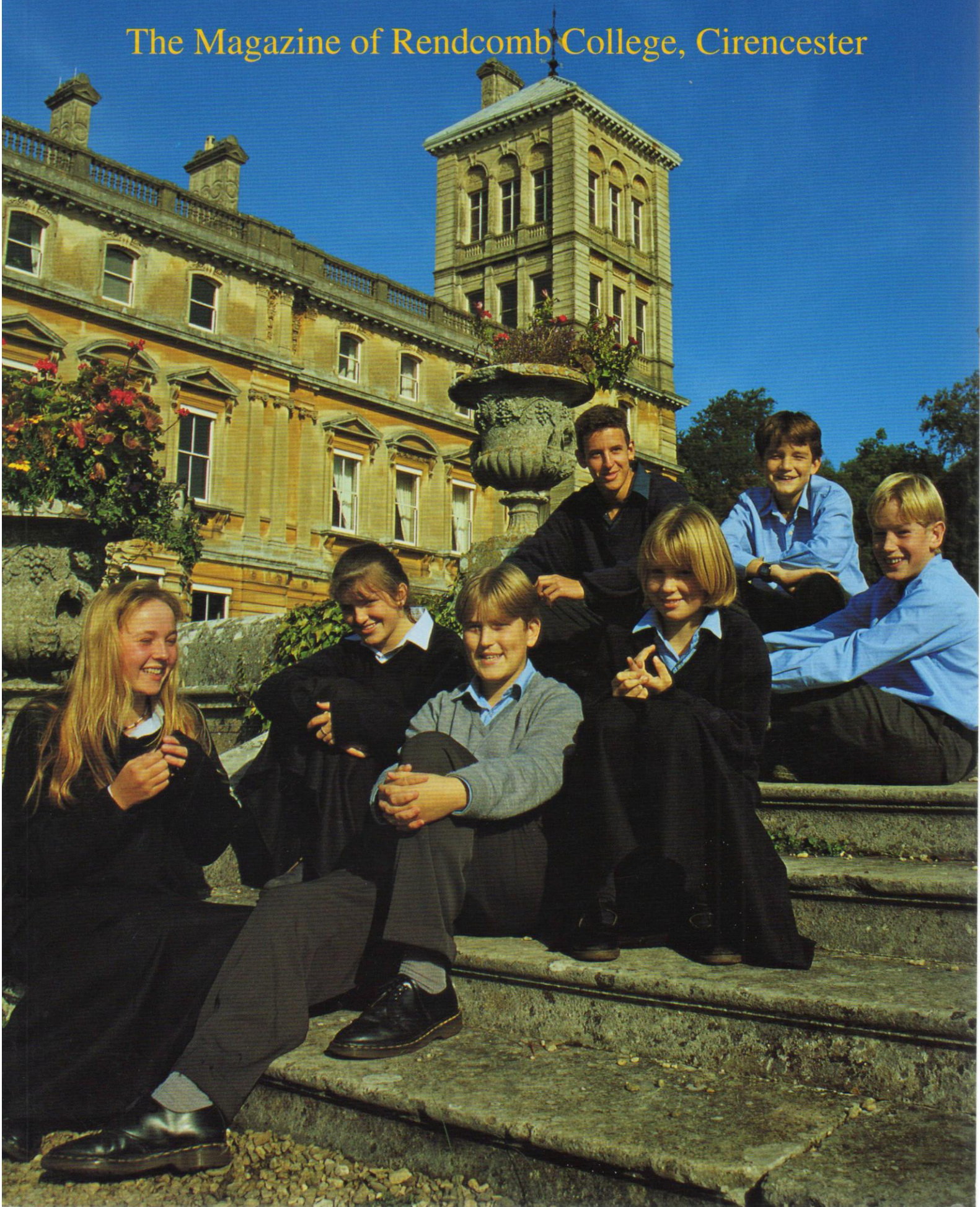
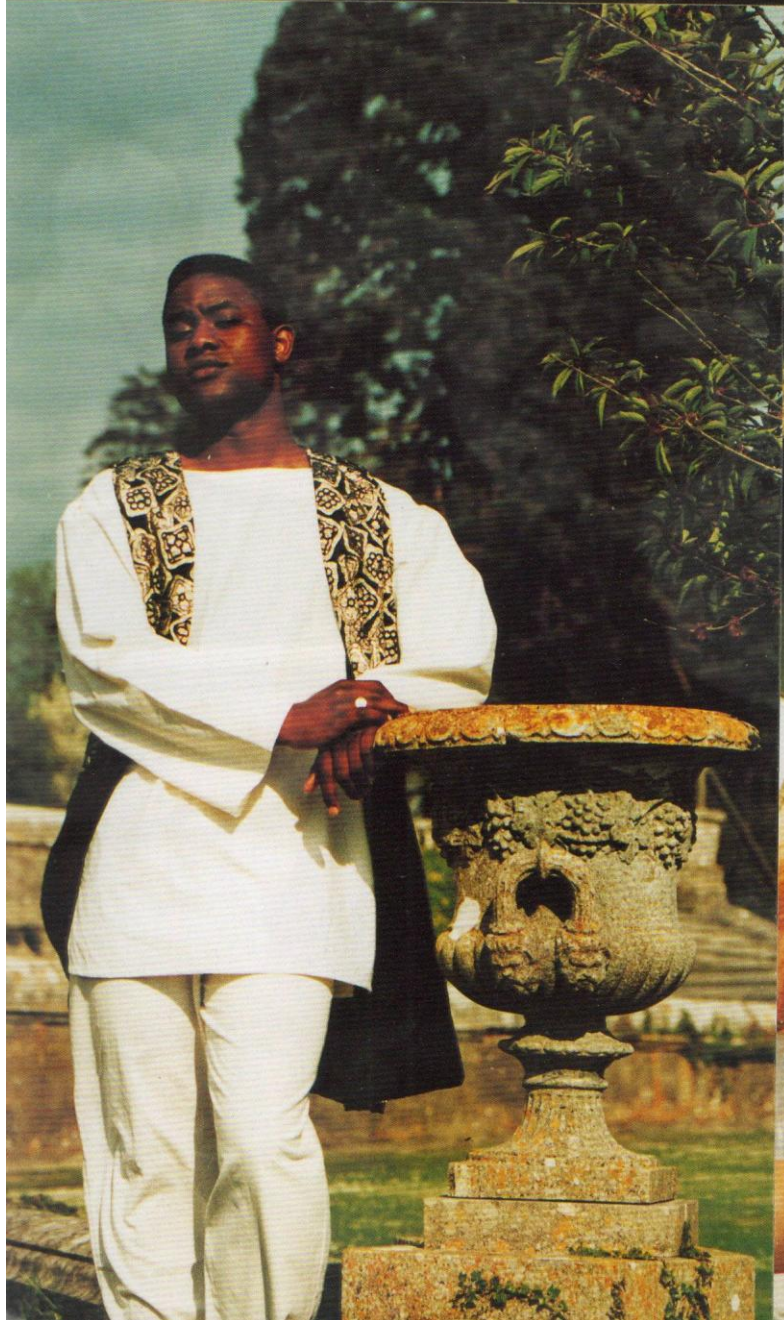
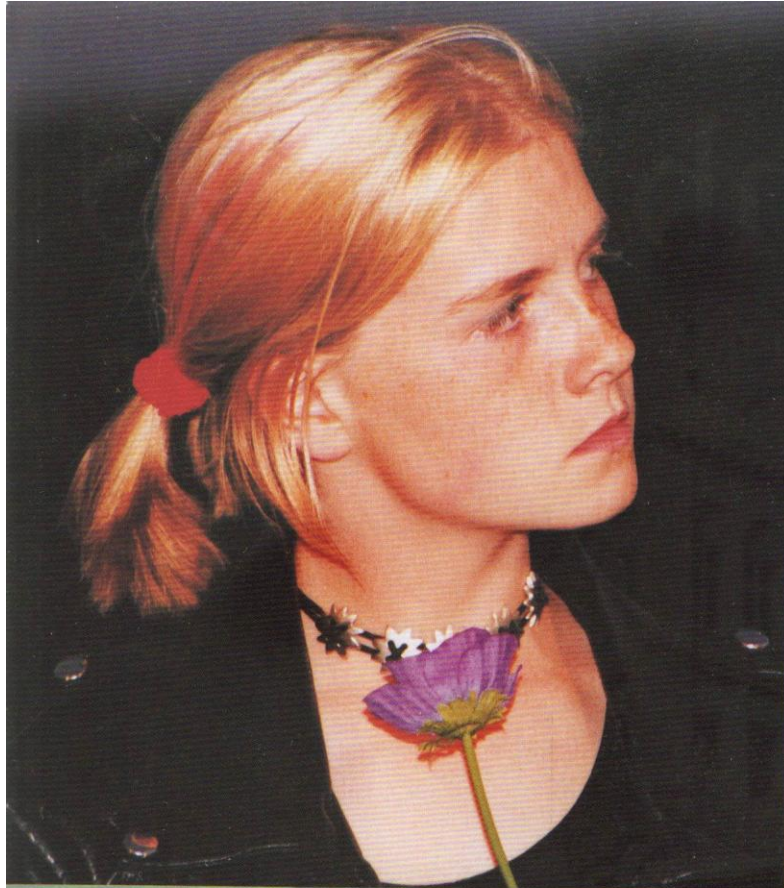


Rendcombian '95

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, Cirencester





Rendcombian

No. 13

September 1995



Frederick Noel Hamilton Wills,
who founded Rendcomb College in 1920

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The Record 1

Deaths: It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Hilary Smith, wife of Graham and mother of James and Rebekah, on 5th October 1994.

Rendcomb Diary

Christmas Term 1994

September

4. Term began. Church Service for new pupils and their parents.



10. **Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride.**
Park House barbecue for pupils and parents.
11. Junior House visited Littlecote to see jousting, the motor car museum and a hot-air balloon display.
Godman House visited the Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon.
16. Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.
17. 10.30 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving Service.
18. 6A visited the Guardian Education and Jobs Fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.
23. Rendcomb Field Sports Day: visitors from prep and primary schools took part in an afternoon of activities at Rendcomb.
24. Rock Concert by *Farrell Lennon* and *Thurman*.
25. Junior and Godman Houses Car Treasure Hunt.

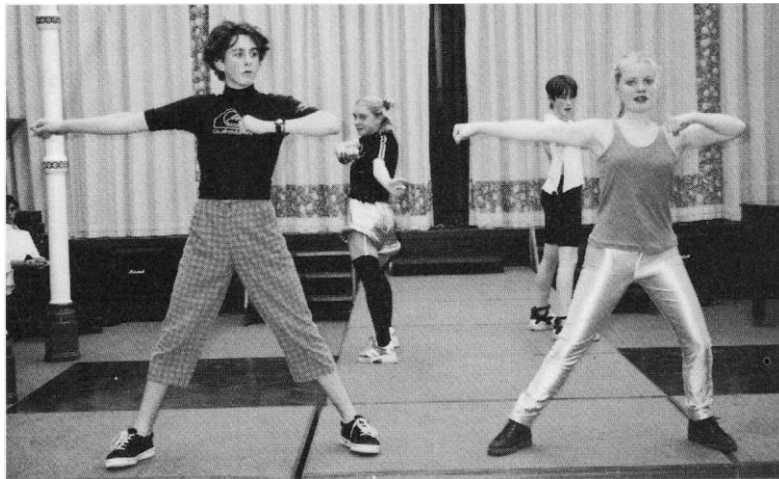
October

3. Sixth Form General Studies: 6A Cheltenham Drugs Project, 6B Relationships.
Personal and Social Education: talk on Relationships to new pupils in the Junior House.
8. 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Open Day.
9. 11.30 a.m. Informal Concert.
11. Governors' Policy Planning Committee Meeting.
13. Third Forms went to The Michael Faraday All-Electric Road Show, Swindon.
15. Rendcomb musicians entertained at the North Cerney Harvest Supper.
16. Park House - Tenpin Bowling; Godman House went to the Link Centre, Swindon.

18. **6A Biology Field Trip** party left for The Hebrides.
21. Half-term began
25. Biology Field Trip party returned.
28. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Assessment group left for The Black Mountains.
31. Sixth Form General Studies: 6B - Alcohol Counselling and Information Service.

November

1. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' group returned.
6A Performing Arts students went to *La Bohème* at the Bath Opera House.
3. Governors' Finance Committee Meeting.
4. Choir sang Evensong in Bristol Cathedral.
5. Junior and Godman Houses' Bonfire.
6. Informal Concert.
Junior House ice skating at The Link Centre, Godman House outing to the London War Museum.
7. 6B General Studies - Cheltenham Drugs Project.
10. Black Box Theatre, (*see opposite*)
11. Black Box Theatre.
12. The U13 XV went to Twickenham to see England play Romania
Black Box Theatre.
13. Remembrance Sunday.
14. Sixth Form General Studies - The Gloucester Prison Chaplaincy.



24. **Fourth Form Expressive Arts group** saw *Macbeth* in Cirencester.
26. The Choir and ensembles performed at Ampney St Peter Church.
27. Advent Carol Service.
28. Sixth Form General Studies - Charity REACT by Christopher Pulford (OR).
30. Girls' Hockey Club Dinner at the Thames Head Inn.

December

1. Governors' Meeting.
2. Christmas Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
3. Girls in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms visited Oxford.
4. St Barbara's Day Service.
7. Rugby Club Dinner.
8. Juniors' Christmas Dinner.
9. Fourth and Fifth Forms' Christmas Dinner Rock Concert.
10. Sixth Form Christmas Dinner.



11. Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church. Term ended.

Lent Term 1995

January

8. Term began.
9. 6A Higher Education meeting.
10. 6B Higher Education meeting.
22. Junior House visited Cadbury World.
25. Sixth Form *Understanding Industry* conference.
26. Sixth Form *Understanding Industry* conference.
27. Sixth Form *Understanding Industry* conference.
Canada '95: 24-hour sponsored rugby marathon.
- Careers and Higher Education meeting for fifth-form parents.
30. Academic Review meeting.

February

2. Governors' Finance Committee Meeting.
3. Music teachers/parents consultation meeting.
4. Parents' Association Quiz Night.
5. Junior House swimming at Oasis Leisure Centre.
Gloucestershire heat of *Bridge Magazine* competition in the Dulverton Hall. QP Concert - *The Oriel Singers*.
6. Sixth Form General Studies - **The British Antarctic Survey**.



The last husky dog sledge journey in the Antarctic, Quinalt Pass, Alexander Island, January 1994.

7. Governors' Policy Planning Committee meeting.
10. 'A' level Art students left for Paris.
Half-term began.
13. 'A' level Art students returned from Paris.

15. Half-term ended.
16. Governors' Finance Committee meeting.
19. Informal Concert.
20. Academic Review meeting.
Sixth Form General Studies - *A Perspective on Abortion*.
26. Junior House and others - ice skating at the Link Centre.
Young Musicians' Recital: Andrew Gray (Bryanston School) - Trumpet,
in St Peter's Church.
28. Arts Society went to a jazz concert by Courtney Pine.

March

3. Careers Convention for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms and their parents.
9. Pupils from The Querns School came to see a presentation by Performing Arts
'A' level students.
Flute and piano recital by Teresa McIver and Stephen Lea.
10. Governors' Meeting.
13. Sixth Form general Studies - 'The British Royal Family'.
15. *The Boy Friend*.
16. *The Boy Friend*.
18. The Choir performed Part 1 of *Messiah* in Cirencester Parish Church.
21. Performing Arts Presentation.
24. Rock Concert, *Purple Remedy* with Tim Shaw as DJ and 'Scratcher'.
25. **Canada '95 - Fund-raising Dinner and Auction of Promises/Collectables,**
Guest Speaker - Stuart Barnes.
Term ended.



Summer Term 1995

April

23. Term began.
25. 6B Higher Education meeting.
27. Birmingham University Open Day visit.

May

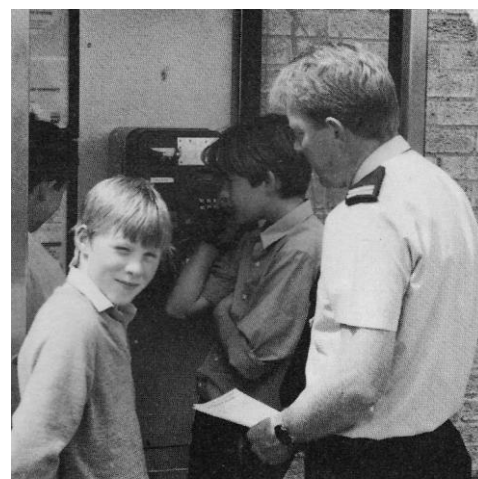
5. Canada '95 Carwash.
9. Sixth Form saw *Romeo and Juliet* at the RST, Stratford.
12. Informal Orchestral Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
13. Canada fund-raising trip to the Middlesex Sevens.
14. Duke of Edinburgh's Award 'Bronze' practice expedition.
'Nationals' Clay Shooting Championships, Shugborough Estate.



16. Form 2 visited the Norville Optical Company, Gloucester.
18. Form 2A visited the Norville Optical Company, Gloucester.
- Policy Planning Committee meeting.
19. 6B weekend trip to Normandy departed.
20. Second-year cycling weekend in the Severn Vale.
21. QP Concert: Peter Fielding (clarinet), Chris Vale (bassoon).
22. Sixth Form General Studies - talk by Lord Plumb, MEP.
24. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
25. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
26. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- 'A' level Artists' Exhibition in the Dulverton Hall, private view.
27. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- 'A' Level Artists' Exhibition.
28. **75th Anniversary Founder's Day:**
Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral 'A' level Artists' Exhibition.
Half-term began.
31. Duke of Edinburgh's Award 'Gold' practice expedition to Scotland.

June

4. Half-term ended.
5. GCE 'A' level examinations started.
8. Finance Committee meeting.
9. 6B Biology students visited the Birds of Prey Centre, Newent.
10. Open Day for prospective first-formers and their parents.
11. Parents' Association Cricket Match and Family Day.
15. **Form I attended Junior Citizenship Course at the Teachers' Centre, Hucclecote.**
18. Informal Concert.
Parent/Pupil Tennis Doubles Tournament.
20. Open Day for prospective third-formers and their parents.
23. Leavers' Dinner.
24. Church Service and buffet lunch for members of 6A and their parents.
25. Barbecue for Godman House pupils and parents.
26. Fifth Form Work Experience began.
27. Cirencester Festival Concert, an evening of choral and instrumental music by the Bay Tree Wind Quartet and Rendcomb singers.
28. 'A' level examinations ended.
29. Governors' meeting.
30. Cirencester Festival, Dance and Drama Evening.



P.J. Sudbury



Cotswold Dance Company led by Rendcomb's dance teacher, Sally Beard (left)

S. J. Lea

July

1. Duke of Edinburgh's Award 'Bronze' Assessment expedition left for the Forest of Dean.
3. The Junior House visited Drayton Manor Park and Zoo.
Duke of Edinburgh's Award 'Gold' expedition left for the Peak District.
4. 6B and Fourth Form artists' trip to London.
6. Term ended.
8. **75th Anniversary Ball and Old Rendcombian Reunion.**
31. Canada Rugby Tour party left.

August

16. Canada Rugby Tour party returned.

75th Anniversary Ball

On one of the most tranquil and sunny evenings of the summer the College and grounds were transformed for the Anniversary Ball. Over 400 guests attended: past pupils, staff, parents, friends, all with stories to tell and personal memories of their association with the College.

Following drinks on the terrace, accompanied by music from Lara Taylor (oboe) with Stephen Lea (piano) in the Reading Room, guests made their way to the large marquee for a magnificent three-course dinner served by our own catering staff.

The guest speaker following the meal was Colin Raggatt, one of the 12 original pupils of the College in 1920, who spoke of his memories and thoughts on the development of the Founder's ideals as the College has grown over the past 75 years.

Dancing in the small marquee to an excellent twelve-piece band followed and, for the more youthful, a disco in the Dulverton Hall. The Reading Room was set out with chairs as a quieter 'retreat', whilst photographs and copies of *A History of Rendcomb College, Volume 2* were displayed in Clock Hall.

The organisation of the event was excellent: the combined forces of the Old Rendcombian Society and



the Parents' Association with the college grounds and catering staff made the evening a truly memorable occasion. One hopes that we shall not have to wait another 75 years for a social occasion of such quality to come to Rendcomb again!

S. J. L.



Hilary Smith

Hilary Jones was born near Birkenhead and then, during the Second World War, moved with her mother to Tywyn in North Wales. She trained as a nurse, before specialising in children's nursing and midwifery, at Alderhay Hospital in Cheshire. Brief periods of work in Cyprus and near Lake Bala preceded a longer-lasting post as a nurse in Twywyn, when she moved to Clatterbridge Hospital in the Wirral.

Hilary's Rendcomb connection began in April 1975, when she came to the College as Senior Matron to replace Alison Garvie. Her regime was notable for her tireless, cheerful and compassionate efforts and her shrewd ability, essential in any school nurse, to distinguish the genuinely sick from the merely malingering. Hilary gave up this post in December 1977 on her marriage to Dr Graham Smith, who as at that time a relatively recent addition to the Physics Department - Welsh Jones metamorphosed to English Smith.

However, she began further work, as a midwife at the Querns Maternity Hospital, Cirencester, early in 1978 and continued there, apart from her absences when James (now a College pupil) and Rebekah were born, for some years even after the hospital became an ante-natal clinic. She combined this with other part-time work at the Elm Grove Nursing Home, also in Cirencester.

Beyond all this, some of her most memorable efforts were among the young children of Rendcomb village. She started a small Sunday School group in 1983 and ran this with dedicated *panache* for the next decade, highlighted by the Nativity Plays each Christmas in Rendcomb Church, delighting participants and spectators of all ages and sizes. Earlier, too, she had initiated a play-group for Rendcomb children in the village hall.

Both these creations survive and flourish today as a living testimony to her love and concern for the very youngest in our community. In this connection we particularly recall her public speech in the village hall on the occasion of Trevor Oldroyd's departure, when she passionately stressed the need for a shared community life and close support for both our priest and our own village children's activities. Hilary was not one to let us take things, or people, for granted.

Hilary's warmth and honesty were inspired by firm, purposeful Christian principles; her faith and her family were the two props at the centre of her life. When cancer cruelly struck, she, in turn, was sustained by these two, and her uncomplaining concern was for the future of those around her. It was typical of her that she should continue as an active, practising Christian Warden virtually up to the end - she died in office. The popularity of this brave, determined, smiling and much respected lady was attested by the packed pews at her funeral service in October.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Graham, James and Rebekah for their great loss.

J. N. H. / A. P. H.

Ron Kelsey

Ron Kelsey joined the staff in 1969 as the Head of an already well established Chemistry department. His enthusiasm for his subject and his expertise in the laboratory have inspired a large number of his 'A' level students to go on to read Chemistry or an allied subject at a university, and the success of his contribution to the academic side of Rendcomb is surely underlined by the constant number of Oxbridge entrants and by consistently fine Chemistry results.

Owen Rhys (1964-70), one of Ron's first 6A pupils, wrote recently as follows:

'Enthusiastic and creative, his approach verged on the heretical. *You don't have to learn this like a parrot, he cajoled, you can work it out!* The words of a seductive siren? Probably, I thought. But he did seem to have a very interesting practical side - the enormous glass vessels in which curious alcoholic brews fermented in his kitchen. And then came the madness - Ron started to demonstrate that his dry old subject could be fun!

'Organic chemistry became a straightforward process of electron density and arrows, instead of something other people could smell on your clothes. It was even possible to get to grips with some of the physical and inorganic stuff by learning about orbital theories and the like.

'For me at least, this was the proverbial scales falling from my eyes; a sudden burst of brilliant light on the road to the Stable Block. I actually began to look forward to finding out the next chapter of the story. I have often wondered how much better we might have, done if our year had had a double helping of Special K.'





Chris Wood presents Ron Kelsey with a print of the school on behalf of the Common Room.

Many Old Rendcombians and current pupils will wish to endorse Owen Rhys's remarks and to express their gratitude for the inspiration of Ron Kelsey's Chemistry teaching, and he in turn would, I am sure, acknowledge the dedicated help of his two assistants, S. W Jackson and C. J. Wood.

In 1979 he took over from C. M. Swaine as Head of Science, and his lasting contribution to the Science department is the extension of the Senior Chemistry Laboratory as part of the Appeal.

As a support to his teaching, Ron widened his horizons by becoming an 'A' level examiner for the Cambridge Examinations Board in 1981 and an 'O' level/GCSE examiner with WJEC from 1982, being Chief Examiner for six papers covering central and further tiers in the single, double and triple award. His publications include: *Chemical Engineering and Industrial Processes*, *Polystyrene from 3,000 BC*, *Ethanoic Acid, a Case Study*.

When changes were envisaged in the 'A' level Chemistry curriculum in 1979, Ron Kelsey, among others, was invited to submit a syllabus, which was adopted by the Cambridge Examinations Board; he subsequently supplied syllabuses in a second batch of options for British Petroleum. This link, together with one with ICI, has allowed our sixth-formers the valuable experience of working in research laboratories before university. For his contribution to Science, Ron Kelsey was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Ron has also been Careers Master for the past 25 years. He steadily built up a valuable advisory service for pupils, supported by Careers Conventions and Industrial Conferences for the Sixth Form. A great *coup* was to arrange a display by the Red Arrows in front of the College as part of the RAF recruiting campaign. In addition he initiated the work-experience week for fifth-formers after their examinations, enabling them to join local firms and gain experience of a very different way of life. Another side-line, as it were, was the National Business Game, with 400 schools competing, a battle of wits in which we did consistently well for a number of years, and, allied to that, the National Stock Exchange game 'Stockpiler', in which at one time Rendcomb was top in the County Division and the Regional Competition and came 20th out of 2,000 schools in the country.

Past housemasters were grateful to Ron for his loyal service over 20 years as a dormitory duty master and

year-group tutor under the old system in the Main Building; they knew they could always rely on his cooperation and fair-mindedness. For many years, too, he devoted much energy to training and encouraging junior rugby teams. In contrast, his 'dress' for Comic Relief Day became legendary.

For the past few years the Kelseys have lived in Chedworth; this has allowed them to further their involvement in the local community, particularly with the Chedworth Horticultural Show, and with Akeman House in Cirencester where they lay on the Christmas Dinner for the pensioners, supported by Joyce's long service as a primary school teacher in the area, and by their daughters' playing in local orchestras. Their youngest daughter, now at Oxford, recently brought her College Choir to sing in Chedworth Church.

We wish Ron every success with his new post of Chief Examiner with the Welsh Board and send our best wishes for the future to the rest of his family.

W. J. D. W.

Paul Kampe



Paul Kampe left Latvia as a refugee from the Russians in October 1944 and tried to get to Sweden. Turned back by German gunboats, he and his fellow travellers went to Germany, where he stayed until 1947.

He was then offered a chance to come to the United Kingdom, to work either in mining or in agriculture; he chose agriculture and worked on farms until 1953, when he went into the building trade in Wiltshire. It was there that he met his wife, June, whom he married in March 1960.

They moved to Tetbury in 1963 and to Cirencester in 1967. Paul started working at the College in March 1979 as deputy to Tony Partridge, possessing a wide range of skills, of which I suppose plumbing and water- supplies were his *forte*. During his first ten years here he came to know so much about Rendcomb that it was natural that he should take over from Tony in 1988.

That year was a period of turmoil for the

maintenance staff, with the construction of Lawn and Stable boarding houses and, in the summer holidays of 1989, the huge task of altering and improving the Main Building to create a third boarding house.

Paul had to liaise very closely with two construction firms, Britannia and Moss, whilst keeping his own maintenance tasks up to date. Few knew how much time and personal involvement Paul put in to make sure that all went smoothly with the builders and their foremen; in particular, the Main Building would not have been ready for occupation on Sunday, 10th September, without the Herculean efforts and long hours he and his small team put in during the preceding weeks.

Paul's excellent relations with both foremen may surprise one or two housemasters who have encountered his occasional stubbornness! I too had my differences with him, but Paul never bore a grudge nor harboured resentment. He loves Rendcomb, and his only aim has been to do his best for the school.

He has been an excellent miser of the school's maintenance funds, always managing to squeeze the last drop of discount out of our suppliers and penny per litre out of the oil companies, who must have cursed him for his patience in testing the market.

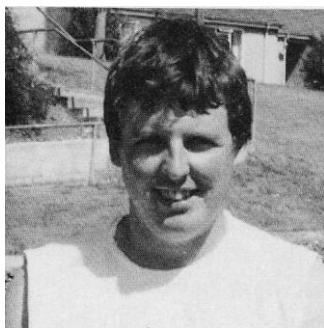
June too has supported Rendcomb in so many ways, particularly in the laundry, where she is to continue as a quiet and able help to Mrs Toms, and as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Paul will leave the College in the reflection of tasks well done, and we all wish him and June a very happy future.

E. T. T.

Paul Cairns

Paul Cairns has worked at Rendcomb, with a brief break, since 1984. He now takes over from Paul Kampe, whose post as 'Clerk of Works' is henceforth to be known as 'Works Manager'.



With the possible exception of Walter Telling, Paul is the youngest man to take on this post, vital to the welfare of the College in such a variety of ways. However, he is already a notable polymath and set to prove a worthy successor to the line of remarkable men who have held it.

D. DE G. S.

Christine Sudbury

Christine Sudbury joined Anne Purdon (later Anne Boyd) in the Head Master's office seven years ago. She already had the deepest possible knowledge of the Rendcomb community, as well as the essential gift of being able to think about several different things at the



same time. She and Anne quickly made a fine team; Christine is the sort of person who creates warmth and happiness around her, as prospective parents, pupils, visitors, staff and, above all, those who worked especially close with her, all know.

Judi Stocks joined Christine as Head Master's Secretary a year ago, and Christine has spent the intervening time introducing Judi into the work and special style of the office. Both Judi and I are personally grateful to Christine for all she has done, and for her humour and tolerance. As we welcome her successor, Sue Turnock, we say a heartfelt thank you to Christine for all her work and care of us. It is good to know that she will still be around in the Rectory, assisting Peter Sudbury with marketing and, we hope fervently, checking up on us all from time to time.

J. N. T.

Sandy Westhead

Sandy Westhead (*see page 83 for photograph*) came to Rendcomb last September. She is a specialist Physical Education teacher and has taken on the organisation of the girls' games, along with the introduction of GCSE in PE for next year's 6B. Sandy and her husband Chris live in Bussage and have two children, Joanne and James. Before the children arrived, Sandy was Head of PE at Stroud High School for over 14 years. Her hobbies include watching all sports, her garden, knitting and dressmaking.

S. J. L.

Penny Harrison

Following Wendy Musto's decision to have a sabbatical term during the summer of 1995, Penny Harrison was appointed to teach French and German in her place. A former pupil of Stroud High School, where Wendy herself had taught before coming to Rendcomb, and a graduate of Birmingham University, Penny took



on Wendy's timetable, teaching right across the age-range. She also assumed Wendy's tutorial responsibilities in Park House, her organisation and coordination of the Annecy exchange and her work on the Centigrade tests for 6B, overseen by Bobby Morgan, the Deputy Head Master.

During her relatively short time here, Penny impressed everyone with her cheerful good humour and readiness to get involved. She was painstaking in her preparation of lessons, and her conscientiousness quickly made a firm impression on both her pupils and her colleagues.

Penny takes up an appointment teaching English in Ankara in September, and we wish her every success in her new career.

L. J. H.

Sally Mills

We welcome Sally Mills, who has come to Rendcomb during the past year to join the Performing Arts team, teaching drama. Sally comes to us with a varied background: following studies in Drama, Film and Television with Music at University College, Ripon, and York St John, she spent two years with the touring theatre company *Shout* attached to the Oasis Trust. She has recently formed her own theatre company, *Disappearing Faces*, based in Cheltenham.

We have enjoyed Sally's work at Rendcomb, both as a class teacher and helping with the direction of various performances. We look forward to her continued enthusiastic and committed approach to the Performing Arts Department.

S. J. L.

Deborah Botham

In September we shall welcome Mrs Deborah Botham to the College, to join the Science Department upon Ron Kelsey's retirement. Mrs Botham comes to us from Sheffield University, where she has been completing a PCGE course. She read Natural Sciences at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and taught at Meadowhead School in Sheffield from 1992 to 1994.

Her interests include playing bridge and needlework, and she is a keen musician, playing both accordion and piano.

Recently married, Deborah and her husband John will be living in Stable Flat 2, and we look forward to their being active in the community here at Rendcomb.

S. J. L.

Sue Turnock

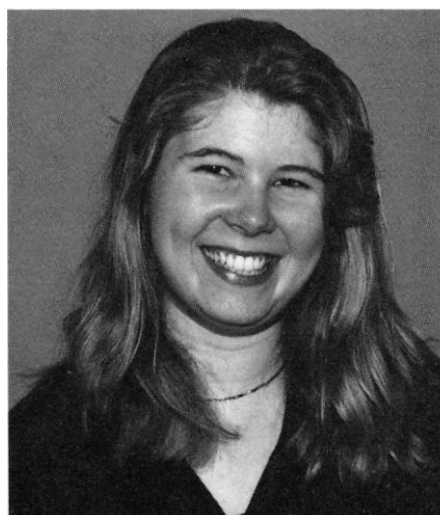
We welcome Sue Turnock, who comes to take Christine Sudbury's place in the Office. She has worked as PA/Secretary to the Principal of Lambs House Education and Therapy Centre for Children with Autism, in Cheshire, since the centre opened in 1989.



She has two grown-up children, Chris and Katherine, both of whom live in Staffordshire.

She is a Hospital Radio presenter on Sunday afternoons and is hoping to re-start the fourth year of an Open University degree course. She lives in Tewkesbury, but is looking for a more central situation to settle permanently; house-hunting is one of her hobbies at present.

S. J. L.



Deborah Botham

Reports

The Head Master's Review

As the Head Master made no formal report on Founder's Day, we publish here his recollections of the past school year.

Fresh in our memories, of course, is the 75th Anniversary Ball, which took place in such glorious weather. We had a packed house of Old Rendcombians, parents and friends of the College; we are grateful to those who supported us in such large numbers, and we apologise to those who were unable to get a ticket. We are grateful too to our committee and to everyone else who made it all happen: it really was a special night.

We also remember with great pleasure the events leading up to our 75th Anniversary Service. This time the weather gave us considerable cause for concern during final preparations for the performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but our audiences, and a talented and energetic cast, remained undaunted.

Meanwhile, dry and warm, the Senior Art Exhibition revealed yet again the superb range and depth of the work of our sixth-form and GCSE artists; this is now a very special event in Rendcomb's calendar.

The Cathedral Service itself provided a perfect climax to the week. Never before, perhaps, has the whole Rendcomb community, past and present, been assembled in such depth. It was our great good luck that the quality of our Choir had reached such heights just at the right time: we were moved and inspired by their superb singing, and by the brass ensemble and the organ-playing of Stephen Lea. Sadly, we say goodbye to two of our fine soprano soloists, Susie Fletcher and Charlotte Harrison, but how splendidly they have ended their singing careers at Rendcomb!

You may have seen Nick Wapshott's article in *The Times* the day after the service. He wrote warmly, as an Old Rendcombian, about the past ('we were living in a form of Paradise'), but he also confessed himself pleasantly surprised by the present state of the school: 'still known for academic progress and fostering individuality'. He described Rendcomb's benign atmosphere and its continued special place in the British educational scene.

In any review of the year, certain events stand out as simply unforgettable. *Messiah*, with all the solo parts sung by Rendcombians and Old Rendcombians, stands with so many other performances by our magnificent choir. The week before *Messiah*, David White directed *The Boy Friend* with junior members of the school. These highlights are supported by the ordinary, regular music-

making, underpinned by the recent music assessments, in which every pupil learning an instrument played to music staff and other pupils for comment and encouragement.

Sometimes I frighten myself trying to imagine what sort of place Rendcomb would be without its outstanding Art Department and the endlessly changing displays of superb work which never fail to lift our spirits. The results in 'A' level and GCSE year after year speak for themselves; less tangible, but no less important for that, is the effect this warmth and vitality has on our morale and enjoyment of life. Following annual trips to Paris or Amsterdam for the past many years, Martin Griffiths and his colleagues now have their sights on Madrid for 1996.

