was clear that we all needed to know how well we were doing. The answers to the questionnaire sent out to parents in January had proved a marvellous starting point for the school's self-appraisal.

Thanking parents for the time and trouble they had taken over their answers, the Head Master added his appreciation of the work of the Parents' Association: not only had they raised funds to help a number of school projects and organised a number of greatly enjoyed social events this year, but also they acted as a sounding-board for ideas and opinions. He thanked the Committee for their work, and all parents who supported school events so loyally and cheerfully.

Parental opinion, he said without any wish to patronise, was becoming progressively better informed on education as the national discussion intensified. The maintained sector was becoming increasingly diverse and providing more competition for pupils. Rendcomb had close links and friendly relations with the maintained sector; the Chief Education Officer of Gloucestershire was a Governor of the school, and he hoped that his own presidency of the Secondary Heads Association in the South-West would help to strengthen these links further.

In this respect Rendcomb had a great deal to give as well as to receive. He was glad to see students from Cirencester joining Rendcomb's Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and children from local primary schools using Rendcomb's facilities. He welcomed the enlightened policy of the local Education Authority in offering training opportunities to teachers from independent schools in the county. The Assisted Places Scheme, potentially under threat at the time of the general election, was now safe for another few years, and there was time to strengthen and develop it before the next election.

Paying tribute to the excellent work done by prefects and staff and regretting that lack of time prevented his naming everyone involved, the Head Master said goodbye, on behalf of the school, to Miranda Mather, who had been Assistant Matron for the last two years, to David Bowman, who besides teaching Mathematics had contributed so much to so many school activities, and to Michael Craddock, who during his seven years at Rendcomb had given so liberally of his many talents and who was leaving to become Head of English at The King's School, Gloucester.

This year had brought also the retirement of Fred Tombs, who had served for more than 30 years on the

ground staff, and the sadness of the death of Emily Fry, who had worked on the domestic staff for 26 years.



Frank Fry (centre) planting a tree in memory of Emily.

In conclusion, the Head Master returned to the subject of league tables. Where, he asked, did they provide room for what really mattered, the flavour of life, the wisdom and humour of talks in morning chapel, the spirit which helped every member of the community to develop and blossom and which could well be called love? This spirit Wordsworth had found in nature:

... a sense sublime

Of something far more deeply interfused
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And round the ocean and the living air,
and the blue sky, and in the mind of man:
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things.

Address by Mr Martin Rogers, MA

Mr Rogers had stepped in at short notice to replace Lord Charteris of Amisfield, who was in hospital after a fall from his horse. He gave a very direct and relevant speech, drawing on his experience as Head Master of two schools and as a noted scientist.

Mr Rogers addressed the three main areas of personal development: education, the working career and retirement, and spoke of the trends emerging in the lengthening of people's education and the importance of preparing for longer retirement.

The main thrust of his speech centred on the link between school and further education and the need for students to take a 'year out' at some point before starting their working career. He quoted from a survey he had recently conducted among employers and universities, which stressed the importance of allowing students to 'stand on their own two feet', to gain in confidence and to develop personality.

Mr Rogers emphasised the importance of living

abroad for developing language skills, for experiencing different countries and cultures and thus being able to appreciate one's own home environment.

He then outlined the agencies through which young people could get jobs abroad and dealt with a number of objections commonly raised by students.

Turning his remarks to the Governors, he stressed that schools must uphold the values and beliefs with which children leave education, however variable the face of that education was.

In conclusion, to parents and teachers he quoted the words of an American head master:

'People often say our youth are our nation's future; they are wrong in so saying. It is what teachers and parents teach young people, what they teach by their words, by how they live, by what they do and say, by who they are. That is our future.'



James Sleeman, Cate Ravell and Nicholas Smith who have gained places at Oxford.

Speech of Thanks

by the Head Boy, Jonathan Powell

Thanking Mr Rogers for speaking to the school, in particular for his remarks about the 'year out' which he was sure would encourage many pupils to travel further afield after 'A' levels, and for doing so at very short notice, Jon Powell went on to review his experiences at Rendcomb.

As exams loomed ever closer, he had found himself remembering what had happened to him during the last few years. He remembered lazy days reading a book by the swimming pool, contrasted with the total self-commitment demanded by becoming a member of a rugby team, the smell of fish and chips wafting up the stairs from the kitchens on Fridays, getting lost in thick fog on Welsh mountain-tops on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, school plays in which he had seemed always to be cast as the village idiot, the 6A bar, about which his memory failed him...

However, life at Rendcomb had not always been fun and games; there was the serious side of preparation for exams.

He had been struck this year by the friendliness of the relations between forms, and this augured well for the introduction of younger girls.

It was the friendliness of everyone involved which made Rendcomb the place it was, and he hoped that the school would flourish in the years to come.

Talks

Radon

On 19th March Dr Dennis Henshaw, of the Department of Physics at Bristol University, came to Rendcomb to give the ninth Michael Wills Memorial Lecture. This year's topic was the presence and recently discovered effects of the naturally occurring gas, Radon.

His talk was complemented by diagrammatic wall-sheets showing the results of several surveys conducted throughout England and Wales by primary and secondary school pupils. Also included were statistical and illustrative overhead projections giving information varying from levels of Radon in the ground nationwide to 'how to protect your house from excessive Radon levels'.

Radon is present in all homes in England and Wales, but apparently in more concentrated form in some than in others. For example, in the High Street of a village south of Bristol all the houses have low levels of Radon except one, which has three times the average level of its neighbours.

The full explanation of this is beyond present scientific knowledge. However, it is known that Radon, which rises from the earth's crust, finds some types of rock impermeable; thus it will reach low levels above such rock types, but will escape at higher levels at the edges of these layers.

Little is known about this radioactive gas, which has been present since the earth was formed, but Dr Henshaw gave us the proven facts. Radon is found in higher quantities in houses with thin horizontal foundation and poor ventilation - double glazing has been found to increase concentration - as these two conditions permit entry and inhibit escape.

There is little you can do to rid your house completely of Radon, short of living in a concrete block raised on stilts and without windows. But is Radon, being radioactive, dangerous to mankind? There have been loose assumptions that it can be fatal at high levels. Although these theories are unconfirmed, connections have been established between high Radon levels and leukaemia and other cancer cases. Radon is probably the least likely cause of these diseases, but it may contribute to the ill-health of young children.

With this in mind, we did not leave the lecture pale-faced and checking the Radon levels wherever we went, as he assured us that Rendcomb has, luckily, a low and safe level.

Dr Henshaw's talk was extremely interesting, and it increased our awareness of this ever-present gas. I would like to thank him on behalf of the school for coming here and taking time to share his knowledge with us.

PATRICK MORGAN

Light Entertainment

On 13th June members of the college were privileged to hear an amusing and wide-ranging talk by Jonathan James-Moore, Head of Light Entertainment for BBC Radio.

Mr James-Moore began by defining the scope and nature of his job, which was to look after all the light entertainment programmes across the BBC's five radio channels. Given the present uncertainty over the future of the BBC, Mr James-Moore was keen to publicise the range and high quality of the BBC's output, and particularly to encourage the audience to listen to Radio Five, which, he claimed, produced some excellent programmes but whose output was not yet adequately recognised by the listening public.

He played examples of a number of light entertainment programmes, right back to the seminal classic, *The Goon Show*. He talked about how adventurous this programme had been in its day and how its alternative, slightly zany, offbeat humour had been such a novelty when it was first heard. The show had created its own tradition, which, Mr James-Moore proceeded to demonstrate, was essentially subversive in nature. The function of comedy was often to send up authority, to puncture affectation and pretension, and the examples of more recent shows, such as *The Mary White house Experience*, the subversive show *I'm sorry, I haven't a Clue* and Radio Four's long-running satirical slot *Week Ending* certainly demonstrated that the BBC's light entertainment department is in good shape. Indeed, the quality of BBC Radio programmes such as *After Henry* has often meant their subsequent transfer to television and an even greater audience. Mr James-Moore's selection of clips, indeed, suggested that radio comedy is in a much better shape than that on television, where a lot of the output now seems to consist of repeats of seventies' successes or rather short-lived new series which seem more intent on proselytising to some new social trend than being funny.

Given the quality of much of the contemporary output of the BBC on radio, it was interesting to see that the funniest extracts came from two of the oldest clips played, namely *The Goon Show* and *Hancock's Half-Hour*, starring the immortal Tony Hancock and Kenneth Williams. Mr James-Moore commented on the famous timing of these two great comic actors and played a clip



Mo-mo

from the early radio episode in which the two hapless characters take to the air with disastrous results.

At the end of his interesting and amusing talk Mr James-Moore took a few questions. He was asked about declining standards in public broadcasting and about swearing in the media. He commented that he personally was very concerned about the use of certain kinds of language and that he was against allowing that kind of language to go out over the air, as it could upset some listeners. However, he maintained that the BBC reflected public taste and opinion, and did not simply create it. We lived in much more liberal times than the fifties, for example, and the BBC must reflect real life and contemporary taste and opinion. He observed that nowadays producers such as he were relatively free to exert their own censorship over the output. There had been considerable gains in freedom, but at the same time he was aware that there was plenty of criticism of the BBC for one reason and another. He commented that, politically at least, the BBC tended to receive an equal number of complaints from either side of the party divide, so perhaps things weren't going too wrong. He encouraged any members of the audience to submit material to the department, if they thought it was good enough. The Light Entertainment producers were

always looking for new talent. He gave some examples of the possible rewards to be gained, from as little as 22p for a good satirical line for a programme like *Week Ending* to as much as £1,200 for a half-hour episode of sitcom. The rewards seem quite high, but he observed that the amount of time and effort taken in writing and producing a half-hour sitcom for six weeks was phenomenal, and that the pay was nowhere near as lavish as it sounded.

Finally Mr James-Moore recounted an amusing anecdote, in which he received a note one Monday morning to get in touch with No 10 Downing Street. It was during the Gulf War when, against some advice, he had decided to continue broadcasting the sensitive satirical show *Week Ending*. Fearing the worst, he spoke to No 10 only to find that the reason for the call was because the PM had missed the week's broadcast of the vintage comedy show *Much Binding in the Marsh*, and could a transcript of the programme please be delivered?

We would all like to thank Mr James-Moore for his informative and amusing talk. Whatever other strictures may be advanced against the BBC, it looks as though Light Entertainment at least is in very good hands.

M. C. C.

Viewpoints

A New Boy's *Vade-mecum*

Compiled by some Old Hands in the Second Form

1. *Coping without Parents*

It is actually very easy to cope without parents, after the initial shock of parting. There is so much to do that you don't have time to be homesick. When you first arrive, you will find that you have tea with your parents in the Reading Room; this is rather overwhelming at first, as there are all sorts of alien pupils there, whom you have never seen before. *Advice*: mix in straight away with the other boys; don't stay with your parents. You'll find that everyone feels the same as you, and you will quickly make friends.

2. *Coping with the Second Form*

The Second Form don't arrive until eight o'clock. When they do, you will know it! It seems at first that they would stretch to the moon and back if put head to toe; they're everywhere! They turn their dorms upside-down with expensive shoes, after-shave, deodorant, girlie pictures, clothes of all descriptions - and noise! To the Second Form you will always be a 'cheeky runt', but they're not so bad really, provided you stay on the right side of them.

3. *Teachers*

These need to be handled with care! Unfortunately you are bound to come across some of them fairly soon after starting. Most of them are all right, even if you occasionally feel like blowing their heads off with a pump-action shotgun. One or two need to be treated very gently, and it is not recommended that you play practical jokes, especially during your first week. They are possessed of long memories, and most of them miss nothing.

4. *Coping with Lessons*

These are a bit difficult to cope with and, at least at the time of writing, seem set to continue, in spite of strong pupil pressure for their abandonment. *Advice*: do your best, but don't ever look too keen. Don't be offended by any remarks the teachers may make; they're only trying to make you improve - or so they say!

5. *Coping with other First-Formers*

Get stuck in, but don't expect the first friends you make to be your best ones; it takes time for people to settle down. Sharing things can make you popular, but it can be expensive. Don't try to play superman and show off all the time; living closely in a boarding school, you will soon be seen through.

6. *Coping with Prep*

The bad news is that you will get lots of this. The good news is that prep is often supervised by sixth-form girls. These come in all shapes and sizes, but are generally good news.



7. *Coping with the Food*

This is not too bad, but it can vary, so bring plenty of tuck. Breakfast is the best meal, but it takes place at a horribly early hour.

8. *Surviving it all*

Generally speaking, you will be so busy in your first few weeks that you will not have time to feel homesick or lonely. There are lots of trips out, and during the week you will hardly have a spare minute. Make sure you get plenty of sleep, as when you're not working hard you will be playing hard, (but don't think it's all work; we have plenty of unofficial fun as well). Make an effort in all you do; be kind to your hard-pressed housemaster; respect your elders and betters - even the teachers - and you might just make it to the first exeat! Remember, if you ever have the chance to feel down for a minute, you've still got the Second Form, Third Form, Fourth Form, Fifth Form etc. to come...

TIM SHAW
JAMES GRAHAM
CHRISTOPHER BAKER

A Day in Lawn House

The din that marks the morning bell's second tirade of the day halts abruptly as the fourth-year responsible notices something is being yelled into the corridor through one of the closed study doors nearby. A brief pause, and he ascertains that the occupants have just announced that they're fully awake and that further use of the bell is uncalled-for, and may prove inadvisable.

About this time, on another floor, the morning air rushes in as the front doors are opened, and so begins another day at Rendcomb.

First comes breakfast, and the pupils progress towards the dining hall in the main building at varying levels of speed, some walking, while others jog or cycle to meet the ominous eight o'clock deadline.

The general feeling after breakfast is one of brushing the dust off the mental cogs in preparation for the trials to come. Said dust dispensed in lorry-loads, the activity builds to a frenzy as pupils begin to filter back from the morning church service... there is laughter and chatter in the common rooms, even as a few pupils study furiously, trying to complete, or even start, their neglected prep. Unfortunately these poor souls are doomed, since they depart for lessons moments later.

If you are ever in a boarding house alone, this is the moment when you feel the uncanny quiet settling like a mist over everything nearby. You expect to hear adolescent giggles, maybe even chattering somewhere in the halls... yet there is none. The transition from rapid preparation for lessons to total silence is breath-taking.

Yet suddenly the silence is broken, as a bleary-eyed

sixth-former hurries down the stairs, dropping various books and equipment as he wonders what awaits him at the lesson he was due for ten minutes ago, narrowly avoiding a collision with the housemaster stalking his prey as he searches for the 'miserable offenders' who have failed to do their assigned duties, or for sixth-formers who have unwisely chosen to use their NTP* to catch up on their favourite pastime, sleep.

Even as the pupils return and depart for second lesson, loaded with books, a regiment of fully-armed cleaners descends on the house, sweeping and polishing at a startling speed, sometimes pausing to read hastily scrawled notes stuck to the doors of the studies they can hardly open because of all the debris on the floor ('I swear I'll clean it later').

The cleaners depart shortly after break, regretful in the knowledge that the next time they return the house will have managed that mysterious transition from tidy building to littered war-zone.

Long break is a hassle: you have this uncontrollable urge to do everything at once, and so you usually end up getting only half of it done.

The hapless scrabble for the post, and the subsequent moans of disappointment as one of the junior house-members is found to have the monopoly on letters and parcels, are drowned out by the screeching from the television as it is turned on, the channels flicked through, and then turned off again, this exercise to be repeated at regular intervals. Mission accomplished, the pool and miniature-football tables become a blur of motion for the short space of 20 minutes, until those using them realise with a gasp that they're supposed to be somewhere else and flee with amazing speed.

Away from this hive of activity, a number of pupils are drifting over the road to the village post office, while the remainder turn to coffee, an educational interlude with the papers or a chat with the visitors from other houses who have dropped in on their way to lessons.

Lessons over, the pupils converge again on the dining hall to continue the time-honoured tradition of complaining about the food and then eating a lot and returning for seconds...

Minutes later the common rooms are packed once more as the clockwork addicts grab a seat for the Australian soaps, glued to the television for the next half-hour.

Once these crowds begin to scatter, the house sinks into a moment of peace as people disperse for games, music or activities... but in the afternoon there will always be a few residents left to stick to their guns and do some work or spend their time relaxing in the common rooms.

It's the relaxers who are easier to find, and the house status definitely reads 'occupied', confirmed by the constant blare of some miscreant's music, played in his study but generously turned up in case anyone else in Rendcomb wants to listen too.

Eyes turn to the clock as the time gets dangerously near to afternoon lessons, and multitudes of pupils appear as if from nowhere to repeat the cycle for periods six and seven, scattering to classrooms all over the school... usually the right ones.

The kitchen staff don their protective clothing and reach for their riot guns as tea draws near and, following this, breathe a sigh of relief when the hall is emptied and callover beckons.

Anticipating this sinister event, the younger years usually dash into 'the room' seconds after the bell, following a quick sprint to make it which would have made Linford Christie proud, even if it was only to avoid the doom of being 'gated' for the night.

After callover evidence can be seen of the organised pupils. The kettle is put on, and they retire to their workplaces in plenty of time. The disorganised are slightly more obvious, running around like headless chickens as they try to remember what 'prep' is and where they've heard the word before. This performance lasts well into the prep period, until it is halted by a hefty bellow from the sixth-former in charge. Then the noise is lowered... for about ten seconds, until the disorganised culprits begin to indulge in lengthy discussions about what they ought to be doing, as opposed to what they are doing.

After prep comes 'happy-hour', an hour of free time. This is marked by a rush to get out at nine o'clock and followed by an even more urgent rush to get in at ten, for heaven help those who don't make it in time...

Anything can happen in this crucial hour. A few sixth-form girls venture into the house for a minute or two and, while some pupils remain in the common rooms, most head over to Park House.

Ten o'clock, and the sleepy peace is transformed as the house begins to resemble a busy street at Christmas, and then everyone breathes a gasp of relief at having made it back in time. The noise level dies as, year by year, they retire to bed at the allotted times.

It's about now that the bathrooms begin to have a steady flow of people passing through them, disproving the myth that boarders don't wash at all.

The fourth year dutifully go to their dormitories, in theory to sleep, but more usually to engage in a pillow-fight, annoying the seniors or ending up sleeping in a punishment room resembling a 'cooler'. Thirty minutes later an Oscar-winning pretence at sleep is attempted as the housemaster investigates the racket and, having ascertained that they are at least quiet, if not sleeping, withdraws... very quietly. The trick is not to wake up those who are asleep and also to walk so quietly that those who aren't can't tell when he's gone and so are afraid to start making a noise again, falling asleep in the long run. The senior years do a variety of things, from sleeping to working, or spending time in the kitchen and chatting in the study-bedrooms.

The daily function of the boarding house usually ends at about midnight, but there are still a few lights glowing as intrepid workers carry on into the early

hours.

An ordinary day has ended. If it had been truly typical, there would have been a fire practice at about three in the morning, after one at ten at night as someone set the toast on fire, but that's life... at least in Lawn it is anyway.

PATRICK MORGAN
* non-teaching period

Being Thirteen

Thirteen, what an age! It's the age when it all starts to happen: puberty, having spots, having girlfriends, losing girlfriends. Yes, it all happens here. Whilst you are young, say seven or eight, you probably long to be thirteen and 'grown up'. But when you are thirteen, it's all different.



Competition entry.

Hugh Costelloe

However, in this miserable age for human beings there are some advantages to touch on. First of all, you're thirteen for only a year! And when you're fourteen, you may wish you were still thirteen. Why? Less homework to do; that means more fun, and the more fun, the less depression!

Thirteen is also the age when fads and trends overwhelm your life. It's a disaster for parents. If they could make a diary, it would go something like this:

Monday:

Bought Stewart some Nike Air trainers, very dear.
Don't make 'em like they used to.
Well, as long as it pleases him.

Tuesday: Bought Stewart some of these Reebok pumps. He says Nike Air trainers have gone out of fashion; they cost £50! Might have to start drawing out my pension soon.

Wednesday: Bought Stewart some of these Doc Marten boots, another £50! Nasty letter from bank to inquire why I am writing so many cheques.

Thursday: Discover I have gone bankrupt.

You see the problem. Thirteen-year-olds have a tremendous determination to keep up with fashion, whilst parents wish they hadn't. And it doesn't just stop there... there's still fourteen, fifteen, sixteen and so on to come!

And then there's the cause of all this fashion craze: girls. Having a girlfriend is one of the better parts of being thirteen; losing her, however, is a bad idea.

Picking up a girl can be difficult. Beautiful girl walks down a street, unaware of thirteen-year-old boy breathing down her neck. She turns around and sees you. You put on what passes for a deep, sexy voice.

'Hi! How's it going, beautiful?'

'Get away from me, you pervert!'

Give a girl a kiss, and you get a slap around the face! Get close to a girl, and she immediately sees the spots you have desperately tried to conceal. You claim that the blotchy red marks on your skin are paint. She doesn't believe you and dumps you for some incredible hunk whose skin is as unblemished as a baby's.

Yes, life is pretty tough at thirteen; even your voice lets you down, breaking up at crucial moments. Your friends laugh at your squeaks and sudden plunges from alarming falsetto to the deepest of basses; they're all twelve. But when you're fourteen, you can make fun of them.

So, at all costs, try to sleep through your thirteenth year of life. It's more trouble than it's worth!

STEWART TAYLOR
(aged Thirteen)

Rendcomb Hustings

Thursday, 19th March; the silence hangs like a dew.

The speakers have gathered on the hustings for an exercise in PR which will either make or break the votes to be cast imminently in the mock election.

Five pupils will try to put across views they may or may not hold, each trying valiantly to draw the votes away from the others, each representing a party for the duration of this 'election'.

Clock Hall is packed to the brim as the first speaker steps up to the podium...

The British National Party! The evening has begun with the party with the most curious - or perhaps notorious - reputation amongst them.

James Grafton takes moments to launch into a polished campaign designed to purge the BNP's anti-immigrant image with a more modern, conciliatory view.

The BNP's main issues involve the inevitable crime and unemployment... but are linked to immigration, which, despite the new image, is still perceived as a large threat to the country's wellbeing by those at BNP head office.

The BNP wants to stop the uneducated coming into the country, together with foreigners who don't wish to convert to the British way of life and culture, merely to benefit from it.

This is a sore point for the party, who press hard against changes which might let such people influence the way the country's policies are created, citing the Rushdie fatwa case as an example of British government's having to deal with the threat of Muslim violence within our borders.

Britain, the BNP are quite happy to proclaim, is being overrun by 'alien' races and, while not all should be kept out, those who are let in must be able to set themselves up in life without financial assistance, and they must speak fluent English.

The BNP candidate makes way for the other minority party representative, as Sarah Langley mounts the stage to seize the environmentally friendly broadsword of the Green Party's cause.

In keeping with the Green Party's statements and broadcasting, the environment is given full spread, with other issues counted as ancillary. The protection of the environment for future generations is seen as vital, especially since the discovery of an additional ozone hole... over Europe.

The speaker lets this sink in, before adding that such problems will have bad effects on health unless they are tackled, and that Europe's environmental negligence has already led to dead lakes and radiation dangers.

The Green Party seem to know that they can't win yet, but their aim is to gain votes and thus force the other parties to address the issues, feeling that their support is being drained away to the environmental cause. We must, they feel, ensure our influence over what happens regarding the environment; the government must not become autonomous. If you show you're willing to vote for others, they reason, the major parties will worry and work harder.

Next Labour rises to the challenge, in the shape of Graham Lawton. Labour are pleading for the country to ascend from its 'money madness' and begin to use brains instead of wallets.

Like the BNP, Labour have a skeleton in the closet, now fully exhumed and disowned: socialism. This is a new Labour, with very few socialists left; in fact, they

go so far as to say that they and the Conservatives are in effect *doppelgängers*, with one slight difference: the Conservative *doppelgänger* has ensured a recession, whereas the Labour 'half guarantees recovery.

Germany, he argues, is not in a recession even after the upheavals of unification, so why should Britain be?

Under the Tories, he continues, free eye and dental checks have been abolished, and both health and education standards have fallen. They would put a hefty £120 million into improving the Health Service, money that he claims the Conservatives would waste.

The idea that Labour would be too inexperienced to run the country falls beneath the wheels of the Labour bandwagon, as it is announced that the years in opposition have provided more than enough knowledge, whereas the Conservative Party consists mainly of young, unknowing ministers with little government experience.

Labour are mature and intelligent, but above all, he adds, they would guide the country back to prosperity.

There is a moment's pause as the candidates change places, but the silence, like lard, has solidified now and cannot be broken by anything short of a personal appearance by Screaming Lord Sutch.



Bibury.

Photographic Activity Group

Next to bound to the podium is Julian Madeley, waving the banner of the Liberal Party as he launches into fulsome praise of the party's leader, Paddy Ashdown, described as an honest, charismatic man, who should represent the country. His honesty and guts, he argues, are proven by his admission of his 'affair'.

The Liberals, when it comes to attitudes, he declares, certainly have the lead. Surely here the issues should take priority, instead of mere slander of the opposition? He feels that impartiality is needed by any respectable party hoping to win...

The first item on the Liberals' agenda of issues is voting reform, with the suggestion of one local and one national vote, to lead to a 'fairer' system for all concerned.

Next come taxes, which the Liberals say they will alter to create a good atmosphere for better training, education and health services. Fairness in the

distribution of wealth is necessary, and Labour in particular, he argues, is concerned with 'the masses', corporate feelings taking priority over those of individuals. The Liberals are not associated with any one class, which, he states, must be a good thing.

With an entreaty to 'think before you vote' the Liberal candidate departs, to be replaced on the hustings by the final speaker.

Coming last, to speak for the Conservatives, James Sleeman needs to fend off the criticisms that have gone before, and so he begins with the largest of them all, the recession.

The Conservative point of view is that experience is needed to end the recession and halt inflation; in short, Conservative policies will 'cure' the country without raising taxes, as allegedly planned by both Labour and Liberals, a policy which, he argues, would punish achievers.

The more able members of the population need encouragement, not higher taxes.

He forges on, to add that there is no point in providing money for those who aren't willing to succeed, but enthusiastic students in particular should be helped and student loans retained.

Next on the agenda comes the Conservative bunker response to Labour's damaging attack on the state of the Health Service, with enthusiastic promises that it will be streamlined, but also allowed to manage itself, to ensure the best possible use of available resources.

He insists that Conservative experience is a very good thing, which will enable them to run the country far more efficiently than the rival groups would.

The final plea, in all cases, is naturally a resounding *Vote for ME!*, as parodied by Rowan Atkinson's Mr Bean.

Now comes the hard part: question time draws near

Question 1 is the recession gravity bomb, lobbed from a revetment deep in audience territory:

Why has the Conservative Government, with so much experience, not been able to cure the recession? "

J. Sleeman: Britain isn't the only country in a recession; there's a worldwide lack of confidence in the economy right now, but budgets can help combat that, with changes like lower VAT and income tax.

