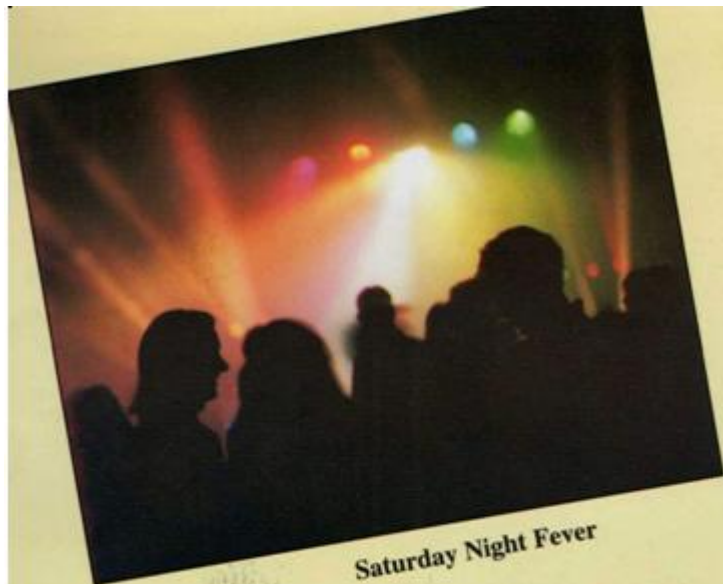




Rendcombian

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, 1998



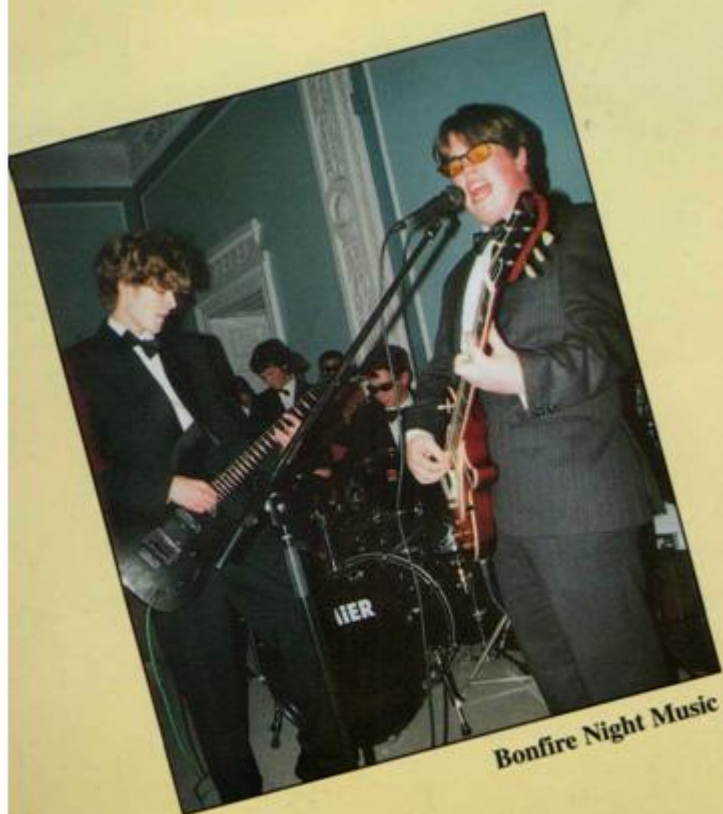
Saturday Night Fever



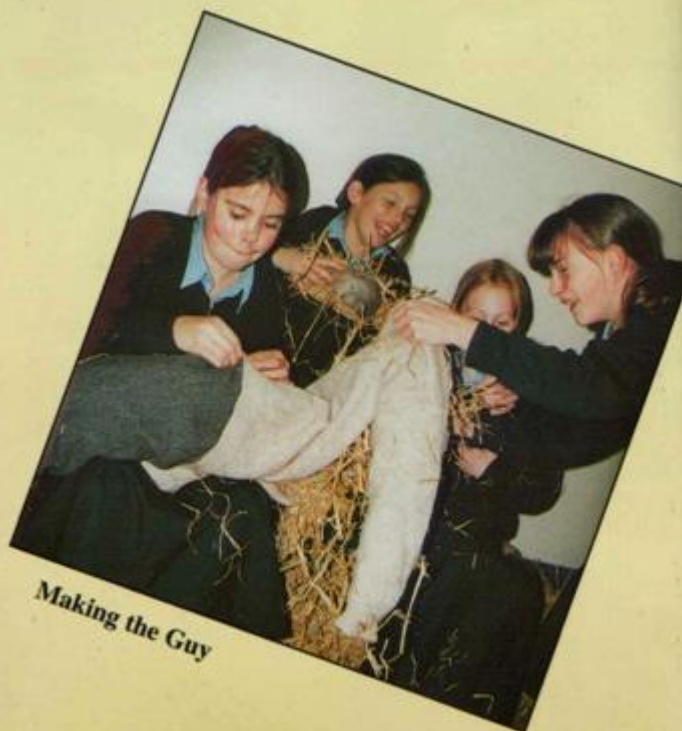
Gala Day



Indian Evening



Bonfire Night Music

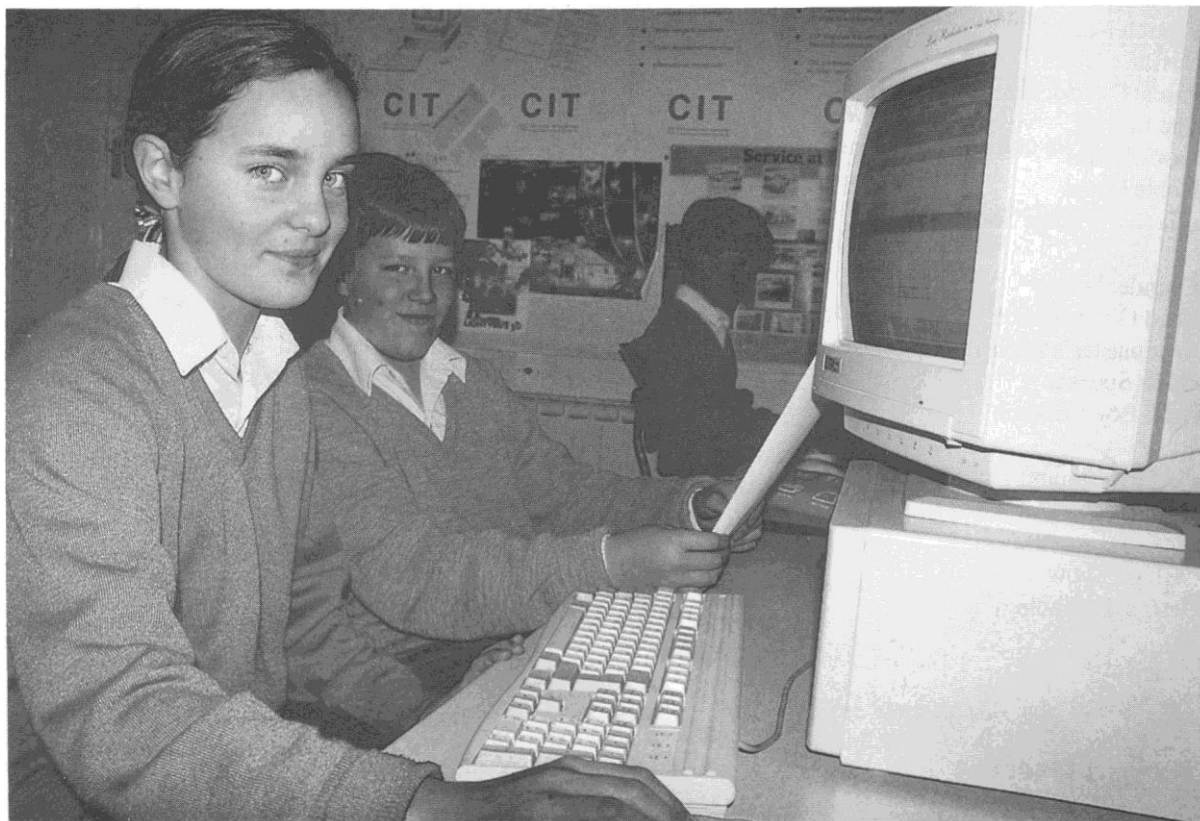


Making the Guy

Rendcombian

No. 16

September 1998



Romilly Evans and Richard Burden in the ICT room

Front Cover: Aerial view of the school
Back Cover: *Marriage of Figaro*

Inside Front: Activities
Inside Back: Opening of the Astroturf Pitch

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Reset in Times Roman typeface

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Diary

Christmas Term 1997

September

- 7th Term began.
6 A Geography Field Trip returned from France
- 11th 6A Linguists departed for Normandy.
- 12th Licensing of the Rev'd Kim Taplin.
- 13th Members of 1st and 2nd years took part in the Diocesan sponsored cycle ride and received the Christian Brann trophy for raising the most money as a group.
A College Disco was held in the Dulverton Hall.
- 14th A concert by the Gentlemen of St John's College, Cambridge was held in the Church and Dulverton Hall.
- 21st Opening of the Martin Wills All- Weather Pitch.
- 26th Students from the Music Department provided entertainment at the Village Harvest Supper.
6A Biologists' Field Trip to the Gower Peninsular commenced.
- 27th Open Day.

October

- 3rd Exeat weekend began.
- 5th Rendcomb College Parents' Association AGM.
- 12th QP concert *Classic Brass* was held in the Reading Room.
- 18th Open Day
A Sixth Form Quiz Night took place.
- 24th Half Term began.

November

- 8th Bonfire Night with a Jazz Concert and Disco in the Dulverton Hall was hosted by the Parents' Association.
- 9th Remembrance Sunday.
- 17th 6A Biologists' trip to Oxford Botanical Gardens.
- 21st Exeat.
- 28/29th The Senior Drama Production "Ten Times Table" was performed in the Dulverton Hall.
- 30th Advent Carol services were held at St Peter's Church.

December

- 2nd Sixth Form artists visited galleries in London
- 6th Senior Rugby trip to Twickenham.

- 7th Visit to the Clothes Show Live, Birmingham.
The annual St. Barbara's Service was held for the Gloucestershire Gunners at St. Peter's Church.
Old Rendcombian Society Rugby Tournament.
Sixth Form Chemists' Study Day at University of London.

- 9th Godman and Park Houses' theatre trip to London.
Rugby Club Christmas dinner.
Hockey Club Christmas dinner.
- 10th A Christmas "Rock 'n' Roll" evening was preceded by drinks and a finger buffet in the Reading Room
- 11th Christmas lunch was served to all in the Dining Room
Term ended with the Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church.

Lent Term 1998

January

- 11th Term began.
- 13th Visit of Bifuka High School. Japan.
- 21st Junior visit to Oxford Playhouse to see "Junk".
- 23 rd Exeat weekend began.

February

- 7th Indian Theme Evening was held in the Dulverton Hall.
- 13th Sixth Form Artists departed for Madrid 14th Half Term
- 21st A College Disco took place in the Dulverton Hall.
- 26th *The Marriage of Figaro* was performed by pupils and staff in the Dulverton Hall for three nights.

March

- 1st "Hands On Day"
- 6th Exeat weekend began.
- 13th Informal Concert "World Premieres" was held in the Reading Room.
- 16th 3rd year visit to the Natural History Museum, London.
- 19th "Love - the Fashion Show" was held in the Dulverton Hall for three nights.
- 25th The 'A' Level musicians performed a recital in the Reading Room.
- 26th A Wine Tasting took place in the Reading Room followed by a Rock Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
- 27th Term ended.

Summer Term 1998

April

- 19th Term began.
Duke of Edinburgh Gold practice expedition returned from the Peak District.

May

- 1st College exeat weekend began.
17th 6B Artists visited the Tate Gallery to see the Bonnard exhibition.
21st Fourth Year German linguists departed for a trip to Normandy.
22nd The Annual Private View of the 'A' level Artists Exhibition was held in the Dulverton Hall.
23rd Founder's Day. The guest speaker was David Prince, Secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.
24th Fourth Year German linguists returned, from Normandy.
26th Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition returned from the Brecon Beacons.
27th Half Term ended.
28th The Fourth Year Earth Science Field Trip took place.

June

- 3rd The Third Year visited the Imperial War Museum, London.
7th The Parents' Association Gala Day was held in the College grounds.
12th Duke of Edinburgh Bronze group practice around the Cotswolds commenced.
13th The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze practice group returned.
14th QP Concert took place in St Peter's Church, with Richard Lester playing the Organ.
19th College Exeat.
The Leavers' Dinner took place in the Dining Room, followed by dancing in the Green Room.
20th Church Service and Buffet Lunch was held for 6A and their parents.
21st There was a Barbecue for Godman House.
22nd 6B English students visited Stratford on Avon for a Shakespeare Day.
25th Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition III departed for Mid-Wales.
30th Members of Fourth Form and 6B visited London Art Galleries.
2nd Girls Hockey tour departed for the Netherlands.

Fifth Year Community trip to Normandy.
11th Gloucestershire Annecy Exchange.
12th 1st XI Cricket Tom to Jersey began.

Births and Deaths

Births: Lynn Gardner (staff) and Kim, a son
Ralph Laurie David on 14th April 1998.

Deaths Nicholas T Barton (O. R.) 11th September 1997
Fred Tombs (ex-staff)
David Barnett (Governor) 31st March 1998

Staff Leavers

Paula Watson

Paula first came to Rendcomb in November 1992, heavily pregnant with Jess. As one would expect from Paula, she came exceptionally well-prepared to unpack and settle in to Stable Flat before the arrival of John and Jess. Jess had different ideas and started to arrive four weeks early; Paula having no-one, husbandless and earless. Best laid plans and all that !



This did not deter Paula - nothing does - and although on unfamiliar territory, she quickly threw herself into the life of a boarding school doing hospital runs with Jess a few weeks old in tow.

Paula came from an incredibly high-powered job as export Manager UK for Mitsubishi (Colt Cars), so with her came sheer professionalism and total dedication. She was used to giving in excess of 100% and we at Rendcomb have clearly benefited.

On the Sports field she started the girls' Rounders from scratch - then onto Head of Netball. The U16 girls

have some stunning unbeaten seasons under their belt due to Paula's impressive coaching and organisational skills (she was a County Netball player herself).

Then onto Godman, Paula's finest hour; four years to be exact - it probably felt like ten. One cannot eulogise enough over the quality of care and attention to detail - as Diana Dodd would say - "scary!" I know how parents of girls have been deeply comforted to know that Paula was, always at the end of the phone and the junior girls will miss her sorely; they have blossomed under her care. "Firm but fair" is an adage few achieve, but in Paula's case she was.

Not only will the girls miss her - so shall we. She has some good friends here, don't forget us!

I hope Paula will take some very happy memories of Rendcomb with her when she goes to Dean Close in September to join John in running Court House. So, on behalf of Rendcomb I would like to wish her the very best of luck.

JDS

Steve Hill

Although only here for two terms, Steve made a big impact on the place and within days of arriving had created considerable goodwill for himself by thrashing Sam Maylott at Squash and Joe Schinzler at Tennis. As a teacher of CDT, he was committed to standards but also demanded a real impact from the students. He created a real buzz in the place and enthused some unlikely looking Sixth Formers into becoming involved, and Duke of Edinburgh Gold Skill Award in cabinet making was successfully started under his guidance.

Steve made a great contribution to Rugby and Hockey; his coaching was direct and founded on solid personal knowledge, the 2nd XV found his team talks especially memorable.

Increased business commitments (he is also a cabinet maker/antique furniture restorer in Brewery Arts, Cirencester), meant it was impossible for him to maintain his involvement, but he made a real contribution in his short time here.

MSG

Russell Kennerley

When Bill White retired from the Latin department a year ago, a thirty-six year continuity was broken. So his successor, Russell Kennerley, had a formidable task in taking over the department as part-time teacher of Latin.

However, Russell's calm enthusiasm, his careful and encouraging teaching, and his willingness to go the

extra mile soon endeared him to colleagues and pupils alike. We are sorry he has only been with us for a year, thank him for all he has done for the College and for his pupils, and wish him well in his second retirement.

JNT

Mark Naylor

Our Head Chef Mark Naylor moved onto a Management position to further his career early in the Summer term. Mark will be sorely missed by all Staff and Pupils at the College as he was an excellent chef and did his utmost to ensure that the food at Rendcomb was always up to a very high standard. We all wish him well in the future.

BS

Sue Mister

Sue had a busy time ever since she arrived at Rendcomb. She started life as the Headmaster's Assistant Secretary but soon afterwards left to have a baby. When she returned, she worked with Kay Collins in the Accounts Department, a job she did with efficiency and good humour.

She is now expecting her second baby, and when her husband's work moved to Northampton recently, the rest of the family decided to follow.

Sadly this deprives Rendcomb of a valued and well-liked member of staff.

We wish her all the very best for her exciting future.

JFAG

New Staff

Diana Dodd

Because Richard Murray was unable to take up his post at the start of the school year, Diana Dodd stepped in to cover the Christmas term teaching English. She settled in very quickly, despite her Antipodean (NZ) origins, and was able to assist in many other areas such as Drama and Sport, bringing to bear her wide experience teaching Drama and English at Winchester and Oxford High School for Girls. In the Lent Term she turned her attention to producing *Marriage of Figaro* which is reported later in this issue. Happily she and her husband, Paul, are moving in to Godman House to take over from Paula Watson.



Diana Dodd in conversation with David White during a rehearsal of *Marriage of Figaro*

Penrose Shackel



With vast experience of marketing in British Airways, Penrose Shackel took over from Terry Gillard and immediately made her mark as a friendly and dynamic presence in the school. She quickly achieved greater coverage of school activities in the newspapers and increased awareness of the school through more Open Days and the introduction of Hands - On Days. Parents like the new termly Newsletter that she has introduced. Currently she is working on a new prospectus.

CJW

Jemima Pratt

Jemima joined Rendcomb in April, having spent eight years living in the Cayman Islands. Whilst working part-time in the Marketing Office, she is undertaking a degree course in Hotel Management. A local girl, she attended St Clotilde's and her brother Tim is an O. R. She enjoys a whole gamut of outdoor and water sports including water skiing and cycling.

AEV

Emma Boyd

Emma arrived in the Summer term as one part of a new Design teaching team and made an immediate impact. Her lessons were refreshing and inventive and the juniors were soon gripped by the construction of wind socks, sewing and designing garden ornaments.



Emma attended Cheltenham Art College and while teaching at Swindon College on the Degree course has

also run her own workshop and exhibited widely. Besides her own work, Emma is interested in the theatre, travel and cooking, especially delicious fresh fish!

MSG

Hamish Auld

In a remote corner of Australia, Hamish was sleeping soundly when the telephone rang very early one morning. He had been tracked down by one of his old school masters who really put him on the spot by offering him a job! Before he had had time to clear his head Hamish had accepted and found himself making a long, slow return from the hot outback of Australia to the sunny charms of Rendcomb in the Summer term.

Hamish joined the new Design team and exchanged his T shirt and shorts for a blazer and tie; his impact was immediate and his good humour and enthusiasm were very much welcomed in a hectic examination term and will be of great benefit next year.

Hamish was a pupil at Rendcomb, a strong prop at Rugby and a well trained woodworker. He went via a successful 'A' level Art course to Foundation and then onto High Wycombe for a degree in Furniture Studies. Having successfully completed this, he went for a trip around the world and was clearly enjoying himself until the telephone rang early that morning!

MSG

Obituary

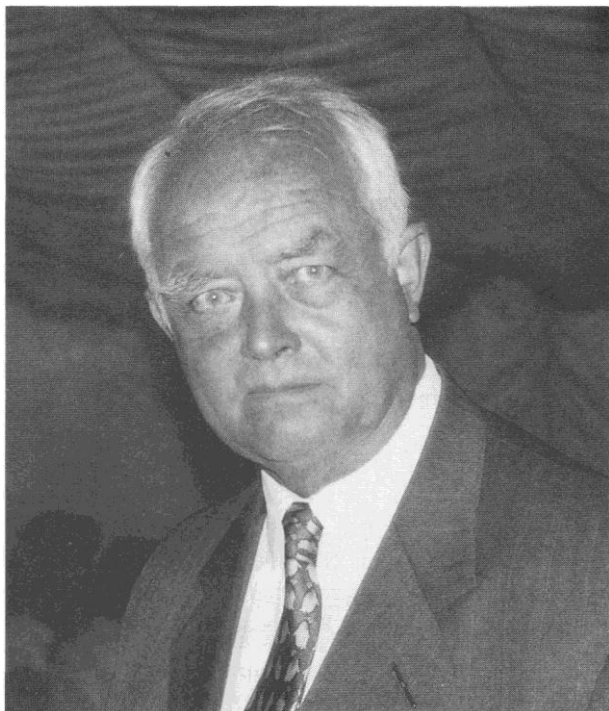
David Barnett

David Barnett joined Rendcomb's Governors in 1990; he died, after a short illness, on March 31 1998.

I first met David on my first day at Rendcomb. He was on the Parents' Association Committee and there was a preliminary session scheduled for that evening. If I felt tense and inadequate, he soon put me at ease, and for the next few terms he and his colleagues gently took me by the elbow and steered me round the hidden mantraps. His warmth, generosity of spirit, enthusiasm, energy and friendship are a precious part of my memories of that happy time.

John, his son, duly won his place at Oxford; David's time as a Rendcomb parent was over. So it was a real joy when David agreed to join the Governors. He quickly re-established himself as a familiar and reassuring figure about the place, contributing steady advice to the Finance Committee, but perhaps most of all lending us his experience as a very recently retired CID officer on the Drugs and Vice Squad. Even

Rendcombians have to deal with a world of drugs and vice: David was a brilliant speaker and advisor with a natural gift for telling pupils and staff honestly and humorously how it really is.



Especially humorously. David was one of those special and rare people whom everybody loved. Outrageously flattering to anyone female, he enjoyed teasing and flirting. But if there was hard work to be done he was there. I remember him putting himself in charge of security for the 75th Anniversary Ball. We knew he would be on alert while everybody else enjoyed themselves, and he stayed at his post until the early hours of the morning. Next day he was first to arrive for the clear up. I loved my trips over to see him to pick his brains about dubious substances I had found.

He would study them with great care, pronounce them harmless, and make me laugh. Then he would show me, with justifiable pride, the latest development at Cotswold Care, where he worked with such success after leaving the Police.

Rendcomb has lost a real friend. The cruelty of cancer took him long before his time, and our hearts go out to Jenny, John and Kate. After his packed and moving Memorial Service, we all went outside to release balloons to which we had tied farewell messages. The balloons were big, round, brightly coloured and didn't take themselves too seriously: just right for David. As they gently rose towards Heaven, we thought about what we had lost, and also about this humane, staunch and rare man who had touched so many lives with such love and kindness.

JNT

Reports

A Road to the East

Five years ago, the Shukutoku School in Cheltenham approached us to ask whether we could find space for six pupils from Japan to spend a year in our Third Year.

Why not? The pupils we met were delightful and soon settled down. They worked hard, and lessons were soon accompanied by the rustle of dictionaries as they struggled to keep up. Our choir and music has benefited hugely, and no-one will ever forget the spectacular Fashion Show hats. Above all we made new friends in a country hungry for contact with us and yet profoundly different in history, tradition and outlook.

So I was honoured and excited to be invited to visit the Shukutoku School in Japan last Easter. It was the experience of a lifetime to spend time in classes to meet teachers and to make new Japanese friends. The welcome and hospitality I received were overwhelming, as was the courtesy of even complete strangers.

There seems to be so much to be gained from further partnership. We in Gloucestershire need to look beyond our normal horizons, and even beyond Europe. We will need to feel increasingly comfortable in a global marketplace sustained by the economic strength of the East. As we got to know each other, the head of the Shukutoku School, Mr Yuho Satomi, and I began to discuss how we could strengthen and confirm the relationship between our two schools.

The result was Mr Satomi's visit to Rendcomb just before Christmas. At a Signing Ceremony we put the seal on our willingness to encourage partnership and friendship between our two schools.



What difference will it make? Further visits certainly; perhaps someone reading this would like to spend a Gap year learning Japanese and working in a Tokyo School. Classes can exchange letters, photographs, video tapes and student work to help understand each other's outlook and way of life. The Road to the East is full of promise; I hope there will be some Rendcombians who will want to consider travelling that road.

JNT

Opening of the Martin Wills All-Weather Pitch

To many of us it was the culmination of years of campaigning, months of research by Bobby Morgan, Mike Newby, David Essenhigh and Chris Wood and several dreams! Clearly the weather gods approved because Sunday 21st September, 1997 was like a summer's day and the new pitch below Stable House on Landage seemed the perfect setting.

The day began with John Shaw, the ex-England, ex-Great Britain and Southgate player, providing a rigorous and entertaining coaching session for senior girls and boys.

This was followed by a ladies' match in which two teams were made from Cheltenham Civil Service Ladies, East Glos. Ladies and Rendcomb Senior Girls. The match was played in great spirit and our girls gained much from the experience of playing alongside some very skilled ladies.

John Shaw was the guest at the luncheon in the Reading Room along with Charles Lawrence, the owner of the company which constructed the pitch, governors and former staff who had run Hockey in the past: Roy Dennis, John Holt and Bridget Goldsmith. Gloucester Schools' Hockey Association and the County Umpires' Association were represented and John Webb, who played for Cambridge University and Gloucester, appropriately represented the Old Rendcombian Society.

After lunch a sizeable crowd had assembled at the pitch for the official opening. The Headmaster said how fortunate the school was to have the backing of the Wills family and thanked everyone for their efforts. John Shaw reinforced this and stated that this must be the most beautiful setting for a Hockey pitch in England. Finally Major Tom Wills, Chairman of Trustees and grandson of the Founder, cut the ribbon and declared the Martin Wills pitch officially open.

There followed a men's match with teams selected from Old Rendcombians, mostly from Cirencester

Hockey Club (Phil Moore, Charlie Paine, Graham Moore, John Sinclair, Mike Moody, Mark Whittering and Tom Bums). John Webb. Bobby Morgan (DHM and ex-England player), John Shaw and senior pupils. The match was played at a cracking pace and proved to be an entertaining game with many goals, often set up by our talented guest, John Shaw, who changed sides at half-time to give everyone the opportunity of playing alongside him. The final score was of no importance but it was 8-6 and goals were scored by pupils as well as guests, the most popular being a classic piece of finishing by DHM.

Andy Marson, President of the Umpires' Association and one of the umpires for the day, kindly donated Hockey Association shirts for pupil players of the matches. These were awarded to Sophie Peters and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul.

The perfect end to a most successful opening was provided by tea on the terraces in the sunshine. John Shaw was a wonderful guest and we are particularly grateful to him for his contribution on the day, as well as the Bursar, the catering staff, David Mead and the other ground staff, Mrs Westhead and Mrs Tugwell.

CJW

Church Notes

The College is very fortunate to have the Parish Church of Rendcomb in the heart of its grounds. Our students and staff have an advantage which is denied students of many similar schools in which the worship of the school chapel can often feel disconnected from the worship of the wider Christian community. Services at St Peter's Church continue during holidays, half-terms and exeats. Weddings, baptisms and funerals remind our students of the rhythm of life which continues in a world beyond the A435. In this, there is an important lesson for life.

There have been seven visiting preachers during the School year. They introduced us to fresh ways of thinking about religious or moral issues. The most enthusiastically received were the Rev'd Gregory Cameron, Director of the Bloxham Project and Mr Michael Hastings, Head of Public Affairs at the BBC. Rev'd Cameron used a memorable visual aid of a large piece of paper which he cleverly folded to illustrate how our souls are moulded by our experiences in life. Mr Hastings enchanted the congregation with a combination of engaging humour and powerful oratory as he shared some fascinating stories about political life at Westminster.

The Advent Carol Service was a pilgrimage from darkness to light. Beginning in Clock Hall in the Main Building with the choir singing Britten's "Hymn

to the Virgin” on the staircase, the service continued with a congregational procession outside into the cold, November darkness. We paused outside the Arts Block for a dramatic reading from Psalm 139 before entering the candlelit glory of St Peter’s Church for the rest of a powerful and moving occasion. The choir was magnificent, as indeed it was throughout the year! The commitment of the members to the regular Sunday services and the special events is worthy of special note and praise. I am grateful to them and to Mr David White and his Assistant Director, Miss Naomi Phipps, for their skill and dedication.

Equally memorable was the Service of Confirmation on 26th April led by the Rt. Rev’d John Went, Bishop of Tewkesbury. Nineteen candidates (17 students and 2 members of staff) were presented to the Bishop.

During the Summer term we experimented with three evening services. One of these occasions was a service of contemporary worship which was devised and led by a group of Sixth Form students co-ordinated by Rebekah Taplin. The service was a tremendous success and more are planned for next year.

Whit Sunday saw the dedication of a brass plaque in memory of the Rev’d Peter Sudbury in the Lady Chapel of St Peter’s Church. Christine, David and Richard Sudbury attended the Holy Communion service at which Mr Bill White preached with his customary eloquence.

The College has been able to support a substantial number of local, national and international charities from the collections received during term-time Sunday services. A total of £1,144.46 was generously given by students, their families, members of staff and parishioners of Rendcomb. Some of the beneficiaries have been:

The Seven Springs Play and Support Centre
 The National Star Centre
 The Sue Ryder Home for Palliative Care, Leckhampton
 Teenage Cancer Trust
 The Earl Haig Appeal
 RNIB
 The British Red Cross
 The Romanian Orphanage Trust
 Christian Aid

Morning Chapel has continued to provide a valuable opportunity for the School community to gather together for corporate worship and the exploration of human spirituality. The traditional fare of ‘Thought for the Day’ has been supplemented by a varied diet of



Morning prayers in the Dulverton Hall

drama sketches, mime, poetry, stories, music, meditations and visual imagery. The Chaplain has received support and assistance from ten members of staff and a growing number of

students. This team of contributors has produced morning assemblies which have been thought-provoking, amusing and challenging. Hymn singing has been a struggle at times. The demise of traditional hymn singing in schools appears to be a national trend caused by a number of factors. However, I do not believe that we should “throw in the towel” at Rendcomb, nor do I believe that we should sing “I Vow to Thee My Country” every week! There must be a middle path?

Finally, I would like to thank Churchwardens Bill White, Freddie Wills and Bobby Morgan for all their help and support throughout the year. I must also thank the team of Ushers led by Sam Maylott, James Gibbs and, from the Summer term, David Ashby for their faithful and efficient work.

KT

Bursar’s Notes

This year I have asked all those involved in the Bursarial department to provide their own reports. You will find these below. However I wish to mention that much work has been carried out this year including the following:

1.) All weather Pitch Constructed
2.) New walling and fencing constructed for the sports pitch
3.) Minor work to Godman House
4.) Minor work to the Old Rectory'
5.) Refurbishment of Biology Labs, Junior Physics and Junior Chemistry Labs



Peter Cairns at work

1.) Hot water heaters installed in Art Block
2.) Repairs to the Pavilion
3.) Minor repairs to Park House and the purchasing of 30 Bean Bags(!)
4.) The refurbishment of School House into a Day House
5.) Numerous other repairs and alterations throughout the grounds.

For all their efforts we thank the Ground staff and all those involved with carrying through these improvements to the school, improvements which are helping Rendcomb to become one of the most well - maintained schools in the country.

JFAG

“Just what do the Sisters do? ”

What do we do? Apart from the usual work of patching up students and dishing out remedies for a variety of ailments, we look after everyone in sickness and in health. We are always available to help wherever and whenever help is needed. That is not always medical help but can be anything from costumes, make-up, pouring tea, mopping up spills, second-hand clothing, helping out in the classroom, swimming pool duty, boarding house duties, babysitting, to providing a listening ear.

We look after the costume store and try to keep it in some sort of order so that when a request comes “Have you got or can you get? ” we will certainly see what we can do. Sometimes this means making costumes or trailing round agencies to find what is needed. Our biggest challenge this year was “*The Marriage of Figaro*”, because of the quality of costume that was required.

Judy Hunt helps with the costumes when Sister Julie is off duty and is a great help with make-up and backstage keeping order.

Next came the fashion Show. We decorated the Dulverton Hall with ribbons, bows, balloons and hearts. We helped many of the students with their outfits to ensure they were ready for the first show. Again we helped backstage and with the clearing up afterwards.

Some of the staff chose to undertake a First Aid course, which lasted for around eleven weeks. We had lots of serious moments learning what to do in an emergency, doing resuscitation and recovery position but also had fun bandaging each other up and getting in a mess at times. At the end of the course the assessments were duly taken and passed and certificates issued. We would like to encourage more staff to do this course.

We like to help in the classroom when we can and have recently done sessions with the junior students on

“Safety in the Home” which included accident prevention, spotting hazards and simple first aid measures. The senior students have had sessions on Nature, Incidence, Prevention and Management of Sporting Injury.

We also run a First Aid Course for those students who wish to take it for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Judy Hunt has been seen washing cars up on the top field and selling soft drinks at Gala Day in order to raise cash for the Hockey tour to Holland this Summer. She has organised a small army of helpers, and some of the juniors did jobs around the village to raise money.

The students know that they can pop in and see us at any time if they have a problem or just want a slice of toast or a cup of hot chocolate. It is always nice to have a social visit and not just see them when they have a problem. Our door is always open!

JP/JH

Laundry

A very busy department with School House Laundry being the nerve centre where most but not all queries can be answered. During the winter months the staff are greeted on Monday mornings with piles of dirty games kit.

We do not have many mishaps but maroon track suits can be a problem, and what about the Sixth Form boy who boiled his woolen jumper - was he shrinking it to give to his five year old brother? While on the subject of clothes it would be a great help if all garments were name taped!

JK

Catering Department

The year started in September with a bit of a shock as Marriott Food Services was taken over by Gardner Merchant, which meant that we had new bosses to please. But the catering staff just carried on with their job awaiting news of any changes that might affect them. During the year there have been many highs and a few lows.

One of the lows was losing our Head Chef, Mark Naylor. Mark moved on to a management position to further his career. He will be sadly missed by all staff and pupils at the College as he was an excellent chef and did his utmost to ensure that the food at Rendcomb was always up to a very high standard. We all wish him well in the future.

One major achievement this year was to get 6A not to have steak and gateau on their Leavers' Dinner and to their surprise they actually enjoyed the change.

The catering staff have had a very hard last six months due to many functions and other commitments, but even being three staff down at times, the staff still ran a professional department. I thank them all and hope they have a very good holiday and come back, batteries charged, for next year's challenge.

On another note, we have appointed a new Head Chef, Geraint (Taff) Owen. • He has come from a similar background to Mark Naylor and I am sure he has the same commitment and drive as Mark to make sure the quality of food does not change.

BS

The Parents' Association

It is said that "too many cooks spoil the broth". We are very grateful, however, that there are so many cooks amongst staff, parents and friends for one of our main achievements during the last year has been the publication of "The Art of Food", Rendcomb's own cookbook which, without doubt, should be in every kitchen in the land, featuring, as it does, a number of great recipes and great cartoons by Martin Griffiths and Art Scholar, Ollie Poole. We have ordered a re

well entertained while the rain poured. I sincerely hope the weather will be better for 1998's event!

An amazing array of events took place during the Easter term. Our Indian theme night "Last Days of the Raj" - a fancy dress dinner party - was a tremendous success, well attended with great food and again wonderful music. Thanks to all who contributed, especially Rachel Houghton, Ian Patterson, Martin Griffiths, Naomi Phipps and Bob Stott and his staff. We were pleased to support both the Fashion Show, which was an outrageous success, and the production of "The Marriage of Figaro", the latter with a donation of £400 towards the cost of costumes. I hope you were fortunate enough to attend these events.

"Gala Day" took place on a showery and windy day at the beginning of June - see my memories on the day elsewhere in this magazine.

Funds (up to £2,000) have recently been allocated on your behalf to create a skateboarding/recreation area at the Old Rectory, after the garages have been demolished. It was felt particularly appropriate that we should support a project benefiting junior boys to make life a bit more fun when they first arrive at College.



Ollie Poole's cartoon which was published in *Punch*

print and copies are available from us at any time. Thanks to all who contributed, especially Rachel Houghton and Sarah Mais, who put a great deal of behind the scenes effort into the initial print.

What can I say about our "running man", Ian Patterson? He completed the Dublin Marathon in excellent time, and raised substantial funds for the Association. Well done Ian and thanks to all those who sponsored him so generously.

Our Bonfire Night celebrations were attended by a large crowd despite terrible weather and raised considerable funds for the Association. Many people played their part in making the evening such a success, but may I give thanks in particular to Paul Cairns, College groundsman and the musicians who kept us so

We are considering a Millenium project, possibly in connection with the restoration of the lake in the grounds. Please also note that we are arranging a Millenium Ball to take place at College in Summer 2000.

As ever, I have had tremendous support over the last year from the Headmaster, the Bursar and Bob Stott - thank you gentlemen, also from Ian Patterson and Rachel Houghton, College's representatives on the Committee, and last but by no means least from Jayne Nicholas, Ian Abbott, Gordon Webb, Sarah Mais, Chris Sutton, Judy Nicholls and Clive Warrington to all of whom many thanks and goodbye to Chris Sutton and Judy Nicholls whose children have now left College.

Paul J Stanfield
Chairman

The Library

This has been a year of incremental advance rather than one of major structural change, but such advances are just as important in enabling the Library to carry out its role effectively. For example, some 300 new books have been added, and a further batch of older volumes transferred to store to make space for them. Re-cataloguing has continued apace, with the English Literature section in particular being overhauled and brought into line with modern classification systems. Finally, some urgently needed repairs have been carried out to several books, particularly the *Grove* Dictionary of Music and Musicians, which was beginning to suffer from severe cracking of the bindings. None of these developments is especially noteworthy of itself, but they are all part of the ongoing task of keeping the Library up to date and able to respond to the needs of its users.



As in previous years, we have benefited from donations of books by individual subject departments, but particular mention must be made of a very generous cash donation in memory of Douglas Dakin (O.R.). This has enabled us to purchase the most recent volumes of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, thereby completing the set originally donated by Major Birchall in the 1970s. This will be both a valuable reference tool and a fitting memorial to Douglas Dakin's work as a historian.

