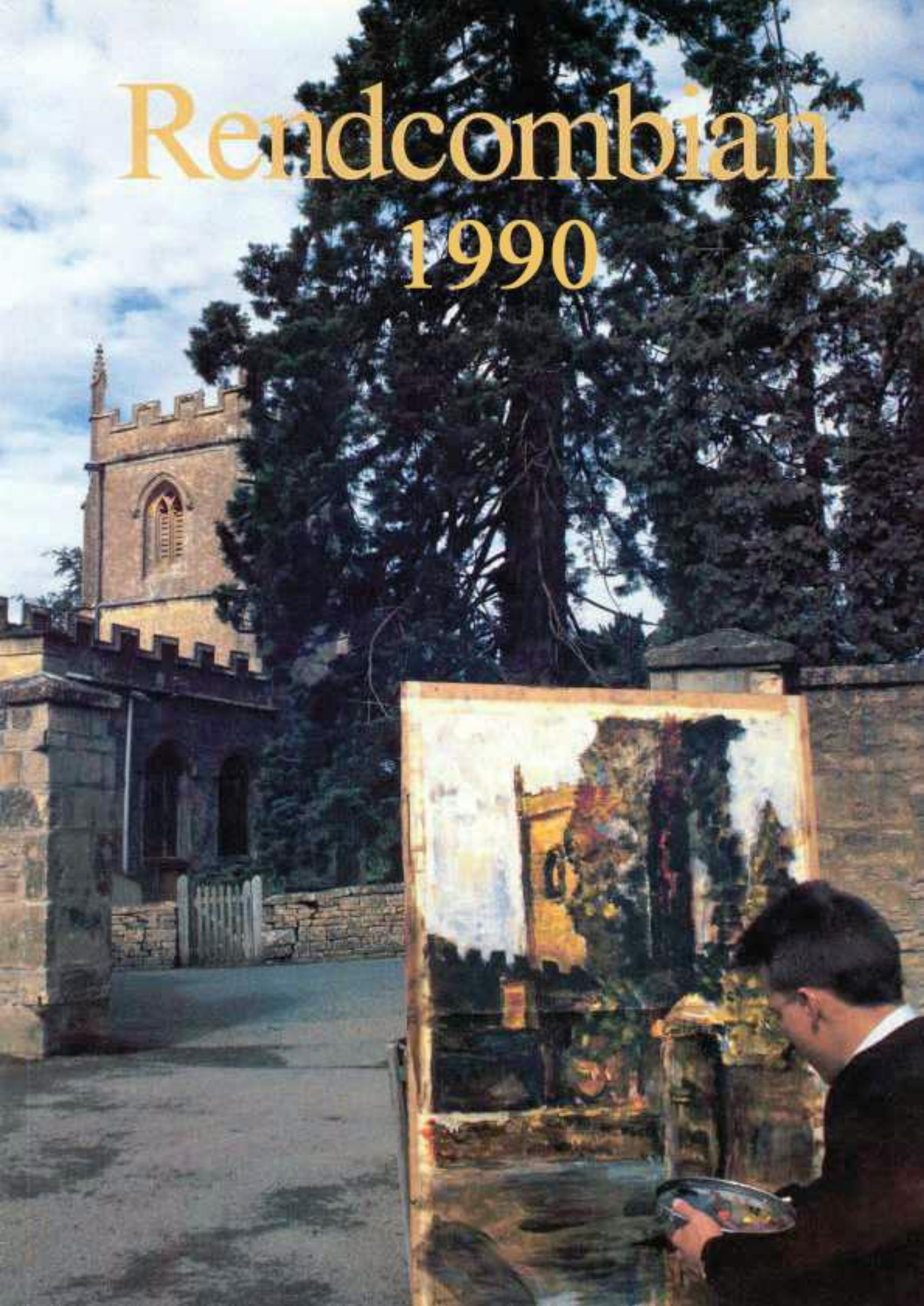


# Rendcombian 1990









# Rendcombian

No. 8

September 1990



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*Music and The Record*  
*Outings and Talks*  
*Boys' Sport*  
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*(Inside):* **Helicopter Visit**

*Back Cover (Outside):* **The Duke in the Workshop** *(Inside):* **Busking on Founder's Day**

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# Editorial

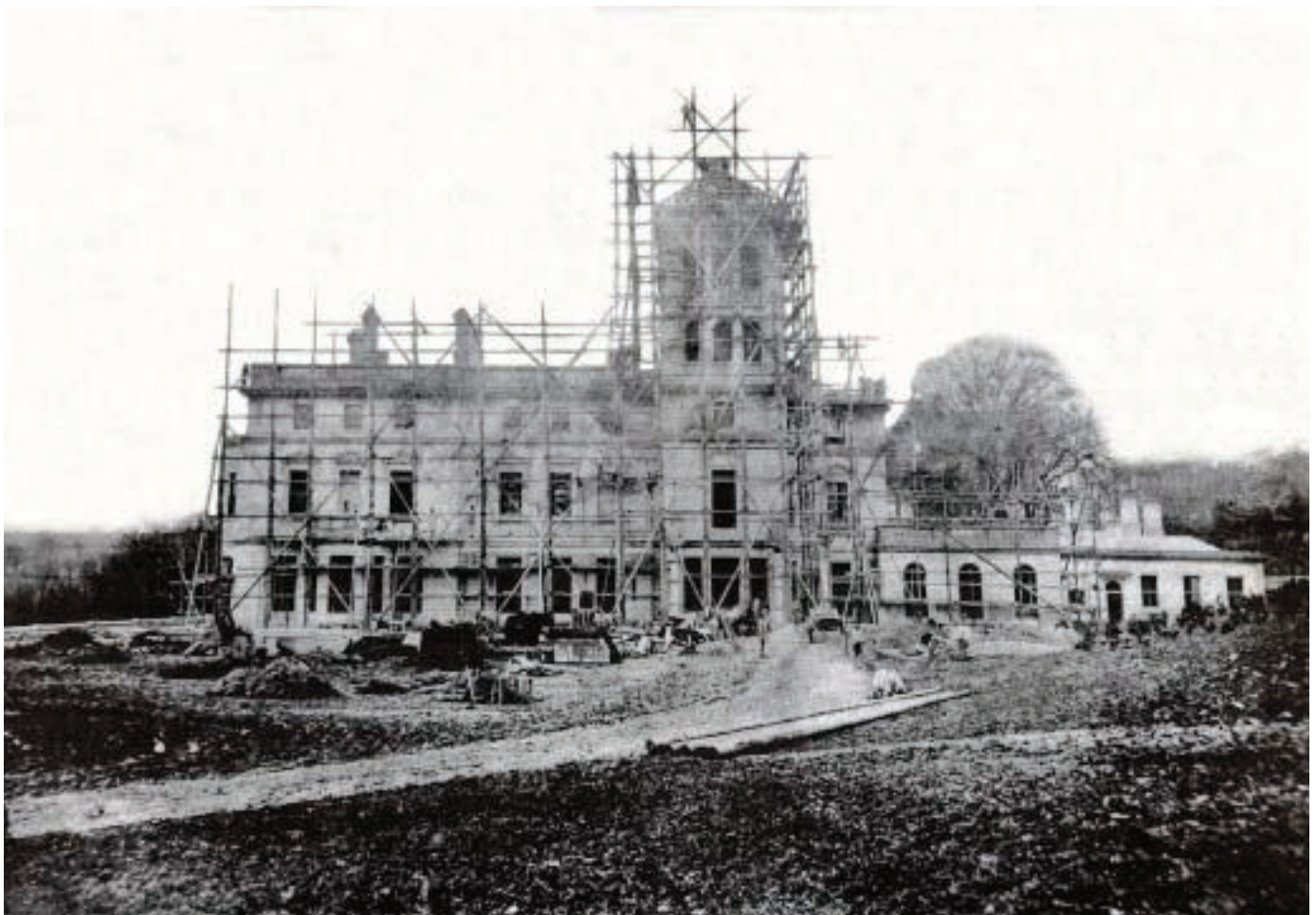
This has indeed been a year of change. The new house system has meant a great improvement in the school's physical environment, and it has been heartening to see how quickly staff and pupils have adapted to the new structure.

In some ways, of course, we are still finding our feet. Forms perhaps lack the sense of unity, not an exclusively beneficial element, that they had before. This change has been felt most by members of the Sixth Form, who grew up with a different system; it is to be hoped that they will find in their new responsibility towards the community a more genuine satisfaction than that afforded their predecessors by their almost Olympian detachment. At the same time, their new common room may provide a satisfactory and potentially exciting focus of collective activity.

Despite some reservations among the more conservative, we have all been pleased that the new house system has not created rivalries which could have become divisive and alien to the school's essentially unified and friendly atmosphere. As one of the housemasters pointed out in last year's Rendcombian, this issue rests principally with the pupils.

Rendcomb has not been totally engrossed in its own changes, however. Inspired by members of the Sixth Form, the school has begun to take a much more positive interest in conservation and the environment. From plans to save waste paper to caring for wild flowers, Rendcomb, like the nation, has begun to rise to the urgent challenge of 'green' concerns. An integrated community can do much in such a field and set a good example in an increasingly vital area of education. We have had our lasting enthusiasms and our ephemeral ones. We hope that this will prove to be a survivor.

Early days





# The Record 1

## News in Brief

### Christmas Term 1989

A small miracle, not entirely without flaws, allowed the school to start the year reorganised into six houses. In spite of a few minor hitches, including one or two spectacular plumbing phenomena, life settled rapidly down to its new pattern. Lawn and Stable Houses were opened by HRH the Duke of Gloucester on 6th December with a short ceremony of dedication in the Dulverton Hall.

The 6B visit to Longleat coincided with a trip by the Junior House to Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Other outings took in *The Hobbit* at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford, ice skating at the Link Centre, Swindon, and swimming in Cirencester. Godman House went to Wookey Hole; the fifth form saw Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval* in Cheltenham; the sixth form saw *The Winter's Tale* in Stroud and the films *Shirley Valentine* and *Dead Poet's Society*, and there were outings for its jazz and art groups.

For many the highlight of the first part of term was the third biennial Rendcomb sponsored walk, this year in aid of the Macmillan Nurses, undertaken on a glorious 4th September and followed by a barbecue in the evening. Parents, staff and pupils together raised over £3,300.

The music staff gave a widely varied concert on 19th November, featured in the local press under the headline '*Teachers Show How*'. A performance of Faure's Requiem was given in the church on 25th November, sung by pupils and parents. There were two informal concerts during the term, and an Advent carol service was held on a crisp Sunday evening in December.

There were several interesting talks. The Michael Wills Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Ian Fells on energy and the environment, a subject of general importance and interest. Among others were a talk on leadership by Tim Daniels (OR), an officer in the Royal Marines, Mr Hawkswell's talk to the Arts Society on Charles Dickens, and Mrs Amanda Jessop's *Barnado's in the Nineties*.

November 30th saw the first of three performances of Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*, much enjoyed by audiences.

We warmly congratulate Lindsay and Marie Haslett on the birth of their daughter Sophie.

The carol service on 10th September allowed the choir, the whole school and their parents to join in a rousing end to the term; the shortening of the choir's rehearsal, caused by their setting off a burglar alarm on arrival at Cirencester Parish Church, did not mar the occasion.

### Easter Term 1990

Rendcomb appeared to survive the battering by high winds during January and February better than much of the rest of the country, and we were favoured with

quite unusually mild weather for most of the term.

The careers convention was held on 2nd March, and during the term we had visits from the Army and Royal Air Force liaison officers.

On 21st January an Arts Society group went to see *The House of Love* perform in Cheltenham Town Hall. Theatre outings took the sixth form to *Showboat* at Stratford and to a production of *Noises Off*, by Michael Frayn, at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. 6A went to the Barbican Centre, and there were other trips for juniors to the Oasis and Link Centre during the term. Mr King took a small group of rugby fans to watch Gloucester play Cheltenham at the Prince of Wales Stadium.

Four boys and twelve girls entered for scholarships on 26th and 27th February. The names of successful candidates are given later in this issue.

Informal concerts were held on 21st January and 2nd March, and John Evans gave a piano recital on 4th February. The choir sang evensong in Cirencester Parish Church on 25th February and in Bristol Cathedral on 15th March.

Our resident 6A rock band, *Crazy Boneheads*, played in the Dulverton Hall on 3rd March, supported by *New Scars* from Bath University.

Members of 6B performed *Find Me*, a moving, if not disturbing, play on three nights from 6th March.

A cheque for the funds raised by last term's sponsored walk was presented to a representative of the Macmillan Nurses on 10th February, and the Gloucestershire heat of the Daily Mail schools bridge competition was held at Rendcomb on 25th February.

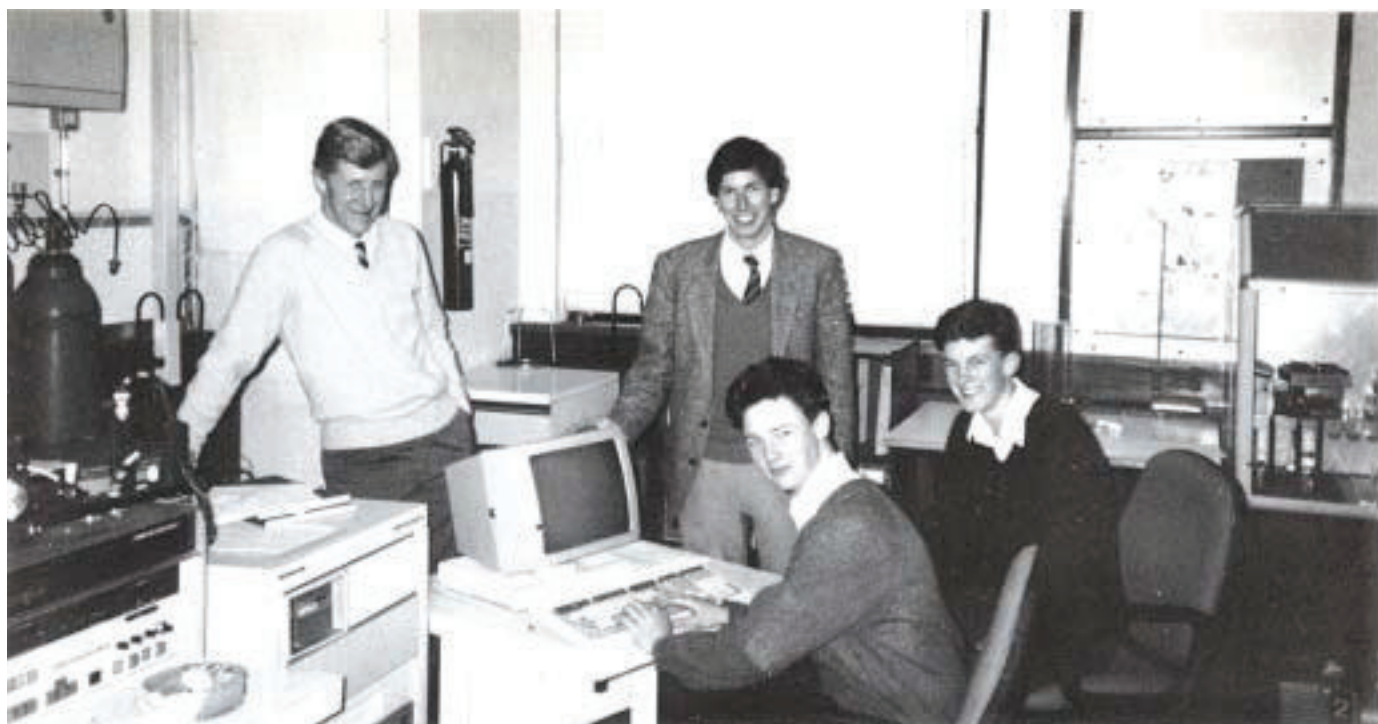
Mr W. Parks, of the British Schools' Exploring Society gave a talk about an expedition to Papua New Guinea on 12th January, and Mr Denis Price talked to us about '*Origins of Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire*' on 14th March and '*Gloucestershire Farming 200 Years Ago*' on 21st March. On 7th March a group of 6A chemistry students went to Bristol University to hear a talk on '*Techniques in Spectroscopy*'; the visit was organised by an old Rendcombian, Dr Roger Alder.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury confirmed 15 candidates, in the presence of their families, on 18th March.

The Grand Auction held by the Parents' Association on 17th March raised over £3,000 towards *Breaking the Sound Barrier*, the music department's appeal for funds to provide a new recording studio; it coincided with a very successful ORs' day on which the school won all the matches.

A party of 'A' level art students left for Amsterdam on 23rd March. During the Easter holidays sixth form biologists and geographers together attended a course at Dale Fort Field Studies Centre, and a party of juniors explored the midlands canals.

It is with great sorrow that we record the death, in Birmingham Maternity Hospital on 21st April, of David Christopher, baby son of Chris and Penny Wood. A memorial service was held in Rendcomb church on 28th April.



Dr Roger Alder OR (far left)

### Summer Term 1990

During the term work began on a further extension to Godman House, an appendix to the development plan.

We warmly congratulate David Vaisey, Bodley's librarian, old Rendcombian and governor, on completing the London marathon in four hours and fifteen minutes; he was sponsored for the Bodleian Appeal Fund and has so far raised £21,000.

On 26th April Mr Price continued his series of lectures with one on St Peter's Church, Rendcomb. On 3rd May Count Nikolai Tolstoy gave a fascinating talk on the forcible repatriation of prisoners at the end of the Second World War, and on the 16th Mrs Lucy Abel Smith drew our attention to Eastern Europe with a talk on Czechoslovakia.

On 2nd June Dr Anthony Dickens, head of medical research in the Directorate-General of Science, Research and Development in the Commission of the European Community, very kindly gave up part of a rare weekend with his family to talk to 6B about the aims and organisation of the Community and the prospects for Rendcombians in the single market; he later joined a meeting of the Future Policy Working Party. He last came to Rendcomb in 1953, to play hockey for Bristol Grammar School.

The sixth form visited Stratford to see *Much Ado About Nothing* on 17th May and *King Lear* on 3rd July. Throughout the term the juniors rehearsed for *Animal Farm*, performed with great success on 5th and 6th July.

On 26th May the guest speaker for founder's day was the Right Reverend John Yates, Bishop of Gloucester; the traditional exhibition of art and craft work drew much praise.

There were numerous outings during the term; the first form visited Slimbridge on 8th May; Godman

House, the fourth forms and 6B visited Alton Towers during the term; sixth-formers found a trip to the careers convention at Olympia on 29th June stimulating and useful.

A month of fine weather at the outset got the cricket season off to a good start. On 3rd June the staff played the Parents' Association on a more typical showery summer's day, followed by a barbecue for the school. On 1st July a parent-pupils doubles tennis tournament was held, and the 1st XI enjoyed a week of cricket matches at the end of term.

As well as *Animal Farm*, musical events included a chamber music recital on 29th April and informal concerts on 20th May and 17th June.

Leavers' weekend included an enjoyable supper party and disco with the staff on 22nd June, and a service in the church followed by a buffet lunch the next day.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Gold Award groups were in action in Gloucestershire and Snowdonia during the last week of term, and on 6th and 7th June 6B bravely arranged a 24-hour sponsored football game to raise funds for the Cobalt Cancer Research Unit.

This year we say a sad goodbye to Angela Ball and also to Kaye Knapp and Denis Price; the ORs' supper on 7th June and a special dinner on 8th June marked the retirement of these two long-serving members of staff. We wish all three success, good health and happiness in their new lives.

We look forward to welcoming in September Mr Howard Morgan, appointed deputy headmaster and to teach history, Mr David Bowman who will teach mathematics, and Mrs Marta Ferro, who will teach French and German.





## Visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester

His Royal Highness arrived at Stable House around lunch time on a cold but dry December day, five minutes early. His visit marked the opening of our three new boarding houses and saluted the developments that have taken place in the life of the school.

He inspected common rooms and studies, met Mr Paul Kampe and planted a tree outside the House. As an architect himself, he was much struck by the French renaissance style of the roof, in keeping with the nearby Stable Block.

He then walked through the stable courtyard, remarking on the fine horse's head at the top of the gateway, passed Godman House where he met Mr and Mrs Sykes and some more boys. One boy leant out of the window and said to a friend 'which one is he?'; the boy replied, 'the one with the glasses'. The Duke looked up and waved.

At Lawn House the Duke and his large party of followers were met by Mr and Mrs Newby and senior boys of the House, including the head boy, Peter Grimsdale. This time they visited the sixth form television room and went up the stairs to the top of the building to look at studies and meet more members of the House. They then walked out and passed a fine line-up of Junior House boys, towards the Arts Block.

By luck, the Duke was now ten minutes ahead of his schedule, so there was more time than expected to enjoy the Arts Block. Much to the delight of the photographers, he inspected the sixth form life drawings and talked to some artists. He also visited the

CDT Centre and was particularly struck by Kevin Holmes's excellent desk. Then he went upstairs to the Music Department where a choir practice was in progress. He stood and listened to the rehearsal of a carol, and then Rendcomb choir's first Royal command performance took place as he asked Director of Music, David White, to conduct the choir in a further carol.

The tour of part of the school ended with a visit to School House and a meeting with Dr and Mrs Haslett and senior members of the House. Finally he walked through the servery into the Dulverton Hall, where members of the school and guests were awaiting him to watch him unveil a plaque.

After some words of welcome by the chairman of the governors, Mr Torquil Norman, who praised the work of the architects and builders and congratulated our generous benefactors for the faith they had shown in the college, the Duke was invited to perform the ceremony. First he said a few words to members of the school and guests.

The Duke said that he could see that the great Victorian pile in which he was now standing had been considerably altered and that this work and the work of building two new boarding houses was a statement of faith in the education that Rendcomb provided. He spoke of the responsibility that such generosity put on pupils and other members of the community, not to be complacent but to use the opportunities they had been given to the full.

Finally His Royal Highness unveiled the plaque and retired to lunch with governors, members of staff and guests. Later he left for Gloucester Cathedral having spent more than two hours at Rendcomb.

J.N.T.





## Kaye Knapp

For those who know the college today, it will be difficult to imagine it as a school of barely 90 pupils accommodated entirely in the main building, the Old Rectory and in three laboratories in the Stable Block - the remainder being as yet undeveloped - and having as its sports facilities only three grass tennis courts, a hazardous 'gym' in what is now the Dulverton Hall, and a games field on 'Top' far smaller in area than today's.

Such it was, though, when K.J.K. joined the staff in 1960. So he has been at Rendcomb throughout a period of great change and development, has seen it transformed into a school three times the size and has been involved in all the various aspects of its expansion during this long period. But such progress cannot be achieved without the support and dedication of those involved in running the school and this is where Rendcomb has been so very fortunate to have had Kaye Knapp's influence. His high principles, firm but fair sense of discipline, wisely considered advice and great skill as a teacher have been one of the mainstays of Rendcomb for the past thirty years; they have ensured that Rendcombians who came under his aegis were given a sound foundation for life and that the school was able to benefit from his deep understanding of its needs as it developed to meet the changing requirements of the times.

Inevitably over such a long period Kaye's responsibilities have been wide-ranging. As head of mathematics for 26 years, he ran a highly successful department, in which he was lucky to have two able assistants over the years in Roy Dennis and later Paul Sykes. The consistently good results in mathematics especially at 'A' level, however, were due at least in part to K.J.K.'s highly individual methods in the classroom. Former pupils frequently refer to the whizzing of chalk projectiles aimed, in a sportsman's precision, not to hit but to excite the attention, and to the wielding of the draughtsman's ruler. But such antics were only a sideshow, as is shown by these remarks recently made by an OR:

"Kaye conducted mathematics lessons in an informal manner, with an emphasis on self-instruction. I was encouraged to think and experiment, and he was always ready to offer help and advice and point me in

the right direction. He was instrumental in my choice of university and subject. He made learning fun and he turned teaching into an education."

Rendcomb's reputation has depended on its academic achievements; Kaye Knapp's contribution to this has been outstanding.

Secondly, there is Kaye's long spell as housemaster. One of the most fundamental and far-sighted moves in the development of the school in the sixties was the establishment in 1966 of a junior House for 11 and 12 year-olds. It would not have been the success that it has been without the guiding influence of Kaye and Margaret Knapp from its earliest days. Kaye set high standards of discipline, behaviour and effort both at work and games; he thereby taught the juniors a code of conduct which they unconsciously followed as they grew older. Those who were in the Junior House during this period may have memories of 'standing in the corridor' or of 'writing sides' but they also recognise that they could always rely on Kaye's fairness, impartiality and on his real interest in their progress and development. I have always been impressed by Kaye's interest in the academic progress of his former charges as they advanced up the school and also by his informed comments about them as individuals when occasion demanded. As regards free time Kaye believed that 11 and 12 year-olds should be encouraged to develop their own interests; his imaginative conversion of the cellars at the Old Rectory (the 'grotto') as a hobbies and modelling room provided hours of pleasure as did the table-tennis room where he frequently bamboozled 'experts' by his prowess. He liked the juniors to make use of the sporting facilities in out-of-school hours and on Sundays to explore the countryside.

No resume of Kaye's time in the Junior House would be complete however without an acknowledgement of the great contribution made by his wife, Margaret. Quite apart from supplying traditional Sunday afternoon tea parties for the juniors, she was able to provide the sympathetic help so necessary for 11 year-olds away from home for the first time. Also, when their family was young, Margaret, a qualified physiotherapist, acted as Junior House matron. So Margaret too has been involved in the development of both the pupils and the school over a long period and has been a loyal supporter of Rendcomb and its various activities: indeed, her contacts at the hospital in Cirencester have certainly led to many local pupils' coming to the school. For a husband and wife team to have run a boarding house so successfully for 19 years must be a record in independent school annals. Certainly together they have made a remarkable contribution to the history of Rendcomb.

Thirdly, I must turn to Kaye's contribution to sport. He is a talented games player; as a schoolboy he played cricket for Hampshire Schools and represented English Catholic Schools at association football; while in the RAF he concentrated on tennis and then took up squash seriously when he joined the Cirencester club.

In 1961 Kaye took over the running of cricket as the incoming Latin master was unable to follow in the steps of his predecessor. He ran the sport for 20 years, coaching the 1st XI until David Essenhigh was appointed. I rather like this reminiscence of K.J.K. in the nets:

“From a run-up of no more than three paces, he could get the cricket ball to rear vertically off a perfect length. Woe betide anyone who tried to play one of these balls off the back foot! There were faster bowlers (and others who were dangerously erratic) but nobody else was so adept at making you play every delivery. In my final years at Rendcomb, I realised the only way to play balls (and avoid injury) was to move down the wicket and play them with a straight bat as they pitched. This was what Kaye was trying to teach; it was no fault of his that it took me so long to appreciate it.”

In later years he contented himself with sitting on his three-legged stool in the estate garden while instructing the first form in the mysteries of the game. His skill as a racquets player was seen every year on the hard courts when he was coaching pupils or dazzling them with his unusual, sinuous serve - his son, Ben, became a schoolboy international and captained the Oxford tennis team. When the squash courts were built, he masterminded this sport too, spending many hours umpiring on Sundays and gaining pleasure from the success of Rendcomb teams in the Sunday League.

Fourthly, and for the current generation of Rendcombians most significantly, Kaye has been second master for the past five years. He nobly took on this post (which he certainly did not expect to fall vacant) just at a point when he was looking forward to some relaxation after giving up his housemastership. He brought to the post a new authority, a wealth of experience about Rendcomb, and a strong belief in the school's ethos; this was immediately called upon in his capacity of chairman of the development committee which drew up the plans for the restructuring of the boarding system, the successful result of which can be seen in operation today. The school has respected his

high standards and the staff have appreciated his wise advice and firm leadership. The headmaster was fortunate to find that he had a second master of Kaye's standing and experience to guide him when he arrived in 1987. But in my view one of his greatest contributions as second master was to offer to run the School House in the last year of the old boarding regime. It meant sacrificing his family life to live in the bachelor quarters of the main building and immersing himself once again in the role of housemaster. That he was prepared to do this says a great deal about Kaye's character.

Kaye has been a father-figure in the school for so long that it is hard to imagine Rendcomb without him. To some, both pupils and younger staff alike, he may have appeared awesome on first acquaintance; but this impression was quickly dispelled as you appreciated his dry wit and keen sense of humour, as evident in the classroom as in the common room. Less readily appreciated was his modesty; he rarely spoke of his own achievements, disliked pomposity and boasting, and seldom pushed himself to the fore. He is not given to public speaking, and is probably at his best with a small group or just one to one; then he will relax and talk fluently on many subjects whether serious or amusing - and particularly about his family, for he is essentially a family-man, proud of Ben's sporting achievements, of Simon's promising business career, of Fiona and Richard's happy marriage. The school will miss his authoritative presence, his well-known shout of 'Hey, you there, tuck in your shirt!' The common room will wonder what has become of: 'I've put you down to supervise period five. I see you're not teaching then!'

Kaye and Margaret will be living only a few miles away in the Duntisbourne Valley, but their departure will leave a real gap in our society. We send them our best wishes for a long and happy retirement and our thanks for all they have done for Rendcomb. We shall expect to see them quite often, perhaps exercising Cora and Phoebe in the park.

W.J.D.W.

Junior House



C. J. Wood





## Denis Price

Few of us at Rendcomb in 1969 could imagine how anyone would be able to follow in the footsteps of J.C. James who had been senior history master for 38 years. He was a dynamic figure, a scholarly teacher and not a little eccentric. But, quite soon after his arrival, Denis Price showed that he was not only a worthy successor to J.C.J. but also quickly asserted his own *modus docendi* and became as individualistic in his own right!

History under Denis's guidance has been an ever popular subject. His 'A' level classes have been marked not simply by the thoroughness and scholarship of his teaching; they have been constantly enlivened by his impersonations of famous characters (and some members of staff, too) and by his artistic skill on the board whether drawing maps, castles or portraits. He has inspired many Rendcombians with a love for his subject, instanced by the considerable number who have won Oxbridge awards or read history for their degrees at other universities. His own passion for the subject is seen in the meticulous detail of his book *The Normans in Gloucestershire*, and when 'out in the field' illustrating his favourite 'ridge and furrow farming'.

Some 15 years ago, Denis saw the need for a further arts subject to be offered at 'A' level as an alternative to French or physics. Thus economics and public affairs was established, a subject which provided interesting, but also testing for the candidates. Such a move meant that Denis's teaching had to be confined largely to the sixth form; I think this was where he felt his vocation lay, but it was a pity that the junior forms were prevented from enjoying his inspiring and humorous style of teaching. Rugby, too, is one of Denis's passions. He took over the sport when he arrived and enjoyed coaching the 1st XV for the next five years. The rugby teams had some successful seasons and held on to a very creditable fixture list for

the size of the school (there were about 120 boys then).

In 1973 Denis was appointed as first housemaster of Park House, the new co-educational sixth form boarding house. It was a revolutionary venture for Rendcomb (if not for any school) and one which offered a real challenge for the housemaster and his wife. It was fortunate for Rendcomb that Denis and his wife, Mary, were prepared to take on this considerable responsibility, for it was a post requiring the particular talents which they possessed. Their understanding of the problems of the sixth formers - those of the girls as well as those of the boys - meant that many intakes of girls were able to settle quickly and easily into the strange environment of a boys' school and that the boys in Park House were able to develop their own personalities and accomplishments under a tolerant but wisely guided regime. I am sure that Denis and Mary would agree that their 12 years in Park House were enjoyable (at least in retrospect) but that they were also highly demanding.

Former pupils often recall the unending patience and kindly tolerance with which their requests, trivial or serious, were met, and also the end of the week unwinding at the Saturday night bar, with Denis joining in the dancing as if he were thirty years younger. None of this would have been possible without Denis and Mary's dedication to the job and also their sense of humour which acted as a safety valve when things were overwhelming. This passage from a letter from one of the girls at Rendcomb in the seventies perhaps illustrates the points I have been trying to make:

"Two of us were locking up (prefects had to lock up the Arts Block and the main building) and, wandering back to Park House, we came across two Grenadier Guardsmen in full combat kit, who were lost on an orienteering exercise. By the time we had found an Ordnance Survey map and had put them on their way, we were very late, and returned to Park House to

explain. D.S.J.P just about contained himself for the explanation, said it was too bad a story to be untrue, and then collapsed into tears of laughter.”