Why is education a long-term aim, if it's so important?

J. Sleeman: Things like education need to be changed gradually, and they need time. Streamlining too quickly would cause trouble. We are able to make slightly faster changes to health care, lowering waiting lists, which will be better organised and dealt with, and generally making the service more streamlined and efficient.

Next Labour come under fire on the question of whether socialism has really become part of the party's history, or whether it is still present.

G. Lawton: Socialism has been basically cleaned out of the party; only some of its ideals are left, like wanting to see free health checks etc., and striving for the best available. The majority of Labour members don't have socialist opinions.

Isn't that a departure from tradition?

G. Lawton: Well, change is necessary for progress.

Isn't the only reason the Tories are in power because the press system is corrupt?

G. Lawton: Not really, although there's going to be some bias. People should ignore it; they need to be broad-minded. I don't think the 'junk papers' will have much effect on their opinions.

It was a disaster last time Labour was in power. What makes you think you might do better this time?

G. Lawton: Things change, and there've been some big improvements in policy since then... Labour adapt to deal with problems. For instance, we'd pour £120 million into the Health Service, instead of wasting it on technology colleges, as they plan. The money must be available, otherwise what has happened to all the currency saved by the army cutbacks? The problems need more money invested in them to cure them. Labour, for instance, would review the need for expensive nuclear submarines and such things, once in power, but we can't yet; we don't have access to classified information.

How does Labour propose to avoid Union influence?

G. Lawton: We're planning to repeal some of the union laws, but not all of them.

Because Labour is largely funded by Unions?

G. Lawton: They have less influence now: Labour's changed. The Unions don't have as much effect on our policies as people think.

The Conservatives, having had time to recover, are in the hot-seat once again:

Why did John Major back down from having a debate?

J. Sleeman: He believes that he should solve the problems, not argue about them on television in one-on-one attacks.

The Green Party are suddenly launched into the limelight with the question:

Where would you make cuts to provide money for the environment?

S. Langley: We would cut down on nuclear power and nuclear weapons, then put the money into researching projects like wind and solar power. I think that nuclear power would have a bad effect on the world in the long term.

And finally, over to the BNP:

Don't you think your party's too inexperienced to govern?

J. Grafton: At the moment perhaps, but all parties need time to develop and gain experience. We're fairly

new, but our support and experience are growing.

And so the debate closes and, with the vote-casting imminent, the candidates wait with curiosity to see who shall scoop the rewards of the PR boost.

The votes are cast, and the counting proceeds; in Goodwood terms the race would have been 'evenly spaced, but highly unpredictable'.

The Conservative runner comes in first, with good odds and 75 votes, but is followed puzzlingly by the BNP, with 48 votes, then by the Liberal Democrats, at medium odds and 38 votes.

The Green Party comes fourth, as expected, with 22, but the most startling inversion of the count is Labour's surprise finish, with 'Possible Win' limping in a poor fifth at 14 votes.

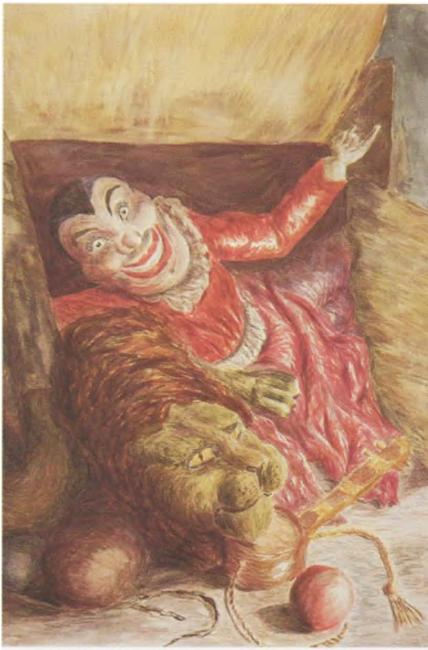
As the real battle draws near, may the best man have good policies.

May the loser admit that he hasn't.

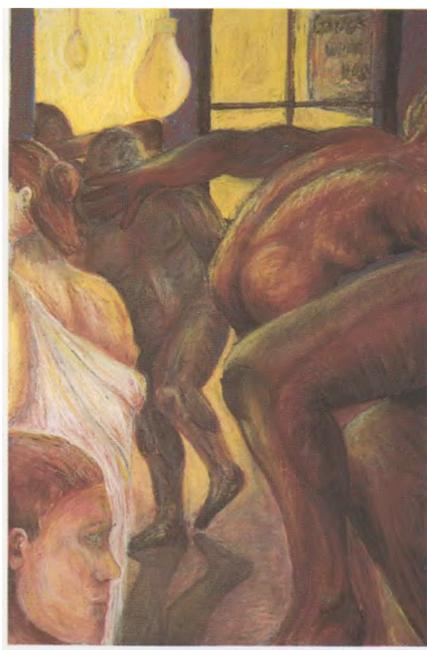
BEN GREENE

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

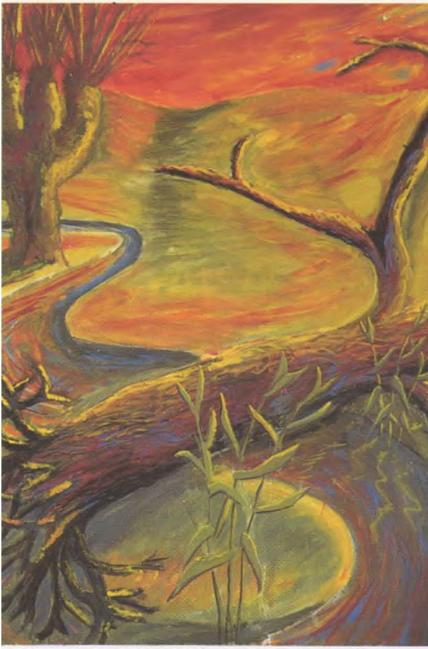
- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>a</i> 'Puppets' - GCSE | Julian Wilkie (5) |
| <i>b</i> 'Bagnio' - GCSE | James Moore (5) |
| <i>c</i> 'Aesop's Fable' - GCSE | Graham Monteith (5) |
| <i>d</i> 'Personal Presentation' - GCSE | Robert Sage (5) |
| <i>e</i> 'Worn out and Discarded' - 'A' level exam piece,
(mixed media) | Ben Marshall (7) |
| <i>f</i> 'Zoological Contexts' - 'A' level exam piece,
(oil pastel) | Tatty Renny (7) |
| <i>g</i> 'Landscape' (watercolour) | Nicholas Holt (3) |
| <i>h</i> 'Still Life' - (crayon) | Matthew Morris (3) |
| <i>i</i> 'Landscape' - 'A' level (watercolour) | Jeremy Sawtell (6) |
| <i>j</i> 'Worn out and Discarded' - 'A' level exam piece,
(watercolour) | Matthew Smith (7) |
| <i>k</i> 'Things to Wear' - 'A' level exam piece,
(mixed media) | Sophy Denny (7) |



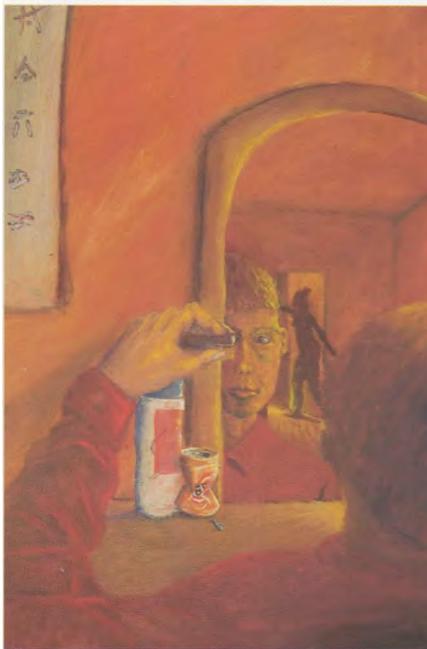
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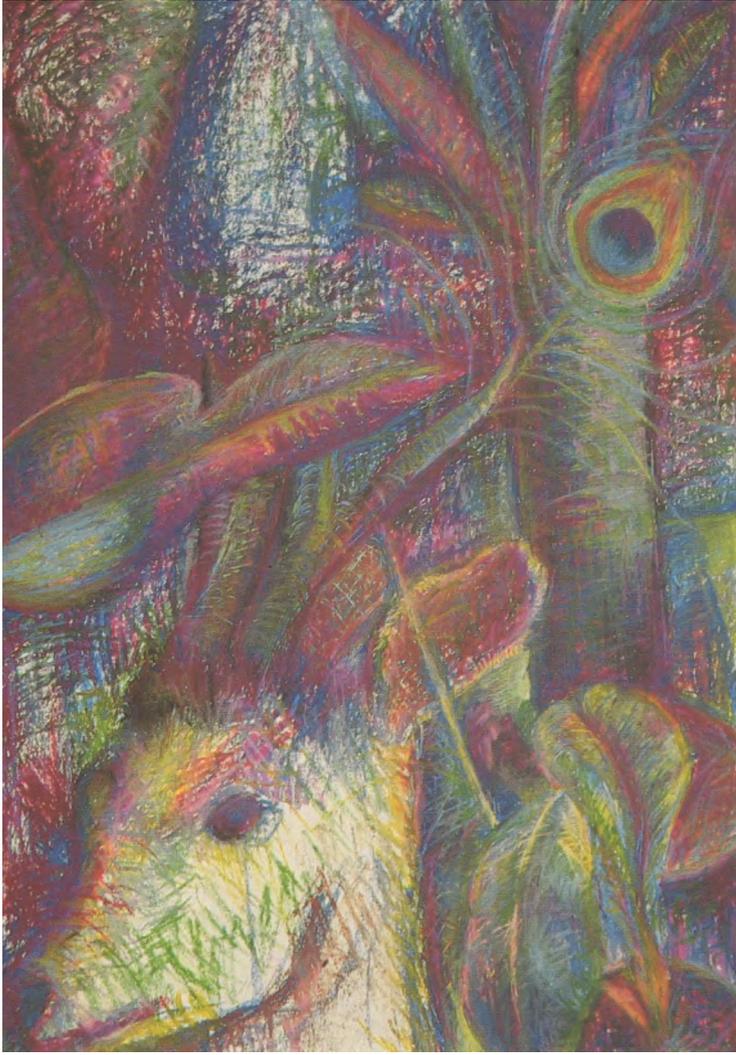
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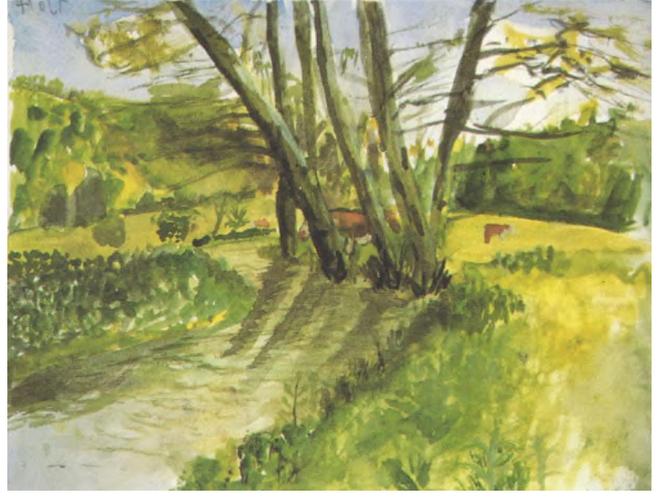
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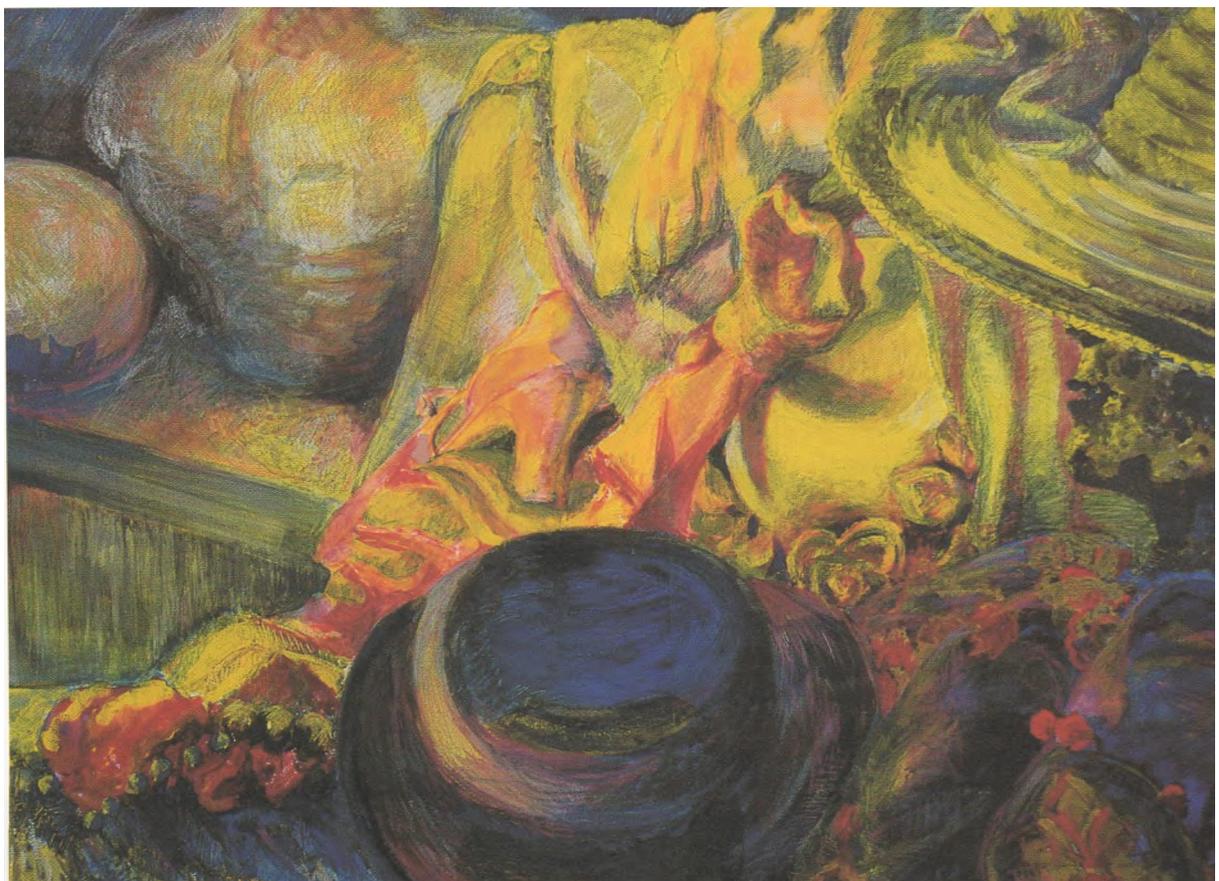
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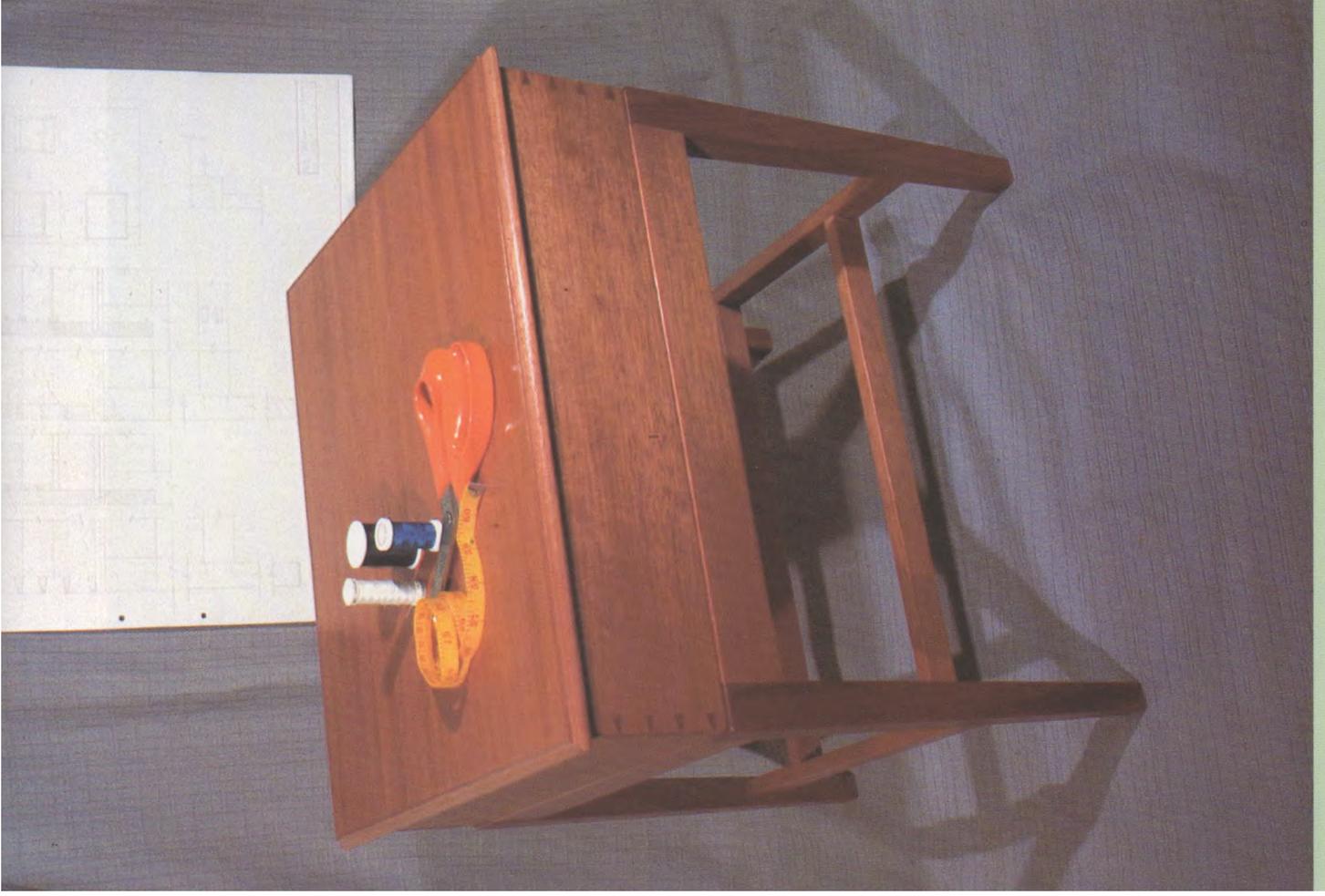
i



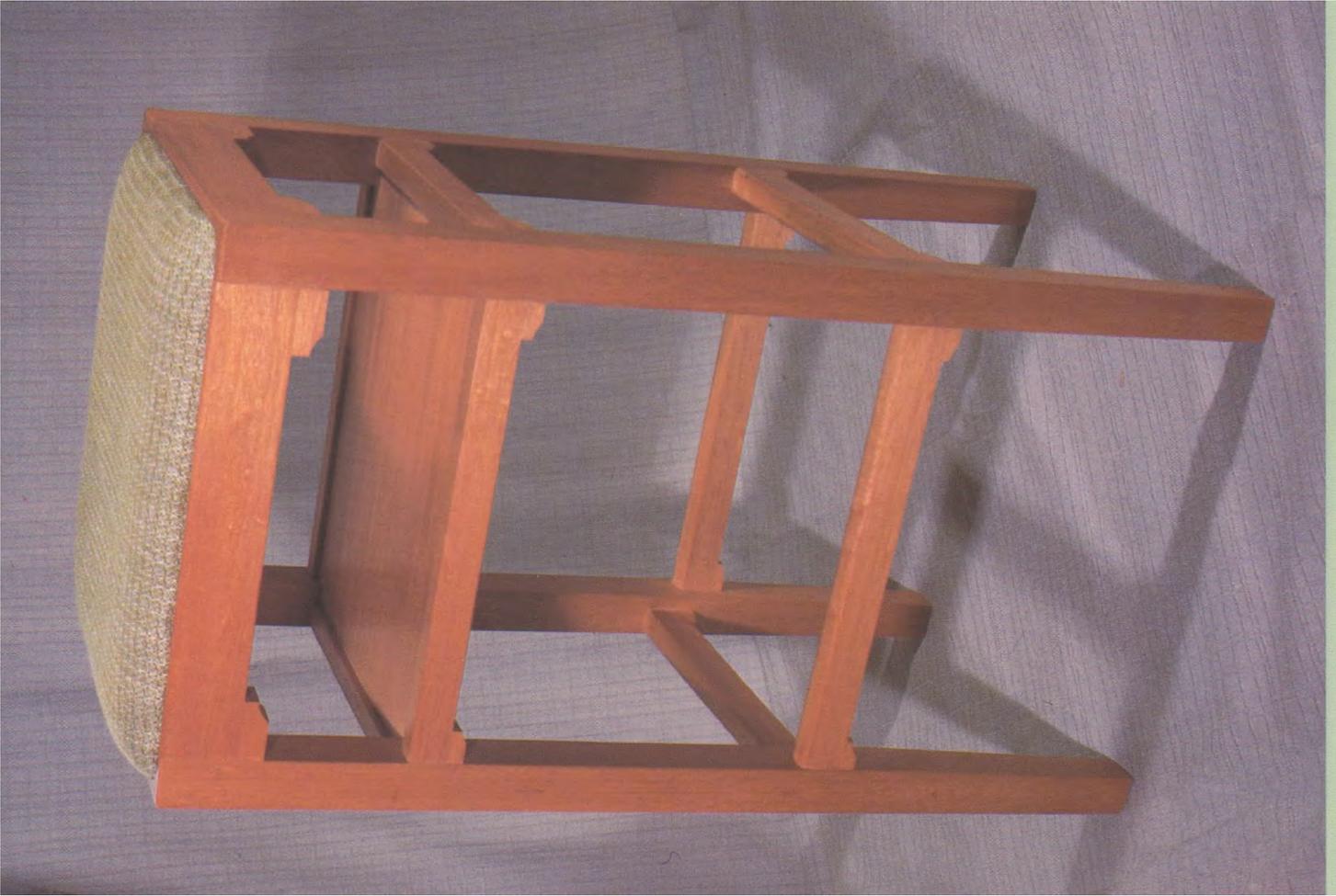
j



k



Sewing Cabinet - Brazilian mahogany. James Bainbridge (GCSE course work).



Double Bass Stool - Brazilian mahogany. John Talbot.

Activity

Art

There have been masses of wonderful work produced during the year, and we have been particularly delighted with the development of the 6A 'A' level set, who have worked creatively, intelligently and with a genuine sense of purpose. They have not only expanded their technical expertise and awareness, but they have also dealt openly and freshly with new information and challenges. We expect their grades to do some justice to their efforts, which, in combination with a promising 6B group, made a stunning exhibition of work for Founder's Day.

The Dulverton Hall vibrated with colour, the exam pieces by Sophy Denny and Ben Marshall looking particularly rich, while the huge strength of Hamish Auld's drawing and Tony Palin's massive and dynamic figure collages stole the show for many guest visitors at the private view. However, it was the possibilities of sensitive handling qualities associated with Kate Hodgkinson and Patricia Renny that many within the school so admired, while Matthew Smith's extremely selective show revealed excellence. Elisa Dühmke added a lighter, Mozartian rhythm to her later work, which contrasted brilliantly with the deep resonance of her figure drawing, and Sophie Robinson added a delicate touch to the exhibition, the watercolour medium maybe obscuring the sharpness and wit of her observations.

A width of approach could certainly be seen in the GCSE group, and the studios positively echoed as they set about their coursework in a dynamic manner; their inquisitive, open approach meant that art lessons were never dull, and rarely did a period go by without my explaining exactly what I thought of something or somebody!

The Fourth Form seem also to have much promise; there is considerable talent and a genuine searching for knowledge. It will be interesting to see how they develop.

Lower in the school we can already see considerable potential brewing, and the attraction of Art as a popular and successful option for GCSE helps to focus junior minds on the future.

With the excellent 'A' level work, with students responding so well to the new exam and with our educational trips abroad, the future, especially with the building of the Art History reference room in the summer holidays, looks bright.

Art college places have again been found for all students applying, and there was some excellent work by our students on show at the Cheltenham Foundation Course Exhibition. Particularly impressive was work by Bridget Morral, who is going on to study Textile Design at Loughborough Art College. She was taught at

Cheltenham partly by Mrs Sophia Blackwell, who has settled in to part-time teaching at Rendcomb with considerable success. With such comprehensive contributions from her and Tom Denny, we can look forward to more fine works being produced over the coming year. However, maybe it is in Spike Milligan's delightful and deceptively simple poem that we can find the real key to art at Rendcomb?

*When I was small and five,
I found a pencil-sharpener alive!
He lay in lonely grasses,
looking for work.
I bought a pencil for him.
He ate and ate, until all that was
left was a pile of wood-dust.
It was the happiest pencil-sharpener
I ever had.*

Or maybe not.

M. S. G.



Antony Palin with his work.

QP Concerts Revived

On Sunday, 13th October, the first of a new series of 'QP' concerts was held in the Reading Room. This revival of an old Rendcomb tradition of holding concerts during Sunday night's quiet period is part of an attempt to establish the school as a well-known local concert venue, as well as adding to the pupils' experience.

The concert, featuring the group *Chacony*, composed of four very distinguished instrumentalists, attracted a large audience. It was a great pleasure for us to hear this group play, as it is one of the very few which specialise in playing baroque music in its original style and with original or reproduced instruments of the time, creating a truly baroque sound.

The group gave a magnificent recital of four trio sonatas by Handel, Corelli, Purcell and Bach. It was especially pleasing for our instrumentalists to be reminded that things go wrong with the instruments of even professional musicians, as Margaret Faultless showed when her violin's peg wouldn't hold properly in the peg-box and kept slipping!

It is a privilege for Rendcomb to be able to attract such distinguished guests, and I hope that these concerts continue to draw such enthusiastic support.

JOHN TALBOT

Concert in Cirencester

The College gave a splendid concert on 21st March, enhanced by the superb setting in Cirencester Parish Church. The evening began with a performance of Stanford's *Sea Songs* for which Paul Sumsion was the baritone soloist. He was accompanied by an orchestra consisting of members of the College, peripatetics, friends, and even a percussionist summoned at the last moment from Birmingham. David White conducted, and Paul sang with gusto and commitment. The very resonant acoustics didn't always help Paul's diction to come across clearly, and at times he was in danger of being swamped by the orchestra. However, he gave a rousing performance of these moving and varied songs.