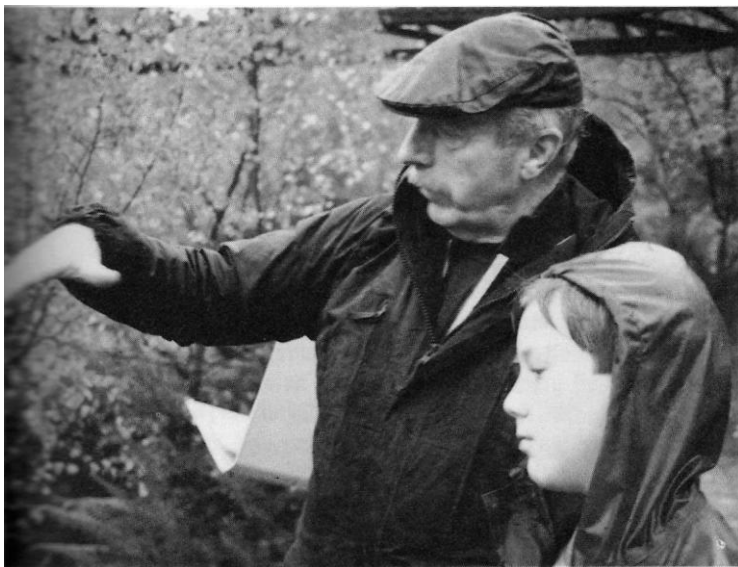
Meanwhile the CDT Department continues to produce fine pieces of work. Colin Burden is mounting this next term an exhibition of work produced at Rendcomb over its 75 years of life, or work produced by Old Rendcombians in their later careers. He would very much like to hear from any Old Rendcombians who could lend pieces for the exhibition: we promise to look after them. Colin can be contacted at the College.

Every Founder's Day there are changes to record and goodbyes to be said. In September Martin Griffiths becomes Assistant Housemaster in Lawn House; he and Pam have made a fine contribution to life in Godman in its last year as a boys' house. Paul and Jane Sykes, after six years in charge of Godman, relinquish their post and will be remembered by all their one-year charges for the unique, calm and caring atmosphere they created. Paul moves from the house to consolidate his new post as Director of Studies, overseeing the curriculum and the academic progress of each pupil in the school.

And Chris and Penny Wood have completed a decade in the Junior House. The affection and respect felt for them by ten generations of Rendcombians is underlined by the way their charges have kept in touch with them after leaving the Junior House. They have provided just the right care at the critical moment in a school career, and we all owe them a great deal. David and Judy White take over the house, while Chris moves on to become Head of Science.



Chris and Penny Wood handing over to David and Judy White



Niel Harris.

We say goodbye this term to Ron Kelsey, who joined Rendcomb 26 years ago as Head of Chemistry. He has an outstanding academic record in the Chemistry Department, as witnessed by the regular flow of places at Oxford and Cambridge. 'A' level results too have been outstanding and, as Head of Science, he has overseen the progress of the whole of the Science Department. He has also in his time coached junior rugby teams and worked as a sympathetic Tutor and energetic Careers Master. He introduced the Careers Convention and our Work Experience Scheme, both of which have helped Rendcombians consolidate their career ideas. Ron moves on into a new field as Chief Examiner for the Welsh Board, and Joyce continues her teaching. So we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

After a much shorter time, Neil Harris and Penny Harrison leave us. They have made a splendid contribution, and we wish them well.



The sponsored walk in 1992 raised over £4,000 for Paternoster School's Hydrotherapy pool which was opened in March 1995.

We must say goodbye also to our 6A leavers. This has been an especially happy year, and credit for that must go to those at the top. The Prefects, led by Benni Korber and Susie Fletcher and Heads of Houses Steven Croft and Leslie White, have provided just the right kind of caring and enthusiastic leadership. We thank them all and wish them a little bit of luck in August.

The Parents' Association has had another busy year, with a major contribution to preparations for the Anniversary Ball in addition to Family Day and a successful Quiz Night. They also continued to provide a sounding-board for me and the Bursar. We have discussed the Rendcomb weekend, in an effort to get the right balance between the necessary relaxation and attractive activities for those who want them.

Our aim, of course, stated in our prospectus, is that the school should complement family life and not replace it. Parents' willingness to be involved in their sons' or daughters' schooling is proved by their support for all our events. And certainly our contacts with parents have increased as the proportion of day pupils in the school has gently risen. It seems logical now to offer the further option of weekly boarding, and the Governors have decided at their recent meeting to do so. Weekly boarders will of course be eligible to take part in Sunday activities, and indeed I hope that on a few weekend occasions they will be willing to attend the school for a special events, such as the Sponsored Walk.

This brings me to two events to take place next term. On Saturday, 16th September, there will be a special concert in the Dulverton Hall, given by Alison Sutton. Miss Sutton is an opera singer with an international reputation, now singing with the *Opera de Lyon* in the United States. She will be presenting a programme of light music in aid of our Friends of Rendcomb Anniversary Scholarship fund. Refreshments will be served, and tickets will cost £10 each. The following day there is the Sponsored Walk, this time in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Homes. Again, I hope all members of the school, and as many parents, friends and animals as possible, will take part.

Finally, I end where I began, with the 75th Anniversary Ball. The after-dinner speech was given by Colin Raggatt, who arrived in 1920 in a horse-drawn wagonette as one of the first twelve entrants to the school. He has himself had a distinguished career in education since then, and he spoke with the passion of a man who is now able to measure the effect on him of his school days.

Mr Raggatt spoke of the Rendcomb emphasis on self-motivation: what has to be done has to be well done; progress is a matter for the individual and not to be determined by the profit shown on the bottom line. He said that close contact between pupils and adults helps to create a family atmosphere, a sense of purpose and of belonging. He urged those at present in charge of the school to continue the fostering of individuality and of high standards.



The Head Master with Colin Raggatt

In raising a glass to Rendcomb College, he said that he was reminded of St Paul's pride in the fact that he was a citizen of Rome, which he called 'no mean city'. 'I hope that those pupils here will be able to feel and believe, as I have always felt, that at Rendcomb they too were, and will continue to be, pupils of no mean school.'

J. N. T.

Chaplain's Notes

The year began with a service of welcome for all those joining the College. In his address the Head Master referred to the fact that, earlier that day at the Parish Communion, the new curtains to the tower, presented by Mr Bill White, and the festal frontal for the Lady Chapel, which had been restored by Mrs Judy White, had been dedicated and rededicated respectively, and he remarked how lucky the College was to have the use of such a beautiful building as its Chapel. He commended it as the spiritual, focus of the College to all those present and said that, in addition to attending services there, he hoped pupils would find it a place where they could sit quietly and take stock away from the hurly-burly of everyday school life.

Once again pupils of Form 2 and some of their parents took part in the Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride on the first Saturday of term. It was a fine day, and this year's route down the Coin Valley took the riders through some of the most beautiful Cotswold countryside. The end product was the sum of £554.58, divided equally between the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and St Peter's Church, Rendcomb. Very many thanks go to Chris Wood for organising it and to all parents and pupils who took part.



The cyclists receive the Christian Brann Trophy.

Harvest was only another week on and, in what has now become the traditional pattern, the College was represented at the Village Harvest Supper by the Chapel Ushers, who helped with the serving and the selling of raffle tickets, and by music pupils who provided a most enjoyable programme of music to round off the evening.

We were all greatly saddened at the death of Mrs Hilary Smith at the beginning of October. She originally came to Rendcomb as Matron and, after marrying Dr Graham Smith, became very much involved in the life of the village; she started the Sunday School and ran it for ten years and was also a church-warden for nearly nine years. The church was packed for her funeral, and the college choir sang the anthem *Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace* by Sumsion and concluded the service with the *Nunc Dimittis* by Stanford.

The Remembrance Sunday service on 13th November and the St Barbara's Day service for 'Gunners in Gloucestershire' on 4th December were well attended and moving occasions, and at both services the singing of the college choir enhanced the worship and inspired the congregation. In 1995 the preacher at the St Barbara's day service on 26th November will be the Bishop of Gloucester, himself a Gunner.

Once again the church was packed for the annual Advent Carol Service. The symbolism of the bringing of the light into a darkened church and then passing that light from the altar to the whole congregation says so much about the meaning of the season of Advent, reminding us that it is a time of preparation for the coming of 'the light that is Christ' into the world at Christmas.

On a larger scale, Cirencester Parish Church was also packed for the Christmas Carol Service, traditionally held on the last day of term. The congregation enthusiastically sang a selection of traditional carols, whilst the choir added variety and interest to the service with a mixture of carols and anthems, old and new.

The major event of the Lent term was the visit by the Bishop of Tewkesbury to conduct the annual Confirmation Service. It was his fifth and final visit before his retirement in the autumn, and he gave a most inspiring address to the candidates on the theme of sacrifice, taking as his text the passage from St John's Gospel, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit'. The following candidates were confirmed by the Bishop: Harry Aldrich-Blake, Theo Berry, Frederick Boughton, Edmund Compton, Susie Fletcher, Ian Forster, Helen Madge, John Shenton, Poppy Smith, Nicholas Stanfield and James Starkey.

At the beginning of the summer term a new pattern of Sunday services was introduced as a trial measure. Because of the increasing number of day pupils, the majority of whom do not come in for Chapel on Sundays, the church was beginning to look

embarrassingly empty, and it was difficult to justify the holding of two separate services. The new pattern consists of Morning Service for the whole College at 10 a.m., followed at 10.45 by a said celebration of the Holy Communion for those who wish to stay. On one or two Sundays during the term the Morning Service will be replaced by a College Eucharist, a sung celebration of the Holy Communion.

The major event of the term was the Seventy-fifth Anniversary Service in Gloucester Cathedral. More will be written about it elsewhere in the magazine, but it must be said here that the choir, which has been an exceptionally good one, really excelled itself and filled Gloucester Cathedral with the most wonderful sound.

The Leavers' Service took place on Saturday, 24th June, and once again was very much their 'show'; they chose the hymns, one of their number, Serena Lucas, read the lesson, and Charlotte Harrison and Susie Fletcher, who have been such mainstays of the choir during their two years here, sang the *Pie Jesu* from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, receiving loud applause.

At the invitation of the leavers, Mr Bill White gave the address and began by likening Rendcomb to the sheep-folds of the New Testament times in Palestine. There the shepherd would lie across the gate of the fold at night to prevent predators getting in and the sheep getting out, and he wondered how many Rendcomb sheep had managed to skip over the dormant housemaster or housemistress, lying across the door of the boarding house! He went on to invite the leavers to gather their thoughts of Rendcomb while they were still fresh in their minds, so that they could look back on them and appreciate how fortunate they had been to be here, and he quoted from a number of letters from Old Rendcombians to make his point.

He finished with an amusing story about the 'Will Carlingesque' attitude to Pliny shown by one of his Latin classes, concluding by wondering whether the interest shown by that class in Pliny's quip that *it is better to have nothing to do than to achieve nothing* was a broad hint to him that he should think about retiring! He stepped down to spontaneous applause from the congregation.

With the retirement of Mr Bill White from the 'front house' management, the responsibility has fallen on Mr Bobby Morgan, and this year he was aided by a very competent and reliable band of ushers. Ian Thompson, assisted by Patrick Boydell, Miles Brown and Jesse Wright looked after the Morning Service, and Steven Croft, assisted by Serena Lucas, Chris Jarrett and Stephen Jones were responsible for the services of Holy Communion. Many thanks go to them for all their hard work and regular attendance.

I am grateful also to Dr Graham Smith and Mr Chris Wood for assisting with the chalice at celebrations of Holy Communion. After such a successful year with the choir a very big 'thank you' goes to Mr David White, our Director of Music, for his conducting, to Mr Stephen Lea for his accompanying and to all the

members of the choir for putting so much effort into everything they have done.

During the year the church has been regularly cleaned by Mrs Pat Edwards and her team, and Mr Frank Fry, assisted by the college grounds staff, has continued to keep the churchyard cut and looking tidy. This year Mr Bill White and Mr Tony Partridge have trimmed and cleared the yew hedge adjacent to the road, and this has greatly enhanced the view of Church and College. The Flower Guild continues to beautify the inside of the church with lovely arrangements, and especially at festival time these are a joy to behold. I am very grateful to all who help in any way in the decoration, upkeep and maintenance of the church; it is, after all, our responsibility to make sure that it is handed on to our successors in at least as good a state as we received it.

To those of you who are returning to Rendcomb in September - have a good holiday; try to do something worthwhile with your time and don't let it just fritter away. We look forward to seeing you refreshed, probably an inch or two taller and raring to go at the beginning of another school year. To those of you who are leaving at the end of term - do keep in touch; we are always pleased to hear what you are up to, and you are always welcome at any of our services. To you all, wherever you are going and whatever you plan to do, we hope that God's blessing will go with you always, to guide and sustain you in everything that you do.

P. J. S.

Bursar's Notes

Alexander Pope, writing from Rendcomb in 1721, observed 'I look upon the mansion, walls and terraces, the plantations and slopes which nature has made to command a variety of valleys and rising woods, with a veneration mixed with pleasure'. At the end of my first year at Rendcomb I look back at a challenging yet happy year, and I now understand the words written by my predecessor in this magazine when he left, that he even looked forward to coming to work every morning!

The Administrative Support Staff have achieved a great deal in 1994/95, and in many ways it is the end of an era, as Christine Sudbury retires from the Head Master's office. Her contribution to the school has been enormous, and we are very sad to see her leave, but she starts a new job as Assistant to the Marketing Director, her husband the Revd Peter Sudbury, and will operate from the Rectory.

Our school Secretaries, Mrs Judi Stocks and Mrs Sue Downie, Mrs Kay Collins the Accountant and Mrs Anne Vickery, the Hospital Visitor, Travel Arranger and Resources Room Manager, have all continued to smile cheerfully and to work efficiently to keep the wheels from squeaking too badly. Christine's successor, Sue Turnock, is warmly welcomed to Rendcomb, and we hope that she will be very happy here.

Our two SRNs, Sister Julie Pritchard and Sister Judy Hunt, remain calm and unflappable and continue to keep our staff and pupils healthy and fit as much as possible. They both contributed enormously to the success of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as they prepared most of the costumes. The second-hand clothing shop is run by Sister Julie with Sister Judy's helpful support, and we are grateful for all they do in this department. We congratulate Sister Julie on her marriage this year, and we know that the rugby tour's medical needs will be catered for very well, as she is accompanying it to Canada.

Mrs Pat Edwards, the Domestic Supervisor, and her team of ladies have managed in a particularly busy year to keep the school looking attractive and very clean and, with the 75th Anniversary Ball followed closely by the summer let to Manor Courses Language School, without pause for breath. It is a great credit to them that Rendcomb always looks so inviting, and they are to be congratulated on their sterling work.

Our trio of washing ladies, Mrs Sue Pitt, Mrs Toms and Mrs June Kampe, have made beds, washed countless games and school clothes bundles and kept a smile on their faces throughout. The Three Musketeers have a few years service under their pinafores and have seen many changes at Rendcomb, not least the change of their laundry into the Bursar's office, the infamous Portakabin having finally gone to rest in Wales.

The Buildings and Grounds Departments have been amalgamated under one Works Manager, Paul Cairns, and his predecessor retires as Clerk of Works on 9th August. Paul Kampe's time at the College is appreciated elsewhere, but I would like to thank him in these notes for his enormous contribution to the school over many years. He and June will continue to live in Rendcomb, so we will see them about. We wish Paul a long and happy retirement.

David Essenhigh, the Head Groundsman, has taken on a new role as Sports Facilities Manager, based in the Sports Hall, and will continue to be on hand to give advice on the cricket wickets and playing fields. The excellence of the cricket wickets is a source of justifiable pride to him and to us all and to David Mead, his assistant, who now comes under the management of Paul Cairns. Barry Hardy continues to give sterling service and, as a jack-of-all-trades, is to be seen all over the estate. We welcome Eddy Clarke and Roger Attwood into the Works Organisation, although Roger has been here for many years in Colin Burden's Workshop.

Some of the work undertaken has included: fire precautions in the Arts Block (including a fire escape), refurbishment of the swimming pool, the Sports Hall



relocation of laundry, fire precautions in Park House completely replaced, fire precautions in School House, Sixth Form Social Centre started, Clock Hall stairwell painted, fireplace in Reading Room replaced (previous one stolen), Godman House converted to Junior Girls' House, the Old Rectory refurbished.

Bill White and Tony Partridge, our horticultural experts, have carried out an enormous amount of work in the grounds around the buildings, and their cheerful hard work in all weathers, with Tony's help to the Works Staff, have been a tremendous asset. A look in the greenhouses shows where their labours begin, and the result in our urns and flower-beds makes a significant difference to our beautiful school. Frank Fry, our resident expert on the Head Master's garden and the estate generally, and no friend to the rabbits at Rendcomb, also continues to help us. He is only 83 years young, and the new Bursar has found him a mine of information.

Our Caterers, Fairfields, go from strength to strength under Russell Riste, their manager. It is easy to take what they do for granted, but the outstanding food at the Ball reminded us all of the way they work untiringly to keep the name of college catering held high. The Heart Beat award from the Cotswold District Council for the highest standards in hygiene and food choice was a great tribute to all the catering staff. It was generous of Fairfields to present a computer and CD-ROM to the Library. We are sad to say farewell to Chef Chris Abbott, who retires from the kitchens in August. He will be sorely missed.

Our job is to support the Head Master and Teaching Staff in any way we can, and all the Administrative Staff can be proud of a successful year. I will end this article with a few words about the Rules of the Game, or 'Rules is Rules'.

The Devil was continually challenging St Peter to a game of soccer, but St Peter refused, until one day, while walking round heaven, he discovered that quite a number of Irish international footballers had entered the pearly gates. 'Now I'll arrange to play you that soccer game', said St Peter, 'how about it?' 'You'll lose', said the Devil, 'you'll lose.' 'Oh don't be so sure', replied St



Peter. 'We now have in heaven a great number of international soccer stars from which to select a winning team. 'You'll lose, you'll lose!' repeated the Devil. 'What makes you so sure we'll lose?' enquired St Peter.

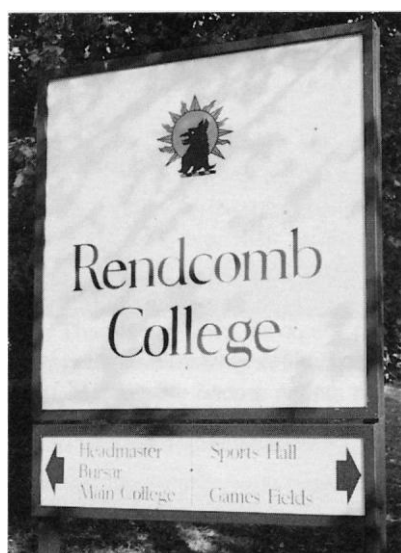
'Because', laughed the Devil, 'we have all the referees down here.'

J. F. A. G.

The Parents' Association

Apart from its social and fund-raising functions, The Parents' Association occupies a key position in the life of the College. A constitutional liaison role allows direct informal contact with the Head Master, Bursar and staff representatives, enabling subjects to be discussed that might at best be aired or at worst ignored. This unique position has allowed issues such as exam return times and equality of enforcement of rules for girls and boys to be discussed.

In this anniversary year, we can remember that Noel Wills chose Rendcomb as an idyllic place for a college, and in its own way The Parents' Association has endeavoured to enhance its use by providing new lighting for the Reading Room and initiating and



designing new signs outside and within college bounds, the former to provide for attractive, yet flexible, use of the Reading Room, and the latter as an adjunct to the promotional and increasing security needs of the College.

The social and fund-raising events have been under-supported, and so have been seen in part by the Association as a need for change. Indeed, even those that have gone well were pitifully low on acceptance slips right up to a few days beforehand. Therefore, instead of a dance or 'theme' event, it was decided to hold a 'quiz night' without any fund-raising aims. This event was a great success, well attended and with both adult and student teams taking part. It was particularly

entertaining to have separate sixth-form boy and girl teams vying for recognition as the most audible, if not intellectually outstanding, team of the event.

Family Day, also seen as in need of a change of format, was re-planned with all events taking place Up Top, cricket, rounders, side-shows, stalls and barbecue. The additional hiring of outside equipment, such as Crazy Bikes, Velcro Wall and Stop the Rat, was intended to revitalise the day. Unfortunately, the weather - or possibly the Rugby World Cup that afternoon - beat us; the day was cold and damp, and by four o'clock rain required the reconvening of the barbecue to Main College. Nonetheless, many stalls sold out of produce, most people tried each side-show once (the Velcro Wall being reserved for the lunatic fringe) and a reasonable profit for the day was declared.

Committee members have acted as event hosts and pre-concert or performance bar staff throughout the year, while two of us have been attending the frequent 75th Anniversary Celebration Ball committee meetings.

As a committee, our sincere thanks go to John Tolputt, Jeremy Gray and David White for their support, help and guidance throughout the year, and for their patience in dealing with sensitive matters, sometimes without any prior notice. A special vote of thanks is due to Russell Riste for his unstinting energy, help and commitment to the varied needs of the committee and of all Association events. His and his staffs ability to produce good nourishment for changing numbers at differing venues is a constant source of amazement; in addition, this is always done with a smile.

As retiring Chairman and retiring parent (do parents ever retire?) my thanks go to David Croft (Treasurer) for his tireless and energetic support, prompting and organisational talent, and to Val Perrin (Secretary) for her uninterrupted and dedicated administration, hard work and contribution to the committee. Invaluable help has been enthusiastically given by the other committee members, Karen Ellison, Henrietta Gilbert, Malcolm Hart, Jane Peters, Sue Hall and David Dobson.

Parents beware! The last named, as Chairman for next year, whose marketing prowess was displayed so well on Family Day, will encourage you to participate even more in the Association's future events.

I believe David and his colleagues will find, as I have, that being on the committee of the Parents' Association is hard work, interesting and, most of all, fun.

GEOFFREY MORGAN
CHAIRMAN

The Junior House

Owing to the sudden closure of Oakley Hall School the numbers in the house swelled to 55, with most additions going into the Second Form and the newly created Lower First Form for ten-year-olds, taught by

Neil Harris, the former Deputy Head Master of Oakley Hall. This made the Old Rectory a very busy place during the day, and registration at 8.15 a.m. seemed to take forever.

The start of the year was packed with activities and trips, beginning with the annual sponsored cycle ride in aid of St Peter's Church, Rendcomb, and the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Fund. This was well supported by parents of second-year cyclists, either as a marshal, as in the case of Mr Stanfield, or as participants. At times the latter were a greater worry than the pupils and, yes, Mrs Garcia, Mr Barton and Mrs Collinson did find their way home from Quenington. Richard Collinson completed the ten churches and 35 miles on his dying bicycle, and for once the first-aid box was unopened. Our efforts are never in vain, but this year (1994) we raised the most money as a group and regained the Christian Brann Trophy, which was presented to Nellie Abbott and Seb Bagnall during a short ceremony in St Peter's Church, Rendcomb.



The next day the boarders visited Littlecote and were very well **entertained by the 'Devil's Horsemen'**, executing their last joust of the season. The girls provided plenty of 'favours' for the combatants and later spoke to the men and woman who carried out the riding stunts in *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*. Vintage cars, hot-air balloons and many other attractions filled what was a most enjoyable afternoon.



The Geology Field Trip to the Forest of Dean took place on a very wet day, which served only to prevent the filling-in of work-sheets on the initial walk

up to Bixslade quarry. Having investigated rock types on the surface, the groups were then given a guided tour below ground in Clearwell Caves, where they learned about limestones, iron ore, mining method and ghosts! To round off a day of work, the surprise venue was the Jubilee Maze at Symonds Yat. Here 50 children played Maze Man's Hat, a game in which there seemed to be few rules, no winner and a lot of shouting.

Messrs Griffiths and Patterson, assistant housemasters of Godman and the Junior House respectively, dreamt up 30 interesting clues for the Car Treasure Hunt, which took the seeker as far afield as Sapperton, Hazleton, Bibury and Cirencester. The winners, the Days, Yuki Takanashi and Yohei Nakagawa, answered 15 questions correctly as well as coping with two out of three tie-break questions and producing a heavy conker.



The Christmas Party sketches generated a great deal of interest among second-year pupils, if at the last minute, and the **Staff Common Room sketch** caused much merriment.



During the Lent term most members of the house were busy with hockey matches and an excellent production of *The Boy Friend*, masterminded by

Mr White (music) and supported by the Junior House's other dynamic assistant, Miss Houghton.



However, there must always be time to visit **Cadbury World** and allow 'chocaholics' to indulge themselves. Skating at the Link Centre, Swindon, and swimming at the Oasis, Swindon, were well supported by boarders and day pupils, and both activities provide important alternative forms of recreation on a Sunday.

By popular request this year's theatre outing led to Oxford to see *Return to the Forbidden Planet* yet again. It is always entertaining, because it has music, an interesting set, special effects and Shakespeare (if a little muddled!)

Our thespians were displaying their acting skills once again in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and even managed the week of rehearsals and performances following the Severn Vale Cycle Ride (reported elsewhere).

Form I attended the Gloucestershire Junior Citizenship course at Hucclecote Teachers' Centre, where they had to make decisions about emergency situations and where they experienced problems such as bullying.

After some very successful internal examination results, most of the house visited Drayton Manor Park and Zoo, where they enjoyed stomach-churning rides such as the Shock-Wave, their latest stand-up roller-coaster, and the Black Revolver, which caused Ben Stanfield and Nicola Scarth to go an interesting shade of green. Thanks to Miss Savage's persistence, Mr Patterson got well and truly soaked on the log flume, and even Mr Wood was tempted away from the dodgems for this ride.



David Newby and Carlos Garcia won the doubles tennis tournament, and thanks are due to Mr Holt and Miss Savage for organising this.

It has been a busy and exciting year, and on that note I sign off as housemaster and wish Mr and Mrs White every success in the running of the Old Rectory.

C. J. W.

The Library

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once wrote that 'a man should keep his little brain attic stocked with all the furniture that he is likely to use, and the rest he can put away in the lumber-room of his library, where he can get it if he wants it'. Although perhaps rather disparaging, this comment does contain an important truth: libraries *should* be places where a reader can get the information he or she wants quickly and effectively. Rendcomb's library is no exception in seeking to achieve this.

With that in mind, the main news of the year has been the presentation of a second computer and CD-ROM to the Library, together with the Encarta '95 CD. This very generous gift has been made by Fairfield Catering, and we are extremely grateful to them for it. A second CD-ROM will allow greater use of the existing stock of CDs (particularly in the autumn term, when the ECCTIS university choices disc is in heavy demand), and the Encarta disc will open up access to new forms of information retrieval, including sound and video as well as the more conventional types of encyclopaedia. It will be installed and ready for use by the time this report appears in print.

All this does not mean to say that more traditional sources of information have been neglected - far from it. 480 new books have been added to the Library this year, as part of the ongoing process of updating the book stock, and more of the older volumes have been given honourable retirement in the reserve store to make room for them. I would also like to record my gratitude to all those who have given books to the Library this year, particularly Mr Kelsey, Commander Thring and one of our present parents, Mr Brittain-Jones.

On the logistical front, the task of jacketing all the books in the Library has now been completed, and this should help prolong their shelf-life as well as protecting them against accidental damage. More shelves have been labelled to help 'signpost' the various sections within the Library, and the bookstacks themselves have been renovated and repaired. This was a major task, undertaken during the 1994 summer holidays, which involved completely dismantling the free-standing bookcases and transferring them to the workshops for overhaul. (The Library floor was feet-deep in books in the interim!) Roger Attwood and Colin Burden did a splendid job, and the shelving should now last for many years to come.

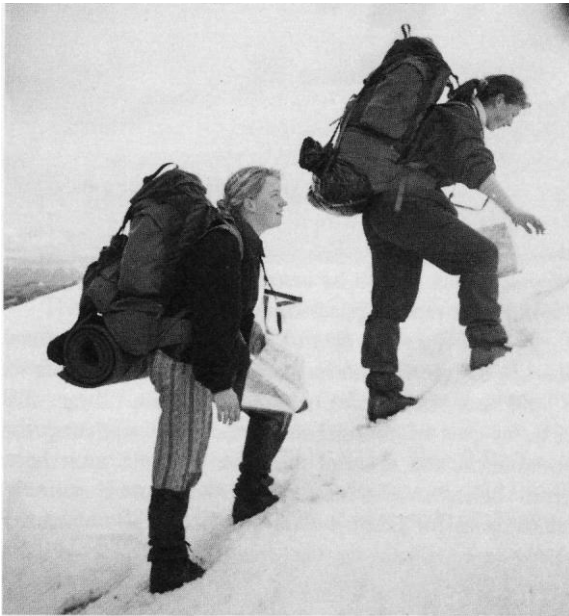
'Gold' practice.

The efficient functioning of a library is a team effort: it depends on a whole range of people - the librarians, the cleaning ladies, the works department, even (dare one say it?) the consumers themselves - to make it look good and work well. Nevertheless, I must record my gratitude to James Button, who leaves this year as Head Librarian. In his inimitable way, he has played a major role in the revival of the Library, conscientiously jacketing books, sticking labels in them, cataloguing them, chasing them up when they wandered, and so on. He will be missed next year.

Much still remains to be done in the Library, particularly in terms of recataloguing and indexing, but I hope that Conan Doyle would not be too disappointed by the state of our particular lumber-room, were he to return today!

M. H. G.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme



The Scheme continues to thrive within the College at 'Bronze' and 'Gold' levels; this summer virtually all in the fourth year took on the preliminary level of award, all achieving creditable success in both the

Loch Shiel.

M. J. Newby



assessment expeditions. The latter took place in the Forest of Dean, but this year, instead of submitting their projects in writing, the candidates gave a verbal presentation of their work to the assessors immediately after the expedition; this not only proved most enjoyable and highly successful, but meant that there was no delay in informing the pupils that they had passed in this section of the Award.

The 6A 'Gold' group had a tough time during their assessment in the Black Mountains in the last week of October. The driving rain and sleet, high winds and poor visibility prevailing over the four days, along with the shorter daylight hours, made the expedition the severest of tests for them, but in true Rendcomb fashion they came through with flying colours; the assessor admitted to being quite stunned by their determination and fitness.

Of this group, Serena Lucas, Steven Croft, Rupert Wertheimer and Michael Steen have already completed the Award and are waiting for 'the call to the Palace'.

Meanwhile the 6B group of 12 candidates have also proved excellent value, attacking the Award with real enthusiasm and commitment. They have already successfully completed practice expeditions in mid-Wales (in conditions ranging from scorching sun to blizzards!), the Black Mountains (after a last-minute change of venue, when the whole of the Peak District was put 'out of bounds' by the National Trust to avoid the risk of fires after the long dry spell in June) and, of course, Scotland.

The latter expedition took place at half-term and was based around the area of Loch Shiel. We did not have the glorious weather that we enjoyed during last year's trip to Loch Etive; indeed the first two expedition days took place in dismal, drizzly conditions. The highlight of Day 1 was lunch by *Loch a'Bhealaich*, defined by many as the loneliest, most desolate spot in the Highlands, followed by a steep ascent through the foreboding, rocky jaws of the

Bealach an Sgame, while on Day 2 the route involved a challenging ascent to the aptly named 'Pass of the Bogs'. Day 3 proved to be the best, including a classic high-level ridge walk taking in two 'Munros' (peaks over 3,000 feet); fortunately the mist disappeared and the sun shone, so the exhilaration of balancing along mind-blowing knife-edge arêtes and cutting steps through pockets of snow was supplemented by the stunning views of the magnificent surrounding mountains. The wild camp-site for that night also proved to be the best, alongside a crystal-clear stream in a secluded glen, with the sun sinking below the glistening Loch Quoich. The trip not only provided us with wonderful memories, but will, I have no doubt, stand the group in good stead for the assessment early next term.

In July a group of 11 Rendcombians travelled to St James's Palace to be presented with their 'Gold' Certificates by Prince Philip, an amazing experience for the students, a proud moment for parents and a pleasing achievement for the school, as we had one of the largest groups of successful candidates in the South-West.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped the DoE this year, from colleagues who covered the various activities used by the candidates as part of the Skill or Sport sections to the special contributions made by Mrs Pritchard, Mrs Hunt and Mr Sudbury in the Service section of the Award, and the team of Gill, Gill, Brealy, Brealy, Harris and Haslett, who so ably helped with the supervision of the expeditions for 'Bronze' and 'Gold'. Special thanks must go to 'Gold' expedition 'supremo' John Willson; the candidates could not be in better hands than those of one of the most experienced and highly respected Assessors in the South-West.

Finally, may I also thank Derek Coombes for his time, energy and efficiency in organising the equipment

and establishing the new store. Without the help of all these individuals we simply could not run the Scheme. I am indebted!

M. J. N.

The Friends of Rendcomb College

This has been a lively year for the Friends, devoted principally to raising funds for the 75th Anniversary scholarship, to be awarded to a Gloucestershire primary school pupil. Appeals were sent to charities with a declared interest in education and to individuals known to have the College's concerns at heart, and more than half the £30,000 at which we were aiming was raised by last April.

Generous help has since been received in the form of the proceeds of the collection at the Founder's Day service in Gloucester Cathedral, half the collection made in St Peter's Church at the service for Old Rendcombians on 9th July, and the promise of the profits made by the Anniversary Ball on 8th July.

At the Head Master's invitation, Alison Sutton, at present a soloist with *Opera de Lyon*, has very generously agreed to give a recital of light music at the College on 16th September, the proceeds to be devoted to the scholarship fund.

The Friends' Anniversary Scholarship Appeal will remain open until the end of 1995, and any further contributions will be warmly welcomed!

D. DE G. S.

The Orchard.

C. J. Wood



Founder's Day 1995

75th Anniversary

Commemoration Service

Quo Lux Ducit

Light was the recurrent theme of a Service of Evensong held in Gloucester Cathedral at 3 p. m. on Sunday, 28th May, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the College's Foundation, to give thanks for the past and express confident hope for the future. The large congregation included trustees, governors, staff, pupils, parents and friends.

After the Introit, *Hail, Gladdening Light*, an address of welcome and introduction by the Head Master was followed by readings by the Head Boy and Head Girl.

Benjamin Körber read the following words about the Founder from *Sane Schooling* by J. H. Simpson, first Head Master of the College.

'He was one of the most gracious and loveable personalities that I have ever known. Possessed in a great measure of the things many people most desire, he could not be happy unless others shared them.

'Two elements in education that he valued very highly were the beauty of external surroundings and the promotion of bodily health and strength. It was his happiness to feel that, from the woods and hills around Rendcomb, pupils were drawing unconsciously an inspiration that would affect them throughout their lives. He could scarcely have made a wiser choice than the estate which he bought for his purpose. In this sense the great, beautifully timbered, park and the rolling hills beyond it mattered more than the actual house in which we lived. Everything that met our eyes, when we looked from the windows or walked about the grounds, was more than good enough for all.

'Of his kindness as a friend and counsellor it is difficult to write with restraint. He seemed to have a genius for communicating sympathy and encouragement. He was not one to intrude advice on others, but his judgements were always penetrating and distinctive. His sympathy was no passing emotion, but an impetus to generous and unselfish action.'

Susie Fletcher read from the Founder's thoughts about Rendcomb.

'Rendcomb College was founded in the belief that the true aristocracy is in reality simply an aristocracy of brains and character.

'That there is nothing new or original in this idea is obvious enough, since it goes back to civilisation's dawn, when leadership and paramount influence depended, not merely upon physical strength and prowess, but, as they should depend now, upon intelligence and character in support of physical

strength, and as the directing force behind all corporate activity.

'Society has gradually undergone many changes; has become artificial and, always desiring a ruler, has fairly recently in history drifted into the dual worship of heredity and mammon, while, still more recently, it has become dissatisfied with both these authorities. It has, in fact, begun to wonder if some of the good things which it used to assign to heredity were not more properly attributable to opportunity, and has been puzzled by observing that many of the greatest benefactors to the human race appear to owe little or nothing to wealth.

'Rendcomb's claim to originality, then, rests not upon an idea, but upon the fact that what was before merely a theory has been put into practice, that a fundamental belief in the power of opportunity and environment has been actually brought to the test.'

The College Choir sang the Versicles and Responses and the Fesser Litany from the Rendcomb Service, composed by David White, Director of Music, and including a setting of Psalm 138 by Stephen Lea, Assistant Director of Music.

The First Lesson, Job 28, 7-28, was read by H. W. G. Elwes, Esq, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and a former Governor of the College.

The Second Lesson, St Matthew 5, 1-16, was read by Captain F. H. P. H. Wills, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire and a grandson of the Founder.

The Right Reverend Peter Walker, MA, Hon DD, former Bishop of Ely, gave the address, which follows.

Five words from the Second Lesson: Let your light so shine.

'Light is a special word of Jesus, and light is a very special thing - I say that as a Leeds Grammar School boy myself, who grew up in that great black city before the days of smoke abatement. And when I think of Rendcomb as I saw it on my first visit one summer afternoon twenty years ago, it is light that I find myself thinking of: Rendcomb bathed, as the painters say, in the special Cotswold light, a soft light, gentle but very clear.