Finally, in this summary of the events of the year, it is gratifying to see that the Library is now being used by a wider cross-section of the school community. Ten years ago, it tended to be seen as a Library for the Sixth Form, but in recent years this has begun to change: whilst Sixth Formers continue to make good use of it, more books are being borrowed by those in other year groups. This was one of the aims of the Development Plan first mapped out by David Hawkswell, and it seems to be bearing fruit. More books will be added this year to meet this growing need: long may it continue!

MHG

House Reports

This year we asked two Senior Boys' Houses to provide reports and we hope to feature other houses in future issues.

Lawn House 1997 - 1998

This year has been notable for many things and was enjoyed by all. Tim Hill coped remarkably well as Head of House, especially when you consider all his other duties and responsibilities, and his neatly typed rotas kept everyone on their toes, particularly as they were liable to change on a daily basis. A new Third Year brought new amusements, for while they are a class gifted in many ways, simple tasks such as ringing a bell or making their beds have proven to be beyond their grasp for the most of this year. A warm welcome was extended to Mr Richard Murray, who joined the House Staff in the Lent Term and has proved a popular choice, whilst Mr North and Mr Sudbury have continued their good work. Speaking of Mr Sudbury, this year was remarkable as it saw the end of his wavy locks, as his pony-tail faced the guillotine. Indeed with the departure of Adam Phillips and myself from Lawn House (I join Beans Boughton in the Old Rectory next year), long hair is destined to be a rarity, something Mr Slark is doubtless overjoyed about.

A sad goodbye was said to 6A and those Fifth Years not returning next year; we wish them all the best. In fact the Third and Fourth Years obviously said their goodbyes so sadly that Sam and Harvey felt the need to return and say goodbye one more time. The invisible member of Lawn House seems to have left us as well; his amusing pranks, such as flooding bathrooms and setting toasters on fire, will not be so sadly missed, but rumour has it that his younger brother is arriving with next year's Third Year. That's something to look forward to, isn't it Mr Slark?

The post of Head Boy is of course staying in Lawn House with Ian Forster, best of luck to him. and the new position of Head Girl of Lawn has been created especially for Tara Sleggs. Let's all hope that the academic year 98/99 is as successful as this one.

Theo Berry

Stable House '98

Caprice struck a cruel blow to Stable House. We were busily producing the Head Boy for the Third Year in succession when, draped in her cloak of unpredictability, she swept over Lawn and produced Mr Timothy Hill, a man of fine character.

As with all things here at Rendcomb the initial disappointment was counter-balanced with a number of achievements throughout the year.

We produced three stunning operatic performances in the "Marriage of Figaro" by Ralph Barnes, Simon Webb and Alastair Nye, the latter playing Figaro himself. The Head of House, Ashley Taylor, was also appointed Captain of the 1st XI Cricket team. We also must acknowledge the superb academic achievements all round.

We will be sorry to see the Prefects and House Prefects of the Upper Sixth go, who individually and collectively have done so much to aid the running and continual development of Stable House and Rendcomb College.

"Let us now look to the future" always seems to be the phrase used when people are dejected by the present but in this instance we are not. 6A are leaving and an already accomplished Lower Sixth flock to fill their places.

Phillip Webb is to be Head of House, Ben Butler his number 2. Nick Stanfield's academic and sporting achievements without doubt will develop even further. Florian Brenner and Patrick van Welij have held up well under the persecution suffered over the last few weeks which have been dedicated to the World Cup, reviving the Anglo-German conflict of Euro '96. They can now go safely into next year without the anxiety of England playing Germany, unless Germany's Rugby team produces a further miracle.

Last, but in no way at all least, the writer departs for the Old Rectory, not to recommence the six years of his time at Rendcomb, but to make sure that those who are commencing get to learn the tricks of the trade.

Mr and Mrs Williams, now in their fourth year as House Parents, appear to be contented with their lot in this case being us, so I imagine our achievements all round make up for the disappointment for not making the "hat-trick"!

Beans Boughton

Life in a Village Shop

As you drive into Rendcomb, over the humpback bridge and past the Cotswold Stone houses, you climb up a steep hill, under a lovely Victorian wrought iron bridge, around a sharp corner and come to the Village Shop and Post Office.

The building itself is a little austere; it used to be the old school room and Headmaster's house, and if you look up you can still see the old school bell on the roof.

You might be forgiven for thinking that Rendcomb is perhaps a bit small to have its own shop, but we have a secret weapon - Rendcomb College! One chirpy delivery driver sauntered into our quiet shop one morning and quipped "Hello, and when did you see your last human being?" Little did he know, half an hour earlier and he would have been crushed in the rush.

In between serving school children the village is a model of peace and tranquillity and the pace of life inside the shop matches the traditional village role - time for interesting long chats with the locals, some of whom remember coming to school in this very building. However, no local villager of sound mind would dream of coming into the shop between 11.00 and 11.30am. Try serving two hundred and fifty healthy hungry Rugby players. Hockey bashing individuals in half an hour, especially when the one at the front of the queue asks for fifty white mice! We work flat out, measuring quarters from jars into little paper bags, serving crisps, chocolate and cans of drink in a kind of elaborate ballet, juggling around jars, scales, each other and the till. It would be unthinkable to have so many unaccompanied children let loose in a shop in town, but we have a special relationship with the College and they queue good naturedly and even remember to say "please" and "thank you" (very refreshing in an age where we've come to expect communication from teenagers in 'grunt'.)

We, in turn, try to be accommodating and patient, giving the same courtesy to the one with only a few pennies to spend as to the one who spent over a fiver on a midnight feast (oops - don't tell the Headmaster!)



It's quite comical to see the new Juniors let loose to do their first bit of shopping. There is much deliberation and head scratching over choice, and one such little chap was taking so long that even I began to feel a bit irritated, let alone the queue behind him stretching onto the pavement. He looked at me earnestly over his pile of penny sweets and said "and finally could I have a Wham?" - I was sorely tempted!

**Denise MacGregor serving
Richard Lefeuvre**

We don't even get a break in the summer as the College is let to foreign students and we grapple with broken English from Spanish, French, Italian, Croatian and even Russian. Still kids are kids everywhere and we all manage to make each other understood. We do have our moments however when interpretations are a bit too literal - one good looking young Italian for instance, pointed to the Tango range of canned drinks and said "Picture me naked" - it spiced up my day I can tell you. Another asked for a can of "zup" - he meant 7-Up!

It's actually quite a relief to get our own lot back, although when a tall Sixth Former laconically asks for a "virgin" you have to understand he's only after a can of virgin coke. Also only the English understand about queueing - the overseas lot all rush up to the counter en masse waving £10 notes and shouting.

We consider ourselves lucky to have the College as it brings young blood into the village and many of the teachers, staff and their families live here too. On Sundays College and village come together, in the Church, the boys looking smart in suits and ties and the girls in shirts and jackets. Rendcomb Choir deserves a special mention; they give much pleasure and are well worth hearing.

Our village, like many others, has to work at encouraging a sense of community. We have a Harvest Supper once a year and this year our new vicar, the Rev Kim Taplin, had us falling off our chairs with a hilarious account of schoolboy howlers. Did you know for instance that according to one exam paper Christopher Columbus circumcised the world with a Big Clipper? We were also treated to some college students singing some lovely Gershwin classics - every year they do something different, the musical talent is tremendous.

As Christmas approaches we have our Village Christmas Party to look forward to, Carol singing around the Parish (yummy, lots of mulled wine and mince pies) and the Nativity Play performed by the youngest members of the Sunday School. All in all it's not a bad life running the Village Shop at Rendcomb.

Denise MacGregor

Founder's Day

Founder's Day took place on Saturday 23rd May. Refreshments were served in Clock Hall, where some of the school's talented pupils played music, while in the Dulverton Hall, visitors were able to see a splendid Art exhibition mounted by the Sixth Form Artists.

The speeches were given in the Gymnasium, all of which are printed below.

It was satisfying to see such a large number of people attending and to experience the unusually seasonal weather!

Head Girl's Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, and our Guest Speaker, David Prince, I would like to welcome you all to Founder's Day, especially our Guest Speaker and those of you who are here for the first time.

I hope you will understand what I am saying as public speaking is not one of my strong points and I have never done it before and I also have a tendency to gabble at a fast rate without anyone understanding a word of what I am saying - ask any of my friends!

My first memories of Rendcomb were five years ago, when I joined the school in the Third Year as one of the first Junior girl boarders.

I had been at Rendcomb for about an hour and was completely unsure of my surroundings and feeling very lonely. It was then that I decided I had had enough of this new place called Rendcomb College and ran across the Park at 8pm in total darkness to Stable House where I knew my parents would be saying goodbye to my brother. I burst into his room in floods of tears (yes, I'm sorry - I did go up to a boy's room) and begged them to take me home with them. I would hasten to add that Home at that time was in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, so being a Day girl was out of the question, and yes, they made me stay! I would especially like to say to the Juniors - don't worry, because even I sobbed my heart out on my first day at Rendcomb, so you are not alone.

Throughout my five years at Rendcomb I have certainly changed - just as the School has changed.

Unfortunately my sporting achievements have not improved in this time. This is demonstrated by one of the names Mr Morgan has called me on the hockey pitch "Twinkle Toes" - which is ironic because I have the grace of a hippopotamus.

I am happy to say that I have made myself Captain of Jogging - which I am doing this term along with five other girls, who are also Captain of Jogging! I also participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold, but unfortunately my feet could not cope, but I was able to do Duke of Edinburgh Silver, which did give me a sense of achievement and I strongly recommend that anyone considering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme should take part.

On the academic side I am certainly no Einstein, but one of the many things that Rendcomb College has taught me which I will never forget is that as long as I try my hardest - that is all anyone can ask of me.

As I stated before, Rendcomb has changed considerably since I first joined and its most momentous change so far has been the absorption of girls throughout the school, so that now there are almost equal numbers of girls and boys. I am delighted to report that in my particular year that it is not true as there are far more boys than girls!

Another change that seems to have occurred is in the punishment philosophy: tougher on smaller offences and more lenient on the far more serious offences. I have had to question this viewpoint, and still wonder to this day, why the punishment does not fit the crime.

Rendcomb College has certainly tried to improve the activities offered to the pupils during the weekend, especially for the Sixth Form. I know that the Senior House Masters and Mistresses and other members of staff have tried very hard to give us a jam-packed Saturday night before the Bar - and I thank you all for all the hard work you have done in this respect.

The Bar happens to be the high-light for many Sixth Formers, including myself. It certainly will be a shame if the School decided to stop it - as it brings us so much entertainment.

Looking back upon my time here, I have noticed how the respect for the older years from the Juniors seems to have been lost. When I was a Junior, I knew that the Seniors were someone you did not disobey - but recently this respect seems to have disappeared; it has, though, been replaced with confidence, which in some ways may be seen as much more beneficial.

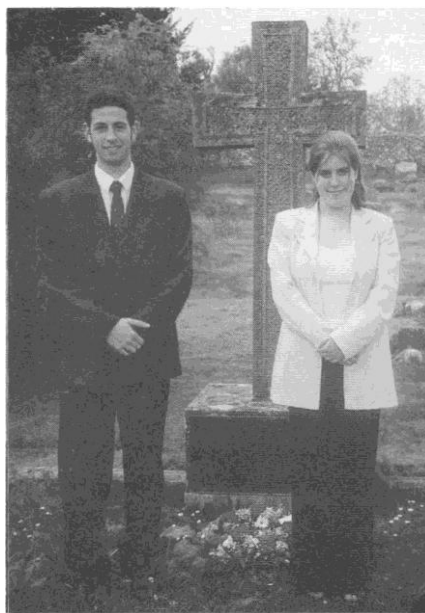
Looking back it is obvious to me that the positive changes far outweigh the negative ones.

There are many things which I will miss at Rendcomb. There is a warm and close atmosphere which I have never experienced in my four previous schools both abroad and in the UK. This is due to a good pupil/teacher relationship. I do hope that Rendcomb is able to keep this special relationship forever, as it is what distinguishes Rendcomb College from any other school.

Probably the most important thing I will miss about Rendcomb is my friends. I do not think I could ever have asked for a nicer group of friends (especially my closest ones), George Farr, Sophie Peters, Becky Perry and Rachel Gilyead. I would like to thank them for being such great friends over the past two years, and I hope they know how much they mean to me - I will never forget them, or any of my other friends I have made during my time here.

While I've been at Rendcomb I have had two sets of

House Parents - Mr and Mrs Stutchbury and Mrs Sophie Blackwell. For nearly four years. Mr & Mrs Stutchbury have had to listen to me complaining about a great range of matters and comforted me when I was upset. They were extremely kind and helpful and I am extremely grateful to them. I would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Essenhigh who were the Assistant House Parents for my First Year. They were wonderful at settling me into my new environment. Mrs Sophie Blackwell has, only been my House Mistress for one year, but in that time she has done such a lot for the senior girls. On behalf of all the girls in Park House I would like to thank her very much for all she has done for us.



The Head Boy and the Head Girl at the Founder's grave

I should also like to thank all my 'A' level teachers for accepting me into their classes, and strangely enough, I think I shall miss you all!

Being Head Girl has taught me many things. I have learnt to take responsibility and tried to show authority - and in return I got two bedrooms - which haven't been tidy since last year, much to the cleaners' annoyance I am sorry. I was also privileged to do a lot of rotas, which I am glad to say I won't miss one bit. Next September I am hoping to do Primary School Teaching at Bath, and I am sure that being Head Girl will help me tremendously with this.

Rendcomb has been able to prepare me for life outside school, for which I shall always be grateful.

I know I shall miss Rendcomb. It has taught me so many things, and has been such a great part of me for five years. I do hope that it will carry on being part of me for the rest of my life, but I know that I'm ready to leave Rendcomb and move onto the next stage of my life.

Before I finish my speech do you think you could do me a favour? Could you please make sure that the person sitting either side of you has not fallen asleep? If they have, could you please give them a quick nudge in order that they will not miss the remainder of Founder's Day? And to all of you who have stayed awake, thank you very much for listening to me.

The Headmaster's Report

Recently, I attended a balloon-launching ceremony.

It was a bitter-sweet occasion, a celebration and a farewell, because it was at the end of a thanksgiving service for the life of David Barnett, former College parent and recent Governor. At the service was read a poem he loved - "Safety" by Rupert Brook:

*We have found safety with all things undying,
The winds, and morning, tears of men and mirth,
The deep night, and birds singing, and clouds
flying,
And sleep, and freedom, and the autumnal earth.
We have built a house that is not for time's throwing.*

Then, after the service, we went out into the spring sunshine and watched big, round, brightly coloured balloons float up into the sky, with messages to David Barnett from a packed congregation tied to them. Several minutes passed in silence as the balloons gently drifted up and away, several minutes for us all to think our thoughts about the House David had built which was not for time's throwing. Rendcomb, which he loved, was part of that House.

And a second recent memory, also sad but triumphant:

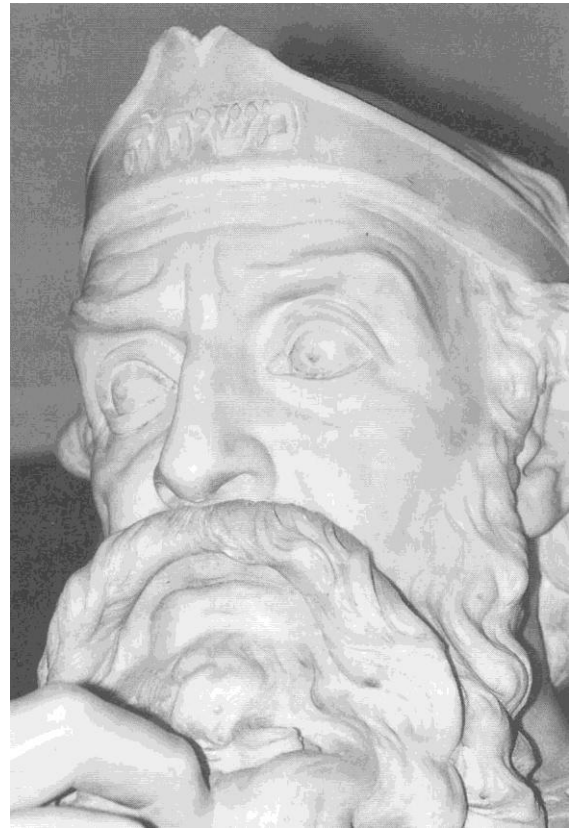
The great Biologist, Ernest Neal, the famous Badger Man, who did his early research, with the help of pupils when he taught at Rendcomb, died last month. At his thanksgiving service, his grandson read from Ernest Neal's Memoirs, *In Gratitude*.

In gratitude for life, for home, and very special relationships within the family covering four generations, for rewarding friendships, experiences, and opportunities to develop a variety of enthusiasms.

For being born into such a wonderful world so rich in beauty and variety. For eyes to glimpse its beauty, ears to catch snatches of its music, a sense of smell to appreciate some of the subtleties of its fragrance, and hands to explore some of its exquisite variations of shape and texture.

For the gist of curiosity concerning some of Nature's mysteries, and for deep feelings of awe and wonder at the majesty of it all.

And now, on Founder's Day, we celebrate the life and work of Noel Wills. In conceiving Rendcomb College, and establishing it in a place which could spark the imagination of Ernest Neal and so many others, he of all people built a house not for time's throwing.



In about ten minute's time I will hand over to our Guest of Honour, Mr David Prince. Membership Secretary of HMC. His title is typically un pompous and unrevealing, hiding the fact that he jointly leads the Headmaster's Conference, a society which, as you know from the old John Cleese film. "Clockwise", has in it the Heads of the leading Independent Schools in the country. He shows us the way, advises us and supports us in his work.

Previously, he was Headmaster of Reed's School, Cobham. We are delighted that you and Jenny could come, and hope you enjoy your short stay with us.

I don't want to delay Mr Prince more than I have to, and in this age of "News from Rendcomb" Newsletters. I hope you'll allow me to cut short my usual review of the highlights of the year. It has been the most exciting and successful year I can remember - probably the most successful ever. The buzz has been evident in every area of our activity.

In sport, superb results have poured in at all levels, with county and even national honours. More than half the school was involved in a dazzling and audacious Fashion Show; there was a joyous Ayckbourn play; Carol Services and Cathedral Evensongs (a University Director of Music happened to call into Bristol Cathedral during one of our rehearsals.

and wrote to me in delight and astonishment at what he had heard); a Rendcombian in the National Youth Choir; a Cathedral Choral Scholar; an Army Scholarship; A Junior Masterchef contestant; a Punch cartoonist; Understanding Industry; Science Week; an explosion of Strings Music; hours of Jazz on Bonfire Night; Indian Dancing; the fastest swimmer in the West of England; a Tennis star ranking in the top eight in the country.

And it is no co-incidence that an intellectually vibrant Sixth Form spawned a revival of debating, and a new Philosophy Society which meets regularly to share and test ideas.

I have a bulging "Nice Letters" file, and I'll quote just two. From a 10 year old visitor - "I enjoyed my visit endlessly"; and from our Chairman of Trustees, and Grandson of the Founder, after our production of a Mozart Opera: "I can honestly say that last night was one of the most enjoyable and happy evenings I can remember at Rendcomb."

Enough. You can see why I am so proud of the pupils you lend us for this precious time of their lives.

With a year like this one we have to ask what was the special secret, if only because we want to try and repeat it.

Well, the opening of the Astroturf gave new impetus to Hockey and Tennis. And the year also started with our tremendous 1997 'A' level and GCSE results, creating a new record, with over half of our 'A' level papers scoring A or B grades. This is achieved with the spread of ability which is characteristic of Rendcomb (it was one of our founding ideas) and it does not happen by chance.

Over the past year and more, we have taken a special look at our academic structures, and the way they affect learning, encourage a responsible attitude to work, and improve exam results. Our Director of Studies has special responsibility, but he would be the first to say that this has been a team effort by the whole staff.

From the beginning at Rendcomb, there are grades every three weeks, a mark for effort and a mark for achievement in each subject, and if you don't see these, do ask.

There are regular Academic Review meetings where individual pupils can be raised and discussed - and follow-up agreed. The tutor system works by Houses up to GCSE, and gives each pupil a chance to talk through his grades; in 6B a new tutor is chosen who teaches one of the pupil's 'A' level subjects. This new Sixth Form academic tutor system is reaching the end of its Second Year, and its effect on strengthening the advice and support available to Sixth Formers is

already being felt. There is also backing here for one of the quiet glories of Rendcomb - our careers and Higher Education advice. Each Sixth Former has regular guidance through the jungle of Higher Education opportunities. We take pride in the fact that every one of our 'A' level candidates in 1997 achieved the Higher Education of his or her first choice.

All this, as I have said, makes a difference, and we can measure it: in 1997 we topped the HMC table of most improved exam results.

But all the academic structures in the world are dead junk without the living force of excellent, careful and imaginative teaching. Our teachers are craftsmen; on their best days they are artists. They listen without rushing to judge, they guide, advise and - when it has to be so - they are courageously firm. Words of advice in a corridor, or over a cup of coffee or late at night or after a match or in a music lesson, mark in indelible ink what Wordsworth called:

*That portion of a good man's life
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and love.*

Kindness and Love. Not bad ingredients of self-forgetfulness and self discipline. I would like to say a little more about this.

In a recent survey, a thousand parents were asked what they looked for in a school; top of their list was good discipline. Alas, the investigators remain silent on the question of what they all thought good discipline was. In a recent staff discussion we decided to abandon the word on grounds of vagueness and use the phrase "high standards" instead. High standards that come from respect for each other, from self-respect, from the understanding that no-one is more important than anyone else, that I am not the only pebble on the beach, and yes, yes, that chewing gum is abhorrent and shirts should be tucked in.

We ask for your support with these little things because they help us get the big things right. Sometimes - even so - we feel a bit like King Canute. A week or two ago - in a moment of zeal I removed from the Sixth Form notice board some notices I felt were bordering on the tasteless. This was a high standards morning. I handed the offending material to the Head Boy and Head Girl with a little homily. Next day, a neatly typed note arrived on my desk:

We are writing on behalf of the Sixth Form concerning the matter of the removal of the posters. We would like you to understand that we do not agree with this action.

After this hammer blow there was some courteous explanation followed by the following diplomatic conclusion:

However, we do appreciate your concern and understand your reasons, so we will respect your wishes and attempt to keep the notice boards as clean as possible.

How could anyone be offended by this combination of principle and political adeptness? It also reminded me that at school - as in a family - you sometimes have to settle for half.

And Hannah and Tim treated me more gently than the little girl I met in an Infant Department on a visit to another school. "Have you ever thought," she said, "when I'm 21, you'll be dead?"

But back to Rendcomb. There is a place for firmness, and - rarely - for punishment. A place for setting limits, for saying we don't do that here - if you do you, must go somewhere else. But good teachers - and good schools - are not marked by bellowing, or a "Yes sir", "No sir" formality, but by the calm and quiet expectation that a certain kind of behaviour is expected and a certain other kind of behaviour is not.

Meanwhile, as Hannah implied, Rendcomb moves on. A new co-educational Day House, carefully prepared over the past two years, opens in School House in September. Our plans for the future include another step forward in the use of Information Technology, for teaching and research. We want further to develop Dulverton Hall, and, when funds permit, improve the facilities in the Sports Hall. How splendid it would be if this part of the site could include a covered swimming pool. To mark the Millenium we have plans to restore the lake to its former glory.

Usually, at this stage of my talk, I turn with gratitude to those who have made the past year possible: pupils, parents, all staff, (teaching and non-teaching, grounds and catering), Governors. Trustees. This year, forgive me if I thank you all collectively and briefly. I will say more on some future occasion. Instead this time bear with me if I thank just one group of people - the leavers from 6A. I want to turn to them with special attention, because there is no better way of describing what I feel about Rendcomb than to salute this year group. I don't insult them when I say that they are not necessarily an outstandingly special group - other years have had their characters too. But they are vividly representative of Rendcomb and I salute them.

And, perhaps those of us who go back far enough could think for a moment of the vivid memories that inspire these 38 Rendcombians. Memories of tries scored and teams captained, of "Oliver", of "Carmina Burana", of Haydn and Hockey, of county places, of Tennis and Squash, of bat management, of tackles and kicks, of speeches, of prefectship. of "Guys and Dolls" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream", of Netball and Riding and Shooting, of Archery and sponsored cycle rides, of fashion and Fauré, of glorious singing and dancing, of anthems and anguish, of work done and things understood, of runs made and wickets taken, of humour and friendship and belonging and trying and tolerating, of hours spent in this most beautiful corner of God's earth in the company of people worth spending time with.

They have built a house that is "not for time's throwing".

Thank you all.

The Guest Speaker, Mr David Prince, Membership Secretary, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

We were pleased to welcome Mr David Prince as guest of honour at Founder's Day this year. He is membership Secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference; as the Conference's Joint **Chief Executive**, he represents the interests of two hundred leading independent schools.

David Prince's speech:

Mr. Prince began by saying that he was aware that the wound up Basketball net was lurking behind him, ready to render him unconscious if he uttered any inappropriate sentiments. However he admitted that he was pleased to be here.

He had a great fondness for small schools, especially one run by an old friend, namely John Tolputt. He pointed out the intimacy of the community and the feeling of ownership which such schools generated. He mentioned that one could not become too grand in such a school, as the pupils would



The Headmaster and Mr Prince

not let one do so!

In his job as Membership Secretary of the Headmasters' Conference he said that he missed the

close contact with pupils, but that he had, after nine months in the job, been able to find his role.

The H. M. C. is a Trade Union for the Heads of some 240 independent schools with recognised academic standards and a well - established Sixth Form.

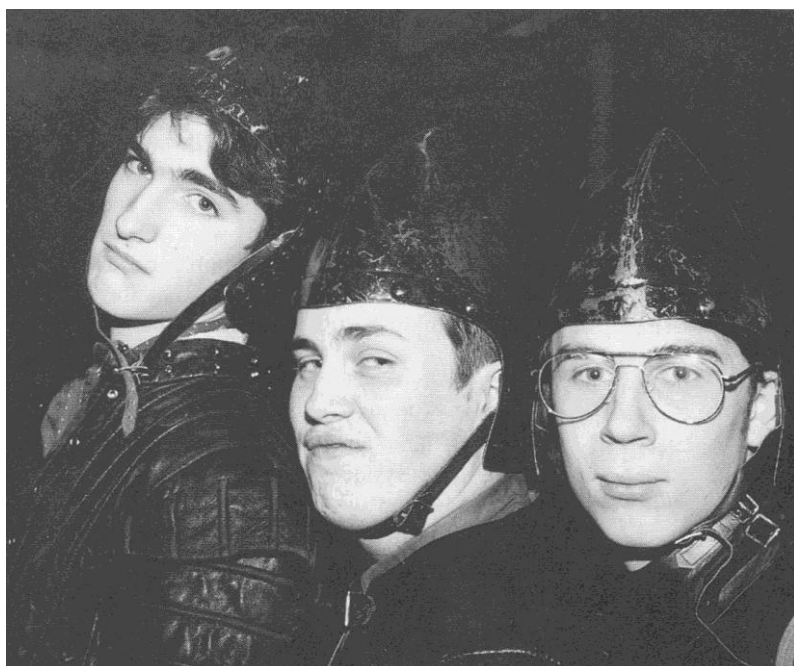
The greatest challenges to face education these days, and hence the H. M. C., are:

- a.) Where do schools find good pupils from?
- b.) How do we ensure pupils maintain academic standards, especially with the presence of League Tables which he felt enjoyed a mistakenly high place in the judgment of schools today?
- c.) How can schools maintain ethical standards in a world where these are questioned or ignored?
- d.) How can schools find good teachers in these days of national shortage?
- e.) How can we comply with all the laws governing everything from Health and Safety to Copyright?

Headmasters are being judged on their ability to cope with these challenges. Mr Prince likened them to tea bags; one can only judge their strength when you put them in hot water.

The H. M. C. is a support body for Headmasters which was sometimes necessary' as they, incredibly, are human. Equally education itself is not a manufacturing process; what, if it is, are pupils? They are what they have always been: "Young human beings full of vitality and unpredictability - capable of anything or nothing - wonderfully rewarding and occasionally disappointing." He described education as a culture, not a process, and as being evolutionary not mechanistic. He likened education to that of gardening; schools need to cull weeds and to cultivate flowers according to their needs. He felt that at Rendcomb we had a wonderful garden and a fine Head gardener!

He felt that the future for Independent Education



looked bright. H. M. C. was at the centre of building bridges with maintained schools and he stressed that there were more pupils in H. M. C. schools than ever before. However there were challenges to be met:

- a.) The abolition of Assisted Places.
- b.) The chronic shortage of good teachers.
- c.) The impact of I. T.
- d.) The pressure exerted on small schools financially, as compared with larger ones. We must retain parental choice.

Mr Prince pointed out that recently an H. M. C. school had been saved from closure by the will of its parents and past pupils so strong was its sense of community. Most pledges for money had been made over the Internet!

Mr Prince finished by wishing the Leavers the very best for their results, but hoped that they had gained much more from Rendcomb than just good A' Levels. He hoped that some of them might consider teaching as a career which he considered to be an enjoyable job of real importance which did not allow anyone to take themselves too seriously! He mentioned that early in his career as a Headmaster he had seen a pupil running late for a lesson. "Late again, James?" he had said, pleased at his ability to remember the boy's name. "Never mind Sir," came the boy's reply, "so am I!"

Mr Prince thanked the school for the privilege of being its guest.

Head Boy's Speech

First and foremost I would like to thank Mr Prince for his interesting and enlightening talk and I am sure that those of you who were listening for all of the allocated twelve minutes will agree. Thank you.

In my seven years at Rendcomb, there have co-incidentally been seven sets of Founder's Day celebrations, and including the 75th Anniversary celebration at Gloucester Cathedral, there have been six speeches made by the Head Boy. However this speech, I hope, will be a bit different. Firstly, because this will be the first speech made by a Head Boy in five years who hasn't taken English at 'A' level, I apologise now in case this is not as polished as you may be used to. But secondly, because almost by tradition the Head Boy will speak about how the school has changed so much since he started here; and although I don't disagree that the school has changed, I do feel that

Oliver Poole, Thom Gilbert and Theo Berry in *Ten Times Table* by Alan Ayckbourn

all of the changes that were pointed out by Charles Webb last year still apply (worms and all).

For those of you who did not have the pleasure of listening to Charlie's account of changing times last year, it is printed in the most recent Rendcombian magazine should you wish to read it.

Instead of the traditional talk of change, then, I am going to talk to you about what life is like being a pupil at Rendcomb so that those of you who are still here in five, six or even seven years' time might be able to judge the extent of any change for yourselves.

So, Head Boy of Rendcomb College - it's got a nice sort of ring to it, but what does it actually entail? Well, I'm not going to give away all of the trade secrets, like a flash company car and the huge annual salary, but I will aim to give you a useful insight into what it is like.

Being Head Boy means

- that you have the privilege of writing out lists upon lists of duty rotas for various essential tasks to be done about the school and boarding house.
- that you have the privilege of helping the office to organise tours for the hundreds of prospective parents who come to stroll around the grounds.
- that you have the privilege of giving up a day of your hard earned free time in order to help out at an Open Day or a Children's Fun Day.
- that you have the privilege of organising meetings for various committees throughout the school.
- that you have the privilege of getting up really early on a Saturday morning to run a check list of the attendance at breakfast only to find that it is as high as anticipated - (well at least by the boys anyway!)
- and of course that you have the privilege of writing and performing this speech to what seems a million people. A task for which I'm sure many of my peers do not envy me.

Added to the above there are the duties that come with the post of a school prefect.

These are things such as: -

- the doing of the duties for the rotas were made.
- attending the earlier meetings of the various committees.

and setting an apparent example that the rest of the school might follow.

In fact as it was once said at this occasion many years previous to this one: "The only perk of being a prefect is the privilege of taking responsibility for the action of others" and I have sometimes wondered how close to the truth that statement actually is.

But on top of all of this we must not forget the reason why my parents have paid all of this money to keep me at Rendcomb - my education. So, add to all of the extra duties previously stated, the stresses of studying for four 'A' levels, of finding a suitable place at university, of playing many hours of sport both in practices and in representing the school, and of actively participating in the very varied activities programme.

It is therefore surprising sometimes that we pupils, especially those in the Sixth Form, even have the time to think, amongst all of the academic and social pressures and commitments, and I'm sure that the rest of 6A would agree with me on that.

However over the past year, I have found some time to think, and it was not long before I had come to the conclusion that being a pupil at Rendcomb is potentially more stressful than being a member of staff, and yet while the pupils are the ones doing all of the work, it is still the staff who are the ones getting paid!

So maybe there is an argument for a wage to be paid to pupils, especially those in the Sixth Form (no favouritism of course.) Unfortunately, barring a major shake-up in the schooling system as a whole, it is obvious that this is an unlikely possibility, and although I am quite sure that there is no Sixth Former here today (myself included) who would refuse a financial supplement to fuel their expensive social life, I know myself that the times I have experienced at Rendcomb I will remember for many years to come, and I feel that these are more than payment enough for any hardships suffered.

And in spite of the more mundane and unappealing of the loosely labelled "privileges" that I pointed out earlier, there are also many other great memories that I will take away from my time at this school, some of which I am sure that I will treasure forever.

I have been given the opportunity to play three sports that were previously a new concept to me, at a competitive and inspiring level. I have been on excursions varying from the heights of entertainment on a Junior House canal boat trip in my Second Year, to the heights of many Welsh mountains on Duke of Edinburgh Gold expeditions last year, and from the adventures of Biology field work on the Gower peninsula in Wales, to adventures on the French exchange programme in Annecy - not forgetting the character building Rugby and Hockey tours to Devon and Bath.

There are also however three things that will especially stick in my mind about Rendcomb. Firstly the extent of the countryside around Rendcomb is often breathtaking, and the sheer expanse of the grounds is an unbeatable area for both relaxation and thought.

Secondly, the atmosphere of the school. Now when I said that I wasn't going to mention change today, I have to admit that I lied, but the atmosphere at Rendcomb has changed a lot in seven years, (or at least my perception of it has changed), for I admit that the respect, courtesy and appreciation for the school from the pupils is in decline, and is instead being replaced with an altered atmosphere for a new generation, perhaps with a closer camaraderie and certainly a new confidence. I only hope that a productive balance can be found between the two and I have every faith that Rendcomb will be able to find this balance, and so prosper in the future.

And thirdly, the other aspect that I will treasure from Rendcomb, and probably the one that I will treasure the most as it has easily produced the most vivid memories of my time here will be my fellow leavers. As I have long felt privileged to be among such a talented and diverse set of colleagues and friends. For these friends have constantly offered support to each other in hard times when an ear to talk to or a shoulder to lean on has always been close at hand. And not forgetting equal support in the good and great times where that same shoulder might act as a supporting aid in returning to house after a very enjoyable bar celebrating a Hockey or Rugby match victory, perhaps?

It is these friends, both those I have known for all seven years of my time here and so have experienced all of Rendcomb with me, to those of only a few years experience; these friends are what has made my time at Rendcomb what it is, a wonderful memory.

But now it is nearing the time to move on, as the final set of exams has already started. Soon it will be time to emulate the Rendcomb motto, "Quo Lux Ducit" - for where the light leads - I must now follow, and for the adventures that surely lie ahead, to be honest with you, I really can't wait!

Performing and Creative Arts

Drama

"Roar!"

On 11th June the Performing Arts 'A' level group (Ralph Barnes, Georgina Farr, Samuel Maylott, Rebecca Perry, Rebekah Taplin and Kate Nicholas) gave a performance for their last modular examination.

The evening consisted of four individual pieces of drama, dance and music. These were devised by the students from starting points given by the exam board.

These then led onto the group play written together by the students from the starting point poem "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" by Adrienne Rich.

The play explored how "Jennifer" was slowly driven to insanity due to a growing obsession with a tapestry of tigers. She began the tapestry to remind herself of the happy days she spent in India before her father was killed on a tiger hunt. As she continues the tapestry, the tigers that she is creating begin to haunt her and she hears them roaring. Eventually they possess her and the play ends tragically.

The audience consisted of family friends, teachers and the external examiner. The performance was greatly appreciated and highly praised. However the examiner managed to maintain the same dead-pan expression throughout, giving away no clues!

The Performing Arts group is very grateful to Mrs Dodd, Mr White and Mrs Bates for their guidance and inspiration.

Rebekah Taplin

The Marriage of Figaro (Pupils' story)

Near the end of the Summer Term 1997, when we were all feeling tired and easily persuaded, Mrs Morris presented us with the score for "*The Marriage of Figaro*", the famous Mozart opera. Since the idea of us performing in anything, let alone a full-scale opera, seemed laughable, we agreed to go along with it, thinking that it would all be forgotten over the Summer. But no - Mr White was on the case! Suddenly, we had all been assigned parts, whose names we seemed to have inadvertently adopted as our own for the next two terms.



Ashleigh Welch as *Cherubino*

Rehearsing began slowly and it all seemed manageable to start with - we sang the songs in our singing lessons and discussed our ideas briefly. Then Mrs Dodd was made director and suddenly we were living, breathing, eating and sleeping Mozart. 'A' levels were forgotten in a flurry of rehearsals and Park House echoed with the sound of Figaro, on tape, on video and from us. Soon, the whole school seemed caught up in the excitement including the Slark children and Harriet Stutchbury, dogs courtesy of the Greys and the Stutchburys, numerous hair and make-up artists, costume designers, music arrangers, opera experts, voice coaches, suppliers of props and scenery, stage managers, sponsors - even the RSC!

In only six weeks, we achieved what we thought would be the unachievable, thanks largely to the help of so many people and never-ending rehearsals and meetings. Mrs Dodd's constant flow of ideas kept us excited and the arrival of the furniture and costumes suddenly made it all seem very real and frighteningly close.

builders went on and the rest of the cast sat nervously listening to the action through a baby monitor.

Stepping onto the stage for the first time and facing a real audience made the experience seem even more amazing than we had expected. The Gala night audience was extremely responsive and supportive and the excitement of performing our opera for the first time could never be topped.

The next day we were inundated with requests for tickets and were able to seat everybody in the end. Although we were exhausted, we managed another two nights and compliments, cards and flowers reassured us of our success. The achievement of which we were most proud, was that we managed to impress the 6A boys, which is a hard task at the best of times!

For all of us, this was one of the main highlights of our time at Rendcomb, and an unforgettable experience which could never be repeated. Thank you to everyone involved; Mrs Dodd - it lived!

