Old Rendcombian Society

NEWSLETTER



QUO LUX DUCIT

MAY 1991

17th ISSUE

Editor W.J.D. WHITE

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Society Officers 1990-91

At the annual general meeting in July 1990, the following officers were elected:-

President: Arnold Brain (1929 - 37)
Chairman: Brian Smith (1965 - 72)
Vice-chairman: Neil Lumby (1968 - 73)
Secretary: Mrs. Jane Gunner (1975 - 77)

9 Shepherd's Way, Cirencester, Glos.

Tel: 0285 658627

Treasurer: Robert Barrett (1969 - 76)

Hillylands House

Weston Park, Bath BA1 4AL

School representative: Chris Wood (1965 - 71; staff 1976 -)

Committee member: Douglas Payne (1940 - 48)
Rugby secretary: Julian Fellows (1981 - 89)
Hockey secretary: Philip Moore (1980 - 87)
Cricket secretary: William Sherwood (1982 - 89)
Newsletter editor: Bill White (staff 1961 -)

9 Rendcomb, Cirencester, Glos.

Tel: 0285 83372

President of the Society

Arnold Brain has indicated that he wishes to resign at the end of his five year spell at the forthcoming July AGM. Nominations, together with names of a proposer and seconder, should be sent to the secretary by 30th June.

Notice of AGM

You are invited to attend the 58th annual general meeting of the old Rendcombian society on Saturday, 6th July 1991 at 2p.m. in the library at Rendcomb College.

Agenda

- 1. To receive apologies for absence
- 2. To receive minutes of A.G.M. held on 7th July 1990
- 3. To deal with matters arising from the minutes
- 4. Elections of officers: President
- 5. To receive hon. treasurer's report
- 6. To set amount of travel bursary fund for 1992
- 7. To review level of life subscription
- 8. To receive reports from area representatives
- 9. Any other business
 - 1) Rugby shirts
 - 2) Friends of Rendcomb
 - 3) AROPS
- 10. Vote of thanks to the college.

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting

Held at the college on Saturday 7th July 1990

Present: Neil Lumby, Chris Wood, Martin C. Jones, Brian Smith, Ian Pengelly, John Tolputt (headmaster), Austin Gilmore, R. Smith, Miles Thompson, Ted A. Jones, Mandy Fry, Douglas Payne, Bill White, Arnold Brain, Jane Gunner, Karen Harman, Alan Shield, Antony Simmons, R. Barrett, Austin Magor, Roland Thompson

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Williams, Tony Rose, Tony Perkins, Rev. Hussey, Fred Batten. The chairman welcomed everybody to the 57th annual general meeting of the old Rendcombian society. 2. The minutes of the A.G.M. held on the 14th May 1989 were read and approved by the meeting.

3. Matters arising

Chris Wood reported that members of 6A were to attend the buffet, including Justine Platt, winner of the previous year's travel bursary. Douglas Payne reported that he had now had 15 replies as a result of his letters to contemporaries and Miles Thompson reported that 7 had attended the first meeting of the new London branch.

4. Election of chairman

The committee put forward Brian Smith as its nomination. No other nominations were received so he was duly elected. Brian thanked the meeting and introduced himself. He was at Rendcomb from 1965 to 1972 and is now an agricultural consultant working from Cirencester.

Election of vice chairman

The committee nomination was Neil Lumby and no other nominations were received, he was therefore elected to the post.

5. Treasurer's report

The hon, treasurer circulated the balance sheet for the year ending 30th April. He explained that out of 51 subscriptions only one had to be returned, but even so there was a deficit of £30 over the last 2 years. He felt there was a need to increase the income of the society to cover expenditure such as the contemplated rugby shirts. Mr. White suggested that those who paid prior to 1968 could send contributions and Mr. Brain suggested that the committee invite extra contributions in a circular. The treasurer reported that there would be 11 guests at the buffet. The will of the meeting was that the committee should consider the possibility that the standard price of the buffet should allow for the under 25 years and the over 65 years tickets to be subsidised. 6. Travel Bursary

The secretary reported on the applications received for the 1990 bursary and read out the section on Thailand which won Francis Lee and James Dowson the award. A proposal by Martin Jones, seconded by Bill White, that the bursary for the forthcoming year should remain at £300.00 was agreed unanimously by the meeting. 7. Subscription

Mr. Gilmore proposed that the life subscription should be increased to £35. This was seconded by Ted Jones and was passed all in favour bar one. The subscription to remain subject to annual review.

8. Regional representatives

Douglas Payne, Wiltshire representative, reported that as a result of 80 letters he had sent out, about 12 met at the Angel Hotel for a buffet lunch. From that meeting, 5 people volunteered to be regional reps. within the district, but at the subsequent meeting no one turned up. However another fixture was set for Sunday 2nd September. Letters had been received from Fred Batten and Robert Weston and some members of the meeting indicated that they were present as a result of the former's efforts.

9. Any Other Business

Rugby shirts: Dick Smith volunteered his efforts, and was put in touch with Neil Lumby, so that something could be put before the next committee meeting. The chairman reported on the current situation with the Friends of Rendcomb. There are now two scholarships running as a result of the fund raising. The secretary reported that there had been some useful information coming through as a result of the O.R.s membership of A.R.O.P.S and suggested that members in the area of each meeting might be asked to attend on the society's behalf. The A.G.M. was to be at St. Pauls and the secretary undertook to write to an O.R. in the area to see if they would be willing to attend. Members were told that if they wished to advertise in the newsletter they should contact Brian Smith. Circulation 1,100. It was reported that Barney Branston wished to step down as hockey secretary and that Philip Moore had taken over the job. The meeting expressed its thanks to Barney for all the work he had done. The headmaster reported that the parents' association was holding a summer ball on 25th August, all were welcome, tickets priced £25. Bill White reported that the seats bought in memory of John James, which had disappeared, had been replaced and were now in positions by the tennis courts and arts block.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m. with the chairman expressing his thanks to the college.

Acknowledgements

After 30 years at Rendcomb, Kaye and Margaret Knapp now live at Dunridge Cottage, Duntisbourne Leer. They would like to thank the members of the O.R. society for their kind hospitality last summer and for the very generous gifts they received. While Kaye is enjoying his leisure, Margaret is still working as a physiotherapist in Cirencester.

