

Rendcombian



The Magazine of Rendcomb College, 1996

Photographic Competition



Paul Cordell (Staff)

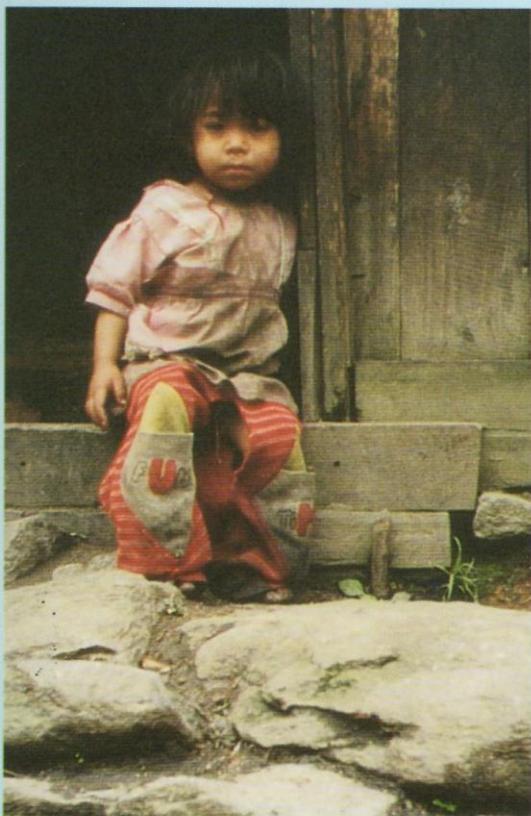


Let's negotiate

Nicola Cowper (parent)



Jack Garland (5)



Little Girl

Luke Nicholls (6A)



Waiting to Steal

Jacqui Shenton (6B)

Rendcombian

No. 14

September 1996



The new Rendcomb postcard: "View from the valley"

Julian Comrie, OR.

Front Cover - Outside:	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
Back Cover - Outside:	<i>The Comedy of Errors</i>
Inside:	Fashion Show

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The Record 1

Birth: On 24th August 1995, to Karen and Paul Cairns a daughter, Tiffany Rose.

Marriage: On 26th August 1995, at St Mary's Church, Sheet, Petersfield, John Botham to Deborah Porter.

Deaths: It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of:

Graham Bennett, OR (1985-92), on 23rd December, aged 21, tragically in a road accident.

Douglas Dakin, OR (1920-26), on 20th July, aged 88. He was Professor of Modern History at London University from 1968 to 1974, Vice-Master of Birkbeck College from 1970 to 1974, Dean of the College of Preceptors and author of *inter alia* five major works on Greece's struggle for independence and unity in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Kathleen Lovell James, widow of John Churchill James, on 25th December, aged 89. She started teaching at Rendcomb in 1940 and then took charge of the English Department until her retirement in 1969, gaining the respect and affection of countless Rendcombians.

Peter John Sudbury, Chaplain to the College, on 25th May 1996, after a short illness, aged 55.

Rendcomb Diary

Christmas Term 1995

September

3. Term began. Senior rugby pre-season training. Church Service for new pupils and their parents.
4. 6A Higher Education meeting.
9. Form 2 took part in the Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride. College Disco in the Dulverton Hall.
11. 6A Higher Education meeting.
12. 6A English students visited the Thomas Hardy Sites in Dorset.
14. Prep School Girls' Hockey Tournament held at Rendcomb.
16. Recital given in the Dulverton Hall by Alison Sutton of the *Opera de Lyon*, in aid of the Friends of Rendcomb Anniversary Scholarship Appeal.
17. College Sponsored Walk.



- 22. Rendcomb Parish Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.
- 24. Harvest Festival Service.
- 26. Girls' County Hockey Trials at Dean Close School, Cheltenham.
- 29. 75th Anniversary Exhibition of Craftwork by Old Rendcombians in the Dulverton Hall and Reading Room.
- Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Assessment group departed for the Peak District.
- 30. Craftwork Exhibition.

October

- 1. Craftwork Exhibition.
- Parents' Association Annual General Meeting, followed by a reception for new parents in Clock Hall.
- 3. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' group returned.
- 8. Informal Concert.
- The Choir sang Harvest Evensong in Rodmarton Church.
- 9. Girls' County Hockey Trials at Plock Court, Gloucester.
- 15. Choral Concert, *Come, Ye Sons of Art*, by Purcell, in the Dulverton Hall.
- 17. 6A Biology students departed on a Field Trip in the Hebrides.
- 19. Governors' Policy Planning Committee meeting.
- 20. Half-Term began.
- First Form Parents' Meeting.
- 24. 6A Biology students returned from the Hebrides.
- 29. Half-Term ended.
- Second Form Parents' Meeting.

November

- 1. Sixth-form musicians went to a concert in the Wigmore Hall.
- 9. Governors' Finance Committee meeting.
- Fashion Show, performance for College audience.
- 10. Fashion Show, matinee and evening performances.
- 11. College Disco in the Dulverton Hall.
- 12. Remembrance Sunday Service in St Peter's Church for The Royal British Legion.
- Organ recital by David Briggs.
- 13. Oxford University Entrance Examinations began.
- 17. Fourth Form Parents' Meeting.
- 23. Senior Theatre Production: *Between Mouthfuls*, Ayckbourn, and *The Bald Prima Donna*, Ionesco.
- 24. Senior Theatre Production.
- 26. St Barbara's Day Service, the Bishop of Gloucester preaching.

December

- 1. Orchestral Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
- 3. Advent Carols by Candlelight.
- 4. 'A' level Art students visited London.
- Governors' Meeting.
- 5. Girls' Hockey Club Dinner.
- 6. Rugby Club Dinner.
- 7. Junior School Christmas Dinner.
- 8. Middle School Christmas Dinner.
- 9. Girls' Hockey XI played OR Society XI
- Rugby XV played OR under-21 XV.
- Sixth Form Christmas Dinner and Dance.
- 10. Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church.
- Term ended.



Lent Term 1996

January

3. Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Kathleen Lovell James held in St Peter's Church, Rendcomb.
7. Term began.
8. 6A Higher Education Meeting.
9. Cambridge Occupational Analysts Careers Programme for Fifth Forms.
Problem Solving, lecture by Alan Ward.
6B Higher Education Meeting
12. Expressive Arts Photography group visited Abbey Studios, Cirencester.
6B General Studies: talk by Tony France of the Gloucestershire Drugs Project.
14. Outing for first and second-year pupils.
15. 'Mock' examinations began for 6A and Form 5.
19. Fifth and Sixth Forms General Studies: *World Challenge Expedition*.
26. Cambridge Occupational Analysts Careers Presentation for Fifth Forms.
Careers and 'A' level choice seminar for fifth-form parents.
Fifth-form parent/teacher meeting.
28. Presentation to parents, *The Choices Facing Teenagers*.

February

2. 6B General Studies: *The Samaritans*, by Emma Borton.
Parents/music teachers consultation and informal concert.
3. Spanish Theme Party and Dinner Dance, arranged by the Parents' Association and the Art Department, in the Dulverton Hall.
6. 6A Business Studies and Geography students visited Honda, Swindon.
Governors' Policy Planning Committee meeting.
8. Sixth-form English students saw the RSC production of *The Tempest* in Newbury.
9. 6B General Studies: *Project Trust*, by Harriet Boxhall.
10. School Disco.
11. Third-year pupils visited the London Museum.
QP Concert: The Beбето String Quartet.
15. Fourth-year science tests.
Governors' Finance Committee meeting.
The Choir sang Evensong in Bristol Cathedral.
16. 'A' level artists left for Madrid.
Fourth-year science tests.
6A parent/teacher meeting.
Half-Term began.
19. 'A' level artists returned from Madrid.
21. Half-term ended.
25. Confirmation Service: The Bishop of Gloucester.

March

2. The Choral Society gave a concert in Northleach Parish Church.
4. Third-year pupils visited the Natural History Museum, London.
7. Governors' meeting.
6A chemistry students visited the University of Bristol (Spectroscopy Option).
8. Talk on Higher Education choices for 6B parents.
6B parent/teacher meeting.
14. The Junior School Musical, *Money Mad*, by Pete Benson.
15. Exhibition of art by first to fifth-year pupils.
Money Mad.
16. *set 96**: 6B science students visited Cheltenham General Hospital - Medical Physics.
Art Exhibition.
Money Mad.
17. QP Concert: Michael Haynes, piano.

19. Fourth and fifth-year German students left for Berlin.
*set 96**: 6B science students visited Oriel College, Oxford - Underwater Phenomena.
20. 'A' level music recitals in the Reading Room.
21. *set 96**: 6B science students visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory - Virtual Reality.
24. Term ended.

Summer Term 1996

April

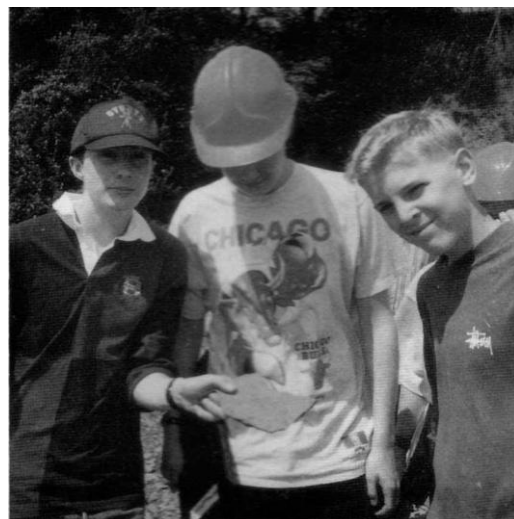
21. Term began.
22. Trustees' and Governors' Meeting
6A Higher Education Meeting.
23. 6B Higher Education Meeting.
24. Business Studies Trip to Institute of Directors Annual Convention.
26. 6B General Studies: Tony France of the Gloucestershire Drugs Project.
28. Godman House Outing.
QP Concert: the Capriol Chamber Orchestra.

May

2. Rendcomb Open Evening at Richard Pate School, Cheltenham.
3. Third Form parent/teacher meeting.
8. 6B visit to Warwick University Open Day.
10. The Thin Line, New Drama production by Sally Mills.
12. Fifth Forms' Geography coastal Field Trip to Lulworth.
Junior House Outing: cricket, Gloucestershire v India.
15. 6B visit to Bristol University Open Day.
16. 6B language students departed for Normandy.
Ascension Day Service and Choir Dinner.
17. Governors' Policy Planning Committee Meeting.
19. Third Form Outing.
6B language students returned from Normandy.
21. Geography Field Trip to the south coast.
23. 6B PE Studies visit to Techniquet: 'Science in Sport'.
24. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Practice Expedition departed for Scotland.
'A' level Art students' Exhibition, Private View.
25. Founder's Day: Speaker, General Sir Michael Rose, KCB, CBE, DSO, QGM, ADC Gen
Half-Term began.
26. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' group returned from Scotland.
30. Fourth Forms' Earth Field Science trip.
31. Third Forms' expedition departed for the Black Mountains.
6B Biology students visited the Birds of Prey Centre at Newent.

June

1. Parent/pupil Clay Shoot.
2. Third Form returned from the Black Mountains.
Summer Gala.
6. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' group afternoon tea.
8. Open Day for new first-formers and their parents.
9. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' Practice Expedition departed.
Parent/pupil Tennis Doubles Tournament.
10. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' Expedition returned.
11. Visit by pupils from the Querns School to see 6B Performing Arts production.
15. The choir sang at the wedding of Jane Larroucau, OR, at Tockenham Church.
16. Fourth Forms' Geography Field Trip to Lulworth.
18. Governors' Finance Committee Meeting.



21. Leavers' Dinner.
22. Church Service and buffet lunch for members of 6A and their parents.
23. Godman House barbecue.
25. 6B visited the West London Higher Education Fair at the Royal Holloway University.
26. 6B Chemistry students made the North-West Industry Study Tour.
27. *The Comedy of Errors* - open-air performance.
28. 6B Chemistry students returned.
The Comedy of Errors.
29. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' Assessment Expedition departed for the Forest of Dean.
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the Revd Peter Sudbury was held in the Church of St Philip and St James, Leckhampton and a Half-Muffled Quarter Peal (1, 260 changes) of Plain Bob Doubles was rung at St Peter's Church, Rendcomb, by Simon Hett (OR), Gill Day, Simon Webb (1st in method), Alastair Paynter, Reg Day (conductor), John Talbot (OR).
30. College outing to Alton Towers.
Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' group returned.

July

1. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Practice Expedition departed for mid-Wales.
2. Fourth Form and 6B Art Trip to London.
3. Governors' Meeting.
4. Term ended.
5. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' group returned.



Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' walkers en route up to Pen-y-Fan

Amanda Brealby

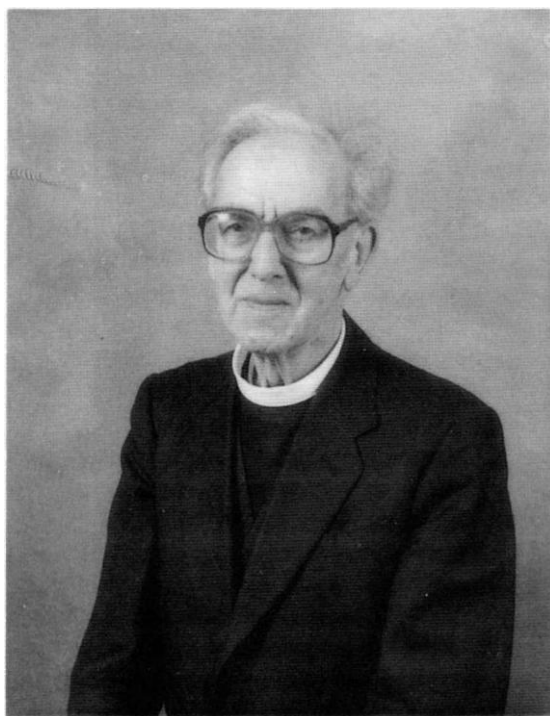
Professor Gordon Dunstan

Among the distinguished and able men whose interest and concern it has been Rendcomb's great good fortune to attract, Professor the Reverend Canon Gordon Dunstan, CBE, stands high indeed.

Sir Louis Le Bailly's desire to establish a larger Governing Body, offering a wider range of experience than hitherto, led him to read *The Artifice of Ethics*, the text of the Moorhouse Lectures given by Professor Dunstan in Australia in 1973, and to invite him forthwith to become a Governor of the College. As luck would have it, he accepted the invitation and miraculously found a great deal of time and effort to devote to Rendcomb's concerns.

He served as a Governor from 1982 until 1995 and as Chairman of the Future Policy Working Party, later the Policy Planning Committee, from 1985 onwards. His work in chairing the committee and in presenting its recommendations to the Governors did the College an immense service which few could have performed with such skill.

Shortly after he became a Governor, he retired from King's College, London, where he was Professor of Moral and Social Theology, and returned to his native Devon, intending to resume his leisure-time editing of medieval ecclesiastical manuscripts, an aim which was never fulfilled because ties formed with other professions could not easily be broken.



Throughout his time as a Governor of Rendcomb College he was working with doctors in the Royal Medical Colleges and with the Department of

Health, in Brussels and elsewhere, on the ethical implications of new research and developments in medicine, notably the human embryo and assisted fertilisation, and the human genome project with its field of new possibilities in clinical genetics.

This work took him to many parts of the world and might well have been deemed sufficient effort for a man retired. As it was, he found in his several visits to Rendcomb each year space for reflection - while looking across the valley of the Chum - which was always welcome; friendships among the Staff, Governors and Trustees were for him, in his own words, a cherished enrichment of life.

Those of us fortunate enough to work with him as he presided over discussions of future policy found his leadership superb. Committee proceedings were informal, often sporadic, and a wide range of views, germane to the issue and otherwise, were expressed in general discussion.

When he considered that enough was enough, the Chairman, destroying the clear impression that his mind had been elsewhere throughout, would sum up, briefly and succinctly, showing a mastery of our language seldom found nowadays. Not only had he wholly grasped the drift of the argument: he left us all feeling how wise we had been...

But there was more than this. At a time when the minds of governors of independent schools turned firmly towards the pragmatic, he remained the champion of the ideal. Granting that practical steps were needed as a temporary measure to cope with demanding situations, he never failed to keep the desirable, the pursuit of excellence, clearly in view. One of the kindest of men, he could be severe when scenting any tendency to lower standards.

He presided over consideration of policy at a time when many fundamental decisions were to be made about the character and composition of the school, and his immensely valuable work stands out clearly in the records.

Erudite, friendly, possessed of a deep *gravitas* relieved by a lively and ironic sense of humour, he was excellent company, and we looked forward gladly to his visits. Rendcomb owes him a deep debt of gratitude.

D. de G. S.

Mr Allan Wyatt

Allan Wyatt first visited Rendcomb for Founder's Day in the late 1980s, and when the speeches were over we walked round the grounds in the sunshine. I could not help picking his brains: he had just retired as a Head Master himself and soon applied his ready sympathy, listening ear, sense of proportion and width of experience to whatever was

in my mind at the time, and so I was delighted when soon afterwards he became a Governor.

He began skilfully contributing to meetings and was soon deeply involved in the work of the Future Policy Working Party. One of his first tasks was to assess on behalf of the Governors the priorities to be maintained in the development of our Science Department. He went about this with kindly attention to detail, impressing us all with his willingness to listen and to take trouble.

Soon afterwards, he was more surprised than anyone when invited to take over the chair only two years or so after

beginning his work as a Governor. In his typically self-effacing way he resisted the invitation at first, arguing - without any foundation at all - that Rendcomb needed a more substantial figurehead than he would be. Fortunately for the College, he gave way to pressure and in November 1992 took over the chairmanship from Torquil Norman.

Gently and courteously, he set about getting to know better both Governors and Staff; he improved the Governors' procedures and thought hard about how to accomplish necessary business in a way that really was to the benefit of the College and its progress.

Deepening recession meant that there was little room for error in the work behind the scenes to keep our finances healthy, and he gave countless hours to ensuring that no aspect of our business was left to chance or to the uncertainties of hasty improvisation. In the same spirit, he made it his business to strengthen the link with our Trustees, who stand behind the Governors in support of the College.

Very bright people often gain a reputation for impatience and not suffering fools gladly, but Allan Wyatt's sharpness of mind is always sheathed in courtesy, in an ability to listen and in compassion. His concern for the good of other people is completely unforced: his cards of sympathy, encouragement and praise are legendary - always the right word in the right place. And nothing is too much trouble: when we needed to appoint a new Bursar, he personally sifted and annotated all the 350 applications.

Allan's wife, Susan, also deserves a word of thanks. She has a full-time teaching job and was not able to visit the College as often as he did, but she gave us wonderful support, not least in allowing Allan to spend so much time here. A steady stream of excellent pupils from The Elms School, Colwall,

can be very largely attributed to Susan's vigorous espousal of Rendcomb's special qualities.