Twelve years was a long time to cope with such a demanding responsibility, but thanks to Denis and Mary’s dedication, nobly supported by Charlotte Holdaway, the girls’ tutor, the sixth form enjoyed a happy and relaxed atmosphere and in particular new intakes of girls were able to benefit fully from their time at Rendcomb. All ORs owe Dennis and Mary a real debt of gratitude for the guidance they gave them during their time in Park House.

As housemaster of the second year sixth Denis naturally became their academic adviser. This in turn led to guiding ‘A’ level candidates towards a suitable choice of university or polytechnic. The mysteries of UCCA and PCAS applications are unveiled to only a chosen few; to the rest they remain unfathomable. Denis soon became an expert in this area of administration; he dealt with the continuing demand for references (even after pupils left) with amazing goodwill and, with his easy turn of phrase, was able to provide an accurate but also interesting character study for every candidate. The hours of work devoted by Denis to this and his wealth of knowledge on the subject were too readily taken for granted, as I suspect those now taking on this task already appreciate.

I have hinted earlier at Denis’s love of imitation. In more recent years he has made more serious use of his Thespian qualities; he has given some unforgettable performances in senior plays: an aloof *Malvolio*, an amusing guardian of law in *Much Ado about Nothing*, a telly-addicted uncle in *A Season’s Greetings*. But to my way of thinking, his finest hour was as the Major General in *The Pirates of Penzance*, in which he cleverly revelled both in the character he portrayed and also in the words of the libretto. He also enjoyed taking part in the Chedworth Players’ productions and I wonder if he will start up something similar at Chateau de Lamazere! Lastly, and by no means least, he has been the school’s librarian for the last five years and has taken great pride in maintaining the high quality of the library.

I wonder if my attempts to give some account of Denis’s contribution to Rendcomb over the past 21 years have really also portrayed him as a person. His qualities as a teacher and as a housemaster will perhaps be clear; but it has been less easy to emphasise his devotion to his family and pride in their achievements, his great love for Rendcomb and strong belief in the basic principles of the school’s foundation. He is essentially a sociable person who, with Mary, has always given great support to school activities; he has a fund of good advice which colleagues and pupils could readily tap, a keen sense of fun and an impish sense of humour. But I think one of my fondest memories will be of his recounting some highly amusing and improbable tale seated in his chair in what he called ‘Senior Beak’s Corner’ in the common room.

Rendcomb will be the poorer for the loss of Mary and Denis Price (and their large family and numerous hounds). We are grateful for their friendship and for their loyal service to Rendcomb. We hope that they will have many happy years living in South-West France.

W.J.D.W.

## Angela Ball

Although she has been assistant matron for only a year, Angela Ball will be much missed by many staff and pupils alike. Known affectionately by all as Angie, Mrs Ball not only played a strong supporting role to Julie Rogers in the many duties that fall to a school matron, but took an interest in Rendcomb and its pupils far beyond the call of duty. At times indeed, she felt constrained in her role as a member of staff, but her support for everything from rugby fixtures to play rehearsals will be sorely missed. She was always ready with a sympathetic ear for the many problems of teenagers, and her exceptional friendliness and kindness meant that she was quickly adopted by many sixth formers as mother-figure and confidante. We are sad to see her leave so soon and wish her and her son Michael all the very best in Spain.

M.C.C.



Church flowers

J. Pratten



# Founder's Day

## The Chairman's Speech

Welcoming the guest of honour, the Right Reverend John Yates, Bishop of Gloucester, and all guests, the chairman of governors said that he was especially pleased to welcome Lord and Lady Dulverton, who had done so much for the school over a period of so many years.

Mr Norman went on to thank all those concerned in the change of structure in the school for the success with which it had been carried out. The final stage of the development plan, an extension to Godman House to allow for the accommodation of four more boys and to provide a large games room, was already under way.

He went on to say that the governors were not contemplating any further major development in the foreseeable future. The new system meant that boys of different ages lived together and that the prefects had to undertake quite a lot more responsibility. It was not the governors' intention in any way to depart from the ideals bequeathed to the school by its founder. They wished to maintain the informal atmosphere, meaning that a great deal of responsibility for the way in which the school was run devolved on the personal efforts and standards of the pupils in it; they would continue to try to provide an environment where individual character could be developed and a first-class education was available to everyone.

Affirming his support for the General Meeting, he believed that it was up to all the young men and women in the school to participate as much as possible in increasing the influence the Meeting exercised on the way the school was run.

The intention in the development plan had been to increase the size of the school by slightly over ten per cent, and he expected that this would be achieved in about three years; the governors did not intend to increase beyond that point. Additional size brought benefits, in particular a larger teaching staff and so greater flexibility in terms of 'A' level choices and the way classes were organised.

Mr Norman thanked the chairman, Mr Peter Gee, and all members of the Parents' Association for their great efforts in raising funds for the school and for their support in a number of projects. Now that the two new hard tennis courts were finished, they were raising funds to provide a new recording studio for the music department.

He went on to pay warm tribute to Kaye Knapp and Denis Price, retiring this summer, for the many ways in which they had served the school. He concluded by thanking all branches of the staff for all they had done to make the past year a success, and the headmaster and his wife for the good-humoured and intelligent way in which they continued to enhance the reputation of Rendcomb as a fine and successful school.

## The Headmaster's Report

The headmaster began by thanking the girls and boys in 6A for all they had done to establish the right kind of atmosphere in the new boarding houses, already living, breathing, working communities. He paid tribute also to the remarkable, historic work done by the housemasters and their wives, the housemistress and her husband; with care and commitment, enthusiasm and humour, they had breathed life into the new houses. Each senior house already had a character of its own, yet he was struck, more than by anything else, by the way in which this unselfish and generous group of people worked as a team, avoiding the worst excesses of inter-house rivalry and comparison.

This new phase in Rendcomb's life had been marked by the visit of the Duke of Gloucester in December, a proud day for the school. His Royal Highness had spoken simply of our good fortune in living in such glorious surroundings, in such pleasant and well-equipped buildings, and of the responsibility laid on us to make the most of it, offering our enthusiasm, commitment and hard work, first to our lives in the school and then to the world outside.

The headmaster continued by saying that one way in which we could express appreciation of our good fortune was by caring for our surroundings and avoiding needless waste. He had been approached by members of 6B, who had offered to review our use of resources and see where practices could be improved.

The changes to Rendcomb's style of living had taken place in the context of a radical change in education nationally. Rendcomb would follow the national curriculum as it developed, but not in a blind, unquestioning way. The flexibility bestowed on a boarding school would allow some of its demands to be met outside timetabled lessons; music was a prime example. Language and science teaching especially were at present under review, and boys now in the first form, working for their 'A' levels from 1994 to 1996, would be taking a course very different from the present one.



A healthy development had been the involvement of employers, who increasingly demanded literacy, numeracy, a foreign language and familiarity with the uses of information technology. Above all, they were now demanding, in their jargon, 'personal effectiveness': chairing a meeting, listening to other points of view and coming to a conclusion, persuading, working as part of a team, speaking in public, contributing to a committee, earning the trust and respect of colleagues, knowing when to speak and when to stay silent, how to see the wood in spite of the trees. All those engaged in appointing people to jobs involving working with others knew how much they hungered for these qualities. Here, he said, he found himself unconsciously quoting the founder, who had wanted the school to produce people who could make their way in the world.

Commenting that the staff would meet all the changes with their usual calm competence, he thanked them for all their selfless work for the school.

Turning to achievements during the past year, he remarked that many of them did not change but were repeated annually. He offered what he called a highly selective and personal list: the rugby 1st XV working together to win a tough contest against Dean Close, seven Rendcombians playing for county cricket sides, the community service group winning their *Project Respond* award, the blossoming of the girls' hockey and netball teams, the wise and witty contribution made to school life by the Parents' Association, some superb tennis, the productions of *Season's Greetings* and *Find Me*, a Rendcombian's prize in the BTV national computer graphics competition, the competence and dress-sense of the sixth form bar committee, the cheerful common sense of the head boy and head girl and their team of prefects, the gentle enthusiasm of the guides showing visitors round, and a number of others ...

And also, hidden from the public eye, there was the most important work of all, the steady teaching and learning, the cheerful administrative support, all that went to remind us, especially today in the presence of our Bishop, that there was more to education than could be measured by standard assessment tasks, however refined, subtle and laborious. With the building of the new houses the centre of gravity of Rendcomb had shifted; it is pleasant to think that the church is now literally the centre-point of the school site.

In conclusion, the headmaster paid his own warm and extensive tributes to Kaye and Margaret Knapp and to Denis and Mary Price and to their greatly valued and varied services to Rendcomb, wishing them a long and happy future.

## Address by The Rt Revd John Yates, Lord Bishop of Gloucester

The Bishop began by thanking the school for inviting him to give the founder's day address. His visits to the school for confirmation services had convinced him of its unique spirit and atmosphere; he counted it a privilege to join in the celebrations, particularly at the end of a year which had managed to combine so much change with such remarkable and continuing achievements.

Recalling his own school days and his work in the sixth form, he now felt that his desire for success had not always sprung from the right motives; it was the education of living through the Second World War which had made him realise what was important in life. In those days it had been impossible not to think about what really mattered, and the experience had given him a bedrock of moral values by which to live and think for the rest of his life.

Young people today, he felt, faced a future far more exciting and challenging than his own prospects had been. At the same time, it was a future more beset with doubts and uncertainties, more morally threatening than before. No one wanted another war to force people to consider the values by which they lived, but there was an urgent need for young people to rise to the challenge of discovering what really mattered to them in life.

He believed that they were swayed in particular by two voices; one said that you must succeed at all costs - all that mattered was success - and the second suggested that the counsel of the older generation was silly and that young people should drop out, reject the standards of the past and kick away the ties that had led to a world of shallow, materialistic values.

Both these courses were, of course, wrong; we all owed it to the world to make something of our lives. To drop out was to waste talents fostered at a school like Rendcomb. At the same time, we should not live for success alone; the important thing in life was to find out the right questions, to seek the truth of what life was about and not to be so obsessed with success as to miss what really mattered.

In conclusion, the Bishop appealed to parents and pupils alike to keep a sense of proportion about education; exam results and success were important, but they were not everything in life. Above all, he said, parents and pupils should treat each other as openly and maturely as possible, sharing and respecting each other's point of view, to get the best out of education.

The Beach



J. Dowson



## Speech of Thanks

by the Head Girl, Justine Platt

Thanking the Bishop for sharing his thoughts, his humour and his wisdom with the school, Justine emphasised how lucky people were to be at Rendcomb and how important it was not to take such advantages for granted.

Rendcomb's development in the comparatively few years since its foundation was remarkable and a great tribute to the founder's foresight. She believed that the key to Rendcombians' success was their learning to believe in themselves, being encouraged to compete with themselves. The principle worked well, and that it did so reflected great credit on the staff; here Justine echoed the thanks and best wishes already offered to Kaye Knapp and Denis Price.

Finally she renewed thanks to the Bishop for his wise words and for being with the school on founder's day.



## Reports

### Chaplain's Notes

No sooner had the college broken up for the 1989 summer holidays than the organ builders were into St Peter's Church to remove our old organ and put it into store prior to rebuilding it in Upton St Leonard's Church later this year. The organ builders were followed by the decorators who cleaned and lime-washed the walls and they in turn were followed by the men from Allen's who installed the new organ and by the arrival of our new hymn books and the delivery of new chairs, many of which have been purchased to mark the time spent at Rendcomb by pupils and staff. Eventually, by the end of August and after an enthusiastic sort-out by the parish, the church was once again ready for use.

What had been achieved? Well, for a start, we have a much lighter and brighter church. We have a Lady Chapel which can be used either for small and more intimate services or to provide additional seating space during college services and morning prayers. We are able, once again, to see the very beautiful Sergison window, which was hidden by the old organ for over forty years, and everyone seems satisfied with the result.

The first major service in the church after all the work had been completed was a combined harvest thanksgiving and thanksgiving for the refurbishment of the church. It was a very joyful occasion, and it gave me great pleasure to see such a good 'mix' of college and village giving thanks together. Four weeks later, on Remembrance Sunday, another well-attended service heard the choir sing as their anthem the first movement from Faure's Requiem and then in the evening, the college Choral Society - choir, staff and friends - sang the whole of the Requiem to an appreciative audience in the church.

An innovation to our church calendar this year was the introduction of an Advent carol service on the first Sunday in Advent. Using the symbolism of light and movement around the church, the intimate atmosphere of the service helped prepare us for Christmas in a way that our end of term carol service, by its much greater scale and different emphasis cannot do, and many people were kind enough to say that they found it a very moving service. The carol service itself in the magnificent parish church of Cirencester was, as always, a great occasion. The choir introduced us to some new carols, the congregation sang the old ones and the readers read the traditional lessons. It was a fitting climax to a busy term.

Confirmation classes, which began in November, continued through the Lent term until Sunday, 18th March, when the Bishop of Tewkesbury confirmed 15 members of the college. In his address to the candidates, the Bishop reminded them what a commitment to Christ really means - the denial of self in the service of God and of our neighbour - and he encouraged them to take advantage of their time at Rendcomb to equip themselves to fulfil that commitment.

Those confirmed by the Bishop were:

Nicholas Barton, Andrew Branston, Natasha Clements,

## Ushers



*W. J. D. White*

Barrie Davies, Katie Floyd, Marcus Fouracres, Matthew Gee, James Grafton, Timothy Haine, Daniel Irving, Andrew Martin, Matthew Pentney, Nicholas Rose, Robert Sage and Karen Swan.

There were a number of interesting visitors to the church during the year and some very challenging and provoking sermons. Canon Martin Shaw, the Diocesan Missioner for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, challenged us to face up to what must appear to outsiders to be the insanity of Christianity, and to seek to cultivate and broadcast an informed and living faith, rather than accept blindly an incomprehensible and therefore sterile one. The Rev Ian Gemmel, the vicar of an inner-city parish in Leicester, brought the parable of the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' very much up to date with an amusing telephone dialogue sketch. He then went on to suggest that in the same way that the Jews saw the bread produced by Jesus purely as a means of satisfying their hunger, so we today see the many blessings we enjoy as being purely for our own benefit, whereas we should be using them in a much more spiritual way, responding to the gifts of a loving God by using them in the loving service of others.

We began the summer term on a very sad note. Baby David Christopher, who had been born to Penny and Chris Wood shortly before the end of the previous term, died after a long struggle the day before college reassembled. On the first Saturday of term the church was filled with friends of all ages for a short memorial service, and I know that Penny, Chris and their families were greatly strengthened by that support and by the many tokens of love and sympathy they received during their bereavement.

The final major event in the church's calendar this year was the leaver's service on Saturday, 23rd June. As always, the leavers themselves played a great part in the service; they chose the hymns, the lesson was read by Peter Grimsdale, the head boy, and the address was given by Denis Price. In his address, Denis Price reminded the leavers that the time they had spent at Rendcomb was the most important time of their life and that, even though they might not appreciate it now, he hoped that in the future they would come to realise the beneficial effect that being educated in such beautiful

surroundings had had on them. He counselled them on the good stewardship of time, making his point with a quotation from Benjamin Franklin: 'Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time for that's the stuff life is made of.' and concluded by saying that though everybody leaving Rendcomb, himself included, was a little frightened by the prospect, respect for our fellow men and all God's creation would 'confirm and strengthen us in all goodness'.

As you will have gathered, music has again played a large and vital part in the work and worship of the church, and I am most grateful to the college choir who have led the worship to an extremely high standard in Rendcomb Church, in Cirencester Church and in Bristol Cathedral. They, I know, would want me to say how much we all have appreciated the expertise and enthusiasm of David White, as he has encouraged, cajoled and threatened us in his efforts to raise the standards ever higher, and for the support of Stephen Lea, who in addition to accompanying us even composed a piece for us to sing! Stephen also trained the 'Special Boys Choir' from the first form to sing at the Sunday Holy Communion, and I am most grateful to them all for the lead they gave us first thing on a Sunday morning!

Thanks are due also to our very conscientious and capable band of ushers, led this year by Karl Reens and consisting of Anja Beaver, Suzanne Denley, Jeremy Jehan and Jonathan Pratten; to David Hawkswell and Graham Smith for assisting with the Chalice at celebrations of the Holy Communion; to Mr and Mrs Frank Fry and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Team for all the work done in the churchyard; to all who have kept the inside of the church looking beautiful through cleaning or the arranging of flowers; and especially to Bill White who without fuss controls everything 'front of house' and can always be relied upon to find someone a seat no matter how full the church may appear.

May I conclude by wishing all those who are leaving Rendcomb 'God-speed' and every success in their new life. We look forward to seeing you in the future and to hearing your news. To those of you returning in the autumn, have a good break and come back refreshed for the new academic year.

P.J.S.



## Community Service

Towards the end of the last academic year Suzanne Denley and Nicola Malins approached me to ask if there was any chance of restarting a college community service scheme. At about the same time a local newspaper published an article in which Dr David Beales, a Cirencester GP and Rendcomb parent, explained a research project he had undertaken amongst patients in his practice, aged seventy-five and over. The results of his research showed that regular visiting and support from lay people dramatically reduced the need of these elderly people for medical attention.

This seemed to be an area in which Rendcomb could help, and Dr Beales was kind enough to talk to those interested in community service and to explain his ideas in greater depth. He also put us in touch with Mrs Jane Winstanley of the Cirencester Volunteer Bureau, who kindly agreed to act as the link between the college, medical practices in Cirencester and the elderly people they thought we could help. Before the scheme began, Mrs Winstanley visited Rendcomb and gave a very useful talk about how to deal with elderly and handicapped people.

In September 1989 the scheme began, twelve sixth-formers going into Cirencester on a weekly basis to meet the six elderly people referred to us by the Cirencester Volunteer Bureau. It all went extremely well and, by the end of October, the scheme had expanded to include 22 sixth-formers of whom sixteen visit Cirencester every Tuesday afternoon. In addition to visiting elderly people, reading to them and playing Scrabble, doing shopping and odd jobs about the house

or just taking them for a walk, members of the scheme have been involved in helping make an 'Access Map' of Cirencester for wheelchair users and working with pre-school-age children at the Cirencester Opportunity Group day centre.

The success of the scheme attracted the interest of the press, and in February 1990 the Wilts. and Glos. Standard ran photographs of some of the participants. We were also invited to enter the National Westminster Bank's 'Project Respond' and during the Easter holidays learnt that our entry had been awarded a £75 prize to go towards developing the scheme. Holly Andrews and Claire Boydell received the award on behalf of the college.

The Cirencester Volunteer Bureau has written to the headmaster to thank him for all the good work done for the community by members of the scheme, and I would like to add my thanks for the enthusiastic way they have all gone about their tasks. Although we are sad to lose a number of 'founder members' from 6A, I am delighted that there is no shortage of volunteers to take their places next year.

Those who have taken part in the scheme are: Holly Andrews, Claire Boydell, Christopher Brown, Lucy Brummitt, Gail Cawthorne, Sophie Chang, Natasha Clements, Suzanne Denley, Patrick Evans, Lydia Fellows, Friederike Festge, Kate Graham, Simon Hardie, Rebecca Hodgkinson, Emma Hull, Nicola Kemp, Julia Lascelles, Nicola Malins, Sarah McIndoe, Fiona Reichwald, Philippa Rome, Kristie Sellers, Tom Shillington-Balfour, Charlotte Stephens and Elizabeth Syed.

P.J.S.



*John Cheesman*

## Bursar's Notes

Yes, we did manage to open School House and the Main Building on 10th September last - just! A week earlier it had not seemed possible but, thanks to our cleaners' working over the whole weekend, the building was clean about an hour before the boys came back.

I am glad to say that this reorganisation has proved a great success. The new home economics classroom has produced some superb food, and the tea I attended recently produced by the Duke of Edinburgh course was the best ever. The new classrooms are a vast improvement on the ones we had before, and School House seems to have settled down with equanimity to its part of the building. The matrons are happy with their new quarters, and the Hasletts' flat has turned out even better than we expected. Last but not least, and of passing interest to some parents, the new girls' loos, which can be found past the laundry area, should save queueing at the increasing number of functions that take place.

Some parents have complained to me about the vast amount of paper generated by our computer when it issues fee bills. I can only apologise for this and say that I am taking steps to try to reduce the quantity, but not at the expense of clarity. I hope you will agree that at least the presentation, particularly of the 'extras', is now clearer, even if you may not like what you read!

I might in passing mention the new sewage arrangements, which from our point of view are splendid. There has not been the slightest whiff from our drains from the moment we joined the main drainage system last summer.

I must also add that the building of the new boarding houses, the reconstruction of the Main Building, the improvements to Park House and the new sewage arrangements would not have been possible without the wholehearted financial support of the trustees and the very generous gift from Stephen Merrett, an OR. Much credit is due also to Kaye Knapp, who lent his authority to the project, and to the development committee he chaired, which met weekly for the better part of two years.

The Parents' Association, having succeeded with the new hard tennis courts, are now devoting their undoubted energies to raising funds to improve our music facilities, specifically by providing a recording studio. After a highly successful second auction in March, we had a most enjoyable families day, when the weather was fortunately just fine enough to complete the parents v. staff cricket match. The association is now well on the way to its target of funds for the studio, and I commend its efforts to all parents.

E.T.T.

## The Friends of Rendcomb

On the point of going to press, the Friends have received a most generous gift from Mrs Vera Fell, widow of Jack Fell, who taught here for 39 years and whose quite exceptional service to the school we commemorate by giving his name to one of our scholarships.

During the year we have gained new Friends and have altered our investments to generate greater income. High interest rates favour our investment; they also make it more difficult for many people to join us and render our support for the college more needful.

Many former parents have been very generous, and we have had staunch support from the older generations of ORs. We hope to arouse more interest in the younger ones, those who left ten years or so ago. We firmly believe that there is no greater gift one can offer the young, and through them to the nation, than the sort of education which Rendcomb provides.

D. de G. S.



Tidy  
Rendcomb

## The Library

Changes over the past year have meant that the library now plays a bigger than ever role in the centre of the school; it is a place to study in peace, to look up that nagging reference or spelling mistake or just to find a quiet corner to read one of the many and varied books it has to offer.

Mr Price's bibliophile authority and wise choice of new books will be greatly missed as he goes off to France to read Flaubert and Sartre in the sun! Many thanks must go also particularly to Matt Ventrella, and to Amanda Vaux, Celia Mucklow and the third form, whose 'hours work' in the library were well endured, if not enjoyed.

Sara Payne



Vulcan  
Bomber



*D. Egre*

## The Junior House

The juniors were kept very busy during the first two weekends of the year. On the first Sunday the Ironbridge Gorge Museum was invaded by 40 boys hungry for scientific knowledge and, as ever, food! Although the first visit turned out to be rather rushed, they learned about the developments in iron-making through the ages and the contribution made by the steam engine. Seven days later they were walking for the Macmillan Nurses, and a good proportion completed the gruelling 20-mile course; they slept well that night.

One evening in October a performance of *The Hobbit* at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford, made a pleasant change from prep. At first sight the set was rather bland, but it was used ingeniously by splitting it up for the goblins' scene and the dragon's lair. The dragon was easily the most spectacular character, its head sophisticated and so large that its wearer did well to control its movement.

In the Lent term we visited the RAF Museum at Hendon - see the article entitled Rendcomb Airfield - allowing the boys to get close to aircraft and so appreciate their size. Walking beneath the Avro Vulcan bomber, which

formerly carried Britain's nuclear deterrent, was particularly impressive because of its huge delta wings and cavernous bomb bay. A short drive across London brought us to the Natural History Museum, where there was a superb choice of exhibitions including Human Biology, Creepy Crawlies, Dinosaurs, Evolution and Gemstones.

In March the Cotswolds Warden Service organised a campaign to clean up the area as part of 'Tidy Britain Year'. The juniors 'swept' through the village at high speed, filling several plastic bags with all sorts of rubbish, from sweet wrappers to chunks of polystyrene left by builders.

The summer term will be remembered for the swimming during a hot May, the Thorpe Park outing, broken windows, the golf and tennis tournaments - thanks to P.S. and D.A.H. - the family day, the informal concerts, the revision sessions, *Animal Farm*, RAF Lyneham, William Brix's bicycle accident, the World Cup, reading after lights-out and Mr and Mrs White on evening duty.

Such a report would not be complete without mentioning the immense contribution made by our two prefects, Anja Beaver and Suzanne Denley, to the smooth running of the house and the welfare of the boys.

C.J.W. et al.



*Upstart*





## Godman House

### The Housemother's Perspective

September 1989 was the start of our first year as houseparents in Godman House. I am not sure who was more wary, the new boys meeting their new housemother, or I giving my first talk to 33 boys. In the first week I quickly learnt that boys will read all notices, apart from those to do with laundry. Once this basic fact was realised, life went smoothly.

On the first Sunday of term we all went ice-skating at the Link Centre, some boys competing for the most original way of falling over and others, along with our assistant housemaster, Dominic O'Connor, giving Robin Cousins a run for his money.

Archery became a house activity, and I must thank Mrs Essenhigh for all her help and patience with the budding archers. It proved very popular, and boys gained white and blue proficiency certificates. Godman House entered a team in the Winter Postal League and came top of Division Two. This was a great achievement, because they were shooting against schools where archery is a main sport. The team members were David Chalk, Giles Head, Anthony Brooke, Jay Ouellette, Daniel Irving and James Mills. Congratulations to them for showing the determination to keep on shooting until they got high enough scores, although I have still to be convinced that it was archery, and not the fact that they missed first prep,

that fed this determination!

Dominic O'Connor took groups of boys cycling, orienteering and climbing, which proved very popular. The other house activity was cookery, the more entrepreneurial boys selling their wares to the rest of the house.

The two prefects, Kevin Holmes and John Carroll, regularly took the boys into the Sports Hall for football, or practised cricket outside the house. It was never actually decided who needed the practice but, from the number of tennis balls that hit our car and caravan or ended up in our garden, it seems that everybody needed to improve his placing of the ball.

For me one of the highlights of the year was the sketches after the Christmas party. Daniel Irving's portrayal of my husband playing golf in the classroom whilst still teaching was hilarious. Some of the sketches may have been libellous, but that added to the enjoyment!

The house has been on many outings, but for me the best was the camping trip to the Black Mountains on 3rd June, with Dominic and two 6B boys, Chris Brown and Simon Hardie, who were enormously helpful. My son Christopher came along as well; bribed with Marathon bars, he has managed to complete all the walks. The boys did very well and, considering the pace at which I walk, showed great patience, probably because they kept on getting little rest-breaks, whereas I never got any!

Our thanks go to Dominic for organising this trip and for all the help he has given us in our first year in Godman; he has made our job far easier. I must also thank John and Kevin for all their help; it is a great relief to have two prefects on whom you can rely completely. That, and the fact that they make good bridge partners, had meant that we have had a successful year.

Last, but by no means least, I must also thank all the boys for making our first year so enjoyable. They have been a constant source of amusement and that, along with the garden path that dorm five built, means that I shall not forget them in a hurry!

J. S.



Bonfire  
building





C. J. Wood

## The Parents' Association

As a result of the very successful sponsored walk and barbecue organised by members of the staff last September, we raised £3,000 for Macmillan Nurses. Our thanks go to those who organised the day, to all of you who participated and to all who gave so generously.

A major fund-raising project was proposed and accepted by your committee. Our object is to *Break the Sound Barrier* and our target is to raise £6,000 before December 1990. Why? The music department needs a studio in which to produce and record good music. To achieve this they require special facilities, with the appropriate acoustics, and good electronic equipment.

The committee proposed three major fund-raising events during the current year. The first, the grand auction, was held in the spring. Detailed organisation and preparation led to a very busy day, in which over £3,000 was raised. Our special thanks go to John Marshall, who gave his time so generously as auctioneer for the day, and to Allan Ramsden-Hare for his special expertise and for leading the event.

June 3rd brought the family day and barbecue, our second major event. The weather was mixed, but improved as the day wore on. The cricket provided us with another exciting finish, despite an unfortunate injury to Ron Fouracres. David Grimsdale and his subcommittee worked very hard and provided us with a marvellous day. On behalf of us all I would like to pay a special tribute to all the pupils who contributed to the success of the day. They helped with the preparation, running the side-shows, assisting with the catering and, not least, with the clearing-up afterwards. It was not just what they did but, more importantly, the spirit in which it was done. Thank you all very much.

The day's effort raised over £1,100.

By the end of the summer term £5,000 had been raised and, with the summer ball at the end of August, our target is in sight.

In addition to the major events, numerous smaller ones have been held. The music department has been busking at every opportunity, as well as providing marvellous concerts throughout the year.

Many people, not directly affected by the project but involved in Rendcomb life, have been caught up by the great energy shown by David White. There are too many for me to mention by name, but our grateful thanks go to you all, and especially to the catering staff, who raised some money for us by raffling cakes. We are very appreciative, and moved by such generosity.

I would like to thank my committee for their unstinting efforts:

Vice-chairman	Allan Ramsden-Hare
Secretary (minutes)	David Grimsdale
Secretary (events)	Pauline Allen
Treasurer	Bill Topalian

Val Abbot, Ron Carroll, Michael Paine and the staff representative David White.

Finally I would like to convey how much I have enjoyed my two years as chairman and how much easier they have been with the support of the headmaster and the staff, especially Edward Thring and Tom Gomersall. I shall be leaving the committee in October, but know that others with new ideas and energy follow. I shall leave with regret, but I am certain that, with your continuing support, the Parents' Association will go from strength to strength.

Peter Gee

# Talks

## Energy and the Environment

On 15th November we were very privileged to have Professor Ian Fells come to give us the seventh Michael Wills Memorial Lecture. Environmental issues, coupled with concern about energy sources for the future, have been at the forefront of public interest recently, commanding much publicity among the media in the 'green' and environment-conscious late 1980s; thus it was timely to hear a talk by the Professor of Energy Conservation at the University of Newcastle, who is also adviser to the Minister for Energy, providing us with the hard facts and, we hoped, clarifying the picture so that we could form our own views based on the truth and not merely on opinions expressed through the media.

Professor Fells began by putting forward the arguments for and against the types of power stations at present in use in Britain. The greater part of our electricity is generated by power stations burning coal or oil, which are dirty and inimical to the environment, producing carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide as waste products.

Thus he argued that, despite the controversy surrounding them, nuclear power stations are possibly a better alternative, as they are comparatively clean and efficient. To those who hold the Chernobyl incident against them, Professor Fells pointed out that such major accidents are very rare, perhaps one in twenty years, and unlikely to occur in Britain owing to our extremely high safety standards and procedures.

The Professor then went on to consider the possibilities of various alternative energy sources, linking them specifically to Britain and showing whether they could serve any practical use here. Wind power he rejected as thoroughly impractical. Tidal power, in particular the proposed project on the River Severn, was a possibility, but it would be very expensive and had moreover encountered opposition from environmentalists worried about the disturbance of the local waterfowl.

Nevertheless, he said that hydro-electric power has great potential for the future, as is illustrated by the highly effective Dinorwig power station in North Wales.

After talking about different sources of energy and their effect on the environment, he moved to another angle, the cutting down of consumption. He pointed out that the majority of cars on the roads in Britain have only one person in them, which seems a terrible waste of energy and contributes to traffic congestion. He stressed the need for better public transport services, remarking that the best he had come across were usually in communist states. However, he declined to advocate Britain's becoming communist just to get the trains running on time!

Throughout the lecture, Professor Fells backed up his reasoning with slides showing data and pictures related



Professor  
Ian Fells

to the topic, mixed with various holiday snaps of himself on his travels, to keep us entertained. His sharp and witty comments kept us all interested and on our toes, as well as amused.

He always brought forward both sides to any argument, posing questions which encouraged us to apply our own minds to the matter and to form our own views. He showed us that few issues are clear-cut; more often than not several factors or influences have to be taken into account and compromises have to be made.

Ample proof of the interest provoked was supplied by the number of questions asked at the end, by both pupils and masters. We would like to thank Mr Kelsey for arranging a talk which found interest in both the arts and science-minded. Most of all, we would like to offer our gratitude to Professor Fells for coming to talk to us and giving us the benefit of his considerable knowledge.