Denis and Mary Price wrote in July: "May I, through you, convey a general heartfelt thank you to all fellow O.R.s - for the buffet itself, for the hon. membership and for the magnificent candelabra, which reflects so splendidly the generosity of the O.R.s. You can be sure we shall treasure it not only for itself, but more as a symbol of the friendships we have had, and have, at Rendcomb"

Congratulations to

Julian Odell (1982 - 87) 1st class honours engineering tripos part lB. Queen's College, Cambridge. **Martin Butlin** (1940 - 47) C.B.E. 1990. **John Sumsion** (1942 - 47) O.B.E. 1991.

O.R. Society Subscriptions

The treasurer would be very grateful for any donations to the funds from (older?) O.R.s who paid the minimum life subscription of £2! Annual income from new members allows us to send out the newsletter and fund the travel bursary, but we have little reserve to allow us to embark on other schemes. Please help if you can.

O.R. Reunion - 7th July 1990

The cricket match, which began at 11.30 am. attracted a large number of spectators in the course of the afternoon. The A.G.M. was held in the library at 2p.m.; some useful discussions took place, although attendance was sparse. This was followed by some conducted tours of the college, with special emphasis on the new boarding houses, an experiment which will be repeated. The evening buffet attracted record numbers some 125 O.R.s and guests attended. Presentations on behalf of the society were made to two long-serving members of staff on their retirement. **Martin Jones** (1956 - 62) presented Kaye Knapp with a video recorder and **Jane Lyons** (1974 - 76) presented Denis Price with a silver candelabra and matching candlesticks. All those present enjoyed the occasion and much appreciation was expressed for the work done by Mr. Tom Gomersal and his staff who did the catering.

Among those present were:-

Mr. & Mrs. K. Winmill

Staff

Mr. J.N. Tolputt Mr. & Mrs. D.S.J. Price Mr. & Mrs. K.J. Knapp	Mr. & Mrs. D. Essenhigh Mr. & Mrs. D.A. Hawksw Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Holt	Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Wood ell Mr. W.J.D. White	Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Burden Rev. P.J. Sudbury
Ex- Staff			
Mr. D. de G. Sells	Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Dennis	Mrs. V. Fell	
1990 6A Leavers			
Mr. H. Le Fleming	Mr. J. Carroll	Miss A. Beaver	Miss J. Platt
1920's			
Mr. & Mrs. R. Butler Mr. & Mrs. F.J. Batten Mr. & Mrs. K.J. Morgan	Mr. J. Maslin Mr. & Mrs. Mr. D. Dakin Mr. & Mrs.	J.E. Allen & guest Mrs.	x Mrs. C. Raggatt & 2 guests Drake (daughter of J.H. son, headmaster)
1930's			
Mr. & Mrs. N. Slade	Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Shield	Mr. & Mrs. A. Brain	
1940's			
Mr. & Mrs. M. Miles	Mr. & Mrs. D. Payne	Mr. M. Thompson	Mr. & Mrs. J. Comrie
1950's Mr. & Mrs. M. Jones 1960's			
Mr. & Mrs. N. Green Mr. & Mrs. R. Law Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Wood	Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Stafford Mr. R. Thompson	Mr. D. Wiggall & guest Mr. & Mrs. B. Smith	Mr. N. Dakin Mr. C.H. Moore & guest
1970's			
Mr. & Mrs. R. Barrett Miss S. Marston Mr. M. Twinning & guest Mr. I. Pengelly Miss J. Lyons Mr. J. Quick	Miss K. Knight Mr. & Mrs. S. Elliott Mr. & Mrs. D. Ind Mr. N. Price & guest Mr. J. Allen & guest Mrs. J. Gunner	Mr. & Mrs. M. James Miss T. Nixon Miss S. Robinson Dr. H. Hooper & gues Miss A. Hummel Mr. D. Marshall	Mr. T. Steed & 2 guests Mr. & Mrs. J. Steed

Mrs. A. Larcombe (née Jones) Mr. M. Cannon

1980's

Miss K. Harman Mr. D. Clark Mr. G. Thomas Mr. W. Sherwood Miss A. Fry Mr. R. Hill & guest Mr. A. Simmins & guest Miss K. Waterloh

Mr. A. Bedford

Dates of Future Reunions

Cricket: Saturday 6th July 1991 Hockey: Sunday 15th March 1992 Rugby: Saturday 7th December 1991

At Rendcomb

The following members of the society have sons or daughters at Rendcomb:

R. Sumsion K. Fowler G. J. Smith

Old Cameras Received

Chris Wood wishes to thank those O.R.s who responded to his appeal for old cameras in the last newletter.

Area Representatives

AVON: Fred Batten Tel: 0272 877352

SOMERSET: Julian Comrie Tel: 0823 69370 OXFORDSHIRE: Sally Horne Tel: 0367 85248 WILTSHIRE: Douglas Payne Tel: 0793 770293 LONDON: Miles Thompson Tel: 01-607-1646

LEICESTERSHIRE: Joseph Watson Tel: 0455 209427

CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Nicholas Smith Tel: Cambridge 315603

If you live in these areas and would like to get in touch with other O.R.s, please contact the area representative. If you would like to act as an area representative, please contact Bill White.

Douglas Payne, in the Wiltshire area, has now started sending a circular to O.R.s in the region with various information sent in to him. It looks as though he has set up a good network, after a rather disheartening start. He is considering including south Gloucestershire. Please support his efforts.

1991 Reunion - July 6th

Notification of the 1991 reunion was sent out in March. It is hoped that O.R. s will make every effort to support the occasion and to maintain last year's excellent attendance at the buffet

Tennis Match

Any girls (ladies!) who would like to play in a serious tennis match against the girls on July 6th are asked to write to Miss Bridget Goldsmith at the school.

O.R. Travel Bursary

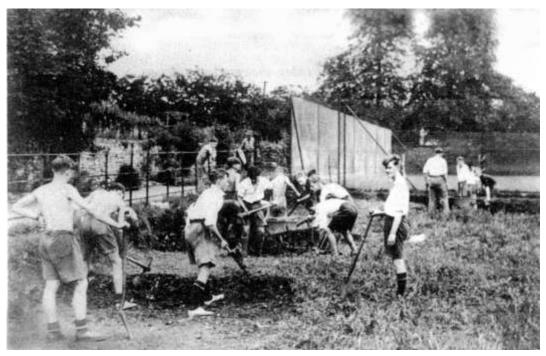
The 1991 bursary was awarded to Holly Andrews and Alex Maljkovik (6A), who are taking part in a British Schools Exploring Society expedition to Iceland, and to James Sleeman (6B) who is joining an Outward Bound Course in Scotland as part of his Duke of Edinburgh gold award.