I love my talks with Allan Wyatt and have learnt incalculably from them, about how to get the best out of a committee, about how to develop and refine plans from one meeting to the next, about how to approach problems and think them through right to the end, missing nothing. Patta and I will remember his time at Rendcomb with very special gratitude. We could not have asked for someone more frank, generous-spirited and wise with whom to work over the past five or so years.

J. N. T.

Dr Howard Phelps

Dr Phelps, who takes up the task of Chairman of Governors, is well known locally and nationally. After 20 years at the Coal Board he joined the board of British Airways and in 1972 became Director of Operations, running the worldwide operation of BA and its main base at Heathrow. In 1986 he joined P & O as Executive Director and Chairman of a number of P & O companies.

Dr Phelps is Chairman of Durham University and was recently given an Honorary Doctorate (DCL) in recognition of his services to industry, education and the arts. He is also Chairman of Cirencester Tertiary College.

He became a Governor of Rendcomb in 1990 and has already worked hard for the College behind the scenes. We are indeed fortunate to have so distinguished and experienced a Chairman of Governors, and we offer him a very warm welcome to his new post.



John Holt

After 28 years as Head of English at Rendcomb, John Holt has decided to hang up his books (or at least some of them) and retire to rural Oxfordshire. His appointment as full-time head of department in 1968 was a break with tradition, as for many years Mrs James (*q.v.*) had taught the Fifth and Sixth Forms, while junior forms were taught by 'non-specialists'.

Initially John taught English throughout the school; then, as numbers increased, an assistant specialist was appointed. I am sure John would

agree that the exceptional success of the department over the years was in no small way due to the dedicated help he had from these assistants – Derek Bell, Tim Dyke (now Head of English at Blundell's), Simon Johnson (subsequently Head of Drama at Trinity School, Croydon), Michael Craddock (now Head of English at The King's School, Gloucester) and currently John Watson.

Over the years some 25 pupils have gone on to read English at a university, including some with awards at John's *alma mater*, Oxford.

In the classroom, his pupils appreciated John's detailed knowledge of his subject, his enthusiasm for a wide range of literature, the thoroughness of his preparation and his meticulous assessment of work.

One of his early pupils, who read English at Oxford,

says: *his classes were conducted with good humour and patience and, although my views are undoubtedly coloured, I think they were enjoyed - the more so when we were given the chance to indulge our budding thespian talents with readings from the little blue Clarendon Shakespeare editions that formed a central part of our library. I look back with respect for the authority John brought to his teaching; discipline was never much of a problem in any of our classes at Rendcomb, but he certainly maintained it with somewhat less flamboyance than some of his counterparts! There was more to fear from what could be a very caustic phrase than there was from a guided missile masquerading as a board rubber!*

John was always extremely thorough, well prepared and professional in his approach to all the texts we studied with him, but he would have been nothing like so good a teacher if he had not overlain professionalism with great enthusiasm. He was a devotee of Jane Austen. I remember sitting and conscientiously noting as John took us through the more arcane subtleties of Jane Austen's prose. A quotation which he insisted we should all write down was: 'That little piece of ivory two inches wide on which she paints with so fine a brush'. That quotation, suitably amended, might stand as a good testament to John's own style: his small, neat handwriting, his attention to detail and invariably

his own perceptive and shrewd critique of the work he was marking.

Another pupil, now a lecturer in Drama, remembers the detailed notes taken from John's illuminating discussions and readings as they progressed scene by scene through *Othello*. He goes on to say: *depressingly often, I have heard tales from students of mine who complain that they were put off Shakespeare by the way they studied his plays at 'A' level. I was very fortunate to be taught by someone like John, whose enthusiasm for Shakespeare and his contemporaries was so evident and so infectious. While my own work in drama has now taken me a long way from 'A' level 'Othello', it's valuable to remember that it really all started in that room with the painting of the Ancient Mariner and with John's teaching.*

John's contribution to Rendcomb was not, of course, confined to the classroom. An 'amateur' of all kinds of sport and a skilled performer himself, he coached hockey for over 20 years, including running the 1st XI and coping with the administration for eight of these; he spent long hours on the cricket field with junior teams and later showed similar patience and dedication with aspiring (and perspiring) tennis players. He was not persuaded to put on shorts or tracksuit and join the rugby staff, but his interest in the game, nurtured at Monkton Combe, was evident in his frequent appearances on the touch-line.

In 1975 John took over Godman House, the newly created boarding house for the third year. His patience and understanding enabled those coming from other schools to adapt quickly to

Rendcomb ways and to fit in successfully with those who had already spent two years in the Junior House. He was housemaster of Godman for 12 years, ably assisted by his wife, Anne, who also initiated cookery classes for the Sixth Form in the cramped conditions of the Godman House kitchen; later she helped with the supervision of Park House when it became an all-girls domain.

Regular notices in the Common Room each term reminded us of another of John's extra-curricular activities - theatre trips to Oxford, Bristol and Stratford, usually to see the performance of a play currently being studied. John's enthusiasm for the theatre prevented these from becoming a routine chore for him, and they provided countless pupils



with a valuable and enjoyable experience, of which many have expressed their appreciation.

For some 13 years he edited *The Rendcomb Magazine*, a quarto version of the old, minuscule A5 *Rendcomb College Chronicle*.

I know that the Holts have all enjoyed the years they have lived in Rendcomb. They have shown this not only by their support of so many school events, but by their involvement in the village too: John was a keen supporter of the Whist Drives, and Anne always ran her cake stall at Jumble Sales. The family were well known in the village: John was seen taking Wilbur for his regular walks, always on a lead, or carrying his papers from the Post Office - in a plastic bag when it was wet. Anne was seen more often in the car dashing to her nursery school in Cirencester, which many future Rendcombians attended in their early days. Their cheerful, friendly nature made them popular with everyone, and I know the village will miss them - so will St Peter's Church, which they have all supported loyally for so long, Anne also being a member of the PCC for some time.

So Rendcomb, both College and Village, will be the loser with the Holts' departure. We are grateful for all they have done and above all for their just being 'the Holts'. We hope that they enjoy many years of happy and active retirement in their new home, staying in the Cotswolds.

But let the last word go to one of John's pupils, who recently graduated in English at Oxford: *What, she asks, does Mr Holt keep in his briefcase? It came to every lesson; it left every lesson - but nothing appeared to come from it and nothing seemed to go in it. Does it hold the missing Shakespeare sonnet or the title deeds of Wilderness House? Will its contents remain a mystery for ever?*

W. J. D. W.

Mike Newby

Mike Newby came to Rendcomb as Head of PE in 1978 and would have had little idea of the impact he was to make over the following 18 years. His contributions in so many areas - rugby, tutorship, teaching of Biology, hockey, Duke of Edinburgh, housemaster, cricket, stage appearances, skiing trips, to name but a few - will be sorely missed.

By taking PE and the major games, Mike soon got to know all the boys in the school, and it didn't take long for him to show us a real talent, being able to motivate them all, from the quickest inside - centre to the pupil who dared to arrive at the Sports Hall on a wet winter's morning not carrying his 'trainers'.

He ran rugby at Rendcomb for many years, transforming the fixture list to one of high quality for a school of our size. His knowledge of the game and enthusiasm for it are immense, and this rubbed off on pupils and colleagues alike. For years the 1st XV enjoyed much success under his guidance, and as a consequence many pupils have gone on to enjoy the game at university and club level.

Similarly Mike drew a lot of pleasure from the fact that most pupils were given the opportunity to represent the school in an increasing amount of 'B' fixtures. Of late he has helped with the organisation and running of 1st XV rugby tours to places as far away as Canada, and he has become a respected and sought-after coach for the juniors at Cirencester RFC.

Sport has played a major part in Mike's life and in his contributions to Rendcomb. Apart from rugby, he has coached hockey - he will surely remember some of those arctic conditions up top on a cold February afternoon - athletics and cricket, and has passed his own enjoyment and skills in basketball over to the formidable *Griffins*. In the curriculum he has recently helped to introduce a one-year GCSE PE course for the Sixth Form; as with all his PE commitments, this has proved very popular.

Many pupils at Rendcomb have benefited from taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Mike has contributed to the scheme more and more and took over the organisation in 1994. The time and effort involved in such ventures is huge, but Mike has given his time freely and, coming from his native Peak District, has obviously enjoyed the many treks over mountainous terrain, often coaxing and cajoling pupils through those last few miles.



Arguably Mike's greatest contribution to the school over the years has been in the role of tutor and housemaster. Following apprenticeships in both the Main Building and Park House, Mike and Joan took over Godman House in 1977, quickly establishing an environment that was happy and relaxed, yet

pushing pupils to achieve their potential. Together they gave time and understanding, enjoying the company of their charges, and they gave the incoming third-formers the best possible start to their careers at Rendcomb.

These skills were quickly noticed; within two years Mike and Joan were asked to run one of the new senior boys' houses, as the school moved from a horizontal pastoral structure to a vertical one. Once again much time and energy was needed for such a role, and both Mike and Joan rose to the challenge. They argued passionately for the strengths of Rendcomb to be maintained during this time of change, and indeed did this again as coeducation was introduced four years ago. The number of Old Rendcombians who return to visit is testament to the healthy regard in which they are both held.

These are just some of the areas in which Mike has contributed; there are many more. His love of Biology has encouraged pupils to take the subject further; many have enjoyed the opportunity of accompanying him on skiing holidays; and who could forget his double act with Mr White at the fashion show last year? Suffice it to say he will be hard to replace.

Apart from his professional input, Mike has many personal qualities that will be missed. He is a family man, and both he and Joan are generous to a fault. Many of the staff will find it easy to recall instances of this. Mike leaves to take up the post of Deputy Head at Bedstone College in Shropshire, and it goes without saying that we wish him every success in this new chapter. Fortunately Joan will still be around for a while, teaching Food and Nutrition and helping with girls' games, so all is not lost!

Thanks for the memories, and sincere best wishes for the future.

P. S.

Mr Michael Slark will take over as Housemaster of Lawn House next September.

Lindsay and Marie Haslett

'A fairy-tale-reading Irish dad with an interest in sport.' It was in this most self-effacing of ways that those colleagues and pupils present at the last morning prayers of the academic year heard Lindsay Haslett describe himself; such a description, of course, falls well short of the mark.

An Ulsterman, Lindsay began his extensive career as a full-time student at Lancaster University and then, pursuing his D. Phil, had spells at Trinity College, Dublin, the University of Ulster and

Queen's University, Belfast. His first teaching post was at Marling School in Stroud, before he moved to Rendcomb in 1985 as assistant in the French Department; within 12 months he had stepped into the position of Head of Department.

Being a fresh-faced youngster, as the photograph in *Rendcombian* (issue no 4) of him sitting in the Language Laboratory shows, Lindsay's energy and enthusiasm were quick to show through. He not only threw himself whole-heartedly into the life of the College, but also readily grasped the fact that Rendcomb is not just an ordinary public school and was quick and forceful in his support of the ethos and principles that make it such a special place.

One quality, above all, that was evident from an early year was his true professionalism, be it in the classroom, in staff meetings or in extra-curricular activities.

In the classroom Lindsay's teaching style was a splendid blend of energy, enthusiasm for his subject and discipline, allied to his tremendous expertise in his field. Such personal qualities were underpinned by his continual push to get the most out of every pupil and to maintain the highest standards within the department; a glance at the Modern Languages results over the years confirms the success of such an approach.

Lindsay's first involvement on the pastoral side was when, soon after arriving at the College, he became a tutor within the old regime of the Main Building. It was obvious that he had considerable ability within this area, and so it was no surprise that he and Marie were offered the reins of the new School House.

He soon gained a reputation as a fine housemaster; his motivation to the job, his integrity and empathy with his charges, his support of his boys when they were unnecessarily criticised made him ideal in the role and gained him great respect from the 'Cool School Men'.

One important principle that he always adhered to was identified by one of his recent leavers: 'We always knew where we stood, and he was always consistent; if you overstepped the mark, you had to expect to be given 'both barrels'; having said that, he certainly did mellow in recent years!' It was a sign of this tremendous respect for Lindsay that the members of his house affectionately called him 'The Good Doctor' and 'Pad the Dad'.



Most pupils will be able to identify LJH as ‘an Irish dad with an interest in sport’ from his contribution both Up Top and in the Sports Hall; he was a vital member of the various staff teams, from the All-Star Basketball squad of the ‘80s and the staff soccer and cricket sides to his latest run-out for *The Griffins* staff rugby XV; (in the latter, as winger, with his first touch of the ball, he scored! Eat your heart out, Simon Geoghohan!), while during his time at Rendcomb he coached many rugby and cricket sides, from the 2nd XV to the Under 14 ‘B’ XI. It was Lindsay’s depth of knowledge and tactical skills that took the Under 15 XV to the final of the Stroud Cup on many occasions. Whatever the sport and whatever the team, he was always willing to give his time, experience and expertise to ensure that they gained their full potential.

As well as the sport, Lindsay contributed to the extra-curricular activities, as supervisor/assessor for the ‘Bronze’ Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Assessment, co-organiser of several cultural and language trips to Europe, willing performer in G & S productions and the Fashion Show, member of the choir when a fine Celtic tenor was needed for the big occasion and, let’s not forget, Founder of the European Film Club.

Colleagues will remember Lindsay in many ways, from his cheerful company in the Common Room, his remarkable knowledge of sporting trivia and dogmatic defence of all Irish teams, to his positive, often inspired contributions to meetings. Whether it was dealing with mundane issues in house-staff meetings, broader school matters in full staff meetings, or in developing school policies as a member of the various working parties that he served on, Lindsay’s contributions were born out of an intelligence, a sharp mind, plain common sense and a passionate belief in all that Rendcomb stands for.

He could be relied upon to be diplomatic in most situations, but he was not one to suffer fools gladly: if in debate a suggestion was made that could in any way undermine the school ethos and the common goal, he would be the first to rise and, although an even-tempered man, on these occasions one could even catch a glimpse of fiery Celtic blood.

He even pursued this principle at pastoral level: he was always keen to promote house loyalty in his charges, but would never allow them to forget that ‘the School comes first’. It is Lindsay’s love of Rendcomb, allied to his professionalism, that will be missed by all members of the College who knew him, both past and present.

In losing Lindsay we must not forget that we are also losing the other half of a great team: Marie, a very able teacher in her own right, was not only a tremendous support to Lindsay in School House, but on the numerous occasions when he was away Marie

was able calmly and efficiently to take over the running of the house.

Lindsay is leaving to take on the role of Deputy Head at Wisbech Grammar School in East Anglia; it is a position and a school well suited in so many ways to his academic talents, his many personal qualities and, again, his professionalism. We wish Lindsay, Marie, Sophie and Kate, not forgetting Buster and Hattie, every success and happiness at Wisbech; Rendcomb has lost far more than just ‘a fairy-tale-reading dad’.

M. J. N.

Mr Martin Griffiths will take over as Housemaster of School House next September.

Wendy Musto

A graduate of Leicester University, after spending four years teaching at Stroud High School for Girls, Wendy Musto joined the staff of the Modern Languages Department at Rendcomb in September 1987. During her nine years here she taught French to all age-groups, up to and including Oxford entrance, and she also took some beginners’ German lessons in the Third Form.

Outside the classroom, Wendy oversaw the Annecy exchange from 1989 onwards, helped with girls’ games, did some tutorial work in Park House and organised a Christian group known as ‘Holy Disorder’.

Wendy is a dedicated classroom teacher, who always demands high standards from her pupils, and



this is reflected in the results she has achieved in public examinations during her time here. Her success in combining the rigours and discipline of a sound grammatical understanding with the more modern functional and communicative approach to language learning make her not only a highly effective teacher, but also a popular and respected one among her pupils. Her teaching is often innovative and original, thus ensuring its appeal to all in the classroom, irrespective of ability.

As a committed Christian, Wendy also adopts a very caring approach to her role as a teacher: she was always willing to listen and ready to make time for pupils outside lessons, and her availability will be missed by some who appreciated the opportunity she afforded them to discuss their school work and their personal problems.

In the summer of 1995 Wendy took a sabbatical between April and August from her teaching duties at Rendcomb, to undertake some voluntary Christian work among young people in Ireland. The time she spent working there clearly made a huge impact on her, and it therefore came as no surprise, albeit a disappointment for the school, when she announced her intention to devote herself full-time to this work from September 1996.

Her cheerful and gregarious presence in the Staff Common Room will be much missed by her colleagues, as will her efforts in and out of the classroom by Rendcombians past and present. We wish her well in her new career, confident that she will be successful and find fulfilment in it.

L. J. H.

Sally Beard

We were very sad to lose Sally Beard from the staff of the Performing Arts department at the end of the Christmas term. Owing to an ever increasing workload in her private dance tuition, Sally is now giving more time to her tap and salsa classes, personal fitness training and professional dance performance work. She now teaches all over the county and runs workshops in Bath and Gloucester, as well as in the Stroud district.

Sally has been an inspiration to us all, with her lively personality and creative flair, and we are grateful for the way she has established dance within the curriculum and in college drama productions and fashion shows.

We thank Nigel Maye who worked with us in the Lent Term and are pleased to welcome Michele Dudley and Katherine Bates, who are now sharing the dance timetable. We wish Sally every success in her developing career.

S. J. L.

Sue Turnock

We are very sorry to lose Sue Turnock, who has taken a post as a legal secretary in a company in Gloucester. Sue worked as Assistant to the Head Master's Secretary for nearly a year, and we were grateful for her remarkable efficiency and readiness to help.

We wish her well in her new post and on her return to the legal profession.

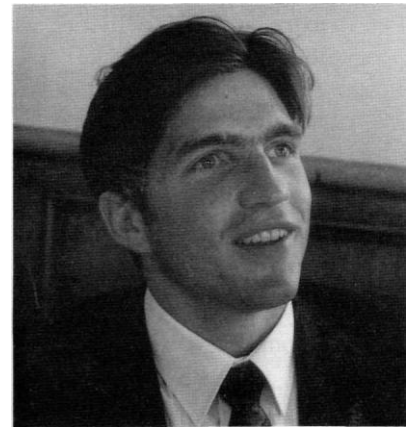
S. J. L.

Dan White

Dan White has been Rendcomb's first 'Artist in Residence' over the past year. An Old

Rendcombian, Dan has used his talents both in the Art Department and on the sports field. In addition to taking junior art classes, he has coached 3rd XV rugby, U14 hockey, U14 cricket and squash. We wish him every success in his future career.

S. J. L.



Mr Lindsay North

We welcome Lindsay North, who comes to us from Sir Thomas's Rich's School in Gloucester as Head of French. He has taught also at Cheltenham College, where he was a day housemaster. With his wife Barbara and family he will be living in Coombe House; his interests include foreign travel and drama production. He is also a keen cricket coach.