'And then I did not see Rendcomb for a long time, for I had to leave your neighbouring Oxfordshire, where I was Bishop of Dorchester then, for a very different countryside, and be for twelve years Bishop of Ely. But there, to compensate, were the lovely great skies of Cambridgeshire and the painter's light again.

'I took a painter out one afternoon from Ely, for him to see East Anglia for the first time, an older friend of mine - and since I am the same age as your Rendcomb, or just a few months older, it means that Hans, my older friend, who was born in Germany, had been just old enough when Hitler came to power to have his pictures thrown out of the German galleries

because he was a Jew. And seeing what was coming to his people, he had come away to England, and England was kind to him and has been his home since 1933.

'And against that background of dark days in our own Europe and in the lifetime of Rendcomb, there comes back to me today something that Hans Feibusch said that afternoon that I have never forgotten. The great skies and open spaces of the Fens reminded him of the plains of Eastern Europe, where he had been a conscript boy soldier in the dreadful war of 1914-18 - my father's war: mine was that of 1939-45 - and he remembered then what his Professor of Poetry used to say about the two great painters, not of landscape but of their fellow men and women, that Titian had painted them as they presented themselves to the world: Rembrandt, as they might be seen through the loving and the compassionate eye of God.

'Now that is wonderful, and it could speak to us today. It gently puts the question, 'How do you see your world? How do you see your fellow men and women?'

'I think that Job in that first lesson was seeing that question in a particular way, and I mean by that that he was looking at a world that had the beginnings in it of becoming our own twentieth-century world.

'The path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen and along which the lion's whelps have not strayed, is the world of the mining engineer. 'All the wealth of the earth is there for mankind', Job says, 'the gold and precious stones, you name them, they are there for the excavating' - four great-uncles of mine were in the Kimberley diamond rush - 'but where shall humankind find the thing more precious than them all, the secret of finding its life, as humankind, together?' 'Where shall *wisdom* be found, and where is the place of *understanding*?' The world should be a place of brightness, but what are these voices that we hear, death and destruction saying 'Wisdom and understanding? We have heard a rumour of them, but not more than that. Forget it. Humankind will never learn.'

'Now that is great poetry, as great as any in the whole of Western literature, and it has come into its own in our own century. For you - who will be seeing the world into the twenty-first century and the new millennium when people like me have gone - you have grown up not only knowing wonderful things and riches my own grandfather and his brothers could never have dreamed of, but also knowing, as no generation ever in the history of the human race before you has known, what great powers of destruction humankind has in its hands, the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki fifty years ago this August, the weaponry in Bosnia as I am speaking to you this afternoon; or the less obvious but no less real threat we are so slow to get the message on: how our earth and its atmosphere are slowly being eroded and their creatures dying, by the way we are steadily polluting them; or think, again, of the millions of our fellow men and women who will have died this century because nations could not, or

would not, for all their expertise, organise the world's plenty for them not to have starved. And the great question on these things is: do we care?

'The message of the Book of Job for such a world, as we heard it this afternoon, is straightforward. You are forgetting the God who made the world to go another way. *His way. The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom.* You must take God seriously again.

'But here I think we do not always understand quite what the Christian faith is saying to us at that point, the Christian faith upon which Rendcomb was founded and which brings us here to this Cathedral this afternoon.

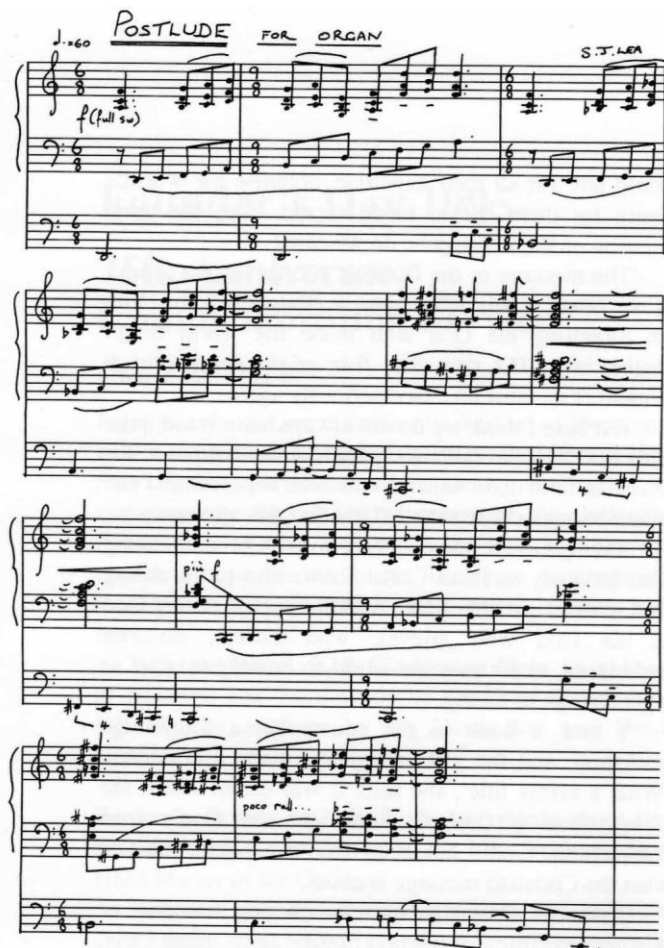
'Taking God seriously means to the Christian taking Him seriously as Jesus Christ shows him to us, seeing God in that light, *His* light. And that means seeing God as the God who grieves, who suffers, do you understand, as He sees the world so coming to grief as it gets things so wrong.

'I took a book to the counter in a Cambridge bookshop, and the girl, unusually, made a comment. 'What a lovely title', she said. It was called *Jesus, the Compassion of God*. In Jesus we see God's own compassion, God's kindness, God's concern. That is what the Christian message is about.

'I want to close now by remembering a woman of this century, from continental Europe again, from Paris, born, like my Hans, into a Jewish family, and a refugee from the Nazi occupation which could so easily have happened to us as well as to France in 1940 - and then, make no mistake, we should not have been here today to keep seventy-five years of Rendcomb as we know it. Simone Weill died in this country in 1943, aged 34, because she would not allow herself more to eat, though the doctors said she needed it, than her suffering French people had those days. A brilliant teacher in the high-powered French system of education, professor of philosophy, she was not a church woman. 'Jesus', she said, 'yes, all the way. But I do not love the church.' She wrote some pages once on the book she believed to be the greatest work in European literature, Homer's *Iliad* - unmatched, she said, until the Gospels, never equalled since, and I wish I had read her on that great poem when I was reading Classical Honour Moderations at Oxford or teaching Classics, as I once did, at Merchant Taylors'. 'Great', but why 'the greatest'? How could she say of this poem about the sufferings of men and women under the walls of ancient Troy that 'nothing the peoples of Europe have produced is worth this first known poem that appeared among them'?

'Because the poet who wrote of them had seen them, Greeks and Trojans alike, all of them, with such compassion. The poem does not shout it, she says, but it is the poem's *tone*: it is bathed all through, though it speaks so really of bitter things, with the light of what she calls a tenderness.

'A tone: a tenderness: a light: a way of seeing one's world and one's fellow men and women. Words describing a poem. Could they perhaps describe your Rendcomb?



‘That would have been the hope of Noel Wills, who founded Rendcomb, and the hope of his family who have supported it these seventy-five years. And for that hope of theirs, and for your trying to be faithful, and for all that Rendcomb is and has in it to be in the years ahead — all that God wants it to be - we can truly give thanks to the same Almighty God this afternoon. May He bless you and keep you in your work and life in Rendcomb and in all the days ahead.’

The organ Postlude was composed by Stephen Lea, and a retiring collection was made in aid of the Friends of Rendcomb College Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

A Tribute

We are grateful to Ted Jones (OR 1940-48), President of the Old Rendcombian Society, for these thoughts on Rendcomb over the 75 years since its foundation.

This is a grateful tribute to the foresight and generosity of Rendcomb’s Founder and to the continuing support provided unstintingly by his widow and by his family throughout the College’s lifetime.

The tribute includes also all of the other important contributors to Rendcomb’s successful development since 1920, such as the Board of Governors, the College Trustees and the Gloucestershire County Council. This ‘Roll of Honour’ must mention also the five Head Masters who have guided Rendcomb’s development - J. H. Simpson, D. W. Lee-Browne, A. O. H. Quick, R. M. A. Medill and J. N. Tolputt - along with all the dedicated teaching and support staff and the

many others - including parents, pupils and former pupils - who have all contributed in their various ways and have enabled Rendcomb to develop and flourish during a period of great social, economic and technological changes within the United Kingdom and throughout the world. This tribute is made on behalf of the Old Rendcombian Society; it is also my personal tribute.

A new school was founded in Rendcomb Park in 1920, situated in the beautiful Cotswold countryside. Noel Wills, its Founder and generous benefactor, had a strong social and educational vision. His foresight and ideals were reinforced and put into practical educational terms by the man he chose as the school’s first Head Master, J. H - ‘Jimmy’ - Simpson, who also had clear educational and social ideals, formed through his own schoolboy experiences and his teaching and inspection work in various schools.

Noel Wills and J. H. Simpson both believed that education should enable individuals to achieve their optimum abilities, whether these were academic, creative or in other areas, in a relatively egalitarian school setting. The heavily hierarchical styles and near worship of sporting prowess then in fashion in some schools were not part of Rendcomb’s concepts. Every pupil was encouraged to serve the school and the wider community and to develop his own self-reliance and personal integrity within a closely knit and caring school society. This sketchy outline of their ideals and policies does not do them full justice. Their social and educational concepts and practices still have a validity in present times.

Inevitably Rendcomb has changed through its various periods of development and expansion over the past 75 years. Originally a small school, it built up to 80 pupils from its original 11 only by the 1940s. It began with an unusual mix for those days, of pupils from Gloucestershire primary schools with, from 1923 onwards, fee-paying pupils. It now has some 250 pupils, with an important element of girls in the Sixth Form since 1971, and over recent years day pupils of both genders have made the school more fully coeducational.

The ever increasing cost of education - and of everything else - has inevitably affected the ability to fund the earlier scholarships. The ‘Friends of Rendcomb College’ administered by David Sells, raises funds with the aim to improve present-day scholarship opportunities for primary school pupils.

The increased number of pupils has caused a huge expansion in the buildings that accommodate them. The handsome range of new buildings indicates the commitment of the Governors and Trustees to give Rendcomb a successful future.

Rendcomb’s increased size, bringing a greater variety of activity and opportunity, together with the effects of economic inflation, have caused changes in its forms of ‘internal self-government, so that the General Meeting and Council and their related committees and organisation no longer function. Some

Old Rendcombians will regret these changes. However, from Rendcomb's foundation both Noel Wills and J. H. Simpson recognised that, while 'small is beautiful', it is not always economic, and they were aware of the need to increase Rendcomb's numbers for the school to survive.

Continuity and change are both important factors for human beings and for society; it is no easy task to forge a balance between continuity and change that can be acceptable to everyone. The claim of George Washington's family to have had an axe in its possession for many generations, with only an occasional change of axe-head or handle, may cause wry smiles, but the story indicates the importance often given to continuity and tradition. Although Cicero complained almost two thousand years ago of bad new customs and behaviour, I was very pleased to hear recently from a university colleague that he had been very impressed by the school's sense of community and the pupils' self-reliance, which he had discerned on a recent visit; perhaps, even if nostalgia is not what it used to be, Rendcomb's style and customs flourish!

My personal memories of Rendcomb are of 1940-48, with the relative austerity of the war years. Denis Lee-Browne - DWLB - was the Head Master, with a less scholarly but more charismatic leadership style than that of J. H. Simpson, with whom my brother Frank relished his days at Rendcomb from 1926-29. Martin, Frank's son, was at Rendcomb from 1957-64, years when Anthony Quick succeeded Denis Lee-Browne. My son, Christopher, was at Rendcomb from 1966-73; during this period Roger Medill succeeded Anthony Quick. We all have very differing recollections and appreciations of our years at Rendcomb, all of which were at very different stages of the school's development. Contrary to popular mythology, it can be very difficult for the Joneses to keep up with the rest of the community, but I am sure that all of us who attended Rendcomb are very grateful that we received such an excellent education and a sound community basis for our lives and careers.

Over the years Rendcomb has produced a wide range of people, whose varied skills, professions and interests have contributed to many different walks of life. As far as I know we have not yet had a High Court Judge or a major criminal (possibly not yet caught out?), but there is still time for those. I have been glad to meet Old Rendcombians in Asia and in North America involved in important professional work. Many Rendcombians served with distinction in the armed forces in the Second World War, and a proportion of them lost their lives in it.

I have always been surprised at the ease with which I can get on with the ORs whom I meet. There is one of those dreadfully long 'shaggy dog' stories, in which the narrator and a colleague go through a terrible series of tribulations and difficulties. The narrator's inevitable comment is always 'frightfully difficult and embarrassing for Aubrey - or Audrey - but not so embarrassing for me. Sir'. When eventually asked

'why?', the narrator's response is that he went to xxxx school, but that his colleague went elsewhere, so, unlike his colleague, he was used to those sorts of things and could cope with them. While I hope that the present-day Rendcombians do not have to face too many tribulations and difficulties, I trust that they can cope with those they meet and that self-reliance persists.

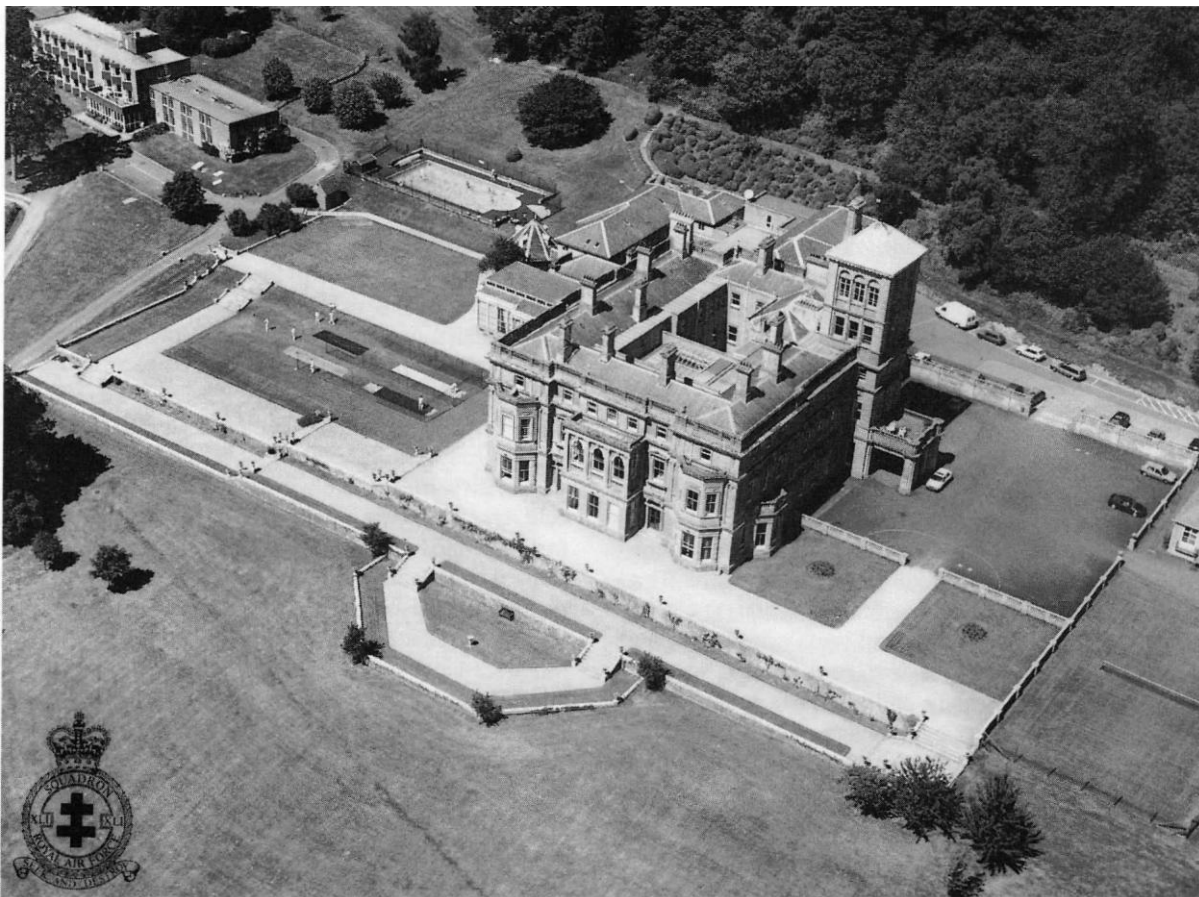
Personal memories linger of beautiful spring and summer days in the countryside around Rendcomb: wild strawberries in the woods in summertime, bitterly cold days on the top playing fields during some winters, freezing my bony hands and knees, sledging in the snow down Kennel Bottom. In those days boys, other than prefects, wore worsted shorts, and one could get very sore chaps around the knees, before DWLB introduced boiler suits for outdoor activities. 'Public Work' ranged from sawing logs for winter fires to picking up potatoes for local farmers, giving us a variety of physical exercises in addition to the regular PT and sports.

Our Christmas term game was soccer then, as our numbers (88) were then considered too small for rugby. I still remember vividly my delight, and Bill 'Striker' Smith's irritation, at my scoring a goal when he was North Cerney's goal-keeper. They were usually too robust for us, and we also generally faced tough competition against other, much larger, schools at cricket, though we often fared reasonably well at hockey. If your limbs and eyes were fairly sound, you had to become an all-rounder at all sports.

Few sports fields can have finer panoramic views than that from 'on top'. The occasional summertime surreptitious half-pint at the (relatively) distant hostelrys - or trysts with village girls-were for the adventurous sixth-formers.

This note does not aim to repeat the excellent volumes of Rendcomb's history, but to give an appreciation of the good times and excellent start to life that the College has given to its pupils during the past three-quarters of a century, with the firm hope that Rendcomb will continue to develop successfully in the years ahead. The large attendance at the dignified service in Gloucester Cathedral, organised by the Governors and College on May 28th, and the successful Anniversary Ball organised on July 8th by the College, the Parents' Association and the Old Rendcombian Society, show that the supportive spirit of the various elements that make up Rendcomb is strong and active; this augurs well for Rendcomb's future.

For these recent events we owe our thanks to those many people who worked so hard to make them successful, through the co-operation of the Head Master, John Tolputt, and his staff, the Parents' Association and the OR Society. The Society is especially grateful for the hard work in recent months for the Ball, for the long service and commitment of the college staff, particularly Bill White and Chris Wood, and for the sterling work of its long-serving Secretary, Jane Gunner, and its Chairman, Neil Lumby. There



may be other occasional opportunities for 'joint ventures' in support of the school.

May I finally wish the College and all who are concerned with Rendcomb a successful and happy future.

E. A. J.

Talks

Fascinating Electrostatics

This lecture-demonstration by Mr Alan Ward, who presented The Bubble Circus last year, began with a question printed on the problem page of a magazine:

When I arrived home from work, my husband kissed me, and an electric shock passed between us. We both felt it distinctly, like a slight pin-prick, and the radio crackled at the same moment. Neither of us was near anything electrical, so can anyone explain it?

Mr Ward achieved this very well, using a collection of everyday objects such as a woollen scarf, a plastic tube, a toy duck - named Gertrude - a 'Penguin' wrapper, drinking straws, plastic bottles, stockings, balloons, a radio and a biscuit-tin lid.

Using volunteers from the audience, ranging from lower first to third year, he demonstrated the phenomenon of static electricity and proved that two types of charge exist.

During one such experiment Ian Forster found himself holding up a pair of stockings which appeared to contain phantom legs and which repelled each other quite strongly.

As well as being a lot of fun, there was a strong element of scientific theory, and Mr Ward took time to

Iain Whittaker, O. R.

link his experiments to sub-atomic particles, in particular the electron and the proton.

To complete a highly entertaining and educational talk, Mr Ward, with the essential help of Ellen Drurey, set up the situation mentioned in the letter. Yes, she was kissed on the hand, and they both felt a pin-prick. Yes, the radio crackled at the same time, and now the audience knows why. Many thanks to Mr Ward, and we look forward to what he has in store for us next year.

C. J. W.

Lord Plumb of Coleshill on European Affairs

On 22nd May the College was delighted to welcome Lord Plumb, the elected Member of the European Parliament for the Cotswold Constituency. He came to address the Sixth Form, as part of its General Studies Course, on *European Affairs*. He began by outlining his own involvement in Europe, which started in earnest at the time of the referendum on Britain's membership of what was then the European Economic Community, when he was active on behalf of the European League for Economic Co-operation and the 'Britain in Europe' campaign.

Lord Plumb was first elected to the European Parliament in 1979 and, as a former Chairman of the National Farmers' Union, he soon found himself Chairman of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, and he has subsequently served on its Transport Committee and chaired the European Democratic Group. From 1987 to 1989 he was President of the European Parliament.

Lord Plumb described how the organisation had grown from being the European Coal and Steel Community to be the European Economic Community and then to be the European Union, with 15 member states. He pointed out the stabilising effect it had had in the political arena and stated his belief that it had made a major contribution to securing the 50 years of peace that we have enjoyed. He looked forward to the time when former Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary would be admitted to the Union. 1996 was going to be a critical year, with the Inter-Governmental Conference taking place, and he expected that there would be much discussion about moves towards political and economic unity and towards a single currency. He went on to criticise the Press and the Eurosceptics within his own party for generating the fear that we were going to be taken over by Brussels. His view was that, rather than being totally negative, we should try to convince others that our sovereignty is not at risk and that the way forward is through flexibility and decentralisation.

Changing emphasis, Lord Plumb spoke about the work that the European Union was doing in other parts of the world. He felt that it was important for the Union to be involved, to be outward-looking rather than introspective. He was now Chairman of the committee which liaised between the European Union and Africa and the West Indies, and in many of these countries the economic situation is worse today than it was 40 years ago. He was pleased to report considerable and increasing investment in the smaller countries and that advantageous trade deals had been negotiated with many of them, which allowed them to sell their cash crops, such as bananas, sugar, coffee etc, for a fair price. The European Union worked through many of the well-known charities to help in the fight against drought, starvation and disease - the population of the world looks set to double by AD 2025 - and increasingly that help must be aimed to help the people of the Third World to help themselves. He had recently returned from a trip to Zaire and Rwanda, during which he had visited seven refugee camps, each containing over 30,000 people and in which hundreds of inmates were dying daily. There was a crying need to coordinate the relief work, carried out by the charities, at a high level, and he was hoping that the European Union would take this task on board.

The work of the European Parliament was pretty broad-based now, but he believed that the day would come when the European Union would consist not of 15 countries but of 27. That day would not be in his time, but in the time of his audience, and he hoped that it would be a European Union of which they would be proud.

Questioned about the Union's role in what has been Yugoslavia, he said that history would judge whether or not it had done too little, too late. The problem was that we were getting involved in the internal affairs of sovereign states and, whilst a lot of the aid we gave was

welcomed, we could give it only on their terms. The UN were finding things increasingly frustrating, and so it was probably best for the EU to maintain a watching brief for the time being.

A question was asked about the spread of the lethal disease, Ebola, in Central Africa. Lord Plumb said that it was extremely serious and that steps were being taken to stop the spread of the virus. However, these precautions would be only of limited effectiveness until a vaccine was developed, and there was no sign of one at the present.

Another questioner asked why people were so afraid of allowing the EU to gain power. Lord Plumb said that it was a result of the whipping up of a lot of 'hype' by the media and some politicians. People were afraid that we would lose our sovereignty, our individuality as a nation, but he could assure them that this would not be the case. If we were prepared to play a full part in forming the EU of the 21st century and not leave that process to others, then we need have no worries about our Britishness.

A final questioner asked about the purchasing of cash crops from the countries of the Third World and suggested that, rather than helping the people there, we might instead be helping large companies from the developed world who owned the plantations. Lord Plumb said that this might be so in some cases, but in others, where the people owned the land, they had to sell their cash crops or be forced to diversify into something else. He quoted the President of Costa Rica, who apparently told an EU committee that, if her people were unable to sell their bananas, they would be forced to grow cannabis instead.

At the end of question-time Lord Plumb was thanked for taking time out of a busy schedule to visit Rendcomb, and he left en route to his next engagement.

P. J. S.

The Lake.

J. M. Essenhigh



Viewpoints

Landscape, Kennel Bottom

'You can see for fifty miles from here - to
Didcot power station on those furthest hills.'
I don't see it. This is what I see -
A huge sky, impossibly blue at its apex,
That curves away when it reaches the lowest
cloudline,
Turning to pale mist, merging with the distant
hills,
Bluer than this greyness.
See how it arches towards and above us.
Dwarfing the world below it.
I face this impossible curve -
Smudges of whiteness float
Across its impassive face.
Below it, purple mountains far away,
Inhabited by surely nothing, for they seem like
rock,
And what else could they be? How could grass
seem that colour?
Much closer, a stretch of greenness and a line of
trees,
Standing at the shore of an iridescent sea,
Contained on this side by a dark hedge.
Then, this closest field,
Brown, with rows of delicate winter wheat.
'Surely they'll be killed by frost or deep snow?' I
ask,
But no. I am told they will survive.
Look there! See how small the trees are,
And so low under that huge arc of sky!
I look down at my hands and chest and legs
Before looking up at the azure desert
A million miles above me.
Far away and behind me I hear the rumble of a jet
plane -
I feel it in my feet.
And in the dusty road that they stand on.
Looking now, I still see Didcot,
And I don't see myself any more,
Just a speck of dust, a nothing,
When faced by this ancient, uninhabited, living
god.

JACK JELFS
Early October 1994.

Early October

I hate the Muse,
And I don't like to think
- It makes me think.
Why me? A conduit -
Or why should condensation on a window
Move me to this? I've an essay to write.
Is there a purpose in this? Or a purple?
(Another strike, another hit -)
The purple of the hills,
Didcot Power station, fifty miles away,
The unknown sentinel, new addition to my life -
I'll paint you for a second time.

Ten Years in 'The Old Rec'

In 1985 Mrs Wood and I took over from a very experienced pair, Kaye and Margaret Knapp, who had run the show for 19 years! We had been warned that it would take five years to get on top of the job, meaning that it would take that long to have encountered most types of pupil and, indeed, most situations.

It was roughly true, but even after five years there were new experiences and, of course, every pupil is unique, and it is this variety which keeps you going. At the outset all boys boarded, and being on duty at night required the planning and cunning of a special forces' officer. Among moments that spring to mind is spying, from my bedroom window, heads bobbing on the parapet, and catching escapees hiding in the drainage gully outside the Junior House in the early hours of the morning. Less successful detections included receiving a telephone call at three in the morning to learn that a boy had cycled to Cheltenham in his pyjamas. Well, it isn't what you expect in temperatures below zero!

We have seen a lot of change, some directed by us and some forced upon us. This list would certainly include carpets, bunk-beds, girl prefects - without doubt, a real benefit - cycling weekends, canal holidays, day pupils, junior girls and the Children Act. The canal holidays during the Easter break were

Jack Garland



most memorable weeks, in which you could not fail to get to know pupils very well, because 12 of you had to live in a 70-foot-long narrow boat. The resilience, inventiveness and good humour of our charges never failed to impress me on occasions such as these holidays, or on one particular cycling weekend in the Severn Vale, when it rained continuously.



Preparation for Severn Vale J. D. Williams, O. R.

What about emergency situations? Well, I suppose there have been a few. Sam Maylott's putting his hand through the front door and asking if he was going to die must count as one, and James Gibbs's bicycle stunt which went wrong and put him in Gloucester Hospital is another. Of course, there were others which caused concern for a moment but then turned into hilarity, such as people falling into canals and someone slipping into the sea during a visit to the D-Day museum.

I have certainly enjoyed arranging the many visits over these years, and the good behaviour on such outings has often resulted in favourable remarks from the public. I always enjoy going to Ironbridge, but the most successful science visits were probably those to Jodrell Bank Science Park in Cheshire, and the many ice skating trips to the Link Centre in Swindon were equally entertaining, but did little for my technique on the ice.

The most demanding thing to organise was the meal on the way back from Portsmouth, when Form 1 ate in the Little Chef on the southbound carriageway at Sutton Scotney, and Form 2 ate in the northbound one, all with their meals pre-booked!

I have to say that I shall not miss the telephone calls, both necessary and unnecessary, which always seem to interrupt meals and contribute to indigestion,

nor the sound of the study bell, which can ring incessantly when the inmates are in that sort of mood. However, we shall miss the stimulation of having 50 youngsters around us and the challenge of controlling the mob!

C. J. W.
(NOT QUITE AN 'OLD WRECK')

Home Thoughts from Abroad

The views given below were contributed by Yukiko Haneda, Seiko Sugihara, Maori Kawanabe, Yukihiro Asami, Natsuko Kusano, Sachiko Ichikawa, Pravim Horrungruang, Yuki Takanashi and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul.

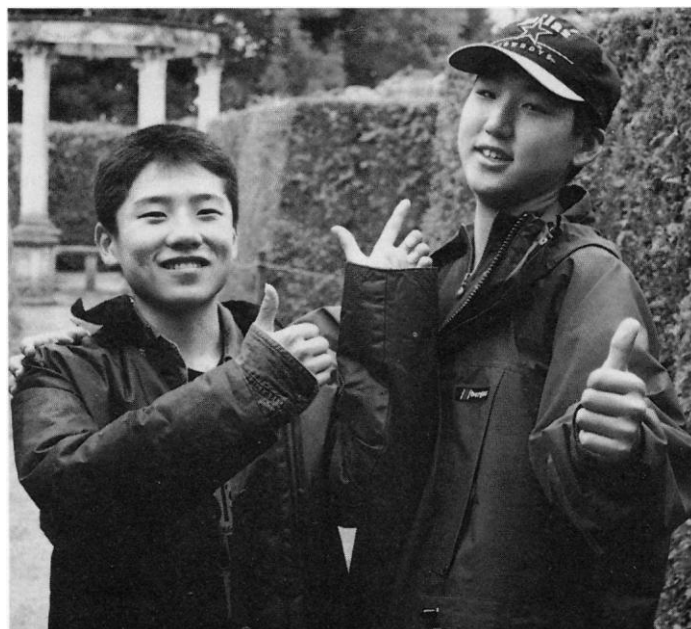
When I came to Rendcomb College, I had no friends and I didn't know anybody. 'What can I do?' I asked myself and could not answer myself at all. But I had to do something to make friends.

Unfortunately, I couldn't speak English very well, and I couldn't understand very well either. One day I thought *what do the English students think about me? I've got black hair, black eyes, flat nose...* I was so different from English people, I was an alien. But I feel that this was only rubbish. We are human, aren't we? We are the same kind of animal, aren't we?

When I thought this, I felt better, I felt I would make friends.

When I came to see Rendcomb, the Christmas term hadn't yet begun. I thought what a lovely view, what a vast site. I was very excited, but 'see' and 'live' are completely different. I soon realised that I'd got many problems, language, custom, race... I was puzzled by everything.

Yuki and Jin in the Jubilee Maze, Symonds Yat.





Sachiyo, Kaori, Seiko, Natsuko and Yukiko.

When I came to Rendcomb, I said unconsciously, 'How cold and windy it is!' But I also thought that Rendcomb is enormous, huge. So for the first few weeks I was suffering from muscular pain. As we have to move quickly to the next lesson, in five minutes, so I went through difficulties following my classmates. If I didn't follow them, I was lost. Because the classrooms are scattered, I didn't know where the classrooms were. So I followed them, but they walked very quickly (different length of legs between me and them?). It was hard for me at first.

The winter was really cold and I played rugby, and it was so cold outside. It was rainy and cold every day. I don't like the English winter, because it's so cold, I couldn't believe it. *And* we have to play rugby outside!

When I'd made a lot of friends, I've loved Rendcomb. My favourite teacher is Mr Newby. He is always telling me to forget the national boundary. He is so friendly. One day he asked me how to say 'very difficult' and 'very easy' in Japanese, so I told him. And he always says 'very difficult' or 'very easy' before a biology test and then, if I understood, he would say 'Yes, I've got it, yes, yes, yes!!!'

When I first saw Rendcomb College, I was so excited and I felt so happy about studying here for a year. It's such a beautiful place. For me, it's unbelievable here, like a castle.

But the excitement soon left me. I never want that turning feeling of the first week of school again. It was so terrible, the most nervous, frightening and apprehensive days of my life. I can't explain the feeling with words.

I didn't know anything - where I should go, what time the lesson started, which subject was next, what prep was, how to use the washing-machine and how to express myself in English. Even if I had only one question, my eyes would brim over with tears.

I was really frightened about sleeping and getting up, because if I went to sleep it would be morning and the start of another day. I was even frightened of

studying in my study on my own. I felt that if I stayed in my room the other girls would have gone somewhere, and I'd be alone.

One thing still hurts. People call us 'Japanese girls'. I know you don't mean it. In fact, I am. We're all Japanese girls, but we have got names.

I feel so ashamed that I can't explain about Japanese customs very well. It is too different. I think I should have studied Japanese culture before I came. I wasn't interested in the culture. I thought it's so old and not nice. But I'm proud of it now. I have noticed it's beautiful.

Since I came to England I have learned, noticed lots of things. I think I have grown up so much. This year will be the most important of my life. I'll never forget this year in Rendcomb. I'm quite sad about having to leave here. I like it here.

I want to say 'thank you' to everybody by whom I was helped. Thank you so much. I enjoyed the year. I hope I can come back here again.

Here we have just two classes per year, like 3 and 3A, but in Thailand we have seven classes per year, like 3A to 3F or 6A to 6F or something like that, and in one form in Thailand we have we have about 50-60 students per form, so in Thai schools we have about 1,700-2,000 students. Some schools may have as many as 3,000 students, like my brother's school.

But I think English schools are better, because I can learn more quickly and it's easier to understand, because in this school we have not too many students in a class. I think I like this school better than my old school.

Now I've learnt about different characters. English people have very strong characters compared to the Japanese. They can always state their opinion. They are independent. Most Japanese can't give our opinion very much. In lessons we don't state our opinions, because we fear to make mistakes.

But I think this is not good. We should say what we think. So if I have a son or daughter, I want to bring them up like English people.

At Rendcomb here we are living as a family, a big family, I would say, because everyone helps each other. The more time I spend at Rendcomb, the more friends I get. The time goes by very quickly, and I'm starting to get more confident to do things and to ask the teacher about academic problems. I'll start my third year at Rendcomb this September. I think this is it. This is the place where I'll like to spend the next five years.