Rendcombian 1991

The bursar has kindly agreed to continue his subvention for copies of the magazine ordered by members of the O.R. society. If you would like to have a copy sent to you in September, please send a cheque for three pounds, payable to Rendcomb College, to: the Editor, Rendcombian, Rendcomb College, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 7HA.

Photographs of Rendcomb

40 YEARS ON



A P.W. gang preparing the tennis courts?



The same view today showing Lawn House

Photographs by Richard Sumsion and Chris Wood.

Chris Wood or Bill White will be very pleased to have any unwanted photographs of Rendcomb to add to the archive collection. At present we have a fair collection up to about 1960; if you can supply scenes from the last 30 years, please send them along.

Births

To Catherine and Nigel Powell (1967 - 74) a daughter, Elizabeth Catherine. September 1990.

To Antonia and Simon Johnson (staff 1980 - 85) a daughter, Maud. November 1990.

To Valerie and Joseph Watson (1971 - 78) a boy, James David, March 1991

To Jennifer (née Watson) (1978 - 80) and Adam Phelps (1977 - 82) a boy, Harley Adam, May 1991.

Marriages

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

Obituary

We announce with deep regret the deaths of the following: W.J. Harris (1931 - 36), 1979. (No further details). E.R. (Sam) Morris (1937 - 41), October 1990.

The following tribute to Sam Morris at Rendcomb has been sent in by Fredy Fisher (1936 - 40): "I met Sam on my first day at Rendcomb, where I had arrived at the age of 13, without speaking a single word of English. Denis Lee-Browne had asked Sam to look after me and to introduce me to the mysteries of English boarding school life. It was an inspired choice. With endless patience and kindness, Sam coped with all my genuine and, occasionally, one or two imaginary problems. Sam's hand shooting up in class, following immediately by, 'Fisher does not understand!', became a byword and was not always strictly correct. We were firm friends all our time at school together and shared many common interests at work and in play. An excellent footballer and cricketer, as well as a very good scholar, Sam was the archetype of the all-rounder whom Rendcomb sought to produce. I met Sam again at Oxford after the war, where we briefly overlapped. After that we lost touch. It was like Sam though, that when he heard that I had been seriously ill, he wrote and came to see me. He will be missed by all who knew him."

Tributes

On reading of the death of **Ralph Bolton-King** in the last issue of the newsletter, **Tony Perkins** (1924 - 31) has written:-

"I remember him with affection. I was his first mathematical scholar, together with Bill (W.F.)Jones, and we had several terms in the sixth form with virtually individual tuition. I visualise his neat but microscopic handwriting whereby he could get a proof or an exploration into a small space. Following his example, I was able to obtain glowing reports from my tutor at Oxford. So learning from 'B. K.' was both efficient and enjoyable. He stayed at Rendcomb for only about five years (1927 - 32) but there will still be several O.R.s who remember him as a class teacher. During those years he courted and married Evelyn Coy, an assistant matron. Their three sons also came to Rendcomb. I last saw Ralph B.K. at Rendcomb for the O.R. gathering when Roger Medill retired, but I met him again in Gloucestershire when he was living in retirement (from Buxton School). After 50 years he was not greatly changed and had stayed tall without stooping."

Charles Carus (1941 - 48) has sent this tribute to Mabel Annie Carnell, 1901 - 1989, (at Rendcomb 1941 -47). A brief notice of the death, on 24th October 1989, of Mabel Carnell appeared in the 1990 newsletter. "Miss Carnell joined the staff during the war, in the combined roles of music teacher and school secretary. She was born on the first day of 1901, just three weeks before the death of Queen Victoria; in some ways she was indeed almost Victorian, and yet she espoused most of the progressive ideas on education of the earlier part of this century. Her father was a poor-law relieving officer in Nottingham. Her mother died when she was only five, and she was subsequently brought up by a step-mother. Of a family of six, two had died in infancy and the eldest of three brothers was killed on the Somme. These tragedies and the responsibilities to younger siblings, which she had to shoulder at an early age, might have overcome a lesser spirit. Instead she threw herself into her school work to emerge 'top of the class' in public examinations, for the whole of Nottingham. From an early age music was her great love, but - leaving school during the First World War - her first job, of which she always spoke with pride, was at Cammell Laird's Munitions factory in Nottingham. After the war she taught at Loughborough High School, before going in 1923 to the Royal Academy of Music, where she took the Music Teachers' Training Courses in piano and singing. She became a Licentiate of the Academy and later an Associate of the Royal College of Music. During the '20s and '30s she taught music in schools at Wallingford, Bedford and at the Home for Blind Babies at Chorley Wood.

It was probably at the Royal Academy that she first met a Canadian pianist, Virginia McLean. She and Mabel Carnell were to become lifelong friends. Until Virginia's death they shared a flat in London, which remained the home to which Mabel always returned whenever she could. Together they gave recitals and lectures in Canada and the U.S.A. They visited Madeira several times, and the notice has survived of a lecture recital in 1937 at the Music Club there: 'Romance in Song, by Mabel Carnel (sic), with illustrations sung by Virginia McLean'.

Her work with blind babies is, I believe, a reflection of her growing interest in 'progressive ideas' about education. In the early '30s she became a member of the committee of the New Education Fellowship and English Association of New Schools. We have no details, but I am certain she would have been unsparing of her time and effort for the cause in which she believed. On the face of it, her manners and outlook - oldfashioned and traditional - seem the very antithesis of the 'progressive' thinking of the 1930s. I think the explanation is to be found in her own early experience of life. She was of a generation and background for whom higher education was something for which one had to strive against heavy odds. She therefore valued it greatly and believed passionately that it should be made more widely available. But it was never something to be taken for granted: it demanded high standards, self-discipline and hard work - the traditional virtues of the industrial north and midlands from which she hailed. But within her disciplined, even grave, exterior there was a highly sensitive person, aware of music and poetry and of the feelings of others; and from this awareness came her understanding of the value of the arts, and of music in particular, as part of a fully rounded education. It was through the Association of New Schools that she came to know Dennis Lee-Browne, headmaster of Rendcomb. London was no place to be during the war, and his invitation to her to join the staff of the college enabled her to continue teaching music, while at the same time taking on additional 'war work' - as she was later to describe her job as headmaster's secretary. The headmaster clearly saw the two roles as making up no more than one full-time job, and no doubt her salary and 'job description' had there been such a thing, would have confirmed his view. Perhaps this is not surprising when one considers that until then music at Rendcomb had been catered for by a visiting teacher only. Miss Carnell, on the other hand, saw her task as no less than laying the foundations of music as a school subject and as a part of school life.