The first half of the programme concluded with a performance of Mozart's 23rd Piano Concerto, with Elisa Dühmke as soloist. This was an enormously challenging piece for a college pupil to undertake; it demands not only great technical accomplishment, despite its at times deceptively simple sound, but also great emotional commitment to music that is so intensely dramatic. It is a great tribute to Elisa that she carried the performance off with such determination and flair. The first movement was perhaps the most successful technically, and if in the third there were times when Elisa could not quite get her fingers around some of the runs, nevertheless all three movements had

their moments, and the warmth and variety of tone throughout were very pleasing. Elisa received a deservedly warm round of applause for tackling such a famous and difficult piece so well. She promises great things for the future.

After a short interval the choir, joined by some members of Oakley Hall School and Stroud High School, combined with the orchestra and Mr Lea at the organ to give a very stirring account of Benjamin Britten's *Saint Nicolas Cantata*. The orchestra and choir had sounded a bit tentative at times during the first half, but now, with the forces drawn together, confidence and technical security seemed to grow hand in hand. The work tells the story of the life of Saint Nicolas, patron of children and travellers. Each episode of his life is the subject of imaginative choral and solo scenes.

Never having heard the work before, I was very impressed by Britten's varied use of choral and orchestral colours and by his always intelligent and subtle matching of text and music. The guest tenor, Nick Bowditch, sang with real distinction. His voice had strength, clarity and a thrilling edge to it, and he negotiated his often difficult entries with conviction and drama. Also memorable was Rendcomb's Ralph Barnes, whose pure, beautiful treble voice as the boy Nicolas was wonderfully lyrical and assured.

At two points in the score the audience is invited to join in the work by singing a well-known hymn tune, and this warm, dramatic score, less austere than some of Britten's works, ended thrillingly with all the forces joining in a rousing account of *God moves in a mysterious way*. High praise is deserved by all involved, especially by David White, who inspired his forces to produce one of the best concerts I have heard Rendcomb give.

M. C. C.

The English Guitar Quartet

On 1st March the English Guitar Quartet visited the school to give another in the series of QP concerts. The Reading Room was not, perhaps, their usual style of room - they are accustomed to travelling all over the world and playing in anything up to a large outdoor amphitheatre - but their performance was very exciting, a great display of excellence. In a lively and varied programme they played Corelli's Trio Sonata in C minor, Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Mandolins, three movements from Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé*, and - perhaps more customary for guitar recitals - two dances by Manuel de Falla. All this was interspersed with many stories about how they came by their guitars and about the places where they had performed. The concert was attended by a large number of pupils, parents and friends of the school, and was greatly enjoyed by everybody. We thank the English Guitar Quartet for

coming to play and for giving such a compelling performance that they had to return and bow to applause four times.

JOHN TALBOT

Christmas Concert

On 22nd November *La Nuit du Piano* was held in the Dulverton Hall. The concert combined the traditional Christmas orchestral concert with performances by the music staff, and the programme was greatly varied.

The pieces which undoubtedly surprised us most were the two movements from Debussy's *Petite Suite*, in which we were treated to a rare view of Mr Craddock playing a piano duet with Mr Lea.

A large number of pupils were involved, the orchestra playing four pieces by Verdi, Fauré, Lloyd Webber and - by far the most exciting and demanding piece - *Rhapsody on Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto* arranged by Don Bowden, in which the taxing piano part was admirably played by Claire Lloyd-Smith of the music staff.

The choir was keen not to be overlooked, and so the tenor and bass sections sang *Non nobis, Domine* by Patrick Doyle, from Kenneth Branagh's film *Henry V*.

There were also a saxophone duet by Handel, played by Alex Faiers and Helen Hall-Wright, two lively saxophone solos by J. Power played by Alex, and a very unusual trio for 'cello, clarinet and piano, written by Rendcomb's very own composer, Mr Lea.

However, in most people's estimation the climax to the evening was a performance of Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, given by the music staff interspersed with one or two visitors and a couple of pupils.

The concert lasted for almost two hours and was very rewarding for all the pupils and staff concerned. Another very positive effect of the evening was that it coincided with the BBC's 'Children in Need' appeal, for which we managed to raise over £100. As always, the thanks of the school musicians go to all the music staff, who do such an excellent job in helping us with our instruments and in organising such events!

JOHN TALBOT



Informal Concerts

Over the year we have seen a number of musicians taking part in informal concerts. From first to sixth-form level the concerts offer an opportunity for instrumentalists, singers and composers to 'air' their work in front of a receptive audience and gain valuable experience in performance techniques.

Apart from our usual Sunday morning concerts, we have seen a few evening informal performances featuring particular groups of musicians. These have included a third-year concert, a first-year concert showing the progress many of our young pupils have made since they joined the school, and a guitar concert on 5th June given by pupils of Mr Phil Dunn. This concert featured a guitar duet composed and performed by Jack Jelfs and William Heaven, which impressed the large number of parents and friends present.

S. J. L.

The Choir

Rendcomb College might well have adopted a new motto this year - *have choir, will travel* - for travel the choir certainly did. There was a wedding in the idyllic village of Meysey Hampton, a harvest festival at Bremhill in darkest Wiltshire, a memorial service at Batsford, a concert at Stratton. As well as singing Evensong for the Cirencester Deanery at home, we sang it in Bristol Cathedral. All this was on top of our weekly round of Sunday services, our commitment to the magical and truly moving Advent Carol Service and the traditional Christmas Carol Service.

This last saw the tying-up of unfinished business. Britten's *Hymn to the Virgin* was snowed off last year, but this year it was there. The music required part of the choir to sing under the tower at the back of Cirencester Church, and to sing in tandem with the rest at the front. The effect was as startlingly beautiful as hoped for. Alongside that, the service contained plainsong, a new carol by Stephen Lea and the folk-like *Gaudete* sung with tremendous gusto by all the tenors and basses and boy altos.

There have been a large number of memorable solos this year. Tim Shaw gave a spine-tingling performance of Gibbons's complex and taxing verse anthem, *This is the Record of John*. The three trebles, Simon Webb, Tim Hill and Ralph Barnes, covered themselves with glory with their performance of *Love one another* at the wedding and later in church. Tim Hill's *Nunc Dimittis*, to the theme tune of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, from high up in the organ loft in Bristol Cathedral, aided by Roger Gorman's trumpet and Marcus Head's organ, was another special performance. Purcell's verse anthem *Rejoice in the Lord alway*, which saw the light of day early in the season at the concert in Stratton Church,

was an opportunity for Helen Hall-Wright, Claire Germaine, Stuart Sealey and Paul Sumsion to prove that solo or ensemble singing has no terrors - at least none which cannot be controlled - and that expertise and confidence were rapidly emerging.

The Choir has found that singing away from home often brings with it the very welcome bonus of good food: the splendid tea at Bremhill, in the billiard room at Batsford after the memorial service for Lord Dulverton, after the wedding a scrumptious shepherd's pie in the kitchen, in the Buttery at Bristol Cathedral, and last but not least after the Choral Evensong which marked the end of our season in May, when choir was joined by family and friends for a delightful and happy celebration of all the Choir had achieved over the past year.

Critical mention was made during the speeches of the wayward style of Mr White's organisation. How could he have got the time of the wedding half an hour adrift? It made the ride back to Rendcomb to start up an evening concert all the more hair-raising. His version of the arrangements for the coach to Bristol had no credibility whatsoever. The Bristol Evensong trip will go down in the college annals as one of the most extraordinary and memorable outings of all time.



Stephen Lea, musician and photographer.

The intention was to arrive in Bristol at about three o'clock, rehearse in the cathedral and sing the service at 5.15. The choir was all dressed up and waiting to go at two o'clock. Only a parcels van stood outside the front door. 'In you get', jested the Director of Music, only to find himself laughing on the other side of his face when it was discovered that there was no coach due to arrive. By a stroke of sheer good fortune, both college minibuses were available. The first, standing by, filled with choir and with Mr Sudbury at the wheel and John

Talbot as navigator and shop steward, steamed out at 2.15. The other was due back 'shortly', well, three o'clock more precisely. With Mr White in his Nigel Mansell mode, the rest of the choir burned its way out of college and on to Bristol. The bus did seem to smell a bit funny on the way, but it arrived without any problems, disgorging its choristers outside the cathedral.

Meanwhile the other busload had been compelled to a 'food-stop' under threat of industrial action, and it had not yet arrived, even though it had started three-quarters of an hour earlier than the second. Somewhat light-headed, Mr White went into the cathedral, to be met by Canon Simpson and a very apologetic verger saying that an Act of God had effected a massive power-cut all over Bristol: no choir lights and, short of jacking up someone's car battery to Mr Lea, no organ. At this point the rest of the choir did arrive. We practised, sitting, standing, walking.

Mr Sudbury, who clearly has a much more direct line to the Almighty than the cathedral authorities, had a word with Him Who has the Power, and, glory be, 'there was light'. With half an hour left and a complex programme to prepare, the Choir topped and tailed the music, and the service fell into place. What a choir we have, that can rise above such tribulation and still produce the goods on the day!

Our thanks go to Mr Sudbury for all his many offices; his appreciation of what we do and his encouragement are quite invaluable. Thanks go too to Mrs Vernon for helping with the rehearsals, and our special thanks to Mr Lea; we really missed him when he was not available, and now things are so much better with the whole team together on Thursdays. Farewell to Marcus Head and Paul Sumsion, whose long-standing membership, expertise, authority and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

D. B. W.

In corroboration of the stirring events related above, we print the speech made by Paul Sumsion at the Choir Dinner.

I would like to say a few words on behalf of myself and the rest of the Choir. Thank you, Mr White, for neatly putting me down at the bottom of the choir. Having descended from treble to bass over the last seven years, all I can say is that the only way I can go from here is up! I haven't forgiven you for dropping me in it last year, and this time you won't get away with it...

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the man who, neatly perched on a six-foot-high milk crate rivals John Major in his ability to conduct the situation whilst having no idea of what's going on. He is quite capable of singing one psalm, whilst the Choir gets on with the job of drowning him out singing another, or sending the choir to one page whilst playing another. I quote, 'Page 5... page 9... What's the difference?'

Another thing which we can never quite fathom is his constant worrying; it's not as if we've ever failed him yet! He seems to worry principally about music, but also about other things, such as, at Lord Dulverton's memorial service, worrying whether there would be enough food. He promptly ran all the way back down a side path and was soon happily tucking in before anyone could object.

Mind you, the results when he didn't worry veer towards the... shall I say 'interesting'? For instance, going to Bristol in a coach that mysteriously didn't turn up - and, for the record, I am never going in a minibus with this man again - or arriving half an hour early for a wedding!

Despite all this, Mr White seems to have pulled off the year without any serious hitches, and any success the Choir has had could not possibly have happened if it had not been for him. On behalf of the Choir, Mr White, thank you!

Late Edition

No processed verbal syntheses, no Altern 8 costumes anywhere in sight. On 13th June Stable House momentarily transcended the barriers of techno music. The reason?

A large quantity of students from all forms packed into the common room to hear the music event of the term, the first independent fifth-form band performance, the group *Late Edition* headlining with the support of the rapidly evolving third-form band, *Scream*.

Shortly after 7.30 p. m. the venue begins, and an electric reception greets *Scream* as they set the tone for the evening: to expect the unexpected, as the traditional rock fare of their first song is followed, surprisingly, by an excellent rendition of Jimi Hendrix's *Purple Haze*. The band are on top form, performing even better than during their previous supporting gig at the *Trivial Things* concert; everything, from Craig Marcham's drum playing to Stuart Sealey's vocals, blends promisingly to produce a well-finished sound amidst an atmospheric light display.

By now, the spirit of the evening suitably enlivened by *Scream*, the audience are filled with expectation: moments after *Scream* depart, *Late Edition* take the stage, blasting off into a storming cover version of, appropriately, *Nirvanas* well-trying classic, *Smells like Teen Spirit*, with a truly brilliant guitar solo resounding from Nick Pollard, as the song slowly begins to draw to a close, paving the way for yet another classic, *Like a Virgin*, which meets with an equally ecstatic response.

Late Edition, like *Scream*, are definitely at their all-time best, a fact which no one can deny as they perform their own carefully-crafted *Believe the Lies*.

Late Edition bounce through five more numbers with the astounding, contagious energy which has had

the audience dancing vigorously since the first note was struck, before they reach perhaps the most ambitious cover of the evening, Chris Isaak's intricate *Wicked Game*.

The atmosphere on stage is slightly less relaxed as the band take a deep breath, fingers crossed, and launch into a song where any mistakes would show up like flares in a dark-room, but the audience doesn't notice, and the piece is flawless, much to the pleasure of all concerned.

With excellent playing all round, from Chris Norman on the keyboards, Nick Pollard on the lead guitar, Kai Thomas on bass guitar and vocals, Andy Pollard on drums and Hugh Costelloe venturing to the drum kit for *Teen Spirit*, the evening begins to draw to an end... but the best is yet to come...

The last two songs include some of the best material, including the band's amazing recital of *Nirvanas In Bloom*, which, with vocals from Andy Pollard and Kai Thomas, has to be one of the best attempts to reproduce any song, live, that the school has ever heard - perfect to an extent that you could almost swear that *Nirvana* have just dropped in for a quick number before the fifth-form barbecue - and unlikely to be bettered for a long time to come.

But the song which really steals the show is the ubiquitous *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, the current *Guns 'N' Roses* version and one of the band's favourites, during which Nick Barton makes a guest appearance, and the band succeed in really pulling off the Axl Rose imitation drawl that others have been searching for.

No need to utter those forgiving words 'if at first you don't succeed...' then. *Late Edition* and *Scream* have certainly swept the audience off their feet by this, the end of an excellent evening, and they will almost certainly do so when they 'try and try again' upon their return next year.

BEN GREENE

The Trivial Things

On 29th February *The Trivial Things*, for the second year running, entered the Dulverton Hall to thrill newcomers and old fans alike, the latter streaming in in numbers, following the thunderous success of last year's event.

The old hands knew what to expect, but the rest of the audience could only wait, as the excellent third-form band, *Scream*, tendered an enthusiastic version of the classic *Wild Thing*, followed by an equally striking recital of *Sweet child of mine* by the ubiquitous *Guns 'n' Roses*; both of these provided a great start for the band and an auspicious display of their talent, made even more memorable by the slick guitar work of Jack Jelfs and by Stuart Sealey's energetic vocals.

Minutes later the moment the fans had been waiting for arrived, as Ant Palin's ominous vocals hushed the hall before a resounding entrance from the assembled guitars, as *The Trivial Things*, comprising Andrew Pollard, Jon Powell, Ali Baker and Ant Palin, with Scott Vernon returning especially for the concert on drums, launched into their first number of the evening.



Sonya Naish

Within moments the crowd was enraptured by the rapid-fire rhythms and finely honed performance of the group, as they raced through 17 numbers, some of them well known, like the eagerly-received *Smells like teen spirit* by Nirvana and the band's adaptation of the Madonna favourite, *Like a Virgin*, with some of their own compositions, including the fantastic *Doubt Addiction*, with its dynamic tune and stunning guitar solo.

The performance, which was riddled with celebrated tunes, included the band's own favourite, *Just like heaven*; finally the widely requested song guaranteed to get everyone up and dancing, *The Missions* spirited *Deliverance*, ended on a high note one of the most energetically performed concerts the school has ever seen. The evening was further enhanced by the surprise strobe lighting, managed by Andrew Martin and Paul Sumsion, and thanks must go also to Mr Hubble on the sound system and to Mr Lea.

Altogether it was a fantastic evening's entertainment and a storming last-bow venue by the ever-popular *Trivial Things*.

BEN GREENE

Debate

This House believes that private education should be abolished.

This, by far the best debate I have so far heard at Rendcomb, took place before a large gathering of the school. Julian Madeley began proceedings with perhaps

the best speech of the evening, in which he fluently argued against the essential unfairness of private education, demonstrating its divisiveness and its perpetuation of the class system. His arguments were ably supported by Emma Thwaites and Henry Pugh, with Sarah Thayne, Andrew Pollard and James Grafton speaking against the motion.

All the speeches were worthy contributions to the debate, and the participants avoided the trap of repeating what had already been elaborated. The arguments and issues, however, really began to sparkle when Samantha Cato, in the chair, opened the debate to the floor. Many of the questions and comments were vigorously fielded by Andrew Pollard, who maintained that the excellencies of private education were too valuable to throw away and that both the principle of freedom and the health of the state sector would suffer if public schools were abolished.

The best moment for me, however, was when one member of the house unwisely commented that it was merely 'tough luck' for those who were unable to send their children to private school. This comment unleashed a wonderfully articulate put-down from Emma Thwaites, who declared that it was exactly that kind of attitude which, some would say, the snobbery and elitism of private education fostered.

The quality of the speeches and of the comments from the floor meant that the debate ranged widely over issues such as the way in which Assisted Places could help promising children to opportunities otherwise denied them, and how different types of education could produce pupils whose attitudes on leaving school were potentially sexist, racist or elitist because of their background. After nearly an hour and a half of very high-quality discussion the motion was put to the vote and passed with a good majority in favour of the proposition.

I have only one criticism, and that is that there was no formal summing-up by either side at the end. This seems to me an essential part of the process, not only because it is a test of the speakers' ability to follow the complex arguments and to improvise a response to the most important issues, but also because it enables the audience to reflect on the range of points put to it.

Some years ago the same motion was debated at Rendcomb, but the quality of argument this time was far superior. Clearly the debating society, supported by Mr Bowman but essentially run by the pupils, is at present in excellent shape. Future debates will be awaited with enthusiasm

M. C. C.

Sonya Naish



Cycling for the Diocese



On 14th September the majority of Form 2 and some members of Form 3 embarked on the annual Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride, and most of us, those whose bikes didn't fall to pieces or vanish from under them, actually made it to the end!



We all set off at 10.45 a. m., not suspecting any obstacles or difficulties ahead of us. Everyone was in high spirits... for the first 200 metres, until we met the hill up to the White Way. The first problem presented itself: at the top of the hill a postman seemed to have dropped some kind of package of parcels. As a consequence, thousands of people had stopped to see what had happened. After that diversion we all eventually arrived safe and sound at Chedworth Church.

The second problem was that during navigation of the White Way my dad's pedal fell off; in fact he had damaged his bike so much that the whole front gear system had to be changed.

The third problem was that going down a steep hill my handle-bars started to seize up, although I eventually made it to the next church on our route.

The fourth came on the same hill: just after visiting our first church Ashley Watkins came off his bicycle with a bump and retired shaken. Fie still managed to raise his sponsorship money though!

After all this things started to improve, and we had an enjoyable lunch on Farmington village green. From

lunch onwards, though, the weather began to turn colder and the hills to get steeper; towards the last three churches it began to drizzle and then rain.

Then came another huge hill... the longest hill, the slowest hill, the wettest hill, the most dangerous hill - fanfare - Withington Hill! After a mile's walk we reached the White Way again, cycled along for about a mile and then turned to encounter the final downhill, to Rendcomb at last.

We were exhausted and a bit battered and bruised, but we had covered the 27 miles in about six hours and were proud to have done our bit for the Diocese, raising a total of £987.41.

TIM SHAW

Outdoor Pursuits

Fine tuning of the scheme introduced last year provided the opportunity for pupils in their third and fourth years to experience a wide range of activities away from the school. John Willson continued to take groups climbing, on a weekly basis, on the cliffs above the River Wye.

With a range of emotions from open enthusiasm to near-panic, John sympathetically encourages and coaxes all our pupils to achieve something during the Sunday afternoon climbs. Nobody is forced to undertake anything, but most find that they can succeed if they are prepared to try. Once again a small group of sixth-formers climbed at a more advanced level with John during the summer term.

Caving has proved a popular activity during the Easter term, and Mr Bowman arranged several advanced underground explorations in the Mendip Hills. In the summer canoeing takes over as the main sport, the Wye Valley again being the principal venue. The four-hour paddle from Huntsham Bridge to Monmouth is a delight and offers the excitement of the rapids at Symonds Yat. Fourth-year pupils from Stable House all survived the experience, even if Andrew Riley still cannot understand how he came to be capsized by a tree, even though the river was some 50 metres wide.

I must say 'thank you' again to all the parents who have acted as minibus drivers and thereby allowed the pupils to gain from their experience of new challenges.

C. P. M. K.

Charles Dudbridge



Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night is a play in which Shakespeare combines the absurd, the hilarious, the romantic and the sombre to perfection. However, it is a play which demands thought as well as laughter of its audience. Every comical moment has its serious side, as every serious moment contains an underlying absurdity.

Thus *Twelfth Night* is a demanding play to perform and requires talent and dedication from the cast if the performance is to succeed. In the production here in November the cast did succeed; especially in the last performance, the comedy was sharp and the pathos biting.



Rowen Elmes, playing Malvolio, perfectly grasped the mixture of the absurd and the pathetic, conveying his degradation even as the audience laughed at his yellow cross-garters.

At their best, the comic foursome James Grafton, Jonathan Powell, Samantha Cato and Henry Pugh created a comic backdrop and, with their atmospheric characterisations, gave a depth and believability to the world of Illyria.

The element of romance, which returned the

audience to the conventional courtly setting of Shakespearian comedy, was no less ably conveyed. Sarah Langley's Viola was sensitively and subtly played, avoiding both over-sentimentality and over-intensity.

Christopher Carmichael and Kate Hodgkinson both developed their characters well, and were helped by their accurate and convincing costumes; thanks to Matron and Mrs Wood, these two characters, as well as Olivia's two ladies in waiting (Patricia Renny and Sarah Thayne) certainly looked their parts.



Feste the clown, played by Rosie Moser, remained suspended between the conventional romantic element and the whimsical element of comedy. It is a challenging part, and Rosie managed it superbly, buoyantly changing and shifting throughout the performance, often giving the audience a glimpse of the seriousness behind much of the comedy.

These performances of *Twelfth Night*, albeit impressive throughout, leave the audiences with two images. The first is the scene in which Rowen Elmes, in his cross-garters, succeeded in breaking through the difficulties of Shakespearian language and culture. The second is at the end of the play, when the audience was left with Rosie Moser's lone figure on the stage, singing with emotion, strength and clarity, a spell-binding image.

EMILY TABASSI

Jonathan Powell as Aguecheek.



Bugsy Malone

The setting is a rather seedy speakeasy in America during the infamous era of Prohibition. A chilling atmosphere is established by the music, as muted piano and drums set the tense mood. On to the stage strolls the cool, confident Bugsy Malone, only to be interrupted twice in his narration by the infamous splurge attacks, which leave two lesser mobsters reeling under a covering of high-velocity shaving foam.

Like the rest of this production, the opening was superbly slick, inventive and witty and full of energy. Indeed this year's junior play must be one of the best staged at Rendcomb, full of fun and life, with a cast of over 60, all of whom acted with commitment and imagination, and running for three nights with hardly a hitch in a complex and finely polished production.

The story is a send-up of the old mobster movies, with a wonderful sense of the clichés of the genre and some telling one-liners, interspersed with musical numbers that set the mood as well as entertaining in their own right.

Bugsy himself was excellently played by the plausible, super-cool Charles Yardley; his performance was thoroughly convincing, full of imaginative touches and amusing verbal and physical inflexions. His infatuated sweetheart, Blousey Brown, was played by Joanna Morse, who managed to convey the character's innocence and starry-eyed ambition really well, without lapsing into caricature. Her song in Act 2, *Only a Fool*, was especially memorable, with its beautiful tone and pathos.

John Eaton, as the hapless Fat Sam, was clearly in his element. He moved around the stage speaking and acting as if the part had been written for him, and he managed to pull off the many slapstick moments in a convincing way, causing great amusement. As with all the performers, the audience will not easily forget his wonderful drawl and expertly timed, misplaced self-confidence. Tim Shaw, playing his rival Dandy Dan, was also outstanding, delivering his lines with especially careful timing and pace. The screen goddess of the production was Tallulah, better known as Helen Hall-Wright, whose singing and acting were always amusing, full of character and confidently carried out.

However, the main characters alone do not make a

play. The whole performance was full of carefully timed and paced walk-on parts, very funny one-liners and crowd scenes, with a particularly spectacular splurge fight at the end, which had the audience in hysterical excitement from start to finish. The standard was uniformly so good that it is almost impossible to pick out particular moments, but the bungling incompetence of Fat Sam's Gang, the pestering of the inconsolable Fizzy (Charles Allen) and the antics of the two hopeless detectives, played by Chris Jarrett and John Morgan - the latter's falsetto voice had the audience in hysterics every time he opened his mouth - were especially treasured moments. The sixth-form girls revealed hitherto unsuspected talents in their dancing, dazzlingly choreographed by Nerys Machin.

The play was the result of months of very hard work, but all who were involved in it would agree that

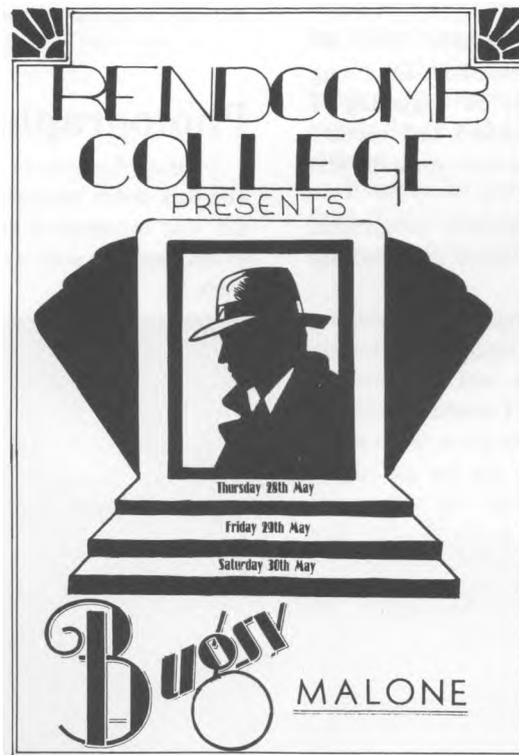
its ultimate success made all the effort really worthwhile. Mr Colin Burden deserves a special mention for the scenery, and Matron Julie Rogers and Mrs Penny Wood deserve nothing less than Oscars for creating and finding so many authentic costumes, adding so much to the visual appeal of the show. The maestro, Mr David White, and his excellent jazz band accompanied the actors with perfect timing and sustained the continuity and mood.

Enthusiastic reviews of school plays can sometimes seem rather absurd, when the audience consists of so many pupils, teachers, parents and friends, but in this case the production really was a sparkling and dynamic one which would have delighted the

most unsympathetic critics. Much of the credit for this goes of course to the director, Dr Craddock, who has gone from strength to strength in his production of plays here. Sadly, this is his last show at Rendcomb, but he leaves us on a very high note, which we, and no doubt he, will long remember.

PATRICK MORGAN

For photographs of the cast, see back cover.



Bell Ringing

This year I think that the church tower has been jinxed. On my first evening as Tower Captain a rope broke whilst the third bell was being rung, a potentially dangerous occurrence, which luckily did no harm to bell or ringer. Soon after this the stay broke on the same bell, and again we were lucky in doing no damage to the bell, though Colin Morey did discover what 'rope-bum' really felt like.