S. J. L.



Mrs Karen Ewing

Karen Ewing will be joining us as Head of English and Drama on the retirement of John



Holt. She comes to us from St Mary's School, Wantage, although she originally lived in East Anglia and has taught at a number of schools in the Norfolk area. She will be taking charge of major theatrical productions and

will be a tutor in Park House. Her interests, apart from literature and theatre, include swimming, and she will be taking charge of the swimming-pool in the summer months. With her children, Matthew and Hannah, she will be living in Chum House.

S. J. L.

Mrs Joy Gibson

We welcome Joy Gibson, who is joining us in September to teach Chemistry and Physics



part-time. She and her family live in Stroud and recently she has taught at Beaufort School and Gloucester High School. Trained at Edinburgh University, she has worked in industry as a food analyst before coming to teaching; she has

worked in America and lived and taught in Pakistan before settling in this area.

S. J. L.

Mr Carlo Vuolo

Carlo Vuolo will be coming to Rendcomb in September as a science teacher and Head of Boys' PE. He comes to us from St Birinus School in Didcot, where he has taken an active part in both academic and sports departments. Trained at Reading University and Westfield College, University of London, he has worked as an

environmental pollution consultant as well as teaching at the Juventus School of Football in Italy. Amongst his sporting activities he lists rugby, cricket, rowing, rock climbing and scuba diving, and he is a keen photographer and walker.

He and his wife will be living at no 7, Rendcomb, and we look forward to welcoming them here.

S. J. L.



Miss Penny Harrison

Penny Harrison returns to Rendcomb this September to assist in the French Department. Following a brief spell here in 1995, Penny has spent a year teaching English in a school in Turkey, and we were very pleased when she decided to return to Rendcomb. She is no stranger to the College having made a very positive impression here in the past, and we look forward to her future work in the community.

S. J. L.

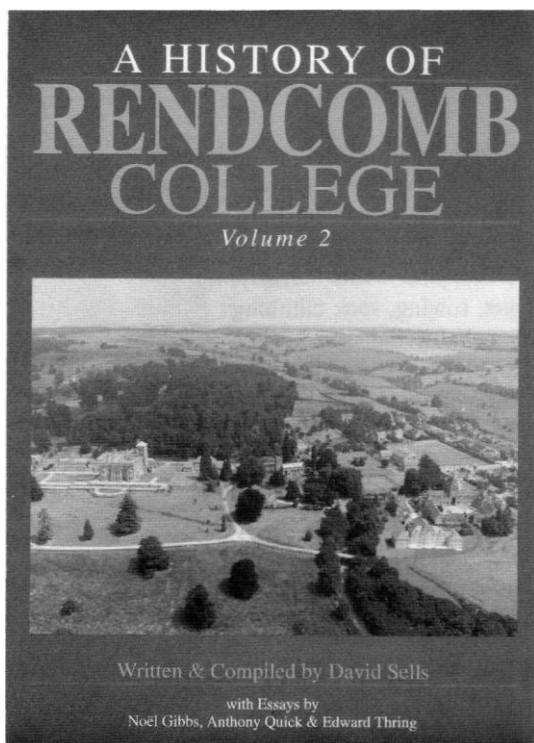
Miss Sue Green

We welcome Sue Green, who has replaced Sue Turnock as Assistant to the Head Master's Secretary. Sue comes from Northamptonshire, where she trained as a nurse, although for the last seven years she has worked in news media distribution.

She has come to this area because her fiancé Jeremy now works here, and she lives in Tarlton, just south of Cirencester. She enjoys horse riding in her spare time and is a keen squash player.

S. J. L.





We are grateful to Nicholas Dakin, OR (1962-68) for writing this review of the recently published history.

The winter of 1965 has vanished with the snows of yesteryear, but I still recall the novelty, as I embarked on my 'A' level courses, of having a study bedroom *actually to myself*. It was perhaps a privilege which I soon took for granted; certainly, as I buttered my toast, brewed my coffee and quietly contemplated doing a French prose for David Sells, I had little sense of the plans afoot that were even then changing the face of Rendcomb.

On reaching man's estate and keeping loosely in touch with the school, I later acquired a better knowledge; but it has taken the appearance of the second volume of *A History of Rendcomb College*, published to mark the school's 75th anniversary, to tell me the full story.

Let me say right at the very outset that it is a handsome volume and admirably conceived, containing as it does David Sells's chronological and largely factual narrative, essays of a more specialist nature by Noël Gibbs, Anthony Quick and Edward Thring, and some useful and informative appendices. It is lucidly written, well illustrated and excellent value at £20.

The book will appeal to any Old Rendcombian with even a vestigial interest in the institution which educated him; it will also be of interest to parents; and despite its inevitably narrow focus, the History also merits some notice in the wider educational world. In its account of a radical school's pragmatic resilience and continuing, though modified, vision, the book is surely a useful contribution to the body of work on progressive education in the twentieth century.

Head Masters, inevitably, have the highest profile. They are seen variously as custodians of

tradition, as ones crucially placed to set a school's present tone and as those most accountable to the future. The History therefore does full justice to the skills and dedication of Anthony Quick, Roger Medill and John Tolputt. Such men do not rise to the top of their profession for nothing.

Anthony Quick's personal contribution to the volume, an essay entitled *The Rendcomb Tradition*, reflects precisely this sense of a school's continuing relationship with its past. The vision of the Founder and the qualities of J. H. Simpson and Denis Lee-Browne as head masters are rightly confirmed by it; and if Lee-Browne is judged with particular objectivity, surely there could be no man better placed *professionally* to do this than his successor?

The History also enabled me to follow, if only briefly, the subsequent careers of those members of staff I had known as a schoolboy - John and Kathleen James, Bill White, David Sells, Kaye Knapp, Ron Caves, Colin Burden, John Willson, Jack Fell, Chris Swaine and Roy Dennis. It also introduced a more recent group, hitherto unknown, but one clearly with its distinctive talents and the same loyalty and dedication. Above all, *Volume Two* gave me a far better knowledge of the men and women entrusted with the finances of the school and with keeping a watching brief on its welfare - the Trustees and the Governors.

The essay contributed by Noël Gibbs, one of the grandsons of the Founder and himself both a Trustee and a Governor, helped to clarify the important difference between these two distinct yet complementary functions; it also gave a lucid account of the peculiar nature of Rendcomb finance, especially the relationship between endowment and fee income, and brought home the challenges facing an independent school seeking to finance desperately needed expansion during times of high inflation and recession.

As one read on, the particular styles and contributions of various Chairmen of Governors began to emerge: Colonel Godman, who in 1947 prevailed at a critical moment on Gloucestershire County Council to take up boarding places; Major Birchall, a loyal Governor for almost 40 years; the dynamic and forceful Sir Louis Le Bailly and his equally energetic successor Torquil Norman (also a Rendcomb parent) who stepped into the breach following the tragic death of Admiral Sir Richard Clayton; and latterly the present Chairman, Allan Wyatt. Finally, the work of a rank-and-file Governor, Professor the Revd Gordon Dunstan, made a particular impression, especially through his chairmanship of two important initiatives, the Future Policy Working Party and the Policy Planning Committee.

The increasing involvement of parents and staff is clearly one feature of Rendcomb which came after

me. It was with pleasure that I read of an energetic and supportive Parents' Association, and as a schoolmaster myself I could only note with approval the growing rapport between governors and staff spearheaded by Sir Louis Le Bailly.

The most shining example of this was probably the staff committee, chaired by Kaye Knapp and formed as an offshoot of the Future Policy Working Party, whose recommendations, coming as they did from men with an intimate professional knowledge of the school, were crucial in bringing order and unity to the inevitably piecemeal developments of the 60s and 70s. Nowhere was this sense of a coherent overall strategy more apparent than in the creation of separate 'vertical' boys' boarding houses in the 1980s to replace the fragmentation into 'horizontal' year-groups which had taken place. The survival of the school was certainly assured by this, and perhaps also the preservation of Simpson's and Lee-Browne's vision of an extended 'family' of different ages. A happy meeting of change and tradition if that was the case.

Rendcomb therefore approaches the millennium with a range of remarkably fine facilities in place and attractive and well integrated buildings which must rank with the finest boarding accommodation in the country. The essay contributed by Edward Thring, Rendcomb's first full-time bursar since 1930, is a brisk, good-humoured and practical account of how some of the more recent buildings came into being. Bursars are a misunderstood lot, and it was only right that Commander Thring was given this platform.

Perhaps one of the saddest developments in the recent history of the school has been the steady decline of the part played by the Gloucestershire County Council in supporting boys from its primary schools at Rendcomb, culminating in the complete withdrawal of places in 1991. There are doubtless many plausible economic, social and political reasons why this had to happen; the loss is nevertheless to be regretted. It is therefore reassuring that the endowment is still of considerable value to the school, but there can be no question that Rendcomb these days is much more of a fee-paying, market-oriented institution than it ever was in the past. And there is no escaping the fact that this has to be.

At the same time I was struck by the part still played at Rendcomb by good old-fashioned philanthropy (as opposed to the modern hybrid, corporate sponsorship) and the History quite rightly does full justice to the wonderful generosity of such figures as Sir David Wills, Mrs Huntly Sinclair, Lord Dulverton and the Dulverton Trust, and the Old Rendcombian Stephen Merrett. The generosity of the Founder lives on in them... *Quo Lux Ducit...*

But sooner or later *the* question has to be faced. Would Noel Wills, if he were alive today, approve of the school he founded single-handedly 75 years ago? The History faces this fairly and squarely at one or two points and answers convincingly that he would. The College Trustees, the Governors and the Friends of Rendcomb have seen to it that at least a few individuals from less affluent backgrounds enjoy the benefits of a Rendcomb education, and the Government Assisted Places Scheme at present gives this opportunity to 35 more.

But it would have been interesting indeed if the History had managed to include a comprehensive sociological survey of the various circumstances of present and past pupils. No doubt such a task would have been formidable logistically, but my guess is that it would have shown that there is now significantly less of a social mixture.

I am satisfied, however, that the Founder would have accepted this and would still recognise a school without exclusivity or pretension. Besides, Wills's educational vision at the end of the Great War was one formed in the context of a vanished essentially rural England of deeply rooted, almost feudal, class division: our own times are characterised more by class *distinction* and social mobility; the social mixture these days is therefore to be found not only at Rendcomb but in society itself.

Perhaps therefore a modern Noel Wills would have begun to address the problems of race and the inner cities; it is tempting to think so. But the fact remains that Wills's values were essentially aristocratic - an aristocracy of brains and/or character, of course, not of birth, devoted to the achievement of excellence and self-realisation.

Given this, Wills could certainly be proud today of Rendcomb's academic honours, its *healthy* sporting traditions and the wealth of out-of-school activities now available (putting the 1960s utterly to shame). Rendcomb may not now be as radical as it was but, as Anthony Quick points out, this is not so much a sign of failure as of success, the proof being that many boarding schools have now followed where Rendcomb once led.

Neither would the introduction of coeducation have caused Wills any difficulty, although it is likely that he would now be most struck by the existence of a mature Rendcomb beginning to give back what it had once been in a position only to receive. Rendcomb's growing involvement with the elderly, handicapped and disadvantaged in the community and in the Third World must surely strike every reader very favourably.



Junior girls in Godman House

In the long run it is only the current move away from boarding which might cause a revenant Noël Wills any regret; but even here one senses a pragmatism equal to understanding the reasons for this change of emphasis. Resilience, as the History demonstrates, is of the essence.

The History therefore makes it quite plain that change, as much in matters of curriculum as in facilities, was essential to Rendcomb's survival. At the same time such change, though inevitable, was wanted for its own sake and was not found to be incompatible with the admirable principles of the foundation.

The sixth-form academic curriculum I knew in the 1960s (English, History and French - Maths, Physics, and Chemistry - Physics, Chemistry and Biology) was not a blueprint for the future, and even 30 years ago it was not defensible educationally. Small may be beautiful in some ways, but Rendcomb had to grow. That it grew successfully is the theme of this book. An OR might be permitted to shed an occasional dry tear, but would he *really* want to resurrect, for all its quaintness and despite some very real distinctions, that enclosed all-male community of the 60s with its revolting boot hole and drying-room? Better it lives in the memories (happy? - I hope so) of balding middle-aged men.

If this excellent volume has one defect it is that its compiler, David Sells, the man uniquely placed to write and compile it, has inevitably been inhibited from doing anything like justice to his own contributions to the fortunes of Rendcomb. He is, though, present by implication on practically every page, sitting on this committee or that, writing a characteristically suave and laconic prose, and in, for example, his quoting of Diderot (tongue-in-cheek and yet not quite), recalling the civilised ironist I knew in the classrooms and top-floor dormitories of 30 years ago.

I calculate that *Volume 3* will be due to appear in the year of grace (let us hope) 2020; we shall have to look there for a fuller account of D. de G. S.'s achievements. For the present, *Volume 2* speaks for him more in deeds than in words.



Gala Day obstacle course

Reports

The Parents' Association

I thought I would open my annual report by setting out some of the constitutional points of the Parents' Association; please read on, because as a parent or guardian this is your business! The Association and its Committee do not seek to play any executive part in the management or in the direction of the policies of Rendcomb College but, by enjoying a constitutional liaison role, we have a close understanding with the Head Master and Staff, allowing the Association to achieve the following:

The Aim

The Association, which shall consist of parents or guardians of current pupils is responsible for:

- a. Fostering and supporting the welfare of the College,*
- b. Keeping the Head Master fully in touch with parental opinion, without restricting in any way the liberty of every parent to make individual and direct contact with him,*
- c. Encouraging the exchange of ideas and information amongst parents and between parents and staff,*
- d. Fostering friendship and understanding between parents and staff.*

Membership

All parents or guardians of pupils at the school are deemed to be members of the Association. All members have voting rights at General Meetings and are eligible to hold office in the Association.

Subscriptions

One subscription for each family shall be payable. The amount, agreed for the succeeding year by a simple majority at the Annual General Meeting, shall be included in the December school fees account. (The subscription is currently £10.)

We need your support. Firstly, the Association Committee can reflect parents' views and concerns only if we are aware of them when we meet. This is a unique opportunity to discuss and air your views and concerns with the Head Master, Staff Representatives and the Bursar. There is a Parents' Association Notice Board in College, giving detail of the Committee collocated with a mail box for your correspondence, or please write directly to me,

should you feel that more appropriate. I undertake to appraise the Head Master of matters raised by the Committee in advance, so that he is well prepared and can give measured and considered comment at the meetings. These meetings are scheduled at least once per term.

Secondly, please do attend the AGM, this year on Sunday, 29th September 1996, at 8 pm. We are looking for two volunteers to serve on the Committee. Watch out, as I do have the names of several currently unsuspecting souls who are thought to be highly suitable for election!

Needless to say, your support at social and fund-raising events is fundamental to success. This last year's events have been extremely well supported, with the Fashion Show 'AB FAB' being a wild sell-out, the Spanish Theme Evening '¡Hola!' being packed to bursting capacity and support for 'Gala Day' in its new format holds great promise for future years. Thank you for attending; we need you and the funds raised from these events, which we put to good works!

Just what does happen to funds contributed and raised? Well, I will outline the major items of expenditure from this last year, but full detail of the disbursement of funds can be gleaned from the Treasurer's Annual Report, given at the AGM and posted later on the PA Notice Board.

As a result of projects raised for consideration in the past year, the Committee has approved and funded the following: a computer was purchased for the Junior House, a computer-aided sewing machine provided for Textiles, a contribution made towards the refurbishment of the snooker tables in the Houses, funding granted in support of the Spanish Art Trip, and more recently the Sixth Form Social Facility has had a grant for picture-framing..

All of these, and prizes for various draws, plus hire of equipment, decorations, wine etc at functions, cover the wide arena of projects that the Association can provide for in a practical way. Whilst it is not in our remit to add to the actual substance of the College, what we do is greatly appreciated by pupils who get immediate benefit from the facilities thus provided.

You will find Committee Members present at most events, acting as hosts and bar staff, dispensing hospitality which is usually free, a most unusual but welcome occurrence in today's scheme of things! Do make yourself known to us if you encounter problems on these occasions, and we will do all we can to help by providing information or assistance; please do ask.

Thanks from the Committee go, once again, to the Head Master for giving yet more of his valuable time to meetings, to the Bursar for his advice and endeavours on our behalf, and what would we do without the gallant and ever cheerful catering staff, headed by that Catering Manager *par excellence*!!

John, Jeremy and Russell, sincere thanks; also to the College Committee representatives Martin Griffiths and Mike Slark, who have been dynamic in their committee work this year. The great successes on the social front are really down to their efforts.

Sadly, Martin and Mike leave us after the summer term, as does our noble secretary, Sue Hall, after two years' service, and also Malcolm Hart, who has made a major contribution over five years of continuous committee membership, with three of those years spent as Chairman. The remainder of the Committee, Pammy Brown, Sarah Mais, Chris Sutton, Paul Stanfield and Gordon Webb have pledged to serve on, girding themselves ready for next year; their continued support is greatly appreciated. Thanks go to one and all, and welcome to the new College Representatives, Rachel Houghton and Ian Patterson, who will join the elected members, whosoever they may be?

Here are some dates for your diary, for those who didn't quite get around to reading my Calendar of Events letter!

The AGM I have mentioned is on 29th September at 8 pm, followed on 8th and 9th November by the Fashion Show, two evenings of stunning fashion, magnificent finger-buffet and free wine! Outstanding entertainment -

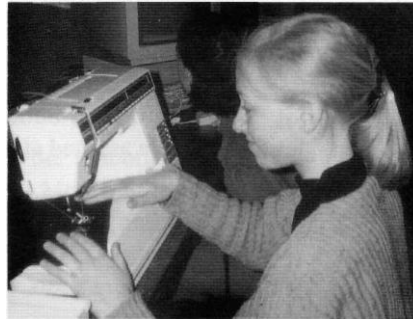
best be there, if only to get your Grand Draw Tickets with a truly exciting prize; watch out for further details of both.

After Christmas, with morale sagging, liven your step by anticipating the next social event - a theme evening based on Normandy, with regional wines, exciting fish dishes from *le Restaurant Riste* and, of course, Calvados to round off! Who wouldn't be excited by the prospect of winning the Grand Draw, to be drawn on the evening - maybe a weekend for two in the area; who knows?

Lastly, probably on the 1st June, Gala Day, with a theme and venue similar to this year's, but we hope to build on current success and make it an even better event, so please mark that date down as a day not to be missed!

Thank you for staying with me through this lengthy report, and I thank you in advance by anticipating your support in coming months! Thank you.

DAVID DOBSON, CHAIRMAN



Church Notes

A summary of the main events in the past year.

The year began with the now established service for new pupils on the first day of term, with an address by the Head Master. On 9th September pupils again took part in the Diocesan Cycle Ride and raised money for St Peter's, Rendcomb.

The Harvest Supper took place on 22nd September in the Village Hall and was attended by the Ushers, who sold raffle tickets and helped with the serving and clearing up; entertainment was provided by some of the college musicians. The Church was splendidly decorated for the Harvest festival two days later.