George Farr (Susanna)
Rachel Gilyead (Marcellina)



The 26th of March arrived, but the seating hadn't. Miss Phipps rang the suppliers only to discover that they had got the date wrong and were planning to arrive the next day. by which time Gala Night would be over. Eventually it arrived and was installed just in time for our first audience to congregate for pre-show drinks in Clock Hall. Meanwhile, we were backstage at our first cast meeting, warming our vocal chords and rushing to the toilet every five minutes!

Theo and Becky herded us down to the Green Room, where we waited in anticipation for the Overture to begin. As the first chords rang out, the scenery

The Marriage of Figaro II

The word I would attach to the excellent production of "The Marriage of Figaro" which we were privileged to see in the Dulverton Hall was BRAVE. Throughout, this quality was apparent. The very idea to stage a classical opera in a school was brave; the decision to support the singers with two pianos only was brave; the treatment of the overture and the scene building before the eyes of the audience was brave, but in all cases, the risks paid off handsomely - how much better to take risks and succeed than to play safe, and achieve mediocrity.

**Robert Bateman and
Julia Morris**

From the moment the pianos started to play, it was obvious that this was no ordinary school production. The idea of having the cast build the scenery before our eyes was a brilliant touch. Firstly, it connected the overture to the main body of the opera; secondly, it gave us the impression of a busy eighteenth century court focussed around the private drama which we were about to witness. Thirdly, it complemented the stunning set design of swirling, but perfectly formed music, both static and in motion at one and the same time, both a temporary movement of drama and a message for men and women of all times. The final removal of the cloth was as dramatic as any curtain opening that I have seen, and perfectly introduced the matter of the first scene, namely the decoration of a room in court.

Alastair Nye played his role from the very first line with utter commitment and clarity. His voice was remarkably mature for one so young, and throughout he remained utterly in control of the music. **Thom Gilbert** was a wonderfully happy choice for the operatic buffoon Signor Bartolo, who swayed from melodramatic malevolence to comedy with ease. His greatest test, his patter song in the first act, was executed with perfect precision, allowing his audience to hear every word. Marcellina was well played by **Rachel Gilyead** whose first appearance on stage this was. Her face seemed to ooze the jealousy she so obviously felt for Susanna, and her quiet but secure grasp of her character was sustained throughout. Rendcomb is lucky that **Ashleigh Welch** is so young. There is no doubt as to her talent and I look forward to seeing much more of her stage career. She produced an extraordinarily complete performance, singing with piercing beauty particularly her first song, I think, acting with utter commitment and energy and using her face to great comic effect. Particularly amusing was the wonderful play of a girl acting a boy pretending to be a girl. The odious Basilio was appropriately played by **Simon Webb** who seemed to be able to contort his body and his voice into a positive slick of sliminess. We were privileged to be joined by **Mr Robert Bateman** of Covent Garden, whose voice seemed to penetrate every nook and cranny of the Hall. The beautifully colourful tone that he was able to produce complemented the count's bombastic and aggressive character perfectly, and provided a solid base for the other performers to rest upon. We had to wait until the second Act before we meet by far the most interesting and carefully drawn of the opera's characters, the Contessa, whose arias were so well sung by **Mrs Julia Morris**. The desperately tragic figure of one who has lost the love of a husband, and yet who has to retain a public facade for his benefit, was expertly managed by Mrs Morris, and the comic goings-on in which she becomes involved for the benefit of the other characters, only served to highlight the poignancy of her two private arias. The Hall was



utterly silent during the singing of them, a fact which bears testimony to the singer's success. **Rebekah Taplin's** small role as Barbarina was beautifully played. Her acting was both energetic and immaculate, and her singing so colourful. It is perhaps a failure in the plot that she is supposed to be the daughter of the uncouth and alcoholic gardener, so amusingly played by **Ralph Barnes**. It is a hard role because his entry is so shattering of the well managed plan that so far has been successful, and hence it is easy for Antonio's entry to be an anti-climax. In this performance, however, Ralph's discordant rending of his character's rustic exclamations was both effective and really amusing. All reviews are personal, and so I make no apology for what follows. Despite all the talent that I have already mentioned, the most pressing reason for seeing this opera, and I saw it four times, was to witness the acting of **Georgina Farr**, who undoubtedly gave one of the finest school performances I have ever seen. She dominated the work from start to finish, as her part demands. Her voice was perfectly in control and sounded so mature. But most impressive of all was her stage presence. She used every trick in the book to convince, cajole, persuade, to force and to attract her fellow characters. Her relationship with the audience was perfectly judged, both utterly involving, but equally distanced; her face revealed all it should have done, and hid that which it should not have revealed. For me, the high point of her performance was her duet with Marcellina in the first Act when the two are battling to see who will leave the stage first.

The inclusion of so vast a chorus was a triumph. It lent depth to the world in which the opera was played, and it beautifully displayed the wonderful costumes which were such an impressive aspect of the whole thing. It was particularly lovely to see the younger members of the Stutchbury and Slark clans on show, slightly prettier perhaps than some of the clans' older members! The last scene was a fitting climax, and it was a mark of this opera's quality that the chorus's main strength vocally was not its volume but its accuracy.

The piano accompaniment was masterfully performed by Mrs Day and Mr White. Though I thought, in places, it was a touch thin, an inevitable result of

substituting two instruments for an orchestra, it worked perfectly for the accompanying of the singers; the balance being just right, the voices being able to be heard at all times. I thought the accompaniment was at its best and most subtle during the sextet of Act III when the familial relationships between a fistful of characters is discovered. The witty music perfectly supported the jumping voices.

Of course there were so many other people involved. The fact that we did not notice them bears testimony to their effectiveness, but without them the whole enterprise would have failed.

This was Mrs Dodd's first Rendcomb production. It was characterised by an intelligence, a sense of humour, an excellent cast atmosphere, thorough-going concentration upon detail and an exquisite sense of taste. I hope that we will see much more of her work, because, despite her strong denials to the contrary, the opera's great success was in large measure due to her.

Many congratulations to you all on a first-rate production. Rendcomb can be proud of itself.

JRM

Music

Q. P. Concerts

Classic Brass

On Sunday October 12th we were privileged to hear a performance by the Classic Brass ensemble in the Dulverton Hall. Under the leadership of Lee Duncley on Tuba, the group performed a varied programme of classical and modern pieces.

There were ten musicians altogether consisting of four Trumpets, four Trombones, one French Horn, and one Tuba. The programme began with "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" by Handel, which I have never heard before being played on brass, but nevertheless it was very impressive. The piece that I enjoyed the most was



a modern contemporary jazz tune called "Mr Jarvis" and I especially liked the way they performed the "Trumpet Tune and Air" by Purcell, with two solo trumpets playing the trumpet tune and the gentle but strong accompaniment carrying on behind.

Nick Jones, the trumpet soloist, played a lovely folk song "Danny Boy" and the players rounded the whole concert off with a very stirring German march which was tremendous.

It was a wonderful inspiration for all our young brass players to see such talent on show and hopefully it will have given them something to aim for in the future.

All in all it was a concert to truly savour and we wish Classic Brass much more success in the years to come.

Ralph Barnes

Barokfest

A delicious feast of Baroque Music was served up in the Reading Room on Friday 17th October. All the music that was performed was dated within (very nearly) a period of fifty years around the turn of the eighteenth century. There was music by Purcell, Telemann, Handel and Vivaldi. Instruments included flute, recorder, violin, and oboe as well as two particularly tasty dishes of vocal arias served up by Tristan Day and Richard Demczak, both of whom received what could almost amount to a standing ovation. A rarity was an overture by Handel presented by a sextet of clarinet players. For those in the know, clarinet music belongs to the next, ie clarion period, but what we enjoyed was probably one of the very first ensemble pieces ever written specifically for clarinets by Handel. Anna Marlowe, our 11 year old music scholar, sparkled away in her recorder sonata by an extremely obscure composer called Biraglio, while the house was nearly brought down by a thoroughly extrovert performance of Vivaldi's Double Violin concerto played by Katharina Blaum and Louise Bongiovanni. The whole concert proved to be a veritable banquet - everyone left feeling well satisfied if not exactly sated.

DBW

The Choir

The heat was on from the very start. A major service with lashings of music, new choir membership, new repertoire, and all to be put together within seven days from the start of term. Inducting our new Chaplain demanded no less and the choir worked their socks off to do him justice and welcome him in their appropriate manner. That set the pattern - learn the music and perform it in a trice. The momentum was like a rollercoaster taking in a very grand chapel Evensong in

Brass Group playing at the Bonfire Party

The Choir singing for Japanese visitors

Gloucester Cathedral (very special, that was,) music for Remembrance Sunday and a most exotic mix for Advent Sunday. Never before had the College witnessed a peripatetic service, moving from the sumptuous acoustics of Clock Hall and its grand staircase to the Church with a stop off at the Arts Block for a reading. The music of Pachelbel's Canon played by the strings on the landing gelled with the organ version greeting the candlelit congregation as they arrived. In the College Britten's "Hymn to the Virgin" never sounded so magical with the choir on the stairs in Main College and the semi-choir secreted half-way up the Tower. The building proved to be as much a musical instrument as the singers. Translated into the Parish Church for the main Carol Service, the division of the choir between stalls and Tower at the back proved almost as ethereal and just as miraculous.

The rest of the year was far less frenetic because time and energy was taken out by Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" in the Lent Term, but still the choir had time to prepare special music for Confirmation Sunday and for another choral evensong - this time at Bristol Cathedral. Our groupies supported us very well and the Cathedral authorities were a little surprised to find so well supported and gloriously sung a service midweek by "just one of those visiting choirs." A passing Director of Music even wrote to say we sounded wonderful and looked professional. Which the choir always does - so there!

The choir remained as strong and numerous as ever, trespassing into the holy of holies, the sanctuary on high days. The alto line has never been so strong with Louise Bongiovanni and Rosanna Warrington. The tenors were in fine form, ably led by Simon Webb, supported by Paul Bongiovanni and the (always) late Carlos Garcia. Richard Demczak decided he would forsake the treble line and try out his boots voice. With a double whammy of Rebeccas (Taplin and Hogarth) and Gemma Leathart, the 6B contingent made sure George Farr and Rachel Gilyead were not left on their own. Thom Gilbert and his cronies kept the bass line strong, laughing and swaying.



The choir was fortunate in having a plethora of organists this year - Simon Webb, Mr Richard Lester, Mr Tadman Robbins, and last but not least Miss Phipps who did a grand job negotiating the pedals in her platform heels. Mr Taplin smiled in a slightly bemused way through it all, and was apologetic about his guitar playing. He broke his choral duck by intoning the Responses at both Cathedrals in the right kind of way, the sort of way expected of new vicars. Here's to the next year, man!

DBW

The Gentlemen of St John's

In the preface to his *Psalms, Sonnets and Songs* of 1588, the composer William Byrd wrote that "... there is not any music of instruments whatsoever comparable to that which is made of the voices of men, where the voices are good, and the same well sorted and ordered". Those who heard this concert by the Gentlemen of St John's undoubtedly agreed with the sentiments expressed by Byrd - "resplendent", "stunning" and "wonderful" were just some of the words overheard by this reviewer as the audience left at the end.

The Gentlemen of St John's is a male-voice ensemble, made up of the choral scholars of St John's College, Cambridge. In university term they provide the alto, tenor and bass parts for the college Choir, one of the greatest choral foundations in England: outside term they give concerts all over the world. Indeed, their concert at Rendcomb was arranged by Edward Tolputt (who sings alto with them) as a warm-up for their tour of Japan, which began just days afterwards.

As soon as the concert began, it was clear that the audience (congregation?) in the church was in for a treat. The sound the Gentlemen conjured up was rounded, full and impeccably balanced, and the ensemble was excellent. The opening Renaissance motets were impressive - particularly the serenity of the Mouton, with its rapt, hieratic lines so clearly brought out, and the dark, rich sonorities of Tallis so well balanced. This was fine music-making.

Naomi Phipps practising for a concert in Bath.

The Renaissance pieces were then contrasted with more modern fare. Tavener's "The Lamb" was as heart-stopping as ever - so simple, yet so profound - and Biebl's "Ave Maria" (a real find of a piece) showed just how well the choir could control dynamics, from a ringing fortissimo to a hushed pianissimo. Only in the second Tavener did the standard slip somewhat: both tuning and ensemble were not totally secure, though the great pillars of sound at the climax captured the awe which Tavener (and Blake) intended.

Resuming in the Dulverton Hall after the interval, the Gentlemen showed that their abilities extended far beyond the confines of music from the choir stalls. The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard, so complex in its rhythms, was perfect, but the highlight for me was the Vaughan Williams: excellent words, impeccable blend, and that aching longing that lies just below the surface of so much of the music in the English pastoral tradition. The silence before the applause began just said it all.

As a final envoi, we were treated to a scintillating display of vocal and rhythmic pyrotechnics in the spirituals and close harmony arrangements. You could sense the choir relaxing now, and sheer quality was the dominant impression. Here were singers clearly enjoying themselves, revelling in their abilities, and holding the audience in the palm of their hands. As the cellist Pablo Casals once said, "the most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all". It was simply tremendous!

This, then, was a superb concert by masters of their craft. Is it too much to hope for a return visit next year?

MHG

Fashion Show

"LOVE '98"



For those expecting a particular style to the Fashion show, "Love '98" would have been confusing. In the two hours of entertainment that took place in the Dulverton Hall, we were privileged to be able to

witness an interpretation of almost all forms of Love. There are too many acts to mention all individually, but some stood out.

I was particularly taken with the first number "Dance me to the end of Love", when the utterly elegant Becky Perry danced with absolute composure, entertaining in turn The Head Boy, Thom Gilbert and Jack Garland, all of whom coped with this privilege very well!

A rather different form of love was demonstrated by Ralph Barnes who seemed utterly at home in his Mac' and umbrella. Crowds of First and Second Year pupils graced the stage for their two numbers "Night life Love" and "Hot Love" which were wonderfully



colourful, whilst, in complete contrast, "The Men in Black" (in reality five of the Third Year boys trying to look hard, a common aim in their case!) provided a less colourful but equally striking interlude.

This was followed by the delightful "Barbie Love" in which Alice Barefoot and Amanda Lomax appeared in an unusually sweet light, dressed as dolls. Tim Hill was able to prove his manliness by carrying them out. It was unclear whether Paul Bongiovanni acting as James Bond (Pierce Brosnan look out!) was shaken or stirred by his encounter with Rosie Warrington, Jenny Arnold and Jay Chai, but for the audience the effect was stunning, as much as anything due to some inspired lighting.

In "Foolish Love" and "Sweet Love" the Second Year girls revealed both sides of their nature, while in "Summer Loving" we were given a breathtaking exhibition of Rendcomb's latest craze "Rollerblading", on this occasion the skates carrying Adam Card. After Sam Maylott had received his just deserts at the hands of George and Annabel, Nellie Abbott and George Scot - Simmons appeared as devils and proceeded to poke people with enormous plastic spears: perhaps hell is not so bad a place after all!

This was followed by a kaleidoscopic trip from Paris to Spain, from Ancient Greece to St. Trinian's all of which produced their own special forms of entertainment, but it was back to Britain in the late

20th century before long with a particularly masculine performance by the Spice Girls. Never had the five looked so attractive! (particularly as they waited on Saturday in crouched positions for their music to be found!) Mr Vuolo introduced a rather more sophisticated section with a beautifully sung “Mr. V’s Love Song”. The following two numbers included some stunning oriental clothes with some breathtaking hats designed and made by Mrs Slark. Hats of bizarre dimensions and walking sticks used in novel ways followed as we sunk to an underwater scene involving five mermaids from 6B in an extraordinary display of aqueous colour. We turned again to the Orient; particularly stunning here was a display by the Chaiwatanasirikul sisters of dresses based upon butterfly designs (my only regret was that Kitipong did not appear as a moth!) Via a humid jungle scene we travelled to India where we saw a number of stunning displays, my favourite being of an Indian wedding, involving amongst other novelties, incense. But as if this wasn’t a sufficient finale in itself, we were treated to the “Half Monty”, half in the relative paucity of clothes removed rather than of the quality of the performers (or so I am told)!

Personally I found the event an utterly colourful and enjoyable show, and I was amazed by the variety of costumes and the talent which went into making them. I was also struck by the bravery of those performers who so energetically entered into the spirit of the occasion. Particular praise must go to all those who organised the event, as I know that though Mr. Griffiths, Miss Houghton and Mrs Blackwell did a great deal of work, it was almost entirely organised by the pupils themselves; a very great credit to them.

(See pages 42 and 43 for photos)

JRM

Fashion Show bitlets

“Each Act was more unpredictable than the act before. The audience was clapping or laughing or just screaming and by the time the Half Monty came on, the audience was shouting ‘encore’ ”

Anon.

“An excellent concoction, ranging from an Indian Wedding to the Half Monty and all kinds of things in the middle. ”

Anon.

“My hair was getting wilder, whackier and bigger every night! ”

Zuki Turner

“On Friday Night we had a stroppy sweetie who refused to have her hair and makeup done! ”

Emma Cassidy - Gray.

“It’s that time again! This year’s Rendcomb College Fashion Show is here, and it’s even bigger than last year’s.

Edward Vaughan-Hughes

One of the best acts for the boys was when George Farr and Annabel Howard were in very tight skirts and tops, but for the girls it was when some of the prefects did the 3/4 (sic) Monty

Will Hodder

“Sam Naylopp (sic) was one of the most common actors”
Anon.

“Love”

Love will not be seized,
You cannot tame it.
It will blossom like an apple tree,
But withers if harsh winters come.
It is more beautiful than
Beauty itself.
But has the sting of a scorpion.
Fresh spring fields full of flowers
But lions await among the grasses,
Ready to pounce.
Like a stream, glistening and clear, until it reaches a dam.
Water flows thin,
It seeps through cracks.
It has the taste of fruit juice,
Rich, sweet and good.
But can turn to passion,
If the wrong hand pours the cup.

Rosanna Warrington.

“Love”

Love has no form,
Love has no sound.
It hides deep inside you,
Waiting to be found.

True Love is never forgotten,
It scars the heart forever,
The memories always remembered,
Are of two lovers together.

They say love is written in the stars,
To live ever-lasting life,
Love can be found anywhere,
In any man or wife.

Love is all around us.
It has no sense of time,
I sit here waiting every day,
For true love to be mine.

Jenny Arnold

Love is a contradiction

It's sugar and spice, bitter and sweet;
It's a cross roads where no two paths meet.
It's harsh but gentle, dark but light.
It's blind and yet it has sight.

Anon.

Design Technology

What was C. D. T. has become, during the year, a new course that should really take off at Rendcomb. The workshop and design studio have been very busy this year and a wide range of projects have been undertaken during lessons and activity sessions. There were lots of bright badges, garden sculptures, brilliant boats and some amazing bird boxes produced while Duke of Edinburgh cabinet making continues a long history of fine woodworking at Rendcomb.

The lessons were taught in the first two terms by Mr Hill and in the Summer Term by Mrs Boyd and Mr Auld. There has been a real buzz about the place so next year watch this space!

MSG



Art

Helen's Fourth Year Art Trip to London

We all went by coach to the National,
Sitting by a column deep in the Capital.
We saw Duccio, Da Vinci and Renaissance Titian
And marvelled at their ancient condition.



Rembrandt looked browned off and sad
While Vincent Van Gough was colourfully mad.
Turner and Constable, that's Joseph and John
Were picturesque and both really shone.
Then Monet and Seurat - they really impressed
(They were the ones that we thought the best.)

We walked to the Tate.
How very ornate!
It was all a bit odd
And terribly mod
But I knew I'd finally finished my mission
When I discovered the Freud exhibition.

We got home late
and Pizzas we ate
Thanks to all
but we lost the football!

Helen Pearce
(with help from Bob Knight and MSG!)

Details of work in colour section following

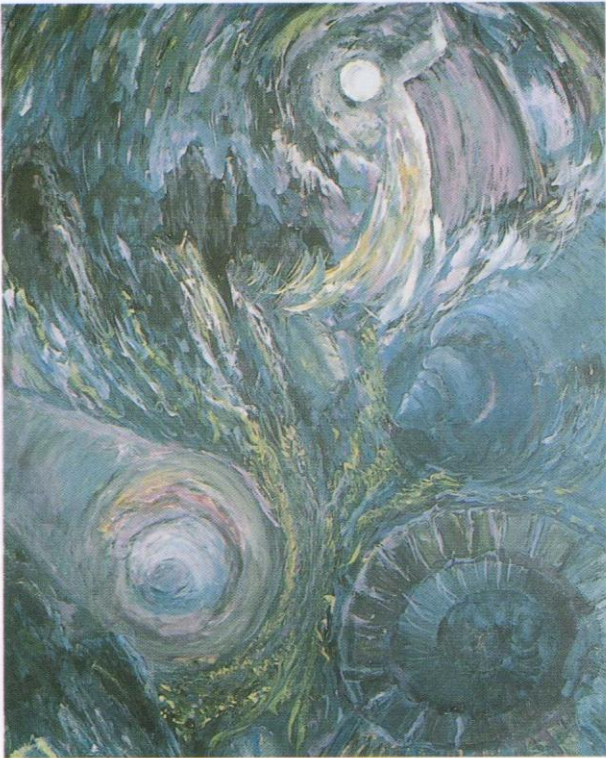
- a Chas Holliday 6A "Kippers" Oil Paint 24"x24" b
- Toby Abbott 6A "Reclining Giant" Oil Paint
80"x18"
- c Ralph Barnes 6A "Spirals" watercolour &
pastel 24"x18"
- d Becky Perry 6A "Merging" watercolour &
pastel
- e Lisa Engelstädter 6B "Flower Forms"
watercolour 48"x36"
- f Toby Abbott 6A "Self Portrait" Oil Paint
60"x36"
- g Jack Garland 6A "Acrobat" Multi Media
60"x40"
- h Jack Garland 6A "Lady Taming a Bull"
Multi Media 60"x36"
- i Tara Sleggs 6B "Self Portrait" Poster Paint &
pastel 36"x24"
- j 2nd Form Artists Indian Collage Inks 24"x18"
- k 2nd Form Artists Flowers Collage Multi-media
Various Sizes
- l James Gibbs 6A D of E. Sculpture Clay 48"high



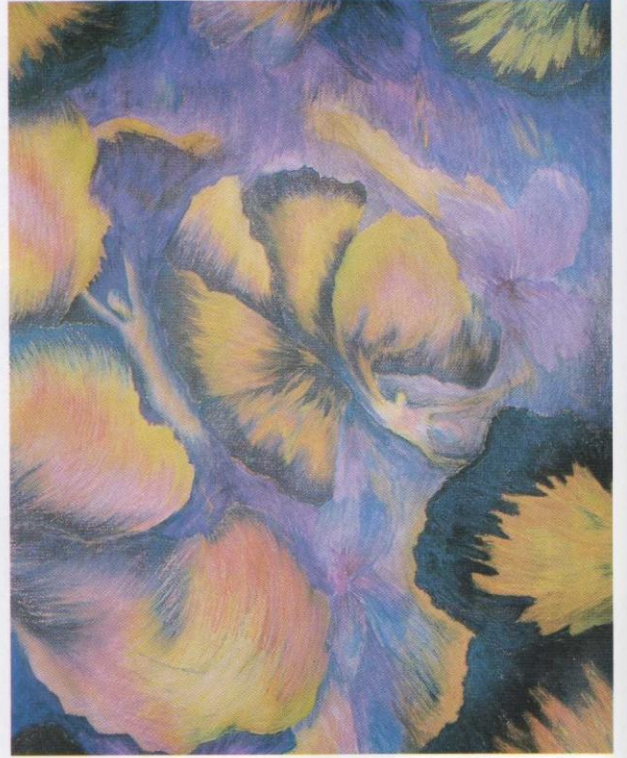
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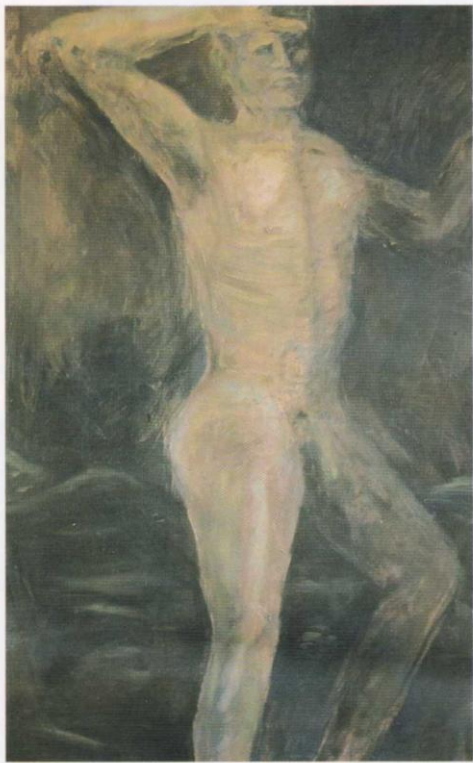
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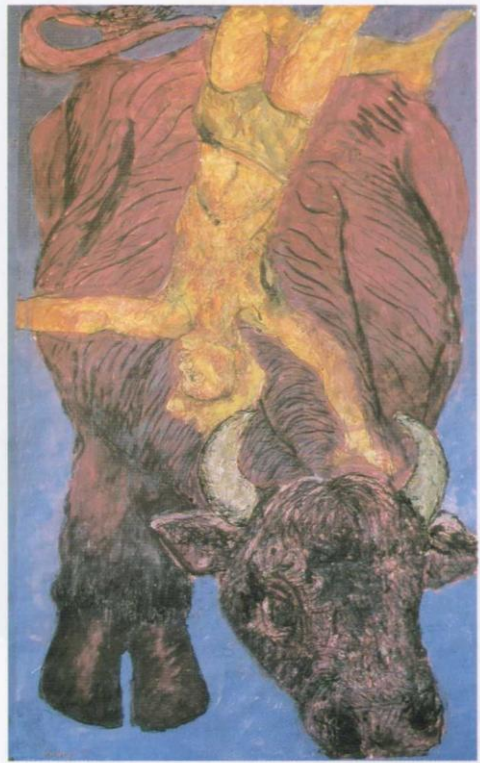
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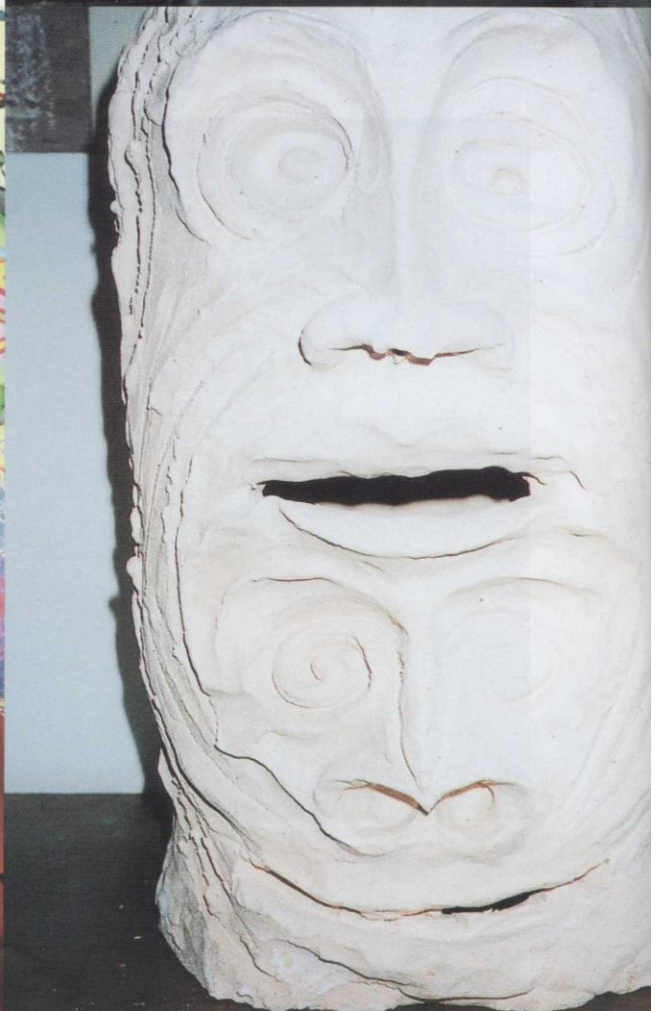
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MADRID

FRI 13TH : Very very early, three brave Art teachers and 25 students leave Rendcomb...



10:00am Arrive at Madrid airport.



11:00am Everyone enjoys chocolate con Churros in the Plaza Mayor



and enjoys exploring Madrid...
3:00pm THE PRADO! Huge and brilliant, Goya + Velázquez especially.
7:00pm Siesta!
10:00pm Evening meal and it was



a typically tasty Spanish dish...

11:30pm Everyone seems to stay up all night in Madrid and we recognized some of the sounds...



It was very jolly but the breakfast hell seemed to ring very early the next day!

SUN 15TH The Flea market, the Park and Picasso's Guernica... the evening meal was a huge Paella.



(We were very sleepy)

MON 16TH TO TOLEDO. A huge cathedral, medieval streets, sunny sky and warm ochre buildings. A picnic and El Greco but tourism does have its down side...



7:00 pm

Flight Home
Everyone tired but hugely impressed and all want to go back again...



They quickly found their bearings and unpacked enjoyed a Spanish lunch... visiting the Thyssen collection to see the wonderful art collection



2:30pm Culture
4:00pm Food + Culture
Everyone enjoyed the evening meal and made a funny joke

They visited a friendly bar



and found that by using a few words of Spanish the place became very friendly



10:00pm Everyone tried to sleep...

ART AND DESIGN

'98 was a really busy year with lots of students doing lots of different things. The main Art room was different to start with but was as tidy as ever.

OCT There was painting and printing and pastels and perhaps a little perspiration and lots of inspiration and some really big flower pictures

NOV There was 'A' level and GCSE and at times D of E and the activities were all really busy.

DEC Lots of life drawing for art college brought out the best and self portrait was popular with the rest. Posters were bright, many and pretty. Rock n' Roll for Christmas and Oli's were witty

JAN India filled the place in the New Year and mock exams introduced some fear.

FEB The trip to Madrid was about it or at least the bits that the editor saw fit.

The Fashion Show was really great all those clothes we had to make. What a sensation but let's be fair after all, LOVE was in the air!

MARCH All those hearts on the wall will they break if they fall

APRIL Exams are here projects are in silence studios who dropped that pin?

The Paintings are great the Sculpture is too and lots of printing MAY in gold, pink and blue

Landscape still life and lots of meat Tony tried to draw his feet

Acrobats and Giants too, lots of flowers it looks like Kew! It all looked great in Dulverton Hall

JUNE Private view. The invitation from the school was designed by Oli. We went to London and saw the Tate and next years students look really great.

Poetry

A Salute to T S Eliot

The room had a certain dead feel,
The damp musky smell
Of years neglect penetrated
My unfortunate smile.
The moth bitten curtains hanging
Precariously to the wall.
The wallpaper sagging
Like a half-hearted attempt
In a struggle for breath.

The hazy sound of a cracked radio
Mixed the discord
With the smoke of yellow stained fingers.

Her face frail and forgotten
With a fixed empty stare.
The veil of her hat
Clinging loosely to her hair.
Her quiet, miserable expression
With a knowledgeable air,
Of times better, memories lost
And images more graceful than fair.

And through those curtains
I saw nothing.
Spreading.
But through those curtains
I smelt the stench of life.
Through those curtains
I saw a million other possibilities
And through those curtains
I jumped
At the thought of a world
I did not know.

But I cannot say how it should be.
Or how I should be.
Or how the spinning, etching
Blade of my miserable days
Should come to another's judgement.

But these are all just questions
And I have heard them times before.
In a million situations, a million rooms
Under the light of a cracked, broken dawn.
And I could not wish for anything more.
As I know nothing else.

Sunday made me sick
Through feeble light bulbs.
And stale coffee
Reminiscent of better times.
The crazy, fading light

Flicked once in her eyes.
And died.
And with it went the past.
Opened the door And slung me aimlessly In the gutter.
Without a penny or a thought to my name.

Thom Gilbert

T S Eliot in Homage

C'est si bon

*Je cherché ma reve,
Mais c 'est une futilite.*

I'm not sure - let's run.
Accelerate to the next stage,
I'm agitated by impatience.
Or walk, enjoying this phase.
Examining over everything.
Not missing anything.
Yet always dreaming
About what's to come.

I want to break up.
To live life like soap,
To rush ahead on the path.
To reach my dream.

But what if I go too fast,
And pass the turning by?
What if I get there too soon,
And my dream hasn't arrived?
What if I got there when not ready,
And so rush on by into my grave,
Having passed countless pleasures by
In my haste to reach the impossible perfect?

Let's walk.
Slowly.
Over time.
Savouring each explosive moment,
Investigating every' nook and alley.
And if I arrive too late
And my dream has passed on.
At least I will have lived a life,
And be sure that the dream never was.

Theo Berry

If

If you can wait in the lunch queue without pushing in.
If you can be at lessons on time and not take time for granted.

If you can be kind to others even though they are different.

If you can work hard when all around are playing the fool;

You'll be a Rendcombian my son.

Richard Burden
Form 1

"Ode to Mrs Blackwell's Fascination with 18thC and Early 19thC English Romantic Poets"

I love the noise these clouds make
High in this English heaven.
While bluebells ring in the distant hills
And green leaved birds sing.

MSG

The Nose

Wednesday, the 17th June saw the publication of the first number of "The Nose", Rendcomb's new satirical magazine. Circulation was high, no doubt readers wishing to be the first to see what had been said about them!

The quality was excellent; I have had dealings with a number of School Mags, none of which was as good as this one.

It was written and type set by the students themselves.

We all look forward to seeing next year's editions!

Contributors: Edith Birdhouse, Adrian KK Hicks,



Ozimandias (King of Kings), Sir Anthony Cecil, Hogmany Melchitt, Lord Dome, Dick Tator. Ruth Less, S T Ake, Carson O'Genic, Onya Bike and others.

Remember: Pick "The Nose"!

JRM

Science at Rendcomb

6A Chemists to Bristol University

Professor Roger Alder, an Old Rendcombian, kindly organised for 6A chemists to experience the analytical techniques which appear in the 'A' level *Methods of Analysis and Detection* modules. He had arranged for a particular substance to be analysed by various instruments and the pupils then had the task of deciphering the resulting traces, known as spectra, and finally identifying the chemical. Dr Ken MacNeil demonstrated the use of the mass spectrometer and helped to put the isolated theory of the classroom into perspective whilst Dr Martin Murray gave a lucid talk on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, known to most people as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (body scanners). He showed the power of the magnetic field produced by the super conducting magnet by allowing the instrument to attract his bunch of keys so that they were horizontal. The magnet consists of a niobium- tantalum alloy cooled by boiling liquid helium at an unimaginable temperature of 4 Kelvin or -290°C . Finally Professor Alder ran infra-red and ultra-violet spectra of the chemical and Rendcomb's chemists departed better prepared for their impending *MAD* module.

CJW



As part of Chemistry week in November members of 6B, 5 and 5A attended a lecture-demonstration given by Dr Ann Hubbard and Mr John Hanson at Bristol University. This treasure chest of molecules was in the form of many experiments designed to delight primary school children whilst stretching the imagination of Sixth Formers and beyond. The audience experienced changes of state with dry ice and liquid nitrogen, the principles of explosions with many loud bangs and the phenomenon of photochemistry as illustrated by the fluorescent sticks which were on sale at the end. Since many of the experiments carried out are now forbidden or difficult to do in school laboratories, it was a real treat for staff and pupils.

CJW

The Heliochronometer

In the Stable Courtyard we have a piece of history which some of you may have seen in action. Whenever I have demonstrated it to classes the instrument has always told the time to within one minute of the Stable Clock.

Designed by George Gibbs, the Pilkington and Gibbs Heliochronometer was initially designed to provide an accurate standard mean time check from the sun in order to set mechanical clocks. This was before the general availability of telegraph and wireless time signals. There were about 1,000 instruments made from 1905 to about 1913 and they were sold all over the world. In fact they became rather fashionable after King Edward VII acquired one in 1908. Several types were built and the Rendcomb one is a universal type like the King's, capable of being used anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere.

The instrument is mounted on a pedestal decorated by swans and is aligned with North. To operate it one must set the exact day and month by rotating dials and then the whole assembly is moved until the sun passes through a hole and shines on a line target. At this point the time may be read from the scale in hours and minutes. Very few of these heliochronometers are kept outside. Fortunately ours has been protected by a glass bell-jar cover; however significant corrosion of the working parts has taken place and the instrument only just functions.

I am extremely grateful to Graham Aldred of the British Sundial Society who has taken so much interest in our sundials and who furnished me with much of the above information. Interested readers might like to think where other sundials are to be found in Rendcomb.

If anyone has occasion to visit Kingswood School in Bath, there is a similar instrument alongside many other types of sundial in the grounds.



CJW

Science Week

More events are now available to schools and most pupils experienced some aspect of science, engineering or technology during Science Week.

Third Year pupils visit to the Natural History Museum, Kensington

On **Monday 16th March**, all our form went to the Natural History Museum in London. We were all looking forward to a day out of school and were pleasantly surprised by what we saw.

We visited the ecology section where we discovered a rainforest display, a giant video globe, a leaf factory and much more. Everyone was given questionnaires to fill out as we went round certain sections of the museum.

After Creatures, Dinosaurs and lunch we went off in our own groups in the Memory section, where again we filled in another questionnaire and fiddled with games and videos to test our memory, then last of all we went to the Earth section where we went into a simulator of an earthquake.

We left the museum at about half past three and returned for school tea at six. Everyone enjoyed the day and can't wait for the next day out of school!

Sarah Padmore

“Magic of Eye and Brain”, a lecture-demonstration by Mr Alan Ward at Rendcomb for First and Second Year pupils

On **Tuesday 17th March** Alan Ward returned to Rendcomb to talk to the junior forms about “The Magic of Eye and Brain”. He enthralled us with optical illusions, both ancient and modern, and explained the secrets of 3D cinema. At the end of the hour, our eyes had fooled our brains into believing that what we had seen was magic.

DRB

“You are what you eat, so what should you eat?” - an Institute of Biology lecture at the University of Bristol

Mrs Ramsay and Mrs Stutchbury took pupils studying GCSE Biology and Food and Nutrition to attend the above lecture on **Wednesday 18th March**

The lecturer had a wide variety of samples to show the audience and held their interest with a lecture about the dilemmas that face the consumer, and also considered messages about food and healthy eating.