The Christmas term saw a lot of tower maintenance done, including repainting of several parts, the replacement of all the vent netting to keep birds out, and 'sound-proofing' the inside of the tower. During the term our ringing eventually reached a reasonable standard, and our new ringers seemed to be doing really well.

At the beginning of the Easter term came the greatest disaster which has befallen our bells for a long time: upon inspecting the tower at the beginning of term, I found that the treble's headstock had become split, making it unsafe to ring. So we have spent the rest of the year ringing only five bells.

Despite this, our standard has steadily progressed, until even our first-former, David Hughes, can now ring for Sunday services!

I would like to thank all my ringers for putting up with me for the year, for their support on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and of course for their help in maintaining the tower. I would also like to thank our 'outside ringers', who have given us so much help and support, and Mr Sudbury for the use of the tower, and indeed the whole school and village for putting up with our frequent 'awful racket', as I'm often told it is!

JOHN TALBOT

Bridge Club

In the last two years a number of senior members have left, and so it was encouraging to find a group of fourth-formers keen to begin the game in September, thanks partly to the new Activities Scheme. They improved their skills rapidly and were soon able to join the more experienced players at the Sunday meetings. They should form a nucleus of the club for some years.

In February we again held a heat of the *Bridge Magazine* Schools Competition, with Mr A. Cambites as Director. Our three teams gained plenty of experience from the session, but failed to qualify for the next round: rather embarrassingly, Team 'C' was placed higher than Team 'A'!

Team 'A': M. Smith and N. Smith, J. Mackinnon and F. Barton.

Team 'B': F. Ingham and S. Roney, T. Gaskill and J. Underwood.

Team 'C': B. Greene and M. Gee, R. Hancock and P. Sumsion.

In November Matthew Smith and James Mackinnon played at the Oxford Bridge Club in a heat of *The Guardian* Under-23 Competition. They qualified for the final at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club in April, where they creditably came eighth, after six hours' play! Miss Goldsmith kindly not only allowed James Mackinnon to interrupt his Biology Field Trip, but also took him to Taunton station and met him on his return late at night!

In May it was pleasing to find that a group of third-formers were eager to begin the game. They have come regularly on Thursdays.

Lastly, my thanks go to Matthew Smith and Nick Smith for their loyal support over the past four years. I hope they find many opportunities to play Bridge in the future.

W. J. D. W.

Photographic Society

The dark-room has been used by two groups of people this year, members of the society, ranging from Forms 3 to 6A, and the activity group, which operated once a week.



Activity group.

Consequently, more pupils have learned the skills of developing black and white film and producing prints of various sizes. There has been some interest in making black and white prints from colour negatives, which requires fundamental techniques without the help of electronic gadgets, and the activity group were

successful with their entry in the Annual School Competition, entitled *Working Dogs*.

A wide range of aspects of photography have been studied during the year, and the field trip to Bibury to investigate the effects of camera settings and composition was particularly enjoyable; some results can be seen in this magazine.

The staff of John Wright Photography in Warwick kindly gave a group of boys and girls an insight into their work, and this is reported elsewhere.

Paul Sumsion, secretary of the society, looked after the dark-room with great efficiency and, although he did not have time to experiment with black and white this year, we did have the pleasure of seeing his colour work in the competition. He handed over to Andrew Martin in June.

Once again, the entries in the Annual Competition reflected the greater use of colour by all ages, and the best prints were exhibited on Founder's Day. The results were as follows:

Black and White

First: *Working Dogs*

Second: *Mo-mo*

Colour

First: *Bunting*

Second: *Crosses**

*Kielder Chaffinch**

Photography activity group

C. J Wood

Michael Read (1)

Paul Sumsion (7)

C. J. Wood

Third: *Churn Valley*

*White Withington**

Stained glass view

Tim Shaw (2)

David Hughes (1)

Paul Sumsion (7)

C. J. W.

* See inside back cover.

Conservation

Last year saw the introduction of a rudimentary Rendcomb recycling initiative. This was spearheaded by Aleks Maljkovic and other ecologically-minded sixth-formers. We installed eye-catching red and turquoise bins in the boarding houses, which encourage the recycling of cans and paper. Staff and the sixth-form bar also accumulate bottles in all shapes and sizes.

As part of the activities scheme, I have had select bands of volunteers to help empty the 'Green Store' on a regular basis and keep the school end of the system running.

It relies on personal enthusiasm and community spirit. I hope that, as the memory of the Earth Summit fades, our efforts will continue to evolve and grow.

B. M. G.

Working dogs.



Rock Climbing

Rock climbing is a minority activity at Rendcomb, so, when asked if I'd like to try it, I replied 'yes' without thinking about what I was letting myself in for.

Climbing requires strength, determination and a definite head for heights, none of which I had found in myself before undertaking my first climb.

Since I was terrified of heights, the climbing wall at the end of the Sports Hall appeared at first view impossible to scale!

After much persuasion and encouragement, with a rope I climbed up 'the chimney', the easiest climb of all. Once at the top I felt completely 'jellified' and have to this day not discovered what possessed me to undertake such an activity! After gaining confidence and realising that my body could defy gravity, I felt much happier and so mastered other climbs.

It was then that the bombshell was dropped: I was to go climbing on real rock in the Wye Valley with Mr Willson. Terror would be an understatement of my condition. I had heard many stories - exaggerated, of course - of climbs so difficult that one had only fingertips stopping one from falling! Nevertheless, I always rise to a challenge, and being the first girl at Rendcomb to undertake such an activity was a challenge in itself, if only to prove to all the sceptics that I could do it!

At the base of our first climb I felt that perhaps climbing wasn't for me: even though I was looking up as high as possible, I still couldn't see the top.

However, I managed slowly to climb upwards. Since I was concentrating so hard on finding foot

and hand holes, my fear of heights evaporated, while my trust in my fellow climbers increased, as they often held me while I was swinging around the rock face.

After succeeding on a 'severe' climb, I was determined to show the others that I could climb up a 'very severe' rock face as well, in spite of my body's feeling totally exhausted.

I had managed to climb three-quarters of the way up, when fatigue overtook me; then my companions literally hauled me up the last stage, until I collapsed at the summit.

Never in my life had I been so exhausted, but the elation of succeeding was overwhelming. The pain, with all the bruises, scratches and cuts my legs had accumulated, was wiped out by the feeling of contentment that I had proved the doubters wrong.

I now enjoy rock climbing to such an extent that I have decided to continue after leaving Rendcomb.

My thanks go to John Willson and my fellow climbers for persevering with a slow but determined learner, and to Mr O'Connor and Mr King for encouraging me to start.

ANNITTA DUGUID

Creative Writing

There were a small number of entries for this year's creative writing competition, although the standard was quite high. Ben Greene's *Preventative Measures* and Colin Morey's *Owning Up* were both commended. Ben's literary skills and hard work on the school magazine brought him also the reward of a holiday job working for the prestigious *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

M. C. C.

Canal holiday - April



Academic

We congratulate the following:

Dominic Clark

First class Honours, B. Sc degree in Mathematics, Birmingham University. Half-share in the Corbett Prize, awarded to the most promising and distinguished student reading for a B. Sc or B. A. degree in the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

Scholarships for entry in September 1992

Sixth Form Entry:

Kirsten Bennett

(The School of St Helen & St Katherine)

David Elliott (Sir Roger Manwood's School)

Hannah Willcocks (St Clotilde's Convent School)

Scholarship & Bursary

Scholarship

Forces Bursary

Third Form Entry:

Robert Ashby (Forres School)

Imogen Cox (Ingleside PNEU School)

Rebecca Doyle (Hatherop Castle School)

Guy Head (New College School, Oxford)

William Hunt (Terrington Hall School)

Nicholas Nicholson (Oakley Hall School)

Tabitha Pelly (Downe House School)

Poppy Smith (Cheltenham Ladies' College)

Gerald Turvey (Arnold Lodge School)

David Wragg (King's College School, Cambridge)

Forces Bursary

Sinclair Scholarship & Bursary

Day Scholarship

Music Scholarship

Forces Bursary

Major Scholarship

Day Scholarship

Day Scholarship

Music Scholarship

Minor Scholarship

Second Form Entry:

Rowan Renow-Clarke (Deer Park School, Cirencester)

Day Scholarship

First Form Entry:

Mark Abrams (The Mill School, Potterne)

Oliver Anthony (St John's School, Cheltenham)

Edmund Compton (The Abbey School, Tewkesbury)

Laura Donovan (Querns School)

Thomas Gilbert (Richard Pate's School)

Tristan Lockie (St Francis School, Pewsey)

John Shenton (Cheltenham College Junior School)

Tara Sleggs (Powell's School)

Nicholas Stanfield (Richard Pate's School)

James Starkey (Charlton Kings Junior School)

Lee Trotman (Uplands County Primary School)

Philip Webb (Cold Aston School)

Bursary

Assisted Place

Music Scholarship

Day Scholarship

Major Scholarship

Forces Bursary

Assisted Place

Day Scholarship

Assisted Place

Assisted Place

Assisted Place

Rendcomb Foundation Place

'A' Level

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

Hamish Auld - Art & Design
Alasdair Baker - Business Studies, English, French
Graham Bennett - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Samantha Cato - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Gareth Davies - English, French, German
Zoe Davis - Biology, Geography
Sophy Denny - Art & Design*, English, History
Elisa Diihmke - Art & Design*, German, Mathematics
Annitta Duguid - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Julia Dymock - Business Studies, German
Linda Eklöf - Business Studies, Mathematics, Physics
James Grafton - English, French, History
Marcus Head - Biology, Chemistry
Kathryn Hodgkinson - Art & Design*, English, Geography
Nathan Houseman - Biology, Business Studies*, Chemistry
Paul Irving - French, German, Mathematics
Sarah Langley - Business Studies, English, Mathematics
Graham Lawton - Biology* (M), Chemistry* (M), Mathematics
Julian Madeley - English, Geography, History
Benjamin Marshall - Art & Design*, English, History
Rosemary Moser - Biology, English
Sonya Naish - Biology*, Chemistry* (M), German*, Mathematics
Matthew Norman - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Antony Palin - Art & Design
Andrew Pollard - Biology*, Chemistry* (M), Mathematics*

Jonathan Powell - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Henry Pugh - English, History
Catherine Ravell - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
Patricia Renny - Art & Design*, English, French
Iain Richardson - Business Studies, Geography, History
Sophie Robinson - Art & Design, French, History
Jonathan Roney - Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics
Tania Sayegh - Business Studies, English, French
James Sleeman - Chemistry* (D), Mathematics*, Physics*
Jason Smith - Business Studies
Matthew Smith - Art & Design*, Biology
Nicholas Smith - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Paul Sumsion - French, Music
Emily Tabassi - English, French, History*
Sarah Thayne - Biology, French, History
Emma Thwaites - Business Studies, English, Geography
Timothy Underwood - Business Studies
Clair Watson - Biology, Geography
Petra Watts - English, French*, History
John Wheeler - Business Studies*, Chemistry, Mathematics

Additional Subject

French for Business Studies: Rebecca Fowler, Sarah Fox, Helen Hall-Wright, William Hunter-Smart*, Nerys Machin, Patrick Morgan, Charles Morgan-Harris, Daniel Morris, Clare Newman*, Marian Preen.

Key; * - Grade 'A'
(D) - Distinction in Special Paper,
(M) - Merit in Special Paper.



Churn Valley

Tim Shaw

GCSE

The following results were obtained in the GCSE examinations:

James Bainbridge - B, C, DR*, e(2), F, H, M, P*
 Peter Barry - B, C, E(2), EL, F, gn, M, P
 Nicholas Barton - b, c, DR*, e(2), f, G, M
 Paul Bigg-Wither - AD, B, E(2), EL, F, G, H, M
 Andrew Branston - AD, B, C, e(2), F, G, H, m
 Anthony Brooke - AD, b, E(2), EL, F, G, H, M, p
 David Chalk - B, C, E(3), EL, F, GN, M, P
 Barrie Davies - AD, c, e(2), F*, GN, H, l, m
 Charles Dudbridge - AD*, c, E(2), F*, GN, H, L, M, P
 Charles East - AD*, C, e(2), F, G, gn, H, M, p
 Matthew Gee - C, E(2), F*, GN, H, L, M, P
 Giles Head - AD, B, E(2), F, G, h, m, MU, p
 Daniel Irving - B, E*(2), EL, F*, G, H, M, P
 Christopher Lawton - AD, B, C, E(2), F*, GN, H, M, P
 Andrew McIndoe - AD, B, e(2), f, G, h, m, p
 Andrew Martin - B, C, E(2), F, G, GN, H, M, P
 Christopher Mason - AD, B, E(2), EL, F, G, H, m
 Christian Millard - B, E(1), F, G, H, M, MU, P
 James Mills - AD, B, c, E(2), F, G*, gn, H, m
 Graham Monteith - AD, B, C, E(2), F, gn, H, M
 James Moore - AD*, B, C, E(2), F, G*, H*, M*, P*
 Christopher Norman - B, C, E(2), F*, G, GN, M, MU, P
 Christopher Oliver - AD, B, E*(1), EL, F*, G, GN, H, m

Matthew Pentney - C, E(2), F, G, gn, M, MU, P
 Nicholas Pollard - B*, C*, E(2), F*, G*, GN*, H, M*, P*
 Luke Prosser - AD, B, c, E(2), G, gn, H, M
 Robert Sage - AD*, B*, C*, E(2), F*, G*, H, M*, P*
 Kai Thomas - C*, E*(1), F*, G*, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P
 Charles Waters - AD, B, c, e(3), el, f, g, M
 Julian Wilkie - AD*, B*, C, E*(1), F*, H, L, M*, P

Key: Capital letters show Grades A-C;
 small letters show 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' shows the grade in Oral English.



The Record 2

College Officers

<i>Head Boy:</i>	Jonathan Powell
<i>Head Girl and Head of Park House:</i>	Clair Watson
<i>Head of Lawn House:</i>	Graham Lawton
<i>Head of School House:</i>	Paul Irving
<i>Head of Stable House:</i>	John Wheeler
<i>Godman House Prefects:</i>	Marcus Head, Jonathan Roney
<i>Junior House Prefects:</i>	Emily Tabassi, Rosie Moser
<i>Prefect of Arts Block:</i>	Hamish Auld
<i>Prefect of Dining Hall:</i>	Zoë Davis
<i>Prefects of Dulverton:</i>	Sonya Naish, Jason Smith
<i>Prefect of Grounds:</i>	James Sleeman
<i>Prefect of Main Building:</i>	Catherine Ravell
<i>Prefect of Sports Hall:</i>	Iain Richardson
<i>Church Ushers:</i>	Jason Smith, Sonya Naish, Zoe Davis, Iain Richardson, John Wheeler, Hamish Auld, Emily Tabassi, Rosie Moser

Librarians: Linda Eklöf, Paul Sumsion, Andrew Martin

Magazine Editors: Hugh Costelloe, Sarah Fox, Matthew Giggs, Ben Greene, Helen Hall-Wright, Patrick Morgan, Jeremy Sawtell, John Talbot

Captain of Rugby: Graham Lawton
Captain of Boy s' Hockey: Graham Lawton
Captain of Girls' Hockey: Annitta Duguid
Captain of Cricket: Marcus Head
Captain of Boys' Tennis: Julian Madeley
Captain of Girls' Tennis: Catherine Ravell
Captain of Netball: Petra Watts

Meeting Officers

Chairman: Andrew Pollard
Speaker: James Grafton
Secretary: Sonya Naish/
Samantha Cato
Banker: Jason Smith
Scribe: Sarah Thayne

Valete

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

Hamish Auld, Alasdair Baker, Graham Bennett, Samantha Cato, Gareth Davies, Zoë Davis, Sophy Denny, Annitta Duguid, Elisa Dühmke, Julia Dymock, Linda Eklöf, Claire Germaine, James Grafton, Marcus Head, Kathryn Hodgkinson, Nathan Houseman, Paul Irving, Sarah Langley, Graham Lawton, Julian Madeley, Benjamin Marshall, Norman Matthew, Rosemary Moser, Sonya Naish, Antony Palin, Andrew Pollard, Jonathan Powell, Henry Pugh, Catherine Ravell, Patricia Renny, Iain Richardson, Sophie Robinson, Jonathan Roney, Tania Sayegh, James Sleeman, Jason Smith, Matthew Smith, Nicholas Smith, Paul Sumsion, Emily Tabassi, Sarah Thayne, Emma Thwaites, Timothy Underwood, Clair Watson, Petra Watts, John Wheeler.

Anthony Brooke, Barrie Davies, Charles Dudbridge, Charles East, Christopher Mason, James Mills, Charles Waters.

Oliver Blaydon, Phillippe Le Fèvre.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1992:

Kirsten Bennett, Georgina Buck, Shaznee Deen, David Elliott, Simon Fowler, Philippa Halls, Rebecca Knightly-Brown, Nicholas Leake, Osamo Nkechi, Pollyanna Parsons, Enno Schuh, Theda Schuh, Oliver Slater, Hannah Willcocks, Hannah Wykeham.

Andrew Mar, Juan Martin Busutil.

Robert Arnold, Robert Ashby, Robert Bateman, Imogen Cox, Andrew Donovan, Rebecca Doyle, Douglas Ellison, Guy Head, William Hunt, Nicholas Nicholson, Tabitha Pelly, Poppy Smith, Gerald Turvey, Tristan Whittaker, Robin Witchell, David Wragg.

Bianca Mann, Rowan Renow-Clarke.

Mark Abrams, Oliver Anthony, Edmund Compton, Laura Donovan, Thomas Gilbert, Tristan Lockie, Beshlie McKelvie, Joel Pelly, John Shenton, Tara Sleggs, Nicholas Stanfield, James Starkey, Lee Trotman, Philip Webb.



Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1992:

President: Ted Jones (1940-48)
Chairman: Brian Smith (1965-72)
Vice-Chairman: Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Secretary: Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77)
9 Shepherd's Way, Cirencester,
GL7 2EY
Treasurer: Robert Barrett (1969-76)
School Representative: Chris Wood (1965-71)

News of Recent Leavers

Holly Andrews

Aberystwyth University College of Wales - Politics
1992

Kojo Annan

Bristol Polytechnic - Law

Karen Betts

St Andrew's University - English

Charlotte Carroll

Au Pair in France

John Carroll

Homerton College, Cambridge - Teacher Training

Sophie Chang

Imperial College, London - Physics

Natasha Clements

Royal Holloway College, London - French and Italian

Anna Dühmke

Gottingen University - Law

Patrick Evans

New College, Oxford - French

Kate Graham

King's College, London - Physiology and Pharmacology

Kate Floyd

Working in an architect's office in Folkestone

Alex Hall

Bangor University - Biology and Oceanography

Adam Halliwell

Coventry Polytechnic - Civil Engineering

Christine Hayes

Bristol Polytechnic - Law

Simon Hett

Portsmouth Polytechnic - Pharmacology

Laura Dutton

Oxford Polytechnic - Creative Arts and Teacher
Training

William King

Kingston Polytechnic - Social Studies and French

Daniel Maslen

Girton College, Cambridge - Geography 1992

Carragh McAree

Leeds University - Psychology and Computer Studies

Richard Milner

Bristol University - Economics and Social History

Michael Moody

Corpus Christi College, Oxford - Ancient and Modern
History

Rachel Seed

Oxford Polytechnic - Institutional Management

Tom Shillington-Balfour

Au Pair in France

Nicholas Smith

Oxford - Chemistry

Ian Spencer

Birmingham Polytechnic - Economics

Karen Swan

Loughborough University - Mathematics and Education

Elizabeth Syed

Manchester University - Linguistics and German

Katie Tawse

Has visited Spain and Egypt, B. Ed. 1992

Jonathan Tomsett

Newcastle College of Art - Foundation Course

Antony von Westphalen-Bunge

University College, London - Law

Neil Walmsley

Leeds Polytechnic - Zoology

Richard Walters

Humberside Polytechnic - Engineering

Oliver Ward

Southampton University - Aeronautical Engineering

Simon Williams

Aberystwyth University of Wales - History

Nicholas Wood

Bristol University - French and German

Amy West

Christ Church, Oxford - English

Patricia Rome

Bournemouth Polytechnic - Institutional Management

Anja Beaver

Liverpool University - Physiology

Sam Lam

Pangbourne College

David Chapman

Gloscat - Art Foundation Course

Piers Gorman

Gloscat - Art Foundation Course

Richard Parsons

Portsmouth College of Art - Foundation Course

Julia Lascelles

Newcastle College of Art - Foundation Course

Fiona Reichwald

Camberwell College of Art - Ceramics

Kate Bonniwell

Visiting New Zealand, Nursing Project 2000 in
Canterbury

Rebecca Bell

Au Pair in Austria

Bridget Morral

Gloscat - Art Foundation Course

Outings

The Junior House at Jodrell Bank

Wednesday, 11th September, was not a day I was looking forward to. We had been promised an ominous-sounding working day out at Jodrell Bank and, until we arrived, none of us was too keen on the idea.

However, when we finally got there after a long trip spent watching the film *Home Alone*, our feelings that this was to be the most boring trip ever were completely dispelled. The spectacular telescope quickly helped to raise our spirits, and our first task was great fun: we had to explore an arboretum in which there was a representation of the planets in our solar system, laid out to scale. We went round taking notes on all the planets; although we never found Pluto, Mr Wood was more persistent!

After lunch we moved into the museum itself. We were surrounded by information on famous astronomers, and there was an incredible hologram of Isaac Newton, with a moving mouth giving the impression that it was a real person talking to you.

The rooms were all filled with displays and computers with buttons marked 'press', which of course we did! Each one revealed a graphic display of some kind or other.



The Black Hole.

We all walked round completing our question sheets, compiled by Mr Wood and Dr Smith, with the answers we found in the museum. Unlike some museums, it had a lot of space, and the exhibition was really well laid out, so that we could work comfortably and enjoy ourselves.

The whole day proved to be both an education and good fun, and we would like to thank Mr Wood and Dr Smith for taking us and putting up with us for the day.

CHARLES BARTON

Rugby in Canada

A motley group of dangerously unfit rugby players left the College on 27th July to start a two-week tour of Ontario. The party numbered 32 and included four Old



Rendcombians. Mr King was the organiser, ably assisted by Mr Newby and accompanied by the tour company's organiser, Mr Rees, a primary school head master from Birmingham. The school Matron, Miss Rogers, was a very welcome moral and, if necessary, medical support!

As we set off for Heathrow, Dan Maslen, our tour captain, presented each member of the team with a specially commissioned T-shirt, sporting a simple logo designed to embarrass the wearer as much as possible! Also we were introduced to the video camera, a device which was to haunt every player over the next couple of weeks, especially Mr King and Mr Newby.

Our flight to Toronto passed without much incident, but the fun began as soon as we landed: Jon Powell discovered that his luggage had somehow managed to get itself on to another plane, and we had to waste two or three hours until it caught us up. Eventually it did appear, and we boarded the coach for our first port of call, Peterborough.

It may not have been the most exciting place we visited, but the warmth of the welcome more than made up for that. We were immediately invited to a barbecue and, although we had not slept for at least 24 hours, because of the time difference, there was no hesitation. Thus our tour began with the fun and good spirits which set the tone for the rest of the trip.

Unfortunately our first practice was marred when Kevin Holmes celebrated the final scrummage by injuring his shoulder; this made it impossible for him to play in the first part of the tour, but the resourceful Kevin used the time he gained to catch up on the ball-by-ball commentary on the Test Match against the West Indies.

Our hosts entertained us in superb style, and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay with them. One of the highlights of Peterborough, we were told, was their world-famous 'lift-lock', part of the canal system linking all the waterways and lakes found in vast numbers in that part of the world. This particular lock ascended at something like a snail's pace and, whilst our hosts seemed to take a great pride in this engineering achievement, our grins throughout the two-hour trip became rather fixed and false...

However, we had come to Canada to play rugby, and we found our first match, with the Peterborough Pagans, a very stimulating game. Their side was relatively inexperienced, but had lots of talent, strength and determination. In the end our greater experience told, however, and we managed to gain a fairly emphatic victory.

It was with some reluctance that we left Peterborough next day on a coach journey beyond Toronto and to the south to our next hosts at Waterloo. This was a change from our original itinerary, as our expected hosts had pulled out of the tour at the very last minute. There was no need to worry, however: our impromptu hosts may have had little time to organise, but they threw themselves into the task of entertaining us with the energy and enthusiasm we had come to expect during our first days in Canada.

The stay in Waterloo saw our coaches' attempt to introduce us to a little more of Canadian life. We visited an area where the strict religious group, the Mennonites, live. These people follow a code which extends even to the point of not using buttons on their home-made clothing, as they consider this a sign of vanity. These interesting people proved disappointingly elusive, however. We spotted only one horse-drawn carriage passing in the near distance as we were leaving the area.

The rest of our cultural tour included the opportunity to sample something of the southern Ontario countryside, and we took time off towards the end to relax by diving from some 50-foot cliffs into the cool, clear waters of one of the lakes. Not content with this, we also played a little rugby.



Waterloo saw the debut of the awesome 'A' team. Despite the fact that our opponents were billed as a Stratford U19 2nd XV, most of them seemed to be sporting full beards. Notwithstanding the inspirational leadership of Richard Parsons, the result was, perhaps inevitably given their greater strength, a defeat for our side. The 1st XV fared better, winning a close game in which ample handling and running skills were shown by both sides. These matches were played in very hot, humid conditions, and at the end a number of us were

suffering from dehydration, the worst victims being the brave few who had volunteered for both games.

With three matches played and two won by the 1st team, everyone was eager to reach our next destination.

St Catherine's Tigers were the host club, and the location gave us the chance to visit Niagara Falls.



Patrick Morgan at Niagara.

Matt Giggs

Even the knowledge gained locally that one of the falls on the American side could actually be turned off, enabling running repairs to prevent erosion to be carried out, could not dampen the impression of awe-inspiring grandeur that these huge waterfalls gave us. We took the opportunity to make the short journey on the world-famous 'Maid of the Mist' boats right into the heart of the cataracts. Those of us who had the chance to view the foaming falls at night, illuminated by a multitude of rainbow-coloured lights, will never forget the spectacle. Perhaps only the North Americans can organise such displays.

The last few days were spent at Toronto University. After being separated in different billets up to this point, it was great to be back in one group together. The accommodation was marvellous, and there was easy access to phones, so that we could make contact with our families and, more importantly, find out how the Test Match was progressing.

Everyone enjoyed the sights of Toronto, and everyone has his own story to tell of how he spent his time, some more lurid than others. There was a furious clamour to get tickets to watch the Toronto 'Bluejays' baseball team, at that time at the top of their league. Their home is the stunning Skydrome Stadium, with its fully retractable roof. Alongside it is the CN Tower, the tallest freestanding structure in the world. Many of us took the lift, at breakneck speed, to the fantastic observation deck at the top.