Activity

Art

It is 75 years since Rendcomb was founded; for us it is more importantly the tenth anniversary of the first 'A'



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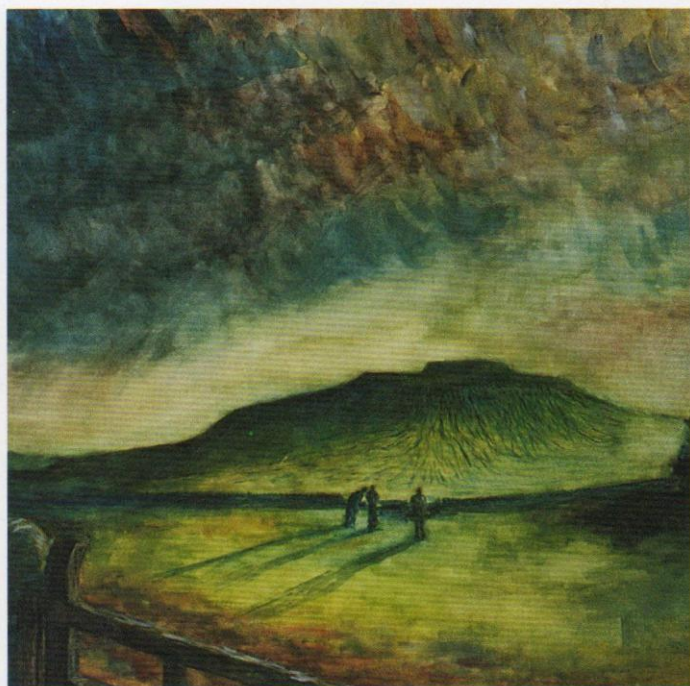
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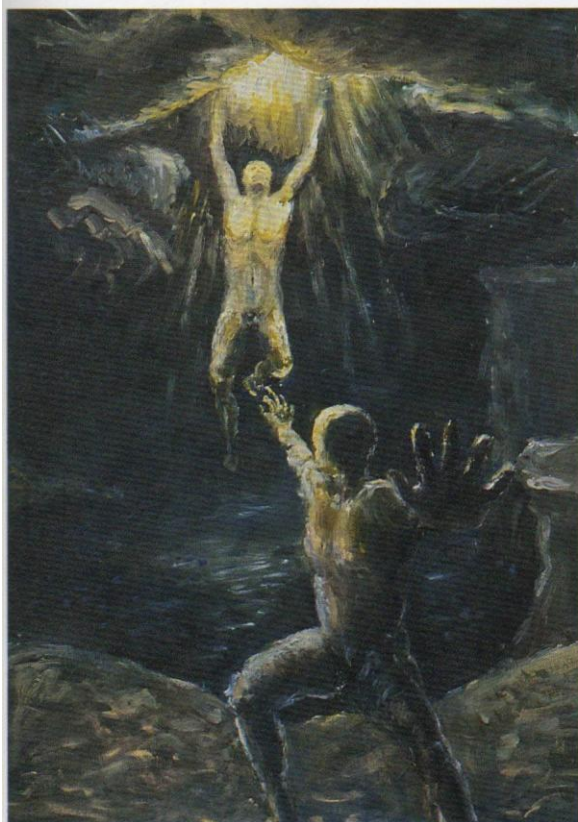
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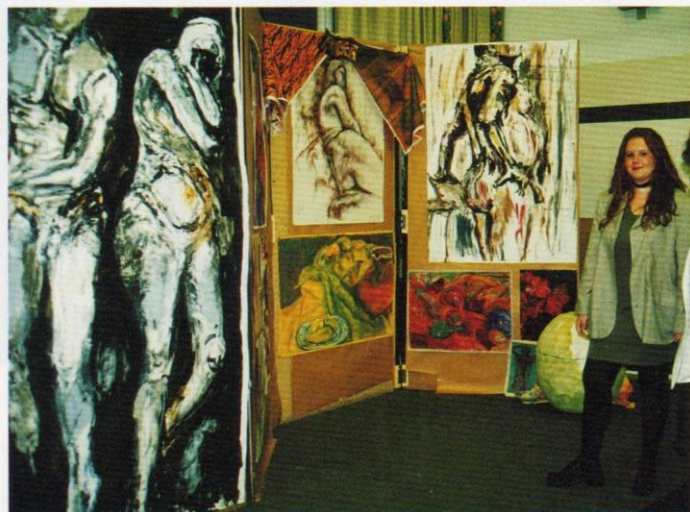
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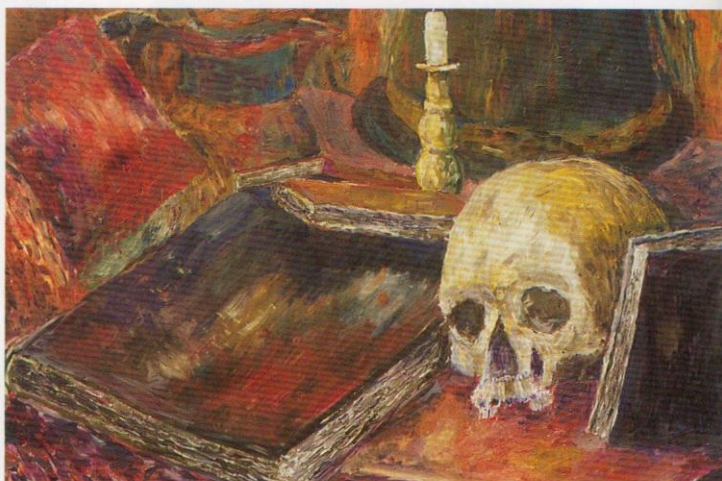
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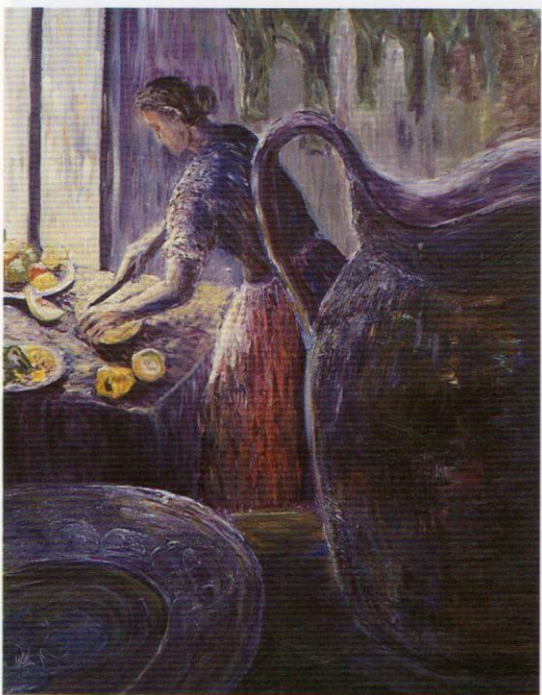
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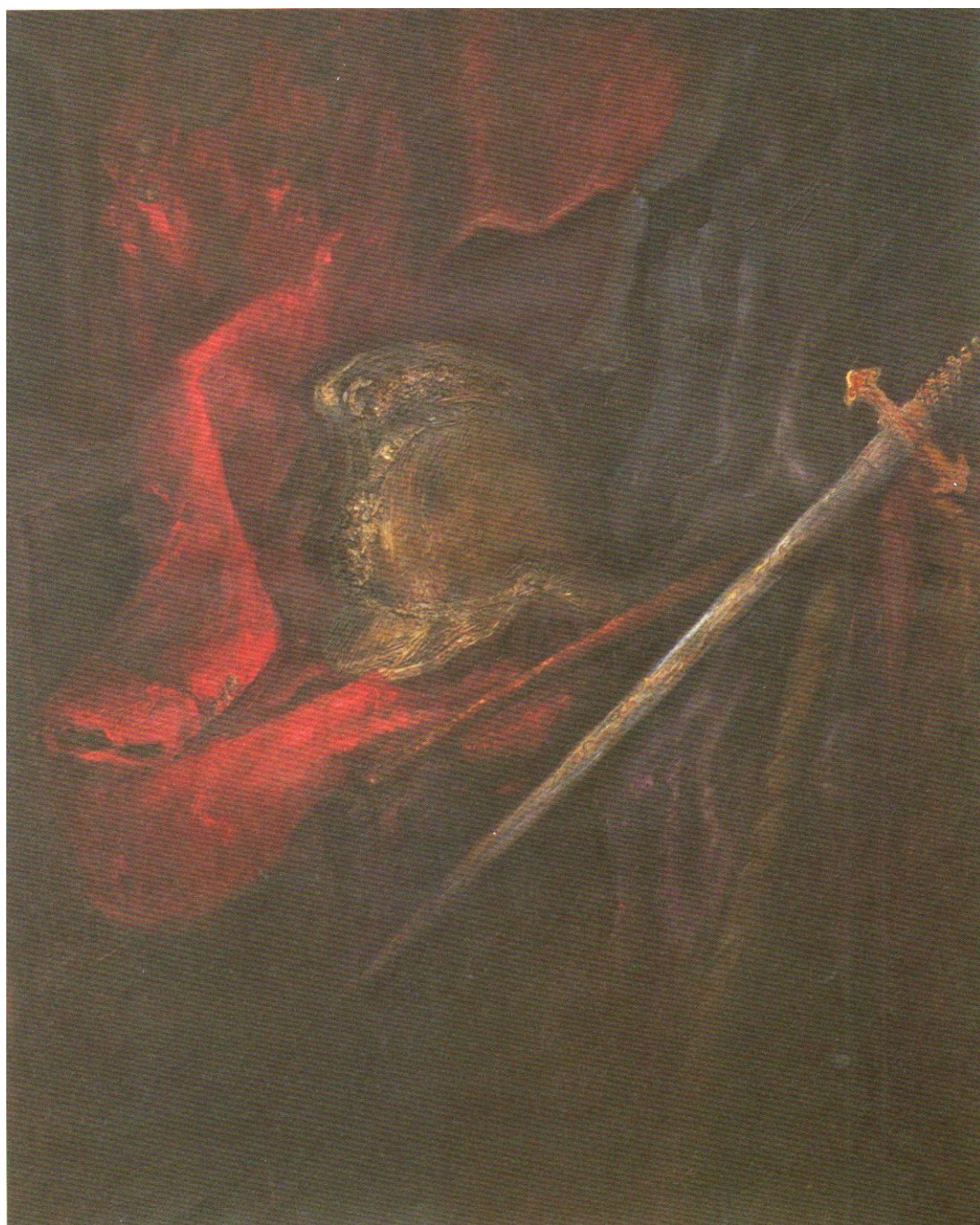
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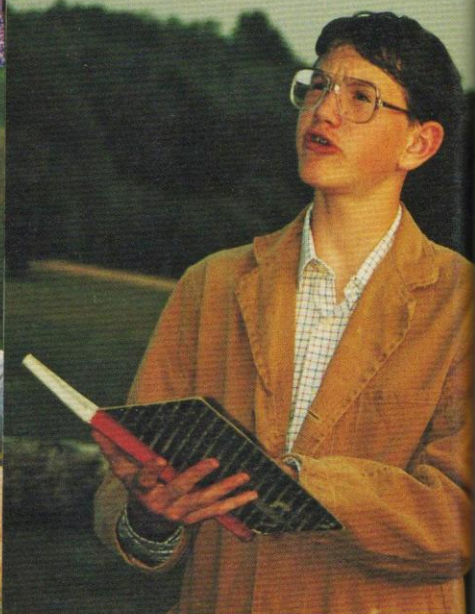
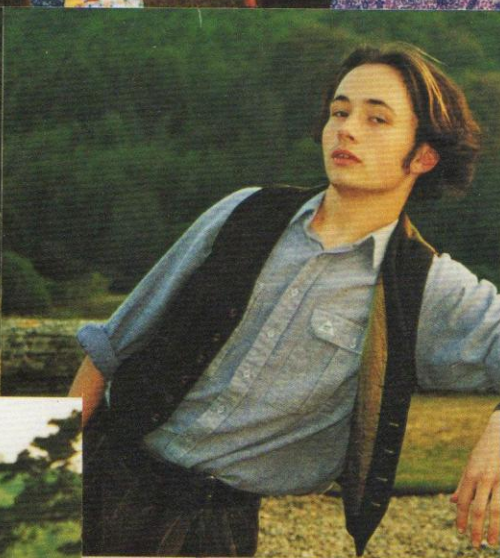
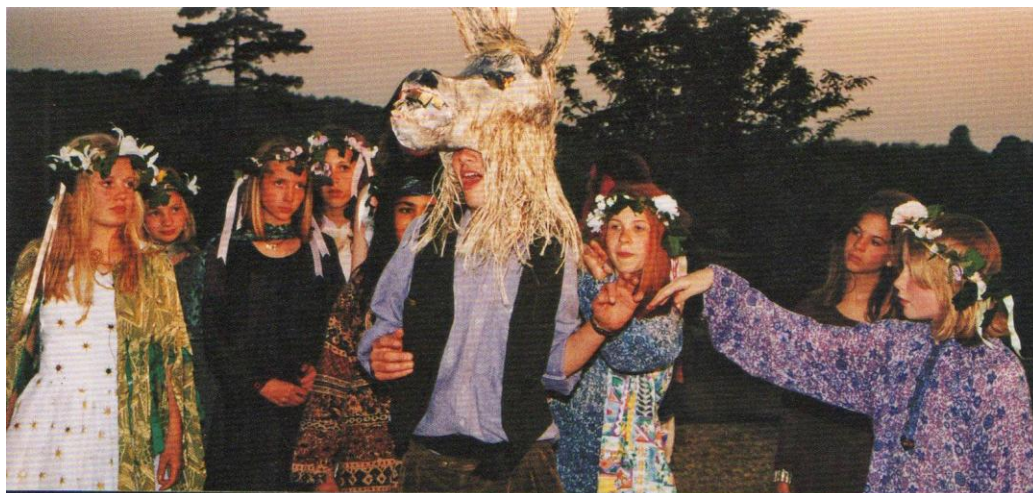


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To help readers to assess the artwork, each pupil's year is given in brackets:

a <i>After Constable</i> - oil pastel	Fenella Gerry (4 - GCSE)
b <i>Queen of Hearts</i> - textiles	Poppy Smith (5 - GCSE)
c <i>Oberon</i> - watercolour & pastels	Dan Riddle (2)
d <i>Moonshine</i> - pastels	Nick Hall (2)
e <i>Fish</i> - watercolour	Jack Garland (4 - GCSE)
f <i>Jugs</i> - soft pastel	Elbe Bruce (1)
g <i>Figures</i> - oil paint	Mark Williams (7 - 'A' level)
h <i>Above and Below</i> - oil paint	Tim Shaw (5 - GCSE)
i <i>Landscape</i> - watercolour	Adam King (5 - GCSE)
j <i>'A' level Exhibition</i> - various media	Anna Ronowicz (7)
k <i>Flowers</i> - soft pastels	Shaan Deen (7 - 'A' level)
l <i>Interior</i> - oil paint	Suzie Fletcher (7 - 'A' level)
m <i>Toys</i> - mixed media	Annabel Iles (7 - 'A' level)
n <i>Veritas</i> - oil paint	Rupert Wertheimer (7 - 'A' level)
o <i>Still Life</i> - watercolour & graphite	Alex Tibbs (7 - 'A' level)
p <i>Still Life</i> - oil paint	Mark Wilks (7 - 'A' level)

level student under the present management. Since then, of course, the subject has come to occupy a core role in the school. We can look back at a multitude of students who have since taken the subject at GCSE, 'A' level and of course beyond. In this regard we are extremely pleased to hear from Old Rendcombian Amanda Vaux, who has just gained a First Class Honours Degree in Fine Art at Edinburgh College of Art.

More important for us, though, is the present and the future. Nostalgia may have its place and, while it may not be what it was, it can certainly be infuriatingly restrictive. This was an outstanding year; more students studied at GCSE and 'A' level than ever before, and

another four students will continue with their studies at art college courses next year. These include the ever adventurous Anna Ronowicz, who has gained a degree place at the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford. We wish Anna, Mark Wilks, Annabel Iles and Suzie Fletcher the best of luck and offer congratulations on gaining good places in a competitive field.



10ft x 4ft ink and collage by Anna Ronowicz (7).

Indeed, this year 6A was an outstanding group to work with; not only was there considerable skill, but also great energy, interest and, importantly, commitment. Mark Williams was exuberant with colour and paint (lots of it!). Shaan Deen was sensitive and always aware of the need to 'get on with it', while Alex Tibbs developed great finesse in his drawing. Rupert Wertheimer was enduring, bold and resourceful. Patrick Boydell was always selective, while Tina Eylmann grew into a wonderful exponent of the most lovely flowing shapes.

6B progressed with an ever growing cohesion, producing some especially fine landscapes, particularly on their trip to Avebury; at times there was even a

curious poetic quality about their endeavours.

The option group was again a thriving one this year, inspired by visits to sites of interesting landscape and to see a variety of stained glass. Several were so engrossed by Mr Denny's tutoring that they painted, fired and constructed their own stained glass panels. I hope that more visits to places such as Gloucester Cathedral, where one of Tom's own windows can be seen, will further inspire work in this area.



Members of the 5th-form modelling their creations.

The fifth-form GCSE group seemed often to burst with a mixture of extra numbers and personal alchemy, but with the help of some dedicated activity periods in the textile workshop with Mrs Blackwell, it progressed into a successful and notably widely skilled group. The breadth of their undertakings is well represented by the differing work produced by Tim Shaw (oil paint), Adam King (watercolour), Poppy Smith (textile design and printing) and James Graham (sculpture). Many of this group, James de Lisle Wells and Colin Morey for instance, produced such fine work for their exams that I begin to suspect that they may have been awake and concentrating after all!

Lower in the school we feel that some really strong students are maturing, and we can only hope that what has gone on before inspires them and encourages them to realise their full potential. We are not looking for a mere pastiche of the past, nor for the success of the present to inhibit them, rather for them to look to the future and grab their opportunity; after all, the future is theirs!



Talking of past and future is a good time to introduce Daniel White, who will be Artist in Residence for the coming academic year. He was a student at Rendcomb while finishing his 'A' levels and, having successfully completed a Foundation Year at Cheltenham and a Fine Art Degree at Loughborough, will be spending the next year working and teaching at Rendcomb. It will be intriguing to see how past and present combine in the future!

M. S. G.

Orchestra

Although we have been lacking in string players this year, and both first and second violin sections have been thin, the orchestra has carried on to play in the traditional two annual concerts, the Christmas Concert in December and the Informal Concert in May.

On 2nd December a good-sized audience gathered to hear the Christmas Concert in the Dulverton Hall. Orchestral pieces included *Hungarian March* by Berlioz, the Nocturne from Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Shepherds' Farewell* by Berlioz and *The Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson. Hannah Gowers was the soloist in a performance of the second movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto no 21.

The Wind Band played *Bandstand Blues* by Johnson and an arrangement of *The Cowboy Carol*, ably directed by Mr Shiner. Other ensembles in the programme were the Woodwind Group playing *A Homage to Beatrix Potter* by Le Flemming, the Brass Group, a string trio - Marcus Haynes, Tim Shaw and Hannah Gowers - who played Purcell's *Golden Sonata*, and the Clarinet Ensemble.

Solo items were provided by Charlotte Harrison, Emma Banwell, Susie Fletcher, Katherine Bagshawe, James Smith and Tim Shaw.

Rehearsals for the orchestra continued throughout the Lent term, working towards the informal orchestral concert on 12th May. In this concert the orchestral pieces included the Suite from Handel's *Water Music*, Vaughan Williams's *Greensleeves* Fantasia and the Slavonic dance in D minor by Dvorak.

Both the Dixieland Group and the Wind Band played well, and soloists included Jenny Cook, Paul Bongiovanni, Philip Webb, Amy Turner, Ralph Barnes and Richard Witchell.

Katherine Bagshawe gave the first performance of a song composed by Hannah Gowers for her 'A' level coursework, and Alister Harris and James Graham performed guitar duets to a high standard.

As usual we extend our thanks to the Peripatetic Instrumental Staff who assist us ably with the concerts and the many hours' rehearsal time needed to bring music to such a good standard of performance.

S. J. L.



Choir

This must surely be the most splendid year of the College Choir ever. We say it every year, and every year it is true, because each time around the choir has gone on to higher and better things.

But this year was special. It helps, of course, if you have a top line of powerful and confident singers of the quality of Charlotte Harrison and Susie Fletcher, who this year were joined by Katherine Bagshawe. Top notes held no terrors, descants on Sundays were trotted out at the drop of a hat, and if we wanted power we got such wattage that we had to put our hands over our ears.

Tenors were in plentiful supply, and the good thing was that, though many tenors may pass through on their way to being basses, the College has a supply of excellent tenors that would be the envy of choirs throughout the land for years to come.

Basses were plentiful and of a superb resonance and quality, their reading skill fast becoming legendary.

On the alto line special praise has to be given to Hannah Gowers, who selflessly suppressed her natural sopranoist nature to lead and hold an alto line together, in fact, almost to *be* the alto line.

We have done our duty every Sunday in the College year without fail. Every time the Director has felt fainthearted, he has been shamed by the resilience and courage of the singers before him. No half-measures are allowed. More than once he has been taken to task - in the politest way imaginable, of course - and the choir has insisted on taking the hard way out and not the soft option.

Take, for example, the Sunday when a third of the choir was revising, cycling, being sick: did they baulk at singing *I was glad*? Not a bit of it, and everyone chipped in to sing the bits that were missing. 'No, we're NOT going to sing *Ave verum* for the umpteenth time, we are singing what we planned' was the unanimous reaction another Sunday morning. And we did!

So we sang in Bristol Cathedral, we sang at concerts, we sang for special services, carol services and Remembrance and the like. We ran up a brilliantly distinguished *Messiah* (see elsewhere). We may have been dead on our feet after a week of *Boy Friend* performances and a *Messiah*, but the next day was

Confirmation Sunday, and everyone was well and truly musically confirmed.

And, perhaps most memorably of all, we sang to celebrate the College's 75th Birthday in Gloucester Cathedral. To sing there is a privilege on any count, but this was a very special occasion, and our audience was likely to be as big a one as we would ever encounter. It had to be right.

The preparations were laid down months in advance. The repertoire was carefully put in place as the year progressed. The whole jigsaw, however, did not come together until the summer term. There was a trial run-through a week before at Holy Trinity Church in Stroud (Stroud? Where on earth is Stroud? Isn't that somewhere beyond the back of...?) A rehearsal in the Cathedral on the Friday before the Sunday solved all problems of communication from side to side, from front to back, from nave to organ loft and from conductor to conductor. We even earned ourselves spontaneous applause and congratulation from visiting tourists, who sat themselves down in the front of the nave just to listen to us.

There was a curious irony that the televised story *The Choir*, filmed in Gloucester Cathedral and broadcast over Easter, should use the Dyson *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* that we were to sing for our service. In the event, our *Magnificat* was glorious, and our *Nunc* was tender and subtle.

The service began magically with the introit *Hail, Gladdening Light* sung from the back of the nave, which surprised many of the congregation and made Mr Shiner's spine tingle and knees wobble. Special homegrown Rendcomb music came in the shape of Mr Lea's chant for the Psalm and Mr White's responses.

Everything moved onwards and upwards, as we approached the great anthem *I was glad* by Parry. This could have been designed only for the sumptuous spaces of Gloucester Cathedral, with its joyous heart-stopping opening, the antiphonal singing from side to side of the choir, each phrase piling glory upon glory, the gentle episode near the end which rolls around the great cathedral, the whole culminating in the section where the basses sing well above the stave and beyond the call of duty and the sopranos have their final lung-bursting B flats.

The Brass Group had been rigorously practised in

Vaughan Williams's arrangement of *All people that on Earth do dwell*. They were perched up in the organ loft with Mr Shiner and were joined by Old Rencombian Ian Spencer, whose Grade VIII expertise added a note of real distinction. The brass caused the whole service to end in a blaze of glory, with their trumpeting ringing all around the arches and up to every cranny in the roof.

So we came to the end of the year, as good a year as we could ever hope to have. The Choir had gone from strength to strength. We continued to have our private jokes. Carlos did a passingly good imitation of Mr White's emotional conducting; Marcus Haynes acquired the Order of the Roger Gorman Scarf for misunderstanding rehearsal times and for a strong line in back-chat that left Francis Barton in helpless giggles. Douglas Ellison moaned a great deal, but got lots of Brownie points for sharing Mr White's sense of humour. Hannah Gowers will never have to sing Mr White's Responses again, for which she will leave Rendcomb eternally grateful. Paul Bongiovanni encouraged two of his girl-friends to join, and Edmund Compton lifted his head up at least three times during the year.

There are numerous solid back-bench singers who do their bit unstintingly. James Fairbank was never quite sure whether he was with us or the Woolwich, but it was nice to have him on board. Tris Day has had a year of singing all the parts except bass (a bit like Bottom, the Weaver). Jenny Crook peered over the top of the choir stalls, and big boy Ian Forster discovered that he really is a bass, like Dad.



Senior choir.

It may seem a bit of an annual ritual to say how much we depend on Mr Lea and Mr Sudbury, but it is no less heartfelt or sincerely meant for that. They are there, rooting for us, supporting, helping, and always with a glad hand. The least the choir can do is to sing and admire Mr Lea's music and to provide the descants that give Mr Sudbury such a thrill.

D. B. W.

Messiah

There is no doubt that a performance of Handel's *Messiah* is by itself a major accomplishment. It is a work that demands soloistic standards even of its choristers and is not to be taken lightly. Many an adult choral society has come unstuck with all the complex runs and intricate textures, assuming that it can cope with the music on the strength of a few rehearsals.

So it was with some trepidation that the Director of Music set out on the path which in the end was to lead to one of the most moving and astounding musical triumphs of the last six years - and there have been many along the way. The ease with which the college singers coped with the intricacies of the score in the performance in Cirencester Church at the end of the Lent term is a tribute to their technical prowess. Every single chorus was carried off with assurance and complete confidence. Perhaps most memorable of all was *For unto us a Child is Born*, or possibly, because more stirring and because it brought the house down at the end of the concert, the *Hallelujah* chorus.

The performance was memorable too for the fact that all the solos were taken by present and a couple of past members of the student body. There was the complete professionalism of our seasoned soloists, Susie Fletcher and Katherine Bagshawe. Charlotte Harrison showed breathtaking virtuosity in *But who may abide and Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion*. Tim Shaw took us all out of our seats by the way he launched into *Thus saith the Lord*.

It was grand to welcome back Paul Sumsion and Claire Germaine and to find that they had kept up their singing and matured and rounded out their voices since they had left Rendcomb. If a special word of praise has to be apportioned, it must be said that Ralph Barnes's performance of the taxing opening movements, *Comfort ye, my people* and *Every valley* sent shivers down the spines of audience and performers alike. There was a real likelihood that the whole performance would have come to a standstill when he finished, had it not been for the iron will-power of the Director of Music, who steeled himself to continue!

Part One of *Messiah* was complemented in the programme by a short symphony by Boyce and Charlotte Harrison's performance of Mozart's *Alleluia*. Thus the whole occasion was a perfect musical celebration of the College's Birthday Year. It brought together past and present scholars and members of staff; parents sang in the choir and of course formed a substantial and appreciative audience which filled a large part of the splendid Cirencester Church, the scene of so many of the College's special musical events.

D. B. W.

Thurman Concert

It happened on the 24th September, a Saturday. It took place in the Dulverton Hall. The hall was completely transformed, and our own lighting and sound system



Mik Newton (second from left) with *Thurman*

was made redundant.

To start with, all were a bit dubious when we walked in to hear Now 29 and saw all the equipment they had. Then we got our free can of drink and, after a little waiting, it happened...

First of all there was a single artist called 'Farrell Lennon', who did a couple of songs and managed to get certain anonymous female members of the Sixth Form singing, or was it screaming?

Then came *Thurman*, greatly encouraged by the crowd. They performed an array of songs and, dressed in rather 60s outfits, they were much appreciated. Although the volume was a bit high, a good time was had by all.

Our thanks go to their manager, Mr Mik Newton, and to Mr Lea for organising the concert.

DAVID HUGHES

One Saturday afternoon in the winter term this year the Dulverton Hall was filled with the rich, rocky sound of *Thurman* fitting in a last-minute rehearsal for an excellent evening ahead.

Thurman are an Oxfordshire band which has just started up this year, and their single, English Tea, has hit the record shops successfully this year. It was a good test to see how much the Dulverton Hall stage could stand, what with a massive drum-kit, two big lighting stands, a big sound unit, amplifiers, and two guitarists jumping around.

Before *Thurman* came on, a nineteen-year-old from London called Farrell Lennon, who also has a single that has hit the record shops, came up; his music was appreciated more by the more experienced dancers among us. Then *Thurman* came on and burst into a good song.

As the gig progressed, people got more carried away and started getting up onto the stage and jumping into the crowd. One song the band dedicated to Ben Newton in the Second Form. Everyone enjoyed the gig, and this atmosphere helped the band perform better, but of course when you enjoy yourself time flies, and before we knew it the gig was over and the sound men

had the tiring job of disconnecting everything and loading it up into the awaiting vans.

The evening was enjoyed by everyone and should be repeated soon.

RICHARD GOOCH

The Boy Friend

A tale of young love and passion set in the rip-roaring 1920s in the south of France seemed just the right kind of scenario to set alight the likes of those in the Junior House who in their own way live out tales of young love and passion set in the cooler but no less angst-ridden milieu of Rendcomb College in the 1990s.

Casting was the first of the emotional hurdles, but in the end our stars were without doubt Pretty Polly Bruce, Hunky Tris Day, Twinkle-Toe Garcia, Mad-Cap Maisie Lee-Woolf, Lord Willy Witchell and Lady Dobson, not forgetting Sweetie Nicky Scarth and Amy 'Pussy-Cat' Turner, many lusty French boys, a troupe of delicious, perfect young ladies and a demented waiter who would happily have found a home in Fawlty Towers.

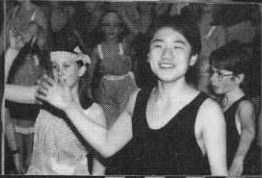
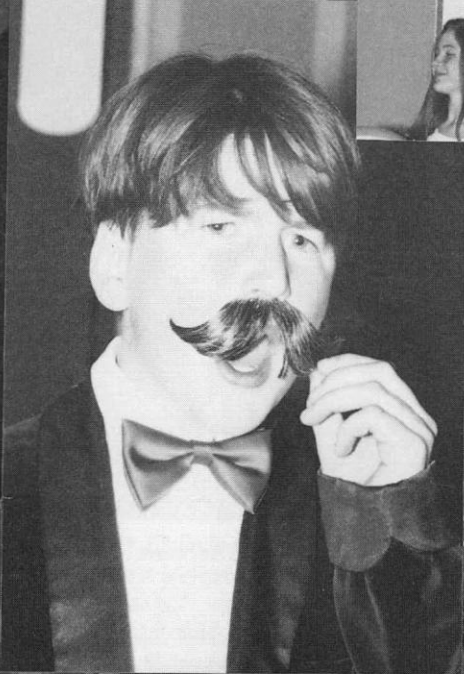
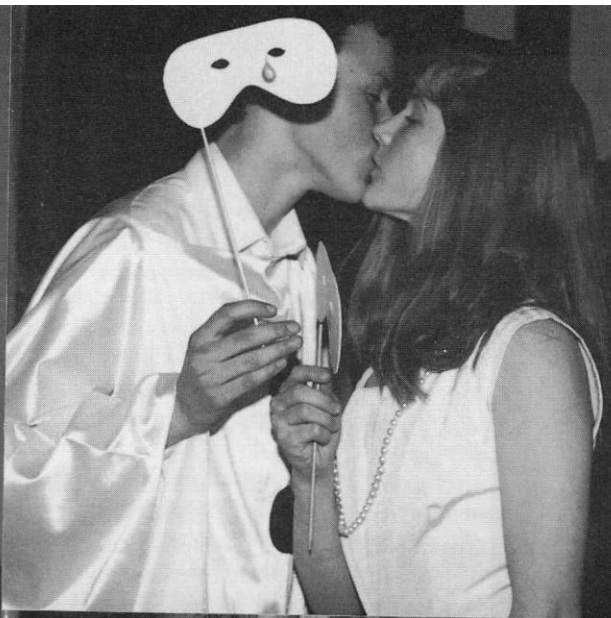
It took nearly all the Lent term and all the high temperatures and tantrums of impresario White to put the show on the road. There really were times when the final result was definitely in doubt, but on the night the cast gave it their all, and everything was there, not a word out of place, all the routines in order - give or take a few arms and legs - and the singing almost audible.

Perhaps the most memorable moment in the final stages of preparation was the long-awaited rehearsal of 'the kiss' which, when it came, was so perfect and so delightful that it needed no further practice. Amy Turner and William Witchell were also perfect from the beginning, and it was something of a mystery why they felt they had to put in so much special preparation.

Mr Patterson, our mystery ingredient, proved he did need a lot of help with his three left feet in the dancing, but was patiently tutored by our choreographer, Sally Beard. Sixth-former and honorary Junior House member Katherine Bagshawe was an imperious but very human Madame Dubonnet. She swept Mr Patterson and the audience off their feet with lovely singing and flamboyant stage presence, capping her act with a determined booting of teacher Patterson off the stage and planting her heels on his head.

The most unflappable member of the management was Miss Houghton, whose magic seam-stressing produced costumes of breathtaking professionalism. She gathered around her an impressive team of sewers - of both sexes, let it be noted - hairdressers, organisers and inventors too many to mention, but worthy of Junior House's undying thanks for all their help.

D. B. W.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Open air - a stage without wings, backstage or any visible difference between appearance and reality - made for an exciting and magical setting for Shakespeare's midsummer fantasy. Rendcomb's terraces, leading down to the valley beyond, were transformed into a Victorian, yet 'rock-a-billy' place near Athens, stretching as far as the eye could see. Not one person slipped out of character, and even when not directly involved in a scene, Titania's fairies and Oberon's henchmen, recruited from the junior members of the College, were able to dance down the hillside. What better backdrop could there be for the scenes that were played in the woods?

Some group scenes were like an artistic composition, layers of different characters, Spirit or Athenian, the combination providing a rich texture full of original ideas and detail in costume and props. Perhaps the most original use of these was in the play within the play, put on by Bottom and the other Athenian workmen. Bottom was brilliantly played by Jack Jelfs, who milked all the comedy out of the confused situation caused by his entanglement with the Fairy World as a result of Puck's pranks.

A controversial idea introduced was the depicting of Puck as a girl, inspired perhaps by the production of Richard II at present playing at the Royal National Theatre, where the king is played by a woman. It certainly worked well here, and Annabel Howard in her black denim and leather outfit was well contrasted against the colourful, flowery, 'hippy', costumes worn by the fairies. The variety of colour and style created a visual feast, enhanced during the later stages of the play by burning torches and sweet-smelling joss-sticks.

Although it was an outdoor performance, the cast were careful not to let their voices disappear with the wind, and a memorable Shakespearean performance was given by Seun Ismail, who, as Oberon, imposed his authority on cast and audience alike.

The use of music at certain points worked very well, and I particularly enjoyed the piece composed by Jack Jelfs and sung by Sophie Collier. The plagiarised Shakespearean lyrics and the unusual minor-key music provided an interesting sound to set off the visual splendour of Titania, played by Rowan Renow-Clarke, and her fairies.

The whole production was full of freshness and energy. Sophie Collier as Helena and Bianca Mann as Hermia brought real vigour to their arguments and flew at each other like two vixens, spitting and scratching, whilst Jack Jelfs and his team of Athenian artisans, played by Sam Maylott, Ralph Barnes, William Witchell, Keith Bendall and George Langlands, kept the audience in fits of laughter.

So, today Rendcomb, tomorrow Regent's Park: having seen performances at both sites, one could not, I feel, capture the magic and spirituality of Shakespeare's fantasy any more successfully than at Rendcomb on a midsummer's night.

ANNA RONOWICZ



Canada Rugby Tour '95 - Raising Funds

Early in August 28 Rendcomb pupils, accompanied by Mr Slark, Mr Newby and Mrs Pritchard, will make their way across the sea on the 1st XV Tour of Canada. Rugby is taken very seriously in Canada, and the two-week tour will be a valuable experience for everyone taking part.

The early organisation of the tour has led to a good deal of fund-raising, allowing the cost for individuals to be considerably reduced.

First on the agenda was the 24-hour Rugby Event. This, as its title suggests, involved four teams of seven people playing each other on a rota system for 24 hours. It began with people in high spirits and ended with them less so and indeed, in some cases totally worn out. It was, however, an enjoyable event for all and was finished off with a resounding victory by an 'all-star' team, which included two great onlookers, Mr Newby and Mr Slark. As it was our first event, sponsorship was very generous, and a lot of money was raised.

The second main event was the Fund-Raising Dinner and Auction, at which Stuart Barnes (former Bath and England fly-half) spoke. The turn-out was impressive, and after a fine meal came the much-

awaited speech from Stuart Barnes. Having played at the very highest level of the game, he had many interesting and amusing stories to tell from his tour days. Following the speeches came the auction of a number of very generous promises. This was dealt with professionally by Fraser Glennie, auctioneer and Old Rendcombian, and it too raised a large sum of money.

The remainder of the year consisted of several smaller, but nevertheless very important fund-raising efforts.

At one exeat members of the touring squad were positioned at every boarding house to wash cars as they arrived, in return for donations to the tour fund.



William and Leighton in action.

S. Williams

Also, a small team of pupils were taken to watch the Middlesex Sevens Tournament at Twickenham and to patrol the many car parks seeking donations. Some people gave large sums and, over all, the day was a success.

Family Day produced another opportunity, and it was taken in the form of a Rugby Stall. Various things were sold, from balls to team shirts and training tops and, while people were engrossed in the Rugby World Cup quarter-final being shown on television, many also found time to visit the stall.

Two tickets to the Five Nations Grand Slam decider match between Scotland and England were raffled, and much interest was shown in them.

Finally, a Tour Brochure is being put together, including messages wishing us good luck on the tour from several of the game's great players, which is expected to provide further vital funds.

Thanks must go to all those who have helped in any way during the run-up to the tour. Everything that has been given, and there has been so much of it, has been greatly appreciated. All that remains to be done is for those going to return with a fine set of results and having enjoyed the experience.

NICK CARMICHAEL

Bridge Club

Four sixth-formers have met regularly on Friday afternoons for some enjoyable sessions. Extra experience has been gained from the use of a Bridge Video and of hands taken from the Bridge column in the *Daily Telegraph*.

In February we again held a heat of the *Bridge Magazine* competition at Rendcomb and were joined by two teams from Warwick School.

I am grateful to Keith Bendall, George Langlands, Ben Renow-Clarke and Benni Körber for their loyal support and good humour during the year, and we all wish Benni every success in his plans to start a Bridge Club in his home town in Germany.

W. J. D. W.

Understanding Industry

In the early part of the Lent term, the members of the Sixth Form took part in an *Understanding Industry* conference, which involved sessions with small groups of pupils on various aspects of business, led by representatives of local and national business organisations. The areas covered were management, human resources, finance, production and marketing.