ER

Institute of Chemical Engineers' event at Nuclear Electric, Gloucester

On **Thursday 19th March**, various companies had set up their displays in the Sports Hall and each school group spent about ten minutes at each stand during which time they were able to learn just what Chemical Engineers became involved in. Here are some examples:-

1. A student from the University of Bath demonstrated the technology behind a working model cooling tower. Various parameters were altered and pupils were invited to predict and explain the effects.
2. Spirax Sarco, a company based in Cheltenham, manufactures equipment for controlling steam. It was explained why steam is the easiest way of moving heat around a large factory and how important it is to be able to supply or remove heat from chemical reactions.
3. Another company, Walls, makes enough ice cream for everyone in the UK to have a three litre carton each year. Control of low temperatures is very important in both manufacture and storage. This is achieved by harnessing the latest heat of evaporation of liquid ammonia and the process was well explained and demonstrated. The free samples at the end were much appreciated.

CJW

"Energy" and "Radioactivity" lectures at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education"

On **Friday 20th March** the Sixth Form physicists went to Gloscat in Cheltenham to listen to a lecture on radioactivity which had been arranged as part of National Science Week.

At the very start of the talk we were made aware that most of the ionising radiation which we receive is from the sun and radioactive materials in the Earth itself: medical X-Rays and radiation treatment make a very small contribution and the nuclear power industry contributes even less. Indeed, radiation alarms are activated in power stations if any of the personnel have received medical radiation treatment, as also would a

piece of granite which the speaker had had picked up in a car park in Cornwall. Even coffee beans were shown to be radioactive!

The penetrative properties of alpha, beta and gamma radiation were illustrated and an illuminating video showed how they passed through the skin of our bodies and interacted with the underlying cells. A further video illustrated a nuclear fission chain reaction in which one array of several hundred set mousetraps, representing fissile nuclei, each loaded with two marbles, representing neutrons, were all fixed in a very short time interval when a single marble (neutron) was thrown into the arrangement

Overall this was an interesting talk which provided stimulating revision for the radioactivity and medical physics parts of the 'A' level syllabus.

JHS

GJS

Food and Nutrition Department

This is my first year at Rendcomb College and it certainly has been most successful and eventful with many interesting things happening.

First, Second and Third Year boys and girls can choose to do a cookery activity per week. I am currently encouraging these pupils to work towards the Silver Award Scheme of which there are three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

I envisage First Year doing Bronze, Second Year Silver and Third Year Gold. All of the awards involve some written work such as designing a meal/snack for a specific purpose, basic nutrition, surveys, etc, and a practical test where pupils make the chosen snack or meal.

If pupils achieve all of the elements then they will be rewarded with a photograph of their dish and a certificate.

Fourth and Fifth Years can opt to study Food and Nutrition at GCSE level and I currently have two mixed groups doing the SEG examination. The exam requirements have changed over the years and pupils now need to be prepared for a large amount of detailed written work as well as coursework.

The Sixth Form is also able to choose to do cookery either purely for pleasure or for part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, where practical cookery and some knowledge of nutrition, safety, table laying etc. are required.

Some of the major events of the year were:

Raising money for Childline. The pupils and staff of Rendcomb raised £41.47 for "Childline" by making and selling telephone shaped cookies and small cakes.

Making Christmas Cakes by the GCSE group.

A Japanese meal. When Fumi Saito from Japan was staying at Godman House she assisted members of 6B to entertain their friends to a Japanese lunch.

Congratulations to Robert Knight who was selected from 14 school children from the Midlands area to compete in the next round of the Junior Masterchef competition. *(See Robert Knight's article below)*

ER

1998/9 Junior Masterchef

At the beginning of the Lent Term this year, my Food and Nutrition teacher, Mrs Ramsey, suggested that I entered for the "Junior Masterchef" competition. I went along with it in a fairly laid-back fashion and filled out the application form. I did not think any more of it as I had thought that there was absolutely no chance of me being chosen at all. Luckily I was wrong; the Masterchef office phoned me up about a week later to tell me that I had been selected on the basis of my menu and my application form. I was delighted, as were many other people. The next stage of the competition was to go up to Birmingham, along with the fourteen others from the Midlands, to cook my menu for three judges in the 'Regional Heats'. The menu that I dreamt up, completely on my own, for the competition was as follows: -

Main Course

Grilled fillet of orange rougy fish from New Zealand; served on a bed of potato rosti with a fine selection of fresh vegetables, complimented by a light citrus fruit sauce.

Dessert

Raspberry sorbet set in a spun-sugar basket, accompanied by dainty shortbread pieces and a tangy raspberry coulis.

I only had the opportunity to practise twice and was very pessimistic about the whole thing seeing that the dish had not turned out completely right yet - aaagh!! Anyway the morning before I went, Friday 6th March, I tried the thing that was bothering me most - the sugar baskets. Unfortunately they went wrong, putting me in completely the wrong frame of mind.

Butthe good news is, as they say, "it all turns out all right on the night"! and luckily for me it did. I was selected, along with two others, to represent the



Midlands in the first televised round of the competition. Now I have that to come. This all takes place at the beginning of July; before that, at the end of June, the cameras come round from the BBC to do a short documentary on me and my school, hobbies, etc., which will go towards the final series due to be broadcasted around about February' next year. With luck, and a lot of luck, I might make it to being "Junior Masterchef of the year 1999" - we'll see?

Robert Knight

Events

Dublin Marathon October 1997

I have this strange ambition, and that is to run as many marathons as possible around the world! To see a place for the first time, I must run its streets and meet as many of its people as possible with smiles, hand shakes and high fives. Well that is my excuse for running the Dublin Marathon! It was my fourth marathon and totally different from the last one I ran, but then they all tend to be different. The common denominator tends to be the people who clap, cheer or even play music on your way.

Dublin proved to be a bit special for me as I had always wanted to see the city and experience its life. I want to thank everyone who sponsored me to raise money for the Parents' Association, the Association itself for encouraging me to do it and to the people of Dublin who made it a magic weekend. About £400 was raised by the run which has gone forward to fund the good work done by the Parents' Association.

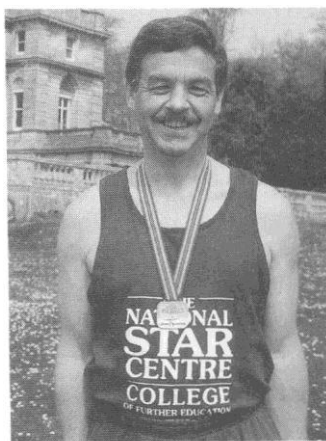
For brothers and sisters in the 42k fellowship, I discovered by "accident" the best post-race tonic in the form of Liffey water, fermented and dark, poured very slowly to give a deep head which then has to be enjoyed in good company and with wild Irish music and dancing. It's worth every step!

IGP

London Marathon

The Rendcombian is proud to announce the successful completion of The London Marathon by the school's Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Morgan, in 3 Hours and 51 minutes. He received extremely generous support from parents, pupils and staff raising £950 for the National Star Centre College in Cheltenham. The run was the culmination of many months of running round Top Field at great speed. He was extremely pleased to have been supported by his family on the day who cheered him vociferously in the dying moments of the race, giving our athlete the power and energy to finish the course so successfully. School statisticians have calculated that he ran the race at an average speed of 6.8 m. p. h.

Many congratulations!



Bobby Morgan



Ian Patterson

Christmas Dinner for the Juniors

On Saturday afternoon, loads of tables and benches were collected by the pupils and staff in the Junior Houses from the Village Hall and were brought to Godman House Common Room. There was another group of people peeling carrots and preparing other foods.

During the day on Monday, Mrs Watson had the job of running around to different houses in the village to put turkeys in various ovens! Then with the help of some more pupils, the table setting for 80 people were laid. We all had different jobs to do to get ready for the big night.

At 7.00 pm everyone arrived and sat at their set places while all the staff and the Godman House Third Year Prefects served up a full Christmas dinner of turkey, stuffing, sausages, roast potatoes, carrots and peas and even cranberry jelly and gravy. Pudding was a Mars Bar each. There was lots of lemonade and coke and we all pulled a cracker and wore our hats.

After the meal, a few members of the Housestaff stayed and cleaned up while we all went on to the Old Rectory and prepared for the sketches we were to perform to each other and the staff. Heidi, Sarah, Becky, Rosie and Vicky started the night with the Spice Girls 'Wannabee' which was followed by the Second Years doing Barbie Girl and the boys doing scenes from life at the Old Rec. It was one of the best nights we have ever had here and we would like to say a big "thank you" to the Housestaff for all their hard work and the fun we all had. It was great!

Sarah Padmore
Becky Ricketts

Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in September "Team Rendcomb" set off to visit eight village churches and to raise money for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Peter's Church in Rendcomb. Although certain cyclists must have had thoughts of retaining the Christian Brann trophy for raising the most money, most were blissfully ignorant of its existence and simply wished to have an enjoyable ride. In the event, the College was pushed into second place by St Margaret's, Whaddon, raising £897. This constitutes a valuable contribution towards the total raised of £34,516. The route took in the churches at Bagendon, Baunton, Stratton, Daglingworth, Duntisbourne Rouse and Abbots, Winstone and Rendcomb. They were all beautiful in their own way but the pupils were very taken with the small church with its crypt at Duntisbourne Rouse. The challenge of the long ford on the way to Duntisbourne Abbots was not taken up, perhaps wisely as it is deceptively deep.

Although most churches were unmanned, the hospitality at Duntisbourne Abbots was outstanding and we enjoyed hot drinks and home-made cakes. The team consisted of 26 pupils from Forms One and Two, three brothers and sisters and nine parents and staff and we are all very grateful to the parents and staff who supported the ride by seeing us safely across 'A' roads and by feeding us.

CJW

Indian Theme Evening.

The Dulverton Hall is a most versatile room. A few days later it would become an 18th Century bedroom, but for the weekend of the 6th of February, 1998, it became India during the Raj, beautifully bedecked with colourful Indian designs and radiant oriental lighting. The Parents' Association had organised an Indian

Theme Evening at which sumptuous Indian Food was served. The Curries were both delicate and tasty, the popadoms cooked to perfection. To ensure that the whole event was even more fully authentic, all people attending had to wear appropriate costume, whether British or Indian. Unsurprisingly, the graceful Mrs Vickery gained first prize for her elegant sari, whilst an Indian Prince as yet still unidentified but stunningly habited, walked back into the shadows from whence he had come bearing a bottle of Champagne!

Music was provided for us by the ever energetic Miss Phipps whose violin transported us straight back to the veranda, and Mr Lea who, despite his elopement to Marling, couldn't resist returning to play the piano for so stylish an event! The evening ended with a stirring rendition of "Land of Hope and Glory"; who would have guessed for a moment, that the Dulverton Hall was probably the last remaining outpost of British Empire other than the Falkland Islands.

All in all, it was a wonderful evening, and our thanks go to the committee for their incomparable organisation.

JRM

Gala Day '98

Remembered by Paul Stanfield, Chairman Rendcomb College Parents' Association

On arrival, I was put to work by Mr Griffiths pinning notices of the various stalls to boards while, despite the wind, later assisted in the precarious hanging of bunting from Mr Griffith's balcony to the corner of the Arts Block.

The weather relented as parents started to arrive, but the Cake Stall and some others were placed in the College entrance. The weather prevented a great turnout; nevertheless I saw great fun going on at Golf. Hockey, Rugby, Cricket, Egg game. Dustbin game and many others, run by volunteers and College Staff, who kindly gave up their Sunday afternoon.

As the afternoon drew to a close, the raffle draw was made and it began to rain. Sam Maylott was desperate to win a prize which he eventually did. Then the counting of the money was done - £750 had been raised, which was £250 for each of the charities supported, namely Irigithathi School in Kenya, the Star Centre and Cheltenham Special Care Baby Unit.

Many thanks to all who helped and to all who attended.



Activities

3rd and 4th year Activity Weekends

On two consecutive weekends before the first exeat of the Christmas Term, groups of the Third and Fourth Year boys travelled to Glasbury-on-Wye in Wales to participate in some outdoor pursuits. We stayed at an Oxfordshire County Council residence, Woodlands, and, under the expert and experienced guidance of the centre's staff, enjoyed a mixture of caving, canoeing and mountain walking. Evening activities such as problem solving and tackling the ropes course completed an exciting and memorable two days.

CV



Ben Stanfield, Hiro Ino and Jon Pratt admiring the view back down the Vale of Ewyas after a hard 250m climb from the valley floor

Photography

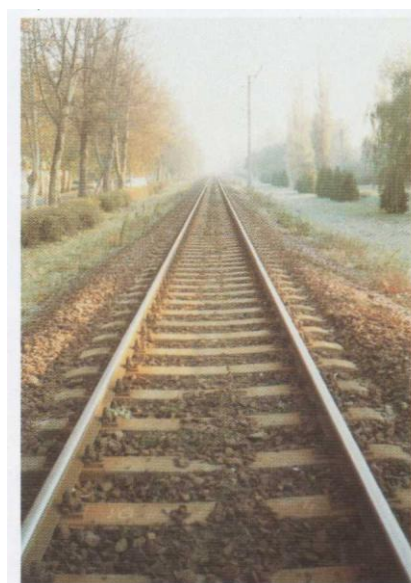
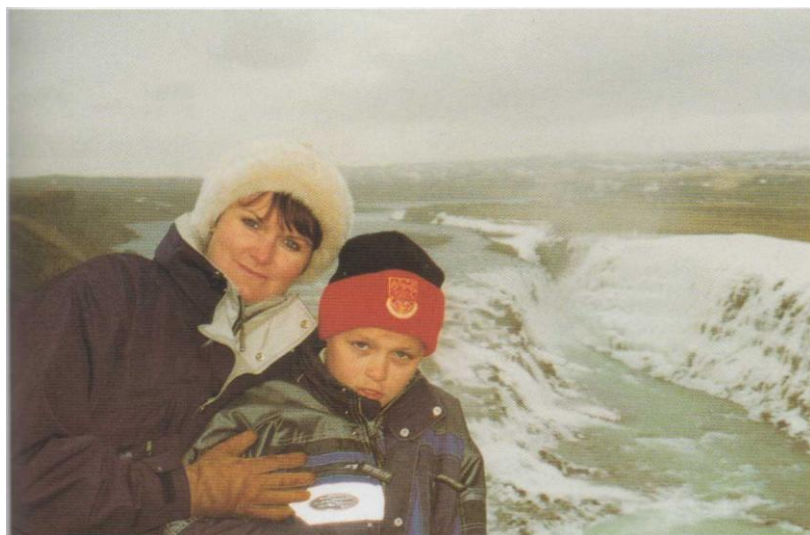
There was reasonable use of the darkroom by juniors and seniors during the year, almost exclusively for Black and White work and a new system of keys for all members was introduced.

The new timetable compressed activity time to a bare hour, making it difficult to travel any distance to photograph locations. However, a "shoot" was carried out at Coin St Dennis. Other projects included photographing other activities and illustrating the Gala Day Treasure Hunt.

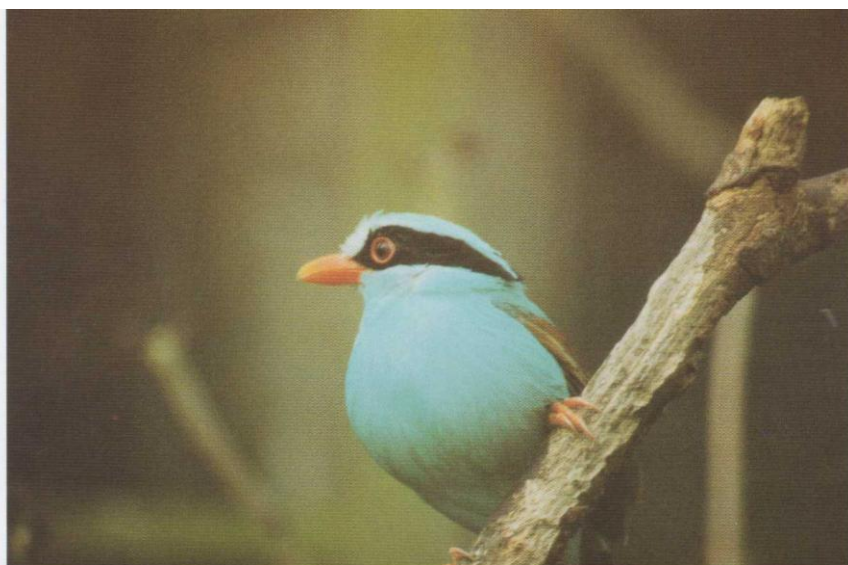
Despite most pupils having cameras, the number of entries for the annual photographic competition was rather low although the standard was impressively high. The results are as follows:

Phillipa Hunt leading Francesca Vuolo's mount on Gala Day

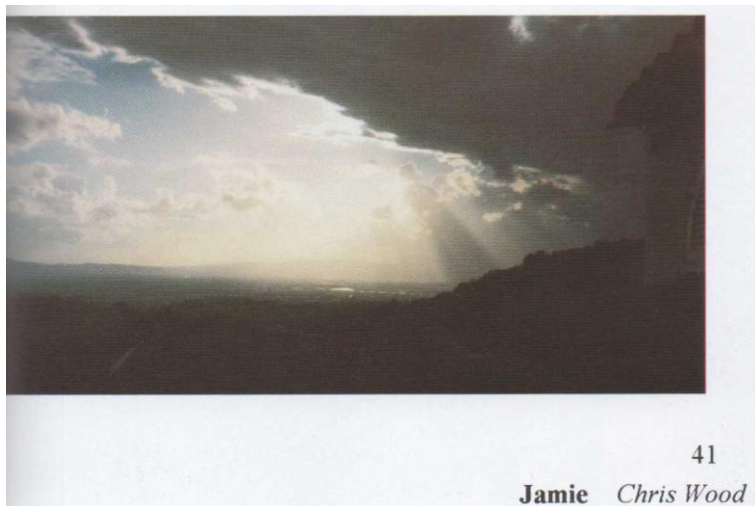
section 1:	Blue Bird	Mr N Hall (parent)
Animals		<i>see below</i>
section 2:	Mum and	Lissa Davies (3)
My Best Friends	Brother	<i>see below</i>
section 3:	Dahlia's	Richard Histed (6A)
Any Subject		<i>see right</i>

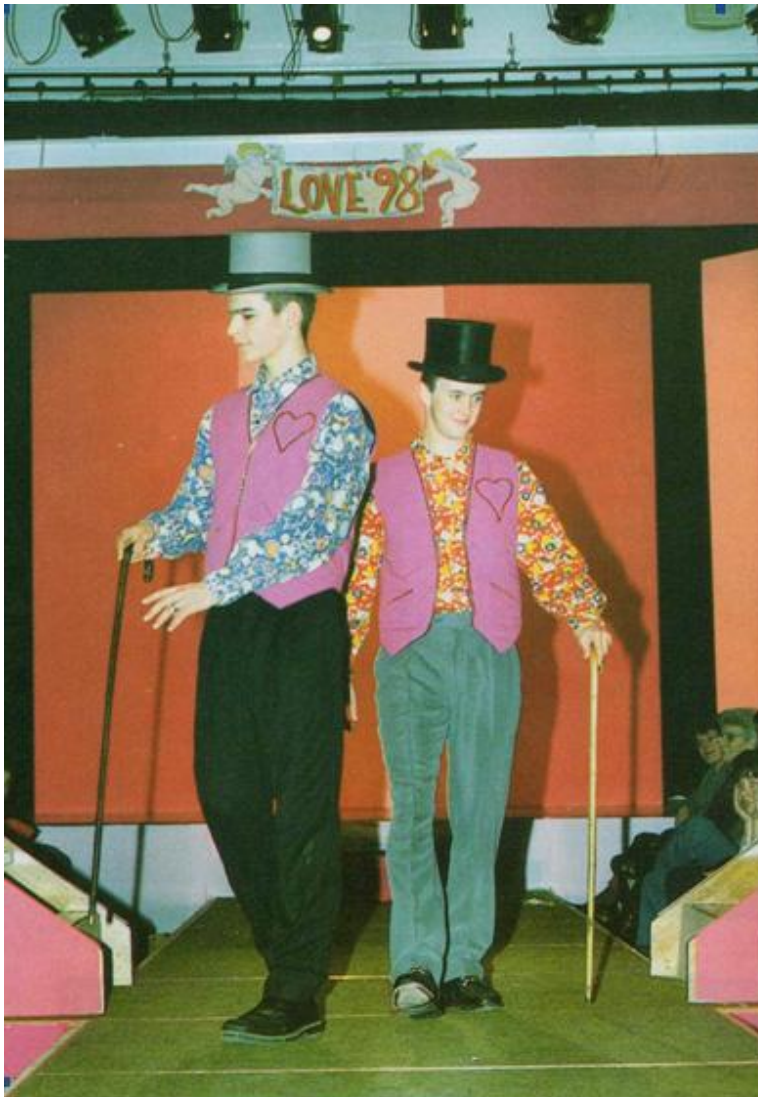


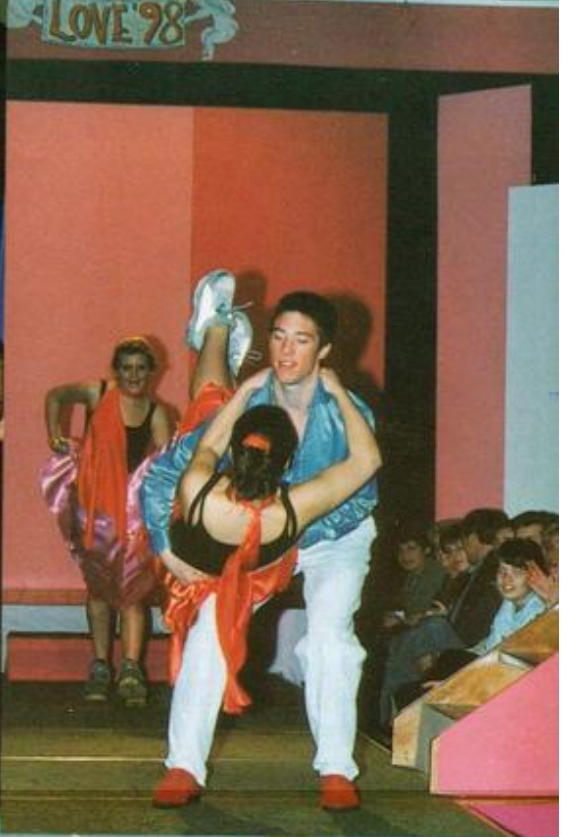
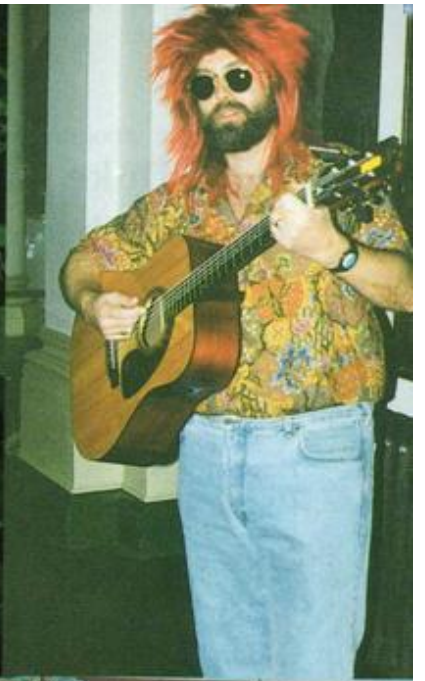
The track *D.Essenhigh*



Florence **Helen Mizon** (5)







The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The scheme continues to thrive at Rendcomb at both Bronze and Gold levels. Twenty eight Fourth Year and twelve Sixth Form students are currently working towards their awards, and as usual it is the expeditions which generate the most interest and excitement. However, whilst these are the most visible aspects of D. of E., there is much more to the scheme and it is the less well publicised parts to which I shall first give mention.

There are four sections to the award at Bronze level namely Expedition, Skill, Service and Physical Recreation; and for Gold a residential week is added. Rendcomb students are engaged in a great diversity of activities and in some cases have produced performances or work of outstanding quality. At the Leavers' Lunch at the end of the Summer term, samples of work made by Gold candidates for the Skills section were displayed in the Reading Room.

The beautiful Origami pieces crafted by Tim Hill, Rupert Webb and Richard Histed formed the centre piece of the exhibition. A portfolio of black and white photographs by David Hughes, calligraphy by Ed Forster, cacti grown by Chris Scarth, pencil drawings by Ashley Taylor and clothing made by Toby Abbott completed the

display. The other candidates from last year's group were also engaged in interesting Skills activities such as kite flying and clay pigeon shooting which for obvious reasons were not on show in the Reading Room.

The sports leader awards which fulfil the Requirement section continue to be very popular and 1998 saw the first "graduates" gain their certificates as junior (Bronze) or community (Gold) sports leaders. The scheme has proved to be especially popular in the current Fourth Year, with nineteen candidates undertaking the Junior Sports Leader Award whilst twelve 6B students are working towards the Community Sports Leader Award.

Residential activities have also provided memorable experiences for the candidates. A popular option has been canal restoration camps and several students have spent enjoyable weeks helping to restore some of England's canal network. Many have volunteered to return in the future although few will be expected to



make quite the same impact as one particular individual did (no names mentioned!)

And so to the expeditions which have once again been very' successful. At Gold Level John Willson's thorough preparation led to an impressive assessment expedition in the Black Mountains by last year's award group. This year's candidates look set to repeat this and, apart from a fairly miserable experience in the

Peak District in April, where waist deep snow' made progress painfully slow, they show signs of being one of the strongest expedition groups to represent Rendcomb for many years. At Bronze level I am once again grateful to Nicola Gill for the hard work she has put in. The Fourth Year candidates carried out a very-impressive practice expedition towards the end of the

summer term and, with a little fine tuning, should have few problems with the assessment in the Forest of Dean at the beginning of September.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have helped with the Duke of Edinburgh Award and whose assistance helps to maintain Rendcomb's position as one of the leading Award Units in the County. The contributions made by Nicola and Elliot Gill. Alex. Amanda and Edward Brealy, Chris Wood and Deborah Vuolo to the smooth running of the expeditions have been invaluable. I am also grateful to all those staff who help with the scheme in other ways, such as supervising the Skill and Service options. Last but by no means least, it is the dedication of John Willson, who, as Gold Expedition Leader, has done so much to ensure that Rendcomb students are both competent and confident to tackle 80 km. journeys in wild country without mishap. Sadly, John is retiring after the current expedition series although not from D. of E. altogether, as he remains an assessor on the Mid-Wales panel (our paths will surely cross in the future - provided we can use our compasses correctly!) To him



I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the very hard work that he has put in over the years and I hope we shall be able to continue to produce expedition groups of the same high calibre and maintain the Rendcomb tradition of success at Gold Award.

C. V.

Bronze 1997-98

1997-98 has been another successful year for the Fourth and Fifth Year who have taken the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. It was pleasing when 28 members of the Fifth Year were presented with their awards when the annual ceremony was held at Rendcomb in May. These students were:

Nellie ABBOTT	Carlos GARCIA
Helen MIZON	Donald GODFREY
Georgina SCOT-SIMMONDS	Nicholas HALL
Charlotte WEBB	Oliver JEFFCOTT
Dean ARMSTRONG-WILDE	Thomas MAIS
Laurence BARTON	Robert MANN
James BRITTAIN-JONES	David NEWBY
Adam CARD	Andrew SAGE
Richard COLLINSON	Rafe SMALLMAN
Benjamin COX	Yuki TAKANASHI
Tristan DAY	Richard WALDER
Andrew DOLLEYMORE	Henry WESTON
Edward FARNSWORTH	Mathew WILLIAMS
Rocky FUNG	William WITCHELL

These students completed successful expeditions in both the Cotswolds and the Wye Valley. The final expedition was not without some unexpected difficulties but we all learned a great deal from the experience.

The Fourth Year also carried out their delayed practice to the Cotswolds in June. The group of 28 coped admirably with some pretty adverse conditions with driving rain making it seem more like February than June. The groups had good morale throughout but now need to pay some attention to their route planning and navigation.



It is excellent to have the vast majority of the year groups involved in the D. of E. award and rewarding that so many students are keen to carry on and achieve their gold awards when they reach the Sixth Form. This year the D. of E. award has benefited from the help of a number of staff, in particular, thank you to Carlo Vuolo for his help with the training and Chris Wood for his enthusiasm and calm advice on the expeditions. Mrs Joan Nash, the county advisor has also been invaluable this year with her experience of the scheme. Thank you also to those who have assisted with students completing the Physical Recreation, Skills and Community Service parts of their awards.

NG

Wine Tasting

On the 26th March members of the Sixth Form put on their flannel trousers, tied up their cravats and prepared their palates for an evening of moderate alcoholic indulgence.



There were six groups, and to coincide, six wines, each from different grapes; three red and three white.

For each wine each person had to describe the bouquet and answer questions about grape variety, place of origin, suggested food accompaniment and, for the really challenged, what colour.

Chris Scarth proved to be the "wine buff" of the evening, hotly pursued by Tara Sleggs and Beans Boughton. Toby Abbott, Rebekah Taplin and the bunch of bunches of grapes won the fancy dress competition, superbly judged by Mr Murray.

It was a very enjoyable, interesting and "educational" evening and enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you to Mr Griffiths and Mr Slark and all the other staff for setting up the evening and sharing with us their considerable expertise. What dedication to education that they should give up so much time and effort in developing an appreciation of the subject!

It was a great evening; we all enjoyed it and learnt something of value!

Thom Gilbert

Saturday Night Entertainments - Sixth Form Specials

The quest was to find ways of constructively filling the quiet period on a Saturday night before the frenzy of the bar. With a little imagination, inspiration and perspiration, a whole series of funny, entertaining and challenging events were arranged primarily by Mr Griffiths, Mr Slark and the Heads of Houses. There were some highly sociable Bar-B-Qs, especially the Summer one in the Rev Taplin's lovely garden and several ear shattering discos in Dulverton Hall, although the Rave Disco in Park House run by Oli Anthony and the sublime Thom Gilbert probably topped the audio scale!

A cultural theme was introduced with some superb trips out to different types of restaurant and there were some notable pizza nights with the Catering Staff also topping up late teas with some welcome extras. The Indian meal was an especially warm experience for some of us!

The cultural evenings reached a climax with the Fancy Dress Wine tasting competition; this was not only hilarious, (James Gibbs came as a bunch of grapes!) but also delicious (mostly) and highly informative. The staff showed considerable expertise (I wonder why?) Often evenings were linked to school events; the Indian Theme Evening produced a great Fancy Dress bar and ninety percent of the Sixth Form were actually in the extraordinarily unforgettable Fashion Show (Sam Maylott as the God of Love????!!)

Games and Quiz nights provided great entertainment and were totally supported, especially when the Art Department filled the School with posters advertising the idea of winning food hampers! The Quiz night was a tense battle of wits and brain and was an incredibly tightly-fought affair while the Christmas Games competition had a much looser scoring format and some bizarre games dreamed up by the staff (strange things to be done with courgettes!) Great support was given by House Staff and Mr Vuolo and the Rev'd Taplin were obviously in their element and did extraordinary things with cans of shaving foam!

Games nights in the Summer Term were popular; the football competition was topically inspired while the volleyball games brought out hidden staff talent, amazing crazy-golf talents, while in the swimming pool Ralph Barnes fully revealed his talent!

A treasure hunt invented by Mr Murray inspired a Fancy Dress Pirates bar and a highly entertaining



competition produced a three-way-tie. The treasure trove (more food hampers!) had to be equally divided.

A wide range of options during the year produced lots of fun and helped create a real buzz around the place - especially in the Sixth Form Bar later in the evening. Thanks go to all those who helped, especially the staff who put in so much time and energy organising and arranging the different events.

Hannah Nicholls

The Philosophy Society

The beginnings of 1998 brought with it the arrival of Rendcomb's newest asset, Mr Richard Murray. After only a short time at the school Mr Murray has done so much for the school, giving up much of his free time to organise extra activities for the pupils. Perhaps the most interesting idea of his was the foundation of The Philosophy Society.

Our first meeting was held on the 12th March and what a success it was. The Taplin family kindly allowed us the use of the Rectory where we have held our meetings which we hope will take place about once a month. Large numbers of the Sixth Form emerged from their "happy hour" to hear different views on "Beauty - How Beastly", presented by Mr Murray and more recently to hear Jack Garland's "Reasons for Being an Atheist. " The Philosophy Society meetings have proved not only the intelligence of many of our students but also their ability to be civilised adults and to present their individual views and opinions.

On behalf of all those in the Society I would like to thank the Chaplain and Mrs Taplin for not only- playing an active part in our discussions but also for giving us a base in which to hold our meetings. Most of all we would like to thank Mr Murray himself for founding and organising the Rendcomb College Philosophy Society.

Kate Nicholas

Youth Service

On Sunday 7th. June St Peter's Church was the venue for an alternative service of contemporary worship. The worship was led by a band of Fifth and Sixth Formers consisting of three vocalists, electric guitars, bass, keyboard and drums. The band accompanied the hymns and played, as the Anthem, a song entitled "Deeper" written by well-known Christian rock band "Delirious?"

The service also included a reflective and humorous drama - sermon on the Lord's prayer. The prayers themselves were meditative and used a powerful and moving "Taize" chant "O Lord, hear my Prayer."

The following students were involved in devising this service:

Rebecca Hogarth, Gemma Leathart, Thomas Gilbert, Yuki Takanashi, Andrew Carrington and Rebekah Taplin.

The occasion was very lively, thought-provoking and fun. It was greatly appreciated by students and staff alike. We hope that there will be some similar services next year!

Rebekah Taplin.

The Record

College Officers

Prefects:

Tim Hill - Head Boy/Head of Lawn House
Hannah Nicholls - Head Girl/Head of Park House
Chris Scarth - Head of School House
Ashley Taylor - Head of Stable House
James Gibbs - Prefect in the Old Rectory
Edward Turvill - House Prefect in the Old Rectory
Toby Abbott - Prefect in charge of Dulverton Hall
Harvey Davies - Prefect in charge of the Sports Hall
Jonathan Freeman - Prefect in charge of the Dining Hall
Rachel Gilyead - Prefect in charge of the Green Room
Sophie Peters - Prefect in charge of Lost Property
Rupert Webb - Prefect in charge of the Green Room
Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul
Jonathan Davis
Georgina Farr

Head Church Ushers: James Gibbs, Sam Maylott

Sports Captains:

Rugby	- James Gibbs
Boys' Hockey	- Harvey Davies
Girls' Hockey	- Annabel Howard
Cricket	- Ashley Taylor
Boys' Tennis	- Rupert Webb
Girls' Tennis	- Sophie Peters
Netball	- Georgina Fan-
Basketball	- Chris Scarth
Shooting	- James Gibbs and Sebastian Grey
Squash	- Sam Maylott

Valete

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

Toby Abbott, Ralph Barnes, Andrew Carrington, Ann Chaiwatanasirikul, Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul, Harvey Davies, Jonathan Davis, Phillip de Havilland- Hall, Georgina Fan, Edward Forster, Jonathan Freeman, Jack Garland, James Gibbs, Rachel Gilyead, Sebastian Grey, Jake Hawkins, Sebastian Heinemann, Timothy Hill, Richard Histed, Chas Holliday, Annabel Howard, David Hughes, Elisabeth Jakobs, Julian Keith, Joel King, Samuel Maylott, Hannah Nicholls, Alastair Nye, Rebecca Perry, Sophie Peters, Adam Phillips, Christopher Scarth, Mark Sutton, Ashley Taylor, Edward Turvill, Rupert Webb, Simon Webb, David Williams, Bettina Steude.

Dean Armstrong-Wilde, Adam Card, Ben Cox, Tristan Day, Andrew Dolleymore, Charlotte Emerson, Robert Mann, David Newby, Jamela Saedaldin, Georgina Scot-Simmonds, Henry Weston.

Lissa Davies, Dominic Fastnedge, Edward MacCurrach, Yuseke Osawa, **Rie Ikeda, Yumi Sano, Miyuke Sone, Natsuko Tajima, Mikako Yamakita**, Emma Cassidy-Gray, Edward Vaughan-Hughes.



Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1998:

Form 6B: Airasana Busato, Christopher Davies, Edward Hogarth, Stephanie Mokrohs, Anne-Kathrin Rhein, Daniella Seer, Oliver Wallis, Meilan Wolf.



Fumi Saito with her Origami class in Godman House

Fourth Year: Alina Fridman, Christopher Thomas.

Third Year: Ben Baghdadi. James Daborn, David Grice, Matthew Harbottle, Alice Hughes, Felicity Levy-Bull, Thomas Lockyer, Jonathon McAllister, Johann von Rotenham, David Starr, Shinya Koiso, Sachiko Nishimura, Rin Hareyama, Aoko Matsuoka, Yoshie Yahagi, Mariko Watanabe.

Second Year: Rachel Postlethwaite.

First Year: Luke Baghdadi, Laura Cambridge Tom Chester-Master, Matthew Denham, Adam Finn, Peter Griffin, Luke Gunner, Ashley Hermitage, Nicola King, Aimee Lefeuvre, Safta Malik, Charlotte Phillips, Rebecca Preston, Heather Roper, Francesca Rushton, Adam Saedaldin, Thomas Soanes, Harriet Stutchbury, Verity Symcox, Rupert Uzzell, Jessica Weston, Edwina Wickham.

The Friends of Rendcomb

As you may know, I have succeeded David Sells as Executive Trustee. David, a former member of staff, put an enormous amount of work, organisation and thought into the Trust from 1984 (inception) to 1997. Above all, he held firm to the principles of the original Trust Deed created by the then Governor, Sir Louis le Bailly.

Our prime objective remains to provide scholarships for distinctive children who might not otherwise have had the opportunity of a Rendcomb education. The demise of the Gloucestershire County Scholarships, where the boarding need criteria became vigorously applied, and the recent withdrawal of the Government's Assisted Places Scheme, makes our task harder, but even more essential.

Yes, we need money to fund present scholarships, and additional ones in the future to help fill the void increased by local and central government action. The benefit of giving, in gift or covenant form, not only provides scholarships, but also enables you to put

something, or more, back into Rendcomb through a living person.