Once again rugby featured strongly in our programme, the 'A' team pitted against what turned out to be an U19 team in Ontario, the Balmy Beach RFC. The 1st XV ran out easy winners against the Toronto Lions. These matches were played at the lush, green

Sunnydale Park, which reminded us of England.

All good things come to an end; before we knew it, we were back at the airport again for the return journey. There was much sadness at the thought that such a marvellous time had come to an end; we had all had so much fun, both on and off the field. As we boarded the plane we were all busy with our own special memories, which no doubt will live with us for ever. Our sincere thanks go to all the staff who accompanied us, and particularly to Mr King and Mr Newby, who not only put up with us wonderfully, but who also entered fully into the spirit of much of the fun on the trip, and whose embarrassing antics we shall never let them forget. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, shared, enjoyed and remembered by all involved, in a spirit of true teamwork and comradeship we shall always treasure.

JAMES GRAFTON

The John Wright Photographic Studios

On 21st February Mr Wood took 11 members of our photographic society to the John Wright Studios in Warwick.

We had been learning all about processing black and white films in the dark room at school. We had even looked at the changes needed to develop colour film. It was really interesting to see some of the things we had learnt being put into practice in a professional laboratory.

As soon as we arrived we were grouped so that one

of the firm's photographers could take our photo. We then split into two parties and taken on a detailed tour of all the different departments; it was very interesting to follow the film taken of our group through the various processing stages.



We were shown also the modern technology, including such things as the design and lighting of the various studios, through to the methods used in renovation of old and worn photographs.

MARIAN PREEN

John Wright



Artists in Amsterdam

With gentle encouragement and bribery the Art Staff were persuaded to take the 'A' level students abroad on another trip, this year returning to Amsterdam. 25 students and four staff left Rendcomb at four in the morning on 14th February, heading for Heathrow airport and intent on exploring and experiencing all the city had to offer.

We had been encouraged and warned by the staff about what to look out for, and the morning started well, with champagne by courtesy of British Airways for Alex Faiers's seventeenth birthday; he shared it around, so we forgave him for having delayed our departure from Rendcomb by forgetting his passport.

We were starting to perk up over breakfast at 30,000 feet and were looking forward to getting to grips with Amsterdam. A quick train journey followed the short flight, and we found ourselves in the centre of town. Mr Denny and Mr O'Connor took over as leaders for the next part of the journey - the staff seemed to take it in turns - and we followed Mr O'Connor along a most interesting route through an area with a lot of red lights and a strange array of interesting articles in the shop windows.

We reached the Hotel Lancaster with tired feet and stimulated imaginations: even Stuart Hall appeared awake. The hotel was quite smart and very comfortable; having checked in, we went off to explore the city and have lunch. The staff gave us severe warnings not to eat fast food - as if we would!

We met in the afternoon at the *Rijksmuseum* and were taken to see an exhibition by the twentieth-century artist Vuillard. Although he is less well known than some, we were very impressed by his paintings: almost all were interiors, and they were very quiet, understated and brilliantly controlled, a modern version of the Vermeer we were to see later.

That evening, after a welcome rest, we ate at the hotel, and a hearty meal was followed by more celebrations of Alex's birthday: he was presented with a Dutch-style birthday cake, covered in cream, fresh fruit and a chocolate windmill. Some local sight-seeing and visiting places of cultural interest followed, before we headed for a reasonably early night.

Refreshed, we enjoyed a Dutch breakfast of cheese, ham and bread and set off to see the Van Gogh collection. It is a brilliant exhibition, with examples from the whole of his life, from the early dark, oily surfaces to the later sunlit paintings he did in the South of France. Seeing so many all together made a great impression on us all: it was fantastic to see the bright colours and vigorous paintwork at first hand.

We followed this after lunch with a visit to the main collection of twentieth-century painting at the *Stedelijk Museum*. There were a vast array of amazing things on show; some, by Matisse for example, were very much admired, while others certainly created a talking-point



and were less easy to understand or admire.

That evening, with Mrs Blackwell leading, we made our way across the town on a tram until we reached *Muders*, a restaurant booked by Mr Griffiths because it specialised in real Dutch food. Here we had a great feast of various forms of sausage, meaty stews and potatoes, all served in a friendly Dutch atmosphere. A tram journey rattled us back to our hotel, admiring the lit-up city on the way, and we finished the evening with a quick nightcap in a local-style 'Brown Bar', arriving back at the hotel in time for curfew!

Sunday morning gave us the chance to see the city from the canals on a fascinating boat tour. We could really see the glorious architecture, listening to stories from the guide, who explained that canal water was no longer used in the brewing of Heineken, well, except for the stuff they export to us!

That afternoon we saw the famous Rembrandt paintings, such as *The Night Watch* and *The Jewish Bride*. We were able now to see in real life his amazing technique. We were highly impressed also by his self-portraits and by some of the other artists we discovered, such as Vermeer and Ruisdael, the latter's work seeming close to Constable's.

The evening meal was traditional Indonesian, very full of flavour and aroma and really delicious. This further widened our appreciation of foreign cuisine and warmed us up before our trip back to the hotel, which was quite odd because it had started to snow!

Monday morning was spent either in visiting the Ann Frank House or the Rembrandt House, both interesting, and then in buying presents for home.

As we waited, now exhausted, in the airport lounge, we all had our own special memories. Most could think of favourite paintings and buildings, but also we remembered meals, bars and cafes which seemed so much part of the city and which suited its people, whom we had found friendly and relaxed. We felt really pleased that we had come and had the opportunity to explore such a wide range of experiences, and we all wanted to return one day.

None of this would have been possible without considerable help from the Parents' Association and the willingness of the staff to arrange the trip and come with us. Therefore great thanks are due to Mr Griffiths, Mr Denny, Mrs Blackwell and the honorary member of the Art Department, Mr O'Connor, all of whom made the trip not only well arranged and educational, but also friendly and fun.

ALEX FAIERS
TOM HUGHES

Stratford Theatre Trips

This year fifth and sixth-form English scholars have been privileged to see performances of three great Shakespearean works at Stratford's Royal Shakespeare Theatre, performed by the magnificent RSC. The highlight of the season for us all was a stunning production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which we saw on 6th May.

This was a wonderfully coherent, well thought-through performance, in which the intriguing questions of the play were tellingly restated. The true significance of Christopher Sly's dream was made even more teasingly equivocal than usual by the addition of a crowd of young people at the beginning and end of the play, who appeared as the patronising yuppie generation exploiting the simple old Christopher and his fantasies of male dominance. At the end of the play, as Christopher wakes from his dream, they appear again; for a moment the two generations exchange glances, and we see the play as not just a battle of the sexes, but as an almost contemporary comment on the different values of different generations. The supposedly liberal and permissive yuppie culture confronts the more reactionary world of the older generation, and we are left wondering whose attitude to women is really the more enlightened, honest and truthful. And who is really watching and patronising whom? Just as there is a play within a play in Shakespeare's work, so this production left us enquiring even more searchingly than usual into how much our attitudes are affected and how much they are genuine.

The star of the performance was Anton Lesser's remarkable Petruchio. He played the part with incredible energy and imagination, making something especially memorable out of his taunting of Kate when his own feigned madness became disturbingly convincing - another way in which this production challenged our sense of what was true and what was fiction.

Compared with such a performance, the other two plays we saw were less absorbing. On 12th November we enjoyed *Julius Caesar*, a vivid and dramatic production with plenty of violence - some might say too much - and action, but whose weakness was a tendency to do less than justice to Shakespeare's great verse and poetic moments. There seems at times to be a fear at Stratford of the great lines and moments, with a corresponding tendency to try to throw away some of the well-known passages, as if there were some embarrassment over the famous words. Whilst the desire to make the performance new and to avoid clichés of speech and style is admirable, the company ought to be concerned not to create another kind of predictability by mangling great speeches or by speaking them so 'trippingly off the tongue' that they lose all their power.

The least satisfactory performance we saw this

season was that of *Romeo and Juliet* on 8th October. Again there was plenty of animation and energy in the fight scenes, and there were some lively individual performances among the smaller parts, but the leading characters disappointed and seemed to lack the gravity to get across the difficult roles of Romeo and Juliet. It was also difficult at times to hear what was being said, something rather surprising in a professional theatre, but the performance improved as it went on, and the final scenes were much more successful.

JOHN TALBOT
MICHAEL CRADDOCK

'Duke of Edinburgh' in Scotland

On 21st May a group of intrepid trappers, 11 pupils, Mr Newby and Mr O'Connor, set off for the Lochnagar region of Scotland. The trip was to be a four-day hike in the wilderness of the Marmores ridge and Glen Nevis, finishing in an ascent of the Ben - Ben Nevis to the uninitiated.

The preliminary day was a long drive up, slightly helped by the extra space created by strapping the rucksacks to the top of the minibus. However, spirits were raised once Glasgow was behind, and the scenic route past Loch Lomond and Glencoe was under way. Glencoe looked spectacular, and Mr Newby and Mr O'Connor were in raptures over the views of Rannoch Moor and the tremendous force of *Buchaille Etive Mor*. The pupils looked apprehensive as the cloud cover enveloped the valley, masking the tops of the peaks. Camp One was in Glencoe, and the walkers enjoyed a pub supper washed down with 'Eighty Shillings', a local beer.

Day One started with the weather fine - it was to remain so for the four days - and once the minibus had been push-started, the adrenalin started to pump. The first day passed without too much incident, except that Group One, following the route cards literally, spent the morning up to their chests in peat and mud. Camp was spectacularly set at the west end of the Namore ridge under the watchful eye of *Binnein Beag* and with a great view of *Aonach Beag*. Everyone was tired, but also overawed by the sheer size of the surrounding peaks.

Day Two was tough and long, and in particular Group Two's hard slog up to the col between *Meall a Bhurich* and *Stob Ban*. At 11.30 MJN and DO'C toasted Founder's Day with a beer, in their normal style. Many rivers and streams had to be forded, and all were glad to reach camp. One of the highlights of the whole trip was this camp, spectacular scenery, a flowing river and not another soul in sight. All relaxed with a bathe in the river under a small waterfall, before lying out in the sun and cooking supper.



Walking for 'Gold'.

James Mackinnon

It was idyllic, until there was an eruption from Baze's (Simon Barrett's) tent, and a flaming epi-gaz issued forth, quickly kicked out of danger by MJN. Whilst it was tremendously amusing, it did nevertheless point out the danger of using gas without the maximum of concentration.

Day Three was another long day, crossing Glen Nevis to reach the penultimate camp at the foot of Ben Nevis, in a position where its towering buttresses could be seen.

Day Four involved the group's splitting. DO'C led one group across the north-western ridge to join the main route up to the summit; this involved concentration when, within 600 metres of the top, the visibility went. MJN led a group up the tricky *Carn Mor Dearg Arete*, reaching the summit from the west. For those involved it was a day to remember, including then-first experience of roping-up, whilst tackling a rather exposed ridge. It was a shock to all when the groups rejoined and walked out to an official campsite and civilisation. The evening meal was luxury, no vestas or cup-a-soups, but a slap-up meal in Fort William.

All involved had had a memorable trip, and most vowed to return to Scotland as soon as possible. The trip brought home to the pupils the glories of the Scottish landscape, but also the need for constant care, the need never to underestimate the mountain climate. Physically it had proved very tiring, but also very satisfying. The trip was such a success that already plans have been made for an expedition to the Torridons next summer.

CHARLES MORGAN-HARRIS
DOMINIC O'CONNOR
JEREMY SAWTELL

Those who went on the trip were: Mr Newby, Mr O'Connor, Juliette Ward, James Mackinnon, Alastair Graham, John Talbot, Jeremy Sawtell, Simon Barrett, Charles Morgan-Harris, Patrick Morgan, Andrew Platt, William Hunter-Smart, Paul Williams.

First-year Biology Trips

There have been two hands-on biology trips this year, which have given an extra dimension to the first-year syllabus.

In November we were blessed with a mild, dry afternoon at the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford. It stimulated discussion on the ethics of zoos and the captivity of animals, as well as giving the opportunity to observe animal behaviour at first hand.

Slimbridge is familiar to many of our local pupils and caters well for school groups. The lecture on 'Wildfowl and Wetlands' was expertly 'pitched' by a member of their education department and was followed up by a number of experiments, which the pupils much enjoyed. On the 'walkabout' we found that many of the birds were in their breeding season, which provided a useful focus for the visit.

B. M. G.



Carter USM

Taking a break from our 'A' level revision, we left with our trusty gig-goer, Mr Lea, to Gloucester to see Carter performing songs from their new album. The group started the evening with *The only living boy in New Cross*, and the concert progressed with Jimbob and Fruitbat dressed in shorts and T-shirts, with a massive lighting show and full video display all adding to the whirlwind sound. Imagine The Clash meeting the Pet Shop Boys...

Drawing on their back catalogue of hits, everyone joined in singing the words, like an idiot jukebox. The slower songs, some of Carter's best works, came over dramatically, especially *England*, with just Jimbob on stage. The new songs from 1992 - *The Love Album* went down well, but it was the hit singles *Sheriff Fatman*, *After the Watershed* and *Bloodsport* for all which rocked the walls of the Gloucester Leisure Centre.

The three encores saw the traditional cover versions come out, including *Brick in the Wall* by Pink Floyd, but it was the last song, *GI Blues*, which proved the finest moment, as I with 3,000 tired but happy people sang along.

We all had a great night out, and our thanks go to Mr Lea for organising not just this trip, but other concert visits also.

ANTONY PALIN

Ridgeway Ride

The majority of Form 2 tackled the hills and bumps, the tracks and ruts and the grass and grit of this ancient by-way during a beautiful weekend in May, making it the second expedition of this type.

At 6.30 a. m. on 16th May, 18 zombies rose from 18 beds in the Old Rectory in preparation for the weekend's cross-country bike ride. Everyone started packing his bag - last night's chore that never was - and in time everyone had woken up and was traipsing down to breakfast after frantic searches for shoes, shorts and shirts.



At last the support vehicle arrived, very widely admired with its T registration and white paint. Mr Wood and his friend Dave had already started preparations after hours spent the previous night fixing bikes that 'broke down at the last minute, sir!'



Anyway, at about eight o'clock we set off, bikes packed in Mr de Lisle Wells's horse box, children packed in the minibus, bags packed in the support vehicle.

When we arrived at the start-point, everyone was keen to be off, and we immediately began at a hopelessly unsustainable pace which stopped at the top of the hill. The first stretch was extremely difficult, as it was mostly uphill. It seemed a very long - and sore - way to the first collection point, after negotiating the steep hill up to Barbury Castle.

The eagerly-awaited support vehicle arrived, but then came problem number one: the boot wouldn't open, so a crowd of desperately hungry pupils stood horrified at the prospect of being denied food! Luckily Mr Wood came to the rescue and dived into the depths of the car, eventually delivering sustenance and relief to the by now frantic pupils.

Then we set off once more, down a track and away off to collection point 2, where we found that James Graham had taken the wrong route yet again, having missed a turning just before the first checkpoint: 'It wasn't my fault, sir!'

Lunch was eagerly taken at the Shepherd's Rest pub, well, outside it for us! Then it was off up a sandy track again and eventually on to check point 5, with James Graham now powering ahead, on the right road this time. The rest of the day, to the Youth Hostel, was easy going, gently up and down hill. Our place of rest for the night was fine, but some of us weren't too happy with the vegetarian meals.

Sunday morning saw us on our way, rather sore and sunburnt, nursing various aches and pains, but in no time at all, allowing for one or two water-bottle fights, we had completed the course. It was a great weekend for all involved, and our thanks go to all who helped organise it.

TIM SHAW
JAMES SMITH

Adventures of this nature always run more smoothly when there is a good support team with good equipment. We were fortunate to have the services of Mr and Mrs Winstone and Mrs Wood, using a vehicle kindly supplied by Cirencester Garage Limited, carrying spare parts from Noah's Ark of Chalford, Cheltenham and Cirencester. In addition, Mr de Lisle Wells generously transported all 24 bikes in his truck, which seemed to have been designed for the purpose, and various parents, in their usual helpful way, took the cyclists. It was a real team effort!

C. J. W.

Geography/Biology Field Trip

The annual and now joint departmental field trip took place at Nettlecombe Court, near Exmoor, during the Easter break. Nettlecombe is run by the Field Studies Council, and the tutors provided by the FSC proved to be some of the best we had met over recent years.

Fine weather in general coincided with the week-long course, a factor of considerable importance, as those in 6A could testify from their experience the previous year, with field notes that resembled so much pulp as a result of the heavy rain on the Isle of Arran. This year dehydration was more likely to be the problem.

The geographers shifted the balance of their programme somewhat, compared with past years, and introduced a large element of Ecology into the field work. Hydrology of a Quantock drainage basin, river features and contemporary processes were studied, but emphasis was placed on the role of man in shaping the features of the landscape. Moorland management was investigated in a combined project with the biologists, further tying the academic knot of these trips. A complete change in emphasis came with the 'urban day' spent in Taunton, relating structure models to the example settlement.

The biologists followed a varied programme, which saw them on the moorland one day and down on the coast the next, investigating the behaviour of dogwhelks on the rocky shoreline. The week is of added importance to the biologists, as they have to design and instigate a project, usually ecology-based, which can go on to form part of their final 'A' level grade. Working in pairs for reasons of safety, the pupils research and design the primary data collection scheme, which they then undertake. Initial analysis is undertaken on site and then completed on return to college.

C. P. M. K.

The First Aerial Activity at Rendcomb Airfield since 1917



Front: Mr & Mrs Sydney Newton. Mr Newton came from Hendon to train at Rendcomb in 1917, at the age of 18. Back: Mr Torquil Norman (left) and Mr Vic Norman.

A happily snarling Merlin tore the skies overhead, thundering noisily within the airframe of a World War Two Mustang, as it raced down the display line before curving crazily up into the sky.

This plane, discovered in an Israeli playground by the collector who restored and now flies her, was only one of 70 aircraft taking part in the air display at Rendcomb on Sunday, 15th September, signalling the rebirth of one of Britain's earliest airfields.

In 1914 Rendcomb was one of the first four bases of the Royal Flying Corps built in this country, flying a small squadron of aircraft until its decommission in 1917, whereupon it remained dusty and crumbling until June of this year, when it was discovered by Vic Norman, who lives in North Cerney, and Torquil Norman - no relation - our Chairman of Governors.





Andrew Martin

Within three months the field was transformed and, where several decrepit old huts stood in the midst of farmland, the Officer's Mess bungalow has been restored to its original condition, the others being too weathered to save.

In addition, six new hangars have been erected, the doors to these arriving by truck only six days before the public debut. Also standing, although not in their original condition, are the World War One squash court and the end-of-field target, at which the planes would fire their guns to test them before take-off.

A pleasant surprise was afforded by the offer of free tickets from Vic Norman, and those able to make it to the show on Sunday soon realised that it had blossomed into something much larger than they had imagined.

The reason for this was that the airshow coincided exactly with the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Flying Corps, and among the memorabilia lying scattered about the airfield were numerous ancient motor vehicles and the ejector seat from a fifties Vulcan jet bomber.

Tiger Moths of the kind used by the Diamond Nine Formation Team later in the day - part-time fliers, a dentist and a solicitor among them - were evenly distributed about the display line, and at one stage 'wing-walkers' climbed on to the top wings of the flimsy biplane trainers and, strapped to a standing frame, gave a display of the kind later offered by the Crunchie Flying Circus, whose wing-walkers, dressed in violet, waved to the crowd even in loops up to six 'g'! The Diamond Nine team gave a great performance, making use of the Red Arrows' Diamond Nine pattern - hence the name - and displaying a formation representing a Tornado jet.

The weather chose to take a welcome break during the day, it having rained on Saturday and intending to repeat the performance on Monday; the sky was clear enough for the numerous breath-taking stunts, which included a death-defying corkscrew manoeuvre from a Pitts Special biplane as it plummeted towards the earth at 200 m.p.h.

The commentators appeared to be enjoying the display was much as the spectators, and their commentaries were full of the weird and wonderful tales of aviation you expect to hear at such a special anniversary in the history of flight.

The air show was a great success, thanks to the Normans and the many other people involved; may 1992 see the displays at the little grass airfield become an annual event.

BEN GREENE

Junior Citizenship

On 1st June Form 1 attended a two hour course in Gloucester, designed to make young people more aware of potential dangers in society and to teach them how to deal with emergencies. This year there were ten sets, including railway safety, a road traffic accident and bullying. It made the pupils think hard about the problems which confronted them, but at the same time the course was enjoyable. A first-former comments on some of the sets:

The day started off with bad weather and got worse; nevertheless, we were all excited. Several of the form had been before, but were pleased at the thought of going again. We did ten sets and were put in groups of three, eight pupils from North Cerney coming to make us a full 30.

When we arrived it was raining hard, and we made speedy progress in our anoraks from bus to building. When we were inside the hall, the 11 or so set leaders told us that during our visit we were not to talk to anyone not wearing a luminous jacket or a badge and uniform. Then we were promptly taken to our starting set.

Fire!

I chose Ollie Blackwell and Jonathan Davis as my partners, and we did the fire test first. Mr Bats, the firemen in charge, led us into a small room; we sat down and then cosmetic smoke started appearing from under a table. We fell to the floor, crawled out of the room, shut the door and ran to the nearest telephone box. I did all the talking, while Jonny did all the dialling. A fire engine was soon on its way.

British Transport Police

In a tent there was a six-metre strip of railway with lots of hazards on it. The officer took us through the stages of what to do and what not to do, in particular going to a house and asking the person to phone 999, and how to find out which part of the railway it was.

Ambulance

A man was pretending to be injured and bleeding on the floor, with his bicycle lying on him. Jonathan went and called the ambulance, while Ollie and I comforted the man and asked him his name and address. Then the actor got up and said he was very pleased, as we had done well.

Stranger Danger

The people who had taken us for the Ambulance said that we would have to go along a small path and round a corner to get to the next set. We went along the path and round the corner; then, to our surprise, a man came from where we had just been and said that we had to go back and get an umbrella. He did not have a yellow

jacket on, so we just carried on. Then he chased us, and we ran and shouted 'Help, help!'

Scruples

In a small room we were questioned about what we would do - not *should* do - if we saw our big brother steal a Mars bar from a shop.

Street Safe

We were supposedly waiting for the next set, when a teenaged boy and girl came up to us and started pushing us around and stealing our pens. I gave them both a hard push, and then we all ran. After that a policeman came and discussed bullying with us.

At the end, we went back to where we had started and collected a bag of leaflets and badges and then - much the better for it all - we left.

JAMES GIBBS

Sport

Rugby Football

Favourable weather during the latter part of the summer holidays meant that conditions 'up top' were perfect; from day one full practices were possible, and we were able to resume our early-season practice fixture against Marlborough College and our renewed fixture against Hereford Cathedral School, both cancelled in the last two years owing to unplayable pitches. The softer park also helped to keep early-season injuries to a minimum.

Staff coaching changes saw Mr Griffiths with the 2nd XV and 'new-boy' Mr Slark taking over the U15 'A' side; although Mr Burden hung up his boots as coach, he continued to offer his services as referee, for which we were most grateful. In terms of refereeing, this season saw the introduction of several new laws at schoolboy level, in keeping with the RFU's aim to make the game safer and also more expansive. It took players and staff a while to adapt to the modifications, but the main problem was for the spectators, who frequently seemed bewildered by the changes; such bafflement triggered a delightful comment from a supporting mum, who shrugged her shoulders and admitted, 'Well, I've never understood any of the rules of this funny game anyway!'

All of the nine regular teams played with commitment and enjoyment and achieved notable performances and some impressive victories.

Photo: G. Morgan



The U15s and U16s entered the newly-formed District Cup Competition this year and succeeded in progressing to the semi-finals and final respectively. The XV, following the extremely successful Club Tour to Ontario during the summer holidays, started the season in dominant style; the extra fitness and cohesion were major factors in their impressive early-season victories, particularly over Hereford, Kingswood and King's, Gloucester. U16 representative honours went to Christopher Lawton, James Mills, Giles Head, Christopher Mason and Christopher Oliver, all of whom played for the District, the last-named playing in the final county trials. At U18 level Graham Lawton, Captain of Rugby, Ben Marshall, Gareth Davies and Christopher Carmichael were county trialists, the latter going on to represent North Gloucestershire.

It was particularly pleasing on ORs' Day to hear of so many ex-pupils still playing rugby, many of them to a very high standard with top clubs and/or to high representative level: my congratulations and best wishes go to them.

The season proved memorable in many other ways, starting with the Canada Tour, reported elsewhere. The fortnight proved extremely successful, not only in terms of the rugby played and the record achieved, but also in the experience gained from such an adventure, along with the camaraderie which developed between members of the party and with our hosts; these will be with us for ever. Full credit must go, not only to the players, who proved first-rate ambassadors for the game and for the College, but also to all the people whose donations of time, expertise or money helped to make the trip possible.

The Old Boys' match proved another highlight of the season, played in an excellent spirit and style, the ORs fielding one of their best-ever teams. The 'visitors' had problems in adapting to the new 19-group laws, but their greater strength and experience eventually told, and they finished worthy victors.

Another memorable event of the season was the annual Club Dinner, with Gareth Thomas returning as guest speaker; it was yet again an outstanding and enjoyable evening.

I must take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the rugby, as players, colleagues or spectators. I have one final thought: with the recent World Cup spectacle and the English success in the competition somewhat overshadowed by vociferous outcries about the questionable future of the sport, owing to the 'feeble contribution of the schools', it is satisfying to know that at least the accusing finger cannot be pointed at Rendcomb.

M. J. N.

Overall record:

Played 87; Won 36; Drew 3; Lost 48; Points for 920; Points against 1,298. (Canada tour not included).

1st XV

The XV this season, almost straight from an unbeaten tour of Canada, was committed to playing open and attacking fifteen-man rugby, where the skill and fitness of each individual could be used to full effect.

There was this year no outstandingly gifted player on whom the team would rely; the emphasis was very much on team-work, and in this respect each player showed depth of character and levels of dedication worthy of unstinting praise.

The scrummage was anchored by the formidable front row of Hamish Auld, Andrew Pollard and Graham Bennett. Their sheer strength and physical presence allowed the three-quarters to benefit from a lot of high-quality possession. Meanwhile, at other set-piece plays, Jonathan Powell used his admirable height to win an abundance of clean ball from the line-out and, with the back row combining strength and speed, a good percentage of second-phase possession was also secured. The youthful Patrick Morgan at blind-side flanker complemented the experienced Ben Marshall excellently, completing an eight which always won its fair share of ball.