Anthony Bunge

## Barnado's in the Nineties

On 11th October Mrs Amanda Jessop gave a talk to the fourth, fifth and sixth forms on the new image of Dr Barnado's, or should I say Barnado's? Beginning with the sad story of a young boy, she gave us an impression of the outlook of a homeless unwanted child.

We learned what children might have to deal with at very young ages when living on their own in a big city. They go to the cities because they have left home or been thrown out of the house, or have left the local child care unit. In the city they may well be offered drugs, and when they get hooked, as many do with no one to turn to but the pusher, their bodies are sold every night to support their habits.

We are told that Barnado's has adopted a new system,



which it is continuously improving, based on rehabilitation as well as providing a home for the young, aiming to give the young people skills in certain fields. When they have had some training, Barnado's feels confident enough to let them apply for jobs, with improved career prospects; this saves having to support untrained adults.

'Barnado's Café' is an example of this kind of work; here all the employees are homeless and mentally handicapped. It is very important for them to feel needed, part of a team, and at the same time independent.

For the younger children travelling 'toy libraries' come round to the homes of poor foster-families; excursions are organised for groups and schools set up for the mentally handicapped.

Deciding how to spend the enormous amount of donations received is difficult, but around 80% of the money received goes directly into child-care. To raise more money, Barnado's has its own publications scheme, producing a wide range of Christmas cards which have sold very well.

The talk brought home to us vividly the plight of these children, giving us an insight not only into the rigours that they have to endure, but letting us see what is being done about it. We wish Barnado's the best of luck for the future.

Patrick Evans

## Count Nikolai Tolstoy

Some members of the college were privileged to hear Count Nikolai Tolstoy give a lecture on 3rd May. He talked about the tens of thousands of Yugoslav royalists and Russian Cossacks who were forcibly repatriated by the British and subsequently massacred at the end of the Second World War. The Yugoslav royalists, who fought against Tito's communist forces, and the Cossacks, who fought for the Germans against the Russian army, surrendered to the British forces in Austria in 1945. They did so in order to escape from the virtually certain death involved in return to their own countries, only to be forced to go back against their will.

Although some British generals foresaw the consequence of this repatriation, many of these political refugees were taken back to their own countries. The flow was eventually stopped by higher military authority. Count Tolstoy blamed Brigadier Nicholson for the repatriation, which was against the allies' policy, and he also questioned the role played in the affair by Harold Macmillan, then Minister Resident in Italy.

Count Tolstoy's interest in this subject spans sixteen years and has led him to the law courts, sued for libel by Brigadier Nicholson, now Lord Aldington. The recently delivered verdict went against the Count, and he was ordered to pay a record one and a half million pounds in damages. He is appealing against the verdict and, on his travels in Yugoslavia a week before he gave his talk, he had discovered fresh evidence for his case; this is a story of which we have surely not heard the end.

Simon Williams

## Papua New Guinea

On 12th January Mr W. Parks, from Southampton University, gave a talk on his experiences in Papua New Guinea on an expedition with the British Schools' Exploring Society. The society organises two expeditions a year to different parts of the world, composed of 17-19 year-old students from all over the country, with a team of leaders.

While in Papua New Guinea the expedition groups stayed in coastal villages, the first white people to stay there. Mr Parks accompanied his presentation with slides, enabling us to see the unspoilt landscape of this remote tropical island. They collected data on the flora and fauna, much of which is being processed and used. Mr Parks emphasised the threat to the area from the modern world. In his slides he showed us scenes of barren landscapes strewn with rotting tree-stumps and rusting machinery. Although the forests of the island are at present relatively untouched, they are under threat. As greater pressure is brought to bear on countries such as Brazil to stop deforestation, so there is a higher probability of developers moving to other places and, because Papua New Guinea is undeveloped, it is a prime target for the encroachment of modern deforestation and cultivation.

Mr Parks's talk was informative and descriptive, and much appreciated by all who attended.

Neil Walmsley

## Czechoslovakia

On 16th May 6B were fortunate enough to hear Mrs Lucy Abel Smith give a talk on modern-day Czechoslovakia. Mrs Abel Smith, a frequent visitor to that country, spoke about the freedom and democracy which now exists there. Her interest is primarily in Czech art and architecture, on which she is writing a guidebook for foreigners. She described how the removal of the Communist Party's domination has been met with enthusiasm, but said that there are still many problems.

Czechoslovakia is now benefiting from its increasing openness towards the west, for its industries are basic, a legacy of over 40 years of the communist regime. In 1948 the communists inherited one of the most booming industrial nations in the world; during the past 40 years, however, Czech industry has failed to move with the times and is in decline. It requires comprehensive modernisation and lacks productive power, posing a great problem for the President, Vaclav Havel, and his government. However, Mrs Abel Smith is confident that this situation can be improved with help from the west.

Mrs Abel Smith commented also on the condition of the Czech environment. Its rivers and lakes have been turned into industrial chemical dumps, and the factories emit extremely harmful gases into the atmosphere. This problem is present today in all the countries of Eastern Europe, and emphasises the importance of our giving help to the Czechs.

Simon Williams

# Academic Achievement

## We congratulate the following:

Mark Burchall	D. Phil in Geology, Oxford University
John Barnett	Boulter Exhibition, Christ Church College, Oxford

## Scholarships for entry in September 1990

### Sixth Form Entry

Emily Tabassi (Sacred Heart School, Tunbridge Wells)	Major Scholarship
Petra Watts (St John Fisher School)	Minor Scholarship
Sophy Denny (St Clotilde's School, Cheltenham)	Art Scholarship
Jonathan Roney (Manchester Grammar School)	Bursary
Anita Duguid (Bradon Forest School)	Bursary
Sarah Thayne (Luckley Oakfield School)	Forces Bursary

### Third Form Entry

Freddie Ingham (Arnold Lodge School)	Major Scholarship
Giles Somers (Winterfold House School)	Major Scholarship
Alexander Tibbs (The Downs School)	Minor Art Scholarship
Andrew Riley (Brightlands School)	Minor Art Scholarship
Mark Wilks (Wells House School)	Minor Art Scholarship
Stephen Roney (Manchester Grammar School)	Bursary
Raymond Hancock (Brightlands School)	Forces Bursary
Paul Smith (Aymestrey School)	Forces Bursary
Leslie White (Forres School)	Forces Bursary

### First Form Entry

Stewart Taylor (North Cerney Primary School)	Noel Wills Scholarship
James Smith (Victoria Rd Primary School, Cirencester)	Major Scholarship
Charles Webb (Dormer House PNEU School)	Open Scholarship
Colin Morey (St James's Primary School, Gloucester)	Gloucester Foundation Place
Charles Barton (St John's Primary School, Cheltenham)	Rendcomb Foundation Place
Antony Davanzo (Cold Aston Primary School)	Assisted Place
Manuel Garcia (St John's Primary School, Cheltenham)	Assisted Place
James Graham (Dormer House PNEU School)	Assisted Place
Marcus Haynes (Richard Pate School)	Assisted Place & Music Scholarship
Adam King (Abbey Park Primary School, Pershore)	Assisted Place
Ashley Watkins (Swindon Village Primary School)	Assisted Place
Timothy Shaw (Gotherington Primary School)	Music Scholarship
Edward Forster (Alexandra Primary School, Dortmund)	Forces Bursary



## 'A' Level

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

Anja Beaver - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Alexander Bell - English, Mathematics, Public Affairs  
Karen Betts - English\*, History, Public Affairs  
Lucy Brummitt - English, French, History  
John Carroll - English, German, Public Affairs  
Nicholas Cochran - Biology  
Christopher Daniels - Geography, German, History  
Suzanne Denley - Biology, Chemistry, Geography  
James Dowson - English, French, German  
Lydia Fellows - Geography  
Benjamin Gallagher - Biology, Chemistry  
James Gregory - Art & Design, English, Public Affairs  
Peter Grimsdale - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Nicholas Hall - Geography, History, Mathematics  
Jolyon Hammond - Art & Design, History  
Julian Head - Biology  
Rebecca Hodgkinson - Art & Design, English, Public Affairs  
Kevin Holmes - Chemistry (M), Mathematics\*, Physics  
Emma Hull - English, Public Affairs  
Guy Jeffries - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Jeremy Jehan - Geography, History  
Arwyn Jones - Art & Design  
Nicola Kemp - Art & Design, History  
Alexander Laine - Chemistry, Mathematics  
Francis Lee - Chemistry (M), Mathematics\*, Physics\* (M)  
Henry Le Fleming - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Carragh McAree - English\*, Mathematics, Physics  
Andrew Mackinnon - Chemistry\* (M), Mathematics\*, Physics\*  
Richard Mansell - History, Public Affairs  
Benjamin Maslen - Art & Design\*, English\*, Mathematics, Public Affairs (M)  
Anthony Miles - Chemistry, French, Mathematics  
Joseph Nicholls - Art & Design\*, Chemistry, French  
Mark Nicholls - English\*, History\*, Public Affairs\* (M)  
Thomas Nicholls - English, French, Mathematics  
Charles Paine - Art & Design, Geography  
Sara Payne - English\* (M), French (M), History\*  
Shridhar Phalke - English, French, History\*  
Justine Platt - Art & Design\*, Chemistry\* (D), Mathematics\*, Physics  
Jonathan Pratten - Biology  
James Prince - English, French  
Carl Reens - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Fiona Reichwald - Art & Design\*  
Philippa Rome - English, Geography  
Charlotte Stephens - Art & Design  
Karen Swan - English, Mathematics, Physics  
Robert Tate - History  
James Thraves - English, French, History  
Christian Vallence - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
Amanda Vaux - Art & Design\*, English, Geography  
Matthew Ventrella - German, History (M), Mathematics  
Mathew Waddington, Chemistry  
Guy Waller - French, German, History  
Daniel White - Art & Design, Geography

## Additional Subject

French for Business Studies:

Claire Boydell\*, Alexander Hall, William King, Rachel Seed\*, Nicholas Smith\*, Ian Spencer, Nigel Utting\*, Anthony von Westphalen Bunge\*

Key: \* - Grade 'A'

(D) - Distinction in Special Paper

(M) - Merit in Special Paper



*S. Barrett*

## GCSE

The following results were obtained in the GCSE examinations:

John Adams - B, C, E(2), F, GN\*, H, m, P  
 Hamish Auld - C, DR\*, E(2), F, g, h, M, P  
 Alasdair Baker - B, c, E(3), EL, F\*, G, GN, M  
 Graham Bennett - B\*, C, E\*(1), F\*, G\*, GN, H\*, M, P  
 Gareth Davies - AD, E(2), F\*, GN\*, H, L, M, mu, P  
 James Dowbiggin - AD\*, B, E(2), EL, F, G, H, m  
 James Grafton - AD, B, C, E\*(2), F\*, H, L, M  
 Glen Harris - AD\*, B, c, E(3), el, f, G, go, M  
 Marcus Head - B, C\*, E\*(2), F\*, L, M, MU, P  
 Nathan Houseman - AD, B\*, C, E\*(2), F\*, H\*, L\*, M\*  
 Daniel Howard - c, E(3), F, G, gn, H, l, m, p  
 Paul Irving - C, E(2), F\*, GN\*, H, l, M\*, P  
 Sik-Wai Lam - b, c, dr, e(3), f, g, h, m, p  
 Graham Lawton - B\*, C\*, E\*(1), F\*, G\*, H\*, L\*, M\*, P\*  
 Julian Madeley - AD, B, E\*(1), EL\*, F, G\*, H, M  
 Benjamin Marshall - AD\*, B, E(2), EL, f, G, H, m, p  
 Antony Neilson - c, DR, e(3), f, g, h, m, p  
 Matthew Norman - B, C, E(2), F, H, L, M, P  
 Antony Palm - AD, b, c, E(2), f, G, H, M  
 Christopher Payne - B, C, E(3), F, G, H, M, P  
 Andrew Pollard - C\*, E(1), F\*, G\*, GN\*, H, L\*, M\*, P\*  
 Jonathan Powell - B\*, C\*, E(1), F, G\*, GN, H\*, M, P  
 Henry Pugh - C, E\*(1), F\*, G, GN\*, H\*, L, M, p  
 James Sleeman - B\*, C\*, E\*(1), F\*, H\*, L, M\*, P\*  
 Jason Smith - B, C, E(2), f, gn, H, M, P  
 Matthew Smith - AD, B, C, E(2), EL, F, gn, M, p  
 Nicholas Smith - B, C\*, E(3), EL, F, gn, M, P  
 Paul Sumsion - C, DR\*, E(2), F\*, GN, M, mu, P\*

Timothy Underwood - C, DR\*, e(3), F, GN, h, M, P  
 Scott Vernon - AD, b, e(3), f, g, h, m, mu  
 Christopher Walsh - AD, B, C, E(1), F\*, G, GN, H\*, M  
 John Wheeler - B\*, C\*, E(2), F\*, G\*, H\*, M\*, P\*  
 Nicholas Cochran - M  
 Anna Duhmke - E(2)  
 Piers Gorman - E(2), M  
 Richard Herbert - AD  
 Arwyn Jones - m  
 Sarah McIndoe - e(2), f, m  
 Kathryn-Mary Tawse - m

Key: Capital letters denote Grade A-C; small letters denote Grade D-F;  
 \* = Grade 'A'

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

The figure after the letter 'E' denotes the grade in English oral.



*K. Floyd*



# Viewpoints 1

## The Last Thirty Years

*Rachel Seed and Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge asked Kaye Knapp about his recollections of 30 years at Rendcomb and his thoughts on the prospect of retirement. They would like to thank him for giving them a highly interesting and enlightening interview and to wish him and his wife Margaret the very best for the future.*

Mr Knapp has decided to retire at the end of this summer term, after thirty years at Rendcomb and having seen the new structure of the school working for a year. In his time here he has seen many changes and has held two important positions, which means that his influence in shaping the development of the school has been considerable.

He was the pioneer housemaster of the junior house, and his work was greatly appreciated by the many pupils fortunate enough to pass through the Old Rectory under his firm guidance. For the last five years he has been second master and in this position must have played an important part in the changes put into effect in the past year.

When Mr Knapp arrived at Rendcomb on 1st January 1960, having just got married, the school was a very different place, its life revolving around just three buildings, the Main College, the Old Rectory - then called 'The House' - and the Stable Block. The headmaster lived in the main building and acted as housemaster, assisted by four other resident masters. The remaining masters lived in the village and tended to operate purely as teachers, with very little involvement in the running of the school outside the classroom and games field. The capacity of the school was just 91 boys, many of whom were county scholars, and thus the academic standards were very high indeed.

This relatively small number fostered a strong community spirit, the boys playing a more prominent role in the organisation. For example, each game was run by an elected committee of boys, with a master presiding. The boys made the fixtures, bought the equipment, rolled and marked out the pitches and selected the teams; effectively they ran the sports, the master in charge having a power of veto which seldom if ever needed to be exercised. In those pre-TV days the boys, not allowed radios until 1961, arranged their own entertainment in the evenings, such as games in the gym, now the Dulverton Hall. The General Meeting had far more responsibility and 'clout' than it does today.

However, as the school grew in size as the result of a decision taken by the governors in 1960, it became impossible for the pupils to organise all out-of-school activities themselves, and Mr Knapp has fond memories of taking charge of 1st XI cricket. He also remembers the boys having ballroom dancing lessons; at the formal dances in the pre-girl era when females were a rarity, to

dance with the wife of a member of the staff was deemed a huge privilege.

It had been decided in 1961 that boys in their first and second years should be housed separately and given their own routine, and in 1966 the Old Rectory was converted for them. Mr Knapp was invited to be their housemaster. His acceptance was for him a crucial step, as it committed him to staying at Rendcomb.

Asked about the impact made by the arrival of girls into the sixth Form in 1972, he declared that, from his point of view, it was very slight, since at the time he was involved with the junior house and had little contact with them. He believed that it had not caused great change or upheaval, making very little difference to the lower and middle school. Moreover, as the girls live separately in Park House, on the whole they have had to fit in with the boys' organisations, rather than vice-versa. However, he does think that it is beneficial for the younger boys to see girls around in the school environment.

He feels that some of the ideals upon which Rendcomb was founded may have been to some extent eroded, but agrees that this was inevitable, owing to changes in the world outside. The college was founded in 1920 to provide a step-ladder through the prevalently class-based education system, enabling intelligent boys from a working-class background to benefit from a good boarding school education and go on to university. Since then the creation of the comprehensive system has acted to eliminate the class barrier in education, meaning that children no longer need to go to an independent school to receive a good education. This, with the fact that the county no longer provides scholarship funds, has affected the social mixture at Rendcomb and made it more predominantly middle-class.

Mr Knapp's own schooling was different from that offered by Rendcomb. He went to St Mary's College, an independent day school in Southampton, during what he described as the 'exciting' war years. He left to do his national service in the Royal Air Force, where as a flight commander he was responsible for 50 other national servicemen. This, he acknowledged, was perhaps where he picked up his 'thing' for smart clothes, clean shoes and suchlike! National service also gave him opportunities for a lot of sport, in particular to develop his skill at tennis and squash, talents which he has passed on to his two sons. From the forces he went on to university and then straight into teaching, a feat possible, he added, in those days when no post-graduate teacher training was necessary.

He went on to say that he had always wanted to be a teacher, even at a young age, and had never given any other career serious consideration. As an enthusiastic sportsman he was particularly attracted to independent schools, where games tended to feature strongly in school life. Rendcomb was not his first teaching post, though it turned out to be his last! After leaving university he had spent three years at West Buckland School in North Devon before getting married and deciding to move on.

Had he nurtured any aspirations of becoming a headmaster somewhere along the line? Mr Knapp

explained that, when he began his career, he believed in the possibility of one day becoming headmaster of a small grammar school. However, the advent of comprehensive education had made schools larger, and consequently fewer 'heads' were needed. He did not find the headmastership of a large school a particularly appealing prospect and he was not entirely convinced of the value of elitism, which probably meant that he would not have been suitable as headmaster of a public school. These ideas made Rendcomb, a small school with a belief in equal opportunity, all the more attractive to him.

Questioned about his view of the changes in young people during the past 30 years, he observed that nowadays they tend to work less hard. They expect things to happen for them, such as success in their exams and in their future, without their having to work for it. He pointed out also that, since pupils want more freedom nowadays, discipline has altered; this, he added, was a reflection of life outside the school. However, he has always regarded Rendcomb's rather informal atmosphere within an organised and disciplined structure as a 'plus' point, and he believes that the school is still just about managing to maintain the right balance.

He is very much looking forward to his retirement; 'thirty years of telling people what to do is quite enough'. Now it is time to relax and take life at a more leisurely pace. He and his wife intend to retire to a house at Duntisbourne Leer, a village he describes as being in an idyllic Cotswold valley only six miles away. He does not know yet what he will do in his retirement; he might take up some voluntary work and will certainly play a few rounds of golf.

He fully admits that life at Rendcomb has been an immense source of satisfaction to him and takes pride in his career in teaching, a profession he regards as greatly satisfying and rewarding. He says that it is difficult to pick out anything about the school which he will particularly miss, probably all of it. Certainly he will miss being involved in the daily routine and, more importantly, seeing young people growing up and maturing, a process he says is easy to follow when teaching them mathematics. He has greatly appreciated the beautiful Rendcomb countryside; he may not miss it so much, being only a few miles down the road, and he can always return occasionally to take the dogs for a walk!

## **'Would Madam like her Christmas gift-wrapped?'**

Why is it that every year Christmas becomes more and more of a strain?

When we were six or seven it was unquestionably the most exciting event of the year. We had no responsibilities, and all we had to do was sit back and enjoy the fruits of our parents' labour: Christmas dinner and sacks full of presents delivered by that ever-bountiful children's hero, Father Christmas.

Somehow, after the Father Christmas myth was destroyed, it all started to deteriorate. With age came the knowledge that your presents were actually bought for you, not made in the North Pole and dragged down your chimney (with gas central heating?) on a sledge pulled by reindeer. Your parents, brothers and sisters were no longer content with the pine-cone sprayed gold and covered with glitter that you made at school; they expected you actually to buy them something in return.

As we grow older we become increasingly aware of media pressure around Christmas-time. It seems that preparations for Christmas start earlier every year - advertisements in late October featuring Santa and Rudolf, decorations in shops and streets in early November - you feel positively guilty if you haven't bought your Christmas cards by the beginning of December.

It is all faintly ridiculous, and yet even the most cynical succumb to the pressure to spend until you are vastly overdrawn. It is indicative of how commercial the whole idea of Christmas has become that the image one connects with the season is not the baby Jesus in the manger, but an overweight bearded man crammed into a tight suit.

The modern Christmas neglects to mention Christ and, after all, it is his birthday we are meant to be celebrating.

The build-up to Christmas is so long and intense that when it's all over we breathe a sigh of relief. Is it really worth two months' frantic activity just for five days of over-indulgence, eating too much, drinking too much and emerging a physical and financial wreck?

I don't think so, but it seems inevitable.

Simon Hardie



Simon Hardie

*K. Floydd*



# Curaçao

*Kristie Sellers came to Rendcomb in 1989; here she writes about her home in South America.*

Located just 35 miles off the coast of Venezuela, Curaçao is the largest island in the Netherlands Antilles; it is 38 miles long and varies between two and seven and a half miles wide.

Curaçao was discovered in 1499 by the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda, a lieutenant of Christopher Columbus. Captured by the Dutch in 1634, it became a Dutch settlement.

Since the island was first discovered it has attracted a mixture of over 50 nationalities, with their many unique cultural attributes. This friendly, multilingual culture communicates in English, Dutch, Spanish and the local *papiamentu*. Visitors to Curaçao are greeted with the island welcome, 'Bon Bini'.

A drive, of about 100 miles, round the island is an adventure not to be missed. Along the southern coast are beautiful bays, coves and secluded beaches for swimming or excellent snorkelling and scuba-diving.

Watersports capture the imagination of many visitors, even of those who have never ventured before. Relaxing on a Curaçao beach is probably the easiest way to get a feel for the Caribbean; with a beach for every mile, it is practically the national pastime.

The lifestyle is very different from that in Britain. In Curaçao everything is much more relaxed; people do things when they feel ready. If something is scheduled to start at 2 p.m., don't expect everyone to be there until 2.15. If a sign says 'do not', it usually means 'do'. We have many police, but they aren't on duty much and don't bother to take too much of their time writing speeding tickets. If a road sign says 'max 60 km' it is taken as 'min'.

Sometimes business people find it hard to get to work and get on with it, because from noon until 2 p.m. it is siesta time, and all shops and businesses are closed. Schools end at 12.30 p.m. because that is the hottest time of day and, with no air-conditioners in the classrooms, the kids can't stand much more ...

In Curaçao one can shop for a wide range of food. There is at least one supermarket for each nationality, and going to different ones is the experience of a lifetime; you can learn quite a lot about people from the foods they eat.

Curaçao has a lot to offer to all kinds of people; it must be said that the nightlife, though varied, is not so different from that anywhere else in the world. Overall, it is a wonderful place, one that almost anyone can enjoy. Once visited, its memories will always remain with you.



Mont St Michel

*J. Pratten*

# Activities

## Art

Art at Rendcomb is an area that is growing in numbers, content, participation and status, and we have been delighted with the involvement, the energy and the work produced over the year.

At the top of the school, the 6A group has been extremely diverse in character and approach, and their endeavours have been bold and individual. Their hallmark as a whole was their sense of exploration and colour; as individuals several have made outstanding progress.

They have had to cope with a whole new exam structure. However, the boys maintained their sense of *che sara sara*, and the girls relied on hard work and commitment. The results, clearly fixed around adventures in painting and drawing with the added spice of a personal art history based project, have been exciting for their scale and sense of participation. The projects, despite our reservations, have worked in well and have afforded the opportunity for students to follow up and delve deeper into a vast range of visual arts, from seventeenth-century architecture to Ingres, Rodin and Henry Moore. Many students' work in this area gave them the excuse for travel, several trips being made to Paris and one to America to delve into the work of John Singer Sargent. They were an outstanding and memorable group of students.

Close on their heels came 6B. Fresh from being the first GCSE set, they have been equally adventurous in their painting and have made several successful excursions into sculpture. Their understanding is a valuable asset, and it will be interesting to see how much they can make of their obvious potential.

Our marked accent on skills in drawing and painting has been richly embellished by the sculpture produced by this year's GCSE group. The 'painterly' successes by Ben Marshall, Matthew Smith and James Dowbiggin have been matched by some stunning work by sculptor Glen Harris. The sixth-form students who have done so well recently, many of whom are going to art college, have some inventive and promising-looking followers. This applies also to several members of the Fourth Form who are working with involvement and commitment; for them art is a full part of their course, and they are making full use of the breadth offered by GCSE. The likes of Agnew, Faiers, Nettleton and Sawtell will certainly keep Maslen, Milner and Co. on their toes over the coming year!

Lower in the school many of the students seem to be enjoying the subject. This augurs well for the future; there are several strong painters coming through, some of whom did very well in the junior section of the Hughes Peace Prize, while others produced some particularly notable landscape painting, in which they reflect an interest in certain works by Renoir.

The year has been memorable in three more ways. The private view of 'A' level students' work before

Founder's Day was again extremely successful and was outstanding not only for the buzzing atmosphere, but also for the work, which was large in scale and full of life and colour.

Maybe some of this colour and the contemporary feel of certain pieces reflect the influence of Alexandra Drysdale, who joined the staff at Christmas for one valuable day a week. Alexandra, who studied painting at Chelsea College of Art, has fitted well into our studio system and has enriched the department with her energy and enthusiasm for boldness, colour and imagination. We are pleased that she will stay with us next year and look forward to results from more sustained influence.

Thirdly came our first art trip abroad. Tom Denny and I took 22 'A' level students to Amsterdam and, with the valuable support of the Parents' Association, were able to give them a first-hand experience not only of the richness of Dutch art, but also of Dutch culture.

Our thanks go to all those who have helped to make the year such a success. There have been many changes during recent years, and the department reflects the good and bad of an area of education in a state of flux. However, the cleaners have almost remained patient and the students have arrived at a suitable end. Vast quantities of fine work have been produced, and for many of our students the journey does not end with us, for they are going on to new challenges at art college; for all those involved, life was rarely dull!

M.S.G., T.F.C.D.

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

- |   |  |                        |
|---|--|------------------------|
| a | 'Winter Tree' - water-colour   | Ean Branston (1)       |
| b | 'Road to Progress' - first prize in junior section of Hughes Peace Prize | James Moore (3)        |
| c | Landscape - oil pastel   | Jeremy Sawtell (4)     |
| d | Landscape - oil paint (GCSE exam work)                                   | Ben Marshall (5)       |
| e | Duke of Gloucester in the art department                                 |                        |
| f | Sculpture (GCSE course work)   | Glen Harris (5)        |
| g | Landscape - multi-media ('A' Level Art)                                  | Justine Platt (7)      |
| h | Fish - water-colour and crayon ('A' Level Art)                           | Joe Nicholls (7)       |
| i | Fish - oil paint ('A' Level Art)   | Amanda Vaux (7)        |
| j | Still Life ('A' Level exam piece)  | Charlotte Stephens (7) |
| k | Still Life ('A' Level Art)   | Charles Paine (7)      |
| l | 'Woodland Nymph' - pastel and water-colour ('A' Level Art)               | Fiona Reichwald (7)    |
| m | Study of Moving Figures - multi-media                                    | Richard Milner (6)     |
| n | Display Cabinet in English ash (GCSE D & R coursework)                   | T. Underwood (5)       |
| o | Child's Chair in laburnum (GCSE D & R coursework)                        | H. Auld (5)            |
| p | Pedestal Desk in English oak   | K. Holmes (7)          |

D & R = Design and Realisation

Photos: C.J. Wood





a



b



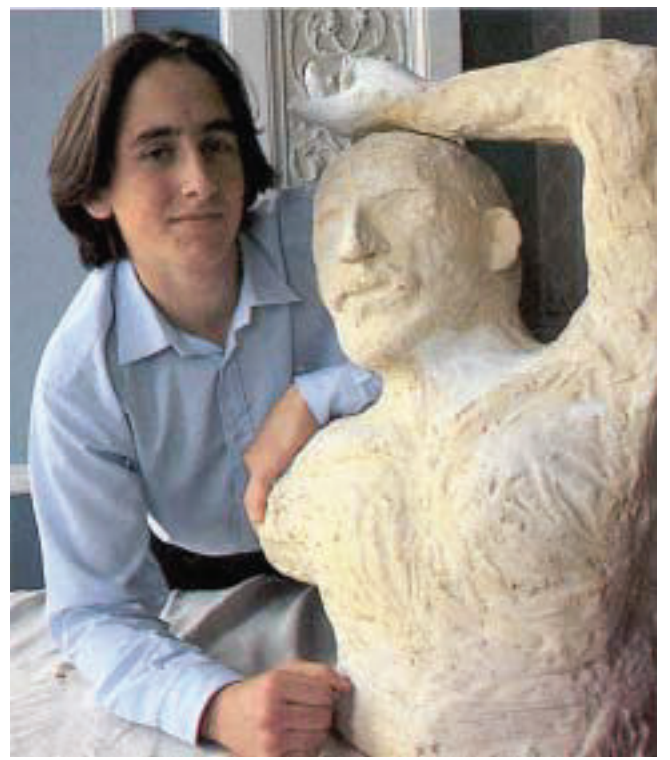
c



d



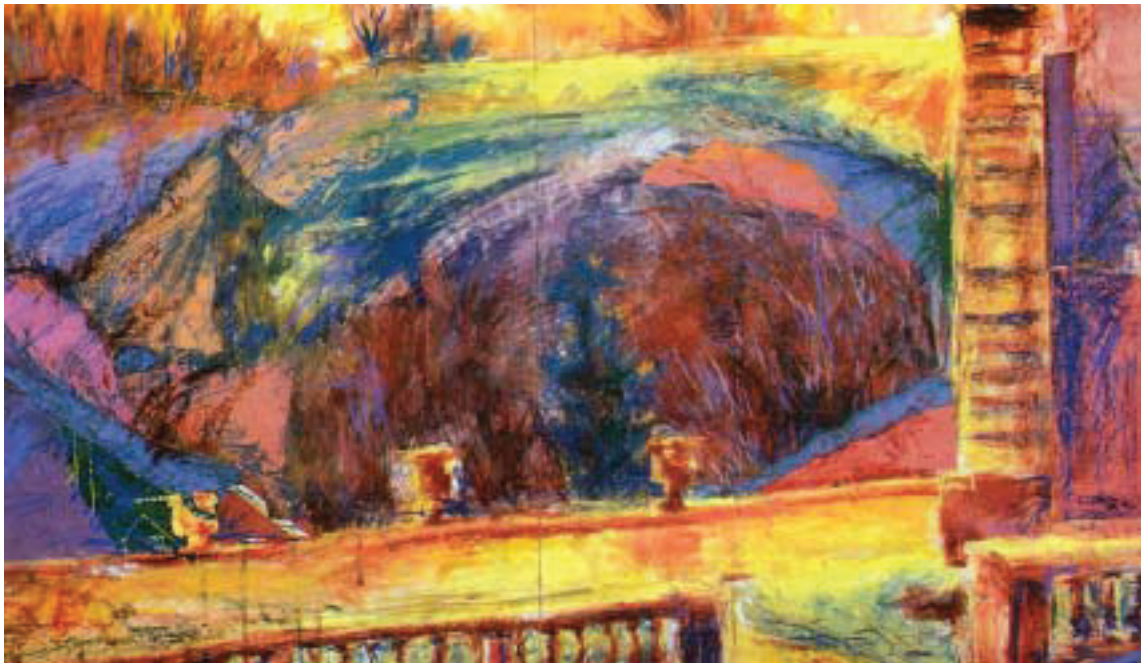
e



f



g



h



i



j



k







1



m



n



o



p



## Workshop

The workshop has been used mainly by junior boys and those in the fourth and fifth years working for GCSE. This situation will not change until the CDT subject is offered at 'A' level.