If you would like to become a "Friend", please either send a one-off gift cheque direct to me via the school made payable to "Friends of Rendcomb", or request a Covenant Form (for 4 or 7 years) to spread your generosity.

In the previous Rendcombian there was an article about David Vaisey, OR and Governor. I am pleased to say that David is joining us as a Trustee with a view to taking over from David Jenks as Chairman. This will continue the Governor-Trust link.

John Webb. OR(1954-63)

Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1998:

President:	Michael Miles (43-50)
Chairman:	Julian Comrie (46-54)
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. Sally Morris (78-80)
Secretary:	Mrs. Jane Gunner (75-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester.Glos.GL7 7BA
Treasurer/School Rep:	Chris Wood (65-71; Staff 76-)
Girls' Secretary:	Hannah Willcocks (92-94)
Hockey Secretary:	Philip Moore (80-87), Alex Brealy (80-87, Staff 95-)
Cricket Secretary':	Julian Fellows (81-88), David Essenhigh (Staff 69-)
Newsletter Editor:	Bill White (Staff 61-97)

Travel Bursary

£500 was split between the following:

Jack Garland who was awarded £300 towards his visit to Jerusalem, and Barbara Unger received £200 to fund her trip on Eurorail in 1999, visiting European cities to further her study into Art and Culture.

News of Recent Leavers

Robert Arnold	Bournemouth University	Leisure Marketing
Robert Ashby	Birmingham University	Engineering
Christopher Baker	Cardiff IHE	Tourism & Leisure
Jennie Bartholomew	St Andrew's University	General Science
Charles Barton	Manchester University	English & Philosophy
William Brittain-Jones	Royal Agricultural College	Agriculture & Land Management
Andrew Donovan	Cardiff IHE	Business Studies
Rebecca Doyle	Glamorgan University	Psychology & Drama
Victoria Duhmke	Newcastle University	Architecture
Douglas Ellison	Birmingham University	Electrical Engineering
James Emerson	Allied Dunbar	
Manolito Garcia	Exeter University	History & Spanish
Naomi Gibbons	Birmingham Conservatoire	Music
Samuel Gillot	Cheltenham & Gloucester CHE	Art
James Graham	Manchester University	Mechanical Engineering
Adam Hawkins	Reading University	Cybernetics
Marcus Haynes	Exeter University	French/German
William Hunt	Leeds University	French/German
Georgina Hunter-Smart	Nottingham University (1998)	Nursing
Sophie Ingham	Leicester University	History of Art
Adam King	Nottingham University	Sociology
Colin Morey	Aston University	Electronic Systems Engineering
Tabitha Pelly	Manchester University	English
Anna Peters	Northumbria University	Business Studies
Timothy Shaw	Post 'A' level Cambridge Application	Philosophy
Jaqueline Shenton	Cheltenham & Gloucester CHE	Art
James Smith	Warwick University	Mathematics
Stewart Taylor	Exeter University	French/German
Charles Webb	Newcastle University	History
Polly Wigfield	Retaking 'A' levels	
Robin Wittchell	Exeter University	History & Ancient History
David Wragg	Birmingham University	Politics & Philosophy

Academic

Scholarships for Entry in September 1999

Edward Hogarth	(Windsor Boys' School)	Rugby
Barbara Unger	(Rendcomb)	Academic
Richard Walder	(Rendcomb)	Academic
Third Year Entry		
Christopher Davies	(Kingshill)	Academic
Alice Hughes	(The Elms)	Art
Barnaby Kellett	(Rendcomb)	Academic
Thomas Lockyer	(Hatherop Castle)	Music
Jonathan McAllister	(Pinewood)	Academic
David Starr	(Hatherop Castle)	Dulverton Trust
First Year Entry		
Luke Gunner	(Querns)	Art
Rebecca Preston	(Stratton C. of E.)	Noel Wills
Heather Roper	(Bourton-on-the-Water)	Noel Wills
Thomas Soanes	(Airthrie)	Art
Rupert Uzzell	(Ingleside)	Choral
Jessica Weston	(Querns)	Sport
Edwina Wickham	(Airthrie)	Sport

‘A’ Level Examinations

This summer’s GCE Advanced Level results were:

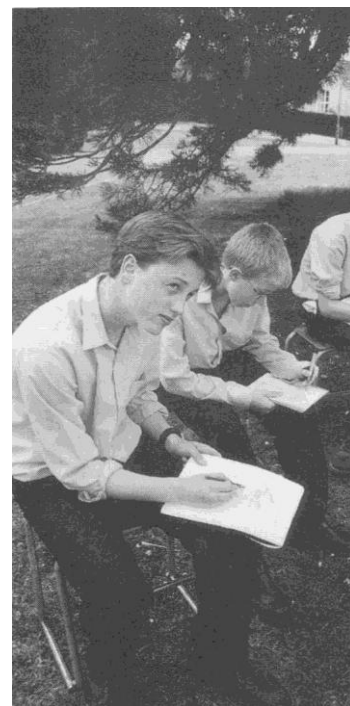
Toby Abbott	Art and Design, Geography*, Mathematics
Ralph Barnes	Art and Design, English Literature, Performing Arts, Music (AS)
Andrew Carrington	Business Studies, English Literature, Geography
Ann Chaiwatanasirikul	Art and Design, Mathematics
Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul	Business Studies (AS)
Harvey Davies	English Literature*, French*, History*. Mathematics*
Jonathan Davis	Art and Design, Business Studies, Geography
Phillip de Havilland-Hall	Geography, Mathematics
Georgina Farr	Business Studies. English Literature. Performing Arts
Edward Forster	Chemistry, Mathematics
Jonathan Freeman	English Literature*, French, Geography*
Jack Garland	Art and Design, English Literature, History
James Gibbs	Business Studies, French, Geography
Rachel Gilyead	English Literature, French*, Geography*
Jake Hawkins	Chemistry*. Mathematics*. Physics*, Further Mathematics (AS)
Sebastian Heinemann	Business Studies, French
Timothy Hill	Biology*, Chemistry*. Mathematics*, Physics*
Richard Histed	Chemistry. Mathematics. Physics
Chas Holliday	Art and Design
Annabel Howard	Biology, Chemistry*, Mathematics
David Hughes	Chemistry*, Mathematics, Physics
Elisabeth Jakobs	Art and Design
Julian Keith	French*, Geography, German
Joel King	Business Studies, English Literature. Mathematics
Samuel Maylott	English Literature, Geography, Performing Arts
Hannah Nicholls	Art and Design. Business Studies, English Literature
Alastair Nye	Chemistry, Mathematics, Music
Rebecca Perry	Art and Design, Performing Arts
Sophie Peters	Biology, Business Studies, Geography
Adam Phillips	Chemistry*, Further Mathematics, Mathematics*, Physics*, Music (AS)
Christopher Scarth	English Literature, French, History
Mark Sutton	Chemistry, Geography. Physics
Ashley Taylor	Biology, Chemistry, Geography
Edward Turvill	Art and Design, Geography, Biology (AS)
Rupert Webb	English Literature, History, Mathematics
Simon Webb	Business Studies, Mathematics, Music
David Williams	Business Studies, English Literature, Geography

6B Entry

Rebekah Taplin	Performing Arts (AS)
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Key:

* - Grade A



GCSE Examinations

The GCSE results were:

Sixth Form Entry:

Ralph Barnes - B
Harry Aldrich-Blake - PE**
David Ashby - PE
Ian Forster - PE**
Dominic Morris - PE*
John Shenton - PE*
Barbara Unger- E, L*
Philip Webb - PE*
Sophie Worlock - PE

Fifth Year Entry:

Nellie Abbott - E, EL, H, M, MU, B, c, p, G, F
Dean Armstrong-Wilde - e, el, m, ss, g, fn, gn
Laurence Barton - E, EL*, H, L*, M*, B*, C, P, F**, GN**
James Brittain-Jones - E, EL, M, B, C, P, G*, F**, GN, IT
Adam Card - AD, e, EL, h, m, ss, it
Patama Chaiwatanasirikul - AD, E, EL, M, G, FN, it
Richard Collinson - AD(DP)*, E, EL, H, M, B*, C*, P, G, F**
Benjamin Cox - AD(DP)*, e, EL, M, DS,,g, gn, it
Tristan Day - E, EL, L, M, MU*, B, C, p, F**, GN
Anna de Lisle Wells - AD, E, EL*, M, B, C, P, G**, F**, GN*
Andrew Dollwymore -E, EL*, H**, M*, B*, C**, P*, F**, GN**, IT
Sarah Donovan - AD*, E, EL, M, B, C, P, G*, FN, F*
Charlotte Emerson - E, EL, H, m, B, C, P, G, fn, it
Edward Farnsworth- E, EL*, M*, B*, C**, P**, G*, FN*, F*, IT
Sonja Forster - AD(DP)*, e, EL, M, B, C, P, F*, it
Rocky Fung - AD, E, M*, B, C, P, G, gn, it, CH**
Carlos Garcia - E, EL*, H*, M*, MU*, B**, C*, p* G* F**
Donald Godfrey - E, EL, M, B, C, P, G, fn, F, it
Nicholas Hall - E, EL*, H*, M, B*, C*, P, G*, F, IT
Oliver Jeffcott - AD, E, EL, H, M, B, C, P, F, GN
Alexandra Kaub - AD, e, EL, M, B, p, G
Thomas Mais - E, EL, H*, M, MU*, B, C*, P, G, F*
Robert Mann - ad, e, ss, g
Helen Mizon - AD*, E, EL, M, MU, B, C, G, IT

David Newby - E, EL, H*, M*, B*, C*, P*, G*, F*, IT
Jamela Saedaldin - AD, E, EL, m, SS, g, it
Andrew Sage - AD*, E*, EL*, H*, M*, B**, C**, P*, G*, F**
Marguerita Schumacher - AD, e, EL, m, mu, ss
Georgina Scot-Simmonds - AD, E, EL, H, M*, B, C, G, F*
Rafe Smallman - AD(DP), E, EL, H*, L*, M**, B*, C**, P**, F**
David Spenley - E, m, SS, it
Sophie Sprawson - AD(DP), E, EL, m, MU*, G, F*
Yuki Takanashi - AD(DP)*, e, el, M*, MU*, B, C, P, F**, GN
Richard Walder - AD, E*, EL*, M**, B*, C**, P*, G**, GN**, IT
William Warrington - AD, E, EL, H, M, MU, B, c, p, F
Charlotte Webb - AD, E, EL, M, B*, C, P, G*, F**, GN**
Henry Weston - E, EL, M, B, C, P, G, fn, F, it
Matthew Williams - AD(DP), E, EL*, H*, M, B, C, P, F**, GN*
William Witchell - AD*, E, EL, H, M, B, C, P, F*, GN

Second Year Entry:

Joseph Mociornitza - F*

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

** - grade A*

* - grade A

AD - Art & Design

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

B- Biology

C - Chemistry

CH - Chinese

DS - Double Award Science

E - English Language

EL - English Literature

F - French

FN - Food & Nutrition

G - Geography

GN - German

H - History

IT - Information Technology

L - Latin

M - Mathematics

MU - Music

P - Physics

PE - Physical Education

SS - Single Award Science

TALKS

Higher Education - The Gap Year

Recent news about Higher Education prospects have been mixed. After the splendid 'A' level results of last year's 6A, which meant that all of them who wanted to go on to Higher Education secured places at their first choice of university or college, there came gloomy announcements from the Government about the ending of the Student Grant and the introduction of tuition fees for Higher Education.

Hektor Krome, an astonishing adventurer and traveller, gave a lecture to the whole of the Sixth Form that came as a welcome relief. Dressed in an amazing outfit of what looked like surplus flying kit, he enthused our students with all kinds of ideas for taking a GAP year before university and showed that it was affordable, given a bold enough approach. Hektor's message, delivered in a highly original style, was that travel can be cheap. No-one left that meeting without at least considering Hektor's ideas, perhaps for some only from the comfort of their armchairs but for others as the start of an exciting adventure.

DHM

Understanding Industry Lectures for the Sixth Form

Between the 22nd and the 23rd January the whole of the Sixth Form attended a series of lectures on industry. It has to be said that the quality of the speakers was excellent, and much credit has to be given to them as being used to giving talks to older, quieter people it must have been very hard to talk to groups of excitable Sixth Formers. All gave enlightening and diverse insights into industry, the more interesting ones (which were none the less relevant) included selling beef burgers, paper aeroplane making, orange juggling and how to set up a night club in Cirencester. Much group participation was encouraged by the speakers and much was received meaning a good time was had by all.

The talks were extremely interesting, one participant, Jenny Mais, even remarked that, although her view of industry had been fairly uninspired before, the lectures had awakened a new interest and given her a new "understanding of industry."

As a group we would recommend the course and lectures to any year that has the opportunity to attend as an excellent way to: - miss lessons, gain experience and qualifications, to write out one's CV/UCAS form and, of course most importantly, to gain an understanding of industry.

Finally, I would like to thank the speakers for donating their valuable time and thanks to the organisers for setting up this useful and informative two days.
Ian Forster



Junior painting of the main building

ZERI (Zero Emission Research Initiative) at Rendcomb

Late in the Christmas term 1997, Mr Dominic Fielder came to the school to give a presentation on behalf of the ZERI link, in order to relate the ZERI principles to the students of 6B. As a result a small team of about 10 students (myself included) turned up to the first meeting held early the following term.

The sessions were held with Alex Wittlesea, our ZERI link representative. In an early session, held in the classroom, the team concentrated on grasping the concepts involved in ZERI and their implications (which I will outline later) time was also given to generating a group session in which we summarised the message of ZERI as related to us as a team. We came up with the phrase "A sustainable development through the linkage of Industry and the Environment"

At this point I feel I must introduce the principles of ZERI and their implications. The idea of ZERI is to create sustainable development: this means development which will have no adverse effects upon the prospects of future generations. The initiative aims to achieve this development by creating systems in which there is total "throughput" i. e. all waste is recycled - one man's rubbish is another man's food. The initiative also encourages the pooling of human intellect and information since it recognises that this

will enable achievements and advances in technology (an understanding which is greater than the sum of its parts!)

Breakthrough Technologies is a small business based in Tetbury, and which is in the process of revolutionising its attitude to its environment both in a business sense as well as in a natural sense. The company was seeking to work within a group of motivated students who were willing to help the company come into line with the ZERI way of thinking, since the company recognises the need for investment in the future. This allowed us to utilise some of our ideas.

The project was how to deal with the company's sewage; ideas were explored and rejected and research done, and it was eventually decided that a method involving the natural process of breakdown should be used.

There are several local sites where this can be done, and so we organised a few site visits, and the technology observed was taken back to the classroom to be modified and put together. The resultant plan was put to the owner of Breakthrough Technologies, Mr Geoffrey Higgins, who drew up a set of blue prints for the works. At the party celebrating the completion of the project, the first diggings were started on the ponds where the treatment would be done and fish bred, to be completed with the next two years.

The team would like to thank Gregory, Alex and Dominic from Breakthrough Technologies for working with us and giving valuable support and backing to our ideas, and to Mr Michael Slark, who has put so much work into the projects and whose enthusiasm has been an inspiration to us all.

Ben Butler

The first ZERI link conference was held at the end of June, and, although most of the team were unable to attend due to a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, Beans Boughton and Gemma Leathart gave a presentation explaining the Rendcomb team's project to the conference delegates. Their presentation was positively and enthusiastically received; a fitting end to this year's work.

MS

EXCURSIONS

Biology 'A' Level Field Trip

At 7.45 am. bags and wellies in hand, we (6 keen biologists) scrambled into the minibus. Items of apparatus and luggage were piled high on the back

seats, and with two staff prepared to drive, at 8.00 am the journey to Kilvrough Manor began.

On reaching the gates to the Manor and driving up to the main entrance of the centre it looked very safe and welcoming. Although there was plenty of work to be done, we knew this was going to be a fun place, probably due to the assault course on one of the many lawns. Once we had been shown around the Manor and to our rooms, it was time to visit the rocky shores as an introduction to the work ahead.

A short drive and walk to the shore began the start of a learning process to gather and remember the different species of flora and fauna. After searching through rock pools and identifying species using charts and keys, samples were placed in a couple of buckets of sea water and taken back to the centre.

After a meal, the buckets were taken into the classroom and emptied into a couple of fish tanks. In the evenings the classroom was our work base for achieving our aims of the trip. These were to take transept surveys on an exposed and sheltered shore for a longer investigation. Also our individual project needed to be thought through and carried out, to establish good results for the write up back at College to be successful.

The next day we met in the classroom early in the morning after breakfast, to discuss how apparatus was to be used to aid an efficient transept line. The data was collected for the semi-exposed shore and at the end of the transept line we had reached a good technique in collecting results and were fully confident in naming most species found on the rocky shore.

Sunday was a relaxed and fun-filled day, as a member of the centre's staff took us down to Oxwick Bay to study sand dune succession. A bright sunny day, the fresh smell and the sea breeze seemed a lot better than being back at school.

After learning about this type of ecosystem and rolling down the sandy dunes, we travelled to a different site to study mud flat ecology. Wellington boots and waterproofs were essential for this particular habitat as we soon found out. With a few twists and turns of the body you were stuck thigh deep in mud, leaving friends the arduous task of trying to pull you back out! Digging for fascinating organisms buried in the mud, looking at the adaptations many have, to live in that environment was exceptionally interesting.

After preparation the night before and being helped to decide what to do for individual projects, the rocky shore was re-visited. The exposed shore transept line was completed in the morning and after a short lunch break, data was collected for our own projects. Our aims were achieved in working and with Mr

Stutchbury and Mr Vuolo a great deal of humour was added. Kilvrough Manor was a great place and the assault course is highly recommended. The facilities, the food and the friendly atmosphere made the trip very worthwhile.

Ashley Taylor

‘A’ Level Biology in Oxford

The key to any learning process is to find the subject has relevance and interest, and the Oxford Physic Garden has both. Founded in 1621, this is the oldest Botanic Garden in the United Kingdom.

Originally a physic’ garden to produce plants for use in medicine, it is now a rich source of research and still has a function in western medicine.

Notable botanic advances are the lines of research that has the ability to kill the AIDS virus in 16 days, but it kills the patient in 19!

The objective of the visit is to extend the topic of classification for the current module under study and the use of the various habitats in the gardens illustrated this with clarity. For example, the Tropical Greenhouse, the water habitat and the arid greenhouse bring together many of the main features of plant classification in a very digestible form.

The visit was concluded by a tour of the Oxford City Museum of Natural History with a focus on lines of evolution and adaptation.

JHS

Geography Fieldwork

The Geography department have completed a successful year’s field work programme in 1997 - 98. The year began in August when 15 members of 6A departed for a week’s adventure to the Eagles’ Nest Centre in the Cevennes region of Southern France. There was some trepidation as we left since we took some real characters with us, including Maylott, Abbott and Holliday. The group travelled by ferry and coach for around 20 hours to reach the centre. Different members of the group joined us at different locations: Julian Keith at Dover. Andy Carrington at Calais and James Gibbs made his own way to the centre. Being in more of a remote and rural location than even Rendcomb, the group were able to get down to the serious hard work in the evenings although enjoying the on-site bar and disco. Some excellent projects were written on the course following expeditions to the Sand Dunes close to Montpellier, the

peat bogs of the Cevennes, local rivers and historic tourist towns such as St Enimie. Fantastic weather was enjoyed and everyone returned home fit, healthy and bronzed although we did manage to incubate some rather nasty colds on the bus home. Although we had a great time, particularly with the swimming, it was felt that the distances involved in getting to the Eagles’ Nest and whilst out there getting from site to site, meant that we would not return to the centre in 1998. We look forward to our annual trip going to Oriulton Field Centre in Pembrokeshire in August 1998.

Other field work this year has involved visiting the Royal Agricultural College farms, A Fifth Year expedition to the Isle of Purbeck and several outings to the River Churn. The Fifth Year saw coastal landforms and processes in action when they visited Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Old Harry just prior to their examinations. Thanks to Mike Slark for helping out with this trip at the last minute. I hope this year that our students have enjoyed seeing some real Geography and thank Alex Brealy for his enthusiasm and commitment to our field work programme. Finally thank you to the students we have taken away this year. Without exception you have been great and we have enjoyed your company enormously.

NG



Hands On Day in the Art Department

Starlight Express

Described by one of the Second year as “definitely the highlight of my school year so far”, the annual outing for the Junior Girls’ House this year was a trip to London to see “Starlight Express”. The anticipated fun started weeks before the 8th December with the girls deliberating each evening about which dress/skirt/trousers they were going to wear. Decisions made, we all set off on the coach at 3.00 pm to tuck into a goodie bag of sandwiches, drink and fruit. On arrival in London, the coach took us around some of the most famous sights as many of the younger ones and the overseas pupils had not seen these before. We saw Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square with its huge Christmas Tree, The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Cathedral and more before being dropped near the Apollo Victoria Theatre. Next we went to the mini-restaurants at Victoria Station. With a choice of 15 different styles of food from Singapore to Big Macs, we were all catered for. Then on to the show.

The music of Andrew Lloyd-Webber together with the lyrics of Richard Stilgoe and with Trevor Nunn as the Director, ensured the show could be nothing but a success. The multi-tiered set transformed the auditorium into a high-speed roller coaster track to make the most superbly stunning spectacle. The different types of trains, the diesel, steam and electric, were all brought to life by superb acting, singing and roller-skating; each depicting the different characteristics of each train. The excitement preceding each high speed race added to the brilliant costume, colours and songs.

Back onto the coach, we headed out past Harrods, so splendidly lit by white Christmas lights, and tucked into goodie bags of flapjacks and drinks before being gently lulled to sleep for the journey back to Rendcomb.

PSW

Third Year Trip to the Imperial War Museum

After the final head count we set off in the coach at 8.30am with our cheerful Alexcars driver at the wheel. Fifteen minutes of pleading was enough to force Mr Morgan to put on a video and “Mr Bean” seemed to be a good cure for a coach load of restless teenagers, helping to pass a very long journey.

The first thing we saw on arrival was a pair of enormous naval guns dominating the main entrance to the museum. We were hustled round to a side entrance for schools, where people were allocated into groups

and the dreaded worksheets were distributed. The first stop inside was the war art gallery where, for once, we were silent. The paintings were amazing, if somewhat depressing. The artists had managed to paint a vivid picture of terrible sights of death and destruction, while revealing the sadness and futility of war.

We then went down to the First World War Exhibition and the Trench Experience, where we were hit by a very potent smell of (amongst things) extremely dirty socks! Yes, they had perfected their trench replica right down to the very last detail. The trench experience should convey what it was like to be inside a trench - not exactly homely. It was cold, smelly, noisy and cramped. There were rats (wax ones, thankfully) and dirt everywhere - and this was just a replica!

After a quick breath of fresh air we proceeded through the main exhibition, filling in our worksheets as we went. There were about 60 display cases crammed with items and information - weapons, uniforms, letters, food, entertainment, medical care etc. Elsewhere we found out about life at home during the war, including work for women.

We had a short break outside to eat our packed lunches, as provided by the College’s finest chefs, and then we were ushered into a large cinema to watch a short film on the role of women in the war. The film showed women taking over all the men’s jobs and they were working very hard. Many worked as labourers moving heavy loads; some began to wear trousers which was different and caused people to disapprove. Overall the women interviewed seemed to enjoy their time but were happy to let the men have their jobs back at the end of the war.

For the final hour we were allowed to visit any other parts of the museum. I chose to wander around the floor containing all the big artillery and tanks, and the tall periscope through which you could see St Paul’s Cathedral. There was just time for a quick look around the shop with the famous recruiting posters and then it was back on the coach for the long journey home.

It had been a good day, especially as it was meant to be a school day. but would we remember what we had seen by the next history lesson? Mr Morgan certainly hoped so!

Jenny Arnold

Discovering Annecy - From the Mistral to the Mountains

It was in 1976 that I first discovered Annecy, and it was a journey I shall always remember. We had first

of all stayed in the Carmargue and I had seen the flocks of flamingos and the wild horses as they galloped, splashing through the salt-marsh shallows. I had visited Arles, with its Roman Arena, where, twice a year they have a corrida and innocent blood is still shed, turning the sand to mud.

The journey rises then into Upper Provence, and into an increasingly sun-baked, barren terrain, "La Garrigue" with small villages abandoned by a peasant population, grateful for the work and mod cons afforded by the big city.

Eventually, the steady climb leaves all this behind to be replaced by pastureland, "alpage", rolling upwards to be broken by enormous teeth of granite, my first encounter with the French Alps. It is still hot, but the air is thinner, clearer with even a breeze, and all of this orchestrated to the gentle, constant clanging of cowbells all around us and the ripple of so many streams on their way down to swell the mighty Rhone, which will itself reach journey's end on those very salt marshes from whence we have travelled.

Annecy itself, in Upper Savoy (La Haute Savoie) sits serenely at the Northern tip of the purest lake in Europe, surrounded by majestic mountains, looking down in silent judgement. Until 1861 the whole region belonged to Italy and the cultural and architectural influences are plain to see. Indeed Annecy with its canal running through the old town has been called "La petite Venise en Savoie". I needed only to see this town once to begin a love-affair that has never ceased to grow. For over twenty years now I have known Annecy. I have strolled her streets. I have sailed and swum the lake. I have tasted the food and drunk the water and the wine. I have rambled the mountains, emerging after hours through the woods, to contemplate the lake some 2,000 feet below me. This is the sky where eagles fly and a place where mere mortals sense how small and helpless they really are. I have turned away to make my descent back through the pines, humbled by the enormity of it all and filled with the sheer privilege of existence. Above all, I have made so many very special friends, who will always be a part of me. To them, especially, I am so grateful.

An eminent authority on France once said that this beautiful country would always be his mistress, but could never be his wife. For me too, Annecy will always be "la dame de Haute Savoie".

"Clothes Show Live" at the N. E. C.

A vast coach load of eager fashion conscious Rendcombians set out for the N E C. to attend the country's leading Fashion exhibition, guided by the knowledgeable Mrs Blackwell, the elegant Mrs Ewing and the ever present Mr Morgan.

Upon arrival, Mrs Blackwell decided to take matters into her own hands and be decisive. She told everyone to meet up at the Main Entrance. It soon dawned on the pupils that the N E C. possesses seven Main Entrances, and so it took a while for the party to re-form itself, Mr Morgan no doubt wishing he had never given up the reins of power.



When we eventually arrived at the Hall, we enjoyed the most tremendous catwalk display, introduced by Karyn Franklin, television presenter of "The Clothes Show". The display was accompanied with spectacular lighting, there being a preponderance of blue colours and ravishing theatrical effects. The action was intensified by the accompanying music provided by

bands such as "Trance" and "Hard Core House" which assaulted the ears, Mrs Blackwell deciding that it would not be worth going with a headache!

As if this wasn't enough, other entertainments were on hand such as hairdressing, makeovers, skin cleansing and the opportunity to test free samples. These were indulged in by our party, and Mrs Blackwell even bought a fleece with, in her own words, "tasteless spots".

The model agencies were also on hand to spot new talent; I have not been told how many of the Rendcomb group were selected.

All in all it was a most successful day, and I would like to thank the pupils for making the trip so easy and for being such a good advertisement for our school, and Mr Morgan and Mrs. Ewing for helping me to run it.

S. R. B.

BLN

“Miss Saigon”

Having studied the Biubil and Schonberg musical “Miss Saigon” in great depth for our Theatre Studies course, Rebekah Tapi in, Mrs Dodd and I had massive expectations for the show, its special effects and magical storyline. So, we set off for London one humid morning in mid May in order to form our own opinions on just how good “Miss Saigon” could actually be. We had booked top-notch seats for a matinee performance at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in Covent Garden. Arriving early, we briefly looked through the National Gallery, followed by lunch in a small cafe opposite the theatre. In addition, we had booked a tour around the theatre before the performance, during which we saw the stage, learned the theatre’s history and actually had the chance to sit in the Royal Box. The highlight of the day was, however, having the opportunity to meet the star of the show, Joanna Ampill, at the stage door.

The show itself was better than I could ever have imagined, the acting quality, the special effects and set itself all left me speechless, not to mention the main male character who left me breathless! As the curtain went down I found myself in tears in total awe of the entire production. The whole day was magnificent and Rebekah and I would like to thank Mrs Dodd for taking us, but more importantly for helping to set up the Theatre Studies ‘A’ level in the first place!

Kate Nicholas



6th Form English Trips

“Hamlet” at the Barbican.

This year has seen a number of successful Sixth Form English trips to the theatre. Early in the spring term, we went to see The R. S. C. perform “Hamlet” at the Barbican.

The journey there was slow and hot, the coach driver seeming to enjoy living in a tropical environment; the trip was punctuated by a lightning lavatory stop which seemed irresistible to all, but eventually we arrived at the Barbican with five minutes to spare before curtain up.

The performance was an innovative if highly edited version of the play; it took two hours less than Branagh’s film version which the set had seen earlier in the year. The highlight was undoubtedly the acting of Alex Jennings, a university friend of Mrs Ewing’s. His performance was both vital and subtle, bringing interpretations to lines which even the most seasoned “Hamlet” goer would not have anticipated. He also managed to bring out the character’s considerable humour, an aspect often neglected by actors more interested in stressing the tragic aspect of the role. Sam Maylott managed to spend a good deal of the performance talking to himself, I suppose in the absence of any other willing listeners, whilst Mr. Murray was spotted falling asleep (only briefly!)

The highlight of the journey back was another lavatory stop; I suppose that having experienced so much dramatic excitement earlier in the evening, the group were happy to live rather more sedately!

We were pleased to be accompanied by Mrs Griffiths and by Mrs. Taplin. With many thanks to Mrs Ewing for organising the event.

JRM

Study Day on “Hamlet at the Shakespeare Centre.”

The Shakespeare Centre in Stratford is a world - renowned centre for the study of the plays of our greatest dramatist. As well as being a centre for academic discussion, it also looks after the five Houses in and around Stratford associated with Shakespeare, most importantly, of course, the Birth Place.

An all day lecture course had been arranged for us on “Hamlet” by two academics from Birmingham University, both experts on Shakespeare’s longest and most famous play. We were steered through the intricacies of the early texts, by no means an easy task, shown slides of various productions of the play at Stratford with accompanying comments about what the directors had been aiming to achieve, and shown clips from film versions of the play including one where Lord Olivier flew through the air like an avenging angel, eventually cracking the ribs of the unfortunate actor playing Claudius. In the afternoon we were treated to a tremendous analysis of the latter stages of the play which gave us plenty of food for thought. All in all it was a very useful day!

“The Tempest” and Study Day at Stratford.

Again we found ourselves in the Shakespeare Centre, this time to consider our other set Shakespeare text, ‘The Tempest’. A much shorter and gentler play than ‘Hamlet’, ‘The Tempest’ poses its own problems for A’ Level students. Our lecturer, a leading Shakespearean scholar, was amusing and informative and was able to elicit responses from all of us. Having been a Head Mistress of an Inner London Comprehensive, she was well able to cope with Harvey Davies and Sam Maylott whom she identified very early on as potential trouble makers!! Her lectures were extremely helpful and shone new light upon the importance of the theatrical advances taking place in the latter half of the first decade of the 17th Century, and the way in which she felt that Shakespeare had exploited these changes in the ‘Tempest’. We learnt that huge sets had been used, many larger than life and some of astounding complexity.

Our lectures were interrupted by a fire alarm which, seeing as the centre is attached to Shakespeare’s birth place, had us scurrying outside; this was followed by the arrival of a whole fleet of fire engines. It was then that the girls, most notably George Farr and Mrs Dodd, became particularly animated; apparently the Firemen were “Lush” and extremely “manly”. It was somewhat embarrassing as it became evident that the firemen had realised that they had become objects of fascination and started scraping their stubble with their masculine hands. The women had to be taken inside in order to be calmed down. Appropriately then, the afternoon’s session focussed upon the status of Caliban, and upon the relationship between the savage world and the civilised. In all it was a most helpful day.

In the evening, we saw the R. S. C.’s production of “The Tempest” at the Shakespeare Theatre which was a good, sound production. The comedy scenes were played wonderfully and with great energy, whilst Prospero was elegantly performed by David Calder. The part which seemed to cause most comment was that of the sprite Ariel which was played by a young man in a pair of rather revealing “Y” Fronts. He seemed to spend most of the play being suspended from a ladder. No doubt some would have preferred it to have been a fireman’s ladder! For many it was their first trip to the home of the R. S. C. and a most successful one it was too!

6B trip to Stratford to see “Merchant of Venice.”

A tired and exam weary group of Sixth Formers boarded a school minibus on the morning of the 22nd June. It was rapidly discovered that Oliver Poole was

missing, and a search party was sent out. He was eventually discovered in Mr. Murray’s class room with, for the first time this term, text at the ready. By the time Mrs Ewing had organised everyone, we were off.

After a rapid journey we arrived at Stratford, where Mrs Dodd was running the tourist information Centre, securing “knock down” rates on a round Stratford Coach trip, and on a Visitor’s ticket to the Shakespeare Houses. The Bus trip was excellent. We were able to sit on top and as we travelled, our genial guide George joked his way round town. As we headed out to Anne Hathaway’s cottage at Shottery, he told those of us who still had hair to hang onto it as the coach gained speed. This seemed to cause mirth at Mr Murray’s expense amongst the still follically enhanced members of the party. As we accelerated Mrs Ewing was hit in the face by a wayward branch, and Oliver Poole had a bottle of blue “Natural Sparkling Raspberry Drink” explode all over his trousers. The trips round the Houses were also interesting, particularly the house of Shakespeare’s son-in-Law John Hall where we were able to see some primitive medical instruments which made the National Health Service appear in a very good light.

In the evening, we went on a tour round the theatre which was fascinating. We were taken to see the Backstage where the props for the production we were to see later that night were in wait. Particularly revolting were some pigs’ masks which had fake blood dripping from their nostrils! We were able to see how the scenery worked and we were allowed onto the stage itself, a daunting place to be as it slopes dramatically towards the audience, which is spread before the actors rising up into the heights of the auditorium. As we walked through, we saw one of the actors having a dramatic fit about how he was supposed to pronounce a word in one of his speeches!

The play itself was excellent. Certainly “Merchant of Venice” is one of Shakespeare’s most successful plays dramatically, but the director had exploited this fact to excellent effect. The set was very dark, heavy and imposing, but the costumes were wonderfully colourful, providing the striking contrast between the actors and the set as well as between the Christians and the sombre black-habited Jews. Shylock was well played by generating the appropriate mixture of sympathy and disgust, whilst Bassanio was excellently performed by the actor who had removed the “Y-Fronts” so strikingly worn in “The Tempest” and donned some finely coloured robes. It was a very impressive end to a memorable day.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Ewing for organising the days and to Mrs Dodd for her jovial and invaluable assistance. It should be said that it was a privilege to take such civilised and keen students to the home of English Drama! They do themselves and their school a great deal of credit!

2nd Form to the Oxford Playhouse to see "JUNK".

Early in the spring term, the whole Second Year were taken to Oxford to see the ground breaking drama called "Junk" performed by a travelling company of players who act provoking plays for school children about contemporary issues. The company provides educational pamphlets to schools to accompany their performances and so the production itself is not the end of the educational process. "Junk" was about the dangers of Drug Abuse. In a highly emotive set of scenes, we were taken through the experiences of a group of down and outs living in Bristol and the effects that drugs had upon them. Many of the scenes were disturbing, some amusing, but all had the character of being striking and hence effective. Lighting and music were used particularly spectacularly. The pupils enjoyed the play but were in some cases disturbed by it; I am sure this is a mark of its success.

I was pleased with how our group behaved on what was their first play trip; I hope that, for them, it will be the first of very many theatre trips to come. Many thanks to Mrs Ewing for organising the evening.

JRM.

Visite en Normandie

Les élèves de 6A qui apprennent le français, sont allés en Normandie. Nous sommes partis en retard à cause de Harvey et son passeport (manque de.) Après avoir mangé le petit déjeuner (croissants, bien sûr!) nous sommes allés au Pointe du Hoc et puis au cimetière Américain à Omaha Beach. C'était impressionnant!

Après, nous sommes allés à Aromanches pour visiter le musée du port artificiel. Dans l'après midi nous sommes allés visiter une ferme de chèvres, où nous avons discuté beaucoup avec la fermière. Et le soir nous sommes allés au restaurant, pour manger les spécialités de la région (fromage de chèvre, les escargots.)

Le lendemain nous sommes allés à Fougères pour visiter la ville, et pour faire une chasse au trésor. L'après-midi nous avons visité le musée du cidre, et nous avons dégusté du cidre. Le soir nous avons mangé un barbecue cuisiné par les profs.

Le dimanche nous avons passé l'après-midi avant de retourner en Angleterre à Honfleur. C'était très joli. Après avoir traversé le pont de Normandie, nous avons pris le bateau au Havre. C'était un weekend pour nos



Visite en Normandie

études de français, et nous sommes bien amusés en même temps.

Ecrit en français très simple par les élèves de 6A, pour que vous puissiez tous comprendre!!!!

Godman House Party for the "Under 5s"

At the end of term, not much fancying the idea of prep, the Third Year boarders decided to organise chocolate fondue with forfeits. The idea got out of hand and ended up with a pass-the-parcel, musical chairs, musical statues, the chocolate game, races and so on. Not forgetting of course crisps, coke, jelly and ice cream and plenty of sweets as prizes. A few people were reluctant to join in at first but many did so with pig-tails, freckles, pyjamas and teddies (including Miss Houghton and Miss Phipps.)

The party soon took off - we had an excellent evening ending with a game of sardines, where we all hid under fabric in the sewing room.

Sarah Padmore



"Under 5s" party

The Normandy Eleven

The Eleven set off on their trip during the May half-term. This was originally conceived as a German trip, but time did not permit it to be so. The usual sights were taken in, Fougères, a medieval town with an eleventh century castle, the Normandy landings beaches and the American and German cemeteries. On the Saturday night we had a barbecue and our French neighbour and Mr Stutchbury played boules, even though neither could speak the other's language.

The experience will also be used by many as a topic for their GCSE coursework.

REH

Edward's Excellent Adventure (Aged 15 months) in Brittany and Normandy

The following are extracts from this well travelled explorer's diary (having been around the world at the tender age of 6 months in the womb.)