On 8th October we welcomed Mr L. Winkley, Head of RE at Ardingly College, as our preacher, and that evening the Choir sang Harvest Evensong at Rodmarton.

The following Sunday the Revd Tom Merry, from Stroud, was the preacher. The local branch of the Royal British Legion paraded at the Remembrance Sunday Service, and we were entertained to coffee in the reading Room afterwards.

The Bishop of Gloucester preached at the St Barbara's Day Service for Gloucestershire Gunners and joined the reception in the College afterwards.

On 3rd December the candle-lit Advent Carol Service attracted a large congregation, as usual, and the following Sunday saw all parents and pupils filling Cirencester Parish Church for the Carol Service at the end of term.

In the spring term we welcomed as visiting preachers the Revd Dr A. Megahey and Mr R. P. J. Moore, Head Master of Forres Sandle Manor School. The Bishop of Gloucester conducted the Confirmation on 25th February, at which the following candidates were presented: Nellie Abbott, Dean Armstrong-Wild, Laurence Barton, Benjamin Cox, Andrew Dolleymore, Charlotte Emerson, Carlos Garcia, Rebecca Gee, Andrew Sage, Larissa Wellman, Matthew Williams.

Among the many excellent sermons preached by the Revd Peter Sudbury during the year, the one on Mothering Sunday was particularly memorable, when he managed to conceal in silence in the pulpit his noisy hounds, Humphrey and Perkins, until he produced them to illustrate what he wanted to say. Mr Sudbury took the first Sunday Service of the summer term and was then admitted to Cheltenham General Hospital. Although he became seriously ill in a short space of time, the news of his sudden and unexpected death three weeks later, on Founder's Day, was devastating and scarcely credible. The respect and affection in which he was held were especially evident at his funeral service at St Peter's

on 4th June; it was made memorable by the Choir's superb singing and the congregation of over 300, many of whom had the Service relayed to them in the churchyard.

Three weeks later a Memorial Service was held in the Church of St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, attended by over 500 friends, parents, pupils and Old Rendcombians; the choirs of the Church and of the College, under David White's direction, provided a magnificent contribution to the service in the singing of Parry's *I was glad*, and Abigail Sudbury, Peter Sudbury's niece, sang *Ave Maria* by Schubert. The Head Master read a passage entitled *I thank Thee, God*, by Elizabeth Craven. The text of the address is given elsewhere. The service was conducted by Canon David Nye, Vicar of Northleach.

During the remainder of the term the Head Master officiated at the Sunday Services; preachers included the Revd D. Barlow, Chaplain of Cheltenham Ladies' College, and Mr W. J. D. White, who also spoke at the Leavers' Service.

Special mention must be made of the outstanding work done by Robert Hart and his team of ushers, George Langlands, James Fairbank, Rebecca Gee and Alister Harris. Their willing support and readiness to take on extra duties, especially in the summer term, was greatly appreciated. The services throughout the year have been enhanced by the superb contribution of the Choir, directed by David White assisted at the organ by Stephen Lea.

W. J. D. WHITE,
CHURCHWARDEN



Mrs Joan Cairns, who retired from the kitchen staff after 25 years service.

The Bursar's Notes

The best time to tackle a problem is before it grows up.

At the end of my second year at Rendcomb, although there is still much to accomplish, thanks to some excellent help we have made enormous strides in our plan to improve the facilities and accommodation, and to support the teaching staff.

The work put in by the secretarial staff behind the scenes has made a tremendous contribution to the smooth running of the school. The upgrading of the computers in our offices has enhanced the quality of the work, but there now seems to be more of it.

Sue Turnock has left us for new pastures, and we welcome Sue Green, her replacement as assistant to the Head Master's Secretary, Mrs Judi Stocks, and we hope that she will be very happy here. Anne Vickery continues to look after hospital visits, the Resources Room, travel arrangements and the box office for school productions with great aplomb. My Secretary, Mrs Sue Downie remains unflappable in the face of a whirlwind of responsibilities, and the Accountant, Mrs Kay Collins, shows nerves of steel in sorting out the complexities of the computer accounting system.

The contribution made by the laboratory technicians, Mrs Joan Essenhig, Mrs Margaret Coombes and her husband Derek, is major, and we owe them all a great deal. Derek Coombes also runs our Duke of Edinburgh equipment store in a calm and efficient manner; without him, the equipment would not be in such good condition.

Sister Julie Pritchard and Sister Judy Hunt strive to keep the health of pupils and staff on the right lines, and both are a tower of strength in the secondhand shop, in the costume department, in the first-aid courses and in giving general help, advice and comfort to countless children. We are proud of our health-cover at Rendcomb, and we are lucky to have the Rendcomb Surgery so close at hand, with Dr Stewart Drysdale and Dr Susan Whittles to help and advise the school.

Cleaning a school like Rendcomb is not an easy task, and we are lucky to have so many hardworking and conscientious ladies doing the work. It is easy for our pupils to assume that the school just gets cleaned in some miraculous manner, whereas in reality it is the dedication of the domestic staff that ensures the high standards we have here.

Similarly, the washing ladies triumphantly ensure that a comprehensive service is provided for all the sporting teams and the boarding houses. Under Mrs June Kampe, the team of Mrs Sandra

Williams, Mrs Jan Berry and Mrs Linda Murphy does a superb job coping with the mountains of washing produced on a regular basis.

Beaver away in the Works Department, Paul Cairns and his merry men have performed prodigious feats in keeping the school looking good and attending to the myriad jobs that need to be done. Roger Attwood, David Mead, Eddie Clark and Barrie Hardy have all played key roles in ensuring high maintenance standards, and the list of jobs accomplished speaks for itself.

These have included:

- modern fire alarm systems, painting, carpeting and curtains in School House and The Old Rectory,
- the creation of a Careers Room,
- painting, curtains and refurbishment of bathrooms in Park House,
- the start of the project to modernise the Science Block,
- the installation of a new liner for the swimming pool, to last another 15 years,
- the first phase of the redecoration of the Dulverton Hall,
- the installation of a new lighting system for Performing Arts,
- the creation of a sixth-form social area, including pool, discotheque, bar area, kitchen and Sky Television,
- the repair of many of the roofs.

Tremendous work has gone into maintaining the sports pitches and, although we have had a temporary setback over planning permission for an all-weather pitch below Stable House, we have appealed. Our Sports Facilities Manager, David Essenhig, has run some very successful coaching courses in the holidays, and we intend to build on their success.

The weather has been unpredictable this year, and it is a great tribute to Paul Cairns, David Mead and Barry Hardy that our pitches have been as playable as they have been.

Bill White and Tony Partridge make our urns and flower-beds spectacular areas of colour, and we are very grateful to them for their steadfast performance in all weathers. Frank Fry, who has celebrated his 84th birthday this year, continues loyally to help with many jobs around the school and in the churchyard.

The new catering company, Russell and Brand, has introduced many innovative ideas and, although the team is almost the same as in Fairfield's day, we look forward to a bright future with the new company. We are about to invest in new kitchen equipment, including movable serving counters,



fridges and stoves, so the standard of food production should be even higher. We welcome Mark Naylor as Head Chef; he has already made his mark on the food and service standards.

We extend a warm welcome to our new Marketing Director, Terry Gillard, who also has already made his mark.

It is often easy to take for granted the work done by the administrative staff, but this has been an outstanding year for all of them, with progress being made in so many areas that I have been able to touch on only a few.

As the end of this second year approaches, I would like to thank all at Rendcomb, parents, children and staff, for their support, advice and friendship. I would particularly like to thank the Head Master and his wife, John and Patta Tolputt, for all they have done for me and my family, and my staff for their loyalty and hard work.

J. F. A. G.

The Friends of Rendcomb College

It is very pleasing to be able to report that we reached our target of £30,000 for the 75th Anniversary Scholarship in May, closing the list at £30,518.53.

Our success was due in large measure to the skill and energy of our Chairman, David Jenks, to the help afforded us by the committee of the Old Rendcombian Society and latterly to the generosity of a number of ORs.

Of course, in order to extend our work and offer more scholarships to primary school pupils, we need to enlarge the circle of Friends. There are now 159 names on the roll, and we shall be working to increase this number during the coming year.

Convinced, as we are, that one can offer young people no finer gift than a sound education, we are always very glad to welcome new members.

Anyone interested in becoming a Friend should telephone me or speak to the Head Master, who is an *ex officio* Trustee.

D. de G. SELLS



Terry Gillard,
Marketing Director

Founder's Day

The Chairman of Governors

Opening the speeches, Mr Allan Wyatt said that, while he felt that Governors should in general keep a low profile and work behind the scenes, he wished to mention an even less visible body, the Trustees of the Rendcomb Foundation.

They held in trust the Founder's endowment of the College and were the ultimate owners of the property. They undertook their responsibilities in close relation with the Governors and in the past six months had held two meetings with them to discuss how to keep the buildings in good order and the school well equipped.

These were not the easiest times financially. Nevertheless, the Trustees had been able to finance a number of projects, including the Astroturf all-weather playing field, on which, subject to planning permission, work would start soon.

Thanking the Trustees, and in particular their Chairman, Major Tom Wills, for their support, Mr Wyatt recorded also the College's debt of gratitude to the Dulverton and Sinclair Trusts for their repeated generosity.

The Head Girl

Anna Jensen said that she had learnt many things in her two years at Rendcomb, not merely how to break both arms but, more importantly, how to prepare for university.

During her time here, the school had achieved many outstanding goals, in particular the Junior Girls' House, which she deemed a great improvement on the old boys' house, the Sixth Form Centre and the Astroturf pitch, soon to be realised.

A number of girls had taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. She had found walking 50 miles over rough country in four days, carrying all the necessities for that period, a physical - and at times mental - test.

She would miss those things which had first attracted her to Rendcomb, the beautiful countryside and the friendly atmosphere. She would miss too the Saturday night bars, the food and the catering staff, all the pupils and, not least, the patience and understanding of the teaching staff.

The Head Master's Report

Commenting that it was now two years since the Founder's Day gathering had met in the Sports Hall, the Head Master recalled the memorable scene created by the Anniversary Service in Gloucester Cathedral last year; now, it was back to business as usual.

But this did not apply to everyone: for nearly half the audience this was their first Founder's Day celebration in the Sports Hall.

To picture the school's visible changes was easy: one could count full coeducation, day pupils, new computers, a smarter Godman House for the younger girls, carpets and sofas in the Old Rectory, bright paint in the School House corridors, a Sixth Form Centre carved out by the bare hands of Paul Cairns and his team, weekly boarding, a fine new Careers and Higher Education Advice Room.

Meanwhile the *real* change was created by the departure of pupils and staff and by the arrival of others. What mattered, against the background of Noël Wills's dream was the single experience of each pupil moving through the school.

The 1995 'A' level results had been excellent, the highest ever percentage pass rate at grades 'A' and 'B', with over 95% of entrants gaining grades 'A*' to 'C' at GCSE and a splendid crop of 'A*'s. One could point to the splendid results of two individuals, Tim Shaw and James Smith with six 'A*'s and four 'A's each, but the important thing was to ask whether every single pupil had performed to capacity, had learnt how to learn and gained a lasting appetite for a subject.

In sport, the 1st and 2nd rugby XV's had had an outstanding season, rarely beaten; among outstanding performances no one would dispute the pre-eminence of Nick Carmichael's captaincy. Among the girls Annabel de Lisle Wells and Eleanor Bruce had been selected to play hockey, and Phillipa Hunt netball, for the county.

Chris Baker, Harvey Davies, Rupert Webb and Sam Maylott had played hockey for Gloucestershire, and the 1st XI had won all its four matches in the tournament at Prior Park. The U15 netball team had won nearly all its matches; the 1995 tennis VIII had been unbeaten, the U13 'A' cricket team almost so, the U14 rounders team unbeaten; the clay pigeon shooters were a force to be reckoned with in the national championships and the archers well towards the top of the National Archery League.

Yet against the background of these achievements, if one asked those who coached the sport what gave them the greatest satisfaction, the answer would be the level of participation, the sheer number of teams turned out, the fact that every boy

and girl had a chance of representing the school in sport.

A similar breadth of opportunity was available to those with a talent for art, music or drama. The outcome could be seen at the present Sixth Form Art Exhibition, or at last term's Junior Exhibition, at which almost every younger pupil had shown work.

It could have been heard in the fine balance between pupil soloists and general participation in last term's *Creation* by Haydn, in the superb Purcell concert or in the brilliant playing and singing by the school's most talented musicians, among them Katherine Bagshawe who would move on to her Welsh Music College having delighted Rendcomb with her singing. Again, this experience must be set against the singing going on week by week, the choir on the point of overflowing the stalls.

For each individual each performance was new, each performance bringing its own special, single sense of satisfaction. Moreover, the outstanding Craft Exhibition last September had shown that behind the present personal struggles to achieve lay a tradition of achievement by earlier pupils with the underlying maxim: *a job for yourself and a job for the College*.

Thus those who worked at Rendcomb had to keep in mind the crucial importance of each person, not of 240 or so pupils, but separate unique packets of flesh and blood with different needs, abilities and outlooks.

To forget this could bring at times forcible reminders. Perhaps the saddest moment of the year had been brought by the news of the fatal accident to Graham Bennett, aged 21, knocked down by a car as he walked alongside the road in the dark. At his funeral he had been carried on the shoulders of six of his friends from Rendcomb, where he had spent so much of his short but full life.

Thus, while celebrating college achievements, the single pupil must never be forgotten. To measure how well this was being achieved, a team of inspectors, specially trained head teachers and teachers like those at Rendcomb, would spend nearly a week finding out what really happened throughout the school. Parents were invited to put forward their views to the inspectorate.

Inspectors knew that there were aspects of a school which were intangible, not to be measured. Quoting Cecil Day Lewis's poem, *Getting Warmer, Getting Colder*, the Head Master stressed the importance of 'the hidden thing'. It was the excitement and amazement that must not be lost; there was more to life than met the eye, even of an inspector.

He then moved on to say goodbye to a number of the staff, warmly thanking them for their generous devotion of their talents to the life of the school:

Wendy Musto, Lindsay Haslett and Michael Newby - both taking up appointments as Deputy Head Masters - and John Holt.

He thanked also the teaching staff, the parents and the committee of the Parents' Association - reminding them of the forthcoming Gala Day, to be regarded perhaps as the second half of Founder's Day - the devoted Old Rendcombians, who with the Parents' Association had done so much to ensure the success of the Anniversary Ball, and all the nonteaching staff, whose work was so vital to the wellbeing of the College.

Next he gave heartfelt thanks to the Governors for their tireless work, in particular the Chairman, Allan Wyatt, whose energy, time, care and attention gave new meaning to the expression 'labour of love', and to the Dulverton Trust and the Rendcomb Trustees.

Finally, recalling the central theme of his report, he addressed especial thanks and goodbye to those leaving Rendcomb. Quoting - dare we say with tongue slightly in cheek? - from the end of *The House at Pooh Corner*, he hoped that they would have mixed feelings on leaving, impatient as they should be to move on, but with just the briefest backward glance.

The Guest Speaker, General Sir Michael Rose, KCB, CBE, DSO, QGM, ADC Gen

Introduced by the Chairman, Sir Michael Rose expressed his pleasure at being at Rendcomb on two counts: he always enjoyed talking to the younger generation, and he was struck by the contrast with his last visit, playing for Cheltenham College's 3rd XV on a 'remote and windswept pitch and losing by cricket-like scores'.

Why should an elderly general be asked to speak to people of school age? The answer was that we all lived on the same planet, with common problems.

The human population now numbered 4.6 billion, one billion of whom were without sufficient supplies of food, water or medicines and were illiterate. Looking forward 40 years, the population would probably be 10 billion.

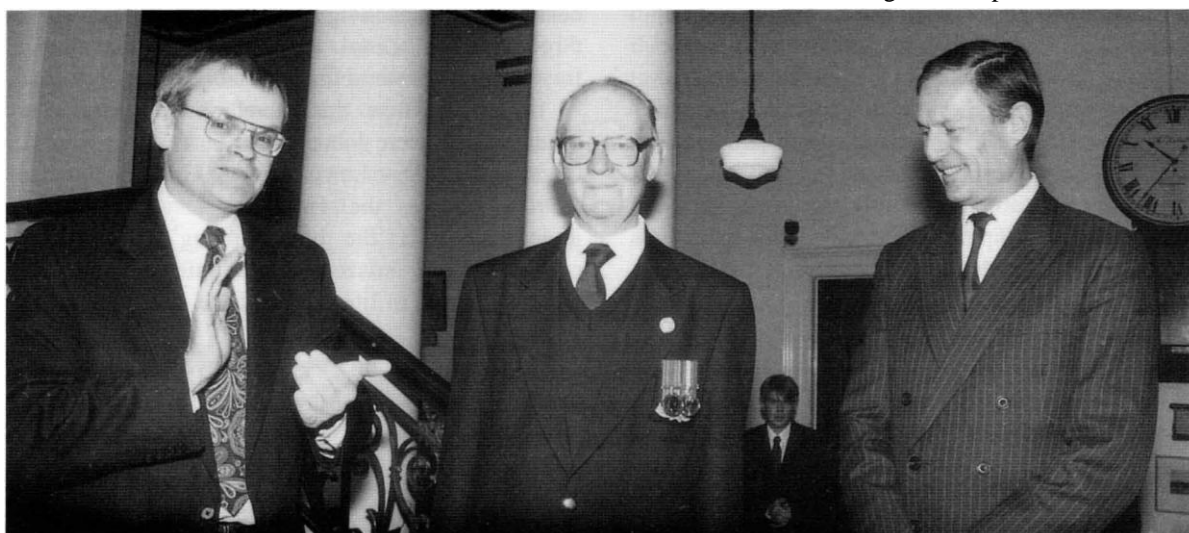
The aim must be to find solutions to human problems not from the belly of an aircraft or the barrel of a gun, but from a greater understanding of the human predicament and of the essential nature of civilisation.

Therefore we must bear in mind that the elements which make up civilisation must be looked after; it was his experience that civilisation in some parts of the world was a very fragile thing indeed. If we did not look after civilised principles and institutions, then the world would indeed become a poor, nasty and brutish place to live in.

Rendcomb pupils, as young men and women, would have to play a part as leaders in shaping the world to come. Although the problems might seem remote in the comfortable and beautiful setting of Rendcomb College, and many of them might be wondering how long this speech would last and when they would be able to get away for the weekend and even for the delights of Euro '96, the fact remained that mankind *did* now live in a global village, and the way in which they prepared for the future would be very important.

He would like to give a couple of clues to peacekeeping. The disintegration of society into anarchy in the old Yugoslavia was matched elsewhere in several places in the world which did not get the same publicity from the media. The disintegration of states and nations characteristic of the present world had a devastating effect: modern cities were destroyed, populations dispersed and starved, a situation not seen in Europe since the Hundred Years War and severely aggravated by the power of modern weaponry.