I am sure everyone visiting the school during the last few years must have seen and admired an oak pedestal desk in various stages of construction. Kevin Holmes drew up the design in the Autumn Term of 1987 and took the finished desk home in June 1990. Although it has taken almost three years to complete - apart from a term off for Oxbridge - Kevin has made the desk entirely in his free time. His design combines the best of traditional and modern materials; the top and carcass are made entirely from oak-veneered medium-density fibreboard, the drawers from English oak.

Two pieces of GCSE coursework stand out. Hamish Auld designed and made a child's chair in laburnum; this timber is quite rare, as the tree seldom attains sizeable girth and is also subject to storm damage. We were fortunate to be given a large number of seasoned boards by Mrs Vera Fell; her late husband, Jack, who taught here for many years, was a skilled craftsman and had converted and seasoned the timber.

Timothy Underwood made a display cabinet in quartered ash for a collection of German wine glasses.

Quartz clocks are still in fashion this year, but their time is numbered! Mirrors may come into fashion in 1990/91.

As part of the GSCE course we have visited Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, to see the permanent exhibition of furniture, and also Holland Brothers - Kitchen Manufacturers, Broxton Engineering, Cirencester Plastics and the Bathurst Estate sawmills. The visits have been stimulating for the students, and we have been made to feel most welcome. We hope to repay their hospitality and forge links between the school and local industry.

In May the department hosted the annual meeting of the CDT staff from the Monmouth group of schools.

Roger Attwood has continued to give us valuable service and has offered help and advice to staff and pupils.

C.C.B.

## Informal Concerts

The first informal concert of the year was given on Sunday, 15th October. The reading room was filled to bursting-point with friends, relatives and staff all eagerly awaiting the 'batting order', the expression used by Mr White, Rendcomb's new director of music. This enthusiastic support proved to be justified when some of the sixth form musicians took the floor, humorously introduced and, where required, accompanied with gusto by Mr White.

The choice of pieces had been left to the pupils; this

resulted in an interesting mixture of jazz, classical and Beatles' music, not forgetting Rendcomb's *Blues Brothers*, Matt Ventrella on electric guitar and Piers Gorman on piano. They performed *Matthew's Thing (Keep it Short, Matt)*, as it was aptly named! There was also a fine, animated rendering of *Mud, Glorious Mud* by John Carroll, by Mrs Wood's special request, the entire audience joining joyfully in chorus.

Mr White's boundless enthusiasm certainly seems to have rubbed off on the music pupils already; all those taking part gave of their best and performed professionally in spite of an occasional hiccup. The result was an extremely entertaining hour of good music, and I'm sure everyone hopes to hear more of it soon.

Charlotte Carroll

On 3rd March the latest of the now frequent informal concerts took place in the Dulverton Hall. Due to growing publicity for such events and the ever-rising standards - thanks to Mr White's apparently boundless drive and energy - the many performers had a pleasingly large audience of both pupils and parents. Appropriately, this event launched the '*break the sound barrier*' appeal, aimed at raising funds for a recording studio in the music department.

The emphasis was on wind players, string players taking a smaller part on this occasion. Pupils throughout the school were involved, enabling the younger pupils in particular to gain valuable experience of playing in public.

The programme varied between solo and group playing. The now well-established Dixieland jazz group played *Summertime* by Gershwin in its own inimitable style, and the wind band played several pieces, including *Trucking* by Rezzo, which got the concert off to a bold beginning. The entire orchestra came together to play *Pie Jesu* and *Jupiter* in the middle of the programme.

The newly-formed Wind Octet played *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* by Handel and a minuet by Mozart; in spite of one or two hiccups, it promises good things to come in the future. A small group of young brass musicians played the traditional piece *Oranges* with great determination.

A number of soloists produced commendable performances: Daniel Morris - clarinet, Andrew Platt - oboe, Tony Winstone - trombone, Jay Ouellette - cornet, Katie Tawse - clarinet, Karen Swan - French horn and Ian Spencer - trumpet.

The concert was rounded off cheerfully with tunes from *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, in which the performers seemed to let themselves go a little, enjoy the music and perhaps breathe a sigh of relief that it had been a success.

Charlotte Carroll

Katie Tawse

## A piano recital by John Evans

John Evans, one of the college music staff, gave a very entertaining piano recital on 4th February. He performed six single-movement pieces: *Polonaise in A major*, *Ballade No. 1 in G major*, *Scherzo No. 1 in B minor* and *Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor* by Chopin, *Rhapsody in G minor* by Brahms and *Prelude in G minor* by Rachmaninov.

Mr Evans impressed the audience with the speed, accuracy and subtlety with which he played these virtuoso works; he demonstrated his extensive technique and magnificent comprehension of the music and of the instrument, both of which he displayed to their full potential.

I would like to thank him for giving this extremely enlightening recital, and I hope that we shall have the benefit of hearing more of his playing in the near future.

Simon Williams



Rock Concert

F Lee

## Crazy Boneheads in Concert

In the magnificent history of anarchic punk/rock it may now be said - and is being - that *Crazy Boneheads* definitely stand alone. The gig on 3rd March was an event looked forward to by many Rendcomb fans and others. The band, Matt Ventrella, Tom Nicholls, Joe Hammond and Ben Maslen, played many songs, some handed down by word of mouth (*Dead and Dumb*, *Sympathy for the Devil*, *I Wanna Live*, *You Got My Number*, etc), some of their own inspirational composition (*Trash* - a memorable tune, *Bonehead Blues* - fast and furious, *Walk This Way* - taking the mick? - and of course the utterly brilliant *Need a Crutch*) and some that were generally appreciated by the audience.

Loud and distorted guitar, heavy bass, resounding drums and, yes, good vocals were what made this venue of venues. Fortunately, what made it even better was that the 'all-seater' hall was suddenly converted into an 'all-stander' half-way through the third number. 'Bouncing' space near the front is a definite necessity for future bands at Rendcomb, especially with encores like *Wasted Life* and guitars thrown about the stage.

Thanks must go to *New Scars*, the support band (Gary and Jon\*, who incidentally came all the way from Bath to play), Stephen Lea, who organised yet another music department event, Mr Hubble on sound, Shri Phalke and Chris Vallence on lighting, Jim and Jerry the roadies, Mark Nicholls on the door and, of course, the band - well worth a listen on a rainy day at Rendcomb.

Patrick Evans

\*Jonathan Lutwyche, OR

## 'Music at Rendcomb'

Informal concerts after service on Sunday mornings are now an established part of college life. They provide a relaxed and happy atmosphere in which performers can try out examination pieces, put on a form concert or present a polished performance. In the Christmas term the sixth form presented the first concert of the series. Well-seasoned musicians like John Carroll, Karen Swan and the Dixieland Group, along with newcomers Becky Bell and Charlotte Carroll, established a high standard and ensured that the informal concert was alive and well.

Following them, the second form put on a concert all by themselves, in which every member of the class took part. It all happened with verve and vigour, lacking perhaps the polish of a Festival Hall performance, but scoring highly in shared enjoyment. The first form had their chance in May. Theirs was a 'high-tech' affair, with keyboards - including the new Clavinova - mixing in with percussion, trumpet, trombone, oboe and flute. A valiant performance of the theme from *Tales of the Unexpected* by the whole class may have failed to produce dancing mums, but all felt proud of their accomplishment.





A March concert mainly by woodwind and brass players produced a splendid big-band sound with a selection from *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, as well as distinguished solos from Daniel Morris, Katie Tawse and Ian Spencer. Quite apart from being an enjoyable concert in its own right, the event marked the launch of the 'Break the Sound Barrier Appeal'; together with the Parents' Association, the music department has set the target of £6,000 to fund the installation of a recording studio, which it is intended should be in place and in operation by the beginning of September. The enthusiasm of the musicians certainly rubbed off on the audience, because a princely sum of nearly £200 was collected as they left the Dulverton Hall.

There is a noble tradition of staff concerts. True to form, the instrumental staff put their musical reputations on the line and performed their party pieces. The programme opened with a movement for piano and wind players from a quintet by Mozart and ended with Percy Grainger's slightly ridiculous arrangement for several pianos and pianists of *Country Gardens*. The non-pianists, unwilling to be left out, demanded parts, and they were concocted for most. Patta Tolputt had her part organised at tea-time on the day, while Jim Coles, with grim determination, improvised his standing behind one of the pianists in the concert. One of the printed copies was mislaid

during the concert itself, so Stephen Lea, as inspirational as ever, 'remembered how it went'. Lesley Vernon was in mortal danger of being rudely elbowed by her duet partner, David White, but in spite of all the hazards the piece brought the concert to a rousing conclusion.

John Evans staggered us all with the first of the series of recitals, giving us a programme of big romantic works. The concert inspired many to rush away, have piano lessons - even to practise.

The next staff recital came at the beginning of the summer term, with a delightful programme of music for various combinations of 'cello, clarinet and piano. Rendcomb College was pleased to welcome Rachel Howgego, who gave a deeply-felt performance of a Vivaldi 'cello sonata, pleased also to boast a headmaster's wife who could turn in a sparkling performance of Horovitz's *Clarinet Sonata*.

Yet another series of occasional concerts was launched on 17th June, when we hosted a recital by a young violinist from Cirencester. Rupert Luck may be only in his third year at Kingshill School, but his wizardry was breathtaking and gave us all food for thought. His recital was the first of a series which will provide a platform and an audience for young musicians from outside Rendcomb. More are planned for next year.

D.B.W.





## Senior Church Choir

It wasn't easy, yet from very tentative beginnings the choir grew in confidence, numbers and stature. We began by singing S.S. Wesley's very simple anthem, *Lead me, Lord*. We finished by tackling the very complex motet *Ascendit Deus* by Peter Philips in the context of a full choral evensong for Ascension Day. Along the way the weekly anthems became more ambitious, and by halfway through the Lent term we could present a chanted canticle as well as an anthem, as a matter of course for each Sunday morning service.

There were substantial contributions to the special services that punctuate the Rendcomb year, as well as the establishment of new traditions. The Advent carol service was sung to a packed congregation. It was a moving service, with the symbolism of light coming into the world represented first by candle-light and then by the choir's performing at different points around the church, converging eventually on the sanctuary. We were made to feel very much at home singing our first fully choral evensong in Cirencester Church in February. We sang with gusto at a concert in Elkstone in May and were able to give a world premiere of Stephen Lea's anthem *Lift up your Heads* at the choral evensong for Ascension Day. This last service represented a culmination of a year of astounding development and sheer hard work which members took in their stride.

Two further events represent landmarks of achievement. Shortly after the beginning of the year the choir was joined by members of the staff and a goodly company of parents. Together, in the space of only a few rehearsals, we were able to give a complete performance of Faure's *Requiem*. Preparation was not without its hazards. At one point the headmaster looked as though he might join the bass line. With a lot

of help next year, we think he may be up to a stand-in part. Another rehearsal was blacked out by a power-cut. Choristers fumbled their way out of the Arts Block by means of touch, torchlight, cigarette lighters - parents' of course. Nothing daunted, we kept meeting until the final Saturday afternoon in November when remarkably it all came together. The performance in St Peter's Church provided a touching father-sister-brother treble act. John Carroll carried off the two baritone solos with confidence and aplomb; Charlotte gave a finely controlled performance of *Pie Jesu*, while Ron kept a fatherly eye on the whole proceeding from the vantage-point of the bass line. Stephen Lea accompanied the work from the console of the newly-installed Allen organ and, on instruction from the conductor, spent every spare moment in rehearsal searching for the Armageddon stop.

Careful planning meant that singing choral evensong in Bristol Cathedral in March presented few terrors. We learnt how to cope with psalm-singing, negotiate the intricacies of the liturgy, make confident choral responses, launch into Stanford in 'B' flat at the drop of an organ-chord. We had been prepared by the cathedral authorities to sing in the nave. It was a lovely surprise and a real privilege to prepare and sing the service actually in the newly-restored choir. One of our supporters, just a fraction late for the start of the service, had serious doubts as to whether he had come on the right day:

'Surely this is the Cathedral Choir singing - oh no, it is Rendcomb College'.

The memory of the day still glows, the surprise that we could take it in our stride and do it well, the reverence and calm confidence of the choir, the camaraderie in the Buttery afterwards with choir and family and staff, the fleeting glimpse of Marcus Head just seeing what it felt like to play Widor's *Toccata* on the cathedral organ.

D.B.W.





## *Season's Greetings*

During my time at Rendcomb pupils and parents alike have much looked forward to the traditional senior play in the Christmas term and, as always, our expectations were matched by all those involved. The choice of a play with a festive flavour was an excellent idea, and the cast put across Alan Ayckbourn's subtle and sardonic sense of humour very well.

On a purely visual level, the set created by Colin Burden and his merry band of woodworkers was perhaps the most impressive I have seen at Rendcomb, creating very clearly the impression of different rooms on the one stage. Of course, there were many other behind-the-scenes people, too numerous to mention here, who helped our budding actors do their best, and congratulations must go to all this workforce.

The relative smallness of the cast must have placed a greater strain on the individuals, but it also helped to bring out the best in them. It is always hard, when looking back on a performance, to highlight any particular person and in the case of *Season's Greetings*, it would be impossible and, in view of the general excellence, unjust. Instead, I would like to mention the two scenes which will stay in my memory for a long time to come.

First there was the puppet show, performed by Mark

Nicholls as the rather unfortunate character, Bernard. He played it very slickly and had the entire audience laughing. The humour of the scene was enhanced by the sarcasm of Harvey, played by Denis Price, which was a source of amusement throughout the evening; it was a fine swan-song performance and a fitting finale to Mr Price's involvement in Rendcomb dramatics.

Then there were the frolics of Belinda and Clive under the Christmas tree, played superbly by Sara Payne and John Carroll; the content was perhaps a little risqué for the Rendcomb audience, but I think everyone enjoyed seeing a play more adult and realistic in comparison with the fantasy usually offered.

Karen Swan as the deranged Phyllis, Karen Betts as the neurotic Rachel, Charlotte Carroll as Pattie, alarmingly convincing in her pregnancy, Anthony Miles as the laconic Eddie and Matthew Waddington as the heartless Neville all gave fine and nicely-judged performances.

The last word must always be saved for our die-hard producer, Mr Craddock, whose devotion to the play is often the only thing that keeps it going when rehearsals begin to get a little fraught. This year his determination 'to boldly go where no play has gone before' came to fruition in a production which has to be one of the best in Rendcomb's history.

James Prince





## *Find Me*

John Tolputt's production of Olwen Wymark's *Find Me*, performed on 6th, 7th and 8th March, was a brave and very challenging undertaking, and one which met with a considerable degree of success. The play is based on the true story of Verity Taylor, who was eventually committed to Broadmoor asylum after a history of mental disturbance.

It is a particularly difficult work for any cast; not only is the subject matter emotionally taxing, but the central figure is an especially complex protagonist whose elusive role is symptomatically played by different members of the cast in turn.

The rapidly moving series of tableaux which compose the play and the changes of role by the cast can make for confusion and perplexity; when brought off correctly, as they were here, they create a moving sense of the poor girl's helplessness and society's bewilderment, as she loses herself and society loses touch with her. This production, performed in the round, powerfully suggested the elusiveness of Verity's true character and the complexity of her problems, ultimately irreconcilable to conventional family, social and medical understanding.

The cast rose to the challenge of the play with remarkable dedication. Among the girls, particularly fine performances were given by Clare Boydell, Charlotte Carroll, Natasha Clements and Belinda Stanley. They were ably supported by Katie Bonniwell, Laura Dutton, Julia Lascelles, Rachel Seed and Kristie Sellers. Pat Evans, Tom Shillington and Simon Williams all gave earnest performances of the sometimes less sympathetic male roles. Perhaps the finest moment of the evening, however, was Holly Andrews's soliloquy as Verity's mother. Alone on stage, she gave an extraordinarily touching and heartfelt account of her perplexed feelings towards her wayward child.

The production was slick, with a fine sense of ensemble, although now and again a scene or moment could have been drawn out and pointed up more. Congratulations must go to all involved, especially producers David Chapman and John Tolputt, who achieved a series of performances comparing very favourably in quality with much university and college work.

M.C.C.

## **and, behind the scenes ...**

*Find Me* rehearsals were not by any means routine sessions of hysterical laughter. In fact, hysterical laughter was required for some parts of the play, and it proved very difficult to force. We solved the problem by picking various suitable people, who shall remain nameless, to make monkey-faces at us. Time and acting skills were basic requirements, but portraying a psychologically disturbed girl and her family obviously required also a great deal of thought.

Our understanding of the play was gained in no small part from our director, Mr Tolputt, and from Miss Julie Rogers, one of the matrons, and Mrs White, an experienced social worker, who generously gave us their time. We gained insight from the various comments and suggestions made by Miss Rogers and Mrs White, and Mr Tolputt, in the process of showing us a number of possible ways to act the characters, made them come alive for us.

In the beginning the fact that each character was played by more than one person did confuse the play for us. There was, for example, the time when Mark (Patrick Evans) told his father (Tom Shillington) that his mother was upstairs 'tucking Mark into bed ... !'

The scenes were fairly disjointed at first, but the characters came alive almost immediately the cast could recite their lines, and the process was fascinating to watch.

The long-suffering Mr Tolputt, evidently a glutton for torture, organised intensive half-hour bursts of coaching for specific people, which helped speed up progress enormously. Even those of us new to acting agreed that they sometimes found, in the roles they played, an outlet from the daily pressures of their 'A' level workload.

Our three-night performance schedule finally gave us an opportunity to see how Verity reacted to people and how people reacted to her. Even on the first night there was a marked response from the audience. There was the occasional inevitable hiccup, as when consultant Dr Blake (Rachel Seed) threw the therapy ball at a geriatric patient (Tom Shillington). Tom supposedly had no control over his limbs and made no move to catch the ball, which hit him in an embarrassing place. Exit one very red consultant holding a plastic ball ...





One common comment from the audience seemed to be 'What an excellently presented play, but what a peculiar subject to portray!' 'Why?' was the question we all asked. The reason given us was basically that the behaviour patterns shown did not conform to society's definition of what was normal, and the play was vaguely disturbing to watch. Our standard response to comments like these became 'If it was peculiar for you to watch, just think how horrendous an ordeal it must have been for Verity's parents to live through . . .'. Verity's story is, unfortunately, an adaptation of real-life circumstances.

The most spontaneous audience response we received was perhaps when the five people playing Verity screamed in unison. This was during a black-out, and the audience jumped so much that, when the lights came on, all the chairs were slightly rearranged.

Ultimately the cast had to deal with problems caused by making the characters too convincing. After our

performances it proved difficult to persuade 'outside' people that the geriatric roles were assigned to certain people solely because of their acting abilities! I was typecast as Verity in her more explosive moods, explosive being the operative word, as at one stage Verity is convinced she is an atom bomb . . . Even now I get strange looks directed at me, and I dare not lose my temper!

We grew to know one another perhaps much better than we had before rehearsals. At the end of the last performance we felt, unlike the characters we had portrayed, one big happy family. *Find Me* did directly what the title suggests for some of the cast, especially for those who had not acted before. Some scenes tested our dramatic abilities to the limit and taught us all more about each other, and ultimately, perhaps, more about ourselves.

Our thanks go especially to Mr Tolputt for his enduring patience at rehearsals.

Clare Boydell





## ***Animal Farm***

Peter Hall's musical adaptation of Orwell's classic fable was a brave choice for this year's junior play. However, form 2, with a few of the leading roles taken by members of the forms 3, 4 and 6B, rose magnificently to the challenge. Bound together by a narrative, clearly articulated by John Morgan, *Animal Farm* consists of a series of dramatised scenes interspersed with lively musical numbers commenting further on the action. The whole adaptation captures the gentle humour, simplicity and savage irony of the original.

Particular praise must go to the three leading pigs, Napoleon, Snowball and Squealer, played by Dan Morris, Charles Dudbridge and Charles Yardley. Dan gave a wonderful account of the rise of the tyrant Napoleon, and particularly memorable was his comic song in act two. Charles Yardley revealed considerable talent, playing the sycophantic Squealer with variety and energy.

Charlotte Carroll, Belinda Stanley and Julia Lascelles acted and sang well as three of the horses, and Andrew Branston managed to bring across the strength and simplicity of Boxer.

Four months' work for two nights' performance - 5th and 6th July - was a long and exhausting preparation, but every member of the cast, however humble, thoroughly enjoyed the result and its reception. Particular praise and thanks go to the second form, to David White and Stephen Lea for their accomplished musical accompaniment and their training of the cast, to Julie Rogers for all her dedicated work on the costumes and set, and to Charlotte Carroll and Michael Craddock for directing.

Natasha Clements





## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Following something of a holding year when there were just four 'Gold' candidates, this year we have increased to 16 prospective award winners. A very pleasing new development has been the fact that eight of these candidates are girls; I certainly hope that they manage to stay the course and achieve a number of 'firsts' for Rendcomb, its first female Gold Award winners.

Numerically this has been a very strong year, with 43 candidates starting out on the Bronze Award. The numbers game continues with Dominic O'Connor's leading an expedition training team of Bridget Goldsmith and Mike Newby. Gold expeditions were to the Peak District, mid-Wales and Snowdonia, with assessment in the Black Mountains. The Bronze assessment was in the Forest of Dean.

As is normal, and all too easily overlooked, many members of staff run activities which count towards the awards. From cookery to community service, from bridge to badminton, many of our pupils are encouraged into constructive activity.

Notable activities involving 'Gold' candidates included work to tidy the parish churchyard; community service again figures significantly, with genuine valued work being done in Cirencester. Numerical strength has given the opportunity to do many positive deeds. However, numbers alone are not the important factor; the principles behind the award should be paramount. Development, effort and co-operation are keywords, and the successful candidates in the final analysis will be the ones who demonstrate all three.

C. P. M. K.

## Ode to Vesta

20th to 23rd April

We had been preparing for our first practice walk for about a fortnight, wondering if our feet would make the 50 miles; Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expeditions are not to be taken lightly. Bets were on in the staff room as to whether any of the eight girls would manage to break through the uncharted wilderness of the Peak District, and whether the three boys would survive the female company for the four days.

The night before we left most of the group assembled in sick bay and were ridiculed as Mr O'Connor (Des) reduced their kit to the recommended two stone. It was a resounding NO! to pink ear-muffs and disposable knickers.

All of us enjoyed the last Rendcomb supper, with the prospect of Vesta curries and muesli ('moiseley' to Des) for the next four days.

Everyone was up at 4.30 a.m. the next morning, so that we could reach the starting point and rendezvous with Sophie at 8.30 at the Izaak Walton Hotel, Derbyshire. The journey took about two and a half



Bronze Award

*J. Talbot*

hours, during which the only person who managed to stay awake the whole time was Miss Goldsmith (hereafter Miss G) who was map reading.

As soon as we arrived, it began to drizzle in true Derbyshire style. Morale was decidedly low as we separated into two groups:

### Group 1

Claire Boydell  
Natasha Clements  
Holly Andrews  
Kate Graham  
Sarah McIndoe

### Group 2

Alex Hall  
Richard Walters  
Gregory Harris  
Sophie Chang  
Aleks Malkjovic  
Kate Bonniwell

and left the warmth, comfort and safety of the Rendcomobile.

*Only 79 kilometres, 999 metres to go!*

The first day's walking was very difficult. Every hill we climbed seemed like Everest - little did we know what was to come. Group 2, ours, was chaperoned by the very capable Des, who 'had a sore knee'; that was his story, anyway. Group 1 went with Miss G.

The leadership of Group 2 was delegated to Sophie, who managed to go wrong within the first kilometre; her authority was promptly withdrawn.

To say that the terrain was rough would be the understatement of the year. As Des bravely hobbled down the vertical mud-slide, it was difficult not to laugh. It certainly gave us an appetite, until we realised what was in store. Lunch was literally the taste of

things to come, crushed cream crackers and Primula.

Back at Base Camp One, Boosley Grange, blood pressures were rising. Group 1 had managed excellently to navigate their course and arrived on time to pitch their tents, but where was Group 2? That cruel, callous man Des, had stranded us in the totally foreign environment, leaving us to find our way through a kilometre and a half of boggy marshland. Several of us came perilously close to losing our lives trying to retrieve Greg's boot as it was sucked into the bottomless depths of a man-eating marsh.

We got in only three hours late.

Pitching the tents was in itself quite a complicated task, especially in the increasing wind. First, care was taken to remove any evidence of sheep, by flicking it on to the next-door neighbour's patch; then chaos reigned, as we shouted for Des to come and help.

Once we were installed in the tents, aptly named 'Phreaks', the *cordon bleu* manuals came out as our *Vestas* were put on to boil. We had so many flavours to choose from: chicken, chicken supreme, sweat - sorry, sweet - and sour chicken, chicken curry, and the same with beef, all with that delicate undertone of sheep.

Washing facilities at Boosley Grange were sparse, to say the least, consisting of a tap. Well, what would you expect for a tariff of 50p per person per night? They should have paid us.

By the end of the first day we were all very tired. We settled down for an uncomfortable night's sleep, getting up periodically to check that the fly-sheet was still attached, with the wind howling outside.

Two casualties had fallen out. *Only 64 kilometres 563 metres to go!*

On the second day yet another casualty was suffered. The minibus was reversed into a stationary vehicle by both members of staff within an hour of each other. 'But I'm sure I put it into first', was the shocked reaction.

It was left to Miss G's feminine charm to con two local yokels into doing a bit of DIY. Meanwhile we had no vehicle to let the casualties rest in, so we all, except Miss G, whose stomach was in a state of turmoil, took refuge in the not-so-local chippy and public conveniences.

We quote, '*Don't you dare come near me with that food!*'

By afternoon both groups were walking again bandaged feet aching and blistering. By the end of the day the harsh, inhospitable countryside around Buxton had claimed yet more victims.

We were thankful to find that Camp Two, at Cold Springs Farm, had a toilet and hot water and, most importantly, *no sheep*, so spirits lifted. This, in everyone's opinion, was the best night of the whole expedition. The Rendcomobile was 'fixed', thanks to the magical sticky properties of Sellotape, and even Des was more tranquil. We sat round the *Epigas* campfire, watching the sun go down and eating our *Vestas*.

On the third day, Sunday, the so-called day of rest, we got up to our familiar breakfast of 'moiseley' and Five Pints. We set out, our group numbers dwindling, this time without the staff.

By now most of us were proficient enough in the use of our compasses to keep on the correct route. There is an exception to every rule, of course, and who but Alex and Aleks had to break it? Their motto was 'if lost, go up a steep hill' and afterwards, having realised their mistake, 'well, there was a nice view, anyway.'

It's true though, the Peak District scenery is quite breath-taking, literally.

Lo and behold, on the third day Group 2 managed to beat Group 1 to the campsite, the premier Peak District resort, *Costa Boosley Grange*.

For some reason the lack of a toilet at the popular holiday resort caused people to lose their tempers quite easily. Sarah, for instance, was so cross that she nearly set her tent on fire whilst trying to make a cup of coffee.

The strain of the walk was beginning to tell on everyone. Sprained knees and ankles were not uncommon, and Kate B had managed to rub her feet raw and bleed through three plasters and a pair of socks. The minibus was getting crowded, so Kate plodded on bravely.

On the fourth day the end was nigh - only 15 kilometres, 13 metres to go! On this day Group 1 was inflicted with a severe case of *Desitis*, the symptoms being a persistent, meaningless gabble and deterioration of one's sense of humour. Group 2 felt honoured to be blessed with Miss G's company for the first time.

When we had navigated the worst part of the route, climbed mountains, swum rivers infested with maneating crocodiles, we met Miss G on a disused railway track. She was sporting a fetching little number consisting of brown corduroy walking breeches, green socks and a blue rucksack to match the brown boots. It turns out that this was all the rage in 1932.



S. Chang





*S. Chang*

The home straight was pretty uneventful, except for the two Alexs' detour up yet another mountain, and then down the 160-metre scree slope, slalom-style!

The minibus was nowhere to be seen when we arrived, so we sat on the lawn of the Izaak Walton Hotel for two hours, resting our aching feet and enjoying the sunshine. After a few hours of bridge Miss G decided to walk down to the car park to try to find the minibus. She found the minibus, but no Group 1; they had set off back along our route to see if they could find us.

On the way to Rendcomb we stopped for supper, which for once did not consist of *Vesta* or anything vaguely related to it. 'Mum and Dad', alias Des and Miss G, engulfed their meal with as much vigour as did everyone else.

The rest of the journey home was uneventful, the majority of us, probably including the driver, being asleep.

Despite the blood, sweat and tears shed, everyone had to agree that some of the expedition was enjoyable. We would all like to thank Miss Goldsmith and Mr O'Connor for tolerating us, and to some extent entertaining us. Thanks also for the bribes for the stories we haven't told!

Sophie Chang  
Aleks Malkovic

## Gardening

The grounds looked very attractive throughout the summer and well into the autumn last year, and gave rise to many appreciative - and appreciated - comments. I cannot remember the terrace urns being more striking, or the Old Rectory border more colourful. All this was the result of good preparation early in the year and regular watering in the hot weather by the ground staff.

During the year two new flower-beds have been made, one to provide more of a display at Park House and the other to replace the bed in the Old Rectory drive, long the target of reversing cars. It was arranged for some new urns to be made for the terraces, but so far these have not materialised; one lives in hope. In December a new greenhouse was put up on the east end of the Arts Block; Mr Kampe must be congratulated on thinking of this excellent site, which is practical and quite decorative. A nursery garden has been started in the old rickyard; we hope to produce our own wallflowers and other plants.

The spring bedding, mainly wallflowers and pansies, came into bloom early and lasted until May, thanks to the dry weather. For the summer display we have planted the urns with geraniums, petunias and lobelia and elsewhere have used a mixture of African marigolds, tagetes, cosmos, petunias and nicotiana. The trees and shrubs planted at Lawn House and Stable House are now well established and beginning to look quite mature!

I am extremely grateful to Mr Partridge for the interest he has shown in the gardens and for all he has done to keep them tidy and attractive. We were also glad to have some help in the autumn from N. Walmsley, R. Walters and D. Bowerman - perhaps the last 'PW' group?

W.J.D.W.

## The Photographic Society

Jonathan Pratten, who dealt with the administration of the society with great efficiency, sold a large quantity of materials; however, the annual competition did not attract a proportionate number of prints. Once again the colour section was open to the whole school, and the results were:

### Colour

First:	Vulcan Bomber	D. Egge (IV) (page 17)
Second:	Mont St Michel	J. Pratten (VIA) (page 27)
Third:	Big Apple	J. Pratten (page 59)

### Black and White

First:	Rock Concert	F Lee (VIA) (page 34)
Second:	Church Flowers	J. Pratten (page 10)
Third:	Loading the Puma	D. Egge (page 66)

We hope to encourage a more active society, with regular meetings, next year.

C.J.W.



*W. J. D. White*

## Bridge

This year has been one of the most active and enjoyable since the club was started in 1973. During the winter terms there were four or five tables at most of the Sunday meetings. The interest of the players was well reflected in the improved standard of play. Arrangements were made for the two senior pairs to join the Corinium Bridge Club for a few sessions, and they much appreciated the welcome they received there. They were also grateful to Mrs Nettleton who ran a 'teach-in' one Sunday - an experiment which we hope to repeat next autumn.

In November there was an enjoyable afternoon match, arranged by Miss Goldsmith against Marlborough College, with a return fixture this May; we shall try to make this a regular meeting, and no doubt Marlborough will be keen to seek their revenge. In February the college acted as a centre for a regional heat of the Daily Mail Schools' Bridge Competition; our 'A' team went through to the semi-final in Oxford, failing to qualify for the final by only three points. But they enjoyed the challenge and have continued to discuss the boards long afterwards . . . "If only we had

bid four spades on that hand instead of two spades . . ."

etc. The junior class has met on Monday evenings; there have been 12 regular players, most of whom were learning bridge as a skill for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They advanced quickly after some initial confusions, and now play duplicate quite competitively. I hope that some of them will retain their interest and join the Sunday evening group.

Lastly, a work of thanks. The 'A' team, Kevin Holmes and Carl Reens, Henry Le Fleming and Alex Bell, leave this summer. For the past four years they have come to almost all the Sunday meetings, have played in a number of competitions and, by their dedication to the game, have done much to set the tone of the club and inspire others to achieve the same standards. I am most grateful to them for their stalwart support - and congenial company - and I hope that they will continue to play as a team in some competitions. Quite a few younger players show a similar commitment to the game, which promises well for the future.