Thursday 2nd - my twelve intrepid fellow travellers turned up looking ready to overcome their first task of fitting in amongst all my toys, food, tent, parents etc. Casting an eye over them they gave the impression of being up to the challenges ahead. My newspaper advert had not put them off:

Wanted: individuals with at least one of the following - a sense of adventure, a good sense of humour, enjoys good food and company, chauffeurs, understands French and "Babytalk", will get their hands dirty when required. No Xenophobes need apply!



Friday 3rd - the overnight ferry journey went without event or much sleep, just the preparation to set them up for their second challenge - how to disembark in a minibus with a flat battery! Using all their ingenuity and strength (at 6.30 in the morning!) to jump-start it we landed on French soil. No sooner had the laughing in the face of adversity died down than the tour party was unnerved by my third task - how to get through passport control showing them thirteen passports when there were only twelve actual passport holders. Yuki Takanashi was exposed as the schizophrenic amongst us with two passports, his current one plus the expired one which had, as he put it, "a much better shot of my hair".

Settling down into our farmhouse base for the next few days (care of Miss Houghton's brother) was straight forward enough having dispatched the boys with their tents into the wilderness of a back garden with its bottom-biting ants!

The nearby shopping centre of Fougères was then part of my next task - how would the shopaholics amongst them survive the two hour lunch break/closure which started just as we arrived - would they be able to satisfy themselves by viewing the fine Medieval buildings? An hour later it was time to go! Rumbling tummies had won through - the scene was now set for the team to gel together all the more as the Bar-B-Q was put into action by 'pyromaniac' Yuki as the others prepared the food - bring on the spicy sausages! Who ate all the marshmallows, Charlotte?

Saturday 4th - replete with 'pain au chocolat' and jammy baguette we ventured forth to Rennes. Brittany's capital and several more of my challenges - Matt the translator was required to order a biscuit for Yuki from the market, ending up with not just one but twelve! Ben was required to get some fruit for the whole group for less than ten francs - he succeeded with Matt's French and "cheeseysmile" to leave the market with thirteen pineapples and apples - a job well

done! The remainder of the day was spent enjoying the city's festival events with dancers, jugglers, puppeteers, bands, carousel and candyfloss. Dinner was spent soaking up the evening's festival atmosphere whilst enjoying savoury and sweet crepes - traditional food of Brittany.

Sunday 5th - the rebuilt city of St Malo was our 'port of call' with its fine ramparts and festival attractions of living statues, brass bands and jugglers; the whole day was

rounded off with a traditional dinner of pork and cider back at the “ranch”. Miss Houghton, Helen, Jamela and the others rallied together to bring this delight into being, the following game of Pictionary went to the wire with the staff just staving off the rest (it helps if the staff are also adjudicating!)

Favourite quote of the trip: “There’s a snail without a house on the toilet.” (Mikako’s description of a slug!)

Monday 6th - the final challenges I had devised were on the last day with a visit to the outwardly impressive Mont St Michel; a beacon for the swathes of tourists to make “pilgrimage” to. The ostentatious nature of the Mont’s tourism proved almost too much for the hardest of those amongst us and which prompted a hasty retreat to a nearby forest with its more sublime nature. The final challenge was to be found here amongst this placid setting of **the beautiful lake with**



its motorised miniature boats which could hold up to three people. Helen and Jamela braved Charlotte’s “driving” (very brave indeed!) whilst the Japanese trio of Mikako, Natsuko and Yumi sailed off into the sunset (not altogether deliberately!?) Mummy and Miss Houghton were foolhardy enough to take me with them as well as look out for themselves with Ben, Matt and Yuki also (recklessly) afloat. The evening was spent recovering from this experience with an eight course gastronomic delight.

Tuesday 7th - before sailing back to Portsmouth we visited the Memorial exhibition at Caen to find out about the Normandy landings of 1944 - a sobering experience.

All in all everyone played their part in discovering Brittany and Normandy’s ‘gems’ and I would like to thank them all for their delightful company.

Edward Brealy (as dictated to
ASB and ALB)

**Harvey Davies makes an
unbeaten 74 against
Victoria College**

61

Jersey Cricket Tour

After an enlightening meeting, a short chat, and a little snooze, we set off from Park House at 3.30 a. m. with voices full of enthusiasm as the long awaited journey to Jersey had begun. Despite this early excitement and the cramped positions within the minibus, snoring soon became apparent and bellowed over the sound of the engine.

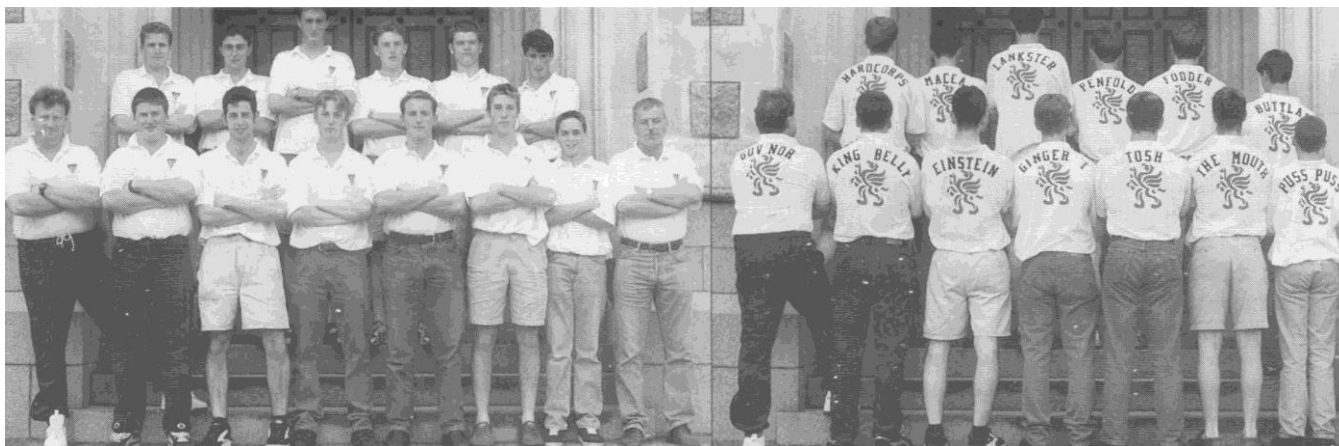
As dawn encroached and Poole Harbour became close, we awoke with renewed anticipation only to be hindered with the news that our ferry crossing had been cancelled. The extensive delay which this entailed gave us all a chance to relax and amuse ourselves at a local water park. After lunch and another tiresome wait, the sea proved to be too rough and we found ourselves sleeping a night at Canford School nearby, thanks to Mr Slark.

The next morning the weather, now calmer, allowed us to board the ferry. Approximately three and a half hours after boarding we reached Jersey having braved the rough sea, leaving some of the lads a little faint.

Reaching Victoria College we unloaded the minibus to the news that we were due to play a school that afternoon. With stomachs still on the ferry, we fielding first against De La Salle on an immaculate pitch with the outfield similar to a bowling green and a wicket as hard as concrete. The opening bowlers, Harry Aldrich - Blake and James Gibbs, took advantage of the beautiful conditions both taking two wickets very cheaply. This gave the base for Nick Stanfield to bowl exceptionally well taking four wickets for only 15 runs. A steady batting performance came from Ben Butler who played for the opposition due to their being short of a player. He top scored for De La Salle remaining unbeaten with bruises proof of a hard, demanding Innings. The target of 90 runs set Rendcomb was met with the loss of only 1 wicket, an impressive win to begin the tour.

Early next morning we walked a short distance to the Victoria Ground to firstly eat breakfast in the pavilion and then to start the two day match against King’s School Worcester. Having won the toss we batted on another hard wicket with Sam Maylott scoring an effective 54 runs against the bowling attack. 198 for 6





was our eventual score after 60 overs and at the end of the day, King's Worcester had made 216 for 5, a game evenly poised.

A fresh start on Wednesday, with King's Worcester only 18 runs ahead, saw solid batting coming from the top five batsmen (William Wittchell 30, Chris Scarth 31, Harvey Davies 50) giving Rendcomb the best possible chance of winning the match. However hopes of accomplishing the win were dashed by great batting by one King's Worcester opener scoring 139 not out. As captain I was very proud of the team in their great performance as it was clearly a visible improvement upon our first meeting against King's Worcester at Rendcomb. An immense team effort over a long tiring two days gave the side a well deserved day off on Thursday

A walk into St. Helier to do some shopping, then a trip to the beach and finally an appetising meal with the sea in view, capped a wonderful relaxing day in Jersey.

Friday, the final day. we played Victoria College a side with familiar faces and a friendly, welcoming manner offering a brilliant last match to end the tour. Once again we batted first and once again we saw the illustrious batting of Harvey Davies making an unbeaten 74. (*See photo above*) A superb achievement came from Tim Hill scoring 37 off 39 balls competing a fine tour with the bat and also his efforts in fielding have been inspirational for the younger players in the team, even though this has been a short season for him. A total of 199 runs created a target of 200 for Victoria and after the last over bowled, Victoria were on 187 for nine so the match was an exciting draw and was a pleasing result for all involved.

Ashley Taylor

Girls' Hockey Tour to Holland

The first Hockey tour for the girls was organised for the beginning of the Summer Holidays. Twenty four girls accompanied by four staff left Rendcomb early on

Thursday 2nd July for the Netherlands, returning a week later in the evening of Wednesday 8th July.

Staff: H. Morgan, C. Wood. J. Hunt and S. Westhead.
Girls: L. Bongiovanni, L. Donovan, P. Hunt, G. Leathart, J. Mais (Vice-captain), K. Nicholas (Captain), B. Steude, B. Unger. S. Worlock, N. Abbott. A. De Lisle Wells, S. Donovan, S. Sprawson, L. Webb. E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, A. Osborne. H. Pearce, A. Roberts, A. Osborne, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Thrower, and R. Whatman.

Thursday 2nd July - Onward Journey

5.30 a. m. What is that noise? It's the bell. Isn't it a bit early? Then I remember, we're going to Holland toady! Get up, get ready.

5. 50 a. m. Walk over to the coach, talking loudly and excitedly. We just can't believe we re going.

6.15 a. m. On the coach, getting comfy and starting to feel the effects of waking up at 5. 30 a. m.

6. 17 a. m. Sleeping soundly.

9. 40 a. m. Buying sweets, thousands of them, thinking that they should last the Journey.

9. 52 a. m. Why did I buy those sweets? I have no need of them! Mmmmm the pink ones look good!

9. 59 a. m. Finished the sweets, feeling rather queezy, ooops!!!

10.30 a.m. Start to board the ferry, nervous giggles as people start to think of "Titanic"

11.00 a. m. A short judder and we're off. It's wet and windy on the deck. Change our money and start to write the postcards we'll never get round to sending.

12.30 p. m. We board the coach and start the journey through France and Belgium.

12.45 p. m. Fast asleep.

7.00 p. m. Wake up, and realise the excited shouts are coming from the coach; the Hotel's in view!

8.30 p. m. Sitting at the table in the expensive dining room, staring blankly down at an oddly shaped piece of meat.

9.15 p. m. Found McDonald's and then returned to the hotel.

10.30 p. m. Crawl into bed.

10.31p. m. Fast asleep!

Rose Thrower

Friday 3rd July - Duinrell Pleasure Park

In the morning we went to the astroturf in Noordwijk to practise our hockey for the matches later on. When we warmed up, it was clear to a number of the squad members that we were a lot less fit than we had expected!

In the afternoon we went to Duinrell Pleasure Park where they had the largest water park in the area. There were numerous water slides which we all enjoyed, especially Mr Morgan, who had to be dragged away at the end of the afternoon.

In the evening we went out to explore the town and were delighted to discover that there was a McDonald's nearby! After stuffing ourselves full of burgers and fries, we made our way back to the hotel to collapse into our beds.

Helen and Roz

Saturday 4th July - Rotterdam

We had a free morning, so after a brisk early breakfast many of us ventured into town in pursuit of the Dutch shops (especially the supermarket). Others simply went to the beach to relax in preparation and contemplation of the afternoon match.

We had our packed lunch at the hotel accompanied by a warm sausage roll or bowl of soup and a cup of tea. We set off early for our match as it was due to start at 3 pm in Rotterdam which is over an hour away.

Victoria Hockey Club was a very nice, modern club with two astroturfs parallel to each other so the 1st and 2nd teams could play simultaneously. The first team match started well and for the first few minutes although on the defensive, we managed to hold our ground. Kate did some spectacular saves and the defence worked well. However, as the game progressed, the opposition managed to infiltrate our defence with their superior skills and training, and the bonus of just reaching the end of their season. They scored several times; however, early in the second half Sophie Sprawson led our offensive and managed to score which boosted the whole team's morale. Although we lost the match, we gained useful experience against a team of vast superiority in fitness and skill.

After the matches we were invited to a BBQ in the clubhouse with the girls, watching the Holland v Argentina match; we naturally supported Holland, and luckily they won.

Laura Donovan

Sunday 5th July - Amstelveen

We travelled to a suburb of Amsterdam called Amstelveen. In the morning we went to Clara Maria Farm to see how clogs and cheese were made. As we stepped off the coach, we were greeted by the pungent smell of a cow shed, which sent us moving quickly into the building where we were shown how clogs were made. From there we moved on to the next shed to see how Gouda cheese is produced. After this we were given the chance to try three different types of Gouda, and the opportunity to buy souvenirs.

We had a long picnic stop in the Amsterdamse Bos, then moved on to our second hockey match. It was a



match just for the 1st team. Unfortunately we lost it 5-0, but the team played very well with several close moments.

Gemma Leathart

Monday 6th July - Bennebroek

Compared to the other mornings, it was a relief to have a later 'tasty' breakfast. We must say the originality gets better each day! The morning was spent in typical girls style shopping. Others chose to play mini golf or such like activities.

We spent a brief hour after lunch walking on the beach and admiring the breathtaking scenery. We posed for silly tour photos in order to remind us of a 'serious' hockey tour.

In the evening we played our final match. This proved to be great fun. In the first half we were 2-0 down, but it would have been a lot higher without the determination and ruthless saves by Antonia. In the second half Sophie Sprawson scored, and the opposition scored two more goals to make a final score of 4 - 1.



After arriving back in Noordwijk, we all beetled down to McDonald's for a well deserved decent meal.

Nellie Abbott, Sophie Sprawson and Lottie Webb

Tuesday 7th July - Amsterdam

We arrived in Amsterdam at roughly ten in the morning. After being warned of the numerous dangers of the city, we proceeded to board a tour boat to check out the sites of Amsterdam via canal. On the tour we were informed of the housing shortage in Amsterdam and that, because of this, many people choose to live on the canal in houseboats to escape the claustrophobic atmosphere of the city.

After the canal trip, we explored parts of the city on foot and some of us made use of the tram system.

Later it came to our attention that certain male members of staff had been utilising the facilities of Amsterdam's coffee shops!!! SHOCKING!!! But don't worry, your secret is safe with us!

Chrissie Schotten, Roz Frazer-Holland, Helen Pearce.

Anne Frank's House

Despite waiting for around an hour to get in, the visit was worth the wait. Although inside, the house itself was quite bare, it was interesting and strange finally seeing everything I had read about in Anne Frank's diary. It had been hard to visualise the two families living in the house for almost two years without ever coming out, but seeing the pencil marks on the wall where the children's heights had been measured, the pictures on Anne's wall and extracts from her diary helped me to imagine the family I knew well from her book. I was amazed at the number of rooms hidden behind the secret swinging bookshelf at the back of Anne's father's office and I realised how lucky they were compared to other Jews of the time.

Louise Bongiovanni

Van Gogh Museum

We went to the Van Gogh Museum on our final afternoon. The exhibition was in the heart of Amsterdam's museum quarter and it contained the world's largest collection of Van Gogh's works. Within this collection were many paintings, drawings and letters, as well as his personal collection of



Japanese prints. Also, within the museum, there was an exhibition of work from other painters of the same era such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissaro and Paul Gauguin.

Jenny Mais

Wednesday 8th July - Homeward

The day started with another 'delicious' breakfast, then a last minute rush onto the coach. Everyone was so distraught to leave our four star quality hotel, but we managed to keep our emotions under control (just).

First stop was in Rotterdam to drop Tina and Babs off at the train station. It was really sad saying goodbye to Tina as she wasn't coming back to Rendcomb again.

We all watched *Sister Act* to pass the time as we travelled from Holland into Belgium. Most people slept, exhausted from the festivities of the night before. That night the teachers were concerned for our safety due to the match between Holland and Brazil taking place. Luckily Mr Morgan and Mr Wood kindly escorted us back safely afterwards.

After stopping off at a Belgian services for the necessities, we were on our way to catch the ferry, only to find when we reached Calais that we had missed it. Fortunately we managed to catch another forty-five minutes later. Once on the ferry, Mrs Westhead and Mrs Hunt disappeared into the Duty Free liquor section, while Mr Morgan and Mr Wood headed straight for the perfumes! After an eventful and memorable week abroad, we were glad to be back on English soil when we arrived in Dover.

Phillipa Hunt and Sophie Worlock

SPORT

Rugby Football

This season fell once again into the pattern that has been established over the last few years of the College rugby, with the senior sides enjoying considerable success and the junior teams often struggling against physically larger opponents. Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the enthusiasm and commitment of players and coaches alike remains undiminished.

Changes amongst the coaching staff saw Alex Brealy returning to the U13 squad to work with Martin Graham, and Carlo Voulo taking over the U14s. We were also pleased to welcome "new boy" Steve Hill who made a valuable contribution to both senior and junior rugby.

For the fourth successive year, the 1st XV enjoyed a winning season, despite the loss of ten members of last year's team. Substantial rebuilding was again required

Washing cars to raise money for the Tour

around captain James Gibbs, vice-captain Tim Hill and senior 'pros' Chris Scarth, Sebastian Grey and Ed Turvill, to produce a team that played a great deal of enterprising and positive rugby. One or two of the defeats might give cause for regret, but the XV invariably gave spectators "value for money" and their record is a fair reflection of their collective ability. As ever, the outstanding performance of the season was in defeat against our most powerful opponents; another tribute to the enduring spirit and commitment of Rendcomb rugby.

Another pleasing aspect of the season was the complimentary comments that the XV prompted from referees. This embattled group of individuals see most things during the course of a season, and praise from them about our style of play and our attitude is praise indeed. The individual who drew the most of such plaudits was the skipper, James Gibbs, playing in his third and final season of 1st XV rugby. James has been the only Fifth Year pupil in recent times to force his way into the last XV and to hold his place, and this in what was one of the College's most successful teams ever. He has played in two winning sides since, and has made an enormous contribution to College rugby. He truly is a 'giant' of Rendcomb rugby and will be very much missed.

Once again, the very positive and mutually supportive attitude throughout the senior squad is worthy of note, and Martin Griffiths performed his customary trick of transforming a 2nd XV judged to be a "sow's ear" into the "silk purse" that won eight of their nine games. Much credit is also due to Thom Gilbert in this respect.

Amongst the junior teams, success proved to be more elusive, as our XVs once again found themselves straggling against physically larger opponents. Nevertheless, a good deal of attractive and positive rugby was played, and the commitment of the players remains commendable. The difficult circumstances which our junior teams have often faced over recent seasons have compelled us to develop a uniform Rendcomb style of expansive fifteen man rack based rugby, and to place great emphasis on skills and technique. Ultimately, this continuity of approach has played substantial dividends to the senior sides, and much of the credit for their success lies with the hard work and patience of the junior coaches.

Another more recent response to the difficulties experienced by our junior sides has been the decision to focus our sports scholarships on promising 12-13 year old rugby players, not in any attempt to transform the College into a rugby "superpower", but simply to enable our junior teams to remain reasonably competitive. One happy consequence of our attempts to recruit such scholars has been the strengthening of our links with Cirencester RFC, and this season has seen College players representing the club at various

levels, as well as senior boys coaching the mini rugby section as part of their sports leadership course.

The annual club dinner was as ever a splendid and enormously enjoyable climax to the season, with some impressive and amusing speeches by James Gibbs and Thom Gilbert. Imagine our surprise when the guest speaker, one Graham Gooch, put aside his disguise (a cricket bat and floppy sunhat) to reveal our own Kim Taplin; but there was no disappointment here, only relief, as the 'Tank' went on to entertain us with anecdotes from his own sporting career which, if it has not (yet!) quite scaled the heights of that of the former England cricket captain, has certainly been more interesting.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those involved in rugby this season, to the club officers and to James and Thom in particular, and to all players,, to the ground staff and the caterers and, finally, to my coaching colleagues whose unflagging commitment are fundamental to the continued well-being of Rendcomb rugby.

MS

Officers of the Club

Club Captain	James Gibbs
Vice Captain	Tim Hill
2nd XV Captain	Thom Gilbert
Hon. Secretary	Ashley Taylor

Playing Record 1997:

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

1st XV

A fourth successive winning season for the first XV, and also one that was possibly contrary to expectations!

It is, though, hard to compare previous year's teams as we were looking at a slightly different fixture list - we turned down some of our old rivals and as a consequence picked up some new ones; Rendcomb, as with many other rugby playing schools, now has other constraints to consider, much to the detriment of the sport at schoolboy level. Still, even if seven years' (or more) experience is not behind each member of the team, the commitment, the raw talent and competitive sportsmanship still is.

On many occasions this pulled us through, when maybe we lacked the size (!) or power of the teams we were playing - our results fluctuated from wins to losses throughout - showing that we had the capacity to

forget a dire performance and concentrate on the task in hand. The team formed fairly quickly with regards to the players, though support play and possibly fitness eluded us for our first couple of matches. Long mauling games tended not to command our interest much either as our lean yet mobile forwards will testify! And the backs were possibly thrown by the decision to scrap the drift defence - even the old hands had a new role to play defensively, for they had to accommodate for the less experienced players. I must

The front row (Ed Turvill, Ash Taylor and Phil de Havilland Hall) did more than their fair share of work in all the play; they were the key to the successful line-outs and powerful changes from penalties. Toby Abbott and Julian Keith, our locks this year, had to overcome themselves before they could make the contribution of which they were capable; need I say they managed to do this and both developed their game immensely as a result. Rupert Webb, open side



mention Chris Scarth who, I thought, did particularly well, always making it as easy as he could for the players around him. Baz Grey was another of these heroes - never missing a tackle and finishing off some of our more adventurous play with a try. Jake on the other wing surprised everyone but himself with his blinding pace - a sneaky blind side run in the first ten minutes of many games struck huge psychological blows to opposition.

I would like to thank Tim Hill for being vice-captain this year - we all had a huge amount of justified faith in his judgement and even temper. Sam Maylott took over the position of scrum-half approaching midseason. This proved beneficial to the linking of the two units and his well suited attitude gained us more than points! The backs, in spurts or ebbs and flows, produced fluid incisive rugby that, preceded by a succession of quick rucks by the forwards, made a very good game to watch; we had neither the size nor the temperament to play a slow, mauling game.

As I have already hinted, our pack was not the heaviest on the circuit by any means, but tight scrummaging and having the speed to get to the breakdowns meant that we competed well in all our matches, though this lack of specialist physiques meant that the line between forwards and backs was perhaps slightly more blurred than some of the teams we played - meaning that some of the forwards were incorporated into the backs' moves, and backs were not afraid to help out the forwards when they needed it.

flanker, also had a quietly effective season - his awareness allowed him to read the play and do his part with calmness in the most frantic of situations.

Ian Forster, Ben Butler and Yuki Takanashi made up the rest of the final team - all three played to their capacity in all their matches, showing the kind of skill and ability that will make up the core of the team next year. There were also numerous other players who made appearances throughout the season and I am grateful to the 2nd XV for loaning us players when the need arose - it was good to see they could still do well.

I would like to thank Mr Slark and all the rugby staff for putting in the time for the boys all the way through the school - whether they were successful or not. I hope that the standard of Rendcomb rugby continues to be high, because that is where the teams derive their enjoyment of the game.

James Gibbs

Played 13, Won 8, Lost 5. PF 315. PA 163

v Rednock School (A)	W 53-0
v Bredon School (A)	L 14-22
v St Edward's School (A)	W 11-0
v King's School, Gloucester (H)	W 18-5
v Leighton Park School (A)	L 10-25
v Bedstone College (H)	W 37-5
v Douai School (A)	W 20-19
v Cokethorpe School (A)	W 31-5
v Kelly College (H)	L 0-20

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	L 21-25
v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	W 45-7
v Wycliffe College (H)	L 19-30
v Kingham Hill School (H)	W 46-0

Team from: J Gibbs (captain), T. Hill (vice-captain), E. Turvill, A. Taylor, P. de Havilland-Hall, T. Abbott, J. Keith, R. Webb, B. Butler, S. Maylott, C. Scarth, I. Forster, S. Grey, J. Hawkins, D. Morris, C. Holliday, Y. Takanashi, W. Witchell.

2nd XV

When a famous under 13s/14s/15s captain said "Our main problem is we aren't quite as big and strong as the other teams, but as we get older we'll win more and more matches", he was right. It was a shame it took us six seasons of Rendcomb rugby to do it.

Our first fixture saw the team come together very well, beating Bredon 56-0. The team overcame dramatic positional changes to play as a unit extraordinarily effectively. We decided to capitalise on Harry Aldrich-Blake's natural pace and move him from full back to prop and Joe "The Hands" Schinzler moved from 2nd row to right wing. Special mention here must go to Sam Maylott for playing a blinding game at scrum half.

We had further convincing wins at St Edward's and King's, Gloucester, the former seeing a rare example of a Rendcomb rolling maul try. The endless rucking drills proved to be well worth the effort against King's Gloucester. We put in one of our best performances of the season to beat a team who were a good, strong, physical opposition.

Our team spirit, the key to our season, was in full throttle; Kittipong scored one of six tries in the first minute, having decided he wasn't injured and it was a hugely pleasing result.

Theo Berry led the team to another victory at Leighton Park; this match seeing the kick of the decade by Sam Maylott. It was completely the wrong option but it won the game for us and allowed David Ashby to score.

Another win of 44-16 against Douai, who proved to be quite strong despite the score, meant our score card was five wins from five. Mr Hill, escorting us to another away match, gave us a colourful half time pep talk and we managed to win.



An extremely weakened side was outplayed by a strong Sir Thomas Rich's, but it put us back on the ground to focus on the rest of the season and following some strongly worded coaching sessions we were ready for action again!

A mixed first and second XV was put out against Bristol Cathedral. This demonstrated, to me, the strength of the senior squad. The 1st XV was very welcoming to us and it saw some great performances from Nick Hall, Laurence Barton and especially the outstanding James Starkey who put in his performance of the season. The 1st and 2nd XV mixed really well to produce another very comfortable win and proved the success of the senior's squad system.

The second highlight of the season came with a home match against the old enemy, Wycliffe. They usually are very competitive and this season was no exception, but the commitment and passion which was so obvious in this year's 2nd XV came through again, and we went from losing 7-5 at half-time to win 44-12, with a final 15 minute's blitz of outstanding rugby.

The season ended in style with a 58-0 victory over Kingham Hill. This saw Joel King and Lawrence Barton score their debut tries for the 2nd XV.

The success we have had this season is due to attitude, commitment and team spirit. With small resources we have achieved the seemingly impossible to win 8 from 9 matches, while maintaining an excellent attitude and playing a style of Rugby which was fast, open and cunningly organised.

The forwards James Starkey, Phil Webb, Chas Holliday, Lawrence Barton, Nick Hall, Harry Aldrich-Blake and John Shenton were quick, powerful and always committed.

The backs, Sam Maylott, William Witchell, Tristan Day, Theo Berry, Kittipong, Joe Schinzler, Florian Brenner, Yuki Takanashi and Joel King, were all quick, determined and decisive. Most importantly, we played a 15 man team game.

I would like to thank Mr Slark, James Gibbs and all the 1st XV for their unfailing support and help: Mr Hill for his advice and coaching skills and finally to Mr Griffiths for being an inspirational coach. We can

now look back and be pretty impressed and amazed with what we have achieved in the remarkable season of 1997, and can now look forward to next season as we will all be here next year.

Thom Gilbert

2nd XV Postscript

This was indeed a remarkable season; I was certainly mainly intent on building the basis of next year's 1st XV and was initially surprised at how quickly this new young team gelled. Their results are impressive; they deserve to feel proud of themselves, for along the way they played some excellent rugby. The second half performance against Wycliffe was, as Thom has mentioned, really rather special, but the key factors to this year's success came from various areas. Firstly the excellent coaching they receive in the lower school where physical size differences can obscure the excellent work being done despite results at times. Secondly the positive rapport between 1st and 2nd XVs; there is plenty of team pride but everybody is working towards Rendcomb doing well - there are no petty jealousies - and thirdly there are the individual players who show such commitment and bravery. Of course this year the 2nd XV also had another outstanding captain in Thom Gilbert who deserves enormous credit notably for his selfless contributions at the very heart of the physical battle but also for his determination in welding together such a positive team attitude. Everybody in the senior squad played in a match for the school - what a great attitude; well done all of you!

MSG

Played: 9; Won 8, Lost 1, Drew 0.

Team from: T. Gilbert (captain), H. Aldrich-Blake, J. Shenton, L. Barton, N. Hall, P. Webb, C. Holliday, J. Starkey, W. Witchell, S. Maylott, T. Day, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. King, F. Brenner, J. Schinzler, Y. Takanashi, J. Brittain-Jones, E. Farnsworth, C. Garcia, W. Warrington, D. Hughes, T. Mais.

U15XV

At the beginning of the season, I looked at our squad and thought we'd had it! It consisted of 15 guys, two of whom were injured for the whole season, and one who had never even played rugby before!

The overall results show that we weren't quite good enough to make an impression, but we persevered, and finished with two wins against Cheltenham College and Kingham Hill, which finished the season off on a high note.

As the term progressed, the commitment and ability of the team never lacked, even after many heavy losses. The scrum stuck together throughout the matches, working as a unit generally producing good ball for the backs to do some damage with.

The flankers (P Bongiovanni, M Collier), played well defensively as well as offensively, putting tackles all around the field. The real driving force of the team,

the front five, proved valuable against large sides, not losing enthusiasm, and working well in set balls, rucks, mauls.

Adam Padmore and Paul Szybiak dominated the real force in the backs, using speed and skill to run in points, and performing the majority of tackles in the line. Ben Stanfield had a steady season feeding the ball from the scrums as scrum half. Oliver Jones had a promising year in the centre, using his speed on many occasions, helping us out, and he was also a good tackler. Simon Bullock and Ben Starks, our wingers, had all round performances, good in all aspects of the game.

Special thanks go to Paul Szybiak and Adam Padmore for their kicking skills and also to "Paddy" for some of his tremendous try saving tackles. I would also like to thank James Brittain-Jones and Carlos Garcia for their help at the end of the season, which was greatly needed and appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Sykes for his coaching skills during the year, and for not giving up and making the most of what we were. He has left us with a lot of potential for the 1st and 2nd fifteen teams next year. Thank you!

Freddie Lait

Played 8, Won 2, Lost 6. PF 71, PA 260

Team from: H. Ino, M. Good, M. Elsworthy, T. Drew, R. Knight, P. Bongiovanni, M. Collier, F. Lait, B. Stanfield, P. Szybiak, S. Bullock, O. Jones, H. Weston, Garcia, J. Brittain-Jones, B. Starks, A. Padmore.

U14XV

This was a season of very mixed fortunes and it wasn't until the middle of November that the team started to perform to their potential. A combination of inexperience and injuries to key players led to defeat in the first five matches, although a very questionable refereeing decision denied us a victory in the fifth game against Wycliffe. The second half of the season saw a great improvement in both the attitude and commitment of the squad and at last we began to implement some of the skills and tactics which we had worked so hard at in training. Two hard fought victories against Cokethorpe and Bredon gave us confidence for the remaining matches and although we lost heavily to Bristol Cathedral School and narrowly in a rematch with Wycliffe, we began to play some very good rugby. The forwards were recycling the ball quickly and our backs combined well to develop strong attacking positions, and this was most evident in our 46-0 victory over Cheltenham College, in which we ran in eight tries. Our final match against Kingham

Hill was perhaps the most exciting and hard fought of the season and although the game ended in a 0-0 draw we played some excellent rugby and spent nearly the whole game in the opponents' 22. On the few occasions when our own line was threatened we tackled resolutely and managed to clear the ball safely. We actually had a chance to win the game with a penalty in the last seconds but although Jonathan Pratt made good contact with the ball, it drifted agonisingly wide of the posts.

Over the season all squad members had their moments of glory but several deserve special mention. James Spackman showed great promise as full back, safe under the high ball and running strongly in support of the three-quarters in attack. Charlie Cowper and John Raby will be battling it out for the scrum half position next season, for on this season's evidence both are able to deliver quick, accurate ball for the backs as well as attacking effectively off the base of the scrum. Jonathan Pratt was secure and composed at fly-half, initiating attacks with flair and imagination and clearing the ball accurately to touch in defence. The forwards were strengthened by the introduction of Philip Gordon-Jones after an absence through injury and he was well partnered in the second row by Giles Drew. Richard Birkbeck proved to be a powerful and incisive number eight, regularly making ground down the blind side, with good support from flankers Ed MacCurrach and James Sabourin. The front row was solid and Richard Wilkins' reliable hooking was assisted in no small measure by the steadiness of his props Tom Moss and Stanislav Odintsov, who played his first season of rugby with great style. Apologies to those players who have not been mentioned by name; your chance to make an impression will come next season. If we can start with the same commitment as we showed at the end of last season, then next year's U15 team should be a match for any side.

Many thanks for all your efforts.

CV

Played 11, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 7. PF 113, PA 254.

Team from: T Moss, R Wilkins, S Odintsov, N Maylott, P Gordon-Jones, G Drew, E McHenry, R Birkbeck, J Sabourin, E MacCurrach, C Cowper, J Raby, J Pratt, E Wadsworth, L Tarnowski, S Ward, R Demczak, F Lait. R McKelvie, A Padmore, R Uzzell, J Spackman, A Bowers, P Bongiovanni, P Szybiak.

U13 XV

The under 13 XV had a good season this year, recording wins over Dean Close, Bredon and Rosehill, and drawing a spirited game with St Edward's. The larger schools (King's Gloucester and Bristol Cathedral) proved too strong for us, and we were rather disappointing against Kingham Hill, but there were

many very encouraging aspects to the team's play, all of which bode well for the future.

The strength of the team lay in the back row and the half-backs. Tom Lait was an outstanding no 8, difficult to stop and fierce in the tackle. He was ably assisted by David Roper. Peter Mason (until his riding accident!) and Michael Arkle, all of whom showed considerable speed and determination as flankers. Behind them was the ever-reliable Matthew Hutchins. He was the classic scrum-half - always inventive, combative and terrier-like in his determination to win the ball, or gain an advantage at the opposition's expense. Chris Jeffreys linked with him well, and gave the team significant attacking options, as well as the security of knowing that few opposition attacks were going to make it through the middle of the field. Outside him, Barney Kellett and Tim Bates provided the pace and spirit in open play.

The forwards generally acquitted themselves well, even if they were faced with a bigger pack on many occasions, they stuck to their task and showed that physique is not everything when it comes to playing rugby. Ben Hopley proved to be (literally) a tower of strength, ably assisted by Barney Vick, Duncan Bond, Josh Coppersmith-Heaven and Joe Mociornitza. In the backs. Sam Hicks discovered that he had considerable skill as a full-back, and as he grew into the position, he played with increasing confidence and authority as the season went on.

The other very encouraging factor this season was how many First Year pupils made it into the team. This bodes very well for next year, because already there is a pool of talent which knows what inter-school rugby is all about. Apart from those already mentioned, Christian Good, Tom Davies, Mark Ward, Ralph Aspin and Richard Lefeuvre will certainly be part of the nucleus of next year's team, and there were others waiting in the wings as well.

So, at this level at least, Rendcomb rugby is in good heart.

MHG/ASB

Played 7, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 3. PF 128, PA 89.

Team from: T Lait (captain), D Bond, J Coppersmith-Heaven, C. Fothergill, S Hicks, B Hopley, M Hutchins. C Jeffreys, B Kellett, J Mociornitza, M Postlethwaite, D Roper, H Wilson, M Arkle, R Aspin, T Davies, C Good, R Lefeuvre, P Mason, B Vick, M Ward.

Senior Girls' Hockey

With 38 girls in the Fifth and Sixth Forms, we were able to run 1st, 2nd and under 16 XIs once again. The opening of the all weather pitch allowed intense and

effective practising skills and the coaches, Mr Wood, Mr Morgan and Mr Essenhigh all agreed that the players had demonstrated great keenness whilst maintaining excellent humour.

We were fortunate to have two dynamic goalkeepers in Kate Nicholas and Nellie Abbott and there were so many occasions where they kept Rendcomb in the game through spectacular saves.

The season ended marginally in our favour and this was decided in the last exciting game of the term against King's in which the 1st XI fought hard to win. Overall: Played 23, Won 9, Drew 6, Lost 8, GF 31, GA 28.



The term's **Hockey Dinner** was celebrated on the last Monday with a Christmas meal at the Thames Head Inn just outside Cirencester. The guest was Mrs Blackwell and Mr Wood gave a summary of the term by presenting certain players with awards. Annabel Howard and Rebecca Perry replied and presented the coaches with splendid cuff links in appreciation of their efforts.

1st XI

The team made a rather slow start both from a fitness and skills point of view but the benefits of the all weather pitch soon began to take effect and ultimately this allowed us to take on bigger schools with success. Annabel Howard captained the side well and led by example, demonstrating great mobility in attack and defence. It took some time to establish an effective formation but eventually this was achieved and accentuated by the more effective play of the forwards. Laura Donovan proved to be a fast right winger and after trying several players on the left, Laura's younger sister, Sarah, showed that she could cope with this difficult position and distribute the ball frequently for goal scoring opportunities. When Sophie Sprawson suddenly became really goal hungry and enjoyed putting the ball in the net, results started to flow and it was fitting that she finished as top goal scorer. Louise Bongiovanni often acted as a most effective substitute by covering a lot of ground and scoring quickly.

Annabel, together with Anna de Lisle Wells (who must be congratulated on playing for the County) and Jenny

Mais, controlled the mid-field in most games and all three of them demonstrated excellent on-the-ball skills as well as turns of speed when the situation required them.

Sophie Peters and Lottie Webb swept up what Tara Sleggs, Phillipa Hunt and Gemma Leathart were unable to mark and when they were on song, they provided an effective defence.

By the end of the season the approach to matches was just right and most satisfying for all concerned. This bodes well for 1998 since only two players were in 6A.