She seldom saw eye to eye with J.C. James, with whom she had to argue the case for music classes in the timetable, and the resources allowed for buying music and records were woefully inadequate, so that she was often driven to buying them out of her own pocket. Several O.R.s have written of their debt to Miss Carnell for a lifelong enjoyment of classical music. One O.R. pictures her winding up the college HMV gramophone in the music room, and then - while still talking - picking up the gleaming 12 inch shellac disc with utmost care and very gently wiping it clean on her skirt, before meticulously placing it on the 78 rpm turntable. To much opposition from the 'hearties' she persuaded the head to stop the weekly 'yell parties' - community song sessions organised by the entertainments committee. They were the ruination of choir boys' voices, she said. The development of the choir was one of her finest achievements. To the weekly afternoon practice she added - to much grumbling at first - a second practice on Friday evenings. It became generally assumed that, if one had anything approaching a reasonable voice and ear, one joined the choir, eventually graduating from treble via alto to either tenor or bass. The high point of the choir year was the Christmas carol service. Among others I remember, and still love, Herbert Howell's 'Here is the Little Door', 'I sing of a Maiden that is Makeless', the Country Carol and Besançon Noel, 'And the Glory of the Lord' from Handel's Messiah and 'Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light' from Bach's Christmas Oratorio. One of the more ambitious anthems we sang was 'The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God' from Haydn's Creation.

Piano lessons with Miss Carnell were quite unconventional. While she taught the importance of accuracy in playing and the need for disciplined practising, she was more concerned to impart a love and understanding of the music than keyboard skills for their own sake. Noone to my knowledge was entered for the Associated Board exams. Much of the time would frequently be given to her talking about music, people, life and books, every bit as valuable, in its own way, as the piano lesson itself. Often her evening programme of lessons would be thrown off course by the over-running of a previous secretarial session with the head, but she refused ever to curtail a lesson in order to catch up. One pupil would find himself having to sit through most of the previous pupil's lesson, and the last pupil of the evening would arrive for supper when everyone else was on the point of leaving.

Most people would surely have rebelled against her workload, but not Miss Carnell. She could often be seen in the evening on the settle by the top of the main stairs, looking tired and resigned, waiting until the headmaster was free to dictate letters. Sometimes he would use this time to discuss the problems of particular boys with her, she was as much his confidante as his secretary. Later she could be seen going out through the blackout and the rain to the hut - to continue typing late into the night. To many boys she appeared unbending - even humourless, and she could be provoked by rudeness - unthinking or deliberate. On occasions she would respond by walking out of a class or leaving the dining table, but always with dignity and without evident anger. The effect would be shame and embarrassment. Her own high standards of behaviour made any form of sloppiness, much less rudeness, hard to tolerate, but I have no doubt that her 'short fuse' was in large part

caused by sheer fatigue. On better days and in the right company, her dry wit would come to the fore. She cared greatly about individual boys, particuarly if they were going through a difficult time. In conversation with her during the last ten years of her life, I have been much struck by her frequent mention of particular boys and her total recall of events at Rendcomb of forty years earlier. An O.R. recounts how on one occasion he went to her office for a new exercise book. Sensing he was depressed, she learned that he did not understand the notes he had taken down from the blackboard in Mr. Richards' physics lesson. Miss Carnell then took some forty minutes of her busy time going through the notes with him until he had fully grasped their meaning.

Her imagination was romantic. One O.R. owes her his love of the music of Debussy; another, his discovery of Vaughan Williams, Elgar and Holst. One recalls her lending him John Masefield's 'The Midnight Folk' and Herbert Read's autobiography. She was able to draw out an imaginative response from boys who, until that moment were probably unaware that they had it in them. Once, when she had played a record of Debussy's 'L'aprés-midi d'un faune', a third form boy blurted out that by chance he had stumbled on a new-born fawn resting by the grave of a young Battle of Britain pilot in a clearing in Marsden woods - new life just begun beside young life struck down. She was thrilled by his response.

From Rendcomb she went to the City of Bath Teachers' Training College as, I believe, head of music as well as vice principal. Typically dutiful, she left to look after her ageing father on the death of her step-mother. On his death in 1960 she returned to the flat in London and part time teaching, mainly at the University of Essex at Colchester. This must have been a happy period, but it was brought to an end by the death of Virginia Mclean in 1970. She could no longer afford to live in London, and moved to Colchester, where she continued to give private lessons, until falling eyesight and arthritis in her fingers forced her to retire.

Her varied career meant that her occupational pension was much too small. This led a number of O.R.s to set up a trust to give her some assistance during her latter years. The balance of this fund at her death has been used to buy a saxophone for the college. In 1978 she moved to Norwich to be nearer to her closest relatives, her nephew Jim Carnell and his family. As Aunt Mabel she remained much loved - and not a little revered - till the end. She was always concerned for the well being of young members of the family. In her old age she would talk, as ever, about music and literature, religion and education, and the state of the world - which appeared to her to be sliding downhill. She would illustrate a point with a musical quotation sung in her high quavery voice or, on occasion, with an elegant dance step. The college owes a lot to Mabel Carnell. On her foundations John Tooze and others following him have built a tradition of music as an essential part of life and education at Rendcomb, while many individual O.R.s are forever grateful to her and remember her with great affection."