*W.J.D.W.*

## Leckhampton Hill



*W. J. D. White*



## Sponsored Walk

The obligatory hike around the Cotswold countryside has become a major event in the school calendar. It is always in aid of a worthy charity, and the enthusiastic parents come flocking in to make the journey, especially if the day is fine. Once again, this year the woolly jumpers and anoraks could be left behind while we exercised our unwilling legs.

As I lumbered into the piercing early morning sunlight, I tried desperately to bring the walk into perspective; I was, after all, raising money for the Macmillan Nurses, who give pleasure to the last hours of an old person's suffering. Compared to their suffering, mine was minimal, and I should do all I could to help people less fortunate than myself.

It didn't work. Only the English would have the courage to put on such a show of well-organised charity. We had to be given a number, written on our right wrist, so that we could be checked at regular intervals and not get lost. I felt like some kind of processional sheep, being herded round the route under the watchful eye of authority. We had conformed to the structured ways of the conservative adult, and I now really did want to get lost or, even better, fall off a cliff edge (even though there were none).

The walk itself passed without incident, rather as it had last time and the time before that. However hard we tried, we couldn't get lost, owing to the hordes of people ever willing to point us in the right direction. It got hotter, though, and the refreshment stops were always a haven of refuge for our parched tongues.

At the foot of Leckhampton Hill I suffered from a bout of depression, brought on by its magnificent, all-engulfing, rolling curves. Still, I climbed it and took stock of the panoramic view of Cheltenham before flopping down into a contented, sweaty heap at the lunch stop.

I was one of the few masochists who decided to continue; despite everything, there is a certain satisfaction in walking into the school grounds, instead of being brought back in the minibus, ashamed and defeated. I noticed that the headmaster failed to do the walk, for some inexplicable reason; he came to the lunch stop, where he smiled congenially at the weary, who gave little response to his whole-hearted encouragement.

Dragging a reluctant schoolmate from the spot, I set off again on the homeward trek of eight miles. I have always found the first four miles of this stage the most enjoyable of the walk; the legs have been revitalised, and the scenery is interesting, as we pass through a couple of villages. Unfortunately, the worst part of the walk is the last three miles before you come into sight of Rendcomb, a view which always gives you a second wind. Those final miles are full of mental turmoil and physical agony; you are always behind where you think you are and every corner gives you disappointment, as each yard becomes a milestone.

However, that is what a sponsored walk is all about. It isn't about publicity for the school (at breakfast I noticed a journalist taking photographs), or relations with parents (the headmaster's shoes had an extra gleam that day), but about willpower, determination and appreciation of the countryside. I won't go into the sordid details of the barbecue; suffice it to say that it was a success, and that this time-honoured event will be back in two years' time, appealing to the pockets of the hapless victims to support another worthy cause.

Julian Madeley

*S. Hurwitz*



## Viewpoints 2

### An Engineer's Odyssey

*Ben Freeman (OR 1976-83) has been working since July 1988 for Meyn Machine Fabriek B.V., a Dutch firm installing poultry processing machinery. His work, bringing the gospel of technology, often to countries with a comparatively primitive lifestyle, has taken him to Holland, Belgium, West Germany, France, Portugal, Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, Saudi Arabia and the USSR. We include here some recollections of Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan.*

*Bulgaria, November 1988 and September 1989.*

We flew Amsterdam-Vienna-Sofia to work in Kostinbrod, just outside Sofia. The building we were to fit with new machinery was in a very sorry state and very unhygienic; I would like to have seen the reaction of the EEC Poultry Meat Inspectors.

The weather was not favourable; it snowed every day for the first eight days and was bitterly cold. The installation was to have taken ten days but, owing to the Bulgarian steelwork being quite incorrectly manufactured, it took eighteen. Against weather, theft of equipment, lack of welding gear and the primitive nature of what was available, it was difficult to uphold the morale of the five-man team working a twelve-hour day.

Whilst the installation was taking place, the Bulgarian labourers, with torn clothing and rough, heavily wrinkled faces, lit fires inside the building to warm themselves. They squatted quietly in groups for the greater part of the day, wholly contented and apparently undisturbed by the heavy density of smoke produced. One day, while we were searching in the snow for additional steelwork, a Bulgarian beckoned us mysteriously into a building where we found a table with plates of salad and a bottle of yellow liquid; we sniffed it and began to cough. It was Rakea, home-made Bulgarian whisky. Our faces, as we consumed our first rather generously filled glass, caused some amusement, but for the next few hours we felt no discomfort from the freezing temperatures.

Removal of rubble outside the building revealed the existence of forty or fifty rats which, upon this disturbance of their dwelling, scurried and jumped in all directions. Seven or eight Bulgarians immediately armed themselves with sticks and ran around for several minutes in crazed attempts to execute the vermin. It was an unforgettable, superficially comic scene, at which we all laughed until the tears rolled down our faces, but the tears, I am sure, held deeper and more significant emotions ...

Another of my trips to Bulgaria, in September 1989, was very sudden and unexpected. One morning my boss told me that I was taking the next available flight to Plovdiv, to deliver a new gearbox to a colleague waiting for it in Tolbulhin. The gearbox, supplied by another company and weighing over 100lbs, had not yet arrived and was to go direct to the airport.

My flight was scheduled to leave at 3.20 p.m. The delivery was made at 3.10 by a red-faced, apologetic, panic-stricken driver, who put the equipment on a suitcase trolley while I rushed to the agent to sign for my ticket and finish my checking-in. The girl rang to make sure that the gate would be held open; I ran with the gearbox on the trolley through passport control and, to the astonishment of many waiting passengers, on through the departure lounge to board the plane in triumph and relief.

On landing at Plovdiv I was met by a Bulgarian who spoke a little English and drove me to Sofia, three hours through a terrible thunderstorm in his fifteen year-old little Moskvich. During the journey my plump chauffeur chatted to me enthusiastically in broken English about the admirable qualities of western Europe, occasionally banging on the dashboard to relight the headlamps, as rain hammered down on his loyal automobile and lightning revealed the Bulgarian skies. In spite of wearing a heavy coat he insisted on having the heater fully on and, when I opened a crack of window to gasp in some much-needed air, he was concerned lest I catch cold. Throughout the downpour his windscreen wipers managed to describe an arc of only about twenty degrees ...

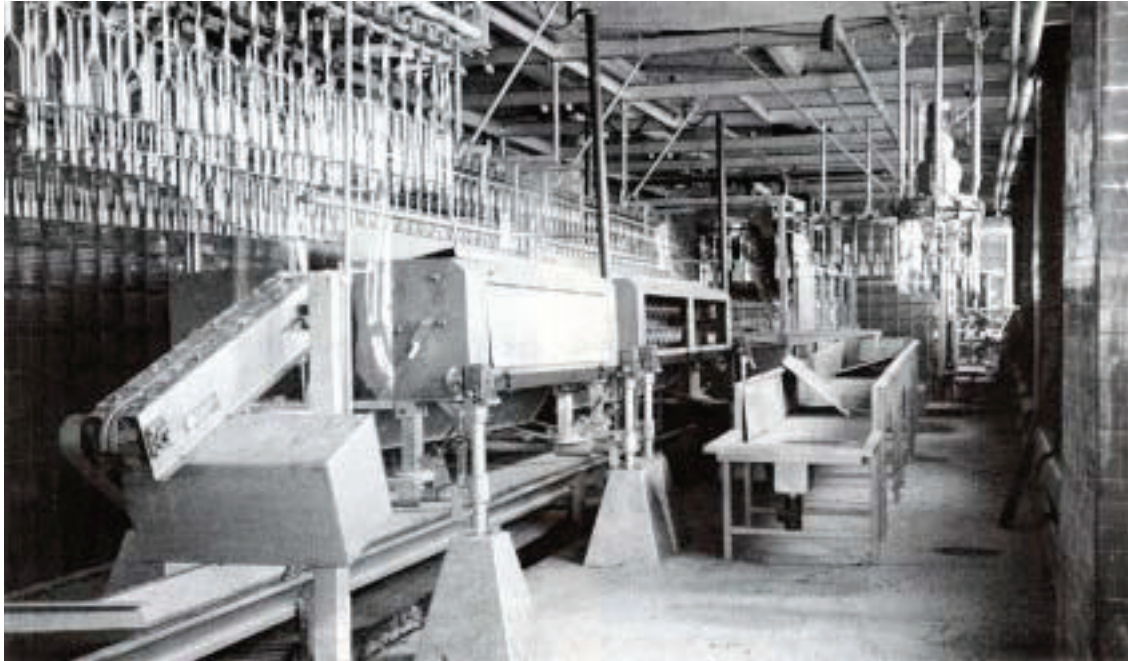
Mountains in Uzbekistan



B. Freeman



The job



*Saudi Arabia, January 1989*

I flew Birmingham-Amsterdam-Frankfurt-Riyadh, where the airport is beautiful, built in marble with a fountain. A Philippino from the Meyn agency met me and took me to the firm's office, where I met a Dutch colleague, a computer/electronic engineer.

The next day we flew north for about an hour to Gazzim. Below us the sand stretched out seemingly without end, broken only occasionally by incongruous irrigated green circles of grass. An Arab met us at Gazzim airport and took us by car through the desert to a virtually self-sufficient compound where we were to stay for about two weeks. We had been warned that, while working in the desert, we might find scorpions and wild dogs a nuisance; we met no scorpions, but on several occasions we saw wild dogs roaming in the distance.

I was given four Thais, only recently arrived in the Kingdom to work for me. They had no English, and so we were reduced to hands, feet, tone of voice and facial expression; I was surprised how well we understood each other, undoubtedly aided by their great eagerness to please me. Mutual respect and a warm friendship evolved, to such a degree that, when I came to leave, I was very moved by their warm handshakes, little round grinning faces and offers to accompany me around the world as my labour crew.

Most of the working population of Saudi Arabia are foreigners imported on three-year contracts from the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Africa and other third-world areas. Of course, absolutely no alcohol could be consumed, unless one considered a minimum of three months in a Saudi jail, and possibly a public flogging, desirable.

The Saudis pray five times a day and, before they did so, the noise of wailing Arabs behind megaphones in towers would erupt through the city air; this is quite an experience when you hear it for the first time at five o'clock in the morning.

*Uzbekistan, October 1989*

*B. Freeman*

On 23rd October I flew with an experienced engineer who was to assist me on site for the first week before he flew to Chienkent to begin another project. We went Heathrow-Amsterdam-Warsaw-Moscow, followed by an hour and a half by taxi, paid for in US dollars and Marlboro cigarettes and passing the monument with three crosses at the spot where the Russians stopped the advance of Hitler's forces, to the domestic airport at Domedevodo. The flight from there to Tashkent took four hours, and we arrived in the morning, six hours ahead of UK time, to be met by an engineer from Meyn Refrigeration who was working on a factory out in the desert. After booking in to a hotel we tried to arrange our onward journey to Andizjan.

We found this very difficult, owing to the carefree attitude of the authorities, which seemed to me overrelaxed in view of the fact that ours was a million-pound project. After being stranded in Tashkent for four days, I managed to charter a bus to take us and our supplies and spare parts. The bus was promised for 11.30 a.m. and arrived at 3.00 p.m. We refused to leave then, because the journey lay over mountain roads without safety barriers, followed by desert; it would take eight hours, and daylight was essential. I told the driver that, if he came back the next day at 8.00 a.m., I would give him cigarettes. He was there on time!

We set off with our stocks of beer, whisky and cigarettes, bought in Berioska in Tashkent, up along a hazardous mountain road, devoid of vegetation, rather like Afghanistan. Uzbek shepherds on horseback looked with curiosity into the bus at the westerners as we passed. Leaving the mountains, we crossed a stretch of desert, stopping twice, once to repair a broken fanbelt and then to refresh ourselves at a wayside cafe. The services were not up to motorway standard; there was a blanket-covered table under a canopy where Chinese-looking Uzbeks in traditional dress with skull-caps sat cross-legged drinking green tea.

We were glad to reach Andizjan at last, about 150 miles from the Chinese border and 350 from the Afghan. It has wide, heavily pitted streets bordered by decrepit buildings, and is surrounded by cotton fields and herdsman guarding sheep and cattle.

At the factory they held a welcoming party. There was a lot of handshaking and talk about peace in the world; we are all people, working people; let us raise our glasses (countless times) to hard work, peace and the project. Everyone, myself included, stood up and made a speech.

We sat down to a feast of rather scrawny chicken, bread reminiscent of Saudi Arabia and Polo, an Uzbek national dish consisting of rice and mutton with a lot of fat, followed by fruit, pomegranate, apples, sweet melon, water-melon and nuts. There was also a great deal of vodka.

After the feast we went on to our hotel, the best in Andizjan. When we arrived the local police managed to steal some of our Heineken beer. The hotel was dirty and drab, with a temperamental lift and stairs inviting a broken neck. In my room there was a choice, cold water or no water, very rarely hot water. I locked my beer in a suitcase and decided to do my own laundry rather than risk losing my clothes.

The weather was warm for the first few days; then came snow, turning to rain and followed by fog. My transport to work was an old Russian jeep, inclined to break down; with it came an excellent driver and a very poor translator; a very good one arrived the day before I left about four weeks later.

Here I was to supervise the installation of a complete factory, to process 3,500 birds an hour, including three independent lines driven by overhead conveyors, the slaughter and evisceration lines being connected by a rehanging machine which, without aid from human hand, would transfer chickens from one line to the other.

My companion having left after only one day on the site, I started work in an empty building with only the necessary steelwork already completed, twelve Russians, of whom five were electricians, nine Soviet railway containers in which all the necessary equipment should be found, my own office, a thick envelope of drawings and a packing list.

Problems occurred; the crane and forklift, used to bring the machinery into the building, broke down; the packing list was incorrect; some tools were incomplete; there was no communication with the outside world, the telephone system proving impossible.

The site for the project had been changed several times by the Russian officials; that meant that machines built especially for one site had now to be sent to another which required slightly different ones. My company had solved this problem by throwing in the necessary parts for changing the layout, but had not told me that this had to be done!

As two of my machines, one six metres and the other three metres long, were missing somewhere in the Soviet Union, I made a trip to the local telegraph office and tried to ring Holland. After four hours in an unheated room, where 13 out of 25 strip-lights were not working, I had got only as far as Moscow and had to admit defeat.

The saga continued ... It was very difficult to motivate the workforce; this is understandable in a country where the system has taken away any incentive to try to achieve something for oneself, be it financial or personal. Understandable it might be, but it did not help the guy with the responsibility for a million-pound project and a deadline to work to.

During the day I ate in tearooms, sitting cross-legged on a table with a large bowl of Polo in the middle, to be shared by all present. On the first occasion I asked if there was any cutlery, to receive the answer 'Why do you think God gave us hands?' At first I found the thick coating of grease one acquired on one's fingers a little off-putting, but I got used to it. I shared my evening meal with the Uzbek manager, using a Russian dictionary. One evening a drunk came into the restaurant, relieved himself against the wall and then left. The other guests in the restaurant found this amusing but insisted that it was not normal behaviour. I felt that, however abnormal it might be, guests in an English restaurant would definitely not find it amusing.

After eating I would return to my hotel room rather than explore the town; there had been fighting between Turks and Uzbeks, and my experience of the first few days told me that I was bound to attract a good deal of attention, being the first Westerner that most of the people had seen.

Wedding Party (author in centre foreground)







Uzbek children

Reflecting the principles, I imagine, of the soviet system, there always seemed to be a large number of bosses, a lot of people standing and watching the work and not so many doing it. This distracted the workforce. I can remember saying so many times 'Who are these people? Get them out of here!' My translator would always reply, 'No, no - boss!' and I was reduced to telling them myself, in what is considered impolite English, to vacate the premises. The workmanship was necessarily crude; the Russian workmen had no means of measuring even a right-angle and were amazed at the sophistication of the tools I had brought.

The Celebration Day of the 1917 Great October Revolution arrived, and everyone insisted that I took the day off and joined in. I went with my so-called translator, my driver, Habib, and the factory boss to the centre of Andizjan to watch the processions. These consisted of flag-waving marches-past by employees of the various industries, to the sound of brass bands and with officials standing in front of a statue of Lenin announcing each group. I was left with a feeling of absurdity; everything I had seen during my stay seemed inefficient, backward and disorganised, and now here was everyone praising the system which had created this state of affairs.

Later we wandered around a very busy market and then assembled in the communist party headquarters of the factory, where we were to eat, drink large quantities of vodka and dance to Uzbek music, my participation in this last delighting everyone present.

After a while we went outside and it was announced that a sheep would be killed in my honour, causing me mixed feelings. However, after an hour's wait it was found that there was no sheep available, and I had to accept general apologies.

As may be imagined, I felt somewhat isolated and in need of someone to share my problems. Then, one afternoon at work I heard the beautiful words, *Hey Stomme Engelse Klootzak!* heralding the arrival of Rob Meyer, one of our electricians. I had company at last! We spent the evenings together, drinking beer and talking about life at home and our families.

When we left, the job finished, our leave-taking was

emotional. One of our workers, Habib, confessed that he had taken a photo of me from my brief-case.

The journey back to Holland with my colleague the electrician also had its problems; it was very difficult to get a ticket from Andizjan to Moscow and impossible to get one from Moscow to Amsterdam. After a ten-hour wait through the night in a cold hall, gazing out at the snow-covered car parks, we got a flight from Moscow to Frankfurt and then went on to Amsterdam to find that no luggage had accompanied us ...

## An Historian's Perspective

*At the end of May, Holly Andrews and Claire Boydell interviewed Mr D. S. J. Price, on the point of his retirement. They would like to thank him for giving the interview and to say that, if Rendcomb has afforded Mr Price much enjoyment over the years, then it is certainly true to say that he has done the same for Rendcomb. They are sure they speak for the whole college when they wish him a very happy retirement.*

*We hear that, when you retire, you are moving away from Gloucestershire. Why?*

For many reasons. Of course, I have many friends here, and our roots have been for 30 years in Gloucestershire and Bristol. But I felt that, when I began a new phase, I needed new horizons. Both Mrs Price and I needed the opportunity to start afresh. In any case, we couldn't afford to live well in the Cotswolds, which is still one of the wealthiest areas of England. It has grown crowded, and commercialised since we first came. Neither would we want to be near Rendcomb and play no part in its future. We love the general atmosphere of France, and the area in which we are to live is very beautiful, rather like the Cotswolds. It is also a very peaceful, unspoilt environment.

*What brought you to the Cotswolds in the first place, then?*

Rendcomb offered the opportunity of an academic, unpressured life in beautiful surroundings in which our family could grow up. Of course, even Rendcomb soon got caught up in the need to expand and open its mind to change, and there was an increasing amount for me to do here.

*What changes? What did you think of them?*

Well, at a personal level, I became absorbed with several aspects of local history and was asked to do an increasing amount of lecturing outside the college. Then I became quite busy with the Boarding Schools Association, particularly in pastoral care matters. But the big changes, which affected Rendcomb shortly after I came, were to do with doubling the intake into the third form and the introduction of girls into the sixth form. The latter I was wholeheartedly in favour of; I had reservations about the former.

*What about Park House? How were the first girls received?*

Well, at the time, Rendcomb pioneered the development. Some schools were already teaching girls

in their sixth forms, but they were usually daughters of staff members or local girls for whom no special facilities were provided. Co-ed boarding schools existed, but were regarded as rather eccentric communities. So it was all a great adventure educationally. I remember having to ask the architect to remove the shaving points from the girls' wing studies at the planning stage. The architect's response was alarming; 'What do you mean, the girls' wing?' In fact, he solved the problem by removing them from the boys' wing too. So the arrival of girls was a great shock to everyone, not least to members of the staff, most of whom had never taught girls. It took some time for people to recognise that girls' needs are sometimes very different, but that basically we are all dealing with individual personalities, whether they are boys of eleven, girls of sixteen or young adults of eighteen - or even aged men nearer sixty than fifty. They all share the same basic needs, of affection, of acceptance by their peers, of space to live and grow in, of security within a community. These are the qualities that, I firmly believe, Rendcomb provides.

*Tell us about the time you spent as Park House master.*

I enjoyed my stay at Park House very much. Because the girls were a new feature of the school, my role wasn't really very clearly defined. I would say that, at times, I had far too much to do, but the time I spent there was always rewarding. Living in very close quarters with so many people taught me a lot about human nature, in particular not to judge people on my initial impressions of them. During my eleven years in Park House I met only four or five people who struck me as being basically unpleasant - and I was probably wrong about them, too.

*Perhaps you would have liked to see Rendcomb go wholly coeducational?*

Yes, that is very much the direction I would have liked to see taken. I firmly believe that it is right educationally, especially in boarding schools, where people are in danger of cutting themselves off from contact with the other half of the human race. But I have no doubt that the governors considered this option with great care. It just wasn't economically feasible. But the opportunity must have passed now, at least for a few years.

*If or when you come back to visit, will it sadden you to see other, perhaps inevitable, changes?*

No, it won't sadden me to see things are not as they used to be. After all, I am an historian - you haven't asked me anything about that, incidentally - and I expect change. Each generation sees things in a new light. What is important is that, in making the change, people don't think of their predecessors as idiots, but learn from the past and reverence it for the good it has done and the values it has treasured. The kind of change which would sadden me would be that the traditions of tolerance and respect for the individual, which each generation of Rendcombians has carried

on, should be forgotten. I am sure they will not be.

*Well, what changes would you like to see?*

Again, it is a matter of ethos. One of the trends that I have noticed at Rendcomb, but which cannot be attributed only to Rendcomb, as the college must be to a certain extent a microcosm of society, is the following of a basic, sometimes downright ugly, subculture. We accept our standards in art, music - especially 'music' - from below rather than above. We go for the lowest common denominator. The language of the *Sun* and the *NME* is the currency of our conversation. So it is the cult of the third-rate outside the classroom that I would like to see changed. Nowhere is there a better opportunity for people to treasure and store up values for their lifetime in art, music, drama, poetry, and in their spiritual life, than at Rendcomb. Too many people look back with regret at a neglected opportunity.

*Finally, your enthusiasm for Rendcomb does not seem to have diminished over the years; it seems to have grown. But how would you like Rendcomb to remember you?*

Well, thank you. My enthusiasm for Rendcomb derives from the wonderful opportunity it has given me and Mrs Price to get to know and, to a certain extent, be of some help to so many fine people over the years. It has been a great blessing and privilege to have been involved with a marvellous generation. As to remembering me, well, people don't remember for very long, you know. People move on, get involved with living; Rendcomb becomes the background to their lives; you forget the names on the school photograph. That is as it should be. I hope, though, that my work here can count for providing part of the historical continuity of our school, to link the thrust of the present and the hopes for the future with the values of the past which I inherited in 1969.







Bristol Fighter

## Rendcomb Airfield

During the year there have been two reminders that during the First World War there was an aerodrome at Rendcomb, to the east of the White Way on land which is now part of the Farnsworths' farm.

First, two pilots, Mr Torquil Norman, chairman of governors, and Mr Vic Norman, the acrobatic expert, applied for permission to reopen part of the former aerodrome for flying their vintage aircraft. This aroused enough interest in Rendcomb and neighbouring villages to warrant an open meeting in the village hall. Although over the years many of us have become accustomed to the sounds of Concorde being test-flown from Fairford, American tanker aircraft from the same airfield, the Red Arrows when stationed at Kemble, Harriers in training for the Falklands and Hercules transports flown perhaps by parents of Rendcombians, people were understandably worried about the different noise these old aircraft might produce.

Secondly, when the boys of the junior house visited the RAF Museum at Hendon, those investigating the galleries dedicated to World War One saw a model aircraft taking off from a grass strip labelled 'Rendcombe'. *Action Stations 6*, a book describing various military establishments, has a separate entry for Rendcomb and refers to 48 Squadron's being the first to be equipped with Bristol Fighters, making Rendcomb hallowed RFC\* territory at the time.

The Bristol Fighters, affectionately known as 'Brisfits' and manufactured at Filton in Bristol, first went into action with 48 Squadron over the western front in April 1917. These bi-planes had a maximum speed of 110 mph and were armed with one Vickers machine gun, one Lewis gun and two 112lb bombs.

The aerodrome is thought to have opened in 1916, and during the next three years several squadrons and a variety of aircraft, from trainers to bombers, were stationed there.

By 1920, when Rendcomb College opened with 12 pupils, all the squadrons had been disbanded, and the camp was being gradually dismembered, but our visit to the site in June confirmed that some red-brick buildings were left intact. The firing range, now a hay store and cattle shelter, is the first encountered on leaving the White Way; the next, which may have been quarters for

personnel, gives something of a feel of life on the aerodrome, with its iron stove, which must have been warm relief from the piercing winter winds, and its view to the south over the grass airfield.

A short walk to the east brought us to a remarkably well-preserved squash court, which we estimated to be slightly bigger than the ones at school. Squash was regarded as important training in speed of reaction for pilots, and the court must have been quite a luxury at the time, when the game was beginning to grow in popularity. The first open competition in Great Britain started in 1922.

A reference in *Action Stations 6* to the grave of an RFC officer's baby son led us to the south side of Rendcomb churchyard, where a broken cross bearing the RFC emblem leans against the wall. The base, next to the path, tells us that the day-old boy was buried on 30th July 1918; it is interesting that the pilot chose the RFC emblem, the RFC having become the RAF a few months before, on 1st April. It seems likely that his loyalties lay rather with the former, especially if he saw action with the RFC.

Our thanks are due to Mr Malcolm Farnsworth for allowing us to explore his land and for inspiring our imagination, also to Dominic Egge for supplying the information about the Bristol Fighter.

C.J.W

\*Royal Flying Corps



# Tea and Politics

*On 13th April the Rt. Hon. Michael Howard, QC, Secretary of State for Employment, kindly gave an interview to Charlotte Carroll and Katie Floydd.*

On Good Friday we set out with no small degree of trepidation to interview Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, at his country home in Ashford, Kent. We hoped that the infamous date and the pouring rain were not heralding a disastrous interview!

We were warmly greeted by Mrs Howard, better known as Sandra Paul, who is still a fashion model now, x years and three children later! We were introduced to the family and then ushered through a low, latched, wooden door into a well-lived-in sitting-room.

Here we found Mr Howard relaxing in a comfortable chair by a blazing coal fire. He was informally dressed and, although he was as well groomed as he ever appears on television, we felt immoderately relieved that we were not dressed too smartly!

Our worst fears quickly subsided as we shook hands, introduced ourselves and settled comfortably on a sofa; Mr Howard's easy-going manner and the cosy atmosphere soon put us at our ease. As we glanced around the room, we noticed family photographs, a portrait of Mrs Howard and many intriguing books and keepsakes neatly arranged everywhere. It struck us, ridiculously perhaps, that these powerful, tireless politicians one sees on television every day are no less human than either you or I!

Much to our relief, Mr Howard consented to our taping the interview, immediately removing the need for reams of illegible scribble.

We started by asking questions related more directly to Mr Howard personally, in the hope of creating a congenial climate for the interview. Asked what inspired him to become an MP, he replied that he had always taken a keen interest in political matters and that he really got involved in politics at Cambridge.

There he began by reading economics, switching to law in his second year. He had now been MP for Folkestone for seven years, and he spent as much time as possible in the area and in Ashford nearby, almost every weekend and the school holidays. Naturally he spent the working week in London when Parliament was in session.

We asked Mr Howard how he felt when the Prime Minister asked him to take up his present position. He said that he had first been surprised, as he was unaware of Norman Fowler's resignation, and then immensely excited, particularly as employment was a field which had always held his prime interest. He had had no reservations whatever about accepting the position.

We next enquired whether he envisaged progress higher up the political scale, to which he replied: *'You never know; it's determined largely by luck, and almost entirely by facts outside your control.'*

We probed, trying to find out if there was any government post he would not like to occupy; being the

shrewd politician that he is, he merely replied that he could think of none. He would like to spend the remainder of his working life in politics, but he realised that this might not happen, in which case he would go back to being a barrister.

We then moved on to more politically-based questions. Did he consider that the television coverage of Parliament had improved the Government's standing with the public? He felt that perhaps he was not the best person to ask about this, but he did say that the catcalling tended to sound exaggerated on radio in a way that it did not on television. In the light of media coverage of prison riots, we asked if he thought that radio and television had a genuine role to play in the enforcement of law and order in Britain.

He replied, *'Television, radio and the newspapers are entitled to comment on the way in which law and order are enforced, just as they are entitled to comment on any other public matter. I don't think that they have a direct role to play in law enforcement, and we have clearly acceptable procedures which are laid down and which work pretty well.'*

We asked about the control of media coverage of political groups such as *Sinn Fein*, bearing in mind that this country prided itself on its freedom of speech and expression. He said that the offence caused to people by such groups campaigning on television must be taken into consideration, especially to those who had lost loved ones at the hands of the IRA; also, the crimes committed were so horrible that one was justified in preventing people who supported them from coming on the air.

Next we put it to Mr Howard that recently it seemed that the government had had some difficulty in getting its ideas across to the public, allowing the wrong impression to be gained, for example, with regard to the NHS reforms and the Community Charge. He believed that there were a number of reasons for this. First, perhaps because these policies involved change and, as a nation, we were always inclined to resist change and regard it with suspicion; it was often difficult to persuade people of the considerable advantages the proposed changes would bring, and it was easy for the opposition to scare people about such reforming policies, playing upon their anxieties.

In the case of the Community Charge, people tended to make invalid comparisons between what they paid last year and what they had to pay this year, perhaps not realising that, had the system remained, their old rates would have risen anyway, as a result of a revaluation of property. Finally, he believed that the media were rather bored with the present government and less than impartial in their reporting.

At this point we paused briefly for tea, brought in by Mr Howard's two children. Balancing a plate on one knee and a cup on the other, we began to ask him about education and employment.

We asked about job prospects for school-leavers, now entering an increasingly technical world, where many jobs were mechanised and computerised. Did he think that this would affect the job prospects, in particular of



less qualified people? He agreed that this was potentially a problem, but said that the answer lay in training people to be sufficiently skilled for the jobs now available. He believed that it was important for as many people as possible to continue their education after the age of 16, not just in the private sector, but more especially in state schools. He said he was not in any way against public schools, rather he was in favour of making state education as good as possible at all levels. Realising that not everyone would go on to further education, he said, *'it is important to create, for people who don't stay on at school beyond the age of 16, a ladder of opportunity which will be as attractive to them as the kind of opportunity which is available to people who go on to university and college'*.

We went on to ask Mr Howard about sponsorship of students in industry, student loans, student contribution to the Community Charge and youth training schemes. He said he believed that sponsorship could become more widespread, and that this would happen as we moved into the era of student loans; he regarded the loans as a sensible idea, remarking that Britain was following the lead of other European countries in this matter. As for the student's 20% contribution to the Community Charge, he said it was reasonable to ask them to make a small contribution, as they were voting adults who were getting the benefit of community services.

He admitted that YTS and adult retraining schemes were not always perhaps as good as they should be, adding that every effort was continually being made to update and monitor them, and to make them appropriate to the area in which they operate.

We ended by asking Mr Howard which route he might recommend to young people seeking a career in politics; he gave a predictable answer:

*'Join the Young Conservatives!'*

Our thanks to Mr Howard for his hospitality and for his generosity in giving us the interview, and also to Mr John Floyd for arranging it.

Charlotte Carroll

## A Glimpse of India and Kashmir

Arriving in New Delhi at night, in July last year, was a rather threatening experience. Negotiating the tight security in the quiet airport made a telling contrast to the mad haranguing of the taxi-drivers outside, ready to take advantage of any diffident faces. Our bus ride to the Hotel Ranjiit provided us with our first glimpse of the city, but it was only next morning, as we reluctantly dragged ourselves away from the fans and out into the humidity, that we really began to experience the incredible bustle of Delhi life.

We visited the largest dedicated Hindu temple, first being initiated with the accustomed red spot. The religious atmosphere of the place was rather spoilt, however, by the incessant cries of the postcard sellers outside. One of the features of Indian life with which we quickly became familiar was the relentless pestering of tourists by pedlars of all types and ages. I was an easy victim at first.