Thus the challenges were immense. It was vital to look at the problem globally and decide what international organisations could do to surmount it. The United Nations, regarded as powerful in the



Frank Fry (centre) receives his medals from General Sir Michael Rose (right)

1980s, was seen now as morally bankrupt, inefficient and unable to answer the challenges facing it.

Regional remedies had been suggested, but the fact remained that *the UN represented the supreme moral and legitimate authority in the world*, representing 185 countries on the planet. It had found itself in difficulties with the new world order, but we must not walk away from it: we must maintain our faith in *peace-keeping*, which was the third way, between peace and war.

We could walk away from the problem and allow populations to be threatened like trees in a forest fire, left to burn and grow gradually again in due course. This was unacceptable.

Equally unacceptable was to use the Russian style of peace-keeping, by means of war.

Sir Michael now put forward a plea: that we should keep faith with the UN, help it to develop and judge it on what it was asked to do and what it *could* do, not on what it could never do. Propaganda suggested that the UN could solve all problems, as a policeman. As a peace-keeper, it could do nothing of the sort.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina the UN had been asked to sustain the country, to alleviate suffering, to contain the difficulties and problems of the region within the region and to try to create conditions for a peaceful solution. That was what it had done.

What it could never do was to defend territory, to enforce the passage of convoys continuously, to bomb its way to some sort of solution. It was neither mandated, equipped nor trained to use force.

Heavy demands had been made on the twenty-three and a half thousand young men and women, many of them in their late teens. They had never lost faith in their mission, the rewards of which were all around them; they deserved great credit and, in his view, their action had been quite heroic.

They had sustained a flow of food and fuel to 2.7 million people during three years of bloody civil war. They had been able to create a situation which favoured a peaceful solution, had the political leaders wanted one. No blame could be placed on the UN workers, of whom 300 had lost their lives.

Their final mandate had been to prevent the situation from spreading, and in this they had succeeded. Now the UN needed the support of the world.

The world included the Rendcomb audience; what contribution could the United Kingdom make? Great Britain was very good at peace-keeping, able to blend the use of force with humanity and compassion. Here its experience as a colonial power helped, an experience shared by the French.

As an illustration, Sir Michael related how the Duke of Wellington's Regiment had been able to

transform their environment, allowing the harvest to be gathered, medical clinics to be run, aid distributed and hope given to the people.

What could Rendcomb pupils do? They could take the lead. What was needed was not management or mechanics, but *inspiration* in leadership, the sort of inspiration which had allowed the young people to continue in Bosnia- Herzegovina, never questioning the value of their mission.

Leadership must also be *decisive*. For this leaders needed integrity, to be sure of the moral ground on which they stood, sure of what they represented, able to sustain their position in confused circumstances, knowing when to use force and when not to.

Concluding, Sir Michael stressed that those leaving Rendcomb would find themselves living in a global village and must keep foremost in their minds the principles which made for a civilised society, the spiritual and material values which Noel Wills had spelt out so clearly when he founded Rendcomb.

The Head Boy

Thanking the General for his fine speech, Craig Marcham remarked that, as someone with aspirations at some point to follow his father's footsteps and join the army, he recognised how essential good leadership was.

Perhaps the closest analogy available at Rendcomb was found in the game of rugby, where the leadership of the captain and the comradeship of the players had combined well in Rendcomb teams over the years and produced some quite incredible results, the most memorable for him and for all who played being the victory over Dean Close in the last season: they had had to defend a slim lead for most of the second half, and a less determined team would have cracked under the pressure.

Having studied *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, he knew that Hardy had a great affection for the tragic heroine he had created. He had written: *I have never been able to put on paper all that she is, or was, to me.*

Craig said that he too could not really speak or write about all that Rendcomb meant to him. He had been asked to speak for five minutes; it would take five days to list all that he had done here.

Selecting, he found that, ironically, the finer moments were in foreign fields rather than at Rendcomb itself, art trips to Paris and Madrid and the Canadian rugby tour last summer. On the tour they had played some fine rugby, and he had been lucky to have such an experience when so young; he thanked Mr Slark and Mr Newby for their well- judged supervision of the tour.

It was a credit to the College that people had

come to expect sporting and academic achievement at the highest level here, but it was not sporting and academic standards that separated Rendcomb from other schools: it was the pupils and staff which made the place so exceptional. The friendly and approachable nature of the staff was apparent throughout the school, and above all in the Sixth Form, where pupils, through the prefectorial system, were given a say in many elements of school life.

He would like to thank particularly his housemasters over the years for the guidance they had given him, and also his friends for making his time at school so exciting and enjoyable.

He had been lucky in many respects. The boy who arrived at the Old Rectory seven years ago could never have believed that one day he would be standing up here as Head Boy of Rendcomb. The youngster who had arrived at the Old Rectory would shortly be leaving, ready and well equipped to tackle the world beyond. After all, not many eighteen-year-olds could say that they had:

laid a wreath at a Remembrance Sunday Service,
read to a packed Cirencester Church,
presided as MC over a Rugby Club dinner,
been to Paris and Madrid,
travelled on a rugby tour half-way across the
globe to West Canada,
learned to play the saxophone,
made friends for life,
made a speech in front of what seemed like a
million people.

The thought of leaving did not appeal to him at present; he had had many wonderful experiences in this place and would miss it very much.

Rendcomb was a fine school; he hoped that it would remain so and had every confidence in it.

The speeches ended, the Head Master made the following announcement:

I'm very sorry to have to tell you the sad and devastating news that we have just heard, that the Reverend Peter Sudbury died in Cheltenham Hospital this morning.

'If visitors and parents will forgive me, I would just like to say a word or two more to the pupils of the College.

'When I told you earlier in the term that Mr Sudbury had gone into hospital, we knew that he could be seriously ill, but we were expecting his return, as you know, by Christmas.

'Over this past week we have heard the news that he was suffering very much, and yesterday he became very ill indeed and, although his death came

terribly quickly in a way that I certainly haven't yet quite grasped, it isn't totally unexpected.

'I mentioned in my speech the funeral of an Old Rendcombian, and Peter Sudbury took that funeral service. He said then that he could not tell us why that tragedy had happened, and I can't tell you now why we have lost Peter Sudbury so suddenly and so soon.

'But, if it is a consolation, I do know that he was a man of great faith and courage and would have been able to accept whatever was set out for him to suffer. And I also console myself, and all those who have lost a great and respected friend, by the fact that by some strange chance this news has come to us when we're surrounded by our families and friends.'

Asking the audience to stand, the Head Master then read a prayer written by Bill White a few minutes after Peter Sudbury's death.

'O God our Father, we remember before you this morning our Chaplain and colleague Peter Sudbury, so suddenly and sadly taken from us. We give you thanks for his time at Rendcomb, during which he has touched the lives of all of us in so many different ways.

'We remember his strong Christian faith and his inspiration in our Church services, his humour, his comradeship and his loyal service to Rendcomb.

'We pray for Christine, David, Richard and the rest of his family that they may be given strength and comfort in their grief and loss.

'We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.'

Obituary

Mrs K. L. James

We were saddened to learn of the death on Christmas Day of Mrs Kathleen James, just a short time before her 90th birthday. Increasing ill-health had required her to leave her home in Rendcomb and move to a nursing home in Cirencester five years ago. Her funeral at St Peter's, Rendcomb, was well attended, despite inclement weather, and served as a fitting tribute for someone held in great respect.

Kathleen came to Rendcomb in 1932 after her marriage to John James, Senior History Master from 1931 to 1969 and Second Master from 1936 to 1969. Throughout this long period, Kathleen was not only to make a key contribution in Rendcomb's academic achievements but was also to be a calming and rationalising figure behind the scenes.



Kathleen James teaching English to sixth-form scientists in the early 60s

Together, John and Kathleen provided much of the impetus needed to lift Rendcomb out of the difficulties of the war years, to guide it through the problems of the fifties, and set it on course for its expansion and development in the sixties and beyond. Rendcomb today owes a great debt of gratitude to the dedication of Kathleen and John James.

Kathleen's early years at Rendcomb were devoted to bringing up her young family, but in 1940 she was asked to take over fifth and sixth-form English on a temporary, part-time basis. She could not have envisaged that this temporary post would last for 28 years!

Her enthusiasm for her subject and wide knowledge of English literature impressed and inspired her pupils, many of whom have acknowledged that they owed their love of literature to Kathleen. One of them, Poet-in-Residence for the Wordsworth Trust, in a recent letter said: *I have never forgotten the teaching of dear Katie James (as we liked to call her behind her back) and will always be grateful for her vigour, her encouragement and her twinkling sense of humour.* Another, *Bodley's Librarian*, writes: Her teaching was inspirational. Ideas would appear to come to her for the first time in the classroom and were thrown out for us to catch and see if there was any merit in them. She encouraged originality and was in a true sense an educator, in that she led one out to pastures new. She seemed at home in all periods from Chaucer to Huxley, and it came to me as a great surprise later in life to discover that her degree at Oxford (a place to which she remained devoted all her life) was not in English, but in Modern History.

Despite her innate modesty, I am sure Kathleen must have been gratified by the excellent results in her subject and must have felt especial pride when one of her pupils won an award at Oxford or

Cambridge. She was, too, a wise and sympathetic mentor to those teaching the junior forms in her department; personally, I owe my devotion to nineteenth-century literature to her guidance.

But it was not only in the classroom that Kathleen's influence was felt. Conigre House provided an oasis of home-life for many Rendcombians - indeed, one of her daughters married one of her pupils! - and in the Staff

Common Room, an otherwise entirely male preserve, her wise advice would defuse difficult situations and her sense of humour save embarrassment. At a time when school excursions were few, Kathleen's theatre trips to Stratford, Oxford, Cheltenham or Bristol became highlights of the term; they were probably something of a nightmare for her, but her pupils' appreciation was her reward.

Her involvement in drama led to her taking on the provision of costumes for school plays. This required hours of patient selecting and alteration, as all costumes were then provided from the school's acting cupboard. At play performances she would be found in the Green Room - usually a very makeshift affair - willingly making last-minute repairs to the male and female costumes of the boy actors, a tedious and somewhat insalubrious task!

A lasting memorial of Kathleen's dedication to Rendcomb is to be seen in the first volume of the College History (1920-70) which she collated and completed when John died with much of the material assembled but the text unfinished. She approached this mammoth task with her customary meticulous eye for detail and thoroughness; the result was a true labour of love but also a vivid and personal record of the first 50 years of the College.

Kathleen lived in Rendcomb for nearly 60 years. She had a deep love of the countryside round the village and of St Peter's Church, of which she was a Church Warden and Treasurer. In later years she was fully involved in village events, but her abiding love was for her family and for the College and all those connected with it. Those who knew her will long remember her for her modesty, her scholarship, her integrity and her sense of humour - and not least her loyal and unstinting support for John in the course of long years of service to Rendcomb.

W. J. D. W.

Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Peter Sudbury

We print below the address given at the service in the Church of St Philip and St James, Leckhampton, by W. J. D. White.

Just over three weeks ago, on a glorious early Summer's day, more than 300 people came to St Peter's Church at Rendcomb for Peter Sudbury's funeral. Although it was an immensely sad occasion, the presence of so many friends, the singing of the choir and Canon David Nye's sensitive address made it a splendid tribute for a man who was deeply loved.

Peter's large physical presence was matched by a large and all-embracing personality, and it is the different facets of this that touched our lives in so many varying ways. You will all have your own memories of Peter, and I would ask you to add them to the thoughts I shall try to express today.

Peter was born in Pembrokeshire and retained a deep pride in his country, manifested by his wearing a daffodil on St David's Day and by the singing of *Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah* at a service immediately after the Welsh Rugby XV secured a victory - though at Rendcomb we sang the hymn considerably more often than the Welsh were victorious.

In 1951 Peter's parents moved to Kenya, and Peter went to the Prince of Wales School in Nairobi; Peter enjoyed the beauty of the Kenyan countryside and went on to read Biology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. While there, he decided to join the Army.

For those of us who knew Peter more recently, it is easy to see how well Service life must have suited his personality and allowed him to develop his talents. There were opportunities for leadership, for dealing with people of all ranks, for adventure - he gave graphic accounts of Arctic training - for efficient administration, for team-work and for that close bond of loyalty for which the Services are renowned. Peter enjoyed life in the Royal Artillery and was a Gunner down to his highly-polished shoes. He did three tours in Germany, one with 1st RHA in Aden, and three with Gunner batteries in

Northern Ireland, during the last of which he was wounded and had to return to the regiment in Germany.

With the rank of Major and as a Battery Commander, Peter decided it was time for a change of career. He applied for the Ordination Selection Board and in 1978 went to Salisbury and Wells Theological College. To prepare for this he had started an Open University degree course while still in the Army. His time at Salisbury was a particularly happy one, as both the atmosphere and the aim of the course suited Peter's traditional, middle-of-the-road approach to Christianity.

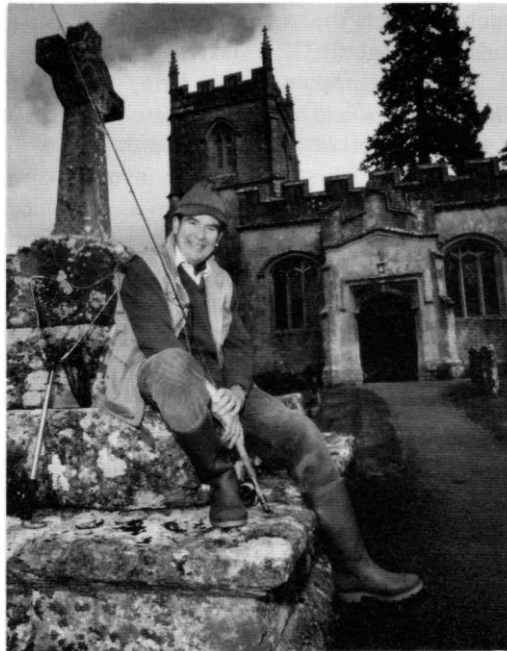
In August 1979 he came to this church as a curate. His earlier experience of leadership and responsibility were immediately valued by the Vicar. He quickly adapted to Parish life, visiting parishioners who were worried, ill or just in need of

a chat, learning how important it was not to double-book afternoon tea invitations and enjoying the responsibility of taking Services. After an unusually short period, he was ordained priest and then found his talents were tested to the full when he had to run the parish for three months before David Nye's arrival. I know David Nye was delighted to find a curate like Peter already established and they became close friends. Peter was fortunate to have such sound training here before going to his first living at Siddington and Preston in 1982.

Here Peter immediately immersed himself in

all the diverse activities of the two parishes - of getting to know parishioners, of visiting the local school, of fund-raising from fetes and the Glos Historic Churches cycle rides. He was able to broaden his interests too; he became Chaplain to the Cadets and to the St John Ambulance, later becoming Deputy Commissioner, and was Chaplain to the Wessex Yeomanry. A different role, and one which gave him great pleasure, was acting as tutor to those training to become Lay Readers. His time at Siddington enabled him to become well known in Gloucestershire and beyond, and much in demand as a preacher at weddings and funerals and as a speaker at dinners.

In 1986 the Chaplaincy of Rendcomb College became vacant, together with the post of Priest-in-



Charge of the parish. Peter had had some slight connection with Rendcomb and had met the previous Chaplain in Germany. He was urged to apply by the wife of one of the Rendcomb staff, who taught at the Siddington School. How fortunate for Rendcomb that he did, and how satisfying for Peter, because he found in his new job a scope of interests which he could not have foreseen. In Rendcomb he was able to use all the experience amassed during his earlier career; it suited him admirably. He produced and delivered the village Newsletter, presided over jumble sales and the harvest supper, which usually ended with songs suited to the oldest parishioner, and he masterminded the replacement of the pipe organ and opening up of the Lady Chapel, organising church affairs with great efficiency. He loved living in Rendcomb and was a familiar figure walking about with his dogs.

At Rendcomb, of course, his main occupation was as Chaplain to the College. But he was much more than the Chaplain. In a short time, he established himself as a father-figure in the school. He took part in and attended all kinds of functions and always had a cheerful greeting for everyone he met, young or old. He took pride in coaching junior hockey, 'the Sudbury All-Stars' as he called them, and junior cricket.

He arranged lectures and debates for the Sixth Form and ran the PSE course. His advice was valued by the Head Master and his colleagues; recently he became the school's Publicity Officer and was often the first person parents and pupils met. He was a lynch-pin of the school, a genial all-pervading presence. Perhaps it was lucky he was called Peter. Jesus said to his disciple, 'You are Peter; upon this rock I will build my Church'. Many people have referred to Peter Sudbury as 'the Rock of Rendcomb'.

Peter was fond of producing a photograph showing young people at the VE Day celebrations in Pembrokeshire; among them were Peter and the young girl who was to become his wife in 1965. I am sure Peter would have been the first to acknowledge that without Christine's love, support



and wise guidance he would never have achieved what he did. They formed a splendid team, supporting each other through their lives in everything, perhaps never more so than in the early days of their marriage, when their first child Charles became fatally ill with leukaemia, and Christine depended so much on Peter's strength and faith.

Happier times were ahead and, with the arrival of David and Richard, they formed that marvellously united family we have come to know and love. Their generous hospitality and ability to make you feel immediately at ease in their company were so characteristic of them both. Perhaps this is well

illustrated by an extract from one of the many letters Christine has received and for which she has become so grateful. A young pupil wrote: 'I knew he had a heart of gold. It was confirmed at the Christmas Party dinner, when you both brought life to our dull table'.

We have all admired the strength and courage shown by Christine, David, Richard, Peter's mother, Marion and Tim during Peter's illness and since his death. They have been marvellously brave in the face of irreplaceable loss. I know you would like me to extend to them and to all the family your love and sympathy.

I have spoken at length about Peter's life and career, because it is the right occasion to do so, and I hope that everyone here today will be able to feel identified with some part of it. Now I want to think about Peter himself and mention a few points we shall remember particularly about him.

First of all, his strong Christian faith. In these days when so many confusing issues beset the Church of England, it was encouraging to meet someone of Peter's traditional beliefs. He explained in his sermons and talks the message of the Gospels or the stories of the Old Testament in terms that could be easily understood.

He loved the candle-lit Advent Service, the midnight Service at Christmas with his crib scene, the rocks, flowers and tomb of his Easter garden, and he revelled in church music, leading the hymn-singing lustily himself. He tried to make the

Christian message meaningful, and to do this he used many devices - Humphrey and Perkins, those noisy hounds, suddenly produced from the pulpit on Mothering Sunday, his army uniform fitted on to someone far too small for it, miners' lamps to illustrate Light in Advent, all kinds of things. Above all, he preached and practised the Christian message of Love. As Mr Morgan said in a recent address: 'God was so evident in him'.