Played 11, Won 5, Drew 2, Lost 4. GF 14, GA 11.

v The King's School, Gloucester	L 1-2
v Cheltenham College 2nd XI	D 0-0
v Farmor's School, Fairford	L 0-1
v Stroud High School	W 2-0
v Westonbirt School	W 3-0
v St Edward's School, Cheltenham	W 1-0
v Monkton Coombe School	L 0-3
v Wycliffe College	L 0-4
v Pate's Grammar School	D 1-1
v Bedstone College	W 5-0
v The King's School, Gloucester	W 1-0

Team from: A. Howard (captain), S. Peters, L. Donovan, P. Hunt, G. Leathart, J. Mais, K. Nicholas, T. Sleggs, L. Bongiovanni, B. Unger, A. de Lisle Wells, S. Donovan, S. Sprawson, C. Webb.

2nd XI

We were fortunate that the influx of new girls into 6B provided a nucleus of keen players who learned rapidly and coped well in match situations. This X3 was ably and keenly captained by Rebecca Perry and were unlucky not to win any of their games despite the competence of the opposition.

Played 6, Won 0, Drew 3, Lost 3. GF 3, GA 9.

Team from: A. Chaiwatanasirikul, E. Jakobs, R. Gilyead, H. Nicholls, R Perry (captain), L. Bongiovanni, K. Blaum, S. Bullinger, B. Unger, F. von Gleichenstein, S. Worlock, N. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Donovan, S. Sprawson, H. Mizon.

2nd XI - The Captain's Story

Playing Hockey for the school was a big shock, let alone being captain of a team which was made up of some who had never played hockey before. Despite this, the team improved enormously, and reached a good standard. The team inevitably had its ups and downs and great tribute should be paid to the volatile

goalkeeper. Nellie Abbott, who was a vital part of the team, particularly during the downs.

Elisabeth (Mimi) Jakobs, although an effective player, would win a prize for spending the most time on her backside and this often confused the opposition, leaving Barbara Unger to drive up the field with the ball, skilfully supported by Katharina Blaum. At this point it should be noted that Kat received a yellow card in her first season. A red card should undoubtedly have gone to Sophie "Basher" Worlock who, in the process of sweeping well, often managed to injure players of both sides!

Franziska von Gleichenstein played a solid game, despite such questions as "Where do I go? ", "What can I do? ", "I have never played here before! ", and Rachel "I don't do hockey" Gilyead did do hockey and did it very well!

The list is endless and thanks are due to all the girls who played and supported, including Hannah Nicholls who was in a league of her own!

Rebecca Perry

Sixth Form XI

v St Mary's Caine

W 2-0

U16 XI

With only eight Fifth Year pupils playing hockey, it looked as if this eleven would not be viable but fortunately Charlotte Emerson, Jamela Saedaldin and Sonja Forster were prepared to give up a few archery sessions to practise and to play in matches. Anna de Lisle Wells held the side together from her mid-field position and often created excellent goal scoring opportunities for her forwards. Her captaincy was well deserved. Of all the teams they probably had the greatest killer instinct when it came to overcoming the opposition and scoring goals, hence their impressive record of only one loss.

Sarah Donovan in action in the Under 16 XI match against Bennebroek M. H. C. during the Tour



Played 5, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 1. GF 12, GA 8.

Team from: N Abbott, P Chaiwatanasirikul, A de Lisle Wells (captain), S Donovan, C Emerson, S Forster, J Saeldadin, S Sprawson, C Webb, G Scot-Simmonds, H Mizon, R Whatman.

Junior Girls' Hockey

What a difference an All Weather Pitch makes to the skills acquired and matches won in a season! The first half term's teaching was assisted by good weather and by the introduction of new style Games lessons and afternoons. The Sinclair Field proved to be a sun trap, so much so in fact, that the cry for cool wind from Top field was heard on several occasions! Parents were not only able to watch fixtures from the spectator area of the pitch, but also from an ariel vantage point, on the seat dedicated to Miss Sinclair, with its glorious views across the valley.

Learning basic skills on an astro-turf is so much easier than on grass. The chances of stopping the ball are enhanced when you know that ball will roll true and not bounce up on a tuft of grass. So those juniors who were new to the game of hockey found their learning curve went in a sharp upwards direction. By having a good playable surface games session, it has meant that the range of skills learnt and practised has been far greater than in previous years, and this has shown a big improvement in the match results. My thanks to Tansy Tugwell who organised the fixtures, and who managed to get maximum use of the Astro-turf for matches on a games day. Most of the fixtures were played at Rendcomb as many opponents wanted the opportunity to play on a synthetic surface. For the few fixtures played away on grass, the girls found adapting difficult at first, but with improvement in their basic skills, ran out the winning team on each occasion.

SMW

Under 15/14X1

Lessons and games sessions brought together the Third and Fourth Year girls, and with this in mind, the fixtures made for a combined team from the two years. The team was predominately Fourth Years, who last season had struggled to score goals, and had only won one match. I have never doubted the ability of this group of girls, but convincing them of their true potential has been a long process. The team won their second match 5-0, and this gave them the boost which was needed, and in their next two matches scoring goals was no longer a problem as the scores were 6-0 and 10-0. Despite losing four matches through the season, these were against strong opposition and the only heavy defeat was 3-7 by Wycliffe College, and we still managed to put the ball in the back of their goal

three times. The improved results are due to some good performances by the whole team playing well together and for each other, but two individual players deserve special mention; Rose Thrower as Centre Forward who scored 13 goals during the season, and Rebecca Whatman, who led her team by example, with many outstanding performances in the middle of defence.

SMW

Played 9, Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 4., GF 27, GA 15.

Team from: R. Whatman (captain), J. Crisp, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, V. MacKinnon, A. Osborne, S. Padmore, H. Pearce, A. Roberts, R. Ricketts, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Thrower, R. Warrington.

Junior XI

A combined team of pupils who were under 14 played as a Junior XI in four matches and lost only the last match on the last Saturday of term, when the tiredness of a long season showed in their game. Leading goal scorer was Sarah Padmore, who missed most of the first half of the term due to injury, with 5 goals from 3 matches. Two matches were played away on grass pitches, and team selection was based on those whose astroturf game would adapt best to the uneven surface of long grassed pitches of our opponents. Both these matches were won, the first 1-0 against St Clotilde's, and the second 10-1 against Grittleton House.

SMW

Played 4, Won 3, Lost 1, GF 15 GA 5.

Team from: R. Ricketts (capt), M. Barne, J. Crisp, I. Eaton, O. Evans, H. Ewing, J. Finn, N. Gilson, V. MacKinnon, L. North, S. Padmore, H. Pearce, R. Thrower, R. Warrington.

U13/12 XI

The first and Second Year girls have worked hard this season and have made excellent progress with their basic stickwork and skills. The morning Games sessions with only two year groups meant that the girls' progress was more rapid than in previous years. Most of the girls from these years had the opportunity to gain match experience, and an end of term fixture was arranged for a 'B' team. This was against Rosehill School 'A' team, and all those who had not played in a match were given the chance to show what they had learnt throughout the term. Despite losing 1-0, it was a valuable and very enjoyable experience for the players.

Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3. GF 2, GA 13.

Team from: M. Barne, C. Clarke, S. Colson, H. Earl, I. Eaton, R. Evans, H. Ewing, J. Finn, G. Holmes, A. Barefoot, A. Lomax, L. North, A. Marlowe, A. Pardhy, C. Peters, H. Pratt, S. Rudderham, Z. Turner, A. Welch.

SMW/TT

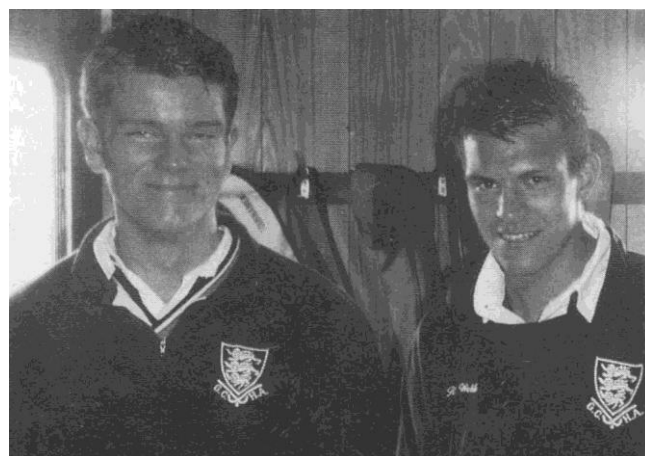
Boys' Hockey

By revising the timetable, such that all year groups played at the same time only on Saturdays, we were able to make excellent use of the astroturf pitch and everyone was able to practise on it regularly. Similarly, as many matches as possible were played on the astroturf. Those playing on Top Field often found it a lonely experience but not as inhospitable as in previous years because of the mild weather. In fact, this is the First Year that I can remember in which no matches were cancelled due to inclement weather.

Another feature of the astroturf pitch is that more people are able to spectate, if only for part of a match, and consequently this generated more interest in the progress of the nine teams, all of which had difficult fixture lists. The success of Rendcomb hockey was again echoed by the Old Rendcombian Society fixture which consisted of one Ladies' match and four men's matches.

The 1st XI, like the other senior XIs, provided a particularly good example for the younger players to follow in that they played with skill, determination and discipline to achieve many outstanding results.

One Sunday our U16 and U14 XIs played Gloucestershire U15 and U13 XIs respectively. These were close and entertaining matches, further cementing



our links with the County. This year Harvey Davies (U18), Rupert Webb (U18) and Jonathan Pratt (U14) played for the County.

As ever thanks are due to the coaches for their patience and encouragement, to the groundstaff for the careful

preparation of pitches, to June Kampe for providing teams with clean shirts and to the kitchen staff for feeding ravenous players, umpires and spectators.

Overall record:

Played 88, Won 47, Drew 7, Lost 34. GF 228, GA 188.

CJW

1st XI

The 6A hockey circus had always thought that they were going to make an outstanding first eleven - they were never short of self confidence - and while the season was some way short of perfection, it was still a record breaking team. The statistics bear this out, for there were more games played, more games won and more goals scored than probably ever before. The new astroturf surface was a huge asset, enabling the team to practice and play more effectively than any of their predecessors. We at last saw a Rendcomb side able to retain possession by short, accurate passing rather than giving the ball away through hopeful hits upfield. The long ball game was only used once the front runners were free and the defence learnt how to keep the ball until the telling pass could be made. We were not quite so effective at defending against skilled opposition, particularly early on in the season, and we conceded six goals, while still winning the match against Cheltenham Wednesday and four in losing to Dean Close, perhaps not a bad result for they were an outstanding side.

The highlights of the season were a magnificent performance against King Edward's, finally achieving victory over Colston's, soundly beating King's Gloucester and winning a very good game against the Old Rendcombians, when the team showed that it had really matured, both in defence and attack. There were some low points, including the annual dire performance against Kingswood and Bournside, but the Bath Festival was once again most enjoyable and successful and provided a fitting end for a group of players who have contributed much to the development of hockey at Rendcomb.

The composition of the team became quickly established, using the same twelve players and employing regular substitutions, until injuries and unavailabilities gave one or two others their chance in the team. Toby Abbott had a magnificent season in

goal; his performance against Dean Close was outstanding and he maintained a solid consistency throughout all the matches. Rendcomb has been incredibly fortunate in the quality of its goalkeepers over the years and some very good ones have been kept waiting in the second and third elevens. Ashley Taylor marshalled the rest of the defence from his sweeper position and proved immensely strong in his tackling and hitting. His assured performances enabled those in front of him, Rupert Webb. Christopher Scarth. Tim Hill, John Shenton, and James Gibbs to play with greater confidence and all improved the quality of their marking as the season progressed. Webb was then able to initiate much good work down the right while Hill was always quietly effective in his distribution. Scarth and Gibbs were resolute in making life awkward for all the forwards who faced them, conceding fewer comers and learning the art of shadowing and delaying the tackle. Shenton was very disciplined in his positional play, but there are some technical weaknesses in his

tackling which hopefully he can put right - all he needs is the confidence.

The main thrust in midfield came from Harvey Davies and Sam Maylott. Davies' skill has always been evident, but this year he achieved a greater discipline in his defensive work while displaying a much improved awareness of attacking possibilities both in solo runs and in

penetrating early distribution. Maylott revelled in his role, combining endless energy with occasional over-enthusiasm in the tackle and a killer instinct on the edge of the opposition circle. He scored a stack of goals from open play, from short comers and from penalty strokes.

Up front we had real pace on the wings with Sebastian Grey's extraordinary surging runs on the right. Grey's devastating threats sometimes ended in nothing but often he created clear scoring chances for himself and the others. Forster still has much to learn on astroturf but when on form he was a handful for any opposition. Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul played as a traditional centre forward and while he is not outstandingly quick he consistently demonstrated the ability to turn and shake off his marker - very few opposition defences were able to cope with him. Despite some glaring misses after he had done all the hard work, he scored heavily throughout the season and the goals could be outstanding - I recall the absolute blinder against King Edward's. Jonathan Davies, Tristan Day and Dominic Morris all played well when called into the side,



enabling us to complete a very heavy programme so successfully.

Harvey Davies captained the side efficiently and with maturity and self-discipline. He accepted with good grace the ribbing of his teammates and he has learnt a degree of tact with the umpires. Generally the team encouraged one another although there was the occasional bitching at themselves when things did not go quite right. We were fortunate to have the services of some excellent umpires throughout the term and players now quickly learn to accept all decisions without questioning, an attribute not always displayed by Rendcomb sides of the past nor opponents of the present. My thanks as ever are due to Chris Wood and Martin Griffiths for their endless support and to our maintenance staff, who were kept just as busy this year shifting the sand around the new astroturf pitch. Almost a complete clear out of the team takes place; their successors have a lot to live up to.

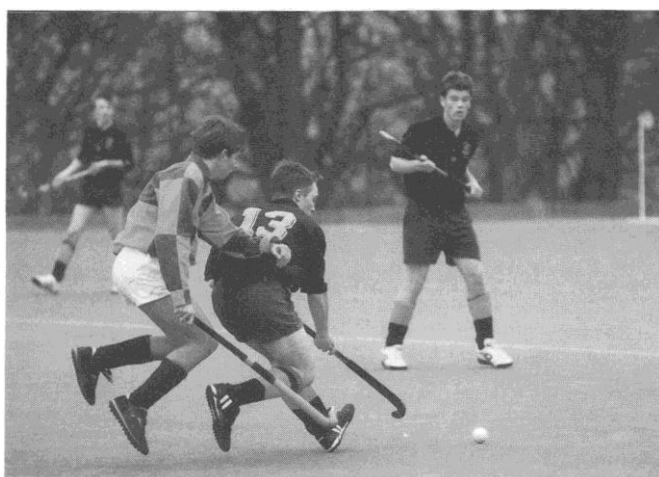
DHM

Played 19. Won 13, Drew 2, Lost 4, GF 66, GA 33

v Christ College, Brecon (H)	W3-0
v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	D2-2
v Cheltenham Hockey Club (H)	W8-6
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	W4-2
v Bristol Grammar School (A)	W4-2
v Kingswood School (A)	L1-2
v Prince Henry's School, Evesham (H)	W3-1
v Monkton Combe School (H)	L2-4
v King Edward's School, Bath (A)	W4-2
v Dean Close School (A)	L1-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	W4-0
v Bournside School (A)	L1-2
v Royal Grammar School, Worcester (H)	W5-0
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	W4-2
v Pate's Grammar School (H)	W5-1

King Edward's School, Bath Hockey Festival

v Seaford College	W3-1
v Sedburgh School	W9-0
v Michaelhouse School, South Africa	D 2-2
v Langley Park School	W 1-0



Team from: H. Davies (Captain). T. Abbott. K. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Davis, T. Day, I. Forster. J. Gibbs, S. Grey, T. Hill, S. Maylott, D. Morris, C. Scarth. J. Shenton, A. Taylor, E. Turvill, R. Webb.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI Hockey team has in recent years been the most successful team in the school. This season the squad was largely inexperienced with only a handful of players coming from the upper years.

I myself also had little experience in captaining a team, but our match against Bredon seemed to show that the team had potential; an easy 3-0 victory being secured, although opposition in this match was limited in comparison with our next match against Cheltenham College, which we nervously lost 2-1. This, however, was a respectable result against far stronger opposition. The two most notable victories of the season came against King Edward's School and Kingswood School. King Edward's, a school of considerable talent, (well normally) were easily beaten 8-0 and Kingswood, perhaps the hardest fought match of the season, was eventually won 2-0.

Dean Close again proved to be a very hard match and again beat us in a close game ending 2-1.

Among the players a few stand out for both strong performances and future promise for the school. Notably Yuki Takanashi; his pace will surely be valuable to the 1st XI in future seasons. Dominic Morris who vice-captained the team, held together the midfield with tireless legs. At the back Ed Turvill and Will Witchell proved to be a solid defence with Ed's organisation and size proving invaluable.

I wish Mr Griffiths and the 2nd XI all the best in the future and hope that they have a successful season in 1999.

Jonathan Davis

Team from: J. Davis (captain) D. Morris. (vice-captain) C. Holliday, M. Sutton, A. Carrington. A. Sage, W. Witchell. T. Day, H. Aldrich-Blake, Y. Takanashi. W. Warrington, D. Ashby, E. Turvill, J. Brittain-Jones. C. Garcia.

3rd XI

The Third XI proved themselves to be a most capable side. Right from the start, our fixture list looked promising. The team itself was incredibly versatile and partnerships between players developed very quickly. The only fixture that was out of our grasp was against Dean Close who were outstanding; many of the players were part of the Gloucestershire U16 team.

It was unfortunate that so many of our fixtures were on grass as we really were a quality team. However, we adapted quickly and out of the five games played on grass, four were won. On astroturf, we were a competent side and our game style was of a very high quality.

The team was a mixture of all the senior years, though mainly 5th formers. The two players from 6A gave us security and experience. Alastair Nye in goal saved so many goals it became a bit of a habit. It is not often a 3rd XI has a goalie of such high quality. Andy Carrington did a fine job of marking as did Phil de Havilland Hall. Mian Keith's positive attitude and blunt comments were a great help to the team. James Brittain-Jones scored many goals and looks to be a star player in the 2nd or even 1st XI next season. Dave Newby, Rafe Smallman and Matt Williams did an excellent job in making ground, setting up goals and when the opportunity arose, scoring themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2nd XI and 4th XI for their players and their opposition.; it proved to be a great help to us. Our coach, Mr Breal, did a fine job and I think the results prove that. Thank you.

Carlos Garcia

4th XI

When Mr North first spoke to us, he explained that he believed that the 4th XI should be based around a centre of intellectual and amiable eccentrics; he made no mention of the fact that we should be able to play hockey.

We did, however, play some superb hockey and developed into a useful and commendable team.

An expected defeat against Cheltenham College was one of few losses and the high point of the season was certainly a 1-0 victory against Dean Close. Because in previous years this fixture has usually brought a defeat that often went into double figures, this was an enormous achievement and as good a game as I think I have ever seen.

The team all played superbly. Mentioning individuals is difficult but some do stand out. James Starkey and Jake Hawkins, who filled in as captain very well on occasions, were aggressive and very able up front. Ben Cox showed real attacking flair in mid-field and Oliver Jeffcott played an indispensable role as a defender. Our goalkeepers, Ben Butler, Dean Armstrong-Wilde and Ralph Barnes, were always fearless and committed.

Thanks must go to all the players for their time and to Mr Breal and especially Mr North for being superb and effective coaches, balancing humour and a realistic approach with a real drive to win.

Thom Gilbert

U15XI

This certainly was a most unconventional season with some defeats against much larger schools early in the season, yet very much to the credit of the team they kept up the pace and we enjoyed a string of fine wins in the latter half of the season.

I would like to thank this fine band of players, the season was clearly most enjoyable for us all, and I would like to congratulate them on a good season and look forward to seeing them in the senior teams in the future.

JHS

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 0; Lost 5, GF 29. GA 33

U14 A XI

The season started disappointingly with three consecutive defeats. The team never really settled in these matches and few players performed to anything like their true potential. Underlying this was a lack of confidence and it was felt that all we needed was a victory which would give us the impetus to play the sort of hockey of which we were Undoubtedly capable. This duly came in an impressive performance against a very strong county U13 side, and we then went on to win four out of our last five fixtures, the one blemish being a heavy defeat away to Dean Close. Much of the eventual success was due to the opportunity to practise regularly on our own astroturf surface, which until this term we had only played on in matches. The team worked hard on improving their basic skills, particularly picking out their own team mates with passes, an essential part of the game which was conspicuously lacking in the early matches. This, combined with a more positive approach to training, enabled us to play some very good hockey later in the term.

Several players deserve special mention. Charlie Cowper was solid and dependable in goal and made a number of very important saves. In front of him the defence closed down the opposition attacks quickly, Tom Moss cleared the ball powerfully and Richard Birkbeck made good runs to support the attack, often playing a wing-back's role, and caused the opposition defence no end of problems. In the mid-field Jonathan Pratt dominated and surged forward strongly, ending up as the clear top scorer for the season. He was ably assisted by the fast improving Ed MacCurrach. Up front, Rupert McKelvie ran tirelessly and was rewarded with some fine goals, whilst James Spackman chased everything and harried the opposition to great effect.

Despite the hard work required on occasions to motivate players on cold, windy afternoons on Landage, this has been a rewarding season in many

ways and I wish the squad good luck for next year when they represent the U15 teams. I would also like to thank Mrs Spackman for umpiring several matches thus allowing me to coach more effectively from the side.

CV

Played 8. Won 4. Lost 4; GF 12, GA 19.

Team from: C. Cowper, T. Moss, G. Drew, R. Birkbeck. R. Wilkins, J. Raby, J. Pratt, E. MacCurrach, J. Sabourin, D. Fastnedge, M. Ewing, J. Spackman, R. McKelvie, R. Demczak, S. Ward.

U14 BXI

The Under 14 B's had an eventful season. In a year with twenty four boys in it, it was always going to be difficult to create two teams, and with injuries bound to happen, we were not always able to field a "full - strength" team. Nonetheless, all the players were keen and ready to take on all comers.

Our first match was against Colston's. Although the opposition were, in comparison to our team, giants, they did not have the skill to overwhelm us. The final result was a creditable 0-0 draw. Richard Wilkins, whose first game this was, played excellently in midfield, harrying the opposition at all stages of the match. Dominic Fastnedge was an encouraging Captain, dodging around the opposition's "D". Meanwhile he was ably supported by Richard Demczak, who played some wonderful running Hockey. Philip Gordon - Jones was a stout defender, and let little past him.

Our second match was against Kingswood School, Bath. They had an immensely strong forward line, and it was only a matter of time before they would score. The inevitable happened despite our best efforts, followed by five more. By the time the match was over, the team was a little dispirited, and it was now that our goal keeper Edward Wadsworth decided to resign, despite some excellent saves that he had made. Alex Bowers, who had no goal keeping experience, nobly stepped into the fray, on this occasion the fray being a match against Monkton Combe. By half time we had not managed to score any goals, whereas the opposition had put the ball in our net on twelve occasions! Edward Wadsworth decided at this point that he wasn't perhaps quite so bad, and re - donned his goal keeping equipment. In the second half the score was 2 -2; sadly, in matches, both halves count!

Next we travelled away to Bath where we faced a strong team. Though for much of the match we were playing as well as they were, they had an uncanny knack of getting the ball into the goal on occasions when we were not able to. The eventual score was 1-5.

Mathew Ewing captained enthusiastically and vigorously, whilst Lucian Tamowski and Ed McHenry played with great commitment.

Our final match was against an "A" Team from the Crypt school. On this occasion we were supported by some members of our "A" Team. It was a good solid game, in which the teams were level throughout the match. Everyone played well, though I was struck by the way in which our defence kept the ball away from the net. Stanislav Odintsov played with skill and courage, Alex Bowers was able to summon up great spurts of brilliance and energy, whilst Yusuke Osawa was a difficult man for the opposition to get round. William Turvill played with great skill, tackling the opponents with efficiency and James Sabourin was fast and accurate at the front. The final score was 2 - 2 .

It was my first term coaching a Hockey Team, and so I was privileged to have such a keen and likable group to deal with. I am sure they Will have a successful future, and I wish them well.

JRM

Played: 5; Won: 0; Drew: 2; Lost: 3.

Team from: E. Wadsworth, Y. Osawa, A. Bowers, S. Odintsov. P. Gordon - Jones, R. Wilkins. W. Turvill, E. McHenry, L. Tamowski, D. Fastnedge, M. Ewing, R. Demczak, J. Sabourin.

U13 XIs

The thirty three Old Rectory boys improved rapidly as a result of the regular Monday coaching sessions on the Astroturf but were not fully prepared for their full fixture list after first exeat. After a few matches both A and B XIs realised that close marking, particularly in the circle, is essential in defence and they responded well to this, conceding just six goals in their last ten matches.



One team was entered for the Gloucestershire Mini Hockey tournament and the mixture of first and Second Year boys played solidly, if a little too cautiously, scoring few goals but coming second in the

group. This allowed them through to the next round where they were knocked out by Cheltenham College Junior School. They had taken some time to adapt to 7-a-side hockey but the experience benefited both A and B XIs.

The A XI got off to a flying start by beating a Cheltenham College Junior School side and the King's Gloucester XI. It soon became apparent that Sam Hicks and Matthew Hutchins were both skilful and dynamic and were always likely to create goal scoring chances. They were well supported by Edward Vaughan-Hughes on the left and David Roper, Barnaby Kellett and Tim Bates in midfield. Bates improved rapidly and by the end of the season he was capable of playing anywhere. Tom Lait captained the side well and led by example from the back as sweeper. He is a strong player, particularly going forward, and he controlled the defence which just got better and better. In nine matches just eight goals were conceded and this provided one of the best records in the school. This, of course, was due to the excellent reactions of the goalkeeper, Christopher Jeffreys. Their discipline and camaraderie was good and often I was proud to coach and to umpire this group of boys.

CJW

U13 'A' XI record:

Played 9, Won 7, Lost 2, GF 29, GA 8.

Team from: T. Bates, D. Bond, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, C. Fothergill, S. Hicks, M. Hutchins, C. Jeffreys, B. Kellett, T. Lait (captain), D. Roper, E. Vaughan-Hughes, R. Aspin, P. Mason, M. Ward.

U13 'B' XI record:

Played 9, Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 6, GF 6, GA 23.

Team from: J. Coppersmith-Heaven (captain), C. Fothergill, S. Gunner, B. Hopley, J. Mociomitza, M. Postlethwaite, H. Wilson, M. Arkle, R. Aspin, R. Burden, T. Davies, M. Day, C. Good, A. Hopley, R. Lefevre, P. Mason, B. Vick, M. Ward, E. Warrington.

Netball

The progress achieved last season by the senior netball teams gained momentum this year. Two more matches were added to the fixture list and for the Second Year running the 1st VII games were lost by smaller margins than in previous seasons. Once again injuries enforced changes to both teams throughout the season, but this is becoming less of a problem as the level of netball at Rendcomb rises.

Georgina Farr was appointed Captain of Netball and proved an excellent choice. Both in her role of organising the teams prior to fixtures as well as motivating the first team on court. The second team

captain changed with each match, giving different girls the opportunity of experiencing captaincy.

The senior girls were a pleasure to coach. They were a very happy group, who worked extremely hard at each games session and at matches. An end of term supper was organised to round off a most successful and enjoyable season.

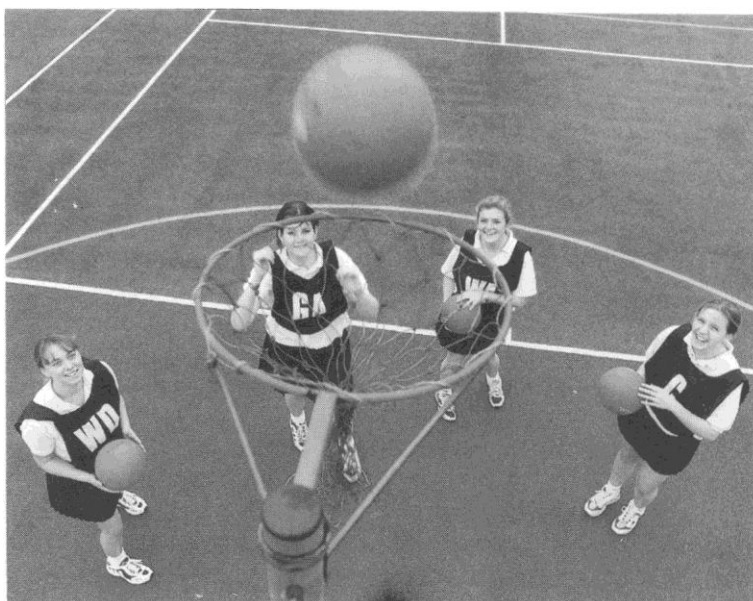
1st VII

The 1st VII was able to build this year on a nucleus of four players from last season's first team - Georgina Farr, Phillipa Hunt, Jenny Mais and Tara Sleggs, with Elisabeth Jakobs and Gemma Leathart moving up from the seconds. This year welcomed into College Sophie Worlock, who lived up to the expectations of New Zealand netball, bringing skill, versatility and determination into the team. She joined Jenny Mais and Tara Sleggs in the Centre Court and although she made Wing Defender her position, she deputised for Jenny in the middle, and Phillipa Hunt at Goal Attack, when necessary. Phillipa found new freedom in the role of Goal Attack, and was able to draw on all her county experience to frustrate her opponents with her excellent shooting. For two seasons Elisabeth Jakobs has played for the College, converting many of her superb basketball skills to netball. Most of her shots are taken quickly, and with what seems very little aim, but much to everyone's amazement they still found their way through the net. On many a games session one could hear the Captain's cry "Mimi, take your time!"

With an injury to Gemma Leathart, Sarah Donovan from the Fifth Year, who had had some excellent performances in the second team, was brought into the defence to work with Georgina Farr, and was an impressive defender with her long reach and tight marking. Sophie Sprawson, who was outstanding in the second team, was also drafted into the 1st VII for some of the matches, along with Louise Bongiovanni.

Matches were played every Saturday, with just one mid-week game, and this set a good pattern for the term. The matches which were won by large margins, Kingham Hill School, Cokethorpe School and Colston's Collegiate School, Bristol, were never close contests, and there was never any doubt after the first quarter that Rendcomb would win. Our return fixture against Cokethorpe was the last game of the season with Sophie Peters joining the 1st VII, and the "super subs" from 6A, Rachel Gilyead and Hannah Nicholls were brought on to play. Both girls had offered and acted as reserves for several matches throughout the season without actually playing. The 1st VII's finest victory was their 28-22 win over Westonbirt School. It was a thrilling game, with both teams playing some excellent netball, but Rendcomb scored the first goal and kept this lead for the rest of the match.

The King's School match was close with only a few goals between the teams in the last quarter, until a final spurt from the opposition meant that they won by 8 goals. In the other two games which the first team lost, a post match analysis was that we had not adapted to the different conditions that both matches had offered, and on home territory could



have won. The match against Cheltenham College was played indoors, and although it helps the shooters, the surface and airless conditions were a drain on a team not used to playing indoors. At Monkton Combe School, a long journey stuck in traffic and a poor playing surface led to the downfall of the team. As with the King's match, the last quarter was the decider. After all three of these matches the feeling was could have won - we will next season!

SMW and TT

Played 8; Won 5, Lost 3. GF 226, GA 177

v Kingham Hill (H)	W 41-22
v King's School, Gloucester (H)	L 20-28
v Cokethorpe (H)	W 38-20
v Cheltenham College (A)	L 13-20
v Westonbirt (A)	W 28-22
v Monkton Combe School (A)	L 22-28
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	W 31-9
v Cokethorpe (H)	W 33-28

Team from: L. Bongiovanni, S. Donovan, G. Farr (captain), E. Jakobs. P. Hunt, G. Leathart, J. Mais, T. Sleggs, S. Sprawson, S. Worlock.

2nd VII

The 2nd VII gave the opportunity for a lot of girls to play for the College, as injuries hit the first team, so players moved up allowing others a chance of a game. When possible, the Centre Court trio of Sophie Peters, Kate Nicholas and Helen Mizon was used, with Sophie Sprawson partnering Lottie Webb in the shooting circle. Louise Bongiovanni was converted from shooting to defending and became the main stay of the defence, where she was joined by Rebecca Perry during the second half of the season.

The match analysis does not reflect how far forward the second team progressed this season. In the past

they were not expected to win their matches, but this season they had the great joy of winning 40-20 against King's Gloucester. Two of the matches were lost by just 4 goals, the first against Kingham Hill 1st VII, and the second against Colston's Collegiate School. It would seem that the corner has been turned by the 2nd VII, and that next season we can look

forward to more matches being won.

SMW and TT

Played 6, Won 1, Lost 5. GF 108, GA 167.

Team from: L. Bongiovanni, S. Bullinger, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Donovan. R. Gilyead. E. Jakobs. G. Leathart, K. Nicholas, H. Mizon, H. Nicholls, R. Perry. S. Peters, J. Saedaldin, G. Scot-Simmonds, S. Sprawson, C. Webb.

U16 VII

Only two matches were played by the U16 side this term as many players were now involved in the first and second teams. Their first match was against the Cotswold School. This was a close match in which the centre court players struggled to string their passes together giving the ball away repeatedly to the opposition. The brilliant shooting of Lottie Webb and Captain Sophie Sprawson however allowed Rendcomb to win the match by 15 goals to 13 as they were able to put the ball into the net whenever the opportunity arose.

The next match against Deer Park School was played in the most atrocious conditions. The match was played in great spirit and with much enthusiasm considering the torrential rain which started about 20 minutes into the match. The U16s played intelligently putting together quick short passes in the centre court play and the shooters manoeuvring to ensure the shots at goal were taken as close as possible in the windy and wet conditions. Rendcomb finished as the 14 to 12 winners.

Played 2, Won 2. GF 29, GA 25

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

PSW

U15/U14 VII

The U15 netball team began the term by joining forces with the U14s to play a hard fought match against a mixed age team from Kingham Hill. Tireless running by Sarah Padmore at Goal Attack and Becky Whatman at Centre gave Rendcomb the deciding edge winning 17 goals to 15. Roz Frazer-Holland at Goal Defence and Hau-Ling Leung at Goal Keeper provided a solid defence in this first game, preventing more goals from being scored by their opponents.

The other joint team game was against St Clotilde's where Rendcomb's fitness became their winning factor. The girls never gave up running and marking their opposition and, combined with excellent shooting from Sarah Padmore and brilliant defence work from Hau-Ling Leung and Rosie Warrington, this gave them a well deserved win by 24 goals to 17.

PSW

U14 VII

The full U14 side played their first game away to Kingham Hill. Rosie Warrington at Goal Defence and Amber Williams at Goal Keeper made splendid debuts keeping Kingham Hill down to only 7 goals. Captain Sarah Padmore and Goal Shooter Becky Ricketts were scoring goals whenever the centre court players of Victoria Mackinnon at Wing Attack and Jo Crisp at Centre and Jay Chaiwatanasirikul at Wing Defence presented the netball into the shooting circle. The winning margin was 29 goals to 7.

The match against Westonbirt School on 28th February was played in the most extraordinary weather conditions; beginning in lovely sunshine, play was halted for over 10 minutes for snow and hail, and eventually the game ended in sunshine. The match was therefore very disjointed, and Rendcomb was unable to get into the flow of their game. Very little aggression was shown and, apart from good defence from Rosie Warrington, most players had a poor game to lose by 4 goals to 26.

The match against Monkton Combe was played in much better spirit but the U14s were against a very good unbeaten Monkton Combe side which was exceptionally fit. Sarah Padmore played and shot well whilst Jay Chaiwatanasirikul and Rosie Warrington both had brilliant games in defence against very good partners.

At King's School, Gloucester, the U14s played well and returned feeling that they had all played as a team to beat a good side by 23 goals to 15.

The last match the team travelled to was Kingshill School in Cirencester with high hopes only to find two

county players in the side against them. The Rendcomb girls though gave the opposition a shock by holding their own up to half-time. The score eventually was a win to Kingshill by 9 goals to 19.

PSW

U13 and U12 VII

"The pleasure of playing and coaching netball is not always in the winning of games, but in being able to achieve a level of competence and enjoyment not originally thought to be possible." This quote is taken from a Rendcombian magazine from a few years ago but could have so easily have been written for this year's First and Second Year girls. At the beginning of the term, we found ourselves with a large number of new recruits to the game of netball, but they managed to exceed all expectations in terms of improvement. Two factors have contributed to this - firstly the excellent attitude and willingness of the girls to learn, and secondly the use of the Sports Hall once a week. Basic skills and team tactics are learnt much more quickly when a player does not have to cope with windy and cold conditions. For matches the girls took it in turns to captain their respective teams to give as many of them as possible the experience of captaincy.

The Second Year girls are a very small group, so as illness and injuries occurred, every member of the year was called upon to play in matches. The team showed much promise and there were moments when they were able to keep to the game plan and played some good team netball. A lack of consistency in this area meant that they did not win any of their seven matches despite several comments from visiting schools on their good play and their ability not to give up when losing. The team was very dependent on Hannah Ewing as Goal Attack whose accurate shooting often kept the team in the match.

In the First Year there were more girls who had not played netball than those who had. so inexperience in matches led to all of their seven games being lost. Romilly Evans became the anchor of the defence despite being new to the game and, along with Jade Finn and Chloe Clarke, is to be congratulated on the progress made in one season. Sarah Rudderham proved to be a most reliable centre court player, and it is hoped that the foundations for a successful team has been laid over the term.

SMW/TT

U13 team from: E. Cassidy-Gray, H. Earl, I. Eaton, H. Ewing, G. Holmes, L. North, H. Osborne, A. Pardhy, H. Pratt, Z. Turner.

U12 team from: A. Barefoot, M. Barne, C. Clarke, R. Evans, J. Finn, A. Lomax, S. Rudderham, A. Welch.

CRICKET

Just over a year ago I had to decide whether or not I had enough enthusiasm to accept the Headmaster's invitation to be responsible for cricket within the school. After much thought I decided that I probably had, and as I write this article at the end of Summer term '98, I feel that my decision was the right one.