'For you, I drop price 50 rupees to 25'. A great concession, I thought, falling for it, until I walked past a more travelled member of our group who had paid only five rupees!

Riding in a trishaw among the chaotic traffic was an unforgettable experience. Wandering around the backstreets among the varying degrees of poverty, we were all impressed by the way Indians, even the beggars, accepted their appalling suffering with a complete lack of self-pity. The presence of western women excited a curious mixture of interest from the Indian women and resentment and hostility from the men.

After two days in Delhi we moved on by train to Agra, mercifully not in the jam-packed third-class carriages! There we visited the marvellous Taj Mahal, but it was sad to see the once pure-white marble



Holly Andrews (right) at the base of Kolohoi Glacier

stained by a black tint, the result of third-world industrial pollution.

From Agra we flew to Kashmir and visited Srinagar, a gloriously cultured city, sadly adversely affected by tourism. Our accommodation there was provided by Ali on a houseboat on Dal Lake. He was a jovial, Americanised Kashmiri, whose help we were to appreciate greatly later in the tour. Our houseboy, Ayoub, was a lively character also, obviously very bright but showing no trace of resentment at his humble job.

One of the most interesting parts of this stage of the tour was our visit to the last remaining private Kashmiri carpet business, all the rest now being under government control. Groups of women sat endlessly copying patterns in which every knot tied had to be of a certain colour or fit a specific design. I tied a knot for a worker who had been labouring on the same carpet for over two years!

Our next visit was to Pahalgam, altitude 7,000 feet, after a journey of punctures and constant requests to get out and walk, as we crossed rickety bridges unable to take the weight of both bus and people. The scenery was incredibly dramatic, as we skirted the sides of the deep cut valleys.

During this stage of the journey I struck up a friendship with a Kashmiri called Salim, who invited me to his house. I received a very warm welcome from all his family, heralded on our arrival by a great spread of cakes and biscuits. His 'house' consisted of two sparsely furnished but adequate rooms. The family

gave Salim, as the only son, tremendous attention and importance, whilst the two daughters were relatively neglected, even by the resident grandmother. However, within these simple surroundings, it was heart-warming to see how important fundamental family values still were to them all.

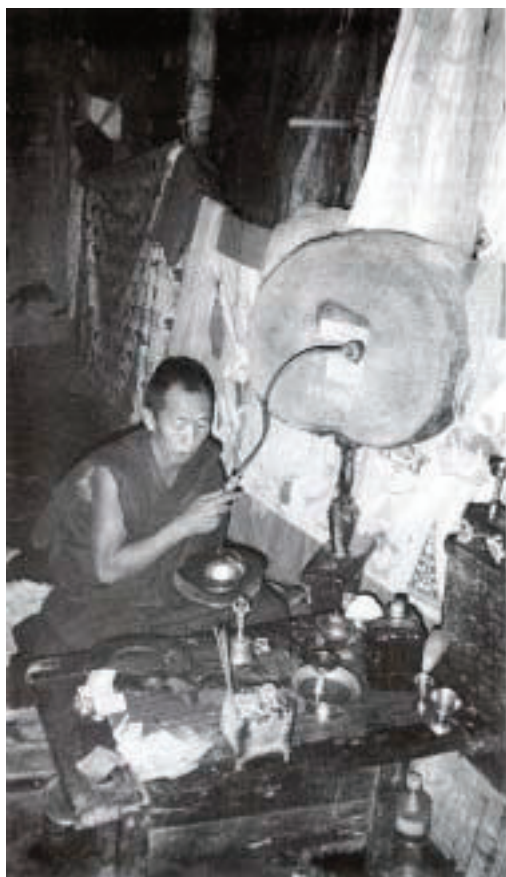
For most of us the most remarkable part of our travels was our visit to Buddhist Leh, the capital of Little Tibet, at 11,500 feet. The thousand-year-old Lamayuru Monastery, near Saspol on the way, provided us with our first insight into Buddhist teaching, a huge amount of cloth manuscripts and paintings. The average age of the novice monks was not more than ten; it was a great honour to a family to have a son selected for training. We were impressed by their maturity and their apparent acceptance of a hard lot at such a young age, although, when one of them asked me for a bonbon, I realised that, underneath, the lad was just a child who would never have the chance to express himself properly as a boy.

Leh itself was strangely silent when we arrived, and we soon realised the reason: a curfew was in force. As in many parts of India, civil unrest was being caused by religious disputes, inexplicable in some ways to foreign visitors, but a tragic reality of life here. The curfew had been called to try to calm the tensions of the day. Our Kashmiri guide, Imtyash, had himself been stoned there on a previous visit, because he was a Muslim, and during our stay we observed many signs of religious tension.

It was after our departure from the city that the most dramatic moment of our whole holiday occurred. Travelling in taxis, for want of a bus, we were passing through the village of Nemu, when groups of youths appeared and rained the taxis with stones and large boulders; we had become part of the civil disturbances! The windscreen in my taxi was shattered, and I helped kick it in, so that the driver could at least see. Above all, we knew we had to keep going; the consequences of being forced off the road were not to be contemplated!

We had a merciful escape from the attack, with only some minor bruising and mild shock. A couple of miles up the road we took refuge in a military hospital. We settled down on a floor to pass the night after being told that, if we needed to get up in the night, we were to inform the guard or risk getting shot. It was certainly the most unusual birthday I had ever spent!

The spreading civil disturbances constantly delayed and frustrated our flight home. The whole situation was - and is - enormously complex, with quarrels between Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims complicated by political disputes between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. I witnessed these problems on only a small scale, compared with what happened later. Despite the violent end to my trip, I would love to go back again to this chaotic country of infinite contrasts. I certainly felt that it had been a fascinating month.



Buddhist monk at prayer

*H. Andrews*

Holly Andrews





Form 1 at Ironbridge - September 1989

C. J. Wood

## The Record 2

### College Officers

*Head Boy and Head of Lawn House:* Peter Grimsdale

*Head Girl and Head of Park House:* Justine Platt

*Head of School House:* Christopher Daniels

*Head of Stable House:* Henry Le Fleming

*Prefects in Godman House:* John Carroll, Kevin Holmes

*Prefect of Sports Hall:* Jeremy Jehan

*Prefect of Dulverton Hall:* Alexander Laine

*Prefect of Grounds:* Benjamin Maslen

*Prefect of Arts Block:* Joseph Nicholls

*Prefect of Library:* Sara Payne

*Junior House Prefects:* Suzanne Denley, Anja Beaver

*Park House Prefects:* Fiona Reichwald, Charlotte Stephens

*Church Ushers:* Carl Reens, Anja Beaver, Suzanne Denley, Jeremy Jehan, Jonathan Pratten

*Librarians:* Matthew Ventrella, Celia Mucklow, Sara Payne

*Magazine Editors:* Holly Andrews, Claire Boydell, Charlotte Carroll, Patrick Evans, Rachel Seed, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge, Simon Williams

*Captain of Rugby:* Peter Grimsdale

*Secretary:* Jolyon Hammond

*Captain of Hockey:* John Carroll

*Vice-Captain:* Peter Grimsdale

*Captain of Cricket:* Henry Le Fleming

*Vice-Captain:* Kevin Holmes

*Captain of Tennis:* Guy Waller

### Valete

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

John Adams, Anja Beaver, Alex Bell, Karen Betts, Lucy Brummitt, John Carroll, Ashley Clark, Nicholas Cochran, Christopher Daniels, Suzanne Denley, James Dowson, Lydia Fellows, Neil Fulton, Benjamin Gallagher, Thomas Gittins, James Gregory, Peter Grimsdale, Nicholas Hall, Jolyon Hammond, Julian Head, Rebecca Hodgkinson, Kevin Holmes, Emma Hull, Guy Jeffries, Jeremy Jehan, Arwyn Jones, Nicola Kemp, Alexander Laine, Francis Lee, Henry Le Fleming, James Lloyd, Carragh McAree, Andrew Mackinnon, Nicki Malins, Richard Mansell, Benjamin Maslen, Anthony Miles, Anthony Neilson, Joseph Nicholls, Mark Nicholls, Thomas Nicholls, Charles Paine, Christopher Payne, Sara Payne, Shridar Phalke, Justine Platt, Jonathan Pratten, James Prince, Carl Reens, Fiona Reichwald, Philippa Rome, David Shepard, Charlotte Stephens, Karen Swan, Robert Tate, James Thraves, Christian Vallence, Amanda Vaux, Matthew Ventrella, Matthew Waddington, Guy Waller, Natasha Wedrychowski, Daniel White, Rachel Williams.



Nicholas Wharmby OR, Army Air Corps, and friend

C. J. Wood

## Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1990:

Stephen Amey, Christopher Baker, Mark Bartlett, Charles Barton, William Beazley, James Button, Samantha Cato, Nicholas Channing-Williams, Gregory Cook, Jago Cooper, Antony Davanzo, Zoe Davis, James de Lisle Wells, Sophy Denny, Anita Duguid, Elisa Duhmke, Julia Dymock, John Eaton, Linda Eklof, James Emerson, Edward Forster, Claire Germaine, Nathan Goodwin, James Graham, Matthew Hall, Raymond Hancock, Michael Harper, Adam Hawkins Marcus Haynes, Adam Higazi, Kathryn Hodgkinson Freddie Ingham, Andrew Kershaw, Adam King, Sarah Langle, Anna Martin, Duncan Minett-Westwood, Colin Morey, Rosemary Moser, Sonya Naish, Andrew Perrin, Sarah Purdon, Kate Ravell, Simon Rayburn, Patricia Renny, Douglas Richardson, Iain Richardson, Andrew Riley, Piers Roberts, Sophie Robinson, Jonathan Roney, Stephen Roney, Tania Sayegh, Timothy Shaw, James Smith, Paul Smith, Michael Steen, Emily Tabassi, Stewart Taylor, Sarah Thayne, Emma Thwaites, Alexander Tibbs, Ashley Watkins, Petra Watts, Charles Webb, Amy West, Leslie White, Mark Wilks, Charles Williams.

## Old Rendcombian Society

At the annual general meeting in May 1989 the following officers were elected:

<i>President:</i>	A. E. A. Brain (1929-37)
<i>Chairman:</i>	M. C. Jones (1956-62)
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	B. L. M. Smith (1965-72)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mrs J. R. Gunner (1975-77)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	R. B. Barrett (1969-76)
<i>Committee Members:</i>	C. J. Wood (1965-71, staff 1976-)
	D. J. Payne (1940-48)
	N. J. Lumby (1968-73)
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	A. Payne (1979-84)
<i>Hockey Secretary:</i>	B. Branston (1982-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary:</i>	J. Healey (1981-86)
<i>Girls' Secretary:</i>	F. Wilkins (1983-85)
<i>School Representative and Newsletter Editor:</i>	W J. D. White (staff 1961- )

## Obituary

We greatly regret to record the deaths of the following:  
**Wilfred Noel Durham** (1925-30) died very suddenly on 10th December 1989.

**W. M. Tugwell** (1922-28) died in May 1989 aged 78.

**R. Bolton-King** (Staff 1928-32) died in August 1989. After leaving Rendcomb he was headmaster of Buxton College for some 30 years.

**Mrs Alison Garvie** (Matron 1972-75) died in October 1989.

**Miss Mabel Carnell**, who taught music at Rendcomb and was a secretary during the war, died in October 1989 aged 88.



## Marriages

R. MacInnes to **Helen Packwood** (1977-79) June 1988.

Graham Welford to **Fiona Comrie** (1980-82).

**Nicholas Miles** (1975-80) to Chetna Mehta, July 1989.

**Tim Nicholas** (1969-76) to Fiona Reid, August 1989.

**Adam Phelps** (1979-82) to **Jennifer Watson** (1975-77), June 1989.

## Births

To Valerie and **Joe Watson** (1971-78), a son, Joseph Charles Langford, May 1989.

To Victoria and **Neil Lumby** (1968-73), a son, Alexander William, June 1989.

To Anne and **Nick Smith** (1971-75), a daughter, Abigail.

To Kari and **Robert Weston** (1968-75), a daughter, Arun, July 1989.

To Nikki and **Peter Uglow** (1974-81), a daughter, Gemma Louise, December 1989.

To **Jane** (née **Watson**, 1975-77) and Richard Gunner, a son, Mark Stuart, March 1990.

## News of Recent Leavers

**Elsbeth Anderson**

City Polytechnic - Politics

**Colin Bannister**

Sheffield Polytechnic - Accountancy

**Anthony Bedford**

University of California - Biological Studies

**Rachel Davis**

Exeter University - Biochemistry with Chemistry

**Matthew Faircloth**

St George's Hospital - Medicine

**Julian Fellows**

Agriculture

**Stephen Gammage**

Birmingham Polytechnic - Catering

**Lara Haine**

Gloscat - Business Studies

**Christopher Hauton**

Southampton University - Biology with Oceanography

**Nicholas Hett**

Gloscat - Art Foundation course

**Anne-Marie Hobart**

Sheffield University - Chemistry

**Daniel Houseman**

Gloscat - Art Foundation course

**Christopher Huck**

Gloscat - Art Foundation course

**Grant Hughes**

Birmingham Polytechnic - Computer Studies

**Louisa Johnson**

Edinburgh College of Art

**Jonathan Lutwyche**

Bath University - Economics and Politics

**Clare Mallindine**

Gloscat - Art Foundation course

**Roland Martin**

York University - English

**Robert Mitchell**

London Polytechnic - Business Studies and Finance

**Jessica Naish**

Kent University - Drama

**Julian Norbury**

Birmingham Polytechnic - Chartered Surveying

**Gemma Noyce**

St Paul's College Cheltenham - Teacher Training

**Russell Ogden**

Business Studies

**Aubrey Powell**

Brasenose College Oxford (1991)-Chemistry

**William Sherwood**

Exeter University - History

**Jonathan Slattery**

Liverpool University - Veterinary Science

**Hilary Sumsion**

Leeds University - Mathematics

**Vaughan Tredwell**

Reading University - Politics and History

**Jason Vernon**

Working for Debenhams

**Susan Waddington**

Durham University - Computer Studies

**Christopher Wood**

Hatfield College - Aeronautical Engineering

**Kate Woodward**

Secretarial Course, Oxford

**Nigel Bayliss**

New College, Swindon

**Paul Neve**

Catering College

**Hugo Stringer**

Apprenticed to art retail trade

**Emma Warren**

Edinburgh University - German

**Emma Sprawson**

Gloscat - Art Foundation course

**Alexandra Fletcher**

Leicester University- History and Archaeology

**Samantha Perkins**

Nottingham Polytechnic - Printing

**Esther McNeile**

Trinity College Dublin - Drama and History of Art

**Matthew Houseman**

Birmingham Polytechnic - Jewelry and Silversmith

**Nicola Newell**

Swansea University - Psychology and Social

Anthropology

**Sophia Michaelides**

Guy's Hospital - Medicine



# Outings

## 6B to Longleat

The traditional trip to Longleat took place on Sunday, 17th September. Unfortunately there were not enough seats on the coach, owing to an increase in the number of 6B girls; this meant that, after a somewhat disputed selection procedure, several boys were unable to go. It may have occurred to the less fortunate, as they watched our departure with wistful stares, that having more girls was not such marvellous fun after all!

Arriving at Longleat, we remained on the coach, which took us on a tour of the extensive safari park. We drove round for what seemed an eternity seeing a variety of animals including rhinos, giraffes, camels, monkeys and the famous 'Lions of Longleat', all looking distinctly uncomfortable in the murky British weather. The monkeys amused us for a little while with their antics, but most of us took the opportunity to imitate the lions and go to sleep!

Next came the stately home and the various other attractions, one of the more famous, or infamous, being the maze. This was where most of us spent half the afternoon, wandering amongst the puddles and neatly trimmed hedges, envying the smart-alec eight-year-olds who were screaming directions from the tower in the middle, and getting thoroughly lost.

A delightful boat-trip around the lake in front of Longleat House enabled us to rest our tired feet. We passed two gorillas, living in their own house with 24 hour television, and a couple of hippos which, despite weighing two tonnes apiece can run under water at forty miles an hour - fascinating! Meanwhile the boat was persistently accompanied by two Californian sea-lions which took delight in 'belly-flopping' beside the boat and soaking everyone within.

Our trip through the grounds on the narrow-gauge railway was marked by the removal by one of our number, who shall remain nameless but was not a boy, of the pin coupling two carriages. The driver was none too pleased, but fortunately no real damage was done.

Finally, after visits to a number of other side attractions such as the Dr. Who exhibition and the Victorian kitchens, there was the magnificent house itself, which impressed us immensely with its huge rooms and luxurious furnishings. All too soon it was time to go, so we headed back to the coach to be greeted with the notorious Rendcomb packed tea!

The trip provided an important opportunity for members of the form to get to know each other in informal surroundings, and we would like to thank Mrs Holdaway and Mr and Mrs Williams for a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable outing.

Anthony Bunge

## The Winter's Tale

On 18th October the VIB English students went to Wycliffe College to see Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, one of their set books.

The play is about the sexual jealousies of the principal character, Leontes, King of Sicilia. He suspects his pregnant wife, Hermione, of having an affair with his friend Polixenes, King of Bohemia. She is clearly innocent in the eyes of all but Leontes, who stubbornly rejects any such suggestion. He banishes his baby daughter Perdita, believing that she is Polixenes's child, and refuses to accept the Oracle's proclamation of Hermione's innocence. Almost immediately the news arrives that his son Mamillius is dead; Hermione faints and later dies. Alone, without wife or children, Leontes repents and goes into a state of perpetual mourning. The play concludes happily when, sixteen years later, Perdita returns and Hermione is resurrected from the dead.

The performance was by Orchard Theatre, on their tour of the West Country. The overlapping of parts, due to there being only nine performers, did not prevent the production being highly entertaining. The nine men and women proved themselves very accomplished, playing their parts with conviction, clarity and immense enthusiasm. The leading actor, Alan Cody, was particularly notable, taking the very different roles of Leontes and Autolycus; Leontes is a serious and sombre character, Autolycus an easy-going, sly pickpocket. Mr Cody's great ability showed in the way he portrayed these two men, moving from one role to the other and maintaining the idiosyncracies of each.

The effectiveness of the production was partially undermined by the quality of the set and the shortage of costumes; the furnishings were basic and limited and did little to provide the atmosphere of a royal court. However, the background music, composed by Tom Nordon, blended well with the acting and created the atmosphere of the moment, whether tragedy, turmoil or jollity.

I would like to thank Mr Holt for organising this visit, which helped us to understand more clearly the storyline and ideals of *The Winter's Tale*.

Simon Williams

## The House of Love

This was a first for Rendcomb; the Arts Society trip to hear the *House of Love* gig in Cheltenham Town Hall on 21st January was certainly a much-pursued idea. Having first persuaded Mr Craddock to let us go and then fought desperately over the 15 tickets, everyone enjoyed the outing very much.

Having visited the bar to ponder over some 'soft' drinks during the few songs of the support band, *The Walking Seeds*, everyone suddenly poured into the main hall, leaving a few trampled bodies on the bar carpet. *The House of Love*, with their psycho-linguistic



lyrics and energetic tunes, had appeared on stage with the recent addition to their band, guitarist Simon Walker, who managed to find his way through a few of the early numbers, such as *Shine On, Love in a Car* and the old favourite, *Christine*.

The music was generally loud, clear and very much appreciated by most of the 1500 people there. At the end of the gig, as the sweat of the front row 'pogo-ers' was forming a considerable pool on the floor, the band managed to pull off *Nothing to Me, I Don't Know Why I Love You* and *I Can't Stand It Any More* before suddenly disappearing off stage amid strobe lights and thunderous applause from loyal fans. Our thanks go to Mr Stephen Lea, now a devoted *House of Love-er*, and Mark Nicholls, who did most of the organising.

Patrick Evans

## City of Birmingham SO

On 23rd January, 15 Rendcomb music students headed for Cheltenham Town Hall to hear the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra perform Beethoven's First Piano Concerto - soloist Stephen Bishop - and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, the *Pathétique*.

Contrary to our expectations, we arrived in plenty of time, even though Mr White was driving! The seating system in the impressive town hall was rather complicated; almost as soon as we had found our stalls, the lights dimmed.

The orchestra's striking up marked the beginning of an hour of beautiful music, in which the whole hall seemed to lose itself; there was a marked lack of fidgeting in the audience, Rendcomb students included! Beethoven's music was interpreted to perfection by Stephen Bishop, obviously a very talented pianist.

After the interval he swapped his role of genius pianist for that of conductor, at which he excelled equally. For the remainder of the concert his arms were not so much part of him as musical antennae, incredibly sensitive to every movement within the orchestra. The overriding melody of the symphony was played by the brass, the strings completing it almost unobtrusively with their own strain of music underneath. We hardly realised the

presence of the timpanist until the end of the symphony; then she came into her own, contributing to the crescendo that marks it.

We all enjoyed our evening out, but we all agreed that the order of the programme should have been reversed, the concerto being heard last, a slower tempo than the symphony and perhaps a more relaxing way to end the evening.

It was wonderful to hear two such magnificent pieces of music so well performed. Our thanks go to Mr David White and his department for organising the trip.

Claire Boydell  
Belinda Stanley

## Show Boat

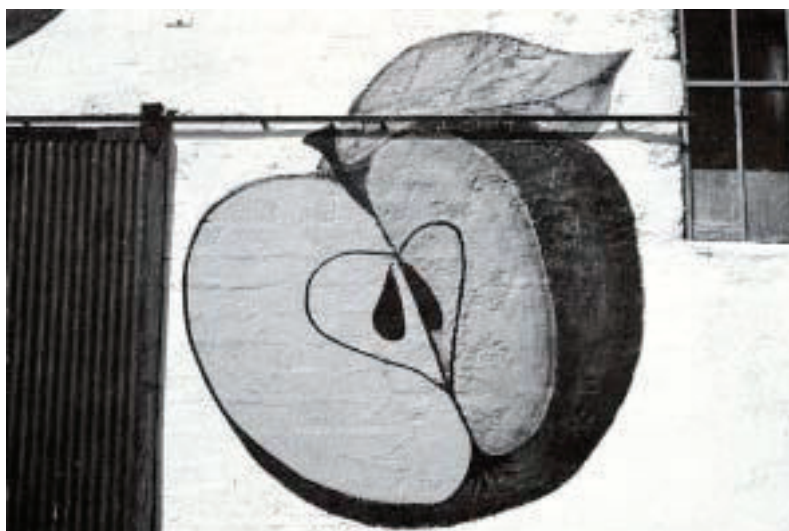
Show Boat, a spectacular musical with a company and chorus of over 50 people, proved to be an evening of tremendous entertainment, to which members of 6A were treated on 1st March. It was staged at Stratford by the RSC in collaboration with the Opera North, this being only its fourth professional presentation in Britain.

Adapted from the novel by Edna Ferber, it is the story of a Mississippi show boat, and those aboard it, from the late 1880's until 1927. It is not only a love story; it also tackles the question of racism, causing widespread controversy when it was first performed. It is very comic in parts too, especially in the exchanges between Queenie, the old black 'mama', and her husband Joe. The storyline is supported by a series of memorable songs, of which *Ol' Man River* had to be the best and the most moving. However, I did feel that it was a pity that the anti-racist theme of act one, culminating in the sensational performance of this song, rather dwindled and was largely forgotten by the third and final act.

The sheer quality and spectacle of the production made it an enjoyable evening for everyone, even for those with no great fondness for musicals; it was a good excuse to abandon our 'A' level pressures for a while. Our thanks go to Mr Craddock for making it all possible.

Karen Betts

Big Apple



J. Pratten

## Gala Opera

After the grey days of endless rain, wind and mock exams, all of us in 6A were looking forward to our trip to London on 4th March, to visit the Tate Gallery and to attend a Gala Opera Evening at the Barbican.

We set off, out of the gate, down the drive and out on to the road, leaving Rendcomb behind us for the day ... and then back up the drive, back through the gate and back to Rendcomb to fetch our forgotten sandwiches.

When at last we did arrive in London, we were let loose to make a whirlwind tour of the Tate Gallery, absorbing as much culture as we could in three-quarters of an hour, roughly one Matisse, half a Picasso and a cup of tea in the restaurant. The Clore Gallery, housing the Turner collection, was particularly good but, as would be expected, very crowded.

Then we were transported to an empty heart of the city, where we were given exclusive changing rooms - the coach - to change into our best clothes for the evening's performance. The Gala Opera Evening consisted of several short excerpts from well-known operas, such as *La Boheme*, *La Traviata* and *Aida*. Both the leading soprano, Valerie Masterson, and the leading tenor, Bonaventura Bottone, sang impressively, and there were also various pieces sung by the chorus, many of which we recognised, probably from advertisements on television, and enjoyed. In fact, the resounding applause at the end of the performance showed how well it had been received by the audience. We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and we would like to thank Mr and Mrs King for taking us.

We returned home, a little bleary-eyed but perhaps also invigorated to face more grey days of endless rain, wind and ... more able to appreciate the background music to television advertisements!

Sara Payne

## Art in Amsterdam

On 23rd March the 'A' level art group, led by Mr Griffiths and Mr Denny, left Rendcomb in high spirits, destination Amsterdam!

The journey started disastrously, however, when Steve, the 'experienced' bus driver miscalculated the time to get to Ramsgate by over an hour, and we missed the ferry. For a while we wondered whether we would get there or not. However, we were determined to make the most of our four hours in Ramsgate, so we split up and studied some local architecture! Eventually we boarded a ferry and, after a smooth crossing, travelled trouble-free through France and Belgium and on to Amsterdam.

We arrived at the Hans Brinkar Hotel, a kind of youth hostel, at about midnight and were given a meal by the management, which was much appreciated, even though it had been kept warm for four hours. We were all very tired by this stage, so after trying the local draught at the hotel bar we went to bed.

We slept until 9.00 a.m. and then made our way to the dining room where we experienced the very large Dutch breakfast of bread, ham, bread and more ham.

We arranged to meet at the Rijksmuseum at lunchtime, which gave us an opportunity to explore some of the famous sights of the city, such as the flower market, Anne Frank's house and innumerable Brown Cafés.

The Rijksmuseum is a magnificent building in its own right, housing some of the finest examples of Dutch traditional art, including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer. Everyone was greatly impressed by the paintings on show, and it was a wonderful experience for me to view such masterpieces as Rembrandt's *Night Watchman* and Vermeer's *The Maid* in the flesh, rather than from a book. It was an experience I shall never forget, which awoke the interest of everyone.

Having quenched our thirst for art, we went back to





the hotel and later proceeded, as all 'culture-vultures' visiting Amsterdam must, to an Indonesian restaurant. The meal was exquisitely prepared, consisting of a variety of small delicacies, some sweet and some mind-blowingly spicy, but in all very enjoyable. After the meal we split up into fours and explored the sights further.

On Sunday we saw the city from a different perspective, from the canals by boat. From this viewpoint we could see in a better light the splendour of Dutch architecture. The buildings have tremendous character and vitality, their windows and gables perhaps standing out especially.

In the afternoon we moved on to the *Stedelijk*, a renowned modern art museum. Unfortunately we were unable to view the work of Van Gogh, as it was being rehung for his centenary exhibition; however, there were other masterpieces on show which made up for this. Works that especially impressed me were Ed Kienholz's *Beanery*, a surrealist portrayal of his local bar in Los Angeles, and the painting of masters such as Cezanne, Monet and Manet. However, I think my favourite among all those on show was one of Wassily Kandinsky's improvisations.

In the evening we were treated to a typical Dutch meal at a restaurant in the centre of the town. It was very filling, consisting of a variety of soups, brown bean, pea and chicken, followed by a main course of salmon trout or chicken livers. Unable to eat any more, we returned to the hotel via a Brown Café, where we made the most of our last night and had time to reflect on the wonderful trip.

On Monday morning there was just enough time to buy a few presents for friends and relatives before we left for home: this time, unfortunately, the driver was on time.

Each of us carries a special memory of Amsterdam: the friendly people, the food, the Brown Cafés, the boat trip, and so on. I think my lasting memories of the city, however, are of the extraordinary and beautiful architecture and of being able to see at arm's length and breathe upon some of the world's most treasured paintings. The Amsterdam trip has given me a real hunger for travel, and I hope that some day I shall return to this beautiful city.

It would be impossible, in writing an account of this trip, not to praise the tour leaders, Martin Griffiths and Tom Denny, whose organisation, guidance and general handling of the tour ensured that we saw as much as possible of Amsterdam's culture in the short time we were there. I must also thank the Parents' Association for the very generous donation which made the trip possible and for which our group is greatly indebted. 1991 - Italy?

Dan Maslen

## Joint Field Trip

*Dan Thomas, from the 'Western Mail', spent a day with our biology students on a trip to the island of Skomer; in an article published on 26th April, he wrote: 'The motto of the Field Studies Council is 'Environmental Studies for All', and the Dale Fort Centre is very much committed to that. John Archer-Thomson, the deputy warden, explained, 'through all our teaching we are striving to make people aware of conservation issues and the need to conserve the environment.'*

This year the biology and geography field trips were a joint venture: we left Rendcomb amidst light snow-falls on 4th April and headed for Dale, in Pembrokeshire, 32 people plus luggage crammed into two minibuses.

On arrival at Dale Fort Field Centre we were shown to our rather suspect dorms; everyone found sharing bathrooms with the opposite sex a new experience. After tea we had a general briefing about what to do and what not to do: cliff faces were strictly out of bounds! Our group then split, biologists going in one direction and geographers in another, for an introduction to our week's work and to that area of Pembrokeshire.

Next morning we emerged after insufficient sleep. As biologists intending to study marine ecology, we headed for the bay in Dale and then to a salt marsh. Here we recorded different types of plants, using a point quadrat. We worked our way inland until we came to a dark and dangerous trench, which luckily claimed no victims. Back at the Field Centre, we found no evidence of the geographers, who had not been seen since that morning and who, it transpired, were also counting plants!

The second day was spent by the biologists on a sheltered rocky shoreline, identifying and counting numerous types of seaweed and marine organisms; this theme was developed the following day by comparing the site with an exposed rocky shore, using different techniques. The geographers spent the day in a river!

The versatile *bio-geographers* combined the three most important days of each discipline and did not appear to suffer any disadvantage from the compromise. For our first geography day we set out to measure the rate at which different sorts of vegetation infiltrate the ground.

The remaining days were spent in similar fashion. Highlights included the sight of Aleks Malkjovic wearing only boxer shorts and a t-shirt, swimming out to sea after a drifting football, much to the amusement of builders repairing a storm-damaged footbridge, and the day spent on Skomer Island, its practical conservation message so ably conveyed by our tutor, John, co-author of a recent book about the island.

The whole group would like to thank Miss Goldsmith, Mr King and our tutors, John and Sid, for their enthusiasm and help throughout the week.

Kate Bonniwell



## Boys' Sport Rugby Football

The weather again proved kind to us, though the early season drought and solid pitches took their toll with several shoulder and knee injuries throughout the teams. On the coaching front, Messrs Kelsey and O'Connor hung up their boots, while we welcomed Gareth Thomas, a Welshman with considerable experience of front-row play. Nine regular sides were fielded, re-emphasising the importance of maximum participation, and all enjoyed ample and, in different ways, successful rugger; the playing record of Mr Graham's U 13 side was particularly impressive.

County honours this year went to Ben Maslen and Kojo Annan, as outside centre and winger respectively for the U18 team. Both played in divisional final trials, Kojo being selected for the south and south west side and also gaining an England U19 trial, a particularly impressive achievement for a member of the lower sixth.

The rugby club dinner again proved a most enjoyable and successful affair, guests including society referees and past club captains; Tim Daniels, who ten years ago was the first Rendcomb player to represent the county, honoured us as guest speaker.

On paper the XV had considerable potential, but injury robbed it of what could have been an exceptional season to the extent that at no time could the strongest possible team take the pitch. Injury was certainly the major factor in two of the 'big matches', against Wycliffe and Bloxham, where the opposition were 'buried' with only a quarter left to play, but injury to key forwards led to a sudden turn-around and defeat for the XV, especially galling in the latter case, where Bloxham went on to an unbeaten season!