The conference started with an introductory presentation by an *Understanding Industry* regional organiser, and throughout the conference groups of pupils worked on a case study, their conclusions to which they presented before a panel of business people in the final session.



The sessions were interesting and required considerable participation from all concerned, and the conference was particularly useful for those of us doing 'A' level Business Studies, as it allowed us to put into practice much of what had been learnt in the classroom. All in all, a lot was gained from the conference, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

REBECCA GEE

A New Look for Languages

During the last days of term, when others were seduced by the attractions of the pool, modern linguists young and old set about giving the drab corridors outside the classrooms a thorough and cheerful face-lift.



The Sixth Form produced a mural based loosely on their experiences in Normandy, while the fourth-year pupils created three large and amusing paintings, satirising the French, German and British ways of life. Meanwhile assorted juniors were painting flags of anywhere from Ghana to Thailand, while Keith Bendall and others got busy with their stencils in corridors and classrooms.

More sensibly, Miss Houghton and Dr Haslett created notice-boards and tried their best to minimise the amount of paint spilt on the floor.

Our thanks go to Mr Griffiths for his assistance on the murals, to Mr Burden for pin-boards, to Roger Attwood for hanging them, and to all those from other departments who attended the ‘champagne’ reception held on the penultimate day of term to mark the official opening.

R. E. H. / L. J. H.

Photographic Competition

Prize-Winners

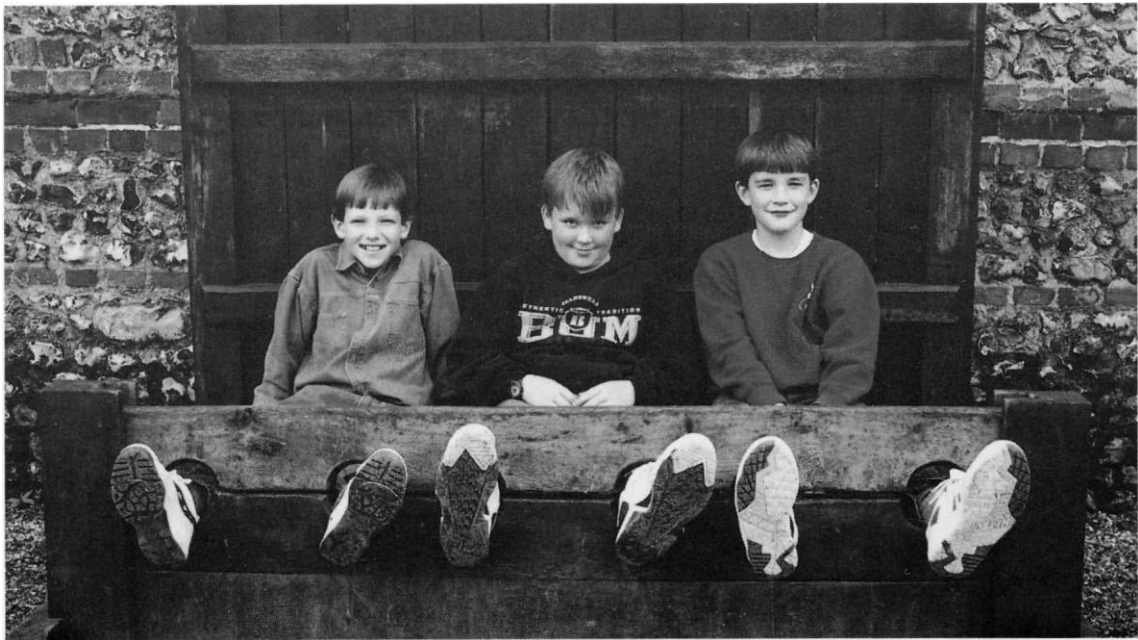
Colour:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| 1st | <i>Where has that pheasant gone?</i> | Gemma Leathart (3)* | |
| 2nd | <i>Pigeons</i> | Freddie Lait (1)* | |
| 3rd | <i>The Mountain</i> | David Newby (2)* | |
| Highly commended: | | | |
| | <i>Sunrise</i> | Jack Garland (4) | |
| | <i>The Lake</i> | Joan Essenhigh (staff) | p.29 |

Black and White:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------|
| <i>My cousin, Natalie</i> | Rose Thrower (1) | left |
|---------------------------|------------------|------|

* inside back cover



Academic

We congratulate the following:

James Thraves 1st Class Honours in Classics and English at King's College, London.
Kennedy Memorial Scholarship at Harvard, Department of Comparative Literature, September 1995.

Amanda Vaux 1st Class Honours in Drawing and Painting, Edinburgh College of Art.

Scholarships for Entry in September 1995

Sixth Form Entry:

Naomi Gibbs (Bournside School)
Posy Ingham (Kingsley School)

Music Scholarship
Scholarship

Third Form Entry:

James Brittain-Jones (Winchester House School)
Andrew Sage (Rendcomb College)
Ralph Smallman (Beaudesert School)
Sophie Sprawson (Beaudesert School)

Scholarship
Scholarship
Scholarship
Art Scholarship

First and Second Form Entry:

Jennifer Arnold (Hatherop Castle School)
Jenny Crook (Rendcomb College)
Nellie Gillson (Berkhampstead School)

Robert Knight (Kingshill School)

Rebecca Lee-Woolf (Didbrook Primary School)
Victoria Mackinnon (Querns School)
Helen Pearce (Prior Park School)

Scholarship
Music Scholarship
Martin Wills Foundation
Scholarship
Friends of Rendcomb
Scholarship
Art Scholarship
Scholarship
Scholarship

Ecology of the River Churn.

J. H. Stutchbury



‘A’ Level

This summer’s GCE Advanced Level results were:

Martin Adams - Mathematics
 Francis Barton - Biology, Chemistry*, Mathematics*
 Patrick Boydell - Art & Design, Business Studies*,
 Geography
 James Button - English/English Literature, History
 Alastair Christie - Biology, Chemistry, French PU,
 Performing Arts
 Steven Croft - Biology (M), Chemistry, Mathematics
 Shaan Deen - Art & Design
 Alice Depauw - English/English Literature,
 French PU, History
 Charlotte Edwards - English/English Literature*,
 Geography, History
 Ann-Christine Eylmann - Art & Design
 Susie Fletcher - Art & Design, Business Studies,
 Performing Arts
 Hannah Gowers - English/English Literature*,
 French PU, Music
 Charlotte Harrison - French PU, Music,
 Performing Arts
 Annabel lies - Art & Design*, English/English
 Literature, Performing Arts
 Frederick Ingham - English/English Literature*,
 French PU*, History*
 Christopher Jarrett - Business Studies
 Stephen Jones - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
 Benjamin Körber - Biology, Business Studies*,
 French*
 Adrian Kress - Business Studies
 Serena Lucas - History
 Helen Madge - English/English Literature,
 French PU, History, Performing Arts

John Morgan - English/English Literature*, French PU,
 History, Performing Arts
 Lucy Peters - Business Studies*, French PU,
 Geography
 Stephen Roney-Chemistry*, Mathematics*, Physics*
 Anna Ronowicz - Art & Design*, English/English
 Literature, Performing Arts*
 Paul Smith - Biology, Business Studies
 Giles Somers - Chemistry, French, Mathematics,
 Physics
 Michael Steen - Business Studies, Geography Ian
 Thompson - French PU
 Alexander Tibbs - Art & Design*, Biology
 Jonathan Underwood - Chemistry, Mathematics,
 Physics
 Verena Weiershauser- French
 Rupert Wertheimer - Art & Design, Business Studies
 Leslie White - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
 Mark Wilks - Art & Design*, Business Studies,
 Geography
 Mark Williams - Art & Design, Business Studies,
 French PU

Jesse Wright - Geography 6B entry:
 Charlotte Böhlken - German* (D)

Fifth Form entry:
 Victoria Dühmke - German* (D)
 Isabelle Waldburg - German*

* - Grade ‘A’
 D - Distinction in Special Paper
 M - Merit in Special Paper
 French PU - French for Professional Use



Monk's Abbey, Provence.

Jack Garland

GCSE

The GCSE results were:

Sixth-form entry

Ann-Christine Eylmann - E, EL, M
Benjamin Körber - E*, M**
Verena Weiershauser - E
Rudolf Dühmke - E
Luke Nicholls - MU

Fifth-form entry

Charles Allen - AD, E, EL, F, H, m, ss
Robert Arnold - E, EL, F, G, H, M, DS
Robert Ashby - E, EL, F*, GN, H, L, M*, B, C, P
Christopher Baker - AD*, E, EL, F, G, M, ss
Charles Barton - AD(DP)*, E**, EL**, F**, GN*, H*, M**, B, C*, P
Robert Bateman - E, EL, F*, G, GN, M, DS
William Brittain-Jones - E, EL, F, G, gn, H, M, DS
Imogen Cox - AD(DP)*, E*, EL*, G**, GN, H, M, DS
Antony Davanzo - AD, E, EL, F, g, m, SS
James de Lisle Wells - AD(DP)*, E, EL, F, G, M, DS
Andrew Donovan - E, EL, f, G, H, M, SS
Rebecca Doyle - AD, E*, EL**, F*, GN, M, MU*, DS
Victoria Dühmke - e, EL, GN**, M, B, C, P
Douglas Ellison - E, EL, F*, G*, M**, MU*, B, C*, P*
James Emmerson - E, EL, F, G, H, M, SS
Manolito Garcia - E, EL, F*, G*, GN, H*, M, DS
Samuel Gillott - AD, E, EL, G, M, MU, DS
James Graham - AD, E, EL, F, G*, M*, MU, B, C, P
Matthew Hall - AD(DP), E, EL, G, H, m, SS
Adam Hawkins - AD*, E, EL, F, G*, H*, M*, B, C*, P*
Marcus Haynes - E, EL, F**, GN**, H, M, MU**, DS
William Hunt - E*, EL*, F**, G*, GN**, M, DS
Adam King - AD(DP)**, E*, EL*, F**, G**, GN*, M*, B, C, P
Angus Law - AD(DP), E, EL, h, M, DS
Colin Morey - AD(DP), E, el, F, M*, MU, B, C, P
Nicholas Nicholson - E, EL, F*, G, L, M**, B, C, P
Terry Noble - ad(dp), e, f
Tabitha Pelly - AD*, E**, EL**, F*, GN, H*, m, SS
Andrew Perrin - AD, E, EL, F, G*, H, M, DS
Simon Rayburn - AD, E, G, gn, M, DS
Timothy Shaw - AD(DP)**, E*, EL*, F**, G**, L*, M**, B*, C**, P**
James Smith - E*, EL**, F**, GN*, H**, L**, M**, B*, C*, P**
Poppy Smith - AD*, E*, EL*, F*, GN, H*, M, DS
Stewart Taylor - E*, EL, F**, G*, GN**, H, M**, B, C, P
Isabelle Waldburg - f, GN**, m
Charles Webb - E*, EL, F**, GN*, H*, L*, M*, B, C, P

Robin Witchell - AD(DP)*, E*, EL*, F**, GN*, H*, M, DS
David Wragg - AD, E*, EL**, F**, GN*, H*, M**, B, C, P

Key: capital letters show grades A - C, small letters grades D - F

** - grade 'A star'

* - grade A

AD - Art & Design

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

B - Biology

C - Chemistry

E - English

EL - English Literature

F - French

G - Geography

GN - German

H - History

L - Latin

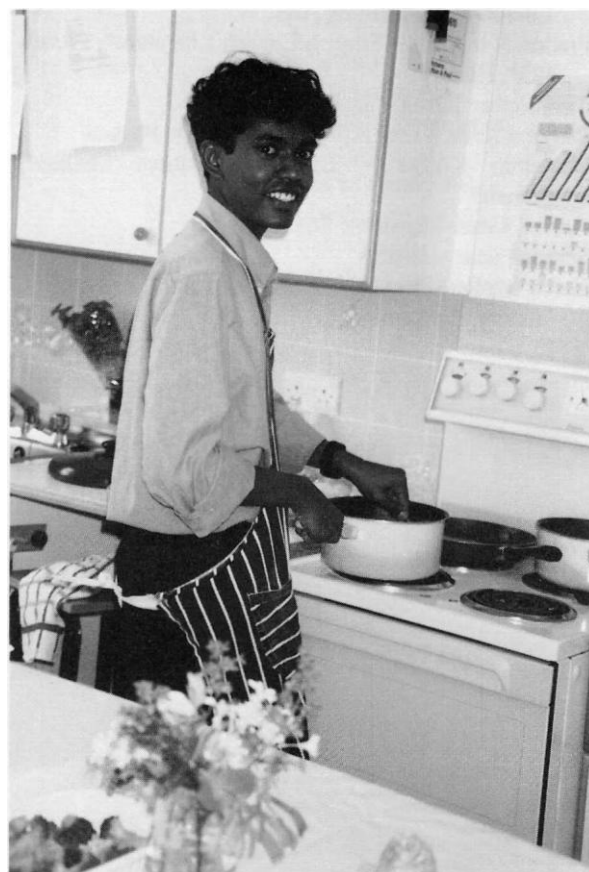
M - Mathematics

MU - Music

P - Physics

DS - Science, Double Award

SS - Science, Single Award



Shaan Deen

J. M. Newby

The Record 2

College Officers

Head Boy and Head of School House

Benjamin Körber

Head Girl and Head of Park House

Susie Fletcher

Head of Stable House

Steven Croft

Head of Lawn House

Leslie White

Godman House Prefects

Francis Barton

Mark Wilks

Junior House Prefect

Annabel lies

Junior Prefect, Park House

Anna Ronowicz

Main Building Prefect

Rupert Wertheimer

Dining Hall and Grounds Prefect

Serena Lucas

Arts Block and Dulverton Hall Prefect

Patrick Boydell

Sports Hall Prefect

John Morgan

Hours' Work Prefect

Stephen Jones

School Prefect

Charlotte Harrison

Head Librarian

James Button

Head Church Usher

Ian Thompson

Captain of Rugby

Patrick Boydell

Captain of Boys' Hockey

John Morgan

Captain of Girls' Hockey

Annabel lies

Captain of Cricket

Christopher Jarrett

Captain of Boys' Tennis

Steven Croft

Captain of Girls' Tennis

Lucy Peters

Captain of Netball

Susie Fletcher

Captain of Squash

Francis Newcombe

Captain of Shooting

James Fairbank

Captain of Basketball

Rudi Dühmke

Forms L1 and 1 - 1994-95.

Valete

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

Martin Adams, Francis Barton, Patrick Boydell, Miles Brown, James Button, Alastair Christie, Steven Croft, Shaan Deen, Alice Depauw, Charlotte Edwards, Ann-Christina Eylmann, Susie Fletcher, Hannah Gowers, Charlotte Harrison, Annabel lies, Frederick Ingham, Christopher Jarrett, Stephen Jones, Benjamin Körber, Adrian Kress, Serena Lucas, Helen Madge, Tsoek-Chi Mar, John Martin-Busutil, John Morgan, Lucy Peters, Stephen Roney, Anna Ronowicz, Paul Smith, Giles Somers, Michael Steen, Ian Thompson, Alexander Tibbs, Jonathan Underwood, Verena Weiershauser, Rupert Wertheimer, Leslie White, Mark Wilks, Mark Williams, Jesse Wright.

Charlie Allen, Robert Bateman, Angus Law, Nicholas Nicholson, Andrew Perrin, Isabelle Waldburg, James de Lisle Wells.

Andrew Morton.

Yukihiro Asami, Emma Banwell, Yukiko Haneda, Sachivo Ichikawa, Kaori Kawanabe, Natsuko Kusano, Yolande Necke, Seiko Sugihara.

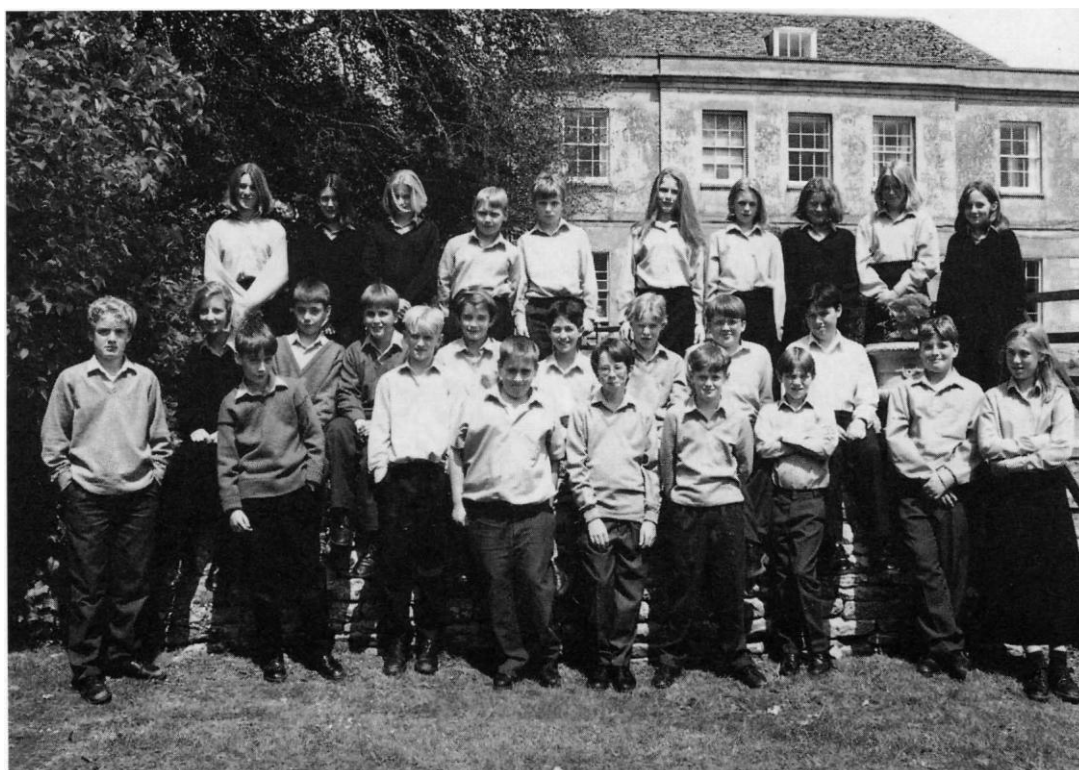
Sebastian Bagnell, David Monk.

Luke Tyler, Richard Moor.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1995:

Form 6B: Naomi Gibbons, Georgina Hunter-Smart, Posy Ingham, Anna Peters, Jan Axel Schelatz, Jacqueline Shenton.





Forms 2 and 2A - 1994-95.

Form 5: Sebastian Heinemann.

Form 4: Paul Cox.

Form 3: Andrew Ames, James Brittain-Jones, Patama Chaiwatanasirikul, Donald Godfrey, Rocky Fung, Natsuko Hirabayashi, Hiroshi Iseki, Nami Kubo, Rachel Lamont, Robert Mann, Harumi Ozeki, Jamela Saedaldin, Ralph Smallman, Sophie Sprawson, Henry Weston, Henry Wright, Kosuke Yamaguchi.

Form 2: Robert Knight, Christina Schotten.

Form 1: Jennifer Arnold, Richard Birkbeck, Frances Burden, Charles Cowper, Olivia Evans, Dominic Fastnedge, Annabel Forbes, Nellie Gilson, Rebecca Lee-Woolf, Victoria Mackinnon, Nicholas Marlowe, Nathaniel Maylott, Rupert McKelvie, Helen Pearce, Heidi Pitt, Jonathan Pratt, Rebecca Ricketts, James Sabourin, Stephen Ward, Rosanna Warrington.

The Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1995:

President

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

School Representative

Girls' Secretary

Rugby Secretary

Hockey Secretary

Cricket Secretary

Newsletter Editor

Ted Jones (1940-48)

Neil Lumby (1968-73)

Julian Comrie (1946-54)

Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77)

Whiteway Farmhouse,
The Whiteway, Cirencester
GL7 7BA

Robert Barrett (1969-76)

Chris Wood (1965-71,
Staff 1976-)

Justine Platt (1988-90)

Chris Oliver (1989-94)

Philip Moore (1980-87)

Julian Fellows (1981-88)

Bill White (Staff 1961-)
9 Rendcomb, Cirencester,
GL7 7HB

News of Recent Leavers

We are grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for the following information:

Nick Barton

Foundation Agriculture Course 1995

Kirsten Bennett

Liverpool University, Law and German

David Chalk

Harper Adams Agricultural College

David Elliott

Southampton University, Electronic Engineering

Matthew Gee

York University, Economic and Social History

Daniel Irving

Southampton Institute, Media Studies

Christopher Lawton

LSU Southampton, French and German

Andrew Martin

Exeter University, Biology

Christian Millard

Harper Adams Agricultural College

James Moore

Lancaster University, Fine Arts

Christopher Norman

University of Central England, Institutional
Management

Polly Parsons

Art Foundation Course

Matthew Pentney

University of Teesside, Law and Accountancy

Nicholas Pollard

Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Biochemistry

Kai Thomas

Southampton University, French and Philosophy

Juliette Ward

Oxford Brooke's University, Civil Engineering

Julian Wilkie

Loughborough University, European Languages

Hannah Willcocks

Bristol University, French and German

Robert Sage

Operation Raleigh

Andrew Chalk

Sparsholt College, Agriculture

Outings

A Midsummer Night's Dream

As members of the Fifth Form settled into their seats at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the lights dimmed ominously, and a murmur of anticipation rushed through the audience.

The performance began quietly, mysteriously even, surging to a dramatic crescendo with the entrance of the four lovers, exuding passion and entralling the onlookers as stormy tempers rose and flew. Male viewers seemed to convey a tidal wave of simpering admiration as Hermia, clear-skinned and strikingly beautiful, swept on-stage, her pleading eyes and aching sorrowful words heart-wrenchingly convincing.

We were then to experience the lighter side of the play; even the name 'Bottom, the Weaver' was enough to raise a smattering of chuckles, as he and his hapless band of over-enthusiastic simpletons burst, rather than glided, onto the stage. Anybody who might have been gently losing interest abruptly awoke at the thought of some notorious Shakespearean comedy, and was not to be unrewarded.

The scene that ensued was spectacularly played, Bottom himself being herald to tumultuous laughter many a time.

This introduced the fairies, who also injected a sense of mischievous revelry into the story with their nimble acrobatics and the especially notable acting of Puck and Oberon. The relationship between the two delighted the audience, which appeared spellbound, alternately gasping with dismay at the disillusionment of the lovers or wiping away tears of pure mirth at Puck's infuriating incapability of carrying out his master's orders.

Perhaps the most memorable scene was the penultimate one, breath-taking in its romantic speeches, the colours and clothing magnificent, and highly amusing in its crude contrast to the all-too-familiar yokels, led by Bottom, attempting to perform a 'tedious, brief, tragic comedy'.

Determined, agonisingly slow-witted and ridiculously costumed, their empty, ambling words and clumsy actions had virtually the entire audience weak with hilarity. Even those of us who had been prepared to be scathing were severely tested to hide our smiles.

As Puck's last memorable words drew the performance to a close, the thunderous applause began even before the players had left the stage.

All in all, it was quite the most stunning display of the famous Shakespearean masterpiece and, most importantly, it brought to life the complicated dialogue which is often so confusing and unreadable. It was a truly commendable evening.

TABITHA PELLY

Twelfth Night

On 17th November the 'A' level English students went to see the RSC's production of *Twelfth Night*. It was not one of our set books, but was supposed to be a very good performance, and indeed it was.

Twelfth Night is one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, and this was certainly obvious throughout the night. It was acted with the humour of the play borne in mind, and every moment with comic potential was fully exploited.

The play consists of a series of misunderstandings and has several intertwining subplots. It is a play that is full of love and laughter, and yet is elevated from being a somewhat one-dimensional, if still clever, play by the character of Feste the clown, played by Derek Griffiths. He lends the play a beautifully wistful air, offset by the antics of the other characters. Their confusion is contrasted with his wisdom; the drunken merriment of Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek is countered by his incredible musical virtuosity, one of the highest points of the play being his wonderful rendition of the final song, *The Rain, it Raineth Every Day*. His lovely, melancholy voice echoed around the auditorium, spellbinding the audience.

The most amusing character in the play was the unfortunate Malvolio, played excellently by Desmond Barrit. His comic timing was marvellous, and he used the audience's amusement to its full extent. The versatility of his acting also was well demonstrated, from the indignant and serious steward to the buffoon cavorting about the stage in his cross-gartered and huge yellow stockings.

Another amusing aspect was the comic duo of Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek, played by Tony Britton and Bill Brown respectively. The latter was especially amusing, his stupidity a delight to observe.

Emma Fielding played Viola very poignantly, fitting equally well into the role of the eunuch Cesario.

In all it was a brilliant performance, moving, touching and thoughtful, whilst retaining all of the wonderful comedy that makes the play so special.

JACK JELFS

Tenpin Bowling

A stroll through the blissfully tranquil grounds of Rendcomb on Sunday afternoons may be usual, but this Sunday was different...

Before I knew it, I and a large number of other junior girls were being whisked away in the minibus to the Fairford Tenpin Bowling Alley. Hearing stories on the way of 'that amazing strike in '93' and listening to the discussion of various techniques, I began to grow slightly apprehensive, as my bowling skills were of the 'novice' variety: I had never even seen the outside of a bowling alley before!

Once inside the building, I began to feel more relaxed, until a funny man asked me to take off my lovely green suede boots and in return gave me a pair of old lace-up shoes. Slightly taken aback by this new fashion craze, I soon realised it was okay, everyone was wearing them, they must have been uniform. Everybody was allocated an alley, and the first sounds of pins' being struck began.

My first eight attempts were consistent, in that it took me eight attempts before I hit a pin, but once the first pin fell there was no stopping me, or anybody else for that matter.

We had an absolutely amazing time, and feelings proved unanimous on the way back in the bus. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and fingers crossed for another sometime in the future! Many thanks go to Mr and Mrs Stutchbury for organising such an amusing outing!

SOPHIE COLLIER

A Trip to the Hebrides in October

Our aims were to collect the data for the 'A' level fieldwork component in a most rich and pure environment, to see at first hand some of the earliest evidence of human settlement in the British Isles, including Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Celtic and Viking influences on the Isle, to be a part of a gentle and fragile community and to appreciate a slower pace of life.

FRANCIS BARTON

What impressed me most about the island was the living together of man and nature. Man seemed to live according to nature, not trying to suppress it in order to have more comfort or a better life. The islanders seemed to have everything they needed to survive, and made the most of it. I was really surprised that they could enjoy themselves with so few and such limited things at the Barn Dance. A simple tape deck was enough to keep everyone happy; no special effects were needed. Also, the friendliness of the locals was amazing: we were welcomed warmly, without any prejudices.

But still, I could not live in such a place.

BENNI KÖRBER

P. J. S. on Colonsay

And an impression from one of James Stutchbury's former pupils:

'There is a privilege in being let into a community where as a person you are viewed as an individual rather than a commodity. It releases you from the falseness of a mass community, and the sense of truth and honesty achieved within the islands is not something that has been attained, but something that has been given and will always remain.

'The beauty of the landscape produces an endless curiosity. There is a constant but subtle stimulation, which is unique and never-ending. The colours and complexity of the light give a depth and strength to the feelings. An explanation of the impact of such a small but unique island is impossible!'

A Biological View of the Isle of Colonsay

The objective of the field-trip is the study of the rocky seashore ecology, of the contrasting west and east-facing coastlines. Many species of both flora and fauna are clearly zoned on the shore, owing to the variety of physical and biological factors, two key ones being tolerance to exposure and the effect of the North Atlantic Gulf Stream.

Particular sites were chosen, Ardskenish, Balnahard and Dun Gallain being exposed, facing 2,400 miles of the North Atlantic Ocean, Queen's Bay and Rubha Mor being more sheltered, facing the Isles of Jura and Islay across a five-mile sound.

J. H. S.

Thoughts on Colonsay

Colonsay, in the Inner Hebrides, blew all my prejudices out of the window. As if one were walking into a different time-zone, here the landscape was rare and wild and kind of magical. It was a world away from the society we live in today; one would not think twice about leaving the door unlocked.

Colonsay is one of the rare places where there is enough space and time to collect one's thoughts or simply to breathe in the power of nature. The place gives you a feeling of harmony between bleak land, stunning beaches, variance of reliefs and a tempestuous sea made for very exciting memories.

As the animals foam free, one is struck with an overpowering sense of freedom, thrown into a slower pace of life. It made me realise that the people there have time to consider the important things in life, rather than





Grey seal pup. J. H. Stutchbury

running after loose ends.

Unfortunately my camera could not describe the uniqueness and beauty of this island. Really to experience the magic of Colonsay at its best, one had to go there.

TINA EYLMANN

The Natural History Museum

In April third-year pupils visited the Natural History Museum. It is such a huge place that we managed to see only a few of the many exhibitions.

The displays were fascinating and easy to understand. Most people's favourite exhibition was the Human Biology section, as there were lots of games and puzzles to do.

Our personal favourite was the Bug House. It wasn't a place for the faint-hearted, as some of the displays contained huge, juicy spiders, bugs, an ant colony and five-foot crabs!

The first exhibition we saw was on Ecology, which was rather appropriate, as we had been learning about it in class. It has many interesting displays about the world, about pollution, animals and their habitats, and plants.

Other exhibitions included the Dinosaur Room, where there were moving, life-size models of raptors eating a baby dinosaur - yum - and Darwin's theory of evolution, which explained how animals evolved and adapted their lifestyles.

We spent at least five hours in the museum and we were all really tired when we got back to school, but we all had a great day and really enjoyed ourselves.

PHILLIPA HUNT
CHARLOTTE KERTON

Courtney Pine Jazz Concert

The name Courtney Pine is associated with a lot of contemporary jazz music. From his own groups and

styles to a recent collaboration with Larry Adler on a tribute album to George Gershwin, he is recognised as one of the leading saxophonists of the present scene.

A performance by him in the Town Hall in Cheltenham, therefore, deserved a visit; and so on 28th February a keen posse of jazz fans, comprising a few members of the Arts Society and fourth-form Expressive Arts students went along.

The concert was quite fantastic! We were fortunate enough to get seats with a very good view of the stage, and the group of piano, drums, bass and sax played excellently.

To make the concert more interesting, the group was joined by two 'scratchers', who mixed sampled synthesised sounds and scratch music into the overall texture with tremendous effect. We were impressed by Courtney Pine's playing technique - his dexterity and breath-control were outstanding, with a number of instances of circular breathing and double-tonguing - and he kept the group under firm control and leadership, to produce a 'right' sound and an extremely polished performance.

A comment from one of the audience after the show included this was the best concert I have ever been to, which, on reflection, was a valid remark, considering the quality and style of the music.

S. J. L.

Severn Vale Revisited

Canals, Youth-Hostelling, Comradeship, Puncture-Repair, Inclines, No Lessons, Gloucester Docks

The fifth annual cycling tour for second-year pupils took place one fine weekend in May. The route followed last year's to Slimbridge Youth Hostel, except that a track from Woodmancote to Dartley Farm on the A417 was used as an early introduction to off-road cycling, and the Thames-Severn Canal was joined at Daneway rather than Frampton Mansell.

The group of 23 cyclists, led by Mr Wood, Mr Williams (OR) and Mr Barton, supported by Mr Patterson and Mrs Wood, left rather late on the Saturday morning, owing to much last-minute maintenance, including several puncture repairs. In fact, it was punctures which were to dominate the breakdowns of the weekend, and the worst accident occurred when somebody stopped very rapidly on the towpath, causing another to end up in the fortunately dried-up canal near Sapperton.

The five girls led by Ainsley Savage, our





Australian teacher, proved that map-reading does keep one on the right track, whereas boys missed their turnings or took wrong ones on several occasions. Perhaps we should teach Navigation at Rendcomb!

As a result of our back-up vehicles' searching the country lanes between Rendcomb and Stroud, we all met up at the Ship Inn in Brimscombe, where several parents joined us for lunch and the cyclists supplemented their packed lunches with chips, chips and more chips!

The end of the first day saw us at Slimbridge, sharing the youth hostel with a group of ladies from Liverpool intent on having an outrageously enjoyable weekend.

Sunday began with an excellent breakfast, followed by a demonstration of the art of 'puncture paranoia' by Nellie Abbott and Charlotte Emerson, although, to be fair to Nellie, her front inner tube did lose pressure despite having no hole in it. Cycling alongside the Gloucester-Sharpness canal was easy going, and it took very little time to reach the flood defences at Epney, where the group enjoyed a break of yet more drink and energy bars with marvellous views up and down the River Severn. Then it was on to Gloucester Docks and later through Gloucester centre to Staverton to complete the 50 miles.

All too soon it was over, and we were reminiscing about our favourite moments, after thanking Mr de Lisle Wells and Mr Abbott for transporting us and our bikes safely back to Rendcomb.

C. J. W.

Apart from my grazing my leg, getting cramp and hitting my head, the trip was altogether fun. The urge of competition was vague, but present, and meant we could travel the route fluently and gracefully.

The beginning was tiresome, down a hill, down a track, up a road. With practice, though, the riding became easier. Small breaks between each stretch were useful, and a cup of orange and a Mars Bar were energising.

Along the canal was hazardous, but fun. The track was narrow and bumpy and stretched for a couple of miles. The route passed over a bridge, past a pub and down a road. The road, of course, went too far, and others turned in. After a mile or so I turned back, realising I had no company with me. I rode on alone into the drive by the youth hostel with a victorious skid that was greeted by a dirty cloud of dust. The facilities of the hostel were 'well used' but adequate. The meals were fine and filling. The people were very kind.

On the way back a few punctures were inevitable, which did slow us down. Into Gloucester we cycled with ease and into the docks we skidded. A packed lunch was handed out, and the ice-cream, bought kindly for Andrew Sage's birthday, was thankfully appreciated.

Then it was on to home we rode with a last kick. My chain went a mile out, but I soon caught up and arrived at the car park. Mr de Lisle Wells took our bikes back to the Old Rectory, while the rest of us returned sleepily in the minibus.

WILLIAM WARRINGTON

Junior Science Visits to the Norville Optical Company

During the third week in May Forms 2 and 2A made separate visits to the firm. They went first to the board-room of the factory in Gloucester, where they were able to handle a range of products. The prismatic spectacles, which enable normal reading by people forced to lie flat on their back, attracted a lot of interest. After refreshments, the guided tour began with the incredible contrast of technologies: fax machines gather orders almost instantly from all over the world, and the dimensions of the frames and the prescription for the lenses are entered on computers, but each order moves around the factory in rather worn coloured boxes on conveyor belts.

The methods used in making the lenses were well demonstrated, from gripping the lens to a mounting block using a low-melting-point alloy of bismuth, lead, indium and cadmium, to shaping the lens with a suitably shaped piece of aluminium coated with an abrasive pad. The lenses were checked for power and finish at many points in the process, and the reject rate seemed low.

Most people have plastic lenses in their spectacles, because of the lower weight and the safety compared with glass, and the tinting process turned out to be little more than dipping the lenses into hot solutions of dyes which are absorbed into the plastic. Tints applied to glass take the form of a coating, and this turned out to be a more complicated process.

The groups saw a machine made to test lenses under various conditions of weather, pollution and ultra-violet rays. This process takes three hundred hours (nearly two weeks) to simulate three years' exposure, which used to be achieved by placing lenses on the roof of the building.

The visits ended with question-and-answer sessions. Members of Form 2 met Mr Norville himself and were presented with a book, while 2A received a box of sample lenses, including photochromic and polarising lenses. The visits provided a valuable insight into a manufacturing process which is taken for granted, as well as support for the second-year pupils' Optics and Materials courses. We are grateful to Mr Emerson for arranging the visits and for accompanying both groups.

C. J. W.

The Junior House in Alsace

lundi

We met outside the College at 9 p.m. When the driver stopped at the service station we all went and lost all our money in the games arcade. We got to Dover at 2.30 a.m., and our ferry was delayed by about 15 minutes. On the ferry we were told our first treasure-hunt items, which were:

1. a sachet of French mustard
2. a timetable
3. a plastic spoon
4. a crewman's signature (a bonus point for the Captain's)
5. a sick-bag

PAUL BONGIOVANNI

mardi

When we got off the ferry it was early morning. We set off on the remainder of our journey. We were told our next treasure-hunt items at one of the numerous service stations we stopped at. We were in four countries that day, England, France, Belgium and Luxembourg. By the time we had got off the coach at *Les Cigogneaux*, Martin had driven us 840 kilometres! For tea there were noodles, pizza and salad. We had a quiz, followed by bed.