Rendcomb Reminiscences

D.J. Payne (1940 - 48) writes:

In 1983, O.R. Dick Field wrote a book called "Champagne Days", in which he recorded the events, views, attitudes and philosophy which prevailed during the early years of Rendcomb's experiment in education, under the leadership of the first headmaster, J.H. Simpson. While open to criticism, it has provided a valuable record of the life of the school which existed before the second world war. It has since metamorphosed, inevitably under pressure from social change, wartime expediency and the need of economic viability. Although I lack Field's fluency, I am attempting a similar exercise covering the war period, when D.W. Lee-Browne led the school. In a work of this kind, it is difficult to avoid being subjective and it's unrealistic to expect a former pupil to formulate and retain a complete perspective after a lapse of more than 40 years. Therefore, to further my work, which I hope is not prompted entirely by nostalgia, I have written to all of my traceable contemporaries and have received replies from more than 20 of them. Wherever possible I shall incorporate their views, opinions and memories, particularly where they differ from my own. I hope that this work will make a useful contribution to the fairly unique concept of a progressive school, and the benevolence of the Wills foundation trust, to which many of us have cause to be very grateful. Any contributions from contemporaries as yet unsolicited will be welcomed, and duly acknowledged. The copyright of the final document will be offered to the school.

The Friends of Rendcomb

The Friends are now in their eighth year. This means that the convenants of founder members have now expired, and I am happy to report that the majority of these, our first Friends, have most generously decided to renew them. Unfortunately, none of the members of the O.R. society who left Rendcomb in 1979 or 1980 has responded to an invitation to join the Friends. I hope for better success with those who left in 1981. We

continue to build up our finances and to support two scholarships. We need your help to increase our support for boys who would not be able to come to Rendcomb without it. In conclusion, I should like to express the trustees' hearty thanks to the 47 O.R.s who have become Friends - their generosity is being put to good use.

David Sells, The Friends of Rendcomb College, 17 Rendcomb, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 7HB

Table Mats and Coasters



Sets of table mats and coasters featuring the above sketches of Rendcomb are now available, as are mugs featuring the church and the 12th century font. Prices:-

Table mats (per set of 4) £12.00 Coasters (per set of 4) £8.00 Mugs (each) £2.00 Please contact the school office (North Cerney 213) or The Rectory (North Cerney 319) for further details.

The Library

Recent donations to the college library include:-

Somerset - A Portrait in Colour, presented by the co-author Julian Comrie (O.R.)

The Churn, Coln & Leach Valleys in Old Photographs, presented by the co-author Philip Griffiths (O.R.). An Act of Faith: The Dulverton Trust 1949 to 1989, presented by the author Michael Tomlinson.

College News

There has been much activity at the college during the past year, as usual. The final stage of the building programme to rationalise and update the boarding accommodation was completed in November when the new wing at Godman House was opened. This has provided more dormitory space and also much needed recreational rooms and extra changing facilities.

Michael Craddock produced a stage version of 'Animal Farm' last July with the juniors and 'The Government Inspector' as the senior play in November. Musical activities have flourished under David White's direction. Apart from various formal and informal concerts, the choir has sung Evensong in Cirencester Church and

Bristol Cathedral, and in March there was a performance of Haydn's Nelson Mass, in which the choir was augmented by parents and staff, and Hummel's Trumpet Concerto with the solo played by Ian Spencer (6A) - also in Cirencester Church.

The parents' association has held a number of fund-raising events, among them a successful barbecue after the staff v. parents cricket match and a summer ball. In September they also played a large part in the grand fete organised by the chaplain, PeterSudbury. Over £2,000 was raised for church funds to recoup some of the cost of the recent redecoration of the church and refurbishing of the Lady Chapel.

In the Easter holidays junior boys again enjoyed a week on the canals in the midlands. Duke of Edinburgh Award groups have been active in Snowdonia, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire where John Willson has taken part in assessments. A novel event in March was a fashion show provided by sixth formers. It proved very successful and raised over £500 for Romanian children.

Staff Common Room News

Mr. Bobby Morgan took over the duties of deputy headmaster in September. He is a historian, and among his other duties has been running the sixth form bar and coaching the U15 hockey team. Mr. David Bowman joined the staff in September to teach mathematics and Mrs. Marta Ferro to teach modern languages.

O.R. Sport

Cricket

7th July - weather humid, wicket soft. The O.R.s won the toss and put the college in first on a soft wicket, with some help to the bowlers. The college had a real setback when Colin Bannister bowled Richard Milner with the second ball of the match. After that the college lost wickets quickly and were all out just after lunch for 109. John Carroll made 39 as top scorer, but once again gave his wicket away. William King with 14, Mark Valentine 20 and Henry Le Fleming with 14 were the only batsmen to trouble the O.R.s. For the O.R.s, C. Bannister bowled very well to finish with 5 wickets for 9 runs and Andrew Sylvester, helping the O.R.s out, took 3 wickets for 24 runs. The wicket held no worries for John Healey and Ian Whittaker, who put on 93 before Whittaker was run out for 33 runs. Although the O.R.s lost one more wicket John Healey stayed to finish at 63 not out after a very good innings indeed.

Result: O.R.s won by 8 wickets.

College 109: Carroll 39, Valentine 20, King 14, Le Fleming 14.

Bowling C. Bannister 5 wkts for 9 runs, A. Sylvester 3 wkts for 24 runs

O.R.s 110 for 2 wkts: J. Healey 63 not out, I. Whittaker 33.

O.R.s side: J. Healey, I. Whittaker, M. Astill, W. Sherwood, C. Bannister, T. Branston, J. Lutwyche, M. Hammond, M. Cordeux, J. Fellows, A. Sylvester, D. Essenhigh

Rugby

The 1990 fixture was cancelled because of heavy snow.

Hockey

Although the intended O.R. 1st XI organised by Phil Moore could not play for a variety of reasons, the XI organised by Phil Paterson-Fox turned out to be a formidable unit which put a great deal of pressure on the school in the first half through some slick passing, constructive build-up by Giles Carter and Alex Brealy and incisive forward play by Adam Phelps. At half-time the school had scored one goal but improved passing between their forwards produced a further two goals as the O.R.s slowed, but persistence paid off when Phil Paterson-Fox beat the school's goalkeeper, making the final score 1 - 3. The O.R. team included: P. Paterson-Fox, J. Hutton-Potts, A. Paton, A. Payne, R. Wakeham, T. Brealy, A. Brealy, A. Phelps, G. Carter, J. Adams, P. Grimsdale, R. Walters (school 2nd XI goalkeeper).

The following played for the O.R.s against the 4th XI: A Powell, M. Rann, J. Gregory, V. Tredwell, J. Carter, M. Faircloth, D. O'Connor.