Highlights of the term were the impressive and well deserved victories over Dauntsey's and Dean Close, while the old boys' match proved a close and keenly

fought (but very sporting!) affair, with the school reversing last season's result and coming out winners by one point.

Individual and unit skills developed well over the season; the rucking and support-play of the forwards was extremely efficient, while the backs proved solid in defence and devastating in attack with their speed and incisive running. All played a part in the XV's success, but Peter Grimsdale, captain of rugby, deserves special mention for his personal playing talents and motivation towards the game, along with his efficiency and reliability both on and off the park.

My colleagues on the coaching staff also deserve mention; without their enthusiasm and commitment during the 600+ man-hours of rugby, so much would be lost. Finally, may I thank Peter, the XV and all of the senior game who made my last season as 1st XV coach such a successful and enjoyable one.

M.J.N.

Overall record:

Played 66; Won 30; Drew 4; Lost 32; Cancelled 18  
Points for 865; Points against 814.

### 1st XV

On paper the talent available this season seemed outstanding, with skilled players for every position. However, as time progressed, injury to key players before and during matches diminished the effectiveness of the team. We owe a debt to those who came into the XV and gave their all to replace injured players.

For once the Rendcomb pack was not under a disadvantage in size; their stature, combined with the forwards' mobility, gave them the advantage in many games. Henry Le Fleming showed great ability in dominating the line-outs and providing the backs with good ball. In the loose Joe Nicholls was outstanding; he showed his ability as No. 8 and was sorely missed when injured.



Behind the scrum Tom Nicholls was lost early in the season, and this somewhat diminished the attacking capabilities of the backs, as his fast, accurate service was missed. Kojo Annan and Ben Maslen showed their ability to run with the ball from anywhere on the field, which was reflected in their selection for the county U19 XV. John Carroll must be mentioned for his excellent season at full-back; he showed particular skill and reliability under the high ball and in the tackle.

I hope the XV will agree with me that the Rendcomb team-spirit was exemplified in the victory over Dean Close. Thanks must go to Dr Haslett for his time and effort, and especially to Mr Newby in this, his last season as first XV coach; he will be sorely missed.

Peter Grimsdale

Played 12; Won 8; Lost 4

Points for 210; Points against 86.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Won 12-8
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 26-3
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won 22-6
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost 13-18
v. Wycliffe School (H)	Lost 13-14
v. Marling School (A)	Won 18-7
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won 24-6
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 4-7
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Lost 3-4
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won 20-7
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 48-0
v. Old Rendcombian Society XV (H)	Won 7-6

Team from: P. Grimsdale (captain), B. Maslen (vice-captain), K. Annan, J. Carroll, C. Daniels, N. Hall, J. Hammond, K. Holmes, R. Hughes, A. Jones, J. Jehan, A. Laine, F Lee, H. Le Fleming, B. Marshall, R. Milner, D. Maslen, T Nicholls, J. Nicholls, C. Paine, R. Tate, C. Walsh, D. White.

#### 1st XV



*K. Floyd*

#### 2nd XV

It would be wholly wrong to conclude from the results that this was a disappointing season for the second XV; indeed, a glance at the tally of points scored and conceded offers a fairer assessment of the team's merit. Yet even this is misleading up to a point, for the series of narrow defeats early in the season was against decidedly strong opposition, while some of the later, thumping victories were gained against pitifully weak opposition. In reality, the XV played its most disciplined and committed rugby in going down 11-13 to Dauntsey's and 4-18 to Magdalen, and in drawing 9-9 against Dean Close.

Defeats tend to sap team morale but, with the possible exception of the match against Marling, I cannot honestly argue that this team ever performed below its potential. Commitment, motivation and discipline remained high throughout the season, and some players - Richard Hughes, Daniel White, Charles Paine and Robert Tate - were deservedly rewarded for their efforts by promotion to the first XV. William King, Anthony Bunge, Adam Halliwell and Guy Waller were stalwarts of the side throughout the season, and the first three of these showed considerable promise.

My thanks are due to Robert Tate, who captained the side with great pride and increasing authority, and of course to Mike Newby, whose knowledgeable coaching of both senior teams was once again invaluable.

L.J.H.

Played 11; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 7

Points for 202; Points against 139.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost 6-11
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 8-12
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 11-13
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost 13-20
v. Wycliffe School (H)	Lost 10-36
v. Marling School (A)	Lost 13-17

v. Avonhurst School 1st XV (H)	Won 48-0
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 4-18
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Won 32-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew 9-9
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 48-0

Team from: R. Tate (captain), A. Clark, C. Brown, N. Cochran, A. Halliwell, S. Hardie, R. Hughes, G. Jeffries, W. King, F Lee, R. Mansell, D. Maslen, M. Moody, C. Paine, J. Pratten, M. Rogers, T. Shillington-Balfour, P. Smithson, I. Spencer, J. Tomsett, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, M. Waddington, G. Waller, S. Williams, N. Wood.

## U16 XV

Having lost two players since last year, we had to do a little reshaping and reorganisation. Losing the opening game, against Kingswood, made us take stock of our performance and added impetus to our game; after this the team began to 'get together', as was immediately shown by the wins over King's, Gloucester, and Bredon first XV - highlights of the season for many of us.

The members of the side, without exception, played with a resolution and character which was a credit to them; they were all stars in their own right, especially those who joined us because of injuries to our regular players. However, certain people deserve special mention. Ben Marshall was outstanding in every match, his talent and athletic ability rewarded with games for the first XV. Christopher Walsh and Henry Pugh were solid in the scrummage and determined in the loose, whilst the stalwart tackling by John Wheeler and Marcus Head was exemplary (*ils ne passeront pas!*). Graham Bennett's strong running and courage was a feature of the play, and it is to the credit of the side that many members also played for teams at a higher level.

Injuries deprived us of two players for most of the season. Antony Palin's running and Anthony Neilson's strength would have helped the team's overall composition.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr King for his enthusiasm and dedication and for the vast amount of experience he passed on to us. Although it was not the most successful of seasons, it was extremely enjoyable, and we are looking forward to his coaching again in the senior game next year.

Graham Lawton

Played 9; Won 3; Lost 6  
Points for 76; Points against 107.

v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost 0-12
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 18-0
v. Bredon School 1st XV (H)	Won 10-6
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost 7-10
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 9-18
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 3-7
v. Cheltenham College (A)	Lost 18-25
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won 7-4
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 4-25

Team from: G. Lawton (captain), J. Wheeler, B. Marshall, C. Walsh, A. Neilson, A. Pollard, H. Auld,

H. Pugh, D. Howard, G. Bennett, S. Lam, G. Davies, M. Head, J. Dowbiggin, G. Harris, A. Palin, A. Baker, J. Powell, N. Houseman, J. Madeley, N. Smith, C. Payne, J. Smith.

## U15 'A' XV

We were fortunate in having fewer injuries this season, and consequently a more consistent side could be fielded; as a result, more matches were won.

The quality of the tackling was usually very good. Despite this there were heavy defeats against Kingswood, Bloxham and Dean Close, which had particularly strong and talented sides this year. The three-quarters really made their mark only towards the end of the season, when they were prepared to work for each other, improve their positional play and their handling skills. The forwards were only occasionally outgunned and played well as a cohesive unit after half term.

After two matches the captain, Christopher Carmichael, moved from scrum-half to fly-half. This gave a better balance to the side. His kicking, particularly to touch, was outstanding and gave considerable encouragement to the forwards. In defence he was always reliable. Nigel Fischer, at second-row, was the top scorer, with 11 tries. His excellent handling and powerful breaks posed problems for most sides. The player who made the greatest improvement during the season was Andy Sylvester, at full-back.

Our thanks must go to those parents who gave their invaluable support both at home and away matches.

C.C.B.

Played 11; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 4  
Points for 154; Points against 188.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost 4-36
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 3-10
v. Bredon School (H)	Won 20-10
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won 22-10
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost 7-47
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won 12-11
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won 24-0
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Drew 4-4
v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XV (H)	Won 34-6
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-48
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 24-6

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

## U15 'B' XV

On paper the results do not look impressive, but they hide the fact that the full 'B' XV took the field only once this season and that, more importantly, they played with a great deal of spirit and determination against two very strong teams in particular. The understanding which developed amongst the team was



given some impetus by Mr Thomas, whose coaching of the forwards was extremely beneficial. As many pupils as possible who were keen to represent the school were given the chance to do so, and I hope that they will continue to flourish at senior level.

The best match this season was undoubtedly that against Wycliffe, where the team gave a really sound all round performance with plenty of open rugby. The greatest disappointment was, of course, the fact that so few matches were played during the season, because enthusiasm and willingness to learn were always evident.

J.G.W.

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3

Points for 16; Points against 102.

v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost 0-50
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won 12-4
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost 0-32
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost 4-16

Team from: R. Hutson (captain twice), P. Morgan, (captain twice), P. Allan, D. Egre, A. Faiers, R. Gorman, A. Graham, T Haine, W Hunter-Smart, J. Jenkin, G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, N. Macartney, M. Monteith, C. Morgan-Harris, D. Morris, S. Pearce, A. Platt, T. Ramsden-Hare, N. Rose, M. Sansome, J. Sawtell, C. Walton, P. Williams.

#### U14 XV

Looking at the results, you would think it an average season, but this would be untrue. It was a season of improvement, courage and much adaptation; Chris Mason was out for most of the season with a broken arm, and for a number of matches leading players were absent.

We suffered heavy defeats against Dauntsey's and Bloxham, whose players were much bigger and stronger than we were. However, we had good wins against Cokethorpe, Avonhurst, Kingham Hill and Kingshill.

We had a strong pack of forwards. Andrew Branson's enthusiasm, Chris Oliver's expertise at No. 8 and James Mills's willingness always to be there when needed all helped to raise the standard.

We also had a good set of backs. Chris Lawton developed an excellent range of kicks; Barrie Davies's contributions at full-back and later at fly-half were immense; Chris Mason and Kai Thomas stood out as strong runners, whilst Julian Wilkie's speed, paired with Mason's, were invaluable in attack. In defence the tackling by Wilkie and Lawton saved many points.

All did well; discipline was good. Our thanks go to Mr Sykes and Mr Griffiths for coaching us.

Kai Thomas

Played 12; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 6

Points for 140; Points against 121.

v. Kingswood School (A)	Drew 4-4
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost 6-8
v. Kingshill School (A)	Won 26-0
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 0-25

v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost 3-24
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 4-26
v. Avonhurst School (H)	Won 26-4
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 4-14
v. Cheltenham College U14 'C' XV (H)	Won 18-8
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won 22-0
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 4-8
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won 23-0

Team from: C. Lawton (Captain), N. Barton, A. Branston, A. Brooke, J. Coleman, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, G. Head, A. McIndoe, C. Mason, J. Mills, G. Monteith, J. Moore, C. Oliver, J. Ouellette, R. Sage, K. Thomas, C. Waters, J. Wilkie.



#### U13 'A' XV

This was undoubtedly the best U13 team for several years, and the results tell their own story. I cannot recall a side at this level which has been so determined, so well motivated and so quick to learn and exploit different tactical ploys.

Ably captained by Neil Fulton, they recorded convincing wins over Cheltenham Junior School, Cokethorpe and Bredon, and even the Dauntsey's result was in dispute until the dying minutes, when a breakaway try finally revealed the outcome.

Neil Fulton, Stephen Jones and Francis Newcombe proved to be hard-running forwards, with John Morgan as a secure player in the loose; the pack was indeed the platform from which so much of our success stemmed. Nick Carmichael and Steven Croft

were a formidable partnership at half-back, and Alister Harris proved a speedy winger with try-scoring potential. Dan Kemp was an inspiring full-back; his clearance kicking from defence was one of the highlights of our play. The team spirit remained excellent throughout, and many spectators, both senior rugby players and rugby masters, commented on how committed and determined the team was.

On this evidence, the future of U13 rugby looks secure for next year. Seven of the squad will still be available and there were several other players knocking at the door. The benefits of running an U13 'A' and 'B' system, rather than an U13 and an U12 one, have been amply demonstrated, and we are now reaping the rewards.

Whilst a team as good as this may not emerge every year, it has certainly set the standard by which future teams will be judged. And, most important of all, they enjoyed their rugby in the process.

M.H.G.

Played 6; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 1  
Points for 67; Points against 39.

v. Kingshill School (A)	Won 12-10
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 4-9
v. Bredon School (A)	Won 16-8
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won 24-12
v. Cheltenham College Junior School (H)	Won 11-0
v. Oakley Hall School (A)	Drew 0-0

Dean Close U13 Festival - 4th place

Team from: N. Fulton (captain), M. Adams, F Barton, A. Beales, P. Boydell, S. Croft, S. Jones, D. Kemp, J. Morgan, I. Thompson, C. Yardley, C. Branston, N. Carmichael, A. Harris, F Newcombe, C. Walmsley. Also played: C. Jarrett, B. Herbert, W Heaven, R. Witchell.

## U13 'B' XV

The season started with an enthusiastic group from the first year, all of them with different abilities and aspirations; some had not even played the game before! Players of considerably different build and height made for a rather unusual scrum, ranging from Charlie Allen to the towering Craig Marcham. A few second-year players joined the group, Armen Topalian and Rufus Blackwell adding a pleasing amount of talent to the overall game.

Of the two scheduled matches only one was played, against Cheltenham College juniors, the other being cancelled by King's, Gloucester. A defeat was not unexpected, as the opposition had considerably more matchplay experience, but the team stuck together and produced some fine moments. After all, the most important thing at this stage is to enjoy the game, which most of them certainly did!

A.P.B.

Played 1; Lost 1

Points for 0; Points against 32.

Team: C. Allen, R. Blackwell, W Brix, L. Duff, J. Fairbank, L. Freeman, J. Jelfs, J. Lloyd, C. Mackinnon, C. Marcham, M. Morris, B. Renow-Clarke, A. Simpkin, A. Topalian, T. Winstone.

Loading the Puma



D. Egge





## Hockey

The weather often dominates the sport in the Lent term, and this one was no exception, with high winds making practice difficult and even preventing the fixture against Cheltenham, and heavy rainfall frequently rendering grass pitches unplayable during the first few weeks. Perhaps it was the greenhouse effect that came to our aid and allowed an exceptional amount of grass hockey to be played after half-term - only one match was cancelled during that five-week period - and it was like a summer's day when we played three matches against the Old Rendcombian Society. Overall statistics were: played 73; cancelled 28; won 34; drew 15; lost 24; goals for 137; goals against 116.

The only staff change was the welcome addition of Gareth Thomas, who helped with games 2b and 2c; we were pleased to retain Max Chase, who remained with his team of last year, now the U15 'B' XI. We were glad to continue to use the 'plastic' pitch at the Royal Agricultural College, and there is no doubt that the 'close support' skills and 'square pass' tactics we practised there enabled the 1st XI to compete successfully against many opponents.

Although a number of pleasing results were obtained, owing to outstanding team co-operation and effort, there were some disappointing moments which emphasised the need for teamwork at all times and for acceptance of all umpiring decisions, however frustrating they might be.

John Carroll carried out his duties as captain of hockey most successfully, and his interest in the game at all levels in the school reflected his dedication to this sport. Captaining the 1st XI was not without its problems, but the rewards were great, especially when the team played as a skilful unit, which they did most successfully against Dean Close and the Old Rendcombians. Eight of their matches were played on all-weather surfaces, and it was only towards the end of the season that first pitch

was used for 1st XI matches; then we appreciated the benefits of underseeding and other treatments, because the 'all-weather game' could be played virtually unmodified. Our thanks go to David Essenhigh and David Mead for preparing the pitches and for continually repairing storm-damaged goals.

Several boys attended county trials in September 1989, and the following were selected to play for Gloucestershire during the season: Andrew Branston (U14 'B'), Nicholas S. Smith (U16 and U17), Graham Lawton (U16 and U17) and Mark Valentine (U16).

C.J.W.

### 1st XI

This was a successful season, with some excellent victories. Two of the four defeats were by predictably stronger senior teams.

In early matches the XI performed energetically; however, it was against Prior Park, once the teamwork had become more settled, that we began to find our top form. After half-term and a match which should never have been lost against Colston's, came the game of the season, at Dean Close. We played inspired hockey, to beat the school which had thrashed us 9-0 in 1989 and which had beaten such opposition as Marlborough and Cheltenham Colleges this season. Then followed a string of victories, with only one more defeat, when we ran Cirencester HC very close before falling to a flurry of late goals.

This year we decided on a conventional 5-3-2 formation. With Robert Tate in goal and Charles Paine and Andrew Mackinnon as backs, opposition attacks were constantly thwarted, despite over-exposure early in the season. Tate made some excellent saves, including one from a penalty stroke by King's School, Gloucester. Stick work and tackling by Mackinnon and Paine provided the basis for our fast counter-attacks. Arwyn Jones played in many games, and his stamina and strength were important features.

In midfield right-half Graham Lawton, our youngest player, grew in stature and also provided great entertainment after scoring his first goal for the XI. Mike Moody played neatly and constructively on the left, developing a good understanding with Nick Smith at left wing; Smith was uncertain early on but played very well in the last few matches. The team was never at full strength without Peter Grimsdale, but after illness he settled down at inside-left. Ben Maslen had a highly successful season as centre-forward, scoring fourteen goals, including four against the ORs. Tom Nicholls worked well with Maslen, providing him with many of his chances and scoring several times on his own account. Normally right-winger, Joe Hammond was needed also to play at half, where he did some of his most valuable work. Several other players, Guy Waller, Joe Nicholls, Will King and Richard Hughes, had short spells in the team and made their full contribution.

Eight matches were played on artificial surfaces, and this led to our becoming a more skilful side. The game is now developing on plastic surfaces, with more and more schools acquiring them.

On the whole, this was an enjoyable season, and I would like to thank Mr Wood for all his preparation, coaching and patience.

John Carroll

Played 13; Won 6; Drew 3; Lost 4  
Goals for 29; Goals against 23

v. Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI (A)	Lost 1-4
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Drew 1-1
v. King's School, Worcester (A)	Drew 2-2
v. Prior Park College (H)	Won 2-0
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost 1-4
v. Cheltenham HC Wednesday XI (A)	Drew 2-2
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost 0-1
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won 3-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 4-2
v. Burford School (H)	Won 4-0

v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won 5-0
v. Cirencester HC U23 XI (A)	Lost 1-6
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won 3-0

Team from: J. Carroll (captain), P. Grimsdale (vice-captain), R. Tate, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, C. Paine, A. Mackinnon, T. Nicholls, A. Jones, G. Lawton, N. Smith, M. Moody, G. Walker, J. Nicholls, W. King, R. Hughes.

## 2nd XI

In general, it was a disappointing season. Even though many of our opponents fielded teams much weaker than last year's, the XI was unable to sustain the team effort required to produce good results. There were some signs of promise earlier in the season but, when Michael Moody was promoted to the 1st XI and Peter Smithson was unable to play because of illness, the team failed to play with the spirit we have come to expect from Rendcomb sides. Several of the more experienced players failed to play to their true ability, and as a result the performance of the team was often disjointed and fruitless.

Apart from the two players already mentioned, Ashley Clark was the success of the season. As his confidence grew, he controlled the midfield area, as well as being the leading goal-scorer, Kevin Holmes, the captain, was sound in defence and showed the determination that many of the rest of his team lacked.

D.A.H.

Played 10; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 5  
Goals for 16; Goals against 14.

v. Marling School 1st XI (A)	Lost 0-1
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won 3-0
v. King's School, Worcester (A)	Won 2-0
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Drew 2-2
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost 3-4
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-2

1st XI



R. Carroll



v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 2-0
v. The Crypt School 1st XI (A)	Lost 0-1
v. The OR Society 2nd XI (H)	Won 2-1
v. Bournside School 1st XI (H)	Lost 2-3

Team from: K. Holmes (captain), A. Clark, P. Grimsdale, A. Jones, H. Le Fleming, J. Nicholls, J. Pratten, G. Waller, K. Annan, R. Hughes, W. King, D. Maslen, R. Milner, M. Moody, P. Smithson, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, M. Head, A. Palin, B. Marshall, S. Vernon, C. Carmichael.

### 3rd XI

The 1990 hockey season did not really live up to our expectations.

First of all, we had seven matches cancelled, most of them not because of the weather, but because our opponents for various reasons could not get a side together. Then we had two weeks of very strong winds, too strong to play with safety, which blew the goal posts over. When we did play, our hockey did not match the fine standard of 1989.

Nevertheless, all credit must go to those who did play for the XI and who played with passion and commitment. Nick Hall led the side well, always encouraging and supporting those around him. The defence played well, with Gareth Davies a safe goalkeeper, Ben Marshall and Henry Pugh a very useful pair of full-backs; Jeremy Jehan and Carl Reens worked well with Hall in the middle of the field. Among the forwards, Marcus Head played well on the right wing, with Dan White improving with every game. Richard Milner and Antony Palin were a little inconsistent and they never both played well on the same day. Julian Madeley and Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge made up the rest of the forward line, Madeley scoring some useful goals in the last few matches. Nathan Houseman played well as a replacement for Marshall when he went up to the 2nd XI.

D.E.

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 2  
Goals for 15; Goals against 12.

v. King Edward's School, Bath, U16 XI (H)	Drew 1-1
v. Magdalen College School (H)	Won 2-1
v. Colston's School U16 XI (H)	Lost 0-5
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 1-2
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew 1-1
v. The Crypt School 2nd XI (H)	Won 5-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society 3rd XI (H)	Won 1-0
v. Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Won 4-2

Team from: N. Hall (captain), J. Jehan, D. White, C. Reens, R. Milner, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, A. Palin, G. Davies, B. Marshall, M. Head, H. Pugh, S. Vernon, N. Houseman, J. Madeley.

### 4th XI

Played 6; Won 5; Lost 1  
Goals for 19; Goals against 7

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Won 1-0
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Won 4-0
v. Colston's School 3rd XI (A)	Lost 1-4
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won 4-2
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 3-0
v. Bournside School 3rd XI (H)	Won 6-1

Team from: C. Daniels, A. Laine, M. Rogers, J. Gregory (Captains), A. Baker, A. Miles, C. Brown, J. Wheeler, R. Walters, N. Houseman, C. Walsh, M. Waddington, A. Halliwell, K. Annan, S. Hett.

### U15 XIs

A galling cameo from one of the matches and, secondly, a brief statistic convey neatly this year's problems. The first was the opening minute of the final match of the term, at home against King Edward's, Bath. From the push-off we created an incisive attack down the right, from which a goal very nearly resulted. The ball was at once cleared from the opposing circle and hit firmly upfield through a gaping hole in our central midfield, taken on between our two square full-backs by their centre-forward, who trickled a three mph reverse-stick shot into the goal. 0-1 (instead of 1-0) in sixty seconds - and utterly demoralising. The statistic: during the season we conceded almost exactly three goals per match on average, and no team is likely to get away with that kind of profligacy.

We were outplayed by Monkton Combe's skilful midfield nucleus in the opening game, then again beaten (but by no means disgraced) in Oxford by the best and most successful side we encountered, Magdalen College School. A narrow defeat by Colston's followed: we soaked up a lot of first-half pressure but conceded the decisive goal two minutes from the end of a second half memorable for its ferocious blizzard conditions. In similar weather for stoics (bad enough to blow the goalposts over at one stage) we convincingly defeated Marling on their hard pitch, but then slumped against Dean Close, though the result should have been much closer on the play. We played better hockey again in decisively beating King's Gloucester, and narrowly overcame King's Worcester, a few days later. Finally a depleted team played the game against King Edward's Bath, the doleful start of which was chronicled above; again we should never have lost so heavily, especially as two of their goals came in the last four minutes of the match.

As the statistics suggest, most of our difficulties this year were in defence. The full-backs could usually hit firmly enough but were slow in recovery, too often caught out of position, and did not clear from the circle sufficiently fast and decisively. However, their problems were compounded by the frequent failure of the halfbacks to help by tackling back determinedly and to win and retain enough possession in midfield to ease

pressure on our defenders. The resultant gaps could not be left unpunished indefinitely, and so it proved. In a team game like hockey concentration and commitment from all players are essential to success. The forwards began shakily but improved greatly as an attacking unit, creating and taking chances more sharply and intelligently in the second half of the season.

At least two of this team will, in my view, challenge for a first XI place next year and generally there was quite a lot of strength in depth; a number of the useful 'B' team were of normal 'A' XI standard and will surely contribute significantly to the school's senior hockey. In summary, however, it was a year of ups and downs, and one felt that with better teamwork, and if everyone had shown as much determination and effort as some of the side's battlers did, this squad would have achieved a more impressive record.

I would like to thank this year's captain, Mark Valentine, and also Mr Max Chase, who umpired the 'B' matches and showed great enthusiasm with this group of players.

J.N.H.

### **'A' XI**

Played 8; Won 3; Lost 5

Goals for 17; Goals against 26.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	0-5
v. Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-5
v. Colston's School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Marling School (A)	Won	6-0
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-5
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	4-0
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	4-3
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Lost	1-5

Team from: M. Valentine (captain), A. Sylvester, A. Graham, J. East, N. Rose, C. Morgan-Harris, S. Hall, N. Nettleton, A. Platt, C. Carmichael, P. Morgan, J. Tate, N. Fischer, P. Allan, M. Giggs, G. Jenkins.

### **'B' XI**

Played 3; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 1

Goals for 6; Goals against 6.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Drew	2-2
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	2-1
v. The Crypt School U15 'A' XI (H)	Lost	2-3

Team from: A. Platt (captain), R. Hutson, J. East, N. Rose, P. Croft, D. Morris, G. Jenkins, G. Agnew, M. Laroche, A. Beales, N. Nettleton, P. Williams, M. Sansome.

### **U14 XIs**

The season started on a low key because of the wet weather, quickly picked up in February, and turned out to be one of the most successful for some years.

The 'A' team played with great determination; for the defence they were lucky to have two backs in Charles Dudbridge and Andrew McIndoe who hit the ball hard and cleanly and who were supported by the outstanding play of Andrew Branston in goal. The wing-halves learnt to mark their men tightly - Charles Waters playing some

tenacious games and James Moore steadily improving as the season developed. The success of the team often depended on the tireless and skilful performance of Christopher Lawton as centre-half. Every match provided some exciting movements by the forwards; Barrie Davies and Jay Ouellette on the right combined most successfully and produced many dangerous attacks. Kai Thomas developed into a thrusting centre-forward, not afraid to harass the defence and opening up many opportunities for scoring. There were also some good runs on the left, set up by Robert Sage for Julian Wilkie or Christopher Mason, the most improved 'novice' in the group. All the matches were highly competitive and very evenly contested: there were memorable moments - the torrential rain in the Colston's match, the fifteen penalty corners conceded by the defence in the game against Dean Close (a lesson to be learnt here about controlled play when under pressure), the good, open play of the matches against Magdalen College School and King's School, Worcester, and the uncharacteristic inertia which overcame the team until the last ten minutes of the match against King's School, Gloucester. There are a number of players of real ability in this team, which bodes well for the future.

The 'B' team worked steadily to overcome their lack of experience. They improved their hitting and passing and played with increasing confidence as the season progressed. James Mills, Giles Head and Nicholas Pollard were the mainstay of the defence; Matthew Pentney showed promise at wing-half, and Luke Prosser found his form at centre-forward late in the term. Graham Monteith joined the group after half-term and quickly proved his worth with his good tackling and marking. I am grateful to Mr Bradfield for umpiring the 'B' XI matches.

W.J.D.W.

### **A 'XI'**

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 1

Goals for 11; Goals against 9.

v. Magdalen College School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 1st XI (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Colston's School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	2-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	1-4
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won	2-1
v. King's School, Worcester	Won	3-0

Team from: A. Branston, C. Lawton, J. Wilkie (captains), C. Dudbridge, A. McIndoe, J. Moore, C. Waters, R. Sage, K. Thomas, J. Ouellette, B. Davies, C. Mason, G. Head, N. Pollard, J. Mills, G. Monteith.

### **'B' XI**

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3; Goals for 4; Goals against 9.

v. Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	1-4
v. The Crypt School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won	3-0

Team from: G. Head and J. Mills (captains), A. Martin, N. Pollard, A. Brooke, M. Pentney, C. Mason, D. Irving, C. Oliver, L. Prosser, J. Bainbridge, P. Barry, G. Monteith, D. Chalk.





U13 'B' XI

*A. Topalian*

### U13 'A' XI

What a season! The unbeaten record reflected the great skill, spirit and teamwork of this year's side. Dismal January weather prevented the necessary development of basic grass skills and team-play, but the extensive practice during the Christmas term proved invaluable and became particularly evident in the latter stages of the opening match, against Cheltenham College Junior School on AstroTurf: the first half saw the ball rarely out of the Rendcomb area, but sharp, exciting interplay changed the balance of the match completely in the second half and led to victory with two stunning 'textbook' goals. Similar performances, against Oakley Hall on their hard surface and in the return Cheltenham match, meant that by half-term the record was: played 3, won 3.

The exhilaration of the impressive victories in the final part of the season was dampened slightly by two very sluggish performances against modest opposition, leading to drawn matches. All in all, though, the season's performance was most impressive by any standards.

The successful formula? Simply a squad with considerable strength in depth, some outstanding individual skill and stickwork, impressive teamwork and irrepressible enthusiasm and enjoyment shown in their play. All 18 members from whom the team was chosen played their part in the success of the season, from the speed of John Morgan and Adam Simpson on the wings, the deadly shooting of Ian Thompson and Nicholas Carmichael, the workmanlike and creative play of Christopher Jarrett, Stephen Croft and Michael Smith to the uncompromising defensive play of Francis Barton and Adam Beales.

Special mention must be made of first-former Francis Newcombe in goal, who saved the team on innumerable occasions, letting in only two goals throughout the season. Daniel Kemp as captain and Patrick Boydell as vice-captain also deserve particular commendation, not only for their exceptional contribution to the play but also for their efficiency on and off the pitch and their leadership and ability to motivate the team; they helped in so many ways to make the season successful.

Next year the U14 XI could certainly prove to be something special, while the talent in depth of the present first-formers bodes well for the U13 'A' team of '91, bearing in mind that we have a record to maintain!

M.J.N.

Played 7; Won 5; Drew 2; Goals for 10; Goals against 2.

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

Team from: D. Kemp (captain), P. Boydell (vice-captain), F. Barton, A. Beales, W. Brix, N. Carmichael, S. Croft, A. Harris, B. Herbert, C. Jarrett, J. Lloyd, J. Morgan, F. Newcombe, B. Renow-Clarke, A. Simpkin, M. Smith, I. Thompson, C. Walmsley.

### U13 'B' XIs

The 1990 season was an encouraging one, during which the standard of play, in any case higher than usual to begin with, improved steadily as the season progressed. Because of the poor weather before half-term, matches were postponed or cancelled, and it was not until the end of February that the team took the field, against Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XI.

Playing on unfamiliar Redgra, the team did well to keep Cheltenham out until the last quarter, when they conceded four goals. Another defeat followed, this time against Oakley Hall by the only goal in the match, but both return matches were drawn and the team concluded the season with a convincing win over The Downs School.

Everyone in the squad gave of his best during the season, and teams were well led by Adam Beales and Stephen Jones. Martin Adams was a courageous and effective goal-keeper; William Brix and Christopher

Walmsley were resolute in defence but always ready to initiate attacks, and Alister Harris was always dangerous on the right wing.

Although we shall lose a number of players to the U14 game, the prospects for next season's U13 look promising, and the experience gained this season should stand them in good stead.

P.J.S.

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 2  
Goals for 5; Goals against 8.

v. Cheltenham College Junior Sch. 4th XI (A)	Lost 0-4
v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (H)	Lost 0-1
v. Cheltenham College Junior Sch. 4th XI (H)	Drew 1-1
v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Drew 1-1
v. The Downs School 2nd XI (H)	Won 3-1

Team from: A. Beales and S. Jones (captains),  
M. Adams, R. Blackwell, W. Brix, L. Freeman,  
T. Gaskill, A. Harris, B. Herbert, J. Lloyd,  
B. Renow-Clarke, A. Topalian, C. Walmsley,  
C. Yardley.