MATT COLLIER

mercredi

We got up and had breakfast at 8 a.m. and then had our room inspections; we thought we did quite well. We then went to the *Écomusée d'Alsace*, and it was snowing heavily. We saw some storks and a carousel and lots of old timber-frame houses moved from around Alsace and rebuilt at the museum. We left the *Écomusée* and had lunch. We then left for the Railway Museum, where we saw lots of old fire-engines and equipment. At 3.30 we left and went shopping in Turkheim. When we got home we rested until dinner. After dinner we played games with the other French group staying at *Les Cigogneaux* until 10.20, when we went to bed.

ED FARNSWORTH



jeudi

First we went to *la Montague des Singes*, where we fed popcorn to the monkeys, who reached out and snatched the pieces of corn from our hands. It was rather exciting! After lunch we went to *Haut Koenigsbourg*, a castle right up on the top of a hill, where we had a quiz. Then, before returning to our hotel, we went into Colmar, the nearest town to us, and again into Turkheim. In the evening we watched *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves* - in French!

Martin's mischievous wind-ups!

E.F. and W.W. had been seen by Martin feeding a monkey from their pockets (something we were advised not to do). So Martin said that night, 'This monkey tried to do the same to an old lady, and she had a heart-attack, so you might be charged with murder!' To us it seemed unbelievable, but they were devastated!

ANDREW SAGE

vendredi

I woke up at 7 a.m. and saw that everyone else was awake. We got to work on our room for room inspection. We tidied it and put all our laces parallel and got out the bribes (sweets, which the teachers did quite well with); then we went down to breakfast. The day was freezing, and white snow lay everywhere.

We reached Strasbourg at 10 a.m. and were told we could look around some shops for a while. We then went up to the top of the cathedral, and there was an excellent view. Inside the cathedral there was a fantastic clock, which is famous in Europe. We had lunch and then went on a boat-trip round Strasbourg and saw the



European Parliament. On the way home we went to the hypermarket and bought lots of chocolates (except for Miss Houghton and Mr Patterson, who bought lots of wine).

In the evening we had a disco with the French group, where some of us practised our French chat-up lines (especially Will, who managed to attract loads of French girls). We got to bed quite late.

TOM MAIS

samedi

On Saturday we went to the cheese factory in Munster, which was quite interesting. The smell, however, was not quite so. Seb, who was still upset because Rachel and her French friends had left that morning, appeared to be in a world of his own. We were all given a taste of cheese, but it was not very popular; this was due to the smell, but the taste was pretty bad too!

After this we went into Munster town centre and had lunch. This was delicious, as usual, and there was plenty of everything. In the afternoon we went to a stork park, a beautiful place. There was also a large pond with otters in it; they were fascinating to watch and very sweet. At 3 p.m. there was a fishing display; there were birds, otters, penguins and even a seal, which emptied half its tank! It was quite exciting!

We then went round a rather old village and then back for an hour's resting session, just to calm down and relax a bit. After tea we had an evening a bit like the Junior House sketches. We had a talent contest, including Mr Muscle and Wayne's World. Then we had presentations: Mr Patterson spent a while giving out awards to all of us; then it was our turn, and we presented the teachers and the coach driver with presents and a big cheer to say thank you to them for everything. We played some games and then... payback time! Ed Farnsworth pretended to have broken his leg at about 11.30 p.m., and the teachers were trying to decide who would go to hospital and whether to get an ambulance; they went out of the room to discuss things, and when they came back Ed was foiling about on the floor in tears of laughter! To put it mildly, Mr Patterson said something he should not have! Saturday was a superb day and an unforgettable laugh!

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

dimanche

We woke up at 5.30 (it was really terrible), and breakfast was at 6.30, and we left by 7.15. The trip back was the same, about 10 to 11 hours through Luxembourg and Belgium. We were all very sad to see Martin, our coach driver, leave at a service station. We arrived at about midnight and we were all very pleased to see our families.

NICOLA SCARTH



Normandy, May 1995

The prospect of a German trip to Normandy may seem at first glance an odd one, especially since no German was to be spoken, but there was a goal, aside from a weekend in France. For our mock coursework the 6B German set were investigating aspects of the D-Day invasion of 1994, mainly from a German viewpoint.

So the idea was to visit various museums and other important sites in order to collect ideas and documentation for these projects, whilst at the same time soaking up *La Belle France*.

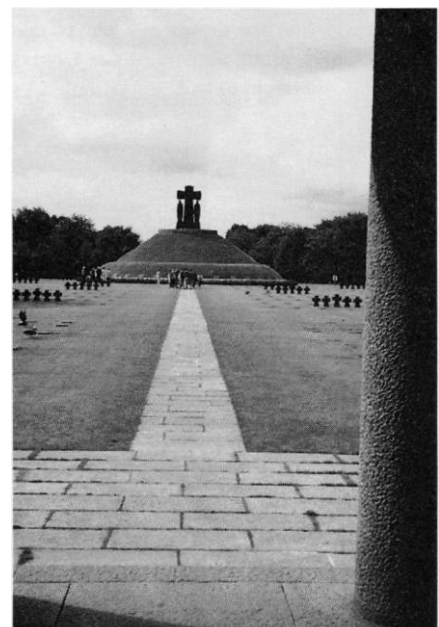
Although it was tiring, we all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learnt a lot about that period of history. Things, however, didn't go so well for all of our group.

Adam Simpkin spent much of his time in a seemingly fruitless quest for a decent *steak-frites* and, when he finally seemed to have succeeded, was singularly unimpressed by the blood-oozing mass before his eyes!

Highlights of the weekend included the visits to the American and German military cemeteries at La Cambe, Omaha Beach, Bayeux and the Normandy Landings Museum at Arromanches. We also had several games of *boules* in the garden of the house where we were staying.

We were all shattered when we got back to Rendcomb at midnight on the Sunday, but our thanks must go to Miss Houghton for organising the trip and to her brother for the loan of his house. Thanks go also to Dr Haslett for driving so sedately at all times.

LINDSAY DUFF



Impressions - Paris 1995

In mid-February 23 art students flew off to Paris on the annual 'A' level trip abroad. They were joined by four adventurous fifth-year GCSE students and five from the option set whose fires of enthusiasm still burned brightly.

The pre-dawn start was a shock to some (especially Mark Wilks), but the short flight from Heathrow soon left us scurrying through the streets of Paris, heading for our hotel in the *Pigalle* area. Somewhat tired, but excited, we quickly settled in, and it was already obvious from some of the local shops and cafes what *Pigalle* was notable for!

However, everyone was quickly thrown out on to the streets by Mr Griffiths, who gave many strict warnings about what to avoid in Paris - notably MacDonalds - and told everyone to enjoy the cultural surroundings.

This included meeting at the *Orangerie* to see a wonderful collection of mainly nineteenth-century paintings and the water-lilies series by Claude Monet. Painted in the early twentieth century, towards the end of his life, these huge canvasses swirl and glow in glorious rhythms of paint; everyone was very impressed!

That evening the group meal was in a local restaurant, warm, friendly and relaxed, with good food; everyone was by now exhausted, but still very impressed!

Saturday proved extremely busy, with an early meeting at the *Musée d'Orsay*, to see the huge and stunning collection of mainly nineteenth-century Impressionist painting, and an afternoon visit to the *Musée Rodin*.

Everybody was finding all the walking around Paris and looking at great art immensely hard work, but was suitably rewarded and refreshed with an excellent evening meal in a Thai restaurant, although remaining desperately curious to know why Mrs Blackwell was so keen to keep the small glass in which her *saki* was served.

Sunday morning found some very sleepy students struggling to breakfast, and a brisk walk to the *Musée National d'Art Moderne* was maybe not top of their list,

but the shock of the architecture and some of the more bizarre exhibits brought their brains awake: the pleasure of seeing the real thing converted many inhibited opinions to enjoying the delights of Matisse, Chagall and others, although Les White did look less than impressed by some of the contemporary installation art.

The midday sunshine produced various picnic lunches, and the afternoon was spent at either the *Musée Picasso, de Cluny or Marmottan*. The evening was a treat for lovers of French style, as dinner was in *Chartier*, an old restaurant full of polished wood, brass fittings, globe lights and waiters in huge white aprons all zooming around carrying huge plate-loads of food and writing the orders on the paper table cloths.

Later we all ventured up to *Montmartre* to see the night view of Paris from the *Sacre Coeur*. Everybody was impressed.

Monday morning and packing up came all too quickly, but Mr Denny put on his yellow jacket, and that cheered everyone up. First port of call was the chapel of *Ste Chapelle*; here the glorious stained-glass windows stunned everybody and continued to inspire members of the option group, who on returning to Rendcomb produced some fine stained glass of their own.

The following picnic lunch, hunted down by Mrs Blackwell, was enthusiastically consumed, and a visit to the *Louvre* seemed a daunting prospect. However, by sticking to a few pre-selected paintings, we were not overcome by the masses of work available, and some excellent project work was collected, although another visit is definitely needed.

Finally everyone staggered back to the hotel to collect the baggage and headed for home. However, the French administration at the railway station was awful, and when we did eventually arrive at the airport *Air France* were less than helpful. Nobody was impressed.

Dinner on the plane helped repair the situation, and for some the sight of 'Rendcomb College' printed on the side of the patiently waiting minibuses was almost welcome! Tired, thrilled, inspired, exhausted were just some of the feelings bouncing around as we headed for home. It had been a memorable and worthwhile trip, and by the end everybody was impressed again.

M. S. G.



The Director of Music sacrifices his beard to Comic Relief.

Sport

Rugby Football

This season saw the College completing the usual full and demanding fixture list, and our willingness and ability to field up to nine teams simultaneously from limited numbers of boys remains almost unique on our circuit and is very much to our credit. As ever, the commitment and spirit of all teams, often in difficult circumstances, was highly commendable.

If these elements represent continuity with the past, this season has also witnessed changes of such significance that it might be reasonably argued that Rendcomb rugby is undergoing a period of transition.

The most striking of these changes has been Mike Newby's giving up of overall responsibility for the game at Rendcomb; it is difficult for those of us involved in college rugby to think of a time when Mike was not running the sport, and his is a substantial legacy in every sense, and one which is based on the virtues mentioned in my opening remarks. It is certainly appropriate here to mention the technical excellence of his coaching and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the game, and also his ability to communicate these to players and colleagues alike. Fortunately he continues to apply these qualities in his new role, overseeing the development of the Under 13 squad who represent the future of Rendcomb rugby. At the same time Mike has, in his refereeing capacity, been able to make his uniquely sympathetic contribution to the education of those occupants of the touch-line whose vociferousness and knowledge of rugby are present in inverse proportions. This is a phenomenon that is sadly becoming all too common in schoolboy rugby, but one which I can honestly say I have yet to detect in a Rendcomb spectator.

Elsewhere there was considerable redeployment amongst the coaching staff, Martin Griffiths rejoining the senior game to coach the 2nd XV, James Stutchbury joining John Watson to run the 3rd/4th XVs, John Williams returning to the Under 15 group to assist Lindsay Haslett, and new (old) boy Alex Brealley joining the Under 13 coaching team.

Another significant change was the departure of Chris King, not just from Rendcomb rugby, but worse, to a soccer school! Well deserved tributes to his considerable contribution on the rugby field have already appeared in these pages, and I have certainly benefited from the legacy of Chris's investment in youth in his last season as coach.

Last year's captain rightly observed that the '93 XV is best regarded as quality claret, 'too young to be at its best, but full of potential for the future'. Certainly much of that potential was realised this season, and the success of the XV was underpinned by the commendable record of a strong 2nd XV built around a nucleus of old hands but also containing a number of players for the future; thus the 2nd XV was both able to

be successful in its own right and to serve its purpose in developing players new to senior rugby.

The spirit and attitude in the senior squad was excellent throughout the season, and this was in no small part due to Martin Griffiths, for whose efforts I am extremely grateful. Although his dress sense is highly questionable, his tactical ploys and surprise positional changes are unrivalled. Additional coaching input came from England 'A' and Harlequins coach Keith Richardson, although, judging by the current playing record of his club, we can only hope that he picked up a few tips from us!

Beyond the senior squad, the playing record of the Under 13s is outstanding and offers considerable grounds for optimism in the long term. Their season included a trip to Twickenham to watch England's demolition of Romania; such experience is an essential part of the young player's education, and one that I hope is never lost sight of by the RFU in their allocation of tickets for international rugby.

Elsewhere Rendcomb teams often found themselves struggling against physically larger opponents from schools with far greater strength in depth. Nowhere was this disparity more starkly illustrated than by the Under 14s, who were often reduced to a squad of little more than 15 fit men: no real selection problem perhaps, but another clear sign of the ongoing impact on rugby of the changing boy-girl ratio in the College. Seen in this light, the efforts of Paul Sykes and his team are highly commendable.

Another aspect of Mike Newby's legacy is a strong fixture list built around a number of 'blocks' against schools with far greater playing resources than Rendcomb. As it becomes increasingly difficult for us to compete realistically across the board in such blocks, our fixture list will have to evolve accordingly; indeed, this transition is already under way.

Despite this, or perhaps because of it, there was much to encourage beyond the playing records of the 1st, 2nd and U13 XVs. The U15s qualified for the semi-finals of the District Cup, as winners of their regional group, and lost by the narrowest of margins to the eventual winners. The 3rd and 4th XVs enjoyed their season and represented the College with great pride and commitment, and the 3rd XV were able to go into the Club Dinner heartened by a resounding and deserved victory in their final match.



Guest speaker at the dinner was Chris King (left)



Canada Tour party.

The dinner, another important part of the Newby legacy, again proved to be a memorable and hugely enjoyable occasion. The speeches were uniformly impressive, and Tony Winstone, Miles Brown, Patrick Boydell and John Morgan are to be congratulated for taking on their daunting tasks with such aplomb and maturity; the contribution made by this event to the development of individuals should not be underestimated. As guest speaker we were delighted to welcome back Chris King, who kindly agreed to 'come off the bench' as a late replacement for England player Jonathan Callard, who had an international commitment.

In conclusion, my thanks go to all those involved in rugby this season: to the club officers, to Patrick in particular and to all the players, to the groundsman David Essenhigh and his team - the pitches continue to be a credit to him and invariably prompt the envious admiration of visiting coaches - to Russell Riste and his team, to the faithful parents on the touch-line, and finally to my coaching colleagues, whose dedication and enthusiasm are so vital to the continued well-being of Rendcomb rugby.

M. S.

1st XV

At the end of last year, with the knowledge that we were losing players such as Itseng Kwelagobe and Christopher Lawton, it seemed that the next season was going to yield a much weaker side. However, this season has been a relatively successful one and, in general, the team has put together a lot of good performances.

We started off with a poor first game, against Bristol Cathedral, but as time went on we picked up speed and had an excellent first half of the season, with the exception of the Wycliffe game, where we came back from being 20 points down, only to let them score in the last 30 seconds.

The second half of the season also saw some bad games, notably against Sir Thomas Rich's; however, we also played some very good attacking rugby, managing to clock up 131 points in only three games. The season drew to a climax with the ORs' match,

which, as last year, produced some of the XV's best rugby.

The pack this year, although quite small, was equal to any other we played, what was lacking in sheer power being made up for by a great degree of skill. Its success was due to such players as Les White, Steve Jones and Francis Newcombe, who led by example with a lot of determination and perseverance. This is true of the whole pack, including Craig Marcham and Francis Barton, who, despite their hard work, managed to stay invisible to my eyes during every match. Rudi Dühmke also was a very welcome addition to the side and managed to win us an abundance of line-out ball as well as improving his all-round game considerably.

Behind the pack, Nick Carmichael played well all season, improving both his passing and, especially, his kicking; special mention must be given him as top scorer, with 125 points. He delivered a lot of very good, quick ball to the backs, which on more than one occasion enabled us to control the game. It also allowed our centres, John Morgan and Alex Tibbs, to run at the opposition with considerable success, especially John, who became the top try-scorer with 13.

On the wings Steven Croft and Fred Ingham were very reliable and showed good strength in both attack and defence, demonstrated by Steven's eager tackling and Freddy's nine tries. Ali Harris also had a good season, having adapted to full-back very well after Leighton Freeman's injury early in the season. His pace added a new and extremely effective dimension to the back-play, especially later in the season.

Overall, the season was, for us, a success, and it seems that the team was able to learn from its mistakes; we hope to put the experience gained to good use on the forthcoming tour in Canada.

The team thanks Mr Slark for doing such a brilliant job in taking over as 1st XV coach from Mr King, and thanks must go also to the 2nd XV and their captain, Miles Brown, for being so patient in all the practices.

PATRICK BOYDELL

✓ Bristol Cathedral School (A)	Lost	3-23
✓ Rednock School (A)	Won	52-0
✓ Kingswood School (H)	Won	23-13
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	20-25
✓ Bredon School (H)	Won	24-19
✓ Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	19-15
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	13-22
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	11-44
✓ Cirencester College (H)	Won	35-11
✓ Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	41-0
✓ Bearwood College (A)	Won	55-0
✓ Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Lost	22-24
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	13-36
✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	16-13
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society	Won	21-10

Burford seven-a-side Tournament: second place;
Points for 112; Points against 14



Team from: P. Boydell (Captain), L. White (Vice-Captain), S. Jones, S. Ismail, F. Newcombe, C. Marcham, F. Barton, R. Dühmke, W. Heaven, N. Carmichael, J. Morgan, A. Tibbs, S. Croft, F. Ingham, A. Harris, M. Adams, L. Freeman.

2nd XV

The season started off with an away win against Bristol Cathedral School. This came as no surprise to us. What did come as a bit of a surprise, though, was how well we played: we were rucking as a team which looked as though it had been playing together for years. This was impressive, as our forwards included a lot of the Fifth Form - James de Lisle Wells, Charles Webb, William Brittain-Jones, Andrew Donovan - all of whom will be great assets to the future of rugby at Rendcomb. It was this great handling of the ball, quick rucking and getting the ball to the backs that was the reason for our win.

We then lost our next match, against Farmor's 1st XV. This, however, did not dishearten any of us, and we went on to win against Kingswood. We then had another memorable win, against Dauntsey's. This was an amazing win, both for the 1st XV and for us, because for as long as people in our year can remember we have never been in a team that has beaten them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team for making this season an excellent one and especially Stephen Roney, a very reliable tight-head

prop, and Mark Wilks, our no 8, both of whom would play no matter how bad they felt, Steve Amey, our hooker, Ian Thompson and Chris Baker, an excellent partnership at scrum-half and fly-half and each pretty formidable on his own, Chris Jarrett, who had an excellent season playing at full-back for the first time, and Mr Griffiths, our coach, for his time and patience throughout the season.

MILES BROWN

Miles Brown was certainly an excellent captain, who helped mould together a team of mixed ages and experience; he understood how to make our rucking style of play work effectively and led his team to some impressive performances and some really notable victories. Also an excellent *rapport* developed between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XVs, and Miles and the other players are to be congratulated on their attitude; they were especially kind about each other's physical shape and ignored Mr Slark's contribution to this particular debate!

M. S. G.

Played 12; Won 7; Lost 5; Points for 253; Points against 125.

✓ Bristol Cathedral School (A)	Won	39-0
✓ Farmor's School 1st XV (H)	Lost	3-29
✓ Kingswood School (H)	Won	35-5
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	12-15
✓ Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	27-15
✓ Bredon School (A)	Won	30-0
✓ Marling School (H)	Won	38-0
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	5-15
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	3-9
✓ Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Won	29-5
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-32
✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	32-0

Team from: M. Brown (Captain), S. Amey, S. Roney, A. Donovan, C. Webb, J. de Lisle Wells, W. Brittain-Jones, M. Adams, M. Wilks, C. Baker, I. Thompson, P. Price, R. Hart, M. Garcia, C. Jarrett, R. H. M. Witchell, S. Croft, A. Körber, J. Wright, C. Barton.

U15 'A' XV

In the first week back at school we had our first fixture, against Bristol Cathedral School, so a team had to be put together. This proved to be a hard match, as our fitness and organisation were not very good.

After the match positions were changed. Sebastian Grey was moved from scrum half to become a very successful winger; Tristan Sharmann moved to scrum-half from fly-half and Tim Hill moved to fly-half. These new positions improved our game, although unfortunately we narrowly lost the next one.

Our first win came against Wycliffe; everything we practised worked to plan. The next match, against Kingswood, was the low point of the season, our opponents taking advantage of our mistakes.



Tristan Sharman receives the Trophy on behalf of the U15 XV.

Our first Stroud District Cup matches were against Farmor's and Deer Park, both of which we won decisively. These wins meant that we had won the Northern League, as Sir William Romney's withdrew. In the semi-finals we played Wycliffe again; everyone played his hardest, but we narrowly lost. Wycliffe eventually shared the cup with Marling in a drawn final.

The front five were solid and gave the backs some good possession from rucks and mauls. Our back row consisted of Luke Weston, James Gibbs and Jake Hawkins, who were a very potent attacking force.

Behind the scrum the half-backs, Tristan Sharman and Tim Hill, linked well together; a mention must be made of Tim Hill for his improved tactical and place kicking.

The centres, Chris Scarth and Mark Sutton, combined well, with Chris making the incisive run and Mark using his speed to set up men outside him. Sebastian Grey played left-wing until he injured his arm and Toby Abbott took his place until he was fit again. Andy Jarrett and Toby Abbott both ably filled the right-wing position, both being aggressive tacklers.

Rupert Webb played full-back. As he was relatively new to this position, it took him time to adjust, but he improved greatly.

The high point of the season was the last match, against Kingham Hill. They started well and went into half-time leading ten points to nil. In the second half they went further into the lead, but we brought the score back to 15-17, and in the last few minutes Tim Hill kicked a penalty to take the score to 18-17. Everyone played exceptionally well in this match, and this result showed the strength and commitment of the whole team, bringing a good conclusion to a hard season.

Finally, thanks must go to Dr Haslett and Mr Williams for their time and encouragement throughout the season.



Played 15; Won 6; Lost 9; Points for 199; Points against 268.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Lost	5-32
v Rednock School (A)	Lost	10-23
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-32
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won	17-14
v Farmor's School (A)	Won	22-7
v Cirencester School (H)	Won	27-0
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-46
v Bredon School (H)	Won	34-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	10-15
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	5-12
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	5-12
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	36-17
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Lost	10-15
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-26
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	18-17

Team from: T. Sharman (Captain), T. Abbott, O. Blackwell, P. de Havilland Hall, J. Garland, J. Gibbs, S. Grey, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Holliday, A. Jarrett, J. Keith, C. Perry, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, E. Turvill, R. Webb.

U15 'B' XV

The squad enjoyed their rugby and performed well at full strength. There is much potential in this group for senior rugby in due course. Each of the three matches played was quite different in character.

Away at Kingswood we controlled the game from the outset and ran out deserved winners. At home to Wycliffe we had to battle hard for a share of the spoils and levelled the score in the last minute after a terrific struggle against much bigger opposition.

We were outplayed at Magdalen, as we put out our weakest team of the term, owing to injuries in the 'A' XV.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of coaching the group and I thank all concerned for their help in making it so worthwhile.

J. G. W.

Played 3; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 1; Points for 15; Points against 51.

v Kingswood School (A)	Won	10-5
v Wycliffe College (H)	Drew	5-5
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-41

Team from: C. Holliday (Captain), O. Blackwell, H. Davies, J. Davis, E. Forster, J. Fox, J. Freeman, B. Frost, J. Garland, R. Histed, D. Hughes, A. Jarrett, S. Maylott, A. Morton, C. Perry, O. Standley, S. Webb, D. Williams.

U14 XV

The rugby season started off with a group of people thrust together in a team. There were not enough people for two teams, so there was just the one U14 XV.

In the first week of term we had our first game and, with a 0-17 score to our opponents, we clearly needed some more practice.

We had a lot of time to practise for our next match, and we made the most of it. Even though we did not win the next three matches, we were improving as a team, and Ian Forster was making good progress, not only with his work as a back, but also with his kicking.

Our fifth match, however, was against a rather weak side, and we had our first win, 26-0.

As the season progressed, so did the team. We were all becoming a much better side and we were gaining a high level of skill and commitment. Even though there were some injuries, the players stuck at it and did not give up.

I think that our only problem was that we were not quite as big and strong as the opposing sides, and as we become older we will start to win more and more matches.

JOHN SHENTON

Played 12; Won 3; Lost 9; Points for 79; Points against 237.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Lost	0-17
v Rednock School (A)	Lost	7-22
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-40
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-14
v Farmor's School (A)	Won	26-0
v The Crypt School (H)	Lost	7-17
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-47
v Bredon School (H)	Lost	3-19
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	10-0
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	12-22
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	14-10
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Lost	0-29

Team from: J. Shenton (Captain), P. Webb, J. Starkey, H. Aldrich-Blake, Y. Kang, B. Butler, T. Gilbert, E. Compton, R. Histed, C. Smith, T. Berry, D. Ashby, D. Morris, I. Forster, Y. Takanashi, J. Pelly, S. Maylott, N. Stanfield.

U13 XV's

The record perfectly reflects the potential talent of the squad! From day 1, as the coaching team of MJN, MHG and 'New-Old Boy' ASB eyed the budding 'Will Carlings' racing round the furthest parts of Top Fields - 38 players and 19 balls in motion - we knew it was going to be a fine season!

The obvious sporting ability of the Second Form gave us the nucleus of a good side; although this made it hard for the new boys to make their mark, all the First Form rose to the occasion, making every position in the side the object of keen competition. This not only helped to create a positive attitude to all practices but meant that the performance levels of all individuals, and therefore of the team as a whole, developed rapidly. This feature was clearly evident in the 'B' team's last match of the season, against an experienced Dean

Close: although they had allowed the opposition to take the lead, they suddenly began to believe in themselves and, with a gritty team performance, played with passion and pace; where raw Rendcomb talent blended with improved unit skills both in the pack and in the backs, they came back so effectively as to win deservedly - a thoroughly exciting performance to complete the season.

The 'A's were as impressive a rugby side as we had ever seen and, with a full fixture list, they had ample opportunity to display their talents. Although size-wise the forwards were usually outgunned, their superior technical efficiency in both set-piece and loose play, allied to a real commitment and cohesion as a unit, meant that they rarely came off second-best. The front-row combination of Monk, Mais and Dolleymore was rock solid; in the 'power-house' Cox and Hall provided size and real power, while the back-row of Jeffcott, Newby and Warrington tackled, supported and rucked with conviction. One impressive feature of the forwards was their ability to run and handle the ball, supporting each other in open play and always crossing the gainline; then, if halted, they could always recycle the ball with speed and quality. This latter point meant that Witchell, a tough scrum-half with an ever-improving delivery, could set the backs in motion, with Sharman, a young man of enormous potential and another fine product of the Cirencester Mini-Rugby Club, providing the experience, skill and pace to make that vital link between scrum-half and the other backs.

Day and Garcia were fast, straight-running centres, the latter gaining a reputation on the circuit for his uncompromising, bone-crushing tackles. Sage and Lait showed good speed and courage on the wings, while at full-back 'young Mr Williams' not only proved solid in defence, while providing a surge of genuine pace in attack, but also stunned everyone with his textbook kicking style, scoring with many impressive conversions from the touch-line. The backs proved an exciting unit with ball-handling skills, confidence and speed in abundance; these qualities, coupled with half a dozen well-practised and clinically executed moves, enabled them to play some delightful running rugby and score many fine tries.

The captains rightly deserve credit: David Newby for the 'A' team and Sebastian Bagnall for the 'B' both were efficient and reliable off the pitch, while on the park their ability and attitude meant that they always led from the front, helping to develop a positive and committed approach to the game in all members of the squad.

One event that was fully enjoyed by all the group was a trip up to 'HQ' to watch the England team convincingly demolish the visiting Romanian side; for many of the boys it was their first visit to Twickenham, and so the colour, noise and atmosphere, as well as the running rugby, with Underwood and Guscott scoring not more than 10 metres away from us, made it a most memorable trip.

Finally, may we thank all the Junior House lads



making it a most successful and memorable season.

M. J. N. / M. H. G. / A. S. B.

‘A’ XV

Played 11; Won 9; Lost 2; Points for 372; Points against 139.

v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	36-0
v Rednock School (H)	Won	42-10
v Farmor’s School (H)	Won	17-5
v The Crypt School U13 ‘A/B’ XV (H)	Won	33-22
v Dauntsey’s School (A)	Lost	17-39
v Bredon School (H)	Won	48-10
v The King’s School, Gloucester (H)	Won	25-5
v Dean Close Junior School 1st XV	Lost	9-24
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	42-7
v Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XV (H)	Won	48-5
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	55-12

Team from: D. Newby (Captain), S. Bagnall, L. Barton, R. Collinson, B. Cox, T. Day, A. Dolleymore, C. Garcia, N. Hall, O. Jeffcott, O. Jones, T. Mais, D. Monk, D. Riddle, A. Sage, W. Warrington, M. Williams, W. Witchell.

‘B’ XV

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Points for 27; Points against 61.

v Rednock School (H)	Lost	7-17
v Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XV (A)	Lost	0-37
v Dean Close Junior School 2nd XV	Won	20-7

Team from: S. Bagnall (Captain), L. Barton, P. Bongiovanni, N. Bowyer, R. Collinson, O. Jones, D. MacCurrach, R. Moor, O. Morris, M. Neale, B. Newton, R. Nicholas, D. Riddle, B. Stanfield, L. Tyler, R. Uzzell.

Boys’ Hockey

Boys’ hockey in 1995 will be remembered for many different reasons, but two aspects stand out in

particular. First, the quality and determination of the players, including the 4th XI, which was often remarked upon by staff and spectators alike, led to real team spirit and commendable conclusions. Secondly, several teams which had not been expected to perform exceptionally well defied predictions and produced impressive records.

Despite the long periods of heavy rain which caused so much flooding in the country, very few matches or practices were cancelled. The pitch next to the Wilderness (W1) no longer suffers from the effects of rugby played in the previous term, so there are now three pitches used exclusively for hockey. The two junior pitches beyond the first cricket square were made into one senior pitch, and the juniors played on the far two pitches, affectionately referred to as Siberia! Happily, the pitches did not suffer from the reorganisation of the Grounds and Maintenance departments, and David Essenhigh’s team must be congratulated on their quality.

Andy Branston and Phil Moore, both Old Rendcombians, helped out with coaching and umpiring, the former significantly advancing the skill and confidence of the goal-keepers. Certainly fewer goals were let in than in previous seasons.

The Astroturf at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester continues to be used for coaching and for the occasional match, and it is fair to say that most teams adapted well to the different surfaces encountered during the season.

With John Watson involved in county hockey, more feedback than usual was received about our representatives, namely Harvey Davies (U15), Ian Forster and David Ashby (U14), and William Warrington and Jin Kang (U13). On one occasion William, playing for Gloucestershire, met his teammate Sebastian Bagnall, who was playing for Warwickshire.

Coaching the juniors did not allow me to see many other teams, but I did umpire a 3rd XI match and I managed to watch parts of several 1st XI matches. I was impressed by the commitment, the communication and the general level of play, reflecting the dedication to the game of pupils and coaches alike.

A. J. W.

1st XI

The 1st XI coach, drawn into pre-Christmas speculation on his team's prospects for the coming season, was less than enthusiastic and wondered where he would find an adequate defence. No one could really have forecast that the eleven would do so well, and the deepest source of satisfaction from so successful a season has been how unexpected it all was.

This was perhaps the first Rendcomb team more at ease on Astroturf than on grass, competing with the opposition in terms of skill as well as determination. Only in the Dean Close match were we up against a team with superior stick-work - some of the best I have ever seen from schoolboys - but we were able to counter this through dogged defence and speed on the break.

Despite the quality of the hockey and the excellence of the results, we did lack consistency, however, and perhaps overall gained more than we deserved, particularly against Kingswood; such good fortune evens itself out over the years. The best performances came in thoroughly outplaying Cheltenham College 2nd XI, in leading Dean Close by two goals and refusing to lie down even when they equalised, and in matching Cirencester Hockey Club goal for goal in a thrilling end-of-season encounter. The only defeat by another school came through a breakaway goal right at the end of a physically demanding match against Colston's.

The team remained settled throughout the term, and only 13 players in total were used, fewer than in most other seasons; it helped to create confidence and loyalty on and off the pitch. Stephen Jones held off any challenge to his position with a series of fine displays in goal, marred only by the occasional lapse in concentration. The security of the defence, so much in doubt at the start of the term, was built on mobility. Stephen Amey, Ian Thompson and Steven Croft had the pace to cover up any mistakes in their positional play, and their tackling and interceptions were usually excellent. Steven Croft was the most improved player of the season, with a series of outstanding performances. Charles Webb was unlucky to be injured just as he was claiming a place in the team, but he was able to gain further experience later in the term. Christopher Jarrett had looked as though he would miss out on a selection, but he managed to discover the right attitude and commitment at exactly the right time for the team's needs; he defended well and gave us more attacking options. Christopher Baker took some time to settle into the positional demands of the centre-half role, but his confidence grew, and he has all the necessary skills.

Amongst the forwards Patrick Boydell had a superb season at inside-right, fit enough and with the talent and vision to take apart opposition defences. On the left Alexander Tibbs and Stephen Roney formed a useful and flexible partnership, with Tibbs's neat touches complimented by Roney's forceful



play. **Nicholas Carmichael** (*left*), having had to wait a year for his chance, wasted no time in hitting the target at every opportunity - 23 goals in 14 games, including some spectacular examples. Perhaps the two he scored to rescue us against Kingswood will linger longest in the memory. Finally, John Morgan, on the right wing, visibly grew in confidence and stature, both as a player and as captain, once his team were doing so well for him. Our success usually depended on good progress down the right by him and Patrick Boydell, particularly on a quick break, as the Dean Close game was to demonstrate.

So it was an unexpectedly prosperous season, and I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of all the players who made it possible. Perhaps they did moan at each other at times, but only in their anxiety to get things right; overall the team spirit was excellent - and so it should be. They practised hard, even though our short corner routine never seemed to benefit!

Real gain was in the ability to play a close passing game and retain possession of the ball, not necessarily something that Rendcomb has been noted for in the past. Despite all the play on Astroturf, we did give the grass pitch a harder time this year, using it in some fairly marginal weather conditions. I am grateful to David Essenhigh and his ground-staff for their restoration work.

Arranging a complete fixture list for the 1st XI was a nightmare job this year, and I am most grateful also to Chris Wood for his success in putting together such a full programme. Another year I might have been cursing him.

H. M.

Played 14; Won 8; Drew 4; Lost 2. Goals for 35; Goals against 19.

✓ Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Won	2-1
✓ Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Lost	0-1
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	3-2
✓ Christs' College, Brecon (H)	Won	1-0
✓ Cheltenham HC (H)	Won	3-2
✓ Kingswood School (H)	Drew	2-2
✓ Dean Close School (H)	Drew	2-2
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	3-1
✓ Swindon New College	Drew	2-2
✓ Bournside School (A)	Won	4-0
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	0-2

v Cirencester HC (A)	Drew	3-3
v The Crypt School (A)	Won	5-0
v Sedbergh School (H)	Won	5-1

Team from: J. Morgan (Captain), S. Amey, C. Baker, P. Boydell, N. Carmichael, S. Croft, C. Jarrett, S. Jones, D. Newcombe, S. Roney, I. Thompson, A. Tibbs, C. Webb.

2nd XI

At the start of term I knew the 2nd team was going to be quite a young side, and, true enough, it was, with only four players coming from the top year. However, what our team lacked in senior-level experience we made up in effort. Now all we needed to sort out was good team-play; we gelled together quickly and when we played as a team it looked good. I feel that this was something to be proud of, because most of us had not played together before.

At the back we had, I feel, a very good defence, with 'Harry' Newcombe consistently good in goal. Adam King was a good tackler and always ready to support. Francis Barton was the most experienced 2nd XI player and showed it most of the time with some excellent marking. Richard Witchell and Charlie Barton were good halves, and I have to say that Richard was one of the surprises of the season, good in defence and attack. Charlie constantly worked hard and became an intelligent distributor of the ball.

In attack we had some good goal-scoring talent, with Ali Harris being a really excellent right-wing: we knew that if we got the ball to him he would get it to the other team's goal area. Leighton Freeman and Adam Simpkin were brilliant insides, with Leighton linking well and Adam showing some really good ball skills and scoring some excellent goals, as the team's highest scorer. Andrew Donovan did some good plays up the left wing, and finally Mark Wilks, who showed a lot of skill off the ball by running wide and drawing defenders, with his effort and foresight helped to set up some good goals for other players.

I must not leave out Chris Jarrett, whose skills were top-class before he betrayed us and went to play for the 1st XI. Also, I must thank the third-team players who helped us in a few matches.

Overall, I thought this was a very positive and hardworking team, as proved by the successful season and some of the excellent wins after losing or drawing a match.

Examples of this are the Pate's match, after losing to a good Cheltenham College side at the start of the season, and the Burford match after a hard-fought draw with a King's side, a better result than we expected. In both these matches the players went out thinking positively and showed their character by helping each other and playing well.