He was fond of reading and an expert on the novels of John Buchan. I mentioned that he studied for an Open University degree while in the Army. When he came to Rendcomb, he began a Master of Theology degree course at Oxford, religiously (a slight pun) working at his studies very early in the morning. When asked why he was doing this, he replied: 'Must keep the mind active'.

In due course he obtained his degree and a new academic hood. New hoods fascinated him. He told a story of a senior officer seated next to him at a garrison service who pointed at the dull hood of the Chaplain taking the service and said, 'If I had one of those, I'd have it made in Gunner colours'. It amused Peter enormously, but he did not know that he would soon have three of his own to choose from. I always asked him if he had made up his mind which to wear for a service, and I noted that when he acquired number three he would sometimes leave the vestry a little late - the choice perhaps being too much.

Now that must take me on to another point dear to Peter: he loved clothes. He took a pride in always being well turned out, and he liked other people to be smartly dressed too. One of his pupils wrote to Christine: 'I remember his weekly inspections of our uniform: he made me sew up all the holes in my fashionably scruffy pullover. Now I am the picture of neatness'.

I recall meeting him in the grounds of Rendcomb one day: I was in my gardening clothes, which were muddy at the knee. 'Been doing a lot of kneeling I see, White,' was his inimitable comment. I knew I had to wear clean trousers next time.

And he loved ties; he had a vast collection of his own. 'Friday is tie-day' he used to say - meaning Gunners wore their regimental tie on Fridays.

Peter was enormously generous-hearted. I have mentioned Christine and Peter's generous hospitality in their home. But he was also generous of the time he gave to other people; it was never too much trouble to listen to other people's problems. He listened and he gave wise advice, and you knew what you had said was in complete confidence, because he was a man of integrity and great compassion. Perhaps his own experiences in life, including Charles's illness, had developed this particular aspect of his character; perhaps it was his desire to put into practice the teachings of Jesus.

Many of you today will recall instances of what I mean, when you welcomed his gentleness and tenderness. It was this that made him such a tower of strength to Chris and Penny Wood when they were coping with the tragic illness and death of their infant son, and allowed him to speak so poignantly at young Graham Bennett's funeral last December.

Peter was a man of high standards. He was courteous and appreciated good manners. He believed in people's using their talents and achieving their potential to get the best out of life; it could not be done by a sloppy, half-hearted effort. Not that he considered life should be a relentless grind of work; he knew that, from time to time, you needed to stand back, relax and recharge the batteries. He loved his golf at Naunton, his fortnight in Scotland in the summer, walking in the hills, reading and, above all, the enjoyment (or perhaps frustration) of fishing in Highland rivers, followed in successful years by a high-speed dash home with a large salmon on the roof, to be shared out with friends at dinner together with graphic details of how he had caught it. At the end we were pretty certain that he had, and that it had not been bought at Tesco's.

This takes me to my last point. Small children (he loved small children) older children, teenagers, adults all remember Peter for his tremendous sense of fun and his sense of humour. It pervaded his whole life and lit up ours. I don't think I've ever met anyone with such a fund of jokes, such a ready wit and ability to make off-the-cuff quips, some admittedly pretty awful, but still amusing.

You will have your own store of these, but I will just illustrate briefly what I mean.

1. When you had been entertained at the Rectory and stood up to leave, Peter's invariable comment was: 'Must you stay? Can't you go?'

2. Perhaps you watch *Neighbours*. Well, they do at the Rectory, but at different times. One day the family were in the sitting-room, at tea-time, I think, when Peter suddenly said: 'Time for *Neighbours*' They protested. He pointed to the garden. Humphrey had pushed his nose through the fence and was avidly watching neighbours in the next-door garden.

3. Shortly after the Lady Chapel at Rendcomb was brought into use again, we were at a Communion Service, but there were no kneelers, only the bare flagstones. So we were surprised to hear Peter say the words *meekly kneeling upon your knees* before the prayer of Humble Access. I remember looking up and not being certain whether there was a vestige of a grin or not.

His sense of humour found an outlet too on more formal occasions: he would produce a grace suitable for the event.

Here is one for a Rugby dinner:

Another season closes, and now the time has
come
to reflect on all the games we've played and the
many that we've won,
And as we sit at table here, before we start, we
ought
To thank God for the food we eat, the wine we
drink, for sport,
To think of those less fortunate, who play with
13 men,
And join Wales to welcome Jonathan Davies
back again.

At the Christmas Party, something along these
lines:

Bless us, Lord,
'Cos we've been Good.
Now let us eat Our
Christmas Pud.

In December for the past few years Peter
organised a much appreciated St Barbara's Day
Service for Gloucestershire Gunners; it will be held
this year too. Last year there was much laughter
when Peter announced 'The Choir will now sing the
anthem *Had we but hearkened* by Walford Davies -
an anthem suitable for half-deaf Gunners'.

As David Nye said: 'It was a tonic to be with
Peter'.

Such then was the man whose memory we
honour today. We miss him greatly and feel his
presence vividly, as we shall for many years to come.
But I am sure Peter would not wish us to remember
him only in sadness, rather to think of him as we
knew him - a familiar figure striding about with his
dogs, with his cheerful greeting for everyone, a great
family man, a man of integrity and Christian
compassion, but who was down-to-earth and spoke
our language and, above all, a real friend with a
sense of fun, whom we loved and whose example we
should try to follow. It was a privilege to have known
Peter.

*We have been asked to publish the following message
from Peter's family:*

The Rectory
Rendcomb
2nd July 1996

To all Staff, Pupils, Parents and Old Rendcombians

We would like to thank you all for the support and
comfort you have been to us during these sad weeks
following the sudden loss of Peter. We have received
hundreds of letters, cards, 'phone calls and flowers,
all of which have helped us greatly.

We would also like to thank those who attended
either or both of the Services. Peter would have been
so proud to see so many smart Rendcombians and he
would have enjoyed the singing enormously - you all
did so well.

We will be moving from Rendcomb in the
Autumn, although we will not be far away, and
Rendcomb will have a very special place in our
hearts. We will take with us so many happy
memories.

We wish you all every success in the future and
will always be grateful for the love and support we
have been given.

Christine, David and Richard Sudbury

Talks

Problem Solving

Following on from his successful lectures and
demonstrations on bubbles and electrostatics,
Alan Ward returned in January to stimulate the minds
of Forms 1 to 3. He reminded us that a problem is
simply an obstacle to be overcome, and that there
may well be more than one solution.

He began with a simple problem involving
drawing the eye of a fish and then its outline without
removing the pen or pencil from the paper. This
produced many ideas and considerable discussion.

He then went on to show that problem solving is
close to invention, and he cited the example of the
son who used a sink plunger to revive his father,
because he did not know the accepted method of
heart massage: now paramedics are testing a system
based on the plunger.

Mr Ward had many of the audience thinking hard
with the 'thought box', and if you are still trying to
solve this one, let me tell you that there is nothing
more than several switches involved. Tetrahedra,
card tricks and coins were the subjects of other
puzzles, as well as this inscription on a stone in the
Cotswolds:

C. J. W.



Forensic Science

On 9th January 6B chemists went to hear a lecture at Birmingham University. Entitled *Forensic Science*, it was given by Adrian Downey of the Forensic Science Service, himself a chemistry graduate of the university. The lecture started with the breaking down of Forensic Science into Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Biology; Mr Downey explained that biologists looked at the body fluids, and chemists did all the rest!

Forensic investigation can be broken down into three general methods, matching things, mechanical fits and chemical identification. Shoe patterns were explained, with pictures of bloody footprints enhanced with special dyes to show them more clearly on coloured carpet.

Other examples given, accompanied by pictures of varying graphical detail, sometimes grotesque, were accidental deaths, violent murders and car crashes. The chemical make-up of particles of paint less than one-fifth of a millimetre in size - the size of one square on the portcullis on the back of a penny piece - plays a big role in the investigation of car crashes and murder cases.

Mr Downey described the way gunshot residues on peoples' clothing are compared with those on a gun-barrel, minuscule traces of barium, antimony and lead on such a small scale that a scanning electron microscope has to be used to see the particles.

Other techniques were explained, such as an electrostatic lifter nicknamed 'the zapper' and used for picking dusty footprints off a wall or floor and putting them on to a sheet of film. There were also lasers, U. V. and other coloured lights used to illuminate various markings totally invisible to the naked, untrained eye.

All in all, it was an incredibly fascinating insight into a sometimes disturbing, yet vital, part of the effort to find evidence to put criminals behind bars. Many thanks must go to Mr Wood for organising the trip, for getting us there without the Birmingham A to Z and for two short, yet vital, diversions to quench thirst and appetite.

DOUGLAS ELLISON

Chemists against Cancer

In February 6A chemists attended a lecture at Birmingham University, given by Professor Chris Moody of Loughborough University. It was particularly topical because *The Times* of the previous day had run an article about anti-cancer chemicals' being produced by molluscs.

Pharmaceutical companies spend billions of

pounds on research to find the wonder-drug or the 'magic bullet' (a term which appeared as early as 1913) which will cure all cancers.

It is unlikely that one chemical will do this; however, certain chemicals seem to target certain cancers, and analogies taken from gardening were used to remind the audience of certain ways of treating them.

There are three ways of removing dandelions:

1. Using a trowel, which does not always extract the whole weed (surgery).
2. Using a flame-thrower, which can easily damage other plants (radiotherapy).
3. Using selective weedkillers (chemotherapy).

The difference between carcinogenic substances and those which enhance tumours was explained, and known carcinogens, such as benzene (found in petrol) were identified.

It turns out that many toxic materials have structures similar to those of benign substances, and possible targets for drug action are therefore enzymes, the information-transfer mechanism (DNA and RNA), and the protection mechanism.

Currently chemists are working on anti-cancer chemicals from a sea squirt from the Philippines, and a company called Upjohn say they have produced a drug, five grams of which could cure all cancer patients in the USA, but there is extensive testing to be carried out before it reached humans.

In conclusion, Professor Moody emphasised the need to know how drugs interact with tumour molecules, in order to be able to design anti-cancer molecules with less or no side-effects, but he was confident that rapid progress would be made in the future.

The lecture and his research work were sponsored by Cancer Research, and the talk certainly emphasised the need to have a good working knowledge of chemical structures.

C. J. W.

Viewpoints

Early Impressions

We are grateful to the Housemaster of the Junior House for permission to reprint this selection.

I have been here for a year and a term. I have enjoyed it even more over the last term, because of all the excellent changes. Last year I was a day-boy, but now I am a boarder - they make you feel wanted. I have one major responsibility, which is being in

charge of the pool table. I am allowed to ban people if they behave badly.

We have organised a pool tournament, and there have been a couple of surprising wins, the first being Robert Knight's getting to the quarter-finals and Oliver Jones's getting knocked out in the first round.

ROBIN UZZELL

Disco

The Old Rec has enjoyed two Top Hat Discos, which had a successful attendance. Schools came from Cheltenham and Oxford, so dancing was rave. The DJ was good and had a good variety of songs. The Sixth Form were dancing on the stage and in the middle of the hall. Tim Shaw was wearing his outfit from the Fashion Shows - his coloured costume and hat - which got a few laughs.

It was a bit tight that we had to go back at halfpast eight. It was a fun evening at the end of a tiring day.

JONATHAN PRATT

Dorms and Rugby

The attics, or Second Form dormitories, are on the third floor of the Junior House. They're cold and creaky, but a heck of a lot of fun. At the beginning of term we had a little pillow-fight, involving all in the second year. Then there was talk of redecorating the dorms and having more carpet put down.

Now we are rehearsing for the Christmas Sketches, a set of plays the Second Form put on for people in their first year.

We always have chats after baths and showers, which gives out a nice atmosphere. I hope that this year's First Form have as much fun as we are having now.

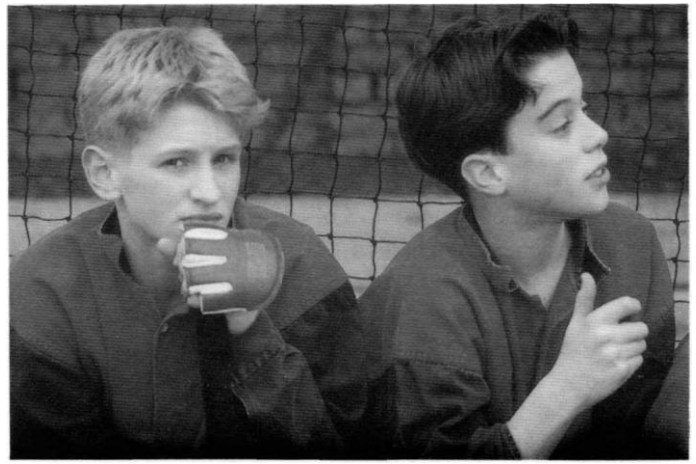
I have enjoyed the rugby games a lot. Our 1st team has not been as good as we were last year, but we have had a lot of team spirit and momentum. We have won two out of nine matches, which doesn't really matter, but it would have been nice to win some more.

FREDDIE LAIT

The Apple Macintosh Performa 630

At the beginning of this term Mr White decided that the Old Rectory boys should have the use of a computer. His decision became a reality when it was bought by the Parents' Association.

It has proved to be a great success. It came with a CD-Rom drive and various CD-Roms which provide us with many reference encyclopaedias. It has a very good publishing pack, and we are hoping to put it to the test and use it to produce an Old Rectory magazine or newspaper. This would be produced by the Old Rectory boys and would provide parents and friends with an up-to-date



Dominic Sharman (left) and Jonathan Pratt

summary of what has happened each term from the pupils' point of view.

ROB KNIGHT

This Term

The Sport's really great;
There's nothing I hate.
The food's OK, I guess,
But when they put it on the plate,
It looks a mess.

It's the prep that doesn't go down too well
Everyone in the class thinks it's hell.
My friends are the Drews and Nat,
Nicholas Marlow and Jonathan Pratt.

I'll end on my definition of the school:
It's really great, exciting, cool.

JAMES SABOURIN

Random Thoughts

I sometimes board at the Old Rec, though I am an official day-boy really. When I come to board, Mr and Mrs White are very welcoming, and I always look forward to boarding. It is such fun!

In the mornings when I wake up at home I am always looking forward to coming to the Old Rec, because my friends are there and it is so warm and cosy.

The Junior House Cycle Ride was great, and I got lost, so people had to come and look for me. I was scared.

PAUL BONGIOVANNI

Diary of a Mendicant Writer in Residence at Rendcomb

Having been invited to Rendcomb to write and direct a play in the lower school, I have left the chaotic, unregulated world I know well, and here I am at morning prayers. All is the very essence of order. The school is silent and attentive as the Revd Peter Sudbury welcomes us back for the spring term. The silence is striking, not how I remember school.

Having spent the morning trying to penetrate the systems of Rendcomb College and learning people's names and functions, I descend two flights of stairs from my top-floor rooms to sample the delights of school dinners. As I approach the main stairs, the roar of a jet engine accelerating for take-off assaults my ears. The noise is in fact the lunch queue revving up for food ingestion.

I infringe my first school rule during lunch. Having unloaded the contents of my tray onto the dining table, I conscientiously return my empty tray to... suddenly I realise everyone eats from the tray, a crime in my schooldays. The Head Master swoops in, saving me from embarrassment by placing my tray under his own. I look around: no one seems to have noticed. I've got to watch my step; danger lurks everywhere.

The view of the valley and river make up for the three flights of stairs up which I have to manhandle my belongings to my rooms. Badgers live in the woods, and there is a tame fox living in the Head Master's garden. The valley is also home to woodpeckers, birds of prey, owls and various small, scampering creatures. During the night as I try to sleep, the odd scream is heard as some little guy is grabbed for supper by some bigger bloke.

A member of staff comes up to me and asks if I can dance *Flamenco*. This is no great surprise, as I have already been asked if I would coach netball. Clearly this is all part of the initiation ceremony for the new boy. I say 'no' to flamenco, as I've already shown my mettle by saying 'yes' to netball, knowing full well this will never come to fruition.

It is five degrees Kelvin. Here we are on the netball court. I and the students all wear something akin to sports kit, the students in school colours, me in washing-machine greys and blues. The rest of the staff sport various hats, gloves, scarves and quilted, top-coats that wouldn't look out of place at a ski resort. The fingers of my hands scream with agony. I remember this pain from many years ago when I was a schoolboy. I also remember the most effective, long-lasting lesson I was ever taught at school: as soon as your life is your own, never ever willingly partake in sport ever again. It was only the 'sand in the face' marketing of Charles Atlas that saved me from the complete physical oblivion awaiting many of those tortured on the school playing fields of Britain.

This afternoon I watch my first netball match. The girls play brilliantly. If cold afternoon games are the rehearsals, this truly is the performance. The team are fluid and quick. The enemy are trounced.

Is it my imagination, or do all the door-handles in Rendcomb turn the obverse way, and all the doors open the opposite way to that which you would expect? This is not a metaphor for the school.

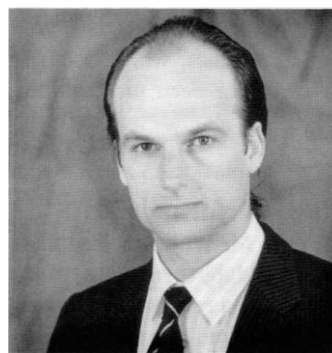
The office staff and ancillary workers hold my hand and see to it that I don't infringe any more school rules. Like most school ancillary staff, they seem to know everything about everything and then some more. Thank you all.

As a playwright, I will often start with a series of strange images and then try to link them together into a meaningful, coherent form. Each time I come into the main school foyer I am confronted with a statue of Saul, whose big toe is missing, overlooking a green baize snooker table. Sometimes he even sports a cue. It's almost as if he is eyeing up a difficult shot. My bible learning is now very distant: was it Saul who lost his toe on the road to Damascus, or was it someone else?

This morning as I was coming down the main stairs into clock hall I was thinking, what a shame that the clock wasn't a working clock with hands. And lo and behold, I see a face, with hands, staring back at me. Am I going mad? Is this some kind of joke they play on a new boy? In fact not. During my time at Rendcomb the clock will variously have any combination of hands between zero and two. Sometimes both hands will be at the correct time, sometimes one or the other only.

The first draft of the musical I have been writing for the school is out, and straight away meets with its first critic, the photocopier, which chews it up and spits it out. Maybe the man from *The Times* will be kinder.

Back on the netball court. If I thought it was cold last time, that was nothing compared to the temperature this time. My sense of moral obligation not to dress in any form of protective clothing forbidden to the students is sorely tested, but there are things worse than hypothermia. Should I die here on this court, ask the Head Master to tell my mother



Pete Benson

I was lost in action at the chalk face.