Behind this stolid platform the young half-back pairing of Matthew Giggs and Chris Carmichael grew in confidence and stature as the season progressed, with Chris Carmichael's kicking at goal adding a whole new attacking dimension. Chris was the XV's leading points scorer, with 108. In the backfield the centre partnership combined the resolute tackling of Marcus Head with the strong running and ability to remain upright in the tackle of Gareth Davies, who finished the season as the side's leading try scorer, with 17 tries. The two wings showed a contrast of style, the hard, direct approach of Hugh Costelloe on the left highlighting the more agile style of Antony Palin on the opposite wing. Andrew Platt deserves special mention: his courage and reliability in the tackle tightened our defence and gave the rest of the three-quarters more confidence when they had the ball in hand.

Thanks from all the XV go to Mr King, whose dedication to fashion, coupled with his coaching ability, made him a force to be reckoned with on Top Field. We wish him every success next year.

The season was, in my opinion, an unqualified success. The professional mental approach and physical toughness of the XV, together with the immense pride and dedication with which they played, were not only a credit to themselves, but also in the best traditions of Rendcomb rugby. It has been an honour and a privilege to captain them.

GRAHAM LAWTON

Played 14; Won 8; Lost 6; Points for 220; Points against 181.

v Marlborough College 3rd XV (H) Won 29-3
v Hereford Cathedral School (A) Won 24-3



Sonya Naish

v Kingswood School (H)	Won 20-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 20-4
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 6-36
v Bloxham School (H)	Lost 7-20
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 0-20
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 6-18
v Pierrepont School (A)	Won 16-0
v Marling School (A)	Won 20-10
v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Won 25-23
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 13-14
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 27-6
v The Old Rendcombian Society XV (H)	Lost 7-20

Team from:

G. Lawton (Captain), B. Marshall (Vice-Captain),
H. Auld, G. Bennett, C. Carmichael, H. Costelloe,
G. Davies, J. East, R. Elmes, M. Giggs, J. Grafton, M.
Head, P. Morgan, A. Palin, A. Platt, A. Pollard,
J. Powell, H. Pugh, J. Wheeler.

2nd XV

This season's team contained many new faces, a few old ones and a new coach with a startling approach both to coaching and to sports fashion. Traditional 2nd XV spirit was combined with an emphasis on enterprise and complicated moves which, with gentle encouragement from the coach, were eventually put into effective match-winning practice.

Having lost our first five matches last season, we found it a great moment when we defeated Hereford 18-0 with a confident second-half performance and some fine running rugby. This match set the style for the rest of the term and, after being outgunned by Kingswood, we devastated King's, Gloucester, with an excellent spell of try scoring early in the second half. The team was really starting to click and to believe in itself, when a mass of crucial injuries caused major reorganisation just in time for a number of difficult fixtures. Bloxham

were certainly far too strong for us, but there were several excellent performances, especially by late-call-up man Simon Barrett.

However, the squad felt good at half-term, and the reshuffles due to injury and promotion to the 1st XV left a revamped team feeling confident. We lost only one disputed game, at Marling, and managed to win a succession of close, hard matches, no more so than against a strong Magdalen team, when we came from behind to a thrilling try by Ben Mabey on the wing, after a whole series of midfield passes and moves. It was amazingly converted from near the touch-line by Jon Roney, who then, with five minutes left, clinched the win with a thirty-yard drop goal!

The combination of playing for fun and being committed to winning helped us to get through a series of exciting games, and the team gained the nickname of *The Cardiac Kids*. Parents, coach and supporters had short-chewed nails by the end of the season!

Some players, notably Patrick Morgan and Andy Platt, developed their game to the point where they were regrettably promoted to the 1st XV, while others, initially on the sidelines, came into the team to make valuable contributions.

In matches success among the forwards often depended on Mark Valentine's excellent line-out work, and there was a notable *panache* to Rowen Elmes' loose play. Nathan Houseman showed admirable physical commitment, and he was well supported by Matthew Norman and the ever-improving Alex Faiers.

At scrum-half Alastair Graham became increasingly confident and formed an effective partnership, first with Alasdair Baker and then with Jonathan 'Highball' Roney, both of whom did a great job as vice-captain. Roney's excellent kicking and strong running took his points tally to 60.

Among the backs, Al Beales looked increasingly sharp and Mark Sansome's tackling looked fearless, while several wingers performed with success, particularly Ben Mabey and the really quick Paul Williams. Some fine tries were scored here, and late in the season Charlie Morgan-Harris took over at full-back with considerable success. Ian Richardson proved reliable wherever he played; Jeremy Sawtell now tackles everything that moves, and Stuart Hall woke up to be involved in some successful ploys. The 2nd XV this year combined real enjoyment with marked success.

Our thanks go to Mr Griffiths, with his extraordinary sense of style (socks, tracksuit etc.) and amazing coaching vocabulary. I would like to give him my personal thanks for his encouragement and for his trust in my team selections. Long may 2nd XV rugby flourish!

HENRY PUGH

Played 12; Won 7; Lost 5; Points for 185; Points against 140.

v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Won 18-0
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost 3-22
v Bredon School (A)	Lost 3-22
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 42-0
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 13-22
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost 3-42
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won 12-4
v Magdalen College School (H)	Won 9-6
v Marling School (A)	Lost 6-9
v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Won 36-3
v Dean Close School (H)	Won 6-4
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 34-6

Team from:

H. Pugh (Captain), A. Baker,
 J. Roney (Vice-Captains), S. Barrett, A. Beales,
 J. East, R. Elmes, A. Faiers, R. Gorman, J. Grafton, A.
 Graham, S. Hall, N. Houseman,
 W. Hunter-Smart, R. Hutson, B. Mabey, C. Morgan, C.
 Morgan-Harris, M. Norman, A. Platt,
 T. Ramsden-Hare, I. Richardson, M. Sansome,
 J. Sawtell, J. Sleeman, M. Valentine, P. Williams.

U16 XV

Coaches often look back on a season just past and describe it, somewhat blandly, as having been enjoyable. Let me start by writing about what I didn't like this season.

The team's performance against King's, Gloucester, early in the term was woeful. Two key players, the captain Chris Oliver and the loose-head prop James Mills, were missing that day. We lost two further players through injury within five minutes of the kick-off, and the remainder played as if they had only just met and were feeling their way in a strange and incomprehensible game. I didn't enjoy the game against Cheltenham College 5th XV later in the season either. Hastily arranged when another school had cried off, this fixture pitted the team against a much larger side which tended to make up in physical presence what it lacked in skill.

It was for games such as this that the RFU introduced, albeit on an experimental basis for one season only, the new laws on scrummaging at U19 level. Unfortunately these were not applied, and the pack spent the afternoon trundling backwards. Our performance was brave, and we came within minutes of winning, but my afternoon on the touch-line was an uncomfortable one.

But what of the more enjoyable moments during the season? I can say in all honesty that the number of these far outweighs the unpleasant ones; perhaps mention of a couple of them can help convey the strengths of this team to those who didn't see them play. Having been hammered by Dauntsey's in the first half by 30 points to nil, the team was asked to go out in the second half and show pride and commitment in its performance; that we conceded only a further six points against the best side

we played in the entire season does the side much credit.

The victory against Bloxham - unbeaten up to this point - just four days later was achieved because the 15 players in the maroon, blue and white shirts played that day as a complete unit, working tirelessly for one another and determined not to yield to the most intense pressure. The drawn game against Wycliffe also pointed to a strength in this team: when a controversial try was awarded against us, not a single question was put to the referee by any member of the Rendcomb side. This showed admirable maturity, self-discipline and knowledge of the game.

So it was the team's commitment and competitiveness, love for the game and obvious enjoyment of it, sense of humour and fun on games afternoons which made this a highly enjoyable season for me. The size of the squad, only 23 players, seemed to bond them together, so that by the end of the season petty rivalries and niggles seemed to have been eliminated.

Evidence of the quality to be found in the team is seen in the fact that of seven players sent to the district trials five were successful, Giles Head, Chris Lawton, Chris Mason, James Mills and Chris Oliver, the last making it through to the first county squad session.

The side competed also for the Richard Coombes Cup, organised by Stroud RFC; at the time of writing it is still waiting to contest the final with Farmor's School. Being the last time the team is likely to play together, it promises to be a thrilling match.

A 50% success rate emulates the feat of the previous year's team and represents a considerable achievement in what is arguably the most difficult set of fixtures the College plays. Special thanks are due to my captain, Chris Oliver, who relished the responsibility, set a marvellous example in training and always led from the front in matches. But this was not a squad of individuals so much as a collective unit, and my thanks and best wishes for their future in the game go out to all.

L. J. H.

Played 11; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 5; Points for 138; Points against 120.

v Marlborough College U16 'B' XV (H)	Won 22-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 6-26
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 0-36
v Bloxham School (H)	Won 10-6
v Rednock School ((H)	Won 34-6
v Wycliffe College 3rd XV (H)	Drew 6-6
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 0-6
v Pierrepont School (A)	Won 36-6
v Cheltenham College 5th XV (A)	Lost 6-7
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 10-14
v Marling School (A)	Won 8-3

Team from:

C. Oliver (Captain), J. Bainbridge, N. Barton,

P. Bigg-Wither, A. Branston, A. Brooke, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, C. East, G. Head, C. Lawton, A. McIndoe, C. Mason, J. Mills, G. Monteith, J. Moore, M. Pentney, N. Pollard, L. Prosser, R. Sage, K. Thomas, C. Waters, J. Wilkie.

U15 'A' XV

The lack of victories on our record does not reflect the dedication and abilities of the team, whose members always played with vigour and determination.

One or two opponents simply proved too strong for us, but the majority of matches were more closely played than the score line indicates. The most creditable performance of the season came in a three-point defeat at the hands of Dauntsey's, a considerable improvement on last year's 36-point deficit.

The front row was the strong foundation on which the team was built. The props, Stephen Jones, Armen Topalian and Stephen Roney - who missed the last part of the season owing to injury - together with hooker Leslie White were solid in the scrummage and made valuable contributions in the loose. The second row, Chris Jarrett and Mark Wilks, won useful ball in the line-out and made important contributions in other areas of play. Francis Barton and Martin Adams were ever-present in the back row, and they were joined by a variety of other players as we attempted to find the correct balance; the most prominent of these were Adam Beales and Andrew Riley.

Linking well with his back row, scrum-half John Eaton was a useful contributor, whose accuracy of pass improved with each game, thus offering Patrick Boydell time in which to dictate tactics from fly-half; this he did with considerable judgment, as well as kicking with great consistency and accuracy. The two centres, Alex Tibbs and John Morgan made penetrating runs in attack and were solid in their defensive tackling, as were wingers Douglas Richardson and Steven Croft; special mention should be made of the latter, the smallest player in the side and yet the most committed tackler, although opponents penalised for high tackles on him might have reason to feel aggrieved. Finally, full-back Freddy Ingham was reliable in defence as well as being a vital force in attack.

Despite the shortage of wins, the rugby was played with great spirit, and the team owes much to the patience and encouragement of the coach, Mr Slark; his support was invaluable.

JOHN MORGAN

My thanks go to John Morgan for his efforts both on and off the field; he captained the side with great maturity. Our thanks go also to Michael Steen for undertaking the job of touch-judge with such efficiency, to Colin Burden for his contribution as a referee and to those parents who gave good-humoured support without once losing their capacity to place events on the field into a sensible context.

M. S.

Played 13; Won 4; Lost 9; Points for 101; Points against 235.

v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Lost 0-20
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost 6-11
v Pierrepont School (H)	Won 15-3
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 0-23
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 9-12
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost 3-26
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 0-26
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 3-44
v Bredon School (H)	Won 20-0
v Marling School (H)	Lost 9-22
v Kingshill School (A)	Won 3-0
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-36
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 33-12

Team from:

J. Morgan (Captain), M. Adams, F. Barton,
A. Beales, P. Boy dell, S. Croft, J. Eaton, F. Ingham,
C. Jarrett, S. Jones, D. Richardson, A. Riley,
S. Roney, A. Tibbs, A. Topalian, L. White, M. Wilks.
Also played: N. Channing-Williams, A. Higazi,
P. Roberts.

U15 'B' XV

In terms of victories, this was a disappointing season; however, there were some memorable games in which the side played some very entertaining rugby. The best match of the season was undoubtedly the narrow defeat at the hands of Magdalen. I was privileged to watch from the touch-line, as Mr Newby had kindly offered to referee the match. A close second was our win against Bloxham at home.

Our biggest problem all season was turning possession into points, as the pack in general gave good account of itself throughout. In particular Nick Channing-Williams hooked well and was very forceful in the loose, while Tim Gaskill came into the team late but improved as a line-out jumper as the season progressed.

I would like to thank Ian Thompson for captaining the side and to wish the team all the best next season.

J. G. W.

Played 7; Won 1; Lost 6; Points for 26; Points against 155.

v Kingswood School (A)	Lost 3-24
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 0-28
v Bloxham School (H)	Won 9-4
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 4-16
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 10-13
v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost 0-50
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 0-20

Team from:

I. Thompson (Captain), A. Bainbridge, M. Bartlett,
A. Beales, R. Blackwell, M. Brown,
N. Channing-Williams, G. Cook, T. Gaskill,

R. Hancock, M. Harper, B. Herbert, A. Higazi,
D. Kemp, A. Riley, P. Roberts, P. Smith, G. Somers, A.
Topalian, J. Underwood, M. Williams,
C. Yardley.

U14 'A' XV

After the first few practices of the season it was not difficult to see that this was going to be a good team. The only problem was where people were to go, and during the term there were a few changes.

The very mobile pack won a tremendous amount of line-out, scrum and rucking ball. The outstanding players were Craig Marcham and Francis Newcombe in the line, and Steve Amey, Francis Newcombe and Ean Branston in the scrum. The best tackling among the forwards came from William Heaven and Ben Renow-Clarke, and among the backs from Stuart Sealey.

A special mention must go to Alistair Harris, whose superb all-round play gave inspiration to the backs. A good partnership was built up throughout the season between Leighton Freeman at scrum-half and Nick Carmichael at fly-half, and the backs as a whole always handled and tackled well. When we were attacking, some very decisive running from Seun Ismail brought us plenty of tries, and he proved a great asset to the side.

Our first game was against Bredon, a fairly easy one, and the team worked well together to come out with a comfortable win. As the season progressed, we lost a few matches that we could have won, but that was balanced out when we defeated some very good teams. At the end of the season we were all very pleased with the way things had gone, and we look forward to the next rugby season.

A final special mention must go to Mr Sykes, whose expertise in coaching was much appreciated by everyone.

NICK CARMICHAEL

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5; Points for 133; Points against 91.

v Bredon School (A)	Won 20-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 12-18
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Won 26-0
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost 12-13
v Wycliffe College (A)	Won 8-3
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 7-14
v Pierrepont School (A)	Lost 0-31
v Marling School (H)	Won 12-0
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-12
v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won 36-0

Team from:

N. Carmichael (Captain), S. Amey (Pack Captain),
F. Newcombe (Pack Captain), A. Crawford-Taylor, S.
Lee, C. Marcham, B. Renow-Clarke, E. Branston, W.
Heaven, L. Freeman, A. Harris, S. Ismael,
S. Sealey, C. Walmsley, M. Smith.

U14 XV

The 1991 season has been a traumatic one for the U14 'B' team, owing to losing players to the 'A' side and through injury. Part of our driving force consisted of our five-foot-nine flanker David 'Door' Royal, always on call - when the 'A's didn't have him - to lift morale by charging through for another four points. The defensive skills of William Brix have been another asset: many a time a try was prevented by a tackle from nowhere.

A shaky start gave us a 0-20 defeat at Bloxham, a game in which Philip Marran stood apart, with his precise kicking and marvellous runs. Next we had an uplifting 28-0 win at Wycliffe. Many people shone there, Jack Jelfs with his determined hooking, and try after try from Hague Willmott, Adam Simpkin, Chris Walmsley and others; we showed just how we could perform as a team there. At Magdalen we appeared with barely half our usual complement, the rest being in sickbay with flu or strengthening a similarly reduced 'A' team. Luke Nicholls and Nick Holt played their first game there, both distinguishing themselves with good tackling. Prop Roland Lewis often found himself just inches from scoring, but we went away empty-handed.

At Cheltenham we gave our best display of what we could do. James Fairbank especially surpassed himself in what was a nail-bitingly close game ending in an 8-6 victory. Finally, at Dean Close we played a defensive game, with our backs performing superbly: Chris Mackinnon and Richard Witchell did a fine job of keeping the line together. George Langlands put in his customary writhing-on-the-ground-in-agony bit after his typically hell-for-leather commitment had landed him in trouble (again); he was an inspiring and dedicated captain.

Impressive performances were given during the term by our deft scrum-half, Robert Hart, our sturdy props, Phillippe LeFèvre and Tony Winstone, and our doughty occasional winger, Oily Blaydon. We would also have done a lot worse without the talents of Matt Morris and Lindsay Duff.

As a team, the U14 'B' were a little disjointed at times but, when we did get it together, we must have been a joy to watch.

GEORGE LANGLANDS *et al.*

Played 6; Won 2; Lost 4; Points for 44, against 94.

v Bloxham School (A)	Lost 0-20
v Wycliffe College (A)	Won 28-0
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 0-36
v Kingshill School (A)	Lost 8-24
v Cheltenham College U14 'D' XV (A)	Won 8-6
v Dean Close School U14 'A' XV (A)	Lost 0-8

Team from:

G. Langlands (Captain), R. Witchell, C. Walmsley, C. Mackinnon, O. Blaydon, W. Brix, A. Simpkin, N. Holt, L. Nicholls, K. Bendall, J. Fairbank, R. Hart, H. Willmott, D. Royal, L. Duff, P. Marran, T. Winstone, P. LeFèvre, R. Lewis, J. Jelfs, W. Morris.

U13 'A' XV

This was something of a lean season, particularly after half-term. Most of the team were new to U13 'A' rugby - there were only a handful of 'old hands' from last year's side - and, whilst we were able to win some matches, we lost heavily to the bigger, specialist rugby schools. The main problem was that the side found it very difficult to get to the opposition line and score points. This can clearly be seen from the details of the results: leaving aside the match against a very weak Kingshill side, only three tries were scored all season. Inevitably any success depended therefore on our defensive ability: could we keep the opposition out or not? Against Prior Park and Cheltenham Juniors we managed it, but we were always under pressure from the big schools in the latter half of the season, and it was something of a struggle to keep the score respectable.

Our defence in the middle was ably executed by Charles Allen, Manolito Garcia and James Smith but, once the other side realised that that the key to victory was to move the ball out wide, we were always in difficulties. Charles Webb captained the side with considerable aplomb and was clearly the best forward we had, with determined assistance from Charles Barton. The rest of the team gave these players valuable support, but over all we lacked real pace and handling skills. This limited our style of play and restricted the options available to us.

Nevertheless, it was not all gloom. What never fails to impress me as a coach is the way in which Rendcomb teams at this level rise to the challenge presented to them. Though they were sometimes overcome, the players never let their spirits subside. Each game was still eagerly awaited, and plucky determination remained a consistent feature of their play, remarked upon by several opposition coaches, even if in the end the results were not in our favour.

M. H. G.

Played 10; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 5; Points for 69; Points against 134.

v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 0-36
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Won 8-6
v Prior Park School (A)	Drew 0-0
v Bredon School (H)	Won 4-0
v Kingshill School (A)	Won 54-0
v Felsted Junior School (H)	Lost 0-26
v Cheltenham College Junior School (A)	Drew 0-0
v Oakley Hall School (A)	Lost 0-10
v Dean Close Junior School (A)	Lost 0-28
v Moultsford School (H)	Lost 3-28

Team from:

C. Webb (Captain), C. Allen, C. Baker, C. Barton, A. Davanzo, J. de Lisle Wells, M. Garcia, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, A. King, T. Shaw, J. Smith, O. Blackwell, J. Gibbs, S. Maylott, M. Read, R. Webb. Also played: J. Graham, A. Perrin, S. Taylor, M. Sutton.

U13 'B' XV

It was a hardworking term for the team. There were a total of four matches, against strong and experienced sides. There were heavy defeats, but the team visibly gained confidence and learned a lot. The last match, against Kingshill, was hard-fought. The team needed to win and played with much determination. Although only one try was scored, the victory was important. Special mention must be made of James Graham, Christopher Scarth and Jonathan Davis.

I. G. P.

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3; Points for 4; Points against 128.

v Cheltenham College Junior School U13 'C' XV (A)

Lost 0-46

v Oakley Hall School 2nd XV (H)

Lost 0-46

v Dean Close Junior School 2nd XV (H)

Lost 0-36

v Kingshill School U13 XV (H)

Won 4-0

Team from:

J. Graham (Captain), C. Scarth, J. Davis,
P. de Havilland-Hall, J. Freeman, R. Histed,
C. Holliday, D. Hughes, C. Perry, M. Sutton,
D. Williams, J. Emerson, S. Gillott, M. Haynes,
C. Morey, A. Perrin, A. Watkins, A. Taylor, T. Hill.

The Canadian Tour

The party returned in August from a highly successful two-week tour in Canada. A party of 32 pupils and three staff travelled throughout Ontario, the 1st XV winning all four of their matches and the 'A' team winning one out of three. Top try scorer was Ben Maslen (OR) with four, and top points scorer was Chris Carmichael with 22.

All the matches were highly competitive and were played in excellent spirit. The opposition often impressed us with their excellent handling skills and support play, but Rendcomb's superior organisation and subtlety proved a match-winner. Most pleasing was the way, out of season as it was, the boys adapted to the hot and humid climate and found the teamwork and spirit necessary to achieve success.

All have returned with memories and stories that seem to need no exaggeration in the telling! On the evidence of the experience of our two weeks Canada must rate as the ideal country to tour. We shall for ever be indebted to our sponsors, in particular to those Governors who gave generous financial backing and thus made the tour possible.

The boys deserve credit for their behaviour, on and off the field, and especially for the spirit which is the essence of touring, and which they so impressively demonstrated.

C. P. M. K

1st XV

v Peterborough Pagans

Won 18-3

v Waterloo RFC

Won 16-12

v St Catherine's Tigers

Won 31-6

v Toronto Lions Select XV

Won 16-0

'A' team:

v Stratford RFC U19 2nd XV

Lost 4-28

v St Catherine's Tigers 'A' XV

Won 18-0

v Balmy Beach RFC

Lost 6-13

Postscript: St Catherine's Tigers Club will be touring England and playing us in the Spring of 1992.

Boys' Hockey

A series of persistent frosts before half-term was the only feature of the weather which prevented the use of the grass pitches, and so relatively few matches were cancelled this season. More practices took place on the playing-fields than I can remember and this, combined with the extra use of the Astroturf in Cirencester, provided the boys with ample opportunity to improve their skills.

The only change in the rules was to do with obstruction when a static player receives the ball, and this seemed to be less of a problem than expected by umpires.

On our busiest day we fielded nine XIs, and more of these now wear yellow and navy halves, which are brighter and more easily recognised than our previous colours.

Several members of the staff have suggested that they might retire from the game. They shall remain anonymous for the time being but, in case they cannot be persuaded to continue in 1993, they ought to know that their enthusiastic coaching of hockey skills over many years is appreciated by many pupils, past and present.

Unfortunately the Gloucestershire Schools Hockey organisation collapsed last year, so only boys known to the West of England selectors were considered for area matches. Andrew Branston did well to be selected as a goalkeeper for the West U16 squad, and he gained valuable experience from playing in several matches.

C. J. W.

Overall record:

Played 86; Cancelled 16; Won 34; Drew 13; Lost 39;
Goals for 170; Goals against 166.

The school run.



1st XI

The most remarkable feature of the season was its completion without the cancellation of a single match; this was made possible by the increasing availability of Astroturf to most schools. The XI claimed to prefer playing on grass, but in fact they played some of their best hockey on Astroturf, once they had appreciated the value of accurate passing to keep possession. Undoubtedly the use of the Royal Agricultural College pitch on Thursdays was of enormous benefit to the development of skills; it is a pity that the players did not have that facility throughout their careers at Rendcomb.

The drawback of playing and training so much on Astroturf was the constant travelling by coach and minibus; to its credit the team was always punctual and never complained; in fact, as a group to take for a season, they were a delight, with just the right blend of good humour and willingness to learn and practise. In most matches they showed real determination, driven on by their relentless captain, even when they were not playing particularly well. Hockey matches can be won through taking the chances created, however few they may be, and by defending in sufficient depth to frustrate the opposition; this was never truer than in the first match, against Monkton Combe, defeated 2-1, even though they were perhaps the best side we faced all season.

After that the results were mixed and tended to depend on our ability to cover the ground; it is extremely difficult to get schoolboys to see just how much running there is to be done, in any position, at this game. There were some excellent goals in our better performances, particularly once we had learned to construct our attack down the right.

The season built up to the Dean Close fixture, and the game plan worked most effectively in the first half - in fact we should have been leading - but all collapsed in the second half before superior skill on the part of the opposition and lack of fitness, even if the determination was there, on our part. With that game behind us the season ended with a run of successes, including splendid performances against the Royal Agricultural College, the Old Boys and Cirencester Hockey Club all in one long weekend.

My thanks are due to all the players and to the captain, who carried out all of his off-the-field duties most admirably, played exceptionally well and, when his temper did not get the better of him, led the team effectively on the pitch. My thanks are also due to Chris Wood, whose patient organisation is the corner-stone of Rendcomb hockey, and to David Essenhigh for his excellent 1st XI pitch.

H. M.

The 1st XI this year played a conventional 5-3-2 formation, with Mark Valentine in goal and Henry Pugh and Ben Marshall at full-back forming a solid back division, despite being at times criminally over-exposed. Mark Valentine's reactions kept the XI in many games, steady nerves early on. Ben Marshall

was composed throughout the entire season, and his clever use of the reverse stick won through on many occasions! Meanwhile Henry Pugh brought an attacking dimension to the defensive unit, when on one of his 'special plays' his sweetly struck short corner brought him his first-ever goal for a Rendcomb hockey team in his last-ever match.

The half-backs, although sometimes content to watch the defensive prowess of the aforementioned rather than help out, came through the season well. Not many opposition wingers were able to find a way around the athletic Rowen Elmes, whilst Alasdair Baker showed style and some great touches to release our left-side attackers. Christopher Lawton, the youngest member of the team, grew in confidence and ability as the season progressed and should, as he tells everyone who will listen, be a force in next year's team.

In our attacking line-up Chris Carmichael and John Roney worked well together at right wing and inside-right respectively, scoring approximately a third of the team's goals between them. They showed consistently high skill levels and a love of beating defenders. On the opposite side of the field Gareth Davies's hard running, which started the season, had to give way to an increasingly skilful John Wheeler for the latter half. At inside-left Patrick Morgan curbed his attacking instincts well to perform some very useful and effective man-to-man marking on troublesome opponents. The spearhead of the attack though, after a short spell with the 2nd XI perfecting his technique, was Antony Palin, who again finished as the XI's leading scorer, with seven well-taken goals.