Result: Lost 3-4

PLEASE NOTE that next year's fixture will take place on Sunday 15th March at 2.30 pm. It is up to you to contact the hockey secretary well in advance if you wish to play or umpire. It should be possible to field a number of XIs. If ladies wish to play they should leave their name and telephone number with the school secretary (0285 83213).

School Sport

Rugby Report - 1990 - 91 Season

The dry weather, for the second season running, rendered the 'top' fields rock-hard and inevitably restricted practice sessions. The first two block fixtures had to be cancelled, Marlborough and Hereford Cathedral (reinstated this year, the first time since the fixtures lapsed in 1978 - Jade Sinclair's season as captain) and up to the exeat only two matches in total were played. Meanwhile at the other end of the season, the O.R.s were, according to the confident school XV, lucky that their match was snowed off. We regularly fielded nine sides and of the 87 scheduled matches 17 were cancelled due to adverse weather. The senior fixture list was unfortunately reduced this season by the withdrawal of Cokethorpe, Burford, Avonhurst and Rednock inevitable really as in recent years the Rendcomb XVs have put on 'cricket scores' against these sides (with the XV scoring 70 points against Kingham Hill this year, that match too may well be in jeopardy!). This could cause problems when seeking new fixtures as both Monmouth and Llandovery, two '1st division' school sides which have been keen to play us for some time. In terms of match success, the XV and the U13 'A's had impressive records while the Colts and Ul4s played some outstanding rugby and have considerable potential for the future. Representative honours went to Nigel Fischer who played for the Stroud District U16 team, Ben Marshall who reached the final county U18 trials and Kojo Annan who played for the Gloucestershire county and south and south west U18 teams, though injury prevented him playing against the touring Australian side and almost certainly going on to wear the red-rose jersey of England (having reached the final England trials last year). The rugby club was particularly honoured at the annual dinner this year with the presence of the current president of the RFU, Captain Michael Pearey RN, as guest speaker. The other guests included the president of the Glos. Society of Referees, Mr. Ray Arnold, other referees, previous club captains and the teaching staff. The dinner was yet again a marvellous and most enjoyable event. Meanwhile, planning for the club's two week tour to Canada in July is well under way, helped by a fund-raising committee that includes several parents and old boy Ben Maslen. The tour should prove a memorable experience for all and will undoubtedly help Mr. King in his preparation of the XV for the next season.

Captain of rugby: Daniel Maslen Vice captain: Richard Milner

1st XV Squad:-

Front-row: G. Bennett, A. Halliwell, A.V.W-Bunge

Locks: H. Auld, J. Tomsett

Back-row: G. Lawton, B. Marshall, R. Milner

Scrum-half: D. Maslen

Fly-halves: W. King, M. Moody

Three-quarters: K. Annan, C. Brown, G. Davies, M. Head, A. Palin, N. Smith, P. Smithson

Full-back: R. Hughes

Coaching Staff:-Master i/c: M.J. Newby

lst and 2nd XVs: C.P.M. King and G. Thomas

Ul6s: L.J. Haslett and M. C. GriffithsUl5s: C.C. Burden and J.G. WilliamsUl4s: P. Sykes and D. Bowman

Ul3s: M.H. Graham and A.P. Bradfield

1st XV Results:

Played 10, Won 7, Drew 0, Lost 3, Points for 187 against 126.

M.J.N.

Hockey

We welcomed Bobby Morgan, the new deputy headmaster and the first real hockey player for years (Hertfordshire and England), and David Bowman, the new extra mathematician, as fourth and third year coaches respectively. John Holt changed his role from under 15 to 2nd XI coach during a season which was to be severely disrupted by hard frosts, followed by significant falls of snow. Fewer 6A boys than usual played hockey but a depth of talent in 6B and the fifth year resulted in many exciting matches at all levels and the 4th XI remained undefeated even after the O.R. fixture. Similarly there are many hockey stars in the lower forms and the second year team deserves a special mention for winning all five of their matches with a particularly high level of skills. Only three boys remained from last year's 1st XI so it took some time to find a suitable system of play, especially with a shortage of good backs (thank goodness our tradition of dedicated

goalkeepers continues) and the defensively biased formation seemed unable to change into an attacking one at the right moment. However, a few changes and improved team co-operation led to an impressive finish to the season and the team that beat Burford was, in fact, a possible 1992 XI.

Overall results: Played 48; won 16; drew 8; lost 24; (cancelled 31) goals for 76; goals against 109. 1st XI results:

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	L 0-4
v. Cheltenham College 2nd Xl (A)	L 0-3
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	D 2-2
v. King's School, Gloucester (A)	L 0-1
v. Colston's School (H)	L 0-2
v. Royal Agricultural College 2nd Xl (A)	L 2-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	D 2-2
v. Burford School (H)	W 7-0
v. Old Rendcombian Society (H)	W 3-1

C.J.W.

Cricket

1990 was my first season running cricket - the previous 26 years with a junior XI had been a good apprenticeship. The hot dry weather in April and May meant that wickets were much harder and faster than usual, and the sprinklers were in constant use. The weather then deteriorated and the wickets became slower fortunately only one day was lost owing to rain, 70 of the 75 matches being completed. For the first time and probably the last, five matches were played at home on one afternoon. There were many enjoyable games, particularly at 'B' level, and the overall standard continues to improve. Further representative honours were gained this year at the West of England trials, boys playing for a West of England XI, a Gloucestershire Cricket Club U19 XI and for county U19 and U15 sides. David Essenhigh has continued to coach the 1st XI and prepare very good wickets. With a little help from the weather the outfields have been excellent, which allows the players to improve their ground fielding and the master in charge to save money on cricket balls! 6B girls have continued to do an excellent job in serving teas. This year they also provided the 1st XI scorer. What of the future? The cricket week arranged at the end of term for the 1st XI proved a great success. Matches were played against Barton Peverill from Hampshire and Victoria College, Jersey, who were on tour. We played Gloucestershire Gypsies' and W. G. Cricket for the first time. We hope they will become regular visitors. The trend towards cricket festivals in H.M.C. schools has continued to flourish, and with our improved accommodation it would be possible for us to host such an event. More fixtures must be arranged for the 2nd XI and for 'B' XIs, as this raises the overall standard in the college.