A dog passes me on the main stairs. A dog?!!! It is twenty minutes past something. Rehearsals have started. I have to see the Deputy Head for trying to destroy the entire fabric of the

timetable. Head and Deputy Head are a sort of good-cop/bad-cop routine. The bad cop makes it very clear that the timetable is inviolable. I wondered at the time what took up the slack for all those non-timetabled necessities like music lessons, detention, sports fixtures and so on. I soon discovered that it

was in fact play rehearsals that took up most of the slack. Maybe this is why they brought me in, to create some spare time. I'm a time paradox.

The fire alarm goes off with alarming regularity. I have heard the phrase 'the noise threshold of pain'. Until now I did not truly appreciate what this meant, but trying to negotiate the corridors from my room during a fire alarm has given my ears a new perspective. Motor Head were never this loud. Should the corridor outside my room ever be filled with smoke and the noise of the fire alarm at the same time, my only consolation will be that it won't be the netball court where I shall expire. The alarms to date have all been false. I am told that the new system is still settling in. I wish someone would tell it that I am as well.

I manage to forget the combination to the late-night side door on the coldest and iciest night in history. Fortunately the Head Master takes pity on my stupidity.

I experience a most strange power cut. The lights fade to half-luminance. The phone tones away incessantly as it starved of current. (Dramatically it would be good to say that the radio spluttered into silence, but no radio signals penetrate this part of the world). Add to this the long corridor, with the creakiest floorboards ever heard, that leads to my rooms, and it all becomes very spooky. I make it a rule not to ask if Rendcomb is haunted.

Back on the netball court. It is no longer insufferably cold - but it is raining. As I return to the school, at some unknown number of minutes past three, I am soaked to the skin. With my luck, someone will probably report me for swimming in the pool out of season.

I need some coloured card, so I go and visit the art block for the first time. Wow! This is an art block where things happen. This is space where art is created. To some it may look like chaos, but to those with a rudimentary acquaintance with art it is absolutely clear that this is a thriving art department with the eyes of an artist.

Rehearsals progress. I look forward to the opening night, when hopefully the entire cast will meet together for the first time. I wonder how many there are?

I have been excused netball for the last two weeks, in order to focus on the up-and-coming production of *Money Mad*. Although I suspect that the real reason is that the pasty-faced theatrical is thought to be spoiling Rendcomb's dynamic sporty image. Fare well, netball. Fare well, chilblains. As anyone who has seen how I dress will tell you, I am decidedly unconcerned with the superficial exterior appearance of things, and I can tell you that the heart and spirit of Rendcomb is as strong as any I've come across. Maybe the door handles are contrary, but Rendcomb College is a

place where doors open easily, and they lead to many exciting and life-serving experiences. The school is not paradise, as I heard one person describe it. Nor is it *Brigadoon*, although I understand the allusion, but it is a very fine place to spend time, especially if that time is the formative years of your life.

PETE BENSON

The two poems which follow are inspired by a study of Hardy's 'Tess of the D 'Urbervilles'

First Meeting

Young man
Running to catch up with your brothers,
Why are you flying from that
Swirling, whining
Flurry of white?
Do you fear those
White figures in their
Green enclosure
Dancing their ancient ritual
Wearing their May magic
With their willow wand?

White maiden,
May maiden
So fresh, so soft in your
Pure white gown,
Bridelike,
Clutching
The white blossom
To your pure white breast,
Why do you stand
Gazing up the hill?

Young man,
Stop.
Take breath.
Look back at
Those eyes
Full of reproach.

REBECCA DOYLE

Tess at Flintcomb-Ash

Tess, you look tired, even older than your mother.
Under the sting of a big metal sun,
Flushed and collapsing like a peony;
Scratch - with soft, untainted nails
At barren, tortured Earth;
Gather all you can,
Working water from a dry rock.

Is there a place for you in

The patterns that grow in the shadows,
 Or are you just a stranger?
 Even soft eyes glitter like diamond
 As the saltwater flows,
 Delicately raining like an *arpeggio*
 Plucked on strings,
 Strumming your pain with their song.

Wears a blanket like gauze, that covers the scars
 Of her heart,
 Which is hungry as ever,
 And low hangs the moon
 Inside her room;
 This is the moment she fears,
 As she wakes to face the cruel dawn
 With nobody there.
 All the colours of sunrise look violent now;
 They are ugly to her.

TABITHA PELLY

Arts and Craft

The 75th Anniversary Exhibition of Craftwork

Towards the end of June 1995 the idea of staging an exhibition of craftwork to mark the College's 75th anniversary was born. Having taught craftwork here since 1963, I was well aware of items made during the last 32 years, but I had little knowledge of what would be available from the earlier years.

William Morris's movement to restore the mediaeval traditions of craftsmanship found fertile soil in Gloucestershire, leading to the foundation of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen. From its early days, Rendcomb developed links with the Guild and with the Loughborough Colleges, particularly in the field of furniture-making.

The Founder and the first Head Master, J. H. Simpson, fostered a keen interest in the arts and encouraged the pupils to use their hands. In 1931 at the Three Counties Show their work was specially commended for fine craftsmanship, and as a result Gordon Russell of Broadway enquired for apprentices from Rendcomb. Denis Lee-Browne, the second Head Master, was Chairman of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen for four years.

At the Anniversary Ball I set about tracking down items for the exhibition. Offers of help came flooding in from as far afield as Cornwall, London and America. Once the wheels had been set in motion, the Old Rendcombian Society register provided a list of names from the past, and I began telephoning those who lived nearest the school.

Having made an initial contact, I was given further information about craftsmen of each generation. By August I had a list of promised items,

and at this stage I widened the scope of the exhibition to include items made by ORs since leaving the College and by staff and friends.

On the evening of Friday, 29th September, 200 guests, governors, staff, ORs and parents attended a preview of the exhibition. It opened to the general public on the two following days.

The exhibition was divided into three sections. A small display of recent work by junior pupils was shown in Saul's Hall. In the Reading Room there were exhibits by ORs, staff and friends of the College. In the Dulverton Hall were over 150 items made by pupils in the 'Manual' and in the present Workshop since 1920.

The Reading Room Major Contributors and Exhibits

Roger Attwood, school cabinet-maker: joynst stool in oak, child's chair and tripod table in mahogany.

Colin Burden (Staff 1963-): hall table in teak, stick-back chair in ash.

Michael Denlev, OR (1968-74): button-back chair

Roy Dennis (Staff 1959-82): standard lamp in brown oak, tea trolley in oak.

Jack Fell (Staff 1934-73): cabinet in English walnut, nest of tables in laburnum.

Timothy Gay, OR (1948-54): record cabinet in brown oak, a cot in pine, a wide range of small items and numerous photographs of his pupils' work.

Cecil Gough, OR (1921-24): oak bedside cabinet (mid-1930s) showing influence of Peter Waals, oak dining chairs (1936) showing Gordon Russell's influence, oak blanket box (early 1930s), oak cigarette box (mid-1950s) following design by Edward Barnsley, American walnut needlework cabinet (1950s) made with his son John from an old bedstead.

Cecil Gough taught at Loughborough for many years, becoming Senior Tutor and retiring in 1970.

David Hart, OR (1950-56), silversmith, a cabinet showing a selection of items made in the Hart family workshops, similar to those operating in the 17th and 18th centuries, in Chipping Campden. The firm carries out a variety of tasks, from simple repairs to elaborate show-pieces, and provides a local service as well as doing work for clients in London and abroad.

Ted Jones, OR (1940-48): two wood-carvings completed in Fiji.

Graham Jordan, OR (1966-73): photographs of houses he has built in Australia, also interior fittings.
Peter Lane, OR (1939-42): walnut dressing table and mirror.

Christopher Lane, OR (1940-49): recent sculptures in yew, cedar, bronze and Purbeck stone, a dual-purpose trestle table in stained pine.



Gavel made for a Church Bell Ringers' Association by T.T. Walters O.R.



Pieces by Bert Uzzell

Craftwork Exhibition : Reading Room



Items of treen in Ash, Walnut and Yew made by Betula Ltd, a firm set up by two O.R.s



Dorothy Burden with silversmith David Hart O.R.



A Molineaux puppet



a

b



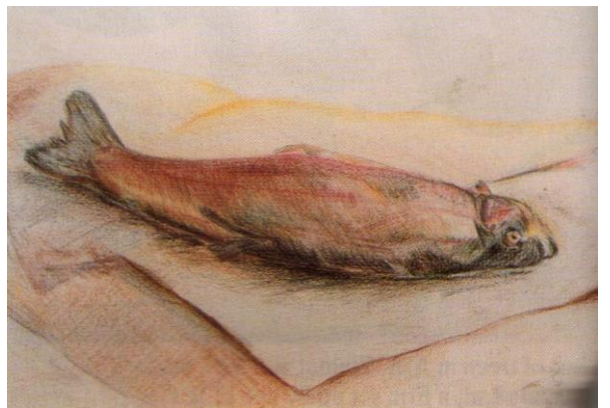
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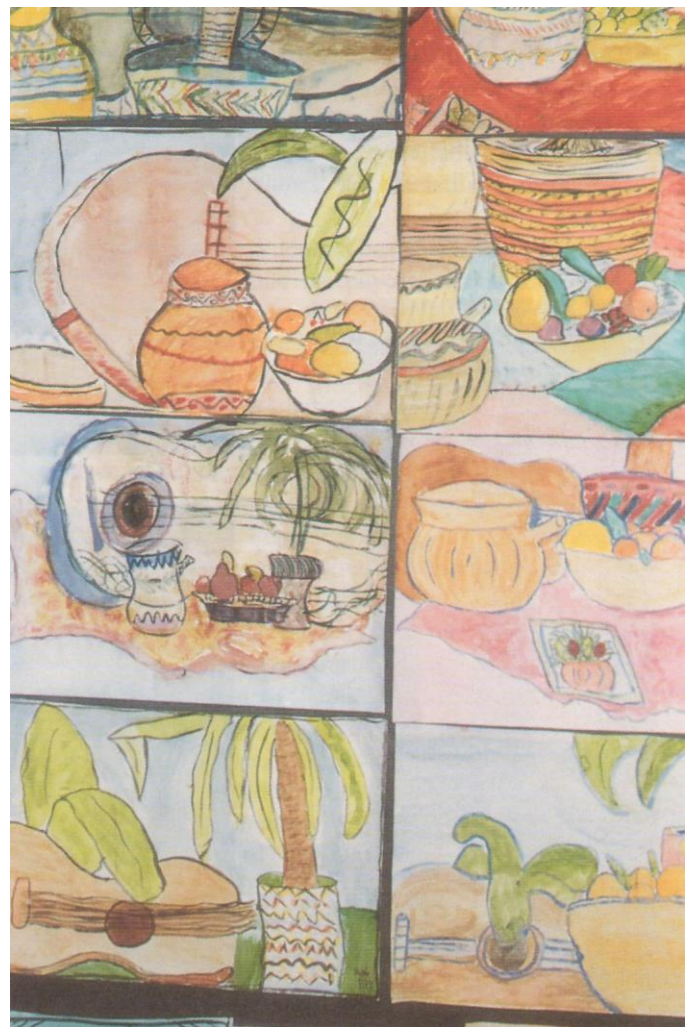
e





f

g



h



Pedestal desk by Kevin Holmes O.R.



Pieces by Graham Jordan O. R., possibly Rendcomb's most prolific woodworker

Craftwork Exhibition:
Dulverton Hall



photo: Timothy Gay O.R.



Gun cabinet made for Mai. T. Wills



Small items largely from the Seventies

Denis Lee-Browne (Head Master 1932-60): elm coffer, oak bench (1928), oak chest of drawers, oak blanket box.

Denis Lee-Browne was for three years Director of Rural Industries for Gloucestershire and, as has been mentioned, Chairman of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen from 1932 to 1936.

Paul Margetts, OR (1972-75): display of forge-work and photographs of recent commissions.

Oliver Morel, OR (1930-34, Staff 1938-42): walnut coffee table, photograph of oak chest made in 1974 with inlays of yew, bullace, spindle, wayfaring tree and holly.

Oliver Morel ran the Eric Sharpe Centre, a resource centre for professional and amateur handworkers, from 1969 to 1980, specialising in raised decorative inlay work - natural motifs of flowers and plants executed in exotic timbers.

Francis Nevel, OR (1926-29): small items of treen in walnut, yew and ash, made by Betula Ltd, a firm set up by ORs Francis Nevel and David Haes (1926- 29). Many illustrations of Betula ware can be seen in woodworking books and magazines of the 1960s. Dick Rolt, OR (1966-71): a high-performance screen press designed by Dick Rolt and made by Rolt Engineering Ltd.

Mrs Hermione Thornton (née Lee-Browne): wood-carvings of a pig in lime and an otter in yew. Charles Herbert (Bert) Uzzell: secretaire, chest of drawers, round cabriole-leg table, magazine rack, dressing table, butler's tray, oval tea caddy, two cigarette boxes - all in English walnut, a dining chair and carver in English oak.

Bert Uzzell's son Dennis is an OR (1926-34), and his grandson Robin came to Rendcomb in 1994. T. T. (Willie) Walters, OR (1940-49): photographs of a clock made from part of a Bristol/Ferranti Bloodhound missile, a gavel made in the form of two bells back-to-back and mounted on a scaled- down clapper to form a handle.

The Dulverton Hall

There were 150 items on display, of which 32 were made before I came to Rendcomb in 1963. I counted 25 species of timber, mainly home-grown and to be found in Gloucestershire, such as oak, elm, beech and ash, but also the rarer laburnum, acacia and hornbeam. Many were supplied by the Colesbourne sawmills and seasoned in the lower Wilderness in the seventies.

An OR, Kevin Holmes, helped me to set up the exhibits, which took the best part of two days. We grouped the early pieces together. The very table mentioned by OR Dick Field in *Champagne Days* was used to display smaller items. He described it as 'a magnificent eight-legged central table made by Ching White in the Manual Workshop'. He goes on

to say that in subsequent years chairs and small tables were added - 'These pieces were filled and waxed, so that in those early years they were beautifully pale, like ghosts of themselves in the dark hall. Later they darkened'.

One of them, a two-seater settle still in use in Saul's Hall, was chosen for its signature 'CJG' carved on the back. The maker, Cecil Gough, came to the preview and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

Oliver Morel's influence in passing on cabinet skills was shown in two pieces, a chair and a tea trolley made by Patrick Morris and Peter Lane, who were at Rendcomb during the Second World War. Unfortunately, owing to ill-health, Oliver Morel was unable to come to the exhibition. However, he sent a fascinating document for the school archives, a set of instructions written by Denis Lee-Browne in May 1938 for the guidance of 'Manual' masters. The rules were read with interest by visitors, and copies were requested by a number of ORs.

A few of the early pieces were turned on the treadle lathe, which was still in the Manual in the early sixties, although not in working condition. When the present Workshop was opened in 1967, with two new lathes, wood-turning proved very popular and has continued so to the present day. The wide variety of bowls, table and standard lamps, goblets, gavels, lidded boxes, wine tables and joynst stools on display shows the versatility of these machines.

The Rendcomb Puppet Theatre formed part of the exhibition. I found the puppets about 15 years ago in a cupboard on the top floor of the Main Building. The theatre was established by H. V. Molineaux who was part-time Art Master at Rendcomb from 1933 until his death 17 years later. He produced excellent stage sets and spent a great deal of time on the development of the theatre, housed in what is now the Old Rectory Common Room, and of the Puppet Workshop in one of the outhouses. He was an excellent craftsman and made some of the puppets in the Manual. Christopher Lane recognised one puppet for which his mother had made a set of clothes during the holidays.

Keith Stimson (1955-63) made a major contribution. A high standard of craftsmanship was evident in his pieces, amongst them a nest of tables and an acoustic guitar, where fine inlays, called stringings, had been used.

Keith was one of a small group of senior boys who embarked in 1960 upon a project which was to take five years, the making of a gun cabinet for the 21st birthday of the Founder's grandson, Major Tom Wills. Designed by Roy Elliott, Craft Master at the time, the carcass and stand were made of Brazilian rosewood, with European beech back-panels and drawer fronts. The high quality of the boys' cabinetmaking was commented on by many visitors.

After the exhibition it was converted into a bookcase by Roger Attwood, as the design did not meet current fire-arms legislation.

Also on display was a free-standing mahogany bookcase with brass carrying handles, made in the early eighties by pupils John Shaw, Colin Sainsbury and Rory Johnston and given to Major Wills as a wedding present.

In the late sixties I purchased a set of tools, modern versions of a wheelwright's rounder and trap. These have been used to make stick-back in chairs, tables, magazine racks and the very popular 'Rendcomb Stool'. Over one thousand of these have been made, and various designs were on display. We used elm in the early days, but sadly, since the ravages of Dutch elm disease, it is no longer available. Ash has largely taken its place. We generally use beech for the legs, because its close grain produces such a good finish. Recently large batches have been made in American walnut and English timbers such as chestnut, plane (lacewood) and cedar of Lebanon.

The most productive woodworker I knew was Graham Jordan (1966-73). He produced a remarkable amount in his time at Rendcomb, not only for his family but also work commissioned by members of the staff. The most outstanding piece on display was a needlework box in makore and sycamore, made when he was only 13. He found the design in a woodworking magazine, the examination piece of a third-year Loughborough student. Graham now lives in Australia, building houses, interior fittings and dry-stone walls.

There was a wide range of reproduction furniture on display, including a 2-foot, 9-inches oak bureau, a chest of drawers, a pedestal desk, joint stools and wine tables in elm, walnut and yew, owing, it must be said, to my interest in antiques. Many pupils had used their skills to restore their families' dilapidated heirlooms, but these items were not on display.

Some of the largest pieces of furniture were writing desks. One, in English walnut with a tooled leather top, was made in 1980 by Nigel Pitt. It was in pristine condition, as he has spent most of his time abroad, recently taking up a professorship at the University of Brasilia.

It is very unlikely that such major pieces will be made in the future, as a wider range of activities now take place, and time is very much more limited.

GCSE Design and Realisation coursework was well represented and admired. Only small groups have taken the subject, but good results have been obtained and high marks awarded at moderation.

The exhibition was a great success and gave a great deal of pleasure to many people. It brought together many Old Rendcombians and friends of the College. I was pleased with the response from ORs and by their willingness to deliver. Timothy Gay

made two trips from Cornwall and Christopher Lane two from London. Denis Lee-Browne's son Martin and his daughter Hermione were very generous in lending Bert Uzzell's and their father's furniture. Mary Greenstead, Keeper of Applied Arts at Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, asked for information on Betula Ltd and on Bert Uzzell for their files.

I should like to thank all those who supported the exhibition and helped to make it a success. I was delighted to receive so many tributes and letters of thanks, from which I select the words of Trevor Chinn, Keeper of the Gordon Russell Trust: *Congratulations - your show was excellent and a wonderful statement to all who saw it of the dedication and commitment to handicraft and design which is so essential in the education of young people.*

* * *

Not until the exhibition was over did I realise that the craft at Rendcomb had never been taught on a full-time basis: craft teachers have worked only part-time or have taught another subject as well. I hope that the tradition of fine craftsmanship will continue in some form or another...