The success of the team was a reflection of Mr Morgan's coaching ability and tireless patience. Those leaving will miss his dry sense of humour and 'undoubted' umpiring ability, whilst those remaining will benefit from his vast knowledge and experience. We would all like to thank him for all his efforts this season and to wish him well for the rest of his Rendcomb career.

GRAHAM LAWTON

Played 14; Won 6; Drew 3; Lost 5; Goals for 29; Goals against 34.

v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 2-1
v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	Lost 0-5
v The King's School, Worcester (A)	Won 3-1
v Prior Park College (A)	Lost 0-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew 2-2
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 0-4
v Cheltenham HC (H)	Lost 2-3
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Drew 2-2
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 1-7
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 4-0
v The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Won 2-1
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won 6-3
v Cirencester HC (A)	Drew 3-3
v The Crypt School (A)	Won 2-0

Team from:

G. Lawton (Captain), A. Baker, C. Carmichael, G.

Davies, R. Elmes, P. Irving, C. Lawton, B. Marshall, P. Morgan, A. Palin, H. Pugh, J. Roney, M. Valentine, J. Wheeler.

2nd XI

Despite four cancellations we enjoyed more hockey this season than usual, emerging with the symmetrical record of five wins and five defeats from our ten matches. This was certainly better than the 1991 tally and was especially creditable in that three of the matches were against school 1st XI opposition. Marcus Head, taking up his annual position as captain and speedy right-wing, engendered a keen spirit in the team and led by his work-rate example.

We began well by winning our first three matches, thus creating the risk of delusions of grandeur. We scored twice in the first ten minutes against Monkton Combe, while the opposition were still absorbing their journey from Bath and the change to grass, and this put us on the road to an auspicious 4-1 win; it was good to see two goals coming from follow-ups off the goalkeeper's pads. Solid, determined play brought us a 3-0 win at Prior Park in foggy conditions, and a similar result was achieved against King's, Gloucester.

The gods now decided that three convincing victories from the first three games was the height of presumption, and a series of defeats ensued. However, the fourth match, against Magdalen College School, was probably the best contest of the season, though ending in a narrow defeat: we won the ball at midfield excellently, led 1-0 at half-time, but then conceded two goals early in the second half and could not get an equaliser, despite some chances. It was a fine match against a successful side.

Further defeat followed at Colston's, their second goal coming in the final minute; some erratic finishing didn't help us here. Dean Close obviously relished playing on their own campus Astroturf and were 3-0 up at half-time, but we came back determinedly in the second half, working harder in midfield, and got it to 2-4, though again a last-minute goal sealed our fate. Next the Bournside 1st XI beat us 3-1 on their Astroturf; here, as at Dean Close, one felt it took at least 20 minutes to adapt to hard-pitch techniques. We had four absentees against the Old Rendcombians, but this could not excuse our relatively feeble performance. Better moments rounded off the year, however, as we beat Burford and Wycliffe 1st XIs without conceding a goal.

Qualified rapture overall, then, and certainly the regular visits to the Royal Agricultural College Astroturf pitch for practice games helped significantly. Nevertheless we are still at a big disadvantage against schools that have their own hard pitch on site and more instinctively use the different techniques and tactics required. This year's 2nd XI, despite problems at inside-forward and some slowness in both clearing and recovery in defence surmounted these and other difficulties by their motivated approach and increasing skill and constructiveness; they deserved their successes. I hope they enjoyed the season as much as I

did, not forgetting their anxious parents, for whose frequent touch-line support I am very grateful.

J. N. H.

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5; Goals for 19; Goals against 15.

v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 4-1
v Prior Park College (A)	Won 3-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 3-0
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 1-2
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Lost 0-2
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 2-5
v Bournside School 1st XI (A)	Lost 1-3
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost 1-2
v Burford School 1st XI (H)	Won 2-0
v Wycliffe College 1st XI (H)	Won 2-0

Team from: M. Head (Captain), A. Branston, N. Houseman, A. McIndoe, R. Elmes, A. Graham, P. Croft, J. Wilkie, C. Morgan-Harris, P. Irving, A. Palin, J. Madeley, G. Davies, J. Wheeler, B. Davies, J. Grafton, R. Hutson, J. East, R. Sage, J. Powell, G. Head.

3rd XI

The beginning of the season was enormously disrupted by the flu virus, which caused selection problems, as many players were unable to participate until after first exeat. Fortunately there was only one match during this time, in which the score was a good indicator of the team's general fitness. However, after the break our season started with a vengeance.

Our second fixture, away at Prior Park, took place in awful weather conditions, thick fog making it impossible to see one end of the pitch from the other; this seemed to have very little effect on the team's performance. Now back at full strength, they scored two goals in quick succession - both by Giles Head - which secured victory, a pattern followed throughout most of the season.

From then on all matches went very smoothly, with only minor changes to the side, usually due to injuries in the first and second teams, which stole our players to maintain their own numbers. Despite these minor upsets, the team continued to secure victories and draws, with few defeats. This reflects the total commitment from all the players which, combined with their considerable talent, produced an awesome force beyond the control of many oppositions.

The team itself was full of characters, who all contributed to a relaxed atmosphere, promising hockey of the highest standard. James East and Daniel Morris were always dependable in defence, letting opposing forwards know that they took no prisoners. Dan was a controlled player who got on with the job in hand, while James was the exact opposite, striking fear into the hearts of many whilst unleashing his aggression in an unpredictable manner.

The halves worked well together with the forward line to produce many openings, most of which were well used. James Mackinnon proved to be a solid passer of the ball, always looking for openings to exploit on the left.

The position of right-half was occupied by many different people, all of whom worked well with those surrounding them, in particular Alex Beales, who made every 50/50 ball his own mainly by outwitting both players and the umpire. Probably the most dependable player was Robert Sage, who carried out his vital role at centre-half expertly; as the saying goes, 'Give Bob the ball, and he scores a goal!'

The five forwards, who scored most of the team's goals, always played well together, the two wings, Kai Thomas and I, supplied good crosses to Matthew Giggs, who scored a fantastic five goals against Crypt School in the last match of the season, despite his lack of height. Christopher Mason and Giles Head were nearly always reliable in emergencies, when they weren't shouting at each other.

The star of the team was our goal-keeper, Richard Hutson, who after saving a penalty flick in the second match became the self-confessed hero of the side, letting nothing pass by him without a fight, cursing quietly to himself on the rare occasions when he was beaten.

Finally, thanks go to Mr Essenhigh, the team's coach, and to Andrew Pollard and his 4th XI, with whom we had the pleasure of practising to produce a memorable and successful season.

JONATHAN POWELL

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 2; Goals for 21; Goals against 10.

v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost 1-5
v Prior Park College ((A)	Won 2-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 3-1
v Magdalen College School U16 'A' XI	Drew 0-0
v Colston's Collegiate School U16 XI (H)	Lost 0-2
v Dean Close School (A)	Drew 1-1
v Bredon School (H)	Won 5-1
v The Crypt School (H)	Won 9-0

Team from: J. Powell (Captain), R. Hutson, A. Beales, M. Smith, M. Giggs, J. Mackinnon, D. Morris, J. East, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, D. Irving, G. Head, A. Martin, C. Mason, J. Mills, J. Moore, M. Pentney, R. Sage, K. Thomas, J. Wilkie, A. Branston, S. Hall, J. Madeley, J. Sawtell, G. Monteith.

4th XI

It has to be admitted that it was a disappointing season. However, it saw new talent emerge and, in the match against Magdalen, produced one of the 4th XI's great performances: 2-0 down with nine minutes remaining, and they came back to snatch a draw in the last minute.

Many of the matches we dominated, but the fates seemed to conspire against us. On the positive side, much talent has emerged from game 2B to help bolster the depleted XI. Also, its *camaraderie* remains intact, as does its unfortunate injury rate; Graham Bennett showed his normal dedication to the cause by throwing himself in the way of Chris Brown's stick as he was about to score; we hope his looks are not permanently damaged.

The Old Boys' match again proved a successful event, and the OR 4th XI now has a regular fixture. We hope that 6A leavers in the present team will be back to play again: Andrew Pollard and his leaning shoulder, Hamish Auld and his body-charge and the rest.

D. O'C.

Played 7; Drew 3; Lost 4; Goals for 7; Goals against 12.

v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 0-1
v Magdalen College School (A)	Drew 2-2
v Colston's School (A)	Lost 0-1
v Dean Close School (A)	Drew 1-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 1-2
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Drew 1-1

5th XI:

v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost 2-4
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Team From:

A. Pollard (Captain), M. Norman, H. Auld, G. Bennett, J. Grafton, J. Sleeman, J. Smith, M. Smith, A. Faiers, S. Hall, M. Laroche, M. Sansome, J. Sawtell, N. Barton, C. Dudbridge, D. Irving, A. Martin, J. Mills, G. Monteith, J. Moore, M. Pentney, C. Waters, L. Prosser, M. Wilks.

U15 'A' XI

After a few practices it became clear that this fourth-year group possessed considerable talent; however, many individuals lacked the self-confidence and the fitness to use their skills in tight situations. Consequently, it was a struggle for the team to put enough pressure on the opposition while using a formation which provided enough depth in defence, and the draws at Monkton Combe and Cheltenham College, on artificial surfaces, were well-fought contests under the circumstances.

Apart from the game at Magdalen College School, in which our defenders committed themselves badly and then did not cover back, few goals were conceded, thanks to excellent goalkeeping by Stephen Jones. Eventually Francis Barton and Mark Bartlett took the positions at the back, because of their ability to read the game, time their tackles well and distribute the ball effectively. They were supported by Stephen Croft, the most mobile player of the season, who took over the captaincy with great determination and efficiency, always leading by example. His exuberance did lead to

two penalty strokes against us, but Jones, in his typically calm manner, saved both.

The other exciting player, who captained the side at the start of the season, was Stephen Roney. He found his niche on the left wing, from where he inevitably fed the ball into the circle either at high velocity or under control on the end of his stick. It was no surprise when he finished the season as top goal-scorer, and he will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

It is impossible to mention everyone, but the players inspired to improve their stickwork and distribution by the introduction of Christopher Jarrett as striker were Patrick Boydell, Ian Thompson, Armen Topalian and John Morgan. This produced a quick-passing, incisive attack in the last few games of term.

The role of the 'B' team in providing a keen opposition in practices and in feeding us new players, like Daniel Kemp, was extremely important, and I am most grateful to Mr Griffiths for the constant support which even stretched to driving us to Evesham.

C. J. W.

Played 9; Won 2; Drew 3; Lost 4; Goals for 15; Goals against 14.

v Monkton Combe School (A)	Drew 2-2
v Cheltenham College U15 'B' XI (A)	Drew 1-1
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 0-5
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Lost 0-2
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 0-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 0-2
v The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won 2-0
v Prince Henry's High School (A)	Drew 0-0
v Marling School (H)	Won 10-0

Team from:

S. Croft (Captain), M. Bartlett, F. Barton, A. Beales, P. Boydell, T. Gaskill, C. Jarrett, S. Jones, D. Kemp, J. Morgan, P. Roberts, S. Roney, I. Thompson, A. Tibbs, A. Topalian.

U15 'B' XI

This was an extremely enjoyable season: much hockey was played and the team developed into one that was resolute in defence, committed in midfield and direct in attack. This scheme of play proved successful, as we won three of our five matches, and the two losses were tightly fought encounters. Individual players worked not only at making the team successful in matches but also contributed fully in practices against the 'A' side. They also developed their personal skills and an understanding of how the game can be played enjoyably, skilfully and successfully. The general level of play was encouraged by the positive relationship

with the 'A' side and by Mr Wood's comprehensive knowledge of skills, tactics and rules.

Mr Graham's 'C' group was to supply several players determined to make their mark, and Andrew Riley, John Eaton and Tim Gaskill did particularly well here, Gaskill eventually progressing to wear an 'A' team shirt at the end of the season!

Other players, proving their effectiveness in the 'B' side, also pushed for places in the 'A' team. Daniel Kemp and Christopher Jarrett, after several resoundingly successful performances made theirs a permanent and deserved promotion, while Freddie Ingham, Leslie White and Adam Beales made a useful contribution and were pressing hard by the season's end. In the 'B' team several players made notable progress, including Charles Yardley, Rufus Blackwell, Mark Wilks in goal and Martin Adams, who made an excellent defensive contribution and, on Daniel Kemp's promotion, took over as captain and midfield general. Both the last two did a first-rate job in these roles and helped keep the team organised, motivated and playing hockey that was almost as stylish as my sports socks and as direct as my coaching technique!

I would like to thank all the boys for their contributions to an enjoyable and successful season; I hope they carry on playing with such a positive approach. My thanks go also to Mr Hawkswell for standing in as umpire on the day my brother from Canada came to lunch!

M. S. G.

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2; Goals for 19; Goals against 7.

v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 0-2
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Won 5-0
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 0-2
v Bredon School U15 'A' XI (H)	Won 10-1
v The Crypt School U15 'A' XI (H)	Won 4-2

Team from: M. Adams (Captain), M. Wilks, T. Gaskill, L. White, A. Riley, A. Higazi, J. Eaton, D. Kemp, F. Ingham, R. Blackwell, A. Beales, P. Roberts, C. Jarrett, C. Yardley, R. Hancock, G. Somers.

U14 'A' XI

This was undoubtedly an excellent season all round; with their unbeaten record at U13, the group were keen to prove themselves from the first practice of the term. Consequently the members of the squad worked extremely hard, were always willing to listen and learn and had to compete at all times to maintain their positions in the 'A' side.

Such an approach was reflected during their performance in the first three matches of the season, where, despite playing on different surfaces each time -

grass, Redgra, then Astro - they played with great individual skill and impressive, controlled teamwork, looking the better side on all occasions, the Monkton Combe and Magdalen matches being played in an excellent spirit.

Just before half-term the side came up against a well-drilled, fast-attacking Cheltenham College Junior 1st XI and were unable really to perform, neither side being helped by the gale-force wind and torrential rain!

The first match after half-term proved a strange affair, with both teams' forward lines in aggressive, effective mood, while the defences struggled: hence an eight-goal spree. The team put together an impressive display against King's, Gloucester, and were unlucky not to score several goals, while in the last match of the season against an inexperienced Wycliffe College side just starting out on the 'hockey road', the team performed with clinical efficiency to register an unfortunate score.

All who played for the 'A' XI performed with commendable spirit, commitment and courage throughout the season. The forwards were an impressive unit, with Alister Harris and Leighton Freeman fast and effective on the wings, Adam Crawford-Taylor, Stuart Sealey and Ean Branston hard-working as inners, and Nicholas Carmichael and Simon Lee aggressive and efficient in scoring.

The halves, Christopher Walmsley, Hague Willmott and Adam Simpkin played with intelligence and effectiveness in both attack and defence, while William Brix and Richard Witchell were industrious backs and rock-solid on most occasions. Francis Newcombe, as goal-keeper, deserves special mention for his courage and determination; he formed a formidable sight for the opposing offence and saved the team on numerous occasions, while Michael Smith, as captain, deserves great credit for his exceptional skill and first-class performance at centre-half, along with his organisational abilities, calm, composed ways and objective eye, qualities that made him excellent value as skipper.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the squad; it has been most rewarding and enormous fun coaching you over the last two years, and I have no doubt that you will be a formidable team in future seasons!

M. J. N.

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 26; Goals against 12.

v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 3-2
v Cheltenham College U14 'B' XI (A)	Won 2-0
v King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Won 2-0
v Magdalen College School (H)	Drew 1-1
v Cheltenham College Junior School 1st XI (A)	Lost 1-2
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Lost 3-5
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 1-2

v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 2-0
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won 11-0

Team from: M. Smith (Captain), S. Amey, E. Branston, W. Brix, N. Carmichael, A. Crawford-Taylor, S. Lee, L. Freeman, A. Harris, F. Newcombe, S. Sealey, A. Simpkin, C. Walmsley, H. Willmott, R. Witchell.

U14 'B' XI

The commitment and enthusiasm shown by this group both in practice and in matches is clearly reflected in their results. They were eager to learn and to improve their skills, but, more importantly, they really wanted to play as a team, encouraging each other to play their best hockey. Every match had its memorable moments: fine runs down the wing by Ben Renow-Clarke and Philip Price, powerful shots at goal by Ean Branston and Stephen Amey, dogged defence by William Heaven and Christopher Mackinnon. James Fairbank worked tirelessly in mid-field, supported by sound play from Craig Marcham and Hague Willmott, the halves.

The results, however, would have been very different without the excellent 'keeping' of George Langlands in goal. Philip Marran and Phillippe Le Fèvre, late-comers to the squad, also made some useful contributions to the team. The most testing and exciting encounter was against Dean Close; both sides played good hockey and in an excellent spirit, the result being in the balance right up to the final whistle.

A special word of thanks is due to Stephen Amey, the captain, for the interest he showed in the team and for his nicely judged leadership in matches. It was an enjoyable season for everyone, including the 'coach'.

W. J. D. W.

Played 6; Won 5; Drew 1; Goals for 22; Goals against 4.

v Monkton Combe School (A)	Won 4-0
v King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won 2-1
v Magdalen College School (A)	Won 4-0
v Bredon School (A)	Won 4-1
v Dean Close School (H)	Drew 1-1
v The Crypt School (H)	Won 7-1

Team from: S. Amey (Captain), W. Heaven, C. Mackinnon, J. Fairbank, G. Langlands, C. Marcham, H. Willmott, P. Price, E. Branston, K. Bendall, A. Simpkin, S. Sealey, H. Renow-Clarke, P. Marran, P. Le Fèvre.

Junior Teams

However hard you looked, amongst our band of supporters, or on the pitch, or anywhere in the vicinity, at our games Fortune was never to be found. Our last match of the term, against The Downs School, characterised the whole season: we had 20 shots at goal,

including a dozen short comers, and not a single one went in. The opposition had just one shot, and it cracked into the back-board and resounded absurdly across a silent, disbelieving pitch. Earlier examples are too painful to record here.

The rather complicated arrangement of fixtures and team configurations meant that a large proportion of the Junior House had the opportunity for a game. All their efforts were praiseworthy, but several deserve a particular mention here. Adam Hawkins, the goalkeeper, showed tremendous bravery and skill in warding off total disaster, and he was commended by a great many onlookers. Adam King proved a dynamic captain, and he was ably assisted by Rupert Webb, James de Lisle Wells and Sam Maylott. Chris Baker's versatility was put to good use at centre-midfield, as were the talents of Charles Webb, Tim Hill, Jonathan Davis and Jonathan Freeman, who appeared in midfield more or less frequently. Matthew Hall played a valuable role at right-wing, as did Chris Scarth on the left. Charles Barton was centre-forward, and his considerable promise as a dangerous striker was cruelly rewarded only by frustration. My reward came not through results, but through having such a fine bunch of lads to coach; better luck next year... it can only improve.

Thanks are due to Mr Sudbury and Mr Chase, and to Kelly College in Tavistock for their hospitality on our tour.

D. C. B.

U13 'A':

Played 9; Won 1; Lost 8; Goals for 4; Goals against 28.

v Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XI (A)	Lost 1-5
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 1-3
v Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XI (A)	Won 1-0
v Dean Close Junior School 1st XI (A)	Lost 0-5
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 1-4
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Lost 0-3
v Kelly College (A)	Lost 0-3
v Oakley Hall School 1st XI (A)	Lost 0-4
v The Downs School 1st XI (H)	Lost 0-1

U13 'B' XI:

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3; Goals for 4; Goals against 13.

v Dean Close Junior School 2nd XI (H)	Lost 0-4
v Cheltenham College Junior School 5th XI (A)	Won 3-1
v The Crypt School U13 'A' XI (H)	Won 1-0
v Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Lost 0-5
v The Downs School 2nd XI (H)	Lost 0-3

U13 XI:

Played 1; Lost 1.

v Oakley Hall School 1st XI (H)

Lost 0-7

U12 XI:

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Goals for 2; Goals against 9.

v Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)

Lost 0-2

v Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI (H)

Lost 1-7

v Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI (A)

Won 1-0

The following played for one or more of the teams: C. Baker, C. Barton, J. de Lisle Wells, M. Garcia, A. Davanzo, J. Graham, M. Hall, M. Haynes, A. Hawkins, A. King, C. Morey, A. Perrin, T. Shaw, J. Smith, C. Webb, T. Abbott, O. Blackwell, J. Davis, J. Freeman, J. Gibbs, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Holliday, S. Maylott, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, R. Webb, M. Read.

Girls' Hockey

Despite our form on paper, the team played extremely well, most defeats being more a case of luck for the opposition than their better playing.

Sonya Naish was a great asset, with her words of encouragement shouted up the field. The backs, Marian Preen, Juliette Ward and Kate Russell, withstood pressure from our opponents remarkably well; Kate on occasions did an enviable impression of a whirlwind running through the field, leaving people trailing behind. Lucy Payne and Clair Watson backed up the forwards admirably.

Zoë Davis possessed great speed when running down the wing, passing balls to Rosie Moser, currently top scorer closely followed by Clare Newman.

Jo Morse and Melanie Caseldine displayed great teamwork, often switching positions on the left, while Sam Cato tackled with great enthusiasm and usually won possession.

Our match against King's, Gloucester, gave a typical example of the jinx that accompanied us throughout most of the season: the ball rolled over the back line, or so we thought, giving King's an undeserved win.

The last game in the Christmas term, against Wycliffe, was what we had striven for all season, a victory.



Finally I would like to thank Mr Essenhigh, Mrs Warner, Mr Morgan and, above all, Miss Goldsmith for their patience, support and belief that we would eventually win a match. We have now won two!

ANNITTA DUGUID

Played 9; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 6; Goals for 3; Goals against 17.

v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost 0-3
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Drew 1-1
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost 0-2
v Burford School (A)	Lost 0-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 0-1
v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost 0-5
v Bournside School (A)	Lost 0-4
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won 1-0
v Wycliffe College (A)	Won 1-0

Team from:

A. Duguid (Captain), R. Moser, M. Caseldine, Z. Davis, S. Cato, J. Morse, C. Newman, S. Naish, P. Watts, M. Preen, L. Payne, C. Ravell, J. Ward, C. Watson.

Cricket

During the last few years we have increased the number of sides we field to eight. Finding suitable opposition can prove very difficult. The large independent schools can sometimes be too strong for us, particularly at 'B' level. Others do not run as many sides as we do, so there are only a few satisfactory block fixtures. As a result fixtures become fragmented: extra coaches and minibuses are required, as teams set out for Herefordshire, Avon or Oxfordshire, increasing the outgoings of the cricket budget.

In the maintained sector the number of staff willing to take cricket has decreased and, with examination candidates leaving school at the start of public exams, very little senior cricket is being played. So it was encouraging to see the resurgence of junior cricket in one local school. Let us hope that this trend will continue. To help fill the vacuum, we have tried to establish links with local clubs which are developing youth sides.

A number of improvements were made for the '92 season. In the spring the U14 pavilion was refurbished by our maintenance team. My thanks go to them. Roger Attwood, the school cabinet-maker, constructed two very substantial scoreboards for the U14 and U13 squares. The Parents' Association kindly donated a double-bay practice net for Landage. Perhaps in '93 we shall be able to construct a small pavilion on Landage for the use of junior XIs.

We were delighted to hear that former pupil John Carroll (1983-90) was awarded his Blue at Cambridge,

where he has just completed his first year reading drama and education. John represented Gloucestershire Schools at U15 and U 19 levels, and after leaving school spent a short time in Australia playing club cricket. We took a party, mainly of junior boys, to Lord's to watch him play in the 'Varsity match. On this occasion he scored only 7, but earlier scores of 70 and 37 against the MCC, 58 and 48 against the Combined Services and 92 against Kent had won him the honour.

John Carroll at Lord's.

D. Essenhigh



On the weekend of July 18th and 19th the College played host, for the second year, to the English Schools U14 XI in their two one-day international matches against a Welsh Schools U15 XI. The teams, selectors and officials were accommodated in Lawn House.

I should like to thank David Essenhigh for running the 1st XI and for preparing and maintaining, with the help of David Mead, such excellent wickets and grounds. My thanks go also to Russell Riste and his staff for providing good lunches and teas; they tasted even better than usual when served by Penny Wood, Sandra Williams, Julie Rogers and Miranda Mather! Thank you, ladies, for all the time you gave us on games afternoons. Finally, I would like to thank the cricket staff for all their time and effort over the season.

C. C. B.

1st XI

This was a very interesting season, one I enjoyed very much. We reported back on Tuesday, 21st April, played a match on Wednesday and another, against Cheltenham College, on Saturday. We were soundly

beaten in the first game, drew the next two, were beaten against Worcester Grammar School and then lost to Bloxham.

After those games, with a lot of hard work by the players and myself, we started to get better, and by the end of the season we looked a useful side.

At the start our bowling was weak; we could not bowl consistently to one side of the wicket. We did not score enough runs, and when we did score, we did not do so quickly enough.

Marcus Head and Matthew Giggs formed a good opening partnership, but Marcus never played as well as he did last season and scored only half as many runs; however, I was very pleased that he battled through to score 101 not out against the Gloucestershire Gipsies.

Matthew had a good technique and improved with each game. Henry Pugh, once I promoted him to no 3, never looked back and scored over 300 runs, scoring all round the wicket. Mark Valentine played very well and batted with more care than he did last year.

But the players who improved most during the season were Chris Lawton, Graham Lawton and Paul Irving. Paul improved 100% on last year and finished with the top average of over 50. Chris, batting at no 7, played really well and finished with an average of 30; he was also our main strike bowler, with 26 wickets, improving with each game. Ben Marshall opened the bowling at the start of the season; moving the ball away from the batsman, he never had much luck against players not good enough to get a touch. Later Graham Lawton took over the opening and bowled very well.

James Grafton once again did not do himself justice; one day he will score a great many runs. I am pleased that he was asked to play for the Gloucestershire U19 Schools side, as was Marcus Head; I wish them both good luck in the matches.

Towards the end of the season John Roney came into the side and performed very well with both ball and bat.

When I was allowed, I also played Patrick Boydell, a very useful leg-spinner from the U15 side. I look forward to having him in the XI next year.

The real highlight of the season came at the end, when I heard that John Carroll had got his blue at Cambridge, the first cricket blue from Rendcomb. I spent many hours working with him on Tuesday nights in the winter at Cheltenham and I wish him the best of luck.

I cannot close without thanking Chris King for the excellent way he runs the 2nd XI and for all the support he gives me. I must also thank Penny Wood and her helpers, who did such an excellent job with the teas, always served with a smile. Lastly my thanks go to Andrew Martin for scoring for most of the season.

Finally, I offer a suggestion: I feel that, after having a cricket week here at Rendcomb for the last two years, we should go on tour next year.