I would just like to say that I am pleased to have played with such a good team, and on their behalf I thank Mr Griffiths for his coaching and support.

LESLIE WHITE

Les White forgets to mention the vital role he played in the team's success. He was a firm, no-nonsense, hardworking defender who set an example to the team; as captain, he was reliable and honest and always found ways to motivate his players.

M. S. G.

Played 11; Won 6; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 25; Goals against 12.

v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	0-2
v Pate's Grammar School (H)	Won	7-0
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Won	2-0
v The King's School Gloucester (A)	Drew	1-1
v Christ's College, Brecon (H)	Won	3-0
v Kingswood School (H)	Won	2-1
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	1-1
v Burford School (H)	Won	5-1
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	0-3
v Marling School (H)	Won	4-1

Team from: L. White (Captain), C. Jarrett, F. Newcombe, A. King, F. Barton, R. Witchell, C. Barton, A. Simpkin, L. Freeman, A. Donovan, M. Wilks, A. Harris, P. Price, C. Marcham.

U15 'A' XI

The record of losing only one match in nine games showed the skill and commitment of the team. Both practices and matches were characterised by enthusiasm and energy which was most refreshing.

Torrential rain immediately before the first match reduced the pitch to puddles in places, but team-work and thoughtful attacks gave the team a 3-0 victory over Prince Henry's.

Great character was demonstrated against a strong Cheltenham College side. While outclassed for skill, every player worked hard in his allotted role, and the team had every opportunity to square the match.

After two goals in the first match, Tim Hill scored the only goal against Colston's, proving himself to be a precise finisher in front of goal. The team created many chances in the game, with capable performances at right-half and left-half by Chris Scarth and Ashley Taylor respectively. An equaliser, though, in the closing minutes denied the side what would have been a deserved victory.

Chris Scarth more than ably deputised as captain against Oxstall's and worked tirelessly at inside-right. A clean strike at a penalty corner by Rupert Webb and a fine centre-forward's goal by Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul were the pick of the goals in a comprehensive 4-1 win.

Harvey Davies returned at centre-half and, as captain against Dean Close, he gave a powerful lead to the side. Both sides looked skilled between the 25s, but they lacked the punch to score goals. This fact and committed goal-keeping by Toby Abbott produced the 0-0 score line which reflected the evenly matched game.

Considerable dominance was shown in the Brecon match, but despite some well directed and powerful centres from Sebastian Grey on the right wing, only one goal was scored.

Playing away on a dry shale pitch at Kingswood the team deservedly won 2-1, defeating a Kingswood side that had not lost for a season and a half. Tireless running and deft skills by James Gibbs on the left wing and solid, decisive play by Sam Maylott at sweeper were crucial ingredients in the team's success. However, it was Harvey Davies, with two ruthless dashes of brilliance, who scored both goals. For one goal he beat a defender and the goal-keeper to place it coolly in the net; the other was a ferociously struck short corner which was deflected into the roof of the net.

The best of the four goals against Marling came when Rupert Webb ran behind the defence onto a weighted pass to place the ball unerringly past the advancing keeper.

Jake Hawkins, the 'unsung hero' of the side, cramped the progress of every centre-forward he played against and was influential in defence against King's, Gloucester. Four well-taken goals secured the match, but the fifth 'Mars Bar' goal proved elusive despite feverish activity in the final ten minutes.

This was a fine side, whose members will successfully contribute to senior hockey for several seasons. Sharp in both wit and talent, the side conceded only 5 goals while scoring 19. I have thoroughly enjoyed their competitiveness and appetite for the game.

J. P. W.

Played 9; Won 6; Drew 2; Lost 1; Goals for 19; Goals against 5.

v Prince Henry's High School (H)	Won	3-0
v Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	0-2
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Drew	1-1
v Oxstall's Community School (A)	Won	4-1
v Christ's College, Brecon (H)	Won	1-0
v Kingswood School (A)	Won	2-1
v Dean Close School (A)	Drew	0-0
v Marling School (A)	Won	4-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	4-0

Team from: H. Davies (Captain), T. Abbott, S. Maylott, C. Scarth, J. Hawkins, A. Taylor, R. Webb, T. Hill, S. Grey, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Gibbs, J. Davis.

U15 'B' XI

It was not a season to make one rewrite any record books, yet this screens the effort and very positive atmosphere in this talented team.

The leadership shown by the captain, Philip de Havilland Hall, and vice-captain Charles Perry was quite evidently an asset for the team as a whole, and I congratulate them for this.

The defence line-up proved to be quite effective,

even against some very skilful Astroturf-trained sides, yet mistakes did allow some runaway goals.

In mid-field the ball distribution certainly improved during the season, with some well drilled moves invariably initiated by Edward Turvill, who proved to be a real pivot in both attack and defence.

The forward squad certainly demonstrated the ability to penetrate well organised opposition, too often, however, failing to convert the chances made. Some delightful hockey came from Jonathan Davis on the right wing, a very competent player feeding the forwards on numerous occasions. Invariably the goals came from a combined effort by Chas Holliday, Nicholas Ridley and Tristan Sharman, with Andrew Jarrett always working hard on the left wing.

Our final goal tally put us in credit, so on paper also this is a successful side. I look forward to seeing them progress to the senior sides next season.

J. H. S.

In general the whole team played well, but mainly in attack and on the right wing, where Mark Sutton and Jonathan Davis worked very well together. Jonathan was a great asset to the team, his skill helping us a lot in attack.

We were quite strong also in defence, but our main vice was not getting back in time to stop some runaway goals. Edward Turvill was a good defender, who showed a lot of talent in tackling and is able to hit the ball well and clear it properly.

PHILIP DE HAVILLAND HALL

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2; Goals for 10; Goals against 8

v Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v Kingswood School (A)	Won	3-1
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-6
v The Crypt School (H)	Won	6-0

Team from: P. de Havilland Hall (Captain), C. Perry (Vice-Captain), A. Morton, O. Blackwell, J. Keith, E. Turvill, M. Sutton, R. Histed, C. Holliday, J. Davis, A. Jarrett, N. Ridley, T. Sharman.

U14 XIs

The season started in impressive vein, helped by kind weather, which meant that from the first week we were able to practise 'Up Top'; during this period there were good performances against solid teams, with the Rendcomb side justifiably notching up wins or draws. Dean Close and King Edward's again proved much better teams, benefiting from a wider field of selection and from using Astroturf for their practice and matches.

The team, on paper, had potential, but a combination of injuries and long-term medical problems considerably depleted the size of the squad in what was already a year-group of low numbers. This was compounded by the fact that the matches that were cancelled were all easier fixtures and did not therefore help the overall playing record.

Unfortunately the lack of numbers prevented us from running a 'B' XI, though on three occasions we fielded an 'A/B' side, 'picking from the bottom' and using U13 players; they were well-fought matches and just reward for the efforts and commitment throughout the season of the non-'A' XI players.

All members of the 'A' side played with real determination, commitment and energy, whether in practice or matches; consequently both individual and team skills improved considerably over the season. The other impressive feature of the group was the fact that they never gave up: no matter what the score or what pressures they were under, they always fought on to the final whistle.

Butler, as goal-keeper, proved a difficult customer for most attackers, having size, speed, a sharp eye and bags of courage. The full-backs, Webb, Asami and Gilbert improved as the season went on, particularly the last, who developed a formidable hit and, as confidence grew, learned to assess the situation in front of him and to conduct the defence accordingly.

The right and left halves, Morris and Ashby respectively, marked their men with aggression and proved a handful for most of their opponents, while being able to join in the attack to great effect. The central mid-field men, Aldrich-Blake and Forster, showed different strengths but combined well; both demonstrated some fine stick-work, the crisp, powerful hit of the former being described by an opposing coach as 'awesome!', while the speed and strength of the latter proved so instrumental in many of our goals. Stanfield and Shenton showed speed, good stick-work and accurate crosses as wingers, while strikers Starkey and Smith were aggressive and sharp in their shooting.

Ian Forster deserves special mention as captain, showing efficiency and leadership both on and off the pitch, while developing an impressive ability to read the game and direct his troops accordingly.

Finally, I have no doubt that, with better luck next year in terms of injuries and cancellations, they will have greater success all round and a better record; I wish them well next season and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players for such an enjoyable term.

M. J. N.

'A' XI

Played 8; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 4; Goals for 13; Goals against 22.

v Prince Henry's High School (H)	Won	4-2
v Cheltenham College 'B' XI	Drew	1-1
v Oxstall's Community School (A)	Won	4-1
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Drew	3-3
v King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Lost	0-2
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost	1-2
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-9
v Cheltenham College Junior School (A)	Lost	0-2

'A/B' XI

Played 3; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 1; Goals for 4; Goals against 3.

v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-3
v The Crypt School (H)	Won	4-0
v Cheltenham College Junior School 2nd XI (H)	Drew	0-0

Teams from: I. Forster (Captain), H. Aldrich-Blake (Vice-Captain), Y. Asami, D. Ashby, T. Berry, B. Butler, E. Compton, R. Edmondson, T. Gilbert, D. Morris, J. Shenton, C. Smith, N. Stanfield, J. Starkey, P. Webb, M. Woodward.

Junior Boys' Hockey

The boys of the Second, First and Lower First Forms were split into two games, one for learning the skills of the game and the other for development of skills and match play. Mrs Joan Newby and Mr Max Chase provided endless help and encouragement in the learners' group, and the fruits of their labours were the number of boys feeding into the U13 'B' XI and, in one case, into the 'A' XI.

Much of the hard work was done on Top Field and on the Astroturf in Cirencester, but it was always appreciated when practices were held on the relatively sheltered Sinclair Field.

U13 'A' XI

It was fortunate that many of the team had played 'A' hockey in the previous season, and the newcomers from Oakley Hall allowed greater choice. Everyone worked hard at personal skills, and Yuki Takanashi was an example to all. He started the season with no experience of hockey and transformed himself from a rather dangerous 'learner' into an effective right-wing, just displacing Matthew Williams, who had provided useful service in his matches.

Support play was a little slow in appearing, but Andrew Sage demonstrated this energetically on the left, whilst Carlos Garcia and Tristan Day worked elsewhere. Tristan was captain for most matches, and he must be proud to have led an unbeaten team.

This does not include the **Gloucestershire Mini-Tournament at Cheltenham College**, which was





David Newby on the ball in the tournament.

poorly supported by schools: the seven-a-side games are played across half of a full-size pitch, and there is no off-side. Rendcomb won two, drew one and lost two games, but the experience of coping with strong sides like Cheltenham Hockey Club proved very useful for normal school matches.

Nick Hall, Freddie Lait, David Monk, William Witchell, Carlos Garcia and Tristan Day all took turns at the back in a defence which was never water-tight, hence the need for a centre-back, but it was David Monk who proved to be the best all-rounder, with his improved agility and sense of timing. The three goalkeepers in the second year were very keen and improved noticeably during the 11 weeks. Andrew Dolleymore and Daniel Riddle played in the tournament and were always prepared to help out at U14 level, whilst Jin Kang was the regular keeper for the team. He made some extraordinary saves, such as the full-length dive and stick save in the last match at Cheltenham, and let in remarkably few goals.

The forwards were always hungry to score goals, although it was not until the King's match that they realised the use of a subtle flick instead of the usual 'wind-up' hit with its inherent inaccuracy. Sebastian Bagnall and William Warrington both hit the ball hard and cleanly, scoring most of the goals between them and creating many chances with their stick-work. Dominic Sharman showed outstanding ability on the left, often beating his marker and reaching the circle; happily, he will be eligible to play next season. David Newby gave some superb passes as a forward and took his chances well.

This side must be the most successful junior team for some years, and they were certainly enjoyable to coach. On many occasions during matches a player would suddenly use a skill which had been practised *ad nauseam* several weeks before. That is what it is all about!

C. J. W.

Played 8; Won 5; Drew 3; Goals for 14; Goals against 3.

v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Drew	0-0
v Christ's College, Brecon (A)	Drew	1-1
v Dean Close Junior School 2nd XI	Won	1-0
v Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI (A)	Drew	0-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	4-1
v The Downs School 1 st XI (A)	Won	1-0

v The Crypt School (H)	Won	6-1
v Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XI (A)	Won	1-0

Team from: T. Day (Captain), D. Sharman, W. Warrington, S. Bagnall, D. Newby, M. Williams, Y. Takanashi, A. Sage, C. Garcia, W. Witchell, F. Lait, N. Hall, D. Monk, J. Kang, D. Riddle, A. Dolleymore.

U13 'B' XI

Despite the high rainfall levels in the early stages of the term, most of the matches were played, and consequently the standard of individual and team skills increased dramatically throughout the season.

In virtually all matches the XI played with commitment and produced impressive hockey, good defensive work was done by Freddie Lait, Dean Armstrong-Wilde and Tom Mais, helping the goalkeepers Andrew Dolleymore and Dan Riddle. A special mention must be made of Dan, who under continuous pressure gave a magnificent performance against Dean Close.

Each player in the squad performed with enthusiasm and spirit, and they developed into one of the best 'B' teams for many years.

Finally, I would like to thank Edward Farnsworth for the excellent way in which he led his team, Ben Cox for supporting him, and the group as a whole for their co-operation and spirit both on and off the field, which made the season enjoyable for me, and I hope for them.

J. M. N.

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3; Goals for 10; Goals against 8.

v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Lost	0-4
v Dean Close Junior School 3rd XI	Lost	0-1
v The Downs School 2nd XI (A)	Won	4-0
v The Crypt School (H)	Won	5-1
v Cheltenham College Junior School 5th XI (A)	Lost	1-2

Team from: E. Farnsworth (Captain), T. Mais, O. Jeffcott, B. Newton, Y. Takanashi, B. Cox, D. Armstrong-Wilde, M. Williams, L. Barton, R. Collinson, D. Newby, W. Witchell, D. Riddle, A. Dolleymore, O. Jones, D. Sharman, P. Bongiovanni, B. Stanfield, F. Lait, M. Neale, N. Bowyer.

Girls' Hockey

The senior game consisted of girls in their fourth year and above, who regularly practised in the Christmas term on the Royal Agricultural College's Astroturf on Mondays and at Rendcomb on Wednesdays. Although the girls were given a free choice of sports on Saturdays, if there were no matches most opted to play hockey, typifying their positive approach to the game throughout the season. Coaching was provided by Messrs Morgan, Wood and Essenhigh, who were most

1st XI match.



encouraged by the many cases of improved personal skills and better team performances. The only real disappointment of the season was the poor level of fitness of many individuals, which resulted in unsuccessful competition for the ball in open play.

All goal-keepers received expert coaching from Andrew Branston, an Old Rendcombian who plays for Cheltenham Hockey Club 1st XI; they were most inspired by his enthusiasm and guidance, and it was good to hear so many reports about very good goalkeeping towards the end of the season.

The annual hockey club dinner was held at the Thames Head Inn, where the senior girls had a most enjoyable evening.

1st XI

Karen Pearce and Annabel Howard joined last year's forward line to make a good attacking combination, which developed well, particularly on good surfaces. Annabel Howard and Janet Pearce - both fourth-year girls - and Lucy Peters proved to be hard hitters of the ball, often beating goal-keepers, whilst Vicki Dühmke and Karen Pearce were most effective and sometimes quick on reasonably well-used wings.

Annabel lies moved up to centre-half, she captaining the side from there, although she had played magnificently at back in a difficult game against a well organised Cheltenham College side. It was in this game that Jenny Mais, a new third-year girl, was drafted in owing to several absences, and it was certainly a 'baptism by fire'. This experience served her well when she represented the school at other levels.

The new halves, Rebecca Gee and Katherine Bagshawe, were both very mobile and able to take the ball forward. Their positional play improved enormously during the term, and they will be key defenders next year.

Imogen Cox and Charlotte Edwards tackled reliably at the back, and they worked well in combination with the goal-keeper, Suzie Fletcher, who was fearless and often skilful in her defence of goal.

Since many of the team will be here next year, it should be possible to reach another level of hockey, and we look forward to this development.

Played 11; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 4; Goals for 17; Goals against 20.

Christmas Term

v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	0-5
v St Clotilde's Convent School (H)	Won	2-0
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-5
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	1-1
v Chosen Hill School (A)	Won	3-1
v Westonbirt School (A)	Won	4-2
v The Cotswold School (H)	Won	2-0
v The King's School, Bruton (H)	Drew	0-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	1-2

Lent Term

v Westonbirt School (A)	Won	2-1
v The Cotswold School (A)	Lost	2-3

Team from: A. Iles (Captain), S. Fletcher, L. Peters, B. Edwards, V. Dühmke, J. Pearce, K. Pearce, A. Howard, K. Bagshawe, R. Gee, I. Cox, J. Mais, A. Jenson.

2nd XI

The results really say everything. A young, inexperienced team was unable to put moves together over the length of a pitch and rarely entered the opposition's circle. Despite this, they played with great spirit and defended with determination. Poppy Smith's illness was a blow to the side, but Anna Jenson improved so much that she became a reserve for the 1st XI and she was able to play in most positions, although she looked most impressive as a back. The regular goalkeeper, Rowan Renow-Clarke, always had a lot to do, and she took her job very seriously, often making brave and dynamic saves.

Played 5; Lost 5; Goals for 0; Goals against 13.

v Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	0-3
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	0-2
v Cirencester College (H)	Lost	0-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	0-2

Team from: S. Lucas (Captain), H. Madge (Captain), A. Depauw, H. Gowers, T. Eylmann, P. Smith, A. Jenson, R. Renow-Clarke, F. Gerry, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, B. Mann, J. Mais, G. Leathart, L. Donovan, C. Harrison, S. Collier, I. Waldburg, V. Weiershauser, H. Nicholls, A. Kerton, K. Nicholas.



U16 XI

Fortunately most of their matches took place when the 1st XI was not playing, because four key players played regularly for both teams. This was a team that always seemed to gel, despite changes in the line-up, and its successes were well deserved.

Played 4; Won 3; Drew 1; Goals for 11; Goals against 2.

v Kingshill School (A)	Won	5-0
v Grittleton House School (A)	Won	5-2
v The Cotswold School (H)	Drew	0-0
v Chosen Hill School (A)	Won	1-0

Team from: I. Cox (Captain), A. Jenson (Captain), K. Bagshawe, A. Howard, J. Pearce, P. Smith, B. Mann, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, H. Nicholls, F. Gerry, J. Mais, K. Nicholas, L. Donovan, G. Leathart, C. Kerton, Y. Haneda, E. Banwell, R. Renow-Clarke.

H. M. /C. J. W. /D. E.

U15 XI

With just three matches and a nucleus of only four girls in their fourth year, the U15 team managed to play some commendable hockey. Different players from the third year were used in each match, and individual performances were needed, owing to lack of teamwork. However, there was no lack of team-spirit or

effort, despite the team's not being a regular side or regularly practising together.
Played 3; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 1; Goals against 3.

v St Clotilde's Convent School (H)	Lost	0-1
v Kingham Hills School (A)	Drew	0-0
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	1-2

Team from: R. Renow-Clarke (Captain), A. Chaiwatansirikul, F. Gerry, B. Mann, K. Nicholas, G. Leathart, S. Brown, E. Banwell, Y. Haneda, N. Kusano, J. Mais, P. Hunt, B. McKelvie, C. Kerton, T. Sleggs, L. Donovan.

Junior Girls' Hockey

For the first time the junior girls had a full fixture list and, with three new members of staff, there was much to look forward to at the start of term. The increase in the number of girls now allows us to field U14 and U13 teams on the same day. Many girls joined us having played some hockey, and a few were complete beginners. Whatever their standard, all the girls have worked enthusiastically and have shown improvement in their personal skills.

U14 XI

It was an excellent season. The U14 XI won all its matches and shows much potential for the future. The two matches which will be remembered are the one against King's, Gloucester, when we changed round 0-1 down, to play up the pitch on Sinclair Field and went on to win 2-1. The team showed a lot of character and determination to win this game, and the other match was the final one of the term, against Kingham Hill. In this match the team played its best hockey; it was a fine team performance, deserving more than the four goals scored.

Played 4; Won 4; Goals for 11; Goals against 2.

v Kingshill School (A)	Won	3-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-1
v Chosen Hill School (A)	Won	2-1
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	4-0

Team from: K. Nicholas, G. Leathart, S. Brown, E. Banwell, Y. Haneda, N. Kusano, J. Mais, P. Hunt, B. McKelvie, C. Kerton, T. Sleggs, L. Donovan.

U13 XI

The U13 XI had an enjoyable season, with some fine results. Lack of numbers in the second year meant that some first-year girls were given match experience earlier than might have been expected. This led to help and encouragement from the more experienced players and the development of a good team spirit. The match results do not reflect how well the team played against



U13 squad: Glos Mini tournament.

much more experienced opposition. The two defeats were against preparatory schools, Wycliffe and Prior Park, where their superior team-work made a difference. The best result and the best game of the season was against The Elms, where we had to play at our best for the 0-0 draw, which all agreed was the right result.

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 2; Goals for 6; Goals against 9.

✓ St Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	Drew	1-1
✓ Beaudesert Park School (A)	Won	5-1
✓ Wycliffe College Prep School (A)	Lost	0-3
✓ Prior Park Prep School (A)	Lost	0-4
✓ The Elms School (H)	Drew	0-0

Team from: N. Abbott, K. Nicholas, C. Webb, A. Emerson, A. de Lisle Wells, E. Bruce, R. Frazer-Holland, N. Scarth, C. Lee-Woolf, K. Dobson, S. Donovan, A. Gilbert, E. Drurey.

S. W.

Cricket

The cricket has flourished this season. A fine U13 XI won 6 of its 8 matches; the U15 'A' XI reached the Final of the Stroud District U15 20-over competition, and the 1st XI opening batsmen, who return next year, scored nearly 700 runs between them. Congratulations go to Harvey Davies, who plays for Herefordshire U15s and to Matthew Hall, who plays for Lincolnshire U16s.

Finally, I would like to convey my thanks to colleagues who have coached so enthusiastically, to Russell Riste and his team for their splendid teas and to David Essenhigh and David Mead for all their work producing first-rate pitches.

J. P. W.

1st XI

The 1st XI played with increasing confidence through the season. The side bowled capably and batted with skill and determination, with batsmen scoring 50 on ten occasions. The team believed they could win and, even in the majority of the matches which were drawn or lost, there was a period of the game when the Rendcomb side had batted or bowled itself into a

position from which it could have won the game. That the 1st XI lost only three times to a school side highlighted their commitment and team spirit.

A narrow victory by three runs over Cirencester College in the first match gave the season a vital start. 50 by Harvey Davies, a fourth-former in his first full season for the 1st XI, was crucial to the team and also a bold statement of the influence he was to have with the bat throughout the term. Despite a characterful 33 by Charles Barton, playing for the opposition, Pat Boydell inspired the bowling attack as he did in nearly every match, with opening figures for the season of 3 for 17.

On an overcast morning in Cheltenham, we bowled with attack and growing self-belief against Cheltenham College. Stephen Roney hit the seam with regularity and picked up three deserved wickets. After three hours and ten minutes, the opposition declared on 221. Francis Newcombe opened the innings with an aggressive 30, which set up the Rendcomb innings. Chris Jarrett took on the challenge of the Cheltenham attack and struck the ball sweetly for a fine 51. He was ably supported by Francis Barton, and the pair took the score to 124 for 4, with 20 overs to be bowled.

The field was spreading in defence, as a Rendcomb victory was a clear possibility, until the captain was caught with the score on 149. The remainder of the batsmen showed character, particularly James Fairbank, and batted on to draw the match, only 31 runs behind.

While great confidence had been gained from this performance, it was a tired team that lost to a strong Hereford Cathedral side in the Chesterton Cup the next day.

Chris Jarrett again led from the front with a cleanly struck 60 against Bloxham. The team batted carefully for a total of 146, and it was with only one over to spare that the opposition passed the Rendcomb score.

The early hot weather broke, and cold, damp conditions prevailed throughout the Prior Park match. Despite a wet ball, the bowlers controlled their line effectively, with Chris Jarrett taking three valuable wickets; he also led the batsmen with a spirited 54. Two other senior pro's, Francis Barton, 36, and Mark Wilks, not out, maintained the impetus, leaving the side only 14 short after an exciting drawn game.

The sun shone at Marling, and the home side batted well. Facing 205 to win, the openers Francis Newcombe and Harvey Davies took on a pacy opening attack on a lively pitch. The former struck the ball mightily and the latter pierced the field intelligently in an exhilarating partnership of 83, until extra cover clung on to a scorching drive by Francis Newcombe. This partnership was scored in only 11 overs and meant that the side had only to maintain moderate progress to get close to the target. However, wickets fell at the wrong time and the match ended in a draw.

Against Sir Thomas Rich's, Pat Boydell showed his bowling versatility, taking 7 for 28 bowling in-swing rather than leg-spin. Bowling into the wind, he brought the ball into the batsmen late and produced a fine hat-trick to halt the opposition on 137. However, the

Rendcomb innings never really gained momentum, despite a knock by Pat Boydell to confirm his position as an all-rounder.

In an hour and 45 minutes, from only 30 overs, Harvey Davies (70 not out), Francis Newcombe (61) and Francis Barton (58) despatched the Cokethorpe attack to all parts of the ground, allowing the side to declare on 196 for 1. Five wickets from Pat Boydell contained the opposition's score, and Chris Jarrett bowled tidily at the end of the game to take the final wicket for victory with two balls remaining.

Developing both pace and control during the term, Stephen Roney bowled aggressively to take four wickets against New College, Swindon. Also gaining stature was the opening batting partnership of Francis Newcombe and Harvey Davies. However, despite their quick 62 runs for the first wicket, the rest of the side fell to some accurate spin-bowling.

After many hot hours in the exam room, the 1st XI season resumed in 90° airless heat, against Barton Peverill. The opposition were contained by tight bowling and athletic fielding, with Stephen Roney, Pat Boydell and Harvey Davies taking most of the wickets. A Barbadian heat prevailed as Rendcomb started their innings but, having toured in West Indian conditions the year before, Francis Newcombe drew on reserves of energy and concentration to score an impressive 65. In an opening partnership of 82 with Harvey Davies, he struck the bad ball powerfully and played with increasing fluency off the front foot. Francis Barton and Ian Thompson, both undefeated on 25, steered the team home with mature batting to win in the searing heat by seven wickets.

J. P. W.

Played 13; Won 3; Drew 6; Lost 4

v Cirencester College (H) Won by 3 runs
Rendcomb 115 (Davies 50)
Cirencester 112 (Boydell 3-17)

v Cheltenham College (A) - Match Drawn
Cheltenham 221-5 decl (Roney 3-63)
Rendcomb 188-7 (Jarrett 51, Newcombe 30, F. Barton 26)

v Hereford Cathedral School (A, Chesterton Cup) - Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 109-8 decl. (Newcombe 21)
Hereford 110-0

v Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 7 wickets
Rendcomb 146 (Jarrett 60, Davies 29)
Bloxham 150-3

v Prior Park College (H) - Match Drawn
Prior Park 184-6 decl (Jarrett 3-39)
Rendcomb 170-6 (Jarrett 54, Wilks 51*, F. Barton 36)

v Marling School (A) - Match Drawn
Marling 204-7 decl (Wright 2-40, Boydell 2-33, King 2-69)

Rendcomb 162-8 (Newcombe 48, Davies 38, F. Barton 26*, Wilks 22)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match Drawn
Thomas Rich's 137 (Boydell 7-28)
Rendcomb 90-7

v Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 56 runs
Rendcomb 196-1 decl (Davies 70*, Newcombe 61, A. Barton 58)
Cokethorpe 140 (Boydell 5-35)

v New College, Swindon (H) - Lost by 37 runs
New College 158-7 decl (Roney 4-39)
Rendcomb 121 (Newcombe 32, Davies 32)

v Barton Peverill School (H) - Won by 7 wickets
Barton Peverill 175 (Roney 2-37, Boydell 2-36, Davies 2-12)
Rendcomb 177-3 (Newcombe 65, Davies 21, F. Barton 25)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match Drawn
Pate's 191-1 decl
Rendcomb 109-6 (Thompson 25, Boydell 24)

v The Gloucestershire Gipsies (H) - Lost by 49 runs
Gipsies 202 (King 6-53)
Rendcomb 153 (Newcombe 74)

v Bristol Cathedral School (H) - Match Drawn
Bristol 145-8 decl (Boydell 4-14, Wright 2-37)
Rendcomb 126-6 (F. Barton 32, King 24*)

Team from: C. Jarrett (Captain), F. Barton, P. Boydell, H. Davies, J. Fairbank, A. King, F. Newcombe, S. Roney, C. Webb, M. Wilks, J. Wright, C. Barton, M. Garcia, M. Hall, A. Harris, S. Maylott, A. Simpkin, I. Thompson.

2nd XI

This season's results reflect neither the ability nor the enthusiasm of what has been a very good 2nd XI. They played positive cricket throughout the season, were in with a chance of victory in most games, and certainly deserved more than the one victory that the record shows.

The side was captained with flair by Freddie Ingham, and he was ably supported by old hands Ali Harris and Rich Witchell, as well as by the returning Adam Simpkin and by Tony Winsrone in the score-box. These aside, the team was made up largely of fifth-formers who will certainly go on to enjoy considerable success in the next two years.

It would be unfair to single out individuals, as this was very much a 'team'; the spirit and good humour on the field was just right for this level of cricket and was,

for me, the most important aspect of the season. It has been a pleasure to be associated with this year's 2nd XI, and we can look forward to next year with considerable optimism.

M. S.

Played 8; Won 1; Drew 4; Lost 3.

v Cheltenham College (H) - Won by 29 runs
Rendcomb 157-6 decl (Wells 65, King 41*)
Cheltenham 128 (Harris 5-37, King 3-23)

v Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 7 wickets
Rendcomb 105 (Allen 21*)
Bloxham 107-3

v Prior Park College (H) - Match Drawn
Prior Park 140-7 decl (Garcia 3-26)
Rendcomb 88-6

v Marling School (H) - Match Drawn
Marling 142-7 decl (Simpkin 3-8)
Rendcomb 93-5 (Ingham 33, Simpkin 24)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 152-8 decl (Barton 45, Wells 22, Allen 31)
Pate's 128-3

v Bredon School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 166-2 decl (Ingham 63, Barton 53, Arnold 20)
Bredon 160-7

v A. Robert's XI - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 137 (Jones 21, Carmichael 19)
Robert's 138-5 (Amey 3-19)

v Churchways CC (H) - Lost by 1
wicket Rendcomb 139 (Harris 21)
Churchways 140-9 (Hall 4-22)

Team from: F. Ingham (Captain), C. Barton, J. de Lisle
Wells, A. Simpkin, A. Harris, M. Hall, C. Allen, R. H.
M. Witched, R. Witched, M. Garcia, R. Arnold,
N. Holt, L. Duff, A. King, A. Hawkins, J. Emerson.

U15 'A' XI

'Practice makes perfect' is the old premise upon which the team built during the season, with a keen, conscientious attitude shown by the whole squad. The earlier matches highlighted our obvious entitlement as a 'bowling side'; as the season progressed, and with it practice on the bowling machine, so the batting developed.

Ashley Taylor captained the side with aplomb and at times a philosophical outlook, keeping a cool head when the 'game plan' was being altered by the opposition. Despite the pressures he had on his broad shoulders, he maintained a good contribution with both bat and ball, although he will be the first to admit the

need to gain greater confidence with the bat on the front foot. His aptitude with the seam of the ball will prove the undoing of many batsmen in the future.

Oliver Blackwell matured well as a leg-spin bowler and will delight many of those lamenting the dying art in seasons to come. His batting progressed enormously, enabling the draw with Pate's to occur after a useful last-wicket stand of 28 with Andrew Jarrett. Both were good exponents of 'straight' batting, surprising themselves and their team-mates with its virtues in the process.

Harvey Davies joined us for the last few matches and was a valuable acquisition from the 1st XI, in the cup matches in particular.

James Gibbs has great potential in all aspects of the game; his left-arm-over 'stock' ball across the right-hander will be a powerful weapon of attack, his height obviously making him 'sharper' than most. Unfortunately he took a while to get his run up and action fine-tuned, pulling it together eventually to take five good wickets against Cokethorpe. For the remainder of the season he continued to bowl well, but 'Lady Luck' was not looking on him; if he had got a run for every time he beat the outside edge, his batting average would have been very healthy! With his large stride he was beginning to show the benefits of front-foot play towards the end of the season, although again Lady Luck was 'out' when he was 'in'.

Sebastian Grey contributed well when it mattered and showed a very good batting technique, although his patience often ran out against tight bowling, and so the 'Errol Flynn' latent within him revealed itself. He shows potential as a bowler and also as a close fielder, with very good reactions pulling off some extraordinary catches.

Tim Hill, on the other hand, showed his prowess as an out-fielder, taking some difficult running catches as well as a very good diving catch at cover against Deer Park, which many will remember. Tim produced the goods whilst batting on several occasions, but lacked consistency owing to a marked tendency to rely on his leg-side shots; with further coaching on his front-foot shots, and with it greater confidence, he promises well for the sides of the future.

Andrew Jarrett's season flourished as, like many others, his batting style grew and his 'swing' bowling exposed many a batsman's weakness.

Sam Maylott 'swashbuckled' his way to some runs at the start of the season, heard to wander the school practising his shots, exclaiming 'Maylott six, Maylott four, Maylott six!' Such a focused attitude reaped its rewards with some high-scoring innings, punctuated with some handsome front and back-foot shots, the result of a yearning for good technique. Behind the stumps Sam quickly adapted to the gloves and took some good catches, notably off James Gibbs, and the two would make a good partnership in the future.

Nick Ridley contributed a great deal, with a good pair of hands to take some very good catches. His bowling of off-cutters found the gap between many a

bat and pad. With his own bat he kept the scoreboard ticking over or he kept his wicket well, notably against King's, Gloucester,

Chris Scarth batted well during the season, looking one of the most stylish; he has a good, patient attitude, waiting for the bad ball sensibly. After he gave up the keeper's role, his off-spin proved to be an even greater asset, putting the ball through with some pace and movement.

Edward Turvill contributed well in the outfield with a good arm, showing a straight bat when required, and certainly hit the ball with some venom.

Rupert Webb proved to be a useful middle-order batsman, growing in confidence during the season and becoming a 'straighter' player with it.

The season has been one of enjoyment, occasionally bewildering and full of anguish and despair, but more often than not it has been a privilege to witness some very good cricket whilst umpiring. I look forward to hearing of their exploits and the healthy, committed attitude which has been my lasting impression of the squad. I know they will join me in expressing their thanks to David Essenhigh for the invaluable coaching periods in the nets, his enthusiasm matching theirs, as he knows potential when he sees it.

A. S. B

Played 12; Won 4; Drew 4; Lost 4.

v Bredon School (A) - Won by 33 runs
Rendcomb 78-7 decl
Bredon 45 (Taylor 5-9, Ridley 4-9)

v Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 50 (Gibbs 20*, Turvill 14)
Cheltenham 51-2 (Maylott 1-8)

v Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
Prior Park 158-5 decl (Jarrett 2-25)
Rendcomb 112-7 (Webb 31, Hill 21)

v Marling School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Marling 159-5 decl (Ridley 2-25, Jarrett 2-37)
Rendcomb 162-2 (Maylott 65, Taylor 59*, Scarth 26*)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match drawn
Thomas Rich's 111 (Taylor 3-25, Blackwell 4-21, Gibbs 2-26)
Rendcomb 87-7 (Maylott 16, Grey 16*)

v Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 6 wickets
Cokethorpe 72 (Gibbs 5-18, Taylor 3-23)
Rendcomb 73-4 (Hill 32, Scarth 20)

v Magdalen College School (A) - Lost by 126 runs
Magdalen 188-5 decl (Gibbs 2-46)
Rendcomb 62 (Maylott 22)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
King's 107 (Taylor 4-10, Scarth 3-16, Blackwell 2-17)

Rendcomb 102-8 (Maylott 35, Taylor 22)

v The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 147 runs
Crypt 199-3 (Taylor 2-50)
Rendcomb 52 (Scarth 10)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 119 (Scarth 23)
Pate's 102-4 (Gibbs 2-44)

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 7 wickets
Kingham 89 (Gibbs 3-26, Taylor 3-13, Blackwell 3-15)
Rendcomb 90-3 (Maylott 41*)

South Cotswold Cup (20 overs)

Qualifying:

v Cirencester Deer Park School (H) - Won by 118 runs
Rendcomb 138-2 (Maylott 50, Davies 64*)
Deer Park 20 (Taylor 3-10, Jarrett 4-7)

v Sir William Romney's School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
William Romney's 72 (Taylor 3-18, Ridley 2-5, Jarrett 2-11)
Rendcomb 76-2 (Davies 42*, Maylott 20)

v Farmor's School (H) - Won by 21 runs
Rendcomb 128-3 (Davies 40, Taylor 33*, Hill 20)
Farmor's 107-5 (Gibbs 2-16)

Final:

v Archways School (Frocester CC, Stroud) - Lost by 45 runs
Archways 122-8 (Jarrett 2-10, Davies 2-15, Scarth 2-21)
Rendcomb 77 (Maylott 23)

Team from: A. Taylor (Captain), O. Blackwell, J. Gibbs, S. Grey, T. Hill, A. Jarrett, S. Maylott, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, E. Turvill, R. Webb, H. Davies, T. Sharman.