Cricket Staff:-

Master I/C: C.C. Burden
1st XI: D. Essenhigh
2nd XI: C.P.M. King
U15 'A' XI: C.C. Burden
U15 'B' XI: C.J. Wood, J.G. Williams
U14 'A' XI: M.S. Griffiths
U14 'B' XI: L.J. Haslett
U13 'A' XI: P. Sykes
U13 'B' XI: P.J. Sudbury

C.C.B.

Old Rendcombian News

Mark Raven (1974 - 79) now has a vintage car restoration company (with the help of the government enterprise scheme). He is involved with Pinewood and Elstree studios, supplying period cars for filming, and also appeared with one of his vehicles in Central T.V.s production of P.G. Wodehouse's 'Jeeves and Wooster'!

Robert Edy (1959 - 67) was appointed deputy head at the Henry Box School, Witney in May and immediately had a spell as acting headmaster as the new headmaster did not arrive until the autumn half-term. He is also training for the non-stipendary Anglican ministry.

Roy Edwards (1972 - 79) has come to the end of his two year secondment with Deloitte's in New Zealand and is returning to the U.K. with his wife whom he recently married in Australia.

Tom Burns (1980 - 87) is captain of Dundee University hockey club.

Simon Redman (1977 - 82) wrote to the headmaster in November from the turret of a Challenger main battle tank while on night radio watch in the Saudi Arabian desert. He says: "I have not been in contact very much since I left Rendcomb. After finishing my 'A' levels (at Marling School) I went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in December 1986 into the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. After completing my troop leader's course, I was posted to Germany for a year in Munster. I then returned to Catterick, training both potential officers and recruits for two years. During this period I was promoted to Lieutenant and ran the ski team. I also managed to get away to Australia for six months on a polo cum military attachment to the 2nd/l4th Light Horse in Brisbane. The regiment then returned to Germany and I now find myself in the Gulf, the regiment being part of the 7th Armoured Brigade, the 'Desert Rats', deployed with the U.S. Marine Corps. On return, I hope to go to Junior Division Staff College as a captain early in 1992."

Kevin Hewston (1983 - 87) graduated last July in geography at Southampton University. He is now on a one year M.Sc. course in Environment Technology at Imperial College, London.

Richard Tudor (1973 - 80) has recently been appointed to a commission in the R.A.F. After graduating from Bath University, he spent several years in the Hong Kong police. He will be serving in the education branch of the R.A.F.

Simon Elliott (1972 - 79) is now living in Chippenham where he is with Westinghouse Systems Limited as a systems analyst. He graduated from Cardiff University in computer systems where he also met his wife whom he married on April 1st 1989.

John Sinclair (1972 - 78) wrote last year from Italy, where he had been working. He lists the O.R.s with whom he has kept in touch - Sheila Greenfield in Portugal, Andrew Carter in Dusseldorf, Kim Knight with Utell International in Chiswick, Jon Allen and Nick Price with SGST in London, Richard Allen, Treve Evans, Tim Parfitt, Graham Moore - a landscape architect in Henley, playing hockey for Sonning. He comments that it says much for the quality of friends at Rendcornb that contacts are maintained even through a year abroad and more than 10 years after leaving.

Nick Miles (1975 - 80) has returned from the Far East and is taking a course at Ashridge in business administration.

Philip Griffiths (1940 - 43) is co-editor of an attractive book on the Cotswolds entitled "The Churn, Coln and Leach Valleys". It contains some fascinating early photos of Rendcomb.

Graham Jordan (1966 - 73) wrote to Colin Burden from Australia last year: "I am still on the same farm that Cindy and I bought; it's now a community with six adults and is slowly becoming more established. I spend a lot of time planting trees and tending the orchards and gardens - earning a living by building walls and doing general carpentry jobs. My dream of having my own workshop is very slowly taking shape, but, with everything done by hand, buildings take time. However, I do have a work bench in the house and manage to do repair and restoration jobs, mainly for ourselves... Our children, Nigel and Emily enjoy our simple life and we are all actively engaged in environmental campaigns for a cleaner and healthier life for all... Sometimes however I take a walk through an antique shop and my mind drifts back to the wealth of craftsmanship in England."

Ted Jones (1940 - 48) wrote to Kathleen James after coming to the reunion last summer. "It was interesting to see all the new buildings and developments. I wonder how the present style and teaching compares with the 1940s. Although we may not have had all the 'mod-cons', my generation was fortunate in Rendcomb's teaching strengths - with J.C.J. and K.L.J. so influential. By coincidence I've recently had some correspondence with **A.G.G. Richards**, who seems sprightly in retirement in Sussex, and it was interesting to hear his views on aspects of Rendcomb. The Open University still keeps me busy at its International Office. **Christopher** (1966 - 73), now 34, seems to cope well with a challenging Personnel Management role in a Pirelli subsidiary..."

David Vaisey (1945 - 54), a college governor, also wrote to Kathleen James recently about his work at the Bodleian. "I seem to be more and more involved in various national bodies and committees which take me out

of Oxford. Also our fund-raising activities take up a huge amount of time - often in the most unlikely places ranging from the boardrooms of multinational companies to the royal box at Covent Garden! It is all a long way from Tetbury in 1945, and the fact that I can do it at all, I owe in large part to you and J.C.J. In addition to all this, I went to France, Luxembourg, Poland, Switzerland, Singapore and Japan - all on library-related matters. Japan was, once again, bordering on the unbelievable. At Soka University I was presented with a medal, the citation of which mentioned contributions to the eternal peace of mankind!"

Martin Butlin (1940 - 47) was awarded the C.B. E. in the new year's honours list last year. He read history at Cambridge and then the history of art at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He acquired a junior curatorial post at the Institute and gradually worked his way up to be keeper of the Historic British Collection. He retired in 1989 and is now, inter alia, a consultant for Christie's. He became an expert on William Blake and J.M.W. Turner for which, together with his long service at the Tate, he received his award. He is also an F.B.A.

John Sumsion (1942 - 47) says he will be retiring this summer after ten years as first Registrar of Public Lending Right. He will then move to head the small library and information statistics unit at Loughborough University. He is also a part-time member of the Copyright Tribunal. He was made an honorary fellow of the Library Association in 1990 and was awarded an O.B.E. in the 1991 new year's honours.