#### U12 XI

v. St Edward's School (A)	Won 5-0
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# Cricket

Although this was my first season running cricket, the previous 26 years with a junior XI have been a good apprenticeship.

The hot and dry weather in April and May meant that wickets were much harder and faster than usual, and the sprinklers were in constant use. The weather then deteriorated, and the wickets became slower; fortunately only one day was lost owing to rain, 70 of the 75 matches being completed. For the first time, and probably the last, five matches were played at home on one afternoon.

There were many enjoyable games, particularly at 'B' level, and the overall standard continues to improve. Further representative honours were gained this year at the West of England trials, playing for a West of England XI, a Gloucestershire Cricket Club Under 19 XI and for county U19 and U15 sides.

My thanks must go to David Essenhigh for running and coaching the 1st XI and for preparing, with a number of assistants, such good wickets. With a little help from the weather the outfielders have been excellent, which allows the players to improve their ground fielding and the master in charge to save money on cricket balls!

The cricket staff have given me great support and put in many hours of hard work; thank you for your efforts. We must also thank the kitchen staff, Belinda Stanley and her team of 6B girls and Charlotte Carroll, the 1st XI scorer, for their considerable contribution to the season.

What of the future? The cricket week arranged at the end of term for the 1st XI proved a great success. Some visiting sides are already talking about next year. The trend towards cricket festivals in HMC schools has continued to flourish; with our improved accommodation it would be possible for us to host such an event. More fixtures must be arranged for the 2nd XI and for 'B' XIs, as this raises the overall standard in the college.

C.C.B.

## 1st XI

The 1990 season was overall a good one, although we had our disappointments. We started with the sun on our backs, winning three out of the first four matches and achieving a good draw against Cheltenham College, in which Richard Milner bowled very well to take six for 19. During this period we played good, positive cricket.

Then we lost to Bloxham in a low-scoring match in which we could not score 90 to win after Richard Hughes had taken eight for 42, a very fine performance. That game set us back, and after it we never played quite as well as we could have.

Henry Le Fleming captained the side very well; he has all the qualities to make a good captain. Richard Milner and John Carroll were our main batsmen, with 600 runs each; John should have scored more, but he has a habit of getting out with a bad shot when he is well set.

Nick Smith, Arwyn Jones, Kevin Holmes and Marcus Head all scored useful runs, and Peter Grimsdale had an excellent season, keeping wicket to a very high standard. Arwyn Jones was the pick of our bowlers, taking 30 wickets; he was well supported by Richard Milner, Richard Hughes, William King and John Carroll.

Richard Milner, John Carroll and Arwyn Jones are to

be congratulated on being selected to play for the Gloucestershire U19 XI.

The future looks good, with some promising young players throughout the school.

I must thank Chris King for his support and for the excellent way he ran the 2nd XI, the 6B girls for the superb way they served tea, always with a smile, and Charlotte Carroll for scoring for us throughout the season. I am grateful too to the boys who helped me prepare the wickets; without their work we could not have coped.

D.E.

Played 16; Won 4; Drew 9; Lost 3.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 112 runs  
Rendcomb 182-1 decl. (Milner 77\*, Head 38, Carroll 40\*)  
Crypt 70 (Jones 6-30)

v. Cheltenham College (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 141 (Smith 44)  
Cheltenham 95-8 (Milner 6-19)

v. North Cerney CC (H) - Won by 9 wickets  
North Cerney 104 (Jones 5-12, King 3-13)  
Rendcomb 105-1 (Milner 49\*, Carroll 35\*)

v. Swindon Wednesday CC (H) - Won by 6 wickets  
Swindon 159 (King 3-25, Homes 3-25)  
Rendcomb 161-4 (Milner 69, Jones 56\*)

v. Marling School (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 188-8 decl. (Carroll 79, Jones 28)  
Marling 77-6 (Jones 2-5, Carroll 2-19)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 4 runs  
Bloxham 89 (Hughes 8-48)  
Rendcomb 85 (Smith 19, Milner 18)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 158-7 decl. (Carroll 46, Smith 49\*)  
Pate's 100-5 (Jones 2-16)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 134-3 decl. (Milner 66\*, Jones 42\*)  
King's 62-5 (Jones 3-37)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Lost by 7 runs  
Cokethorpe 105 (Milner 3-4, Jones 3-19, Carroll 3-21)  
Rendcomb 98 (Smith 29)

v. New College, Swindon (H) - Won by 92 runs  
Rendcomb 179-3 decl. (Milner 52, Holmes 45\*, Grimsdale 43\*)  
New College 87 (King 4-7, Carroll 3-22)

v. Barton Peveril College (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 175-7 decl. (Carroll 49, King 32\*)  
Barton Peveril 109-8 (Milner 4-21, King 3-19)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn  
Prior Park 125 (Hughes 3-9, Le Fleming 3-34, Jones 2-13)  
Rendcomb 125-3 (Milner 66, Carroll 43)

v. Gloucestershire Gipsies CC (H) - Match drawn  
Gipsies 206-4 decl. (Hughes 2-12)  
Rendcomb 178-4 (Essenhigh 2-13)

v. WG Cricket (H) - Match drawn  
WG Cricket 201-6 decl. (Jones 3-66, Hughes 3-61)  
Rendcomb 194-5 (Carroll 93, Milner 39)

v. Victoria College, Jersey (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 206-3 decl. (Milner 72\*, Carroll 89)  
Victoria 116-7 (Holmes 2-9, Jones 2-29)

v. The Old Rendcombian XI (H) - Lost by 8 wickets  
Rendcomb 109 (Carroll 39, Valentine 20)  
Old Rendcombians 110-2

Team from: H. Le Fleming (captain), K. Holmes  
(vice-captain), R. Milner, J. Carroll, A. Jones,  
P. Grimsdale, M. Head, N. Smith, W. King,  
R. Hughes, D. White, A. Halliwell, J. Tate, J. Wheeler.

## 2nd XI

As the commentator said, 'one side or the other is going to win this match!' So it was with the 2nd XI this year. If cricket is a fun game, then this was a season with never a dull moment. Throughout the term one saw victory snatched from the jaws of defeat, and several times the reverse was true. Typical was the game against Pate's. Set 105 to win, we collapsed to 15-4, only for Paul Irving to step up and crash 65 runs in 40 minutes!

There were a lot of fifth-year boys in the side, which caused a few selection difficulties after the GCSE examinations. It did mean that experience was at a premium, but Ashley Clark captained the side with enthusiasm and bowled with precision to add a lot of 6A bite to the team. Anthony Miles was an excellent early season opener and aide to Ashley. However, the youth of the side was both its weakness and, of course, its future strength. If they stick with the game and adopt a positive attitude, then they can have considerable success in the future.

Notable performances include Robert Tate's 101 not out in his one and only innings of the year, against King's School, Gloucester. Martin Smith had one over against Avonhurst, was no-balled four times and took four wickets! Henry Pugh's batting was generally good and full of promise, and on several occasions John Wheeler was considered too good for us and played for the 1st XI instead. There were also Sam Lam's enthusiasm, Gareth Davies's increasing pace and accuracy with the ball and James Grafton's elegance in the nets. Adam Halliwell threw himself about with great verve as the team's ever present wicket-keeper.

If the talent that is latent but evident among these players can be further developed, then the senior game will continue to have a bright future.

C.P.M.K.

Played 7; Won 4; Lost 3.

v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A) - Lost by 8 wickets  
Rendcomb 75  
Cheltenham 76-2

v. Marling School (A) - Won by 9 wickets  
Marling 73 (Clark 6-20)  
Rendcomb 76-1

v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 4 wickets  
Rendcomb 139-5 decl. (Pugh 41)  
Bloxham 140-6

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Won by 6 wickets  
Pate's 105  
Rendcomb 106-4 (Irving 65)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 8 wkts.  
King's 133 (Daniels 6-42)  
Rendcomb 137-2 (Tate 101\*)

v. Avonhurst School (H) - Won by 134 runs  
Rendcomb 180 (Clark 77)  
Avonhurst 46 (Smith 4-44)

v. Bredon School (H) - Lost by 43 runs  
Bredon 94 (Clark 5-39)  
Rendcomb 51

Team from: A. Clark (captain), D. Chapman,  
C. Daniels, G. Davies, P. Evans, J. Grafton, A. Halliwell,  
P. Irving, S-W Lam, A. Miles, A. Palin, C. Paine,  
J. Powell, J. Pratten, H. Pugh, M. Smith, R. Tate,  
S. Vernon, M. Waddington, G. Walker, O. Ward,  
J. Wheeler.

## U15 'A' XI

Except for two disappointing performances early in the season, the side played well and generally improved its game.

Mark Valentine and Matthew Giggs were a reliable opening pair and, along with John Tate, Christopher Carmichael and Nigel Fischer, scored most of the runs, half-centuries being reached on six occasions. In the matches when the opposition scored highly, runs were hard to come by, but we defended well to secure a draw. Only four bowlers were regularly used, and they served the side well. Paul Allan and John Tate opened the attack and did well to claim 54 wickets between them. They were well supported by Matthew Giggs and Andrew Sylvester, the left-arm spinner, who took 18 wickets in 106 overs.

The ground fielding was sound, but holding on to catches proved difficult for some members of the side. However, in the last match 'practice makes perfect' seemed to apply, as all catches were taken.

Andrew Sylvester must be congratulated on his selection for the county U15 side.

I should like to thank Mark Valentine for captaining the side. He led by example with the bat and usually made the right decisions. We are indebted to Nicholas Priscott for his work as scorer.

C.C.B.



Played 15; Won 4; Drew 9; Lost 2.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn

Crypt 160-2 decl.

Rendcomb 105-9 (Valentine 28, Tate 23, Carmichael 23\*)

v. Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 116 runs

Cheltenham 163-7 decl. (Allan 4-41)

Rendcomb 47 (Giggs 23)

v. Bredon School (A)- Lost by 5 wickets

Rendcomb 54

Bredon 56-5

v. Marling School (H) - Match drawn

Marling 115 (Sylvester 4-22)

Rendcomb 63-4 (Fischer 25\*)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Match drawn

Bloxham 192-5 decl.

Rendcomb 118-3 (Tate 53)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Match drawn

Rendcomb 157-3 decl. (Valentine 53, Carmichael 44, Fischer 31)

King's 53-7

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn

Rendcomb 125-6 decl. (Giggs 25, Valentine 42)

Pate's 75-8 (Allan 3-23)

v. Bredon School (H) - Won by 10 wickets

Bredon 64 (Tate 7-21, Allan 3-36)

Rendcomb 66 for no wicket

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 10 wickets

Cokethorpe 134 (Giggs 4-17)

Rendcomb 135 for no wicket (Giggs 41\*, Valentine 81\*)

v. Cirencester Cricket Club U16 XI (H) - Won by 6 wkts

Cirencester 136-1 decl.

Rendcomb 137-4 (Giggs 30, Carmichael 54\*)

v. Kingshill School (H) - Match drawn Rendcomb 118-4 decl. (Giggs 50\*, Valentine 51\*)

Kingshill 101-6 (Carmichael 3-3)

v. Magdalen College School (A) - Match drawn

Magdalen 163-5 decl. (Tate 4-40)

Rendcomb 62-7 (Valentine 33)

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 21 runs

Rendcomb 65

Kingham 44 (Allan 3-12)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn

Prior Park 159-9 decl. (Tate 4-57, Sylvester 3-39)

Rendcomb 34-9

v. Swindon Cricket Club Wednesday XI (H) - Match drawn

Swindon 189-6 decl. (Sylvester 3-59)

Rendcomb 111-9 (Sylvester 25\*, Allan 22\*)



Team from: M. Valentine (captain), P. Allan, A. Beales, C. Carmichael, A. Faiers, N. Fischer, M. Giggs, S. Hall, R. Hutson, A. Sylvester, J. Tate, A. Graham, G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, P. Morgan, D. Morris, M. Norman.

### U15 'B' XI

The enthusiasm shown by this squad and the attempts to improve techniques during practice contributed to the success of this year's 'B' team. Patrick Morgan captained the side efficiently and fairly, encouraging an impressive team effort, which was interwoven with many significant individual performances in batting and bowling. This did not go unnoticed by C.C.B., who 'borrowed' several players for the 'A' team on occasions; they must be destined for greater things in the future!

A cricket match would not be complete without scorers and supporters, and yet these were well provided by the same small group of boys, who were a pleasure to coach and to umpire.

C.J.W.

J.G.W.

Played 6; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 1.

v. Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (H) - Match drawn

Cheltenham 101-8 decl. (Jenkins 4-26)

Rendcomb 35-6

v. Bloxham School (H) - Won by 6 wickets  
Bloxham 64 (Norman 3-4)  
Rendcomb 65-4

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 121-4 decl. (Graham 56\*)  
King's 118-7

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 27 runs  
Rendcomb 121-7 decl. (Norman 51\*)  
Cokethorpe 94 (Hall 3-9, Morris 3-10)

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 5 wickets  
Kingham 73 (Jenkins 5-7)  
Rendcomb 74-5 (Morgan 31\*)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 40 runs  
Prior Park 102-9 decl. (Morgan 3-15)  
Rendcomb 62

Team from: P. Morgan (captain), G. Agnew, J. Jenkin,  
G. Jenkins, M. Laroche, A. Graham,  
C. Morgan-Harris, M Sansome, A. Platt, M. Norman,  
S. Hall, D. Egge, D. Morris, A. Faiers, J. Sawtell,  
N. Rose, J. Mackinnon.

#### U14 'A' XI

As a team, this year's side ranged from excellent to extremely frustrating! Generally they were willing to play positive, attacking cricket, and they showed great resolve in saving two games in particular.

The high point in terms of all-round skill and application was against Pate's when, with the help of a really excellent 50 by Christopher Lawton and a brave 20 by Guy Fowler, we pushed on to a good total. The attacking field, four slips and two gulleys, worked brilliantly and, with the support of some intelligent legspin by Kai Thomas and some fine catching, Lawton was able to complete his splendid day with four wickets and lead the team to a 100-run victory.

During the year success was often due to great resolve with the bat by Andrew Branston and to several all-round performances by Julian Wilkie. However, cricket is a team game, and all members of the squad made contributions over the year, progressed with their own game and were part of the team's successes. On a couple of occasions our application to bowling and fielding slipped from its normally high standard, but generally the boys did extremely well, and I am pleased with their efforts and proud of their gentlemanly personal behaviour. Besides the wins, they did extremely well to save the matches against Cheltenham College and Prior Park, and I wish them every success in the future.

M. S. G.

Played 13; Won 5; Drew 5; Lost 3.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won 1 run  
Rendcomb 76-8 decl. (Lawton 21)  
Crypt 75 (Wilkie 5-21)

v. Cheltenham College (A) - Match drawn  
Cheltenham 177-1 decl. (Jones 103\*)  
Rendcomb 67-4 (Lawton 26, Branston 17\*)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Lost by 96 runs  
Cokethorpe 123-6 decl.  
Rendcomb 27 (Gawluck 9-13)

v. Marling School (A) - Lost by 5 wickets  
Rendcomb 154-6 decl. (Branston 28, McIndoe 27\*)  
Marling 158-5

v. Bloxham School (A) - Match drawn  
Bloxham 160-7 decl.  
Rendcomb 0-0 - Rain stopped play

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn  
King's 126 (Moore 4-3)  
Rendcomb 54-0 - Rain stopped play (Wilkie 20\*,  
Branston 24\*)

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Won by 100 runs  
Rendcomb 148 (Lawton 54, Fowler 21)  
Pate's 48 (Lawton 4-3)

v. Avonhurst School (H) - Won by 10 wickets  
Avonhurst 55 (Wilkie 5-15)  
Rendcomb 59-0 (Wilkie 26\*, Branston 20\*)

v. Cirencester School (H) - Won by 7 wickets  
Cirencester 30 (Head 2-3)  
Rendcomb 32-3

v. Archway School (H) Cup Match - Lost by 18 runs  
Archway 154-8  
Rendcomb 136-7 (Mills 35, Branston 37)

v. Magdalen College School (A) - Match drawn  
Magdalen 152-3 decl.  
Rendcomb 72-2 (Wilkie 31\*)

v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 7 wickets  
Kingham 46 (Thomas 4-1)  
Rendcomb 50-3 (Thomas 27\*)

v. Prior Park College (A) - Match drawn  
Prior Park 182-4 decl. (Cooper 101\*)  
Rendcomb 86-9 (Mills 30, Fowler 9\*)

Team from: C. Lawton (captain), J. Wilkie, (vice-captain), A. Branston, J. Mills, G. Head, A. McIndoe, J. Moore, K. Thomas, N. Barton, L. Prosser, R. Sage, B. Davies, G. Fowler, C. East.

#### U14 'B' XI

As ever, the U14 'B' XI's season is, perhaps, better discussed in terms of attitude and approach than of success and failure. That, however, is not to say that the side was a weak one, for fine victories were recorded against King's, Gloucester, and Kingham Hill. There were also some notable individual achievements in these matches: Charles East's seven wickets and James Coleman's 42 runs at Kingham Hill; Charles Dudbridge's six wickets against King's.

But it was the side's enthusiasm for the game which impressed me most. They always wanted to play, whatever the odds against them, and for this reason



almost everyone in the third form got the opportunity to play in at least one of our five matches; in all 22 players were used during the season. I salute them all.

L.J.H.

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3.

v. Cheltenham College U 14 'C' XI (A) - Lost by 8 wickets

Rendcomb 28

Cheltenham 29-2

v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 6 wickets

Rendcomb 81-7 decl. (Coleman 15)

Bloxham 83-4 (Dudbridge 2-16)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 65 runs

Rendcomb 101-9 decl.

King's 36 (Bigg-Wither 3-20, Dudbridge 6-16)

v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 5 wickets

Kingham Hill 103 (East 7-28)

Rendcomb 104-5 (Coleman 42)

v. Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 98 runs

Prior Park 167-1 decl.

Rendcomb 69

Team from: C. Dudbridge (captain), J. Bainbridge, A. Barry, N. Barton, P Bigg-Wither, A. Brooke, D. Chalk, J. Coleman, C. East, G. Fowler, M. Gee, D. Irving, A. Martin, C. Mason, C. Millard, G. Monteith, C. Norman, C. Oliver, J. Ouellette,

M. Pentney, N. Pollard, C. Waters.

### U13 XI

This season took a while to get off the ground for us, as we had only two players who had played in a team last year. After a few weeks, however, things began to fit together; some higher scores came up and the bowling became more accurate and consistent.

We were well beaten by Tockington in our second match, but against Oakley Hall we managed to avoid defeat by drawing.

Our first win came against Cokethorpe, with Ian Thompson scoring a hard-earned 36, Patrick Boyde hitting his way to 56, the best score of the season, Mike Smith taking four wickets for 18 and hitting the stumps from 30 yards to get a run-out!

On an excellent bowling wicket, with a lot of cloud cover, we played Oxfordshire U12s on the U15 XI's pitch; we borrowed Chris Lawton and Robert Sage from the U14s to give our team more strength. We had them at 89 for seven before tail-end resistance got their score to 100 for seven at tea-time. They declared, and we batted badly against a good bowling attack, but Francis Newcomb and Matthew Morris, two of the three first formers in the team, held out to salvage a draw.

We ended the season on a winning note, earning victory in our last two matches. Our penultimate match, against Kingham Hill, produced two superb bowling performances; John Morgan bowled a lovely line and length, taking six wickets for 11 runs, and Chris Jarrett took a hat-trick, finishing off the tail-end.



I feel that special mention should go to Francis Newcombe for keeping wicket efficiently through the majority of the term and to Alister Harris for deputising excellently for him, to Stephen Jones for scoring and to Nick Carmichael for being twelfth man in nearly every game and keeping a happy face when we were losing, and to the many people who provided and prepared teas. It must go also to John Morgan, who took 24 wickets, to Patrick Boydell, who took 11 catches at mid-off and mid-on, and to Ian Thompson, with 158 runs our highest scorer. Lastly, of course, our thanks go to our coach, Mr Sykes, for teaching us and helping us to become something resembling a cricket team.

Francis Barton

Played 11; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 5.

v. The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 9 runs  
Crypt 64  
Rendcomb 55 (Morgan 21)

v. Tockington Manor School (A) - Lost by 104 runs  
Tockington 140-7 decl. (Morgan 4-53)  
Rendcomb 36

v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets  
Rendcomb 83-8 decl. (Morgan 29)  
Marling 84-4

v. Oakley Hall School (A) - Match drawn  
Oakley Hall 160-7 decl.  
Rendcomb 109-6 (Smith 44\*, Boydell 21)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 10 wickets  
Rendcomb 30  
Pate's 31-0

v. Park School (A) - Lost by 8 wickets  
Rendcomb 57-7 decl. (Barton 30)  
Park 60-2

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 85 runs  
Rendcomb 157-8 decl. (Thompson 36, Boydell 56)  
Cokethorpe 72 (Smith 4-18)

v. Kingshill School (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 108-3 decl. (Barton 31, Thompson 50\*)  
Kingshill 65-7

v. The Oxfordshire U12 XI (H) - Match drawn  
Oxfordshire 100-7 (Barton 3-24)  
Rendcomb 64-9

v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 44 runs  
Rendcomb 69  
Kingham 25 (Morgan 6-11, Jarrett 3-1)

v. Prior Park School (A) - Won by 3 wickets  
Prior Park 100 (Morgan 4-47, Barton 3-15)  
Rendcomb 101-7 (Thompson 28)

Team from: F Barton (Captain), A. Beales, P Boydell, S. Croft, B. Herbert, C. Jarrett, S. Jones, D. Kemp, J. Morgan, I. Thompson, C. Allen, N. Carmichael, A. Harris, M. Morris, F Newcombe, M. Smith.

## Tennis

Tennis was again a popular option, with some 35 boys choosing it as their main summer game. Yet again, too, an extremely broad spectrum of ability was catered for!

The 1st VI, in terms of both ability and experience, was potentially the best for several years, and perhaps the overall record should have been a little more impressive. Nevertheless they played some high quality tennis when in the groove and at full strength, and gave much bigger schools a really strong challenge when occasion demanded. Dauntsey's, for instance, felt they had a particularly good VI this year, but we had a nail-biting contest with them before being edged out in a close concluding set; Alex Bell and Andrew Mackinnon played especially well here on the grass surface. The South Cotswold LTC were then convincingly defeated, as were Pate's Grammar School. The Dean Close match was a disappointment: we were below full strength but still should have at least drawn the game, poor concentration by the top pair in the final round bringing our downfall. The story was somewhat similar against Cheltenham College; the result was a 2-7 defeat but grittier motivation and determination in the final rubbers would certainly have produced a much closer outcome. Here Charles Paine and Robert Tate (first pair) played excellent tennis, some of the best I have seen from any Rendcomb boys, against the unbeaten Cheltenham first couple, but then slumped against the second pair. However, the season's final match, against Wycliffe College, brought a more sustained effort, and we were decisive winners this time.

In 1990 we entered for the first time the Midland Bank LTA National Schools Tennis Championship, and this proved a great success with its format of a four-man team playing both singles and doubles rubbers, the initial rounds being on a regional basis. In the first round, at Rendcomb, we beat Cleeve School and Cirencester School. For the next round we travelled to Radley to take on Radley College and Bloxham - formidable opposition. The team acquitted itself with great credit, going down 2-4 to both schools; however, against Bloxham one of our singles players (nameless!) lost after being 5-0 up, while one of our defeats against Radley came after a tie-breaker set, so we were frustratingly close to drawing both matches. Guy Waller, very creditably, was unbeaten on the day.

The inexperienced 2nd VI, enthusiastically led by James 'Long John Silver' Gregory, struggled in most of their matches but always played keenly and won well against Wycliffe. Some of these players will be 1st VI stalwarts next year.

The annual parent-pupil doubles tournament took place on Sunday, 1st July, and a record entry of 20 pairs brought another very enjoyable, successful day. The sombre rain-clouds were merciful and the standard of play encouragingly high from middle-aged mums to Old Rectory midgets. Grateful thanks to the Parents' Association for again providing prizes; entry fees went



to charity.

I would like to thank Guy Waller, who captained the 1st VI with zeal, commitment and courtesy both on and off the court.

J.N.H.

### 1st VI

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	4-5
v. Cirencester School (H)	Won	*3-3
v. Cleve School (H)	Won	4-2
v. South Cotswold LTC (H)	Won	6½-2½
v. Pate's Grammar School (H)	Won	8-1
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	2-4
v. Radley College (A)	Lost	2-4
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	3½-5½
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	2-7
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	7½-1½

### 2nd VI

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	2½-6½
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	2-7
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	2-7
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	7½-1½

The following were in teams:

1st VI: G. Waller (captain), C. Paine, R. Tate, A. Bell, A. Mackinnon, K. Annan.

2nd VI: (from) J. Gregory (Captain), A. Bunge, P. Smithson, C. Walsh, J. Madeley, J. Tomsett, N. Wood, C. Reens, T. Shillington-Balfour, N. Utting.

\* Won on games

## Girls' Sport

### Girls' Hockey

Once again the girls' hockey brought together two dedicated teams, with an early boost to the season in the match against Burford School: the team responded to the opponents' tactics, producing a 5-0 victory. Although such scores were not kept up, enthusiasm and dedication were never lost, either in matches or in the practices on Monday afternoons at the Royal Agricultural College.

The first XI had a strong line-up attack with the trio of Rebecca Bell, Gail Cawthorne and Rachel Williams, not forgetting the strong attackers, Sophie Chang, Aleks Malkjovic and Natasha Clements. Holly Andrews produced confident defence at centre-half, even though she was the victim of minor injuries at every match! She was well supported by Nicola Kemp, with Kate Graham, Suzanne Denley and Lucy Brummit as backing defence. Finally there was Anja Beaver, without whom the 'goals against' would have been higher!

The second XI produced equal stamina in their performance, led by the high-powered determination of Lydia Fellows. Most of the girls had a chance in a team at some point in the season, and both teams ended with triumphant scores against Wycliffe College.

On behalf of the girls I would like to thank Miss Goldsmith and Mr Essenhigh for their encouragement and support throughout the season.

Fiona Reichwald

### 1st XI

Played 10; Won 3; Lost 7; Goals for 15; Goals against 28.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Burford School (A)	Won	5-0
v. Cirencester School (A)	Lost	0-7
v. St Edward's School (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost	1-8
v. Farmor's School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Cheltenham College (A)	Won	2-0
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	4-1

### 2nd XI

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 2; Goals against 12.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. St Edward's School, Oxford (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (H)	Lost	0-5
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	1-0

Teams from: F Reichwald (1st XI captain), H. Andrews, R. Bell, G. Cawthorne, S. Chang, N. Clements, K. Graham, R. Williams, N. Kemp, A. Malkjovic, R. Hodgkinson, L. Brummitt, A. Beaver, S. Denley, L. Fellows, (2nd XI captain), C. Stephens, E. Hall, J. Platt, S. Payne, K. Betts, K. Tawse, E. Syed, J. Lascelles, C. Carroll.

### Girls' Netball

This netball season proved to be both successful and enjoyable. The small but elite number of 6A players were joined by 6B, who offered a wide range of talent and skill. The high spirit and determination throughout the season culminated in a tournament for the 1st VII at Wycliffe College. We won four out of our five matches and reached the semi-finals to play against Dean Close, sadly losing after a tough but exhilarating match.

Our final match of the season was against the staff and ended in a draw, due not to their skill at netball but to the fact that the majority of the opposition was male and therefore managed to bend every rule that exists!

Our thanks go to Miss Goldsmith for organising the matches and for being such an enthusiastic coach.

Lydia Fellows

1st VII: Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2.

v. Westonbirt School (H)	Won	20-13
v. St Edward's School, Oxford (A)	Won	17-2
v. Cirencester School (H)	Lost	9-18
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	10-14
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	12-8
v. Bournside School (H)	Won	19-3

Team: L. Fellows (Captain), J. Platt, S. Payne, N. Clements, H. Andrews, G. Cawthorne, R. Williams.

**2nd VII:** Played 4; Won 4.

v. St Edward's School, Oxford (A)	Won 20-3
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won 16-5
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won 14-13
v. Bournside School (H)	Won 6-3

Team from: R. Hodgkinson, L. Brummitt, K. Swan, S. Denley, C. Carroll, J. Lascelles, K. Floydd, N. Kemp.

## Girls' Tennis

It has been a most successful season, and the majority of the 1st VI were members of 6B, which bodes well for the next year.

It became increasingly difficult to raise a second team as 'A' levels progressed, and I am grateful to those players who gave up time and energy under such circumstances.

The first pair, Rachel Seed and Katie Floydd, deserve special mention for very commendable results against some stiff opposition.

My thanks go to Mrs Warner for her expert coaching and encouragement.

B.M.G.

Played 12; Won 9; Drew 1; Lost 2.

Teams:

Katie Floydd and Rachel Seed

Gail Cawthorne and Holly Andrews  
Laura Dutton and Rebecca Bell  
Justine Platt and Lydia Fellows

Carragh McAree and Lucy Brummitt

also: Suzanne Denley, Fiona Reichwald,

Rebecca Hodgkinson, Elizabeth Syed, Julia Lascelles.

## Girls' Squash

A lot of interest was taken in squash this year, enabling us to form a good team. Many thanks must go to Bob Griffin, our outside coach, and to our school coach, Mrs Warner; we owe them much of our success, as they both gave up so much of their time to coach us.

Gail Cawthorne

Played 2; Drew 1; Lost 1.

v. Wycliffe College	Drew 2½-2½
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College	Lost 4-1

Team from: L. Dutton, A. Malkjovic, G. Cawthorne, K. Betts, C. McAree, R. Seed.

## Other Sports

### Archery

Under the watchful eyes of Mrs Essenhigh and Mrs Sykes, we have had another very successful year of archery. Not only did Carl Reens manage to achieve the highest score in the Association for Archery in Schools Boys' 15-plus Simple Bow section for a shooting period, but the third form's team came top of

the second division in their league.

Although two of our top shooters, Carragh McAree and Friederike Festge, are leaving at the end of this year, a very promising group of composite bow shooters has been forming for battle next year. As well as Kate Graham, next year's secretary, Alex Hall and Matthew 'Sherlock' Monteith seem poised for victory. Our only real drawback is a distinct lack of left-hand bows, as all three of these great bowmen are left-handed and resources can provide a bow only for Alex. It is to be hoped that our successes this year will encourage the finding of a solution to this problem, and an invincible Rendcomb team may take part in a tournament next summer.

Karen Swan

## Sailing

Rendcomb Sailing Club continues to prosper, despite the increasing number of incidents, collisions, lost jibs, demastings etc. Indeed, this article would have to be twice its length to include everything memorable. I mention but a few.

All new members have to undergo the capsize drill, and no two have ever accomplished this with such aplomb as Karen Betts and Sara Payne. Karen, clutching her RYA guide, Sara more concerned with her nose and therefore clasping that with both hands, managed to end up overboard with the boat still upright. However, after eventually capsizing, Karen had difficulty in righting the boat, until it was discovered that Sara was using the mast as a buoyancy aid!

Nor was members' knowledge of the rules much in evidence; a head-on collision between Aleks Malkjovic and Richard Walters (Enterprise) and Karen Betts and Sara Payne (Bosun) resulted in both crews claiming right of way while both being on a starboard tack. The decision - on past experience - was given against Bosun. Guy Jeffries, with his Southampton connections, managed to sort out the final ruling.

The new 6B girls proved their worth, with Kate Bonniwell demonstrating that the Wayfarer is most stable with the mast underwater, Aleks Malkjovic that starting to sail is easier than stopping and Sophie Chang that a boat can appear to sail unhelmed!

However, this has been an excellent year's sailing, and the annual B-B-Q was a great success. Thanks go to Stephen Lea for his help and many thanks to the Payne family for kindly allowing the use of their boat. Prospects appear bright for the club, with the promise by the bursar of funds for the purchase of another boat.

D.O'C.

Members: K. Bonniwell, D. Bowerman, C. Brown, K. Betts, S. Chang, N. Cochran, J. Head, S. Hett, S. Hardie, G. Jeffries, R. Mansell, A. Malkjovic, S. Payne, R. Walters, N. Walmsley, N. Clements, S. Lee, D. O'Connor, A. Vickery.