U15 'B' XI

The first match we played was a very good start to the season. This was against Cheltenham College and was not a match that we expected to win; in fact, we did in the end - quite easily. Jonathan Davis was named man of the match for taking 6 wickets and batting in style.

In our next match, against Bloxham, we did not keep up our good performance. We batted first, not making a particularly high score, and then bowled fairly erratically and seemed to get hit all over the pitch: perhaps it was just good Bloxham batting. Anyway, we lost!

Prior Park came up next and this, like the first match, produced some good results. Tristan Sharman scored an incredible 87 runs, but we batted for too long and did not give ourselves enough time to get them out.

so it ended in a winning draw.

Against Cokethorpe we drew again; this was unfortunate, as we were playing quite well. They batted first and declared at two overs before a late tea. We started reasonably well and ended up running out of time, with only 11 runs needed to win.

Despite our losing the toss, the last match of the season was our best one. We bowled King's out for a low score and then won, losing just one wicket.

During the season there were three batsmen who stood out from the rest, Jack Garland, Mark Sutton and Tristan Sharman. Tristan is also included among the most reliable bowlers, along with Jonathan Davis. Julian Keith was voted the man with the safest hands, and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul the best fielder. However, in the end everyone pulled together, and we made a great team.

Toby Abbott

This fourth-year group were always keen and determined to enjoy themselves, whether representing the school or playing in one of my complicated conditioned games. I thoroughly enjoyed coaching them and I am grateful to Toby Abbott for captaining the side and to David Williams and Jonathan Freeman for scoring.

C. J. W.

Played 6; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 2.

v Cheltenham College 'C' XI (A) - Won by 14 runs
Rendcomb 58 Cheltenham 44 (Davis 6-4)

v Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 94 (Sharman 32*)
Bloxham 95-2

v Prior Park College (A) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 146-4 decl (Sharman 83, Garland 30)
Prior Park 61-7 (Davis 4-18)

v Dean Close School (H) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 36 Dean Close 38-2

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Match Drawn
Cokethorpe 104-9 decl (Sharman 3-28)
Rendcomb 94-6 (Sharman 22)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 9 wickets
King's 58 (Abbott 2-6)
Rendcomb 59-1 (Sharman 29*)

Team from; T. Abbott (Captain), S. Grey, J. Garland, M. Sutton, C. Holliday, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, C. Perry, J. Davis, P. de Havilland Hall, J. Keith, R. Histed, T. Sharman, D. Williams.

U14 XI

With only 15 lads to choose from, we had difficulties right from the word go. I think that at least five of them were born to play something other than cricket. Nonetheless, we soldiered on, and with a little assistance from our guest team member, visiting from Prior Park School, Paul Cox, made some valuable contributions early on.

Cheltenham was an unlucky draw to have made so early in the season, especially as they already had a couple of games under their belt. Needless to say, we lost this one. Our array of ducks and single-digit batting totals were hardly enough to cope with Cheltenham's 155 for 3 declared.

Home to Bloxham was a similar story, but this time James Starkey managed to slog himself into double figures and to join Paul Cox in the 'scores over ten' slot.

We continued to perform consistently at Marling, playing so badly that we had time to fit another game into the afternoon and still have enough time to watch the end of the 1st XI's match on the neighbouring pitch.

Ironically, though, it was at Marling a week later, in a cup match, that we saw a change in the fortune of the U14s. Despite Marling's addition to their side of two county players, Rendcomb managed to clock up a total of 57, of which 35 came from a superb performance by Paul Cox. Attitudes to the game changed. The usual 'I can't play cricket' and mocking at the succession of golden ducks disappeared, to be replaced with a proper determination and a support from the boundary that was fitting to a well played cricket match. Marling duly got the 58 runs needed but did so precariously, losing 6 wickets to gutsy bowling from Cox, Ashby and Day, complemented by very capable fielding.

The side, charged somewhat by their success in the cup match, played like a team possessed against Cokethorpe, who batted first. Our bowling and fielding were tight and allowed Cokethorpe only a very slow run rate; this led to their continuing their innings after the break for tea and torrential rain. Captain Nick Stanfield was unstoppable, taking 6 for 27 and bowling 3 maidens.

With 120 to chase, Rendcomb's openers, Ben Butler and Tom Gilbert, set about the pursuit in prolific fashion. Both showing off their stylish forte of strokes, their partnership made a total of 63. In came Paul Cox at no 3 and John Shenton at 4, to add to the Lara-like scores with a 36 and an 11 not out. The total that Cokethorpe had achieved was passed with the loss of only 2 wickets, to provide the most convincing win of the season.

In contrast, the away match at Magdalen was a bit of a walk-over. Any morale that we might have had was dampened by the realisation that Magdalen had an England player on their team. He scored 109 and retired to let other members of his side have a go. They declared at 250, and we went in for tea leaving rather too large a hill to climb. Harry Aldrich-Blake and Phil

Webb stayed in to produce a partnership of 57, backed up by 15 from Nick Stanfield and 11 from Ben Butler.

The game against Kingham Hill was a return to recent form, with Harry Aldrich-Blake taking 5 wickets and conceding only 13 runs, leaving the very small total of 31 to chase. This was done with ease, Rendcomb seizing victory with only two losses.

The game against King's, Gloucester, was the last win of the season. In the field first, we managed to keep the runs down to a very slow rate with good bowling and tight fielding. Ed Compton, being his usual efficient self, proved to be safe hands for the bowling that made it through the bat, causing the visiting side to continue after the break for tea, declaring shortly afterwards for a total of 106. Runs in the Rendcomb innings came predominantly from the middle order, with valuable innings from Nick Stanfield, John Shenton, Phil Webb, Harry Aldrich-Blake and Ian Forster (who also fielded well).

With 25 runs needed to win in the remaining 8 overs, there was a little concern as we faced the

victory, which anti-climatically came from a wide.

Even though victories this summer may not have been as numerous as the losses, the season has shown a growth in determination and enthusiasm, and progression in ability has been rewarded by the middle and late results.

D. W.

U13 'A' XI

The side started very well on a positive note, by beating Sir Thomas Rich's with Will Witchell batting extremely well and Tristan Day and Nicholas Hall bowling well.

Against Marling we did very well with our batting and with our bowling, Tristan Day and Andrew Sage getting hat-tricks.

Next, against Deer Park, Will Witchell made his 50 and Nicholas Hall and Benjamin Stanfield bowled well; we won the match quite convincingly.

Kingham Hill was our easiest match, with all bowlers and batsmen doing very well. **Dominic Sharman** (*far left*) made a scorching 89 and received



remaining barrage of good bowling and excellent fielding with our final two batsmen, James Starkey and David Ashby. James, who had already proven his worth in the field, showed that he can actually stay at the crease for more than two balls and notched up 17 runs, nearly sealing the match.

But, with five more runs needed to win, David Ashby faced the last few nail-biting deliveries, adding another four to the glorious stroke he had made in the previous over, leaving a single run to be made for

his bat at the end of term. Nicholas Had bowled well and took four wickets.

Pate's was our hardest match and, as we found out, they were, at the end of the day, a better team.

The team played very well, and we got the best out of each other; it was a very enjoyable season. Jin Kang, our wicket-keeper, also needs a round of applause for keeping so well throughout the season.

TRISTAN DAY

Played 7; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 1.

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Won by 46 runs
Rendcomb 100 (Witchell 38)
Thomas Rich's 54 (Day 3-10)

v Marling School (H) - Match Drawn
Marling 180-4 decl. (Sage 3-5)
Rendcomb 120-7 (Witchell 29)

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Match Drawn
Cokethorpe 103 (Day 4-24)
Rendcomb 100-9 (Day 27, Kang 20)

v Cirencester Deer Park School (H) - Won by
8 wickets
Deer Park 82-4 decl.
Rendcomb 83-2 (Witchell 52*)

v Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 153 runs
Rendcomb 184-6 (Sharman 89)
Kingham 31

v The Crypt School (H) - Won by 6 wickets
Crypt 143
Rendcomb 144-4 (Sharman 40)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 33 runs
Pate's 153-4 decl.
Rendcomb 120

Team from: T. Day (Captain), N. Hall (Vice-Captain),
W. Witchell, D. Sharman, D. Newby, Y. Kang, S.
Bagnall, W. Warrington, M. Williams, A. Sage, B.
Stanfield, O. Jeffcott, A. Dolleymore, L. Barton.

U13 'B' XI

Although the team played only two matches, they were in fact unbeaten. We did use some 'A' squad players in both matches, however, The players in this team have a lot of potential for the future, and we hope that they display the same enthusiasm for the game in the years to come.

J. G. W. / L. J. H.

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v The Elms School (H) - Match
Drawn Rendcomb 134 Elms 97-6

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 66
runs Rendcomb 106 Cokethorpe 40

Team from: D. Armstrong-Wilde, L. Barton, N.
Bowyer, A. Cox, A. Dolleymore, C. Garcia, O.
Jeffcott, T. Mais, D. Riddle, Y. Takanashi, R. Uzzell,
W. Warrington, M. Williams.

Boys' Tennis

The Tennis Club was smaller in numbers (21) than usual this year but made up for this by keenness and by the considerable skill and success of the 1st VI, certainly as good a team as Rendcomb has ever produced. Flair, determination, team spirit and strength in depth were all in evidence, and an unbeaten side, excellently captained by Mercurial Midge-cum Flying Flea Steve Croft, was the deserved outcome.

The bandwagon was set in motion early on by a fine, decisive home win over Dauntsey's, whom we had not beaten for a decade; this established the pattern of successes over schools with far bigger tennis clubs. The win was spearheaded by our first pair, Steve Croft and Nick Carmichael, who did not drop a set in any match this year.

The next contest was less euphoric in every respect; in cold, miserable conditions at Wycliffe we drew in a game we really should, I felt, have won but for the unusually erratic form of one or two (anonymous!) individuals.

However, two days later we managed a most encouraging, hard-earned win at Dean Close, another long overdue victory and one especially creditable since the match was played on their Astroturf courts, a surface which is distinctive and alien to our experience. Crucial factors here were the continuing positive lead of the first pair and the arrival in the team of basketball- trained, athletic volleyer Rudi Dühmke, whose competitive edge quickly brought understandable *rapprochement* with fellow-countryman Benni Körber.

A decisive away win over Cheltenham College 2nd VI followed, and there were equally convincing triumphs over a youthful Cirencester LTC team and King's, Gloucester, this last being a new fixture, which I hope will become a permanent one.

Finally, in a good-humoured mixed match, the Staff, despite being another cunningly conceived blend of Innocence and Experience, were beaten 12-4.

The 2nd VI had a less glittering season but were also keen and competitive. The experience gained will assuredly earn regular 1st VI places for some of this group next year. Leighton Freeman had the most exuberant smash in Gloucestershire; Giles Somers's flicked top-spin forehand often deceived opposing net-rushers, while Chris Baker's forehand down the line was - when his footwork was in gear - equally trenchant.

On Sunday 18th June the annual



Parent/Pupil Doubles Tournament took place. Despite the grief occasioned by the day's mauling (in every sense) of England's rugby pride by the All Black juggernaut, another enjoyable and sunny day brought out 17 pairs of varying ages and abilities - big stars to anxious rabbits. Group winners this year were Steve and Mrs Croft (seniors) and Matthew and Mr Williams (juniors - home advantage?). Entry fees meant that a cheque for £35 was sent subsequently to the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. My thanks go to all participants.

Grateful thanks are due also to Steve Croft, an enthusiastic, talented and efficient captain for the second successive year; he can be pleased with his troops' high achievement and morale and he was ably supported by the vice-captain, Laughing Cavalier Steve Jones, a great servant of Rendcomb tennis - a superb summer.

J. N. H.

1st VI

✓ Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	7-2
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Drew	4½-4½
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Won	5½-3½
✓ Cheltenham College 2nd VI (A)	Won	9-0
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	8-1
✓ Staff (mixed -H)	Won	12-4



Team from: S. Croft (Captain), S. Jones (Vice-Captain), N. Carmichael, A. Kress, B. Köber, R. Dühmke, C. Baker

2nd VI

✓ Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	3½-5½
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	4-5
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	2-7
✓ Cheltenham College 4th VI (A)	Drew	4½-4½

Team from: M. Brown (Captain), C. Baker, J. Morgan, R. Dühmke, L. Freeman, A. Law, G. Somers, C. Marcham, C. Mackinnon.

Girls' Tennis

The girls have played more matches than usual this season, and we were able to include a few matches for

an U14 team. It has not been an easy season, because of the limited court space and time shared with the boys, each having to fit coaching periods around each the others' fixtures. The season was divided into two sections, with the seniors playing most of their matches during the first half of term, and the U15 and U14 teams during the second half. The girls have worked hard and have had the benefit of extra training from an LTA coach, Felicity Blades. Team spirit was excellent, and the final scores do not reflect the manner in which the girls have played their matches; so many games and sets were lost after numerous deuces.

The season closed with a most enjoyable mixed doubles match for 6B against King's, Gloucester, the matches being a lot closer than the result 3-9 to King's suggests.

Both the U15 and U14 teams won half their matches, and great progress has been made by all the players. They have gained much-needed match experience, which augurs well for the future.

J. M. N. / S. M. W.

1st VI

Played 6; Won 2; Lost 4.

✓ Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-9
✓ St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Won	5-4
✓ Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	2-7
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	3-6
✓ St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	1-8
✓ Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	9-0

2nd VI

Played 4; Lost 4.

✓ Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-9
✓ St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Lost	1-8
✓ Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	4-5
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	2-7

Teams from: L. Peters (Captain), K. Bagshawe, C. Bohlken, S. Collier, A. Depauw, V. Dühmke, A. C. Eylmann, S. Fletcher, A. Howard, A. Iles, A. Jenson, Y. Necke, K. Pearce, H. Madge, V. Weiershauser.

U15 VI

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2.

✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	2-7
✓ The Cotswold School (A)	Won	6-3
✓ Burford School (A)	Lost	2-4
✓ Kingshill School (H)	Won	5-4

Team from: S. Collier (Captain), F. Gerry, A. Howard, K. Kawanabe, S. Sugihara, B. Mann, Y. Necke, J. Pearce.

U14 VI

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v Burford School (A)	Drew	3-3
v Cirencester School (A)	Won	6-3

Team from: J. Mais (Captain), E. Banwell, S. Brown, N. El-Titi, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, T. Sleggs.

Squash

In the Gloucestershire Junior Squash Association County League the U19 team played well to come third

out of six teams in Division 2 of the U19 League, and the U14 team performed admirably to come second out of four teams in Division 2 of the U14 League.

Memorable victories by the U19 team were gained against Bredon and Wycliffe. In a tough match against Wycliffe the team won 4-1. A competitive match won by Nick Carmichael in five games and a skilful three-game victory by Sam Maylott were vital to the team's success. As No 1, Francis Newcombe led the team maturely and played with both power and touch. His victory in five games away at Cheltenham College was a testament to his commitment and skill.

The U14 team has much potential, with Ian Forster and David Ashby of a similar, capable standard at Nos 1 and 2. As well, it is most encouraging to see the development of second-formers Tristan Day and David Newby, who will be available for the team next year. It was particularly pleasing to win against Cheltenham College Junior School, on both occasions on the Cheltenham College courts.

With all of the U19 team returning next year and Sam Maylott playing for Gloucestershire U16s,

Rendcomb squash looks very healthy for the future. I have enjoyed looking after both teams and I must thank Alex Breal for his help, and particularly Gary Powell, from the East Gloucestershire Squash Club for his excellent coaching.

J. P. W.

U19 team: F. Newcombe (Captain), N. Carmichael, S. Maylott, C. Baker, A. King. Also played: C. Marcham.

U14 team: I. Forster (Captain), D. Ashby, J. Shenton, D. Newby, T. Day. Also played: D. Morris, H. Aldrich-Blake.

Netball

1st and 2nd VII's

This has been a most rewarding season, not because of the results, as there were many more matches lost than won, but because of the

excellent team spirit and atmosphere, both in lessons and at matches. The fifth and sixth-form girls have worked hard and all have improved their game over the term. Some have been playing netball for the first time, and all but a few have had the opportunity to turn out for a college team.

The 1st VII will remember their match against St Edward's, Cheltenham, when they came from 9-13 down at half-time to notch up their first win, 19-16. The match was won not by individuals but by team effort, everyone working for each other. The final match of the season, against King's, Gloucester, was the most exciting for the 2nd VII, when they drew 7-7 after being down 2-3 at half-time.

My thanks go to all the girls for their hard work and for making it a memorable first season of coaching for me. Special thanks go to Mrs Gill, who took on the task of umpiring the 2nd VII matches, and Susie Fletcher and Anna Ronowicz for their support and help.

S. M. W.

1st VII

Played 7; Won 2; Lost 5.

v Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	11-35
v Bournside School (A)	Lost	8-16
v St Edward's School, Cheltenham	Won	19-16
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	10-40
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	3-27
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	32-34
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	17-8

Team from: S. Fletcher (Captain), K. Bagshawe, A. Depauw, V. Dühmke, A. C. Eylmann, R. Gee, H. Gowers, A. Iles, A. Jensen, S. Lucas, K. Pearce, L. Peters, A. Ronowicz.

2nd VII

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 4.

v Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	6-25
v St Edward's School, Cheltenham	Lost	4-27
v St Mary's School, Caine (A)	Won	18-9
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	7-54
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	4-23
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	7-7

Team from: K. Bagshawe, A. Depauw, R. Doyle, C. Edwards, R. Gee, H. Gowers, C. Harrison, A. Iles, A. Jensen, H. Madge, I. Waldburg.

Junior Teams

A busy schedule of 20 netball matches and a Gloucestershire County Tournament was played in the Lent Term by the junior teams. A team at each age level, U12, U13, U14 and U15, ensured that most girls were able to experience playing for the College at least once in the term.



O. R. match.

The first-year girls began the season with an away match against Hatherop Castle. Eleanor Bruce, Becky Whatman and Rosalind Frazer-Holland immediately showed a natural flair for the game, which continued throughout the season.

The U13 VII had some exciting and close matches, losing their first and last by only one goal. Lotte Webb and Charlotte Lee-Woolf formed a good partnership in the shooting circle, whilst Sarah Donovan proved the mainstay in defence. The most notable success was to win against Bournside, 9 goals to 3. Anna de Lisle Wells, Katie Dobson, Kate Nicholas and Becky Whatman improved throughout the term and played some excellent games in centre court positions.

The U14 VII started their season with a marvellous display of netball in an indoor match against Cotswold School, eventually winning 51 goals to 7. Phillipa Hunt and Charlotte Kerton are exceptional shooters, who formed a good understanding in attack. Combine this with solid defence from Emma Branwell and Laura Donovan, and the team was able to achieve notable successes, particularly against Kingham Hill and Monkton Combe.

A combined U14 and U15 VII were taken to their first Gloucestershire County U15 Netball Tournament, held at Brockworth Sports Centre, where they won two out of their five matches. The experience gained by the U14s, Phillipa Hunt, Charlotte Kerton, Nadia El-Titi, Jenny Mais and Emma Banwell at this standard bodes well for next year's tournament. Rowan Renow-Clarke, Annabel Howard and Fenella Gerry completed the team, which can be justifiably proud of its performances.

The U15 VII won its first and last matches and was by no means outclassed by some very strong teams in between. The whole squad worked hard to improve its skills and played with enthusiasm all term; the future looks promising for the senior 1st and 2nd VII's next year.

The pleasure of playing, and coaching, games is not always in the winning, but in being able to achieve a level of competence and enjoyment not originally thought to be possible. There were a particularly large number this year of complete beginners who managed to succeed all expectations in terms of improvement during the term. In particular, Charlotte Bohlken, Yukido Haneda, Sachivo Ichikawa, Kaori Kawanabe, Natsuko Kusano and Seiko Sugihara worked hard and ended playing with such enthusiasm that they can no longer be considered as beginners. In the younger age group, Jenny Crook, Ellen Drurey, Rebecca Ricketts and Amy Turner also worked well and were enjoying themselves by the end of the season. All the 'beginners' can be proud of their own personal achievements.

P. S. W.

U15 VII

Played 6; Won 2; Lost 4.

v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	18-5
v Bournside School (A)	Lost	2-50
v St Mary's School, Caine (A)	Lost	11-20
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	7-37
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	22-26
v Kingshill School (A)	Won	18-15

Team from: E. Banwell, C. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Collier, F. Gerry, A. Howard, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, J. Mais, H. Nicholls, B. Mann, J. Pearce, R. Renow-Clarke.

U14 VII

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2.

v The Cotswold School (H)	Won	51-7
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	6-35
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	41-4
v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	32-23
v Kingshill School (A)	Lost	5-15

Team from: E. Banwell, S. Brown, L. Donovan, N. El-Titi, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, G. Leathart, K. Nicholas, B. McKelvie, J. Mais, T. Sleggs, L. Webb.

U13 VII

Played 5; Won 1; Lost 4.

v Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	6-7
v Beaudesert School (A)	Lost	3-22
v Bournside School (A)	Won	9-3
v St Mary's School, Caine (A)	Lost	4-27
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	15-16

Team from: M. Abbott, E. Bruce, A. de Lisle Wells, K. Dobson, S. Donovan, C. Emerson, K. Nicholas, C. Lee-Woolf, L. Webb, R. Whatman.

U12 VII

Played 4; Lost 4.

v Hatherop Castle School (A)	Lost	2-20
v Beaudesert School (A)	Lost	11-36
v Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	7-24
v Kingshill School (A)	Lost	4-16

Team from: E. Bruce, J. Crook, E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, R. Ricketts, N. Scarth, R. Thrower, A. Turner, R. Whatman.

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Overview

For shooting to run over all three terms, significant loyalty and real dedication are called for. The band of 25 or so shooters involved this season have been impressive in both their attitude and their shooting skill; it has been a pleasure to witness.

The recent results from the National Championships are most encouraging. They put Rendcomb in the top



Prep Schools' Shoot in Rendcomb Park.

ten shooting schools in the country, in front of Dean Close, King's School. Ely, Millfield and Eton, to name a few. This epitomises the present quality and depth of shooting skill.

On behalf of Mr John Watson and myself, I should like to thank all these sporting chaps for an immensely enjoyable season. They shot enthusiastically in all types of weather, horizontal rain, a temperature of -6° Centigrade, and sunshine. In particular we appreciate the contributions of Jon Underwood and Rupert Wertheimer. This is their last season with us, and I trust that they will be back with an ORs' team. The captaincy passes to James Fairbairn, already a leading light as a shooter. Our third season, I feel, will be very exciting.

J. H. S.

The 'A' Team

With three of the 'A' squad leaving at the end of last year, the shooting team was in a state of transition. Both the 'A' and 'B' teams were built around a nucleus of shooters from the previous year, with only a small, but talented, group of newcomers. The fact that Sebastian Grey and James Gibbs both forced their way into the 'B' team was indicative of their talent and of what good hands the team will be in next year.

The captain of the 'A' team was John Underwood; both his attitude and his shooting skill helped to inspire the team. I am positive that we would not have performed so well at the 'Nationals' had it not been for his rallying us after a few poor stands. He joined the fine line of enjoyment and discipline and took the rest of the team along with him.

We interspersed our weekly, school-based shooting periods with inter-school competitions or trips to the Chatcomb Estate Shooting School. The close proximity of this highly regarded school has been a major help in increasing our scores; also we had the opportunity to shoot at targets not normally available at Rendcomb.

The spring term culminated in the Western Area Independent Schools Championships. Although we did not perform as well as last year and were beaten by our arch-rivals, Dean Close, in a shoot-off, there was plenty to be optimistic about, particularly the performance of Harvey Davies, who returned a score of 34 ex 50, gaining high gun for Rendcomb.

As soon as we arrived back to start the summer term our attention was focused upon the 'Nationals', which occurred only four weeks into the term. The accommodation and breakfast were again superb, also the early-morning shoot at the farm before the main competition.

As I have mentioned earlier, after a poor start the Rendcomb 'A' team - John Underwood, William Witchell, Harvey Davies, Robert Arnold, Robin Witchell and myself - picked ourselves up and finished a very creditable tenth out of 29 teams, an improvement on last year, and only 25 targets off the winners. Especially pleasing was the performance by William Witchell, who managed 35 ex 50. Considering that he is only in his second year, this is a marvellous effort.

With such a solid foundation for next year, I look forward to leading the team and hope to gain some silverware from the 'Nationals'.

JAMES FAIRBANK

The 'B' Team

The height of my shooting career at Rendcomb has to have been the chance to captain the 'B' team in the National Competition League, this event being the pinnacle of school shooting competitions.

The beginning of the school year seemed to be rather worrying, as we had lost rather a lot of our top shots the previous year; fortunately I was to be proved wrong through the influx of some excellent young shots.

At the 'Nationals' Harry Aldrich-Blake took top gun not only in the team - apart from Mr Watson - but also for the whole of the 'B' team course side-by-side section.

The team eventually came seventh out of twelve, beating Millfield for the second year running. Luckily the weather held out for us, and Shugborough provided a superb and challenging course.

On behalf of the team I should like to thank Mr Stutchbury for organising the weekend and Mr Watson for leading us around the 'B' course, and both of them for all their hard work throughout an excellent year. Congratulations, everybody, and good luck for next year.

RUPERT WERTHEIMER

The team:	Score
R. Wertheimer	30
H. Aldrich-Blake	34
S. Grey	23
T. Winstone	22
W. Brittain-Jones	23
J. Gibbs	26
Team score:	158 /300.

Rounders

U14 IX

This was an outstanding season for the U14 girls. Their record of being unbeaten all term resulted from individual talent and their ability to work with determination and concentration as a team. Undoubtedly rounders does depend on individual skills, but the strength of the U14 girls was due to their having worked together splendidly and maximised their ability.

The team began the season against Monkton Combe. Rapid and accurate team-work at the start proved fatal for Monkton, owing to the talents of Charlotte Kerton as bowler, Jenny Mais at backstop and the diminutive but deadly Nadia El-Titi at first post.

Next, on a glorious Saturday, Wycliffe were heavily defeated. The Rendcomb girls played with a calm determination. Sophie Brown, a talented left-handed batsman, played some outstanding shots which proved difficult for Wycliffe's fielders.

The first home match, against Kingham Hill, was a clear win, Kingham being rapidly all out in their second innings, scoring no rounders. This was aided by excellent fielding, particularly by Kate Nicholas in the deep and Beshlie McKelvie and Phillippa Hunt at second and fourth posts respectively.

The following match, at Cotswold School, was also well played. Tara Sleggs fielded particularly well, whilst all the girls were a credit to the school, playing competitively yet with true sportsmanship.

The last home match, against Kingshill, was a resounding success, 41 rounders to 1½ The Kerton-Mais - El-Titi combination continued to play a remarkable role, whilst other girls, such as Emma Banwell, Gemma Leatheart and Tara Sleggs, having worked hard at their fielding and batting skills during the term, displayed some marvellous fielding and also added some rounders. As Kingshill were short of one player, Laura Donovan bravely went to play for the opposition. She was a credit to Rendcomb for doing so with such maturity.

The season ended with a return match against Kingham Hill. This time, however, the girls played Kingham's more experienced and undefeated U15 side. Rendcomb proceeded to win convincingly, providing the team with tangible proof of its ability and commitment to the game.

Finally, mention must be made of the match the girls organised against the U14 boys at the end of term. The boys wanted to see what talents these 'unbeaten'

girls had. The match revealed that the girls' success was down to slick fielding and some excellent batting. Sophie Brown's left-handed power drive certainly took the boys by surprise! However, the girls' success displayed clearly how tactical you have to be in rounders; in fairness, the boys did not quite know how to work the rules to their advantage. Dominic Morris, as captain of the boys, was excellent. He was mature and authoritative, which helped to make the game very pleasurable.

My congratulations and thanks go to all the girls who made the season such a success. Their maturity and team spirit have made them a pleasure to coach. I would like also to thank the parents who staunchly supported the team: your being on the side-lines helped to make the games very enjoyable.

I am pleased that the girls' enthusiasm and commitment left them looking forward to a successful term as the U15s next summer.

N. G.

Played 6; Won 6; Rounders for 151; Rounders against 35.

✓ Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	20-15½
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Won	18-7½
✓ Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	24-3
✓ The Cotswold School (A)	Won	29-1
✓ Kingshill School (H)	Won	41-1½
✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	19½-7

Team from: E. Banwell, S. Brown, L. Donovan, N. El-Titi, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, G. Leatheart, B. McKelvie, J. Mais, K. Nicholas, T. Sleggs.

U13 and U12 IXs

The successes of the first and second-year girls at rounders can be directly attributed to their hard work and enthusiasm to learn throughout the term. This then gave them confidence, which enabled them to relax and enjoy playing their matches.

The first match of the term, against Wycliffe, proved a personal success for Anna de Lisle Wells and Katie Dobson, who were to go on to become the top two batsmen of the season, eventually reaching 22 and 11 rounders respectively.

It was with expectation of a good game that the U13 IX travelled to Monkton Combe on a very hot day in May. Having won the toss, Rendcomb put Monkton Combe in to bat. The accurate bowling of Charlotte Lee-Woolf, the secure hands of Ellen Drurey at backstop and the quick stumping of Lotte Webb at first post ensured that the opposition were out for only two rounders. Big hitting from Anna de Lisle Wells, Katie Dobson and Eleanor Bruce helped the Rendcomb score to 13 in their first innings. Monkton Combe's second innings produced only 4 rounders, giving Rendcomb victory with an innings to spare.

The next match, at Grittleton, was played in very different conditions, wet windy and cold. The combined U13/U14 IX did not allow Grittleton to score any

Mrs Sandy Westhead with the U13 rounders team.

rounders in their first innings, and only two in their second. Rendcomb scored 5½ rounders in both their innings, with notable performances from Sarah Donovan, who was responsible for six stumpings at third post, Charlotte Kerton, who bowled tightly giving away no half-rounders, and Nadia El-Titi scoring 4 rounders.

At Beaudesert both the U12 and the U13 teams were unable to claw back all the rounders scored by the opposition in their first innings, although they were able to contain them in the second.

The match at The Elms was extremely close, Rendcomb eventually winning by just one rounder.

The score against St Hugh's did not reflect the game, as Rendcomb were so close to getting the opposition out for low scores on more than one occasion. Whilst the chances did not come off, it was interesting to see the girls trying new ideas and taking risks in an effort to win. Their skills with bat and ball were improving so much each week that their confidence was visibly growing, and their play became more exciting as a result.

It was a shame that bad weather caused the cancellation of the U12 tournament and the first and lower-first-year girls were very disappointed that they could not play.

The last two U13 matches, however, gave all the girls well deserved wins in fantastic style. Every girl played a part in these wins, each producing her own personal best to ensure a convincing 26-10½ win against Deer Park and a 14½-7 win against Kingham Hill.

At Deer Park Anna de Lisle Wells made 10 rounders, Katie Dobson and Sarah Donovan 4 each, Lotte Webb 3, Rosalind Frazer-Holland 2. Nellie Abbott 1½ and Rose Thrower and Becky Whatman 1 each. Brilliant field-work from Anna de Lisle Wells as bowler, Katie Dobson at backstop and Lotte Webb at first post accounted for the stumping at first post of no less than seven out of the nine batsmen in the first innings.

All the girls have thoroughly enjoyed playing rounders and have worked hard to improve their skills. Each first and second-year girl has had the opportunity to experience playing for her school, and they have all thoroughly deserved their many successes this term.

P. S. W.

Played 9; Won 5; Lost 4.



✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	4½-15 + innings
✓ Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	13-4 + innings
✓ Grittleton School (A)	Won	11-2
✓ Beaudesert School (H)	Lost	4-13½
✓ Beaudesert School U12 IX	Lost	3-29
✓ The Elms School (A)	Won	5-4
✓ St Hugh's School (H)	Lost	7½-21½
✓ Cirencester Deer Park School	Won	26-10½
✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	14½-7

U13 IX from: M. Abbott, E. Bruce, A. de Lisle Wells, K. Dobson, S. Donovan, E. Drurey, C. Emerson, A. Gilbert, R. Frazer-Holland, C. Lee-Woolf, N. Scarth, R. Thrower, C. Webb, R. Whatman.

U12 IX from: E. Bruce, J. Crook, E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, R. Ricketts, N. Scarth, R. Thrower, A. Turner, R. Whatman.

Riding

Whether a pony-owner or a complete beginner, everyone can learn and gain experience of horse-riding at the Talland School of Equitation near Cirencester. A minibus leaves Rendcomb College each Thursday afternoon to take pupils who have opted for this activity the short distance to Siddington.

The superb indoor and outdoor arenas and well schooled horses, combined with the expert BHS trained staff, who match pupils to suitable horses and ponies, all help them to improve their riding skills.

The riding activity is popular, and next year the riding will be split into two groups, to accommodate



those able to canter and enable them to progress to more advanced riding. The places are already booked for next September.

At the end of each year a hack through the Cotswold countryside is arranged. Phillipa Hunt on a piebald mare, Rosalind Frazer-Holland on a very strong Bosnian pony and Rose Thrower on a small bay pony all enjoyed their ride around Bagendon and Perrott's Brook (*see photo p.83*). It was an extremely hot day, the views breath-taking and the sense of freedom exhilarating. Apart from Roz, who had to handle a very foward-going pony on the way home, we all had a relaxing hack and agreed to do it again next year.

P. S. W.

Sailing

This year saw another successful season for the Sailing Activity, with 12 students from Forms 5 and 6A attending the South Cerney Outdoor Education Centre for a number of lessons before the start of public exams.

Although we were quite early in the summer season, the weather held out, and only one of the lessons was held indoors owing to rain; this afforded a valuable theory session to consolidate the practical work that had been done on the lake.

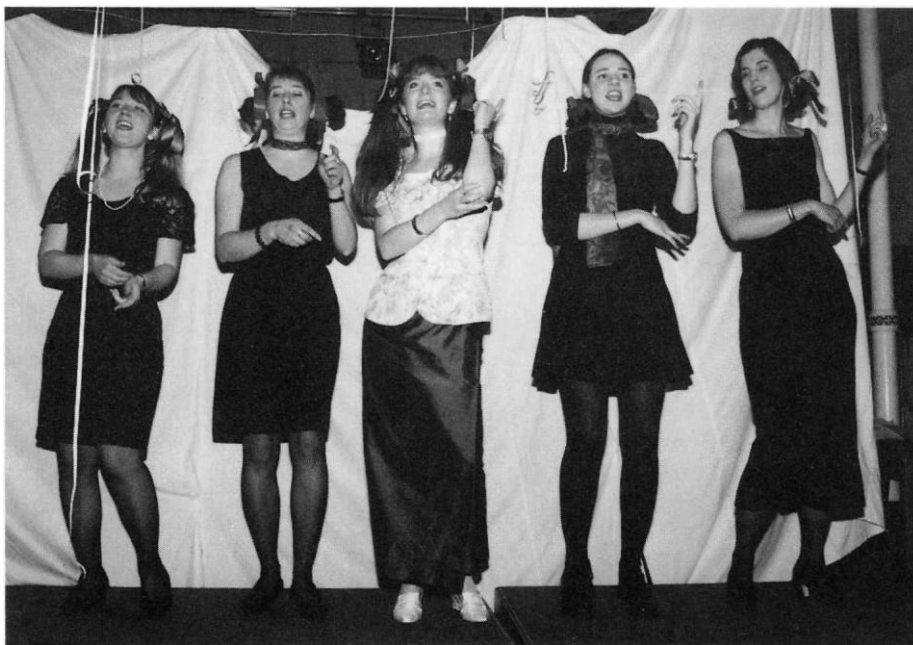
The group received some excellent tuition from the instructors at the centre, a host of skills being learned on the basic aspects of dinghy-handling, and the following students received their Stage 1 certificate in the Royal Yachting Association scheme:

Rupert Wertheimer, Paul Smith, Mark Williams, Michael Steen, Alastair Christie, Imogen Cox, Timothy Shaw, William Brittain-Jones, Douglas Ellison, James Graham.

S. J. L.



Steven Croft (left), organiser of Comic Relief day is gunked along with popular members of staff.



Staff performing at the Senior Christmas sketches.



Morning Call

Annabel Howard (4)



Gemma Leathart (3)



David Newby (2)



Freddie Lait (1)