Julian Comrie (1946 - 54) writes: "My years at Rendcomb were influenced by a number of people, foremost of whom must of course be Helen James, daughter of John and Kathleen, whom I had the pleasure of marrying in 1959 and living with very happily ever since. (Our two daughters, Claire and Fiona, both went to Rendcomb in the 6th form.) As for learning anything which I still remember and use, then Jack Fell must be my other hero. He taught me a lot, and inspired me with an interest in photography. Rendcomb was followed by two years in the army - one with the Glosters in Kenya - and three years at St. John's College, Cambridge, where I read natural sciences, all of which I remember with great pleasure. My working career has been associated with computers, firstly with the major British computer company, I.C.L. or I.C.T. as it was then, in their sales division in Birmingham. There followed a quick skirmish with finance in the city, which I did not enjoy, and then back to the glorious west country, as systems director of Cheltenham Computer Bureau Limited. Another move in 1975 took us to Somerset (where Helen and I still live) to work for Debenhams Plc, in their central computing and administrative offices, with responsibility for the design of the company's financial systems, using a variety of mainframe and mini computers. My outside interests have always centred round photography, but also include mountaineering, natural history, and travel. During recent years I have had more time to enjoy these, and put energy into them. I was elected a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society a few years ago, and have recently had a book of my colour photographs of Somerset published, with text by Robin Bush, deputy county archivist. This change of emphasis in my life came to a crux last year when I took early retirement from Debenhams, in order to set up my own business as a full time professional photographer. This is now in full swing, providing income and pleasure, and has already allowed us to take a long trip to New Zealand. I always knew Quo Lux Ducit was more than just Latin!"

Nick Wharmby (1982 - 87) who is in the Army Air Corps landed a helicopter near Park House in May and provided entertainment for the intrepid.

Tim Nicholas (1969 - 76), who is with the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy has just left for a two year spell in Australia on an exchange with the Australian Fleet Air Arm. He and Fiona are both looking forward to the opportunity of seeing something of that part of the world. They also expect to see **Steve Hicks** (1969 - 76) from time to time as he is a British Airways pilot on the "Sydney run".

Simon Westcott (1977 - 82) called in in April with his wife. They live in Norwich where they both work for British Telecom.

Simon Jenkins (1979 - 86) is a brokerage consultant with Provident Life, living in Miami.

Spencer Hannan (1979 - 83) started work in a small photographic firm when he left school and then went to work for the biggest photographic/advertising laboratory in Europe. He started in the darkroom doing all the big advertisements for Saatchi and Saatchi, C.D.P. and many others eventually becoming head of the department. From there he was promoted into computer photographics where he was "earning a fortune by working a 16 hour day". After two years he was so tired he decided to see the world - which he is now doing, visiting Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong and travelling by bus through Thailand to Malaysia, after starting in India. He keeps in touch with a lot of O.R.s - Tillman Henssler, Colin Harris, the Kinch brothers, David Wilson, Robert McIntyre to name but a few.

News of Recent Leavers

Anja Beaver Retaking 'A' levels

Alex Bell Retaking 'A' levels: d'Overbroecks, Oxford

Karen Betts Touring Spain and Italy, taught in a prep school in Salisbury

Lucy Brummitt York University: Linguistics and French

John Caroll Visiting Australia, Homerton College of Further Education

Ashley Clark Retaking 'A' levels at Deer Park, Cirencester

Nicholas Cochran

Christopher Daniels Trent Polytechnic: Town & country planning

Suzanne Denley Aston University: Biology

James Dowson Exeter University: French & German 1991

Lydia Fellows Secretarial work

Ben Gallagher

James Gregory Visiting Australia

Peter Grimsdale Portsmouth Polytechnic: Mechanical engineering

Nicholas Hall Leicester Polytechnic: General course

Jo Hammond Visiting Australia

Julian Head Sunderland Polytechnic: Medicine

Rebecca Hodgkinson Worcester College of Art

Kevin Holmes Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry 1991 Emma Hull Leicester Polytechnic: HND politics

Guy Jeffries Plymouth Polytechnic: Mechanical engineering

Jeremy Jehan Royal Agricultural College, 1991

Arwyn Jones Oxford College of Further Education: Ceramics Nicola Kemp Middlesex Polytechnic: Art foundation course

Alexander Laine Retaking 'A' levels

Francis Lee Birmingham University: Medicine, 1991

Henry Le Fleming Retaking 'A' levels

Carragh McAree Leeds University: Business management, 1991

Andrew Mackinnon
Richard Mansell
St. George's Hospital: Medicine
Working in a bank in London

Ben Maslen Gloscat: Art Foundation course. Bristol Univ.: Econ. & politics, 1991

Anthony Miles In India, after working for Commercial Union Joseph Nicholls Loughborough University: Design studies Durham University: Politics & philosophy

Tom Nicholls Leeds Polytechnic: Drama Charles Paine Gloscat: History of art

Sara Payne Christ Church, Oxford: English, 1991 Shridhar Phalke Keele University: Psychology & law Justine Platt Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry

Jonathan Pratten Thames Polytechnic: Biology

James Prince In India

Carl Reens Salford University: Chemistry
Fiona Reichwald Gloscat: Art foundation course

Philippa Rome Bournemouth College of Further Education: Hotel management

Charlotte Stephens Secretarial course, visiting Australia

Karen Swan Loughborough University: Mathematics, 1991

Robert Tate Visiting Australia

James Thraves

Christian Vallence Bangor University: Electronic engineering
Amanda Vaux Secretarial course. Edinburgh College of Art, 1991

Matthew Ventrella Aberystwyth University: Law Mathew Waddington

Guy Waller Teaching in India, Loughborough University: European studies, 1991

Daniel White Gloscat: Art foundation course

Claire Mallindine Oxford Polytechnic: Psychology & history of art

Ann-Marie Chapman Worcester Polytechnic

Russell Ogden Trent Polytechnic: HND business studies
Amanda Carter Exeter University: French & history

William Sherwood Royal Holloway College: History

Angus Cochrane University College of Swansea: Environmental biology Michael Bews University College of Swansea: Computer science

Christopher Payne Glen Harris Gloscat: taking 'A' levels
James Dowbiggin 'A' levels at Weston College

Scott Vernon
Matthew Rogers
In retail trade

Christopher Walsh 'A' levels at Westminster College, London Anthony Neilson

Niel McMurtrie
Daniel Howard

Brunel College: B.Tech. Computer studies