Despite the vagaries of the English weather, we have had a season of very few cancellations and have abandoned no matches at all. We have also had much more success than failure. The 1st XI has led by excellent example throughout, maintaining high standards and a fine team-spirit, providing admirable role-models for the younger cricketers in the school. The 2nd XI was unbeaten, despite our initial worries as to the availability of enough players even to field a side. The Under Fifteens, a very small year, have often been on the losing end, against some powerful opposition, but they have always remained keen and have learnt much. Next year, in a larger pool of senior players, they will win more matches. The Under Fourteens have played with great gusto, perhaps too much, but as they continue to acquire more self-discipline, they will enjoy greater success. The Under Thirteens have rather stolen the show, unbeaten, very keen and with some outstanding individual performances.

The most important aspect of the season, however, has been a sense of enjoyment. Our considerable success is most pleasing, of course, but above all, it has been achieved in the proper atmosphere. We must never lose sight of the fact that any sport is only an integral and contributory part of the larger and colourful tapestry that is Rendcomb College, and that all pupils are equal, whatever their individual talents may be. I firmly believe that a boy who struggles to win a place in a minor team, but who is doing his best, is every bit as important as the captain of the first team. This, I am glad to say, is a view shared by most people at Rendcomb, not least the excellent staff who give up enormous chunks of valuable time to enable boys to learn to play this beautiful game.

James Stutchbury and John Williams have worked tirelessly with "B" teams and have kept everyone keen and disciplined. Kim Taplin has made a fine start to his cricketing career at Rendcomb, striking the perfect balance with the U14s. Alex Brealy has given his expertise, single-handedly, with the U15s and Michael Slark has once again looked after the 2nd XI. As the team was unbeaten, he will be very pleased with this season. David Essenhig has returned to full-time coaching with the U13s and has injected his wisdom and enthusiasm into these boys, at such a crucial time in the development of their cricketing awareness.

The First XI presented David with a cricket shirt, on the back of which was the name "Old Fox". "Less of the old" said David, as he received the shirt. Quite right, too. He's fitter than most of the pupils at Rendcomb, let alone the staff. Paul Sykes, "Iceman" has managed the 1st XI with his usual calm control and dry wit. He has thoroughly deserved their success and their loyalty, and we wish them well in Jersey.

Cricket, more than any other game, requires a great deal of ancillary support, and I must give my thanks to Bob Stott and his staff for providing early lunches, afternoon teas and late meals. Most Saturdays we have had three teams at home and he has worked logistical magic meaning that the cricket has lost precious little time. No games' day would be complete without the appearance of David Mead in long-break enquiring as to the afternoon requirements. He has done a sterling job, often against the weather, and has produced playing fields and wickets that it is a privilege to be able to play on.

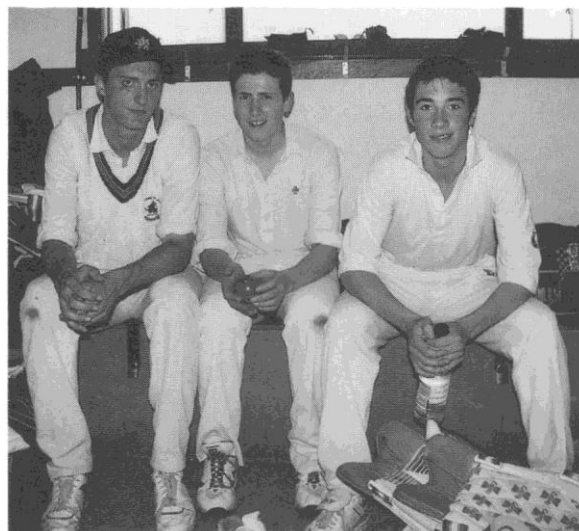
Parents, too, have played their part with their support in large numbers. It is always very pleasing to see them and I hope they will continue to follow-cricket at Rendcomb.

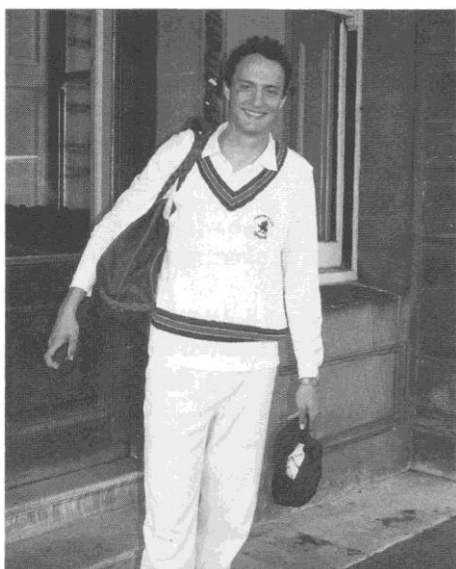
My thanks go to everyone, pupils, colleagues and parents, for having made this such an enjoyable and successful season.

BLN

1st XI

Before this season had begun, team selection looked promising with an approximate 1st level squad of 13 players (6 x 6A, 4 x 6B, 3 x 5th Form). Training started early with net sessions in the sports hall giving an indication to Mr Sykes and me the potential of the team as a whole. Whenever possible fielding practice and even playing on the wicket occurred to gear us into the wavelength of playing on a wicket pitch before our first match. A wet early April meant that any wicket out on the playing field rapidly deteriorated into mud after a few overs of bowling.





The first match saw us playing a skilful Bloxham side containing useful bowlers and an all round well organised fielding team. Chris Scarth and Harvey Davies both batted with concentration and patience to reach 31 and 32 respectively. This particular partnership was to be seen more throughout the season with each meeting producing runs to give us the base for the less experienced players in the side to capitalise on. Unfortunately this match showed the batting order to be a little rusty, the team being bowled out for 97 runs. This was reached by Bloxham despite efforts from the ever-determined opening partnership of James Gibbs and Harry Aldrich-Blake; a loss by a 9 wicket margin was the result.

The next match was in early May, but still provided a damp wicket despite the plentiful efforts of the ground staff. Unfortunately they could not control the weather! However a full game's Cricket was played against King's School Worcester, another strong side as good bowling tied down our score to 96 runs. This was reached by King's in the same fashion as did Bloxham, with only one wicket taken. This was a disappointing start to the season but not all figures written down on paper show the true reality in the match situation. Indeed if catches had gone to hand, and umpiring decisions had gone our way, the results might have been different.

In the match against Crypt we produced a great bowling performance proving to ourselves that we could indeed bowl a side out. However, due to diminished time, the 150 runs were not made and the match was a draw with us on 134 for 6 wickets with Chris Scarth making an emphatic 41 runs.

Marling was next and we played away for the first time full of confidence as the improvements in everyone's game were clearly visible. Fantastic batting came from our opener William Witchell who has a great future with the bat scoring 45 against some difficult bowling. Harvey Davies also made runs showing us the flare and

text book shots that have delivered the "goods" at College and County level. Even though a cushion of runs had been made with the bat, the most impressive part of the match came in the field. Commitment in stopping and running after the ball was superb, pressure remained on the Marling Batsmen throughout, forcing them to make errors. Fifth Years. Nick Hall and Tristan Day showed they were keen and encouraged others within the team with their sharp fielding emphasising the reason for their selection. Marling, at the end of their allotted overs, were on 85 for 6. Cool, calm, accurate bowling came from the awesome figure of James Gibbs and although wickets did not come from him in this match, bowling figures of 6 overs, 4 maidens and only 6 runs conceded, proved to all of us that he is a precious player to have on a Cricket team.

An impressive performance by the young opener William Witchell against Marling was followed by a better, more mature innings of 50 against King's Gloucester. Support came from the experienced batting of Sam Maylott who batted on professionally to score 59 runs off 64 balls. These two great batting performances helped the side to reach the highest score to date of 182. This target set was met with competent batting from the opposition leading to a close game, with polished bowling coming from Harvey Davies, who ran in a spell of 15 overs.

Another draw was achieved later in the week against Bristol Cathedral School. A substantial target was created by the opposition, but time intervened with only 17 runs to go.

Next we travelled to Cokethorpe to secure a decisive victory by bowling the Cokethorpe side out for 70. With this target, Harvey Davies and Chris Scarth went about their business playing authentic strokes with the bat to produce a 10 wicket win. One of the best bowling performances of the season came from Nick Stanfield bowling with pin point accuracy producing figures of 4 overs, 4 wickets for 2 runs.

Against Magdalen School the side was without the Fifth Year players, and as the top batsmen all failed to make high scores, the total was unlikely to be defensible. The team would like to forget this match, as the opposition made the runs with few wickets lost!

Despite a long break from playing over the exam period, we played excellently against Sir Thomas Rich's School. Once again our fielding proved strong, pressurising the opposition into a score of 130 all out. With all five bowlers taking wickets. Another top class performance from Harvey Davies with the bat just when it was needed after the loss of two early wickets, showed his top class concentration with an unbeaten 69. With a supportive innings from Sam Maylott who scored 21, the match was won with Rendcomb scoring

133 for 3, making this a very pleasing game to be involved with.

As ever the English summer failed to deliver good dry weather when it was needed, as Cricket Weekend approached. A week beforehand of showers, storms and drizzle led to three out of four matches being called off. The remaining prestigious fixture against Gloucester Gypsies was played with only a couple of stoppages for rain. It created a friendly, fun match with mostly non-first 11 Rendcomb cricketers involved.

Four days later a full strength Rendcomb First XI team played Victoria College, a touring side from Jersey. Batting first provided a fine spectacle from what now seems to be the backbone of our batting order, Harvey Davies making an unbeaten 51. A fine game was created as Victoria College achieved the target set of 133 for the loss of six wickets.

Encouragement out in the field has never been lacking throughout the season, with great wicket keeping from Chris Scarth to encourage the bowlers and great quotations and new found nicknames being called out in the field by Sam Maylott. Play was never dull even if wicket taking balls were drying up and boundaries were being hit.

It was good to see Tim Hill back on the cricketing scene after a long time out. making his debut for the season against Victoria College very confidently. Although unmentioned until now, the team would not have functioned well without the persistent useful bowling of Harry Aldrich - Blake making valuable contributions taking fine wickets and being positive in the field and batting.

Ben Butler and Phil Webb have put all their efforts batting and bowling respectively when needed throughout the season. The spirit of the team and endeavour involved in every match did not diminish even when new faces were brought into the team. Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul, Thom Gilbert and Andrew Sage have all played to give Rendcomb First XI Cricket the best possible chance of winning.

Clearly with the confidence of William Witchell as opening batsman and with Nick Hall and Tristan Day capable of bowling and batting to greater levels, there is much hope with these players and. with these eager sportsmen, cricket at Rendcomb aspires to carry on into the next millennium with a sound 1st XI team.

On behalf of the side our thanks to Mr North for organising the fixtures to make the season possible and also for his zealous support on match days up on Top field. Finally thanks must go to our coach Mr Sykes, earnest to make us play to our potential by encouraging players as much as possible in every part of the game. His time and effort have been outstanding even to the

extent of making sure the side reached the pitch unscathed and most importantly on time. He has led by example in his enthusiasm for the game allowing us to follow in suit. The Rendcomb First Squad in very much looking forward to the Jersey Tour Mr Sykes has kindly organised.

A. Taylor.

Played 13, Won 3, Drew 5, Lost 5.

Team from: A. Taylor (Capt), W. Witchell, C. Scarth, S. Maylott, H. Davies, T. Hill, J. Gibbs, N. Stanfield, B. Butler, H. Aldrich - Blake, P. Webb, N. Hall. T. Day T. Gilbert, K. Chaiwatanasirikul.

2nd XI

What seemed as if it would be another fruitless season for the Second XI at the start of the term, turned into a surprising success. A lack of many fixtures gave us an opportunity to practise but also play a lot of cricket in the characteristically skilled nature of the Second XI.

A loss to Bloxham in our first match was the only one of the season. We beat Marling on a recount of the score book, King's Gloucester when they failed to reach our total in a limited over game, and managed to bowl out Sir Thomas Rich's for a small total.

With a lot of cancellations the season was shorter than it should have been, which was disappointing. However, the team grew in ability, confidence and, in the end, actually enjoyed playing which is, after all, the most important thing.

The season showed many noticeable improvements and many individuals came on greatly. Andrew Sage and Andrew Dolleymore produced good innings, Matthew Williams and Dean Armstrong-Wilde kept wickets with safe hands and Chas Holliday and James Britain Jones bowled accurately and with consistency. Eleven men however, make a team and everyone can be proud of their contribution.

Thanks must go to Mr Slark for being an excellent coach, handling the team with the right balance of good humour and encouragement.

Played 4, Won 3. Lost 1

Team from: T. Gilbert (Capt), B. Butler, P. Webb, C. Holliday, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Brittain-Jones, C. Garcia. L. Barton, R. Smallman. M. Williams, A. Dolleymore, D. Armstrong-Wilde, A. Sage, R. Walder, H. Weston.

v Bloxham (H) lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 44 Bloxham 45-1

v Marling (H) won by 1 wicket
Marling 118-4
Rendcomb 122-9 (Holliday 29, Armstrong-Wilde 22, Brittain-Jones 20.)

v. King's, Gloucester (A) won by 19 runs
Rendcomb 142-7 (Dolleymore 29, Sage 27)
King's 123-2

v. Sir Thomas Rich's (H) won by 40 runs
Rendcomb 102-9 (Chaiwatanasirikul 33, Brittain-Jones 22)
Sir Thomas Rich's 52 (Holliday 3 for 6)

U15 XI

At the start of the season we were not sure of our capabilities as we had lost three A team cricketers at the end of the year.

In the first match against Bristol Cathedral School, they reached a respectable 148, Adam Padmore contributed well taking three wickets. However, we did not do so well in our batting - Ben Stanfield battled at the wicket, top scoring with 34 runs.

Adam Padmore made another useful contribution, making 20 runs in a short time.

The second match of the season, against King's Gloucester, was our hardest of all; we were out in to bat first and made 110, with Oliver Jones and Adam Padmore contributing some useful runs. They took all of one hour to smash off the runs. However, an improved and spirited performance in the field cheered us up.

Throughout the season we continued to make progress especially Freddy Lait, who before this season, had not bowled before. He took some prize wickets. Simon Bullock and Paul Bongiovanni were very safe behind the stumps keeping wicket and I would especially like to mention Hiro Ino who, although not completely fond of cricket, made good efforts and took a wicket in his

Alex Brealy batting in the nets on Gala Day



first over.

Robin Uzzell, Matthew Collier, Michael Elsworthy and Tom Drew also put a lot into the side in both batting and bowling.

It was deservedly so that when we travelled to Cokethorpe, near Witney, that we won our only match of the season. Freddy Lait made 64 and Adam Padmore smashed 22 runs off one over including two sixes. Ben Stanfield bowled extremely tightly and took 2 wickets. We won by 20 runs in a limited over match, which was a brilliant effort and as well as good batting and bowling including some excellent fielding from Tom Drew, Olly Jones and Robin Uzzell.

All in all it was an enjoyable season. I would like to thank Robert Knight for scoring all season so well, and Mr Brealy for being so encouraging in coaching us. I look forward to next season and hope that it will be as fun as this one.

Ben Stanfield

U14 A XI

The only real winner this season was the English summer weather - we only managed to play four matches! We won one match out of the four and that was our opening game against Bredon School. Rendcomb made 136 for 4 wickets with some disciplined batting from Richard Wilkins and with Stephen Ward scoring an unbeaten 58. The opposition only made 83 for 6 in their allotted number of overs. The wickets were shared between John Raby and Stephen Ward.

The second match was against Marling School in Stroud. Rendcomb batted first and declared on 96 runs. The opposition was quick to score the runs despite Jonathan Pratt bowling out a dangerous opener for just 13 runs.

The third match against King's School Gloucester was a very tough encounter. They batted first and made 148 runs. Dominic Fastnedge was our most successful bowler returning figures of 4 wickets for just 12 runs. Unfortunately, we were all out for 73 runs. 33 of which were scored by Jonathan Pratt.

Our fourth and final match was against a very strong bowling side from Cokethorpe. We were excellent in the field and dismissed 7 of their batsmen for a reachable target of 90 runs. However, our innings was dismal and we were all out for just 29 runs.

We look forward to better luck and better weather next season!

Stephen Ward

Team from: S. Ward (captain), C. Cowper. R. Demczak, M. Ewing, D. Fastnedge, E. MacCurrach, N. Maylott, R. McKelvie, T. Moss, J. Pratt, J. Raby, J. Spackman, R. Wilkins.

U14 B XI

This has certainly been an enjoyable season with a squad of some very helpful sportsmen.

The highlight of the season without doubt was the magnificent 9 wicket win over King's School Gloucester including a 64 not out from Richard Birkbeck. I do recollect with relish our match "up top" sometimes in the rain, the "Buccaneers" and the "Rockets" fighting to the very last ball.

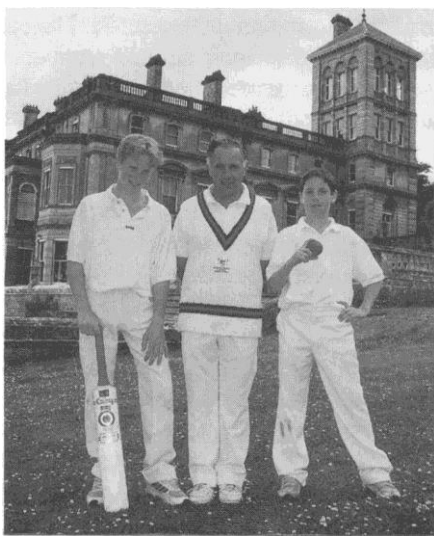
I would like to thank all those involved and especially Mr Taplin for his magnificent input to the season.

JHS

Team from: R. Birkbeck, A. Bowers, E. MacCurrach, W. Turvill, R. Wilkins, M. Ewing, G. Drew, E. McHenry, S. Odintsov, L. Tarnowski, E. Wadsworth, H. Ino, Y. Osawa.

U13 A XI

The U13A had a wonderful cricket season finishing unbeaten in all our matches. The squad of 14 players have all worked very hard this season, and are now a team of which I am proud.



Sam Hicks, David Essenhigh and Matthew Hutchins

Burden and Mason were a good opening pair; Burden straight but Mason always looking to save runs quickly. Hodder at no 3 played one good innings of 59 not out; Hutchins had an excellent season averaging 20 runs with the bat and taking 23 wickets at the cost of 5 runs per wicket, including a 9 wicket haul for 12 runs - wonderful bowling. Jeffreys was always dependable scoring runs or taking wickets. Hicks. Lait and Roper are all hard hitting batsmen with Hicks scoring 158 runs in the season with the top score of 89 and averaging 38 runs per innings. Lait averaged 20 and

also kept wicket well, while Roper had his moments too. Jones, a good all-rounder, opened the bowling and did not once get out all season. Ward and Burden were our spinners and both bowled well when needed, and were not afraid to give the ball air, thus causing batsmen problems. Davies and Day both came into the side and fielded really well.

Well done to you all - you made me proud to be your coach.

Thanks to John Williams for looking after the U13Bs and Mr North for all his support and to all you parents who came to watch our side.

DE

Played: 6, Won 5, Drew 1.

Team from: R. Burden, P. Mason, W. Hodder, M. Hutchins (Captain), C. Jeffreys (Vice-captain), S. Hicks, D. Roper, T. Lait (Wicket Keeper), G. Jones, M. Ward, M. Day, T. Davies, C. Crisp, E. Vaughan-Hughes.

U13 B XI

Although only one match was played in the term, the squad displayed a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of good cricket was played. I hope to see a number playing for the Senior XIs in our course as they certainly have the potential.

Our match was against Rougemont 'A' XI and they won the toss and put us in. They were a very good bowling side and we were out for 34. Their first change bowler took 4 wickets in an over, including a hat-trick! I was pleased with the determination shown by our batsmen at this time. If we had bowled first it might have been different! As it was, they won by ten wickets. My thanks to Christopher Taplin for scoring and to Ed Vaughan-Hughes for captaining the side.

JGW

Team from: E. Vaughan-Hughes (captain)
J. Coppersmith-Heaven, B. Kellett, D. Bond,
M. Postlethwaite, M. Day, H. Wilson, T. Davies,
R. Lefevre, E. Warrington, T. Bates (Wicket Keeper)

Boys' Tennis

After the disappointments of last season, it is very satisfying to report that the 1st VI enjoyed much better fortunes and won one of their three matches and should have gained victory in the second. Our first pair, the strong German duo of Jo Schinzler and Patrick Van Welij, complemented each other well, Patrick's deft touch combined well with Jo's power game.

Captain, Rupert Webb, and Vice-Captain, Andrew Carrington, played a consistently high standard of Tennis throughout the season and new comers, Tom Mais and David Newby, grew in confidence as they gained match experience. The 2nd VI did not do quite as well but still managed to give a good account of themselves against stronger opposition.

The first match was against Dauntsey's School on astro. The combination of an unfamiliar surface, the wrong footwear, windy conditions and invisible court markings did not make for exciting Tennis although we did very well to go down only 3 1/2 - 5 1/2 in the Firsts. The Seconds, unfortunately, did not manage any points although Toby Abbot and Mark Sutton lost one rubber only on the tie break. Our next encounter was against Dean Close and the Firsts really did themselves justice, losing by just one point. It was a game we could and perhaps should have won, however there was a certain satisfaction gained as our First and Second pairs both thrashed the opposition first pair. The Second Team also played much better and despite losing 1 1/2 - 7 1/2 came away in much better spirits. The final match against Cheltenham College was the high point of the season as we won our first match, beating them 5 1/2 - 3 1/2. The Fifth Year pairing of Tom and David played their best Tennis of the season and came very close to winning all three of their rubbers, while Jo and Patrick were far too strong for the opposition and won their rubbers comfortably. Rupert and Andy played some typically stylish tennis to record two victories and see the team to a memorable victory. The Second VI also continued their improvement going down 2 1/2 - 6 1/2, with Seb Heinemann and Ian Forster playing well.

After half term we played two mixed matches, against Bristol Cathedral School and The King's School, Gloucester. We slightly misjudged the strength of the opposition in both matches and won embarrassingly easily. Still the games were played in good spirit and were enjoyed by all, although the waving of white flags in response to Jo Schinzler's first serve was a sign that our opponents were expecting rather more of a social game of Tennis.

I would finally like to thank Mr Vuolo for his time and effort in running the Tennis this year and I hope that next year's teams can build on the success achieved this season.

Rupert Webb

1st VI

Played 3, Won 1, Lost 2.

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 3 1/2 - 5 1/2
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 4-5
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won 5 1/2 - 3 1/2

2nd VI

Played 3, Lost 3.

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 0-9
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v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 1 1/2 - 7 1/2
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost 2 1/2 - 6 1/2

Mixed VI Played

2, Won 2.

v. Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Won 1 2 - 0	v.
King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 6-0	

Teams from: R. Webb (Captain), A. Carrington (Vice Captain), J. Schinzler, P. Von Welij. T. Abbott. M. Sutton, T. Mais. D. Newby. S. Heinemann. Y. Takanashi, D. Morris, I. Forster, A. Nye, J. Freeman, J. Shenton.

Girls' Tennis

1st VI

It was a successful season. The coaching group of sixteen girls all played in at least one match, with the 1st VI remaining undefeated. The success of the 1st VI was due to the effort and determination of all of the team members but some of the matches were sealed for



Rendcomb with our 'trump card' **Jo Crisp**, a nationally ranked Third Year pupil who joined the 1st XI for match play.

Sophie Peters was a very efficient and conscientious captain, and Jenny Mais an equally efficient vice-captain, and I thank them both for their help and support. Played 4. Won 4.

Team from: J. Crisp, J. Mais, S. Peters. T. Sleggs. S. Sprawson, B. Unger

2nd VI

The 2nd VI was not quite so successful but they still worked hard and were well captained by Elisabeth Jakobs.

Played 2. Lost 2.

Team from: A. Chaiwatanasirikul, L. Donovan, S. Forster, A. Howard, P. Hunt, E. Jakobs, G. Leathart, A. de Lisle Wells, H. Mizon, M. Schumacher, C. Webb.

U15 VI

This year with more court space and split games afternoons, the Fourth Year Girls were able to play tennis from the beginning of term. This has led to a vast improvement in the amount of tennis learnt and practised by the girls. Fixtures were arranged for the latter end of term rather than the beginning to give time before the teaching of skills and selection of teams. Unfortunately the bad weather of the summer arrived during the second half of term, and only two matches were played. Of the two matches played, the first against Cotswold School, Bourton on the Water was won and the second against Deer Park School, Cirencester was lost. The girls who played in the matches showed they were able to work on tactics discussed between sets to their advantage and with more match experience they have the makings of a sound tennis team.

SMW

Team from: E. Durey, H-L. Leung, A. Osborne, H. Pearce, C. Schotten, R. Whatman.

Rounders

U14

Despite the appalling weather which rained off over half our matches, we have managed to have a good season, winning two out of three games. Becky Ricketts (our captain) organised the team well, and bowled superbly throughout. The whole team fielded

excellently and we quickly despatched the opposing teams, mostly through being caught out. Brilliant batting, particularly from Jo Crisp and Vicky MacKinnon, brought us some valuable rounders. The nail-biting final match against Deer Park notched up a memorable 17-15 victory on one of the few sun-enhanced games.

DRB

U13/U12

The biggest opponent the U12 and U13 girls had to face this term was the awful weather which made all but six of their rounders matches impossible to play. The girls approached all their practices with great enthusiasm and had plenty of time to improve their batting, catching, throwing and fielding skills, albeit often in the rain on the astro turf.

The U13 IX started their season with a match against Cotswold School with they were unfortunate to lose. They then had a close match against King's School eventually losing by just 5-7 rounders. Hannah Ewing proved to be an excellent bowler and catcher of the ball whilst Laura North was able to save more rounders from being scored against us with her good deep fielding. Both girls also hit the ball hard to score rounders.

The next match for the U13s was not played until after half-term against Deer Park which Rendcomb won in a high scoring match in between the rain storms. All their other matches were cancelled except for the away match against Beaudesert which was lost by 6-12 rounders and an innings. Unfortunately, the good work done in training was not shown during the match as the team gave away many rounders to the opposition through poor fielding and fumbled catches and, despite scoring a number of rounders, Rendcomb was unable to regain those given away.

The U12 IX played just two matches all term, winning both of them. The excellent bowling and catching of Chloe Clarke helped the side to their first victory, along with the hard hitting of Ashleigh Welch and left-handed hitting of Sarah Rudderham to score rounders for the team. They eventually won by 14-5 rounders.

*Alexandra
Pardhy
(2A)*



In their second, and as it turned out last, match, Amanda Lomax was responsible for some splendid work as Backstop as well as scoring 4 of the 11 rounders with intelligent running. Ashleigh Welch and Anna Marlowe fielded extremely well at 2nd and 3rd deep respectively, with Jade Finn, Alice Barefoot and Sarah Colson catching and stumping their posts quickly to ensure the opposition did not score many rounders. The win of 11-6 rounders with an innings to spare fairly reflected the standard of play reached by the Rendcomb U12 team.

Both the U12 and U13 teams played with much enjoyment and enthusiasm all term and I look forward to hearing of their continued success next season.

PSW

U13 IX: Played 4, Won 1, Lost 3

U12 IX: Played 2, Won 2

Basketball

The 1997/98 season has been a very successful year for Basketball as we have had a keen and skilful group of pupils turning up every Friday afternoon, leading to some hotly contested games.

We had two matches this year, both against Bedstone College. The results were perfectly balanced. In the first the seniors won and the juniors lost. In the second, the seniors lost and the juniors won!

Particular mention should be made of Joe Schinzler and Chris Scarth in the Seniors, and David Newby in the Juniors, all of whom demonstrated skill, dexterity and energy.

The group has been a wonderfully positive collection of people to work with, and I look forward to next year.

D. E.

Archery

Both girls and boys have thoroughly enjoyed their archery this year. The Christmas term started well with many students gaining their AAS achievement badges at different levels. This was shown by a league table published by AAS where Rendcomb came in the top 15 by beating many top schools.

The Spring and Summer terms were less well attended but the enthusiasm and ability of those that came made up for the lack of numbers. In particular Edward

Forster made rapid progress, with Oliver Poole really doing well in the last part of term.

I must take this opportunity to thank Lisa Engelstädter and Sonja Forster for their help as secretaries and Barbara Unger with Edward Forster for their valuable help during "Hands On Day", and also to Simon Webb for all his help over many terms.

Thanks go also to the rest of the archers for a most enjoyable term.

JME

Equestrian Activities

Two groups depart each Monday afternoon to take riding lessons at the Talland School of Equitation near Cirencester. One group caters for beginners who are taught the basics of good horsemanship under the watchful eye of trained BHS instructors whilst the other group is taken through more advanced riding skills.

There is great interest in Riding as an activity at Rendcomb and teams representing the College in One Day Eventing and Polo are formed each year wherever possible.

This year individual riders will be entered into the Senior Sections of the British Inter-Schools' One Day Event Championship in September which is to be held at Stonar School.

Unfortunately the One Day Event Championship was cancelled last year due to Princess Diana's funeral as a mark of respect so our riders achieved the following results: -

Harry Aldrich-Blake: 12th in his Individual Senior Section (from 64 competitors) and 20th overall from 260 competitors in all the Senior Sections.

Anna de Lisle Wells 20th in her Individual Intermediate Section (from 65)

We wish those entering this year every success.

PSW

Clay Shooting

Without doubt this has been a magnificent shooting season with some fine inter-school results. Once again a fine band of young men and women turned out in rain, sleet, snow, heat-wave and horizontal downpours. These are real shooting people.

This year we have enjoyed the luxury of the quad bike which acts as a packhorse for the boxes of clays and guns; our arms are not primate in form this year.

Clearly our finest day came at the 'Nationals' on the Lichfield Estate in Staffordshire in which a relatively youthful A and B team including a Ladies' III out-shot many larger and experienced teams, including Dean Close and Oundle.

I would like to thank my two Captains James Gibbs and Sebastian Grey for all their sterling efforts - without the likes of them a squad could not function. I hope they will return for the OR's next year; we would love to see them.

Also I would like to thank Messrs Peter and Paul Cairns for their support and help during the year.

At the time of writing the staff VI team takes on the College VI team and, regardless of who wins, I feel sure this will epitomise the fun and spirit of the season.

I would like to thank all those (including my dog Lily) who have been part of Rendcomb Shooting, and there are many juniors who are very active in the club, which bodes very well for next year.

JHS

Squad Members: J. Gibbs (capt). S. Grey (capt), F. Brenner, B. Unger, E. Forster, E. Jakobs. H. Aldrich-Blake, A. de Lisle-Wells, N. Hall, W. Witchell, B. Starks, E. Farnsworth, D. Newby, J. Brittain-Jones, M. Good, E. MacCurrach, N. Maylott, T. Moss.

Staff Team: KT, PC, PC, JS, Lily

Sailing

This year we made five trips down to the sailing lake at The Cotswold Water Park. We had eight sailors and four windsurfers, though Mr Murray boosted the

latter's number by going out on the sunny days, despite his significant failure to travel quickly in any pre-selected direction!

In our number we had all manner of sailors from certified experts to beginners, but everyone made the most of their opportunities, except for on a particularly windy day when a number decided to opt for the easiest boats which actually resembled baths rather than sleek water crafts!

We were ably instructed, and a good time was had by all. It was a real pleasure to sail with such polite and appreciative pupils.

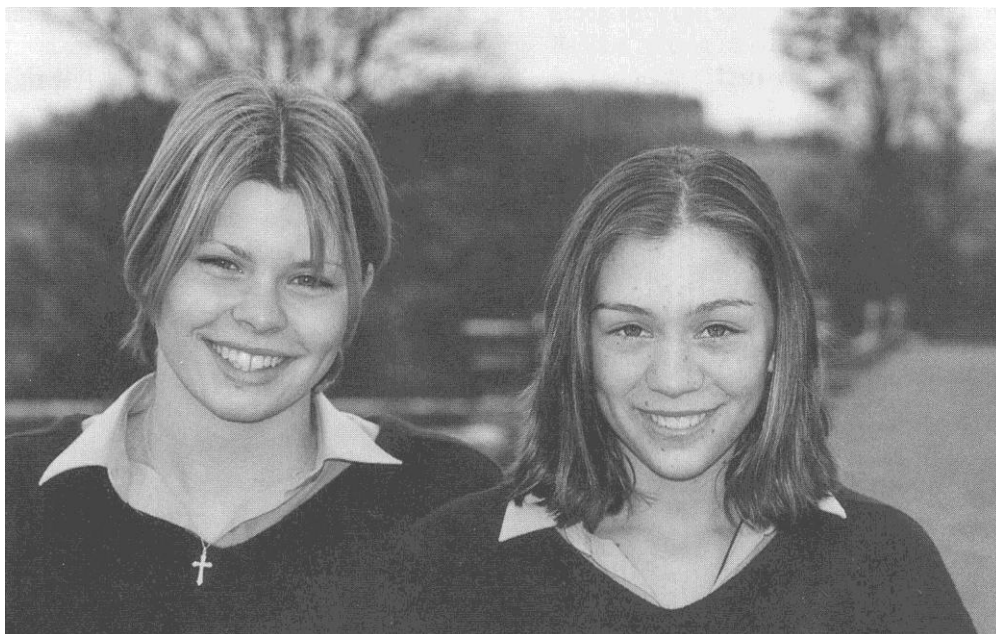
JRM

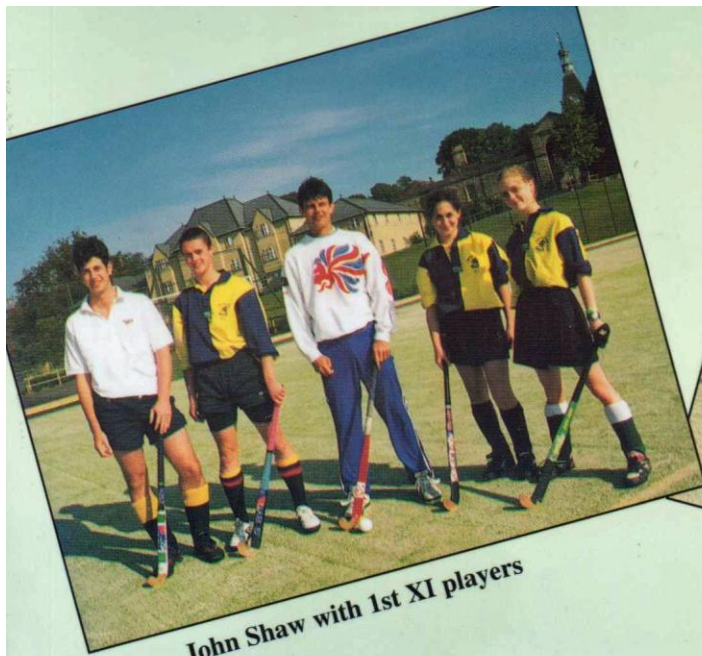
Swimming

This year we have seen two Rendcomb pupils achieving some fine results in the pool. Hannah Ewing has been improving magnificently, and Lissa Davies has become one of the best swimmers in the region, swimming some of the fastest times of the year. In the first 3 weekend sessions from the Wiltshire Region County Championships at Milton Road Pool, Swindon, Sat 7th/Sun 8th March, 1998, Hannah Ewing took part in the relay events representing Swindon Dolphins and won a Bronze medal (3rd place) in the 100m Backstroke final in the 13 year old group. She set a personal best time winning her heat in 1. 19. 11 seconds and broke that again by another second in the final. Lissa Davies took part in relay / individual events representing Swindon Dolphins and won the Silver (2nd place) individual medley in 14 year age group, 4th place in the 400m freestyle and her team came 1st (Gold Medal) in the individual medley in the 13/14 yr age group.

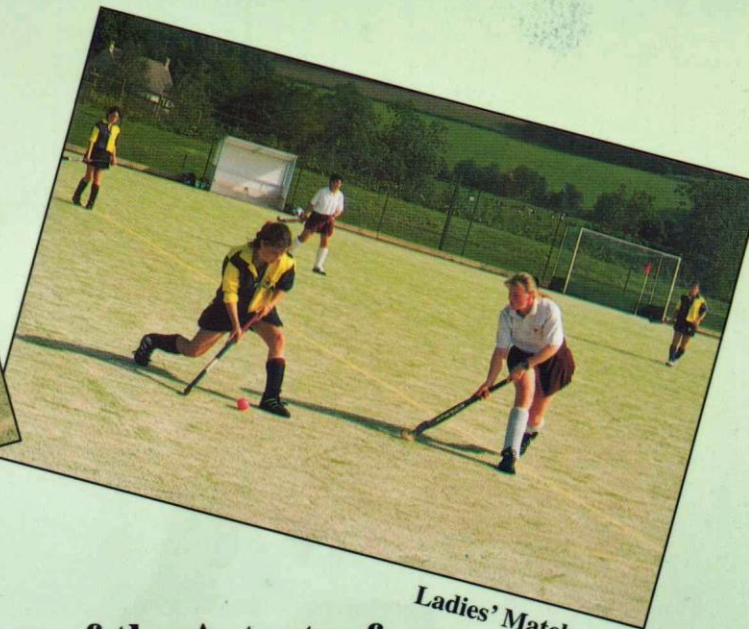
KME

Lissa Davies and Hannah Ewing





John Shaw with 1st XI players

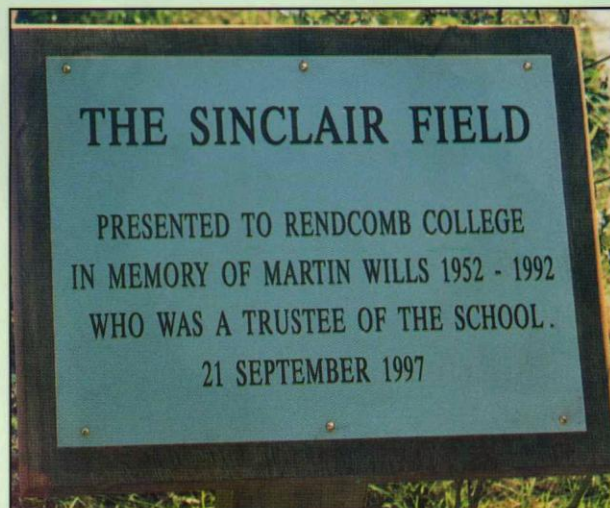


Ladies' Match

The Opening of the Astro turf



Major M.T.N.H. Wills opens the pitch



John Shaw's Coaching Session