D. E.



Andrew Martin

Played 13; Won 1; Drew 7; Lost 5.

v Swindon CC (H) - Lost by 113 runs
Swindon 217-4 decl. (C. Lawton 2-44)
Rendcomb 94 (M. Head 34, Valentine 22)

v Cheltenham College (H) - Match drawn
Cheltenham 217-6 decl. (C. Lawton 2-47)
Rendcomb 73-4, rain stopped play (Giggs 23, Pugh 20*)

v Marling School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 166-4 decl. (Valentine 56, Pugh 53, M. Head 40)
Marling 52-3, bad light stopped play

Chesterton Cup Match
v The Royal Grammar School, Worcester (A) - Lost by 172 runs
Worcester 270 in 40 overs (C. Lawton 2-54)
Rendcomb 98 (Valentine 49)

v Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 113 (Giggs 52)
Bloxham 114-7 (G. Lawton 3-18, C. Lawton 2-51)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 180-4 decl. (Pugh 78*, Valentine 48)
Pate's 181-4 (Marshall 2-52)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 167-5 decl. (Pugh 53, Valentine 53, Giggs 29)
King's 143-7 (G. Lawton 4-29, Boydell 2-56)

v New College, Swindon (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 152-6 decl. (Irving 55*, M. Head 43, C. Lawton 32*)
New College 149-8 (C. Lawton 3-37, Roney 2-48)
v Belmont Abbey School (H) - Match drawn
Belmont 144-8 decl. (C. Lawton 4-45, Roney 2-29)
Rendcomb 116-6 (M. Head 24, G. Lawton 23*, C. Lawton 20)

v Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 155-6 decl. (Irving 63*, C. Lawton 23, Pugh 22)
Prior Park 134-8 (Boydell 3-51, G. Lawton 2-15)

v The Old Rendcombian Society XI (H) - Won by 110 runs
Rendcomb 184 (Valentine 36, C. Lawton 36, Pugh 30, Giggs 28)
OR XI 74 (G. Lawton 5-15, C. Lawton 5-38)

v The Gloucestershire Gipsies CC (H) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 233-5 decl. (M. Head 101*, Pugh 52, C. Lawton 41*)
Gipsies 235-5 (C. Lawton 3-63, Roney 2-64)

v WG Cricket (H) - Match drawn
WG Cricket 257-7 decl. (Valentine 2-25, G. Lawton 2-55)
Rendcomb 166-7 (M. Head 46, Grafton 45)

The last two matches, against Wycliffe College and Victoria College, Jersey, were cancelled owing to rain.

Team from: M. Head (Captain), J. Grafton (Vice-captain), M. Valentine, M. Giggs, P. Irving, A. Palin, J. Powell, H. Pugh, D. Morris, G. Lawton, C. Lawton, A. Branston, G. Head, A. McIndoe, R. Hutson, B. Marshall, P. Boydell, J. Roney.

2nd XI

With a large number of boys playing senior cricket this year, there was a marked improvement in standard and results. Nevertheless, the policy of giving all the boys in the squad at least one game was sustained again this year. The quality of performance, most noticeably in the field, progressed significantly with the term and as collective belief in ability to win developed. Finally the long-awaited triumph of a 2nd XI victory came in the last game of the season, umpired by Mr Essenhigh. This was highly ironic after the writer's long sufferance, as time and time again defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory by the 'seconds'.

Notable performances this year included the bowling of John Roney and Antony Palin, and the batting of Andrew McIndoe and Andrew Branston. Jon Powell again captained the side in a relaxed and sporting manner, always looking to make the game, even if the opposition seemed happy with a draw.

C. P. M. K.

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3; Abandoned 1.

v Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A) - Match abandoned
Cheltenham 24-1 after 11 overs

v Marling School (A) - Lost by 18 runs
Marling 123 (Palin 3-19, Norman 3-20)
Rendcomb 105 (Norman 52)

v Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 2 wickets
Rendcomb 129-8 decl. (Irving 33, Roney 25*)
Bloxham 130-6 (Roney 5-35)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Pate's 168-5 decl. (Roney 3-58)
Rendcomb 116-5 (Branston 65*)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 7 runs
King's 109 (Roney 4-38, Norman 4-25)
Rendcomb 102 (McIndoe 31)

v Bredon School (H) - Won by 6 wickets
Bredon 81 (Roney 8-31)
Rendcomb 82-4 (Branston 32*)

Team from: J. Powell (Captain), N. Barton, A. Barry, A. Branston, C. East, R. Elmes, N. Houseman, P. Irving, A. Martin, A. McIndoe, J. Mills, M. Norman, A. Palin, J. Roney, J. Sawtell.

U15 'A' XI

This season was a particularly pleasing one for this group of cricketers; we have seen a lot of determination and consequent success for all the players.

Especially notable to our faithful band of spectators has been the extravagant, persistent keenness of Piers Roberts, tirelessly looking for a sharp single or an ambitious stumping, the flair of Ian Thompson's fluent left-hand batting, unfortunately lost to us for half the season, the rocky dependability of Mark Wilks, the fielding skill of Chris Jarrett and Adam Higazi, the power of Stephen Roney. Equally successful was the mystifying leg-spin of Patrick Boydell, guaranteed to break partnerships and lead to matches' being saved or won (for example, Bloxham, Pate's, Belmont, Farmor's).

It was in one of these situations that our zenith of the season came, defending a well-constructed 151 against Belmont Abbey. We had to fight constantly to save runs, as their batsmen were threatening to overhaul us with ease. However, with spinners bowling from both ends, the tide was turned and, owing to a lot of hard work by the fielders, we won an uphill struggle.

I would like to thank Mr Burden for his time, coaching, encouragement and confidence in us, Mrs Wood, Mrs Williams, Miss Rogers and Miss Mather for serving teas, and the various fourth-formers who scored for us this season.

Most importantly, though, I want to say 'thank you' to all members of the team; we all know that everyone gave 100% when it mattered, and I congratulate them all and appreciate their part in creating these wonderful memories, as well as many other moments of teamwork and friendship:

- (a) Piers stumping Bloxham's last batsman to secure our first win, surely the appeal of the year from at least six people clumped around the bat,

- (b) the nerve-wracking finish in late evening against Pate's; a combined effort was required, and we pulled it off!
- (c) Cheltenham's batting collapsing from 79-2 to 113 all out, not something that happens every day, and it was quite something;
- (d) Chris and Mark letting fly against Bloxham, 67 in half as many minutes,
- (e) a few special moments: Ian's four for eleven against King's, Gloucester, where all others had failed; Chris coming on to bowl against Kingham Hill and taking a vital wicket straight away, Adam's catch at silly mid-off in the same match - only those who saw it can visualise it - indescribable;
- (f) finally, a personal memory of a jubilant, muddy huddle after we had survived against Cheltenham on a nasty pitch in pouring rain at twilight in April.

FRANCIS BARTON

Played 9; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 1; Abandoned 2.

v Cheltenham College (H) - Match abandoned
Cheltenham 113 (Boydell 4-19, Barton 3-9)
Rendcomb 39-6

v Marling School (H) - Match abandoned
Marling 140 (Boydell 6-55, Barton 4-34)
Rendcomb 100-5 (Roberts 31)

v Bloxham School (H) - Won by 70 runs
Rendcomb 153-4 decl. (Wilks 50, Jarrett 34, Roberts 19)
Bloxham 83 (Bartlett 3-14, Boydell 6-11)

v The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Match drawn
King's 124-9 decl. (Boydell 3-57, Thompson 4-16)
Rendcomb 44-5 (Jarrett 19)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 121-7 decl. (Roberts 30, Morgan 28*)
Pate's 120-9 (Boydell 4-52, Barton 4-34)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 87 (Jarrett 23)
Sir Tomas Rich's 88-4 (Barton 3-30)

v Belmont Abbey School (H) - Won by 34 runs
Rendcomb 151-6 decl. (Wilks 29, Morgan 25, Boydell 21, Roberts 19)
Belmont 117 (Boydell 5-26, Barton 4-45)

v Farmor's School (H) - Won by 12 runs
Rendcomb 150-6 decl. (Barton 64, Roberts 25, Jarrett

21) Farmor's 138 (Barton 5-47, Boydell 3-46)

v Kingham Hill School (H) - Match drawn
Kingham 158-6 decl.
Rendcomb 90-7 (Jarrett 27, Boydell 26*)

Team from: F. Barton (Captain), P. Boydell (Vice-Captain), M. Bartlett, A. Beales, J. Eaton, A. Higazi, C. Jarrett, D. Kemp, J. Morgan, P. Roberts, S. Roney, I. Thompson, M. Wilks. Also played: T. Gaskill.

U15 'B' XI

In common with many other teams, this group had only one practice before their first match. However, the side excelled itself in all areas, and Rendcomb required just three runs per over, with eight wickets in hand, when the heavens opened, saturating the wicket in a matter of minutes and causing the abandonment. Within days the team played Bredon School, and a combination of loose bowling and several missed catching opportunities allowed the opposition to accumulate a challenging total, which proved impossible to reach in the face of some very tight bowling.

Thereafter this group did not really get to grips with improving their batting and bowling during practices, although certain individuals tried extremely hard and were deservedly selected for the 'A' XI. Consequently, the inability of most players to remain at the crease in the face of accurate bowling resulted in match totals which were simply too low to be competitive.

C. J. W.

Played 4; Lost 3; Abandoned 1.

v Cheltenham College 'C' XI (H) - Match abandoned
Cheltenham 109-4 decl. (Channing-Williams 2-10)
Rendcomb 58-2 (Higazi 18*, Tibbs 16)

v Bredon School 'A' XI (H) - lost by 74 runs
Bredon 130-4 decl. (Higazi 2-14, Hancock 2-24)
Rendcomb 56

v The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 119 runs
King's 175-7 decl.
Rendcomb 56

v Dean Close School (A) - lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 88 (White 22)
Dean Close 89-1

Team from: F. Ingham (Captain), D. Kemp, N. Channing-Williams, T. Gaskill, M. Harper, M. Steen, A. Higazi, A. Tibbs, L. White, M. Adams, A. Christie, R. Hancock, A. Bainbridge, A. Beales, M. Brown, A. Riley, J. Ellison.

U15 'A/B' XI

Strengthening the 'B' team for the return fixture against Bredon reduced the effectiveness of their main batsmen, largely owing to the consistently accurate bowling of John Morgan, Stephen Roney and the captain, Ian Thompson. Although the intense heat of the day undoubtedly affected our batsmen, Rendcomb obtained a well-deserved win with wickets to spare.

A genuine under-fifteen side played very positively against a Cokethorpe team consisting of many older boys, and within a short time the opposition had lost four wickets. However, two solid batsmen took their total to 177, leaving a relatively short time for our innings. As it turned out, their bowling was fast and accurate, but the last wicket fell only just before the close of play.

C. J. W.

v Bredon School U15 'A' XI (A) - Won by 5 wickets
Bredon 62 (Roney 2-21, Morgan 5-11, Ingham 3-3)
Rendcomb 65-5 (Roney 12*)

v Cokethorpe School 2nd XI (A) - Lost by 150 runs
Cokethorpe 177-6 decl. (Bartlett 4-25)
Rendcomb 27

Team from: C. Jarrett (Captain), I. Thompson (Captain), J. Eaton, J. Morgan, M. Bartlett, D. Kemp, N. Channing-Williams, T. Gaskill, M. Harper, A. Higazi, R. Hancock, A. Beales, P. Roberts, S. Roney, F. Ingham.

U14 'A' XI

Although losses outnumber victories, this was in many respects a successful season. The team won most games that were within their capacity to do so, and generally put up spirited performances in defeat at the hands of stronger opponents.

Three names dominate the analysis of results: Matthew Morris, Francis Newcombe and, above all, Michael Smith.

Michael Morris contributed a number of impressive performances, and Francis Newcombe developed into a very solid opening batsman; one thinks, above all, of his innings of 54 not out when batting with a runner against Prior Park.

Michael Smith is a talented all-rounder, and he made a vital contribution to virtually every game in which he played. He also captained the side with distinction, and his team-mates are considerably indebted to him.

Other promising aspects of the season include the improved bowling of Alister Harris and Nicholas Carmichael's development into a promising wicket-keeper.

M. S

Played 12; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 5; Abandoned 1.

v Cheltenham College (A) - Match abandoned
Cheltenham 55-1

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 7 wickets
Cokethorpe 80 (Smith 5-18)
Rendcomb 82-3 (Freeman 24*)

v Marling School (A) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 60 (Amey 22)
Marling 61-5 (Smith 3-22)

v Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 57 (Lee 27)
Bloxham 61-7 (Morris 4-27)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 90 (Smith 67*)
King's 66-8 (Smith 4-27)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 107-9 decl. (Ismael 48*)
Pate's 111-2

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match drawn
Sir Thomas Rich's 133-9 decl. (Smith 6-47)
Rendcomb 91-8 (Newcombe 44)

v Belmont Abbey School (A) - Won by 5 wickets
Belmont 52 (Smith 4-24, Morris 5-17)
Rendcomb 54-5 (Newcombe 20)

v Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 30 runs †
Wycliffe 124-5 (40 overs)
Rendcomb 94 (27. 5 overs, Smith 48*)

v The Crypt School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Crypt 70 (Smith 4-10, Morris 4-11)
Rendcomb 72-2 (Newcombe 22, Smith 23*)

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Kingham 54 (Morris 6-12)
Rendcomb 55-0 (Smith 34*)

v Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 22 runs
Prior Park 146 (Harris 4-50)
Rendcomb 124 (Newcombe 54*)

† Lords Taverners Cup Match

Team from: M. Smith (Captain), S. Amey,
N. Carmichael, L. Freeman, A. Harris, S. Ismail, S. Lee,
M. Morris, F. Newcombe, P. Price, S. Sealey,
C. Walmsley, H. Willmott. Scorer: T. Winstone.

U14 'B' XI

Victories were hard to come by in a season when only one fixture out of six was played at home. As usual, it was late in the season before our strongest side could be selected.

The side was a keen and enthusiastic one, and the highlight of the season was the tied match at Cheltenham, when their last batsman was run out! The batting in particular lacked consistency overall, but there is plenty of talent to work on for the future.

Our thanks must go to George Langlands for skippering the side, to all pupils who represented it for their commitment, as well as to Keith Bendall and Richard Witchell for scoring.

L. J. H.
J. G. W.

Played 6; Won 1; Tied 1; Drew 1; Lost 3.

v Cheltenham College U14 'C' XI (A) - Match drawn
Cheltenham 51-3; rain stopped play

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 6 wickets

King's 34
Rendcomb 37-4

v Bredon School U14 'A' XI (A) - Lost by 7 wickets
Rendcomb 59
Bredon 60-3

v Cheltenham College U14 'C' XI (A) - Match tied
Rendcomb 59
Cheltenham 59

v Dean Close School (A) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 94-9 decl.
Dean Close 95-4

v Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 76 runs
Prior Park 160-8 decl.
Rendcomb 84

Team from: G. Langlands (Captain), O. Blaydon, E. Branston, W. Brix, J. Chalk, A. Crawford-Taylor, J. Fairbank, R. Hart, W. Heaven, N. Holt, S. Ismael, S. Lee, P. Le Fèvre, R. Lewis, P. Marran, A. Simpkin, C. Walmsley, R. Witchell.

U13 'A' XI

Unlike most years, this season started off with a win, against Marling; it was close, and a definite win only when their last wicket fell. We produced some great individual efforts, including a 56-minute stand of 15 by Charles Barton and a bowling figure of 9-16.

In our next match we lacked concentration and therefore lost to a better than average Oakley Hall side. We practised hard and pulled off two draws and a loss from the next three matches, which produced good performances from Charles Barton and Charlie Allen.

Belmont Abbey, a new fixture for us, was won by ten wickets, our two openers batting through Belmont's score of 121 with adequate ease. In their stand, lasting an hour and 22 minutes, Charles Barton hit 74 not out, and Rupert Webb, gaining in confidence, made 29.

The match against The Crypt was a hard one this year, but we missed the draw by only three balls, and made up for it by winning solidly against Kingham Hill.

Our last match was against Tockington Manor, traditionally unbeatable, with a brilliant record of wins against Rendcomb teams. We did not field well and consequently had 127 runs to make in an hour and three-quarters to draw. We won off the last ball, Chris Baker and I running three to take our score to 130 for 8. This match produced the team's best abilities, including teamwork, skill and not giving up, which in this case paid off.

A lot of thanks should go to Mr Sykes, who helped me to captain the side and coached us all so ably. I would also like to thank all the members of the team, who tried their best all the time, especially against our harder opposition.

CHARLES WEBB

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 3.

v Marling School (H) - Won by 27 runs
Rendcomb 78 (King 17)
Marling 51 (C. Webb 9-16)

v Oakley Hall School (A) - Lost by 97 runs
Oakley Hall 134-2 decl. (Taylor 2-27)
Rendcomb 37 (King 25)

v Park School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 86-3 (Barton 42*, Allen 26*)
Park 48-3 (Taylor 1-7)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 91-7 decl. (Taylor 27, Allen 31)
Pate's 75-8 (Taylor 3-12)

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Lost by 33 runs
Cokethorpe 94 (Allen 4-22, Hall 2-3)
Rendcomb 61 (Barton 28)

v Belmont Abbey School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Belmont 121-9 decl. (King 3-10, Allen 3-22)
Rendcomb 125-0 (Barton 74*, R. Webb 29*)

v The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 125-9 decl. (Barton 63)
Crypt 127-1

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 7 wickets
Kingham 34 (Allen 4-8, C. Webb 2-1)
Rendcomb 35-3

v Tockington Manor School (A) - Won by 2 wickets
Tockington 127-9 decl. (Allen 5-43)
Rendcomb 129-8 (Barton 24, Hall 23, Taylor 21, de Lisle Wells 19)

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), C. Barton, R. Webb, C. Allen, A. Taylor, A. King, J. de Lisle Wells, S. Maylott, C. Baker, A. Hawkins, J. Davis.



Boys' Tennis

32 boys played tennis as their major sport this summer, indicating the continued popularity of the game. Among these were six boys from the Fourth Form, allowed, for the first time, to desert the world of wickets and flannels; it was good to be able to assess these younger hopefuls in action.

In the opening match, against a strong Dauntsey's side, the 1st VI were well beaten, but the 2nd VI enjoyed a much closer contest. We next ran three teams against Wycliffe and, remarkably, all three lost by the narrowest of margins, 4-5; any of these matches, one felt, could with luck have gone our way. Congratulations were especially due to the Junior VI for their determined effort. The 1st VI then defeated the South Cotswold LTC side in another nail-biting encounter. Dean Close claimed to have a 'vintage year' team and proved it by annihilating our 1st VI, while the 2nd VI also lost, though less ignominiously. Finally the team lost, in quite a close affair, to Cheltenham College's 2nd VI, but our 2nd VI succumbed rather feebly.

It was not a brilliant season, then, for results, but there was much enthusiasm, and the increasing experience of match play should help in 1993. Only one member of the current 1st VI is leaving, and we have some undoubted young promise moving up the ranks, especially at Fourth Form level (Steven Croft, Stephen Jones, Charles Yardley and the rest). Again the need is for more concentration and consistency - so much of tennis is in the mind - working to reduce technical weaknesses by practice against brick walls, family garages and fathers, and superior opponents. Wider experience in holiday - preferably tournament - play will help in shot-selection also.

As part of the Parents' Association Family Day on Sunday, 7th June, 14 parent-pupil pairs took part in the annual handicap doubles tournament. The weather was conducive and the occasion enjoyed by all. Congratulations go to the winners of the two selections, Mr Carmichael and Nicholas Carmichael, Mr Radcliffe and Anthony Brooke. Following the event, £30 were sent to this year's charity, the RNLI.

My grateful thanks go to Julian Madeley, a much improved player himself, for his reliable assistance as Captain of Tennis.

J. N. H.

U13 'B' and U12 XIs

There was not a great deal of talent apparent at the beginning of the season, but it has been a surprise and a joy to see it emerging and developing as the term has gone on. The results do not look impressive, but in many ways this has been due to lack of experience and match practice, and it was unfortunate that we had to cancel matches against King's, Gloucester, and Cheltenham College Junior School because of bad weather. In the event the U13 'B' XI were unlucky to come up against a strong Oakley Hall side, but the performances of the U12 XI, drawing with Park School and beating a Cricklade CC U13 XI, augur well for the future.

P. J. S.

U13 'B' XI

Played 2; Lost 2.

v Oakley Hall School (A) - Lost by 57 runs
Oakley Hall 120-7 decl. (Sutton 3-25, Garcia 2-16)
Rendcomb 63 (S. Taylor 14, Williams 18)

v Oakley Hall School (H) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 81 (Perrin 13, Perry 13)
Oakley Hall 82-2

Team from: S. Taylor (Captain), O. Blackwell, J. Davis, M. Garcia, T. Hill, C. Morey, A. Perrin, C. Perry, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, A. Watkins, D. Williams.

U12 XI

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v Park School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 71-5 decl. (Maylott 18, Davis 14)
Park 57-5 (Maylott 3-18, A. Taylor 2-13)

v Cricklade CC U13 XI - Won by 7 wickets
Cricklade 36 (R. Webb 2-0, A. Taylor 6-5)
Rendcomb 37-3 (Williams 10)

Team from: A. Taylor (Captain), O. Blackwell, J. Davis, J. Gibbs, T. Hill, R. Histed, C. Holliday, S. Maylott, C. Perry, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, D. Williams, R. Webb.

1st VI

v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 1-8
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 4-5
v South Cotswold LTC (H)	Won 5-4
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost ½-8½
v Cheltenham College 2nd VI (H)	Lost 3-6

2nd VI

v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 3-6
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v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 4-5
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost 1½-7½
v Cheltenham College 3rd VI (H)	Lost 1-8

Junior VI

v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 4-5
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1st VI from: J. Madeley (Captain), C. Carmichael, P. Croft, S. Jones, P. Morgan, R. Sage, J. Mackinnon, C. Morgan-Harris, S. Croft.

2nd VI from: C. Morgan-Harris (Captain), R. Sage, P. Morgan, M. Smith, A. Baker, A. Faiers, S. Croft, J. Mackinnon, P. Williams, C. Yardley, B. Mabey.

Junior VI: S. Croft, C. Yardley, K. Thomas, P. Bigg-Wither, R. Blackwell, G. Somers.

Girls' Tennis

Having such good weather conditions in which to play helped the team's morale considerably. Everybody played with great enthusiasm, even throughout the 'A' level period.

The 1st VI consisted mainly of members of VIB, which gives us hope for the future and a strong base on which to build for next season.

The results were disappointing, but I think everyone enjoyed her matches, which helped us to gain experience, useful for the future. Most importantly, we got our sun-tans started for the summer!

I should like to thank Mrs Walter for her patience and enthusiasm and to wish her every happiness in her new marriage.

CATE RAVELL

1st VI

v Dauntsey's School	Lost 0-9
v The Royal Agricultural College	Lost 0-4*
v The King's School, Gloucester	Won 6-3
v Wycliffe College	Lost 0-9
v St Clotilde's Convent School	Lost 0-4*
v Dean Close School	Lost 0-9
v Cheltenham College	Lost 0-12
v St Edward's School, Cheltenham	Lost 2-7

2nd VI

v Dauntsey's School	Lost 0-9
v The Royal Agricultural College	Lost 1-3*
v Wycliffe College	Lost 1-8
v St Clotilde's Convent School	Lost 0-4*
v Dean Close School	Lost 0-9
v Cheltenham College	Lost 1-11
v St Edward's School, Cheltenham	Lost 2-7

* four pairs

Teams from: C. Ravell (Captain), M. Preen, L. Payne, M. Caseldine, T. Keegan, H. Hall-Wright, E. Thwaites, K. Hodgkinson, S. Cato, T. Sayegh, Z. Davis, P. Renny, J. Ward.

Judo

The club has enjoyed quite a successful year. Last summer numbers had dwindled, and its survival seemed in doubt. With an influx of new members judo has thrived, even through the summer term when traditionally numbers have always diminished.

The club is made up of an unusual mixture, mainly of sixth-formers and members of the Junior House. Both groups are very keen and should ensure the well-being of the club throughout next year.

Towards the end of next autumn term it is hoped to organise a Junior Mon Grading. This would be held in the Sports Hall, to which local clubs would be invited. The seniors should also attend a local Kyu grading, as well as Kyu grade competitions.

The Keith Thome Memorial Trophy was presented by Paul Godsell to Oliver Blackwell for his high level of enthusiasm and general progress during the year. My thanks must go to Paul Godsell, the club coach, and his assistant Neil McNeany; their enthusiasm and dedication have enabled judo to survive at Rendcomb despite pressure from other activities.

C. C. B



Oliver Blackwell and supporters.

Netball

The season got off to a good start, with a few good wins under our belt. The dynamic duo, Tanya Sayegh and Sarah Thayne, saved us from losing on many occasions.

Owing to the true team spirit, we worked closely together to aid our talented shooters, Helen Hall-Wright and Tara Keegan. Credit should go also to the centre-court players, whose mutual understanding progressed throughout the season, even though some of the opposition proved to be too strong.

The 6B players should provide a strong team for next year, and I wish them every success.

SAMANTHA CATO

1st VII

v Wycliffe College (A)	Won 19-7
v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 18-9
v Burford School (A)	Lost 7-11
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 10-13
v Westonbirt School (A)	Lost 9-19
v Bournside School (H)	Lost 10-17
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost 11-16

2nd VII

v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won 16-6
v Burford School (A)	Lost 3-31
v Westonbirt School (A)	Lost 9-19



Emily Tabassi, John Talbot and Linda Eklöf at the Gloucester indoor tournament. *J. M. Essenhigh*

Archery

This year has been a very fruitful one for archers at Rendcomb. Despite a constantly changing army of faces in the club, a number of good scores have been made, allowing several members to obtain achievement badges from the Association for Archery in Schools, including two red badges - a first for Rendcomb - for Emily Tabassi and me.

We have entered a number of external tournaments with a good success rate, gaining several medals. The addition of a new left-handed composite bow and the acquisition of our own equipment by several of us have meant that very few people have had to shoot with the fibre-glass 'beginners' bows.

Owing to the weather we did not shoot out of doors until quite late in the season, except for the couple of keen members who were shooting on Top in the frosts of January. This was quite a new experience for young and old alike, but our standard quickly improved and has been very pleasing throughout the year.

I would like to thank David Essenhigh and Mr Newby for the use of the sports facilities, and Linda Eklöf for her work as club secretary. Most of all we are indebted to Joan Essenhigh, who has greatly aided us with her coaching, encouragement and support throughout the year, especially when everything seemed to be going wrong.

All that remains for me to say is 'thank you' to the rest of the club members for giving us a real 'club atmosphere' rather than that of a school group, and 'happy shooting', I hope for many years into the future!

JOHN TALBOT

Floreat Rendcombia



PHOTOGRAPHIC
COMPETITION



White Withington by David Hughes



Kielder Chaffinch by C. J. Wood



Crosses by Paul Sumsion