C. C. BURDEN
1963-

Art

It has been an 'Absolutely Fabulous' year for the department! Well, especially during the first term, when the whole department became involved in creating the 'Absolutely Fabulous Fashion Show'. Linking with Miss Houghton's Fashion and Textiles activity and Mr Lea's Expressive Arts group, we were able to produce a show where colour, design, textiles, fashion, dance, drama and music were all combined in one thrilling, adventurous evening. Under the skilled tutelage of Mrs Blackwell a wonderfully bold and colourful collection of baggy trousers, harlequin tops and sexy shorts were designed, printed and made up within the department, before being dynamically displayed on the catwalk by the students themselves – an Absolutely Fabulous evening!

See back inside cover for photographs. Clowns: Rose Thrower (2) and Annabel Forbes (1). Guignol: Jonathan Davis (5) and James Gibbs (5). 70s: Robin Witchell (6B). Africa: Anna Jensen (6A).

Similarly, the spring term seemed to take as its theme the idea of Spain and the Spanish, owing largely to the fact that we took over 20 'A' level students to Madrid over half-term, but very much

helped by a Spanish Theme evening entitled '*¡Hola!*'. Hence a whole series of paintings, posters and prints followed a theme, and for several weeks the sights, sounds and culture of Spain invaded the department; it was a positive armada of all things Spanish, and our own visit to Madrid and Toledo was energised and enhanced by the experience.

Of course there was our usual work to be done as well, and in 6A there was some excellent work starting to develop and mature. Nicholas Holt pursued his interests with a particularly sensitive commitment, and by the end of the year his exhibition was a wonderfully personal response to colour and mood to be found within the landscape. His gentle greys and blues were complemented by the rich reds and dynamic patterns in Charlie Bohlken's portfolio, while Robert Hart developed his own sense of expression through a different response to the landscape.

Suzie Harvey bounced into the department for just one colourful and creative year, while Jack Jelfs and Seun Ismail were determined to be independent, except when they desperately needed help!

6B are a large, but incredibly responsive group, who are developing extremely well, and the future seems very encouraging, especially with so many of the juniors' being not only keen but also talented and responsive.

Thanks go, of course, to Mrs Sophia Blackwell and Mr Tom Denny, our strongly committed part-time teachers, for all the work they do in and outside the department, but also to Daniel White, the part-time Artist in Residence, who did an excellent job with his first-year group and gave much useful help to members of the Fifth Form. M. S. G.

See pages 38 and 39 for colour photographs.

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

a *Still life with meats and egg* - oils

Robin Witchell (6)

b *Self portrait* - oils

Sam Gillott (6)

c *Landscape* - watercolour & pastel Nick Holt (7)

d *Landscape with castle* - pastel Tara Sleggs (4)

e *Trout study* - crayon

Jacqui Shenton (6)

f *Still life with guitar* - mixed media

Design Studies (2)

g *Still life with fruit* - mixed media

Design Studies (4)

h *Still life with guitar* - mixed media

Design Studies (1)

Music

Orchestral Concert

This year's end of term concert was held on 1st December in the Dulverton Hall. This concert is normally a Christmas affair but, as we had not yet even reached Advent Sunday, the audience carols were omitted from the programme, even though a few of the pieces had a seasonal flavour and various members of the orchestra delighted in decorating their instruments with tinsel!

This year the number of pieces played by the orchestra was limited to allow more of the chamber ensembles and soloists to perform. The saxophone group, directed by Chris Green, the guitar duet and a young flute duo played very well, and James Smith and Becky Doyle played two Slavonic Dances by Dvorak as a clarinet duet. The senior wind quintet played some delightful Promenades by Elgar, and the brass group had a trial run at *O Magnum Mysterium* by Gabrielli, which they went on to perform so ably at the Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church.

The standard of the soloists was very high. Newcomers Sophie Sprawlson and Harumi Ozecki showed us what they had achieved in their first term with us, and old hands, including Edmund Compton, Andrew Jarrett, Jonathan Freeman, Karen Pearce, Keith Bendall and Carlos Garcia all made tremendous instrumental contributions. The standard of solo singing, with songs from Tim Shaw and Katherine Bagshawe, was high as well.

To illustrate the fact that the Dulverton Hall can now boast two grand pianos, David White and Stephen Lea concluded the first half by performing the first movement of Mozart's sonata in D major for two pianos. The wind band played two pieces, *Bandstand Blues* by Stuart Johnson and the famous *Troika* by Prokofiev.

Having started the programme with *The Prague Students' March* by Smetana and *Christmas Piece* by Mendelssohn, the orchestra concluded the evening with a Christmas medley of *Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen* by Pretorius and the now traditional *Sleigh Ride*, with Mr Shiner and Jenny Crook now forming an expert duo on the sleigh bells.

S. J. L.

QP Concerts

12th November - David Briggs, Organ

The evening of Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, saw the first of this season's QP concerts, an organ recital given by David Briggs, organist of Gloucester Cathedral, in St Peter's Church, Rendcomb. Having come to Gloucester only last year, Mr Briggs is very much in demand locally, so we were fortunate in his being able to come and give a recital; it was well attended by a mixture of pupils, parents and visitors.

Mr Briggs made the Allen digital organ, installed five years ago, sound at its best, carefully matching the stops and sounds to give some colourful effects as well as more traditional organ sounds.

He opened the programme with works by the master composer for the organ, J. S. Bach. The Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C was followed by two Chorale preludes, showing clarity and preciseness in his technique. He went on to play one of my personal favourites, the Chorale in A minor by Cesar Franck, this magnificent work ranges from *pianissimo legato* passages through to a large climax at the end, and it showed the capabilities of the instrument.

For a bit of light relief, next came three movements from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet suite, where the 'chimes' stop on the organ came into its own as a very good *celesta* imitation for *The Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy*. I am still wondering how to weave these delightful arrangements into our Sunday morning liturgy...



The programme ended with two recital favourites: the arrangement of *Nimrod* from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* was very appropriate for Remembrance Sunday.

The final piece, Liszt's Fantasia and Fugue on the notes B, A, C, H (B being the German

equivalent of B flat and H being our B natural, just to confuse matters), which shows off the dexterity of any organist and the sound capabilities of any organ, provided a fitting climax to a memorable recital.

However good the recital, the hardness of the pews in the church always leaves a lasting impression, so we gave most humble and hearty thanks for the refreshments served in the Old Rectory afterwards.

11th February - The Bebeto String Quartet

As we say so often, the Reading Room is an excellent venue for chamber concerts. The size and acoustic make it ideal for small groups of performers and an audience of under 100. This was certainly the case for a recital given by the Bebeto String Quartet on 11th February, when a good-size audience was treated to some beautiful string ensemble playing.

The quartet is based in London, its members having met whilst post-graduate students at Trinity College of Music; they are fast acquiring a reputation for themselves on the London concert scene and playing for Classic FM radio.

The programme consisted of quartets by Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven, and these were very well played; they certainly are masters of their instruments and play brilliantly as an ensemble. When I met them earlier in the day, they immediately struck me as a very friendly group of people, whose playing exhibited their friendship together.

For me the gem of the programme was the Beethoven, the Rasumovsky Quartet no.3. The playing was excellent, and really very moving; if the group can play at this high level having been formed only for just over a year, I have high expectations that they will go far in the future..

17th March - Michael Haynes, piano

Having known Michael Haynes for a number of years, I was very pleased that he was able to come to Rendcomb to give a recital. He took as his theme works from the early years of this century, starting with a prelude by Rachmaninov in the great Romantic tradition of the late nineteenth century and illustrating the various styles of the first 30 years of the twentieth.

From Europe we heard music by Debussy, the suite *Children's Corner* with the famous *Cakewalk*, six short pieces by Schoenberg, illustrating the Germanic Expressionist styles, and Ravel's *Sonatine*, with its Classical elegance.

From the other side of the Atlantic we heard pieces by Copland, experimenting with chromatic harmony and percussive sounds on the instrument, ragtime from Scott Joplin and the ultimate fusion of virtuosity and jazz in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

This was an excellent programme, not only in its talented execution, but also because those piano students who attended gained immense benefit from hearing and seeing Michael play. He managed to switch between styles most effectively and crafted a very balanced and entertaining programme.

28th April, The Capriol Chamber Orchestra

It is not often that we are privileged to have a full Orchestra visiting Rendcomb for a concert, but in April we were pleased to welcome the Capriol Chamber Orchestra with their conductor, Bruce Critchinson, for the final QP Concert of this season.

Although the orchestra numbered around 30 players, the sound was very full, and the variety in tone and dynamic was well controlled.

The programme opened with *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* by Handel, with virtuosic oboe playing from Fiona Beck and Kathryn Warner. This was followed by *Two Elegiac Melodies*, arrangements by Grieg of two of his songs. The string section showed some excellent ensemble playing, a good sense of phrasing and a very warm, rich sound.

We were pleased to be able to welcome Rendcomb's own flute teacher, Teresa McIver, who as well as being an excellent flautist is a very accomplished pianist, to perform Mozart's piano concerto in G major (K453). This performance was a real treat: Teresa played beautifully and was accompanied sensitively by the orchestra.

After the interval the orchestra played Brahms's first Serenade, in D major, a work that suited its size and style of ensemble, although it is a trifle long for this sort of programme. This was compensated for by some very good playing, a sensitive approach and a very musical feel to the performance.

We have here a group which meets for the pleasure of making music together. Its members certainly showed this in their playing, and it was a real pleasure to have them at the College. Most of the players are teachers and keen amateur musicians from the county; they certainly are an excellent ensemble and a group to look out for in local concert recitals.

S. J. L.

The Choir

The choir celebrated its end of season with Evensong in our own Chapel on Ascension Day, followed by a dinner with supporting families in the Reading Room. Then, as a glorious coda, we sang the same but magnified Choral Evensong in Cirencester Parish Church. These were occasions marred by the absence of Peter Sudbury, very ill in hospital. It is no exaggeration to say that our pleasure was distinctly dimmed by his and Christine's absence.

Christine did write on Peter's behalf to pass on his thanks to the choir for all the work they have done this year to help our worship. He sent his love to all, but especially to the leavers, wishing them

well in whatever they do.

The music for the end of the year summarised our achievements and some of our best memories. As always, the choir proves that it can regenerate itself each year. Just when we thought that the departure of last year's stars would leave us all bereft, we had the distinguished singing of Katherine Bagshawe to lift many an occasion, so it was fitting that we should sing the Stanford *Magnificat* with the prominent soprano solo, which sounded particularly wonderful sailing over the top of the choir in Cirencester Church. Then, from among our new stars, Tom Gilbert distinguished himself with the solo from the *Nunc Dimittis*. In fact we proved to be spoilt for choice for soloists among the 'Men' all through the year.

Looking back to the very beginning of the year, the worry about how we should survive the new regime was soon dispelled by mounting a splendid performance of Purcell's *Come, Ye Sons of Art*, with solos taken both by pupils and by parents. Quite memorable was the white-knuckled solo from Paul Bongiovanni, accompanied by Mrs Day and Amy Turner on recorders. At the other extreme, the *sangfroid* of Tom Gilbert as was astounding as brutal-hearted conductor, Director of Music White, coolly removed his copy in mid-performance. Did Tom twitch? Not a bit of it.

In similar vein, one of the memories that should go down in the annals of Rendcomb performances was that of Mrs Morris singing the start of one of her solos from the depths of the pulpit during the College Choral Society performance -of Haydn's *Creation*. There was a slight traffic jam on the pulpit steps, as baritone laboriously gave way to soprano. Mrs Morris rose to the occasion in every possible sense of the words.

What a grand experience the Haydn was! One treble was so overcome that he lost his voice in mid-performance. The excitement of the final chorus, *The heavens are telling*, still leaves the vestige of a shiver down the spine of the present writer.

The choir always seems to rise to any challenge the Director may throw at them. One such was to tackle Howells's distinguished *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, known in the trade as Coll Reg. 'This is a bit dismal, sir,' moaned the basses, as they droned through their parts in the early stages of learning. 'You wait and see' was the enigmatic response of the merciless Director of Music. They came, they sang and they had the grace to admit to being conquered, as they sang their hearts out in the splendid acoustics of Bristol Cathedral.

Another challenge was to tackle a massive double choir and brass setting of *O magnum mysterium* by Gabrieli, a challenge if only from the point that some key members of the choir had to play their brass instruments rather than sing, cutting

down the numbers of experienced singers needed to man eight separate parts. But a grand and spectacular noise was made in Cirencester Church for our Carol Service, with the Director of Music perched high up on a number of boxes so that he could be seen by the various groups of performers spread around the front of the church.

It would be invidious to single out many more of our singers for special praise, but mention should be made of Jenny Crook, who has now cracked singing alto, of Edmund Compton, who now pays attention and sings with real commitment, of Jacky Shelton, who is overcoming her worry that she might be seen singing and just sings, and even smiles. Marcus Haynes easily won the Roger Gorman Scarf trophy for the most consistently late arrivals over the whole year. Carlos Garcia continues to take the micky out of the conductor, but Dougy Ellison understands all the jokes, and Charles Webb watches the conductor as well as any pro. And what would we do without Naomi Gibbons to sing everything and anything in sight - provided that it does not go too high - and play her oboe all in the same piece, without turning a hair? And, of course, what would we do without Stephen Lea, who presides with such cool professionalism at the organ?

And what of next year? The Director is as optimistic as he was last year. There are plenty of young lions growing up through the choir with years of singing ahead of them, and others who have just joined who show tremendous potential for the future. A wonderful year has passed - another is in prospect.

D. B. W.

2nd March - Haydn's *Creation*

... and there was light!

It is one of the most celebrated purple passages in all classical music when Haydn blazes a glorious chord of C major after the chaos of the introduction to his Oratorio, *Creation*. And what lighter, brighter and lovelier place to sing it in than Northleach Church for the Rendcomb Choral Society - with Chapel Choir and mums and dads - one lovely Saturday in March.

We were joined by professional soloists Julia Morris, Nick Bowditch and Derek Walker, archangels one and all, and by lesser angels Katherine Bagshawe, Edmund Compton and Tim Shaw, who sang the ensembles in the final chorus of Part 1, *The Heavens are telling*.

That was a triumphant shout which rounded off the performance, with the college basses barely containing their exuberance in the ascending scales that come just before the end.

One of the most outstanding of non-musical memories is of the change-over of soprano and bass soloists. The Director of Music planned solos to be taken from the pulpit. Unfortunately Haydn did not quite anticipate the length of time needed for one particular change-over to take place, and Julia Morris was not quite visible for the first two or three beats of her solo, sung from the depths of the stairs rising to the pulpit. But, professional to the very last, Mrs Morris sang valiantly, if momentarily invisibly.

D. B. W.

Drama

Senior Theatre

... and now for something completely different

This year saw a departure from the Black Box formula, with two pieces forming the Senior School Play. Chosen and directed by Sally Mills, our drama teacher, a small journey was made into Absurd Theatre.

The first piece, *Between Mouthfuls* (see photo) by Alan Ayckbourn, shows a waiter and two couples in a restaurant. We hear only what the waiter hears, and it takes the duration of the play to discover the dubious 'goings-on' among the characters, and in particular the affair between Mr Pearce and his employee's wife.

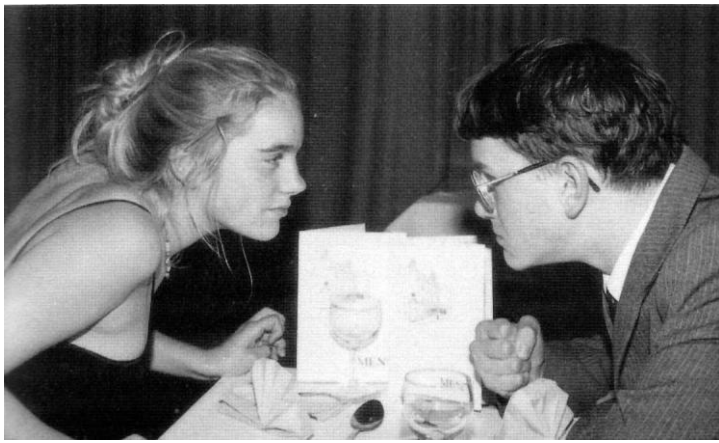
Good timing is essential, the couples having to fade their conversations at the approach and exit of the waiter, and the waiter himself dealing with endless plates of food.

The waiter was played admirably by Richard Gooch, with his amazing vocal sound effects and facial expressions. He was supported by a strong cast - Ralph Barnes as the philandering businessman and his suspicious, vindictive wife played confidently by Bianca Mann. Doug Ellison created a completely insensitive Martin, and Naomi Gibbons suffered convincingly as the neglected wife.

After first-night nerves, the cast recovered to make a technically difficult play look natural, and the gentle humour warmed the audience for things to come.

The Bald Prima Donna was written by Ionesco as an anti-play in 1948, and the playwright never intended that it should be performed. It attacks almost every theatrical device you can think of, from monologues and entrances even to the use of language.

The cast was extremely open-minded and rose eagerly to the challenge of performing such a strange play. Beccy Doyle (Mrs Smith) must be congratulated particularly on opening the show with



her five-minute monologue on mashed potato and yoghurt! Lindsay Duff complemented her meek character with a pompous 'English' Mr Smith and kept the pace moving with his interjections and reactions.

Ollie Blackwell and Naomi Gibbons did exceptionally well as the married couple who don't recognise each other and rediscover their lost love in a complicated wordy passage. This they kept interesting with a series of bizarre movements to baffle the audience completely.

Heather Elsen played the maid doomed to be axed to death after reciting poetry. She had a strong stage presence and completely engaged the audience in her short scenes. Keith Bendall presented us with a manic Fire Chief, who not only flirted with Mrs Smith and got passionate with the maid, but also repeated at high speed one of the most difficult speeches I have ever heard.

The aim of the Senior Play had been to entertain - but also to challenge - the audience, and in this it succeeded. Many left having thoroughly enjoyed the 'experience', despite 'not quite getting the point', and that is part and parcel of Absurd Theatre.

By the way, who was The Bald Prima Donna?...

SALLY MILLS

Money Mad

We were pleased to welcome Pete Benson to the College for the Lent term, to take on the role of Playwright in Residence and to direct his latest script, *Money Mad*.

Pete arrived with the play conceived in his mind, but it was not until he met the cast and discussed the project that the script took shape; the cast was taken mainly from pupils in their first three years, with the help of sixth-formers Doug Ellison, Heather Elsen and Colin Morey.

The plot is set around a group of characters in a boarding school, their relationships, personal problems and the way in which they deal with their situations.

The production was more of a play with songs



than a full-blown musical, the songs being provided on a backing tape; however, the characterisation and role representation was very effective.

Particular note must be made of the performances of Matt Williams, Eleanor Bruce and James Sabourin, who took the lead parts, and to the hard work of the cast in bringing the production to life. Thanks go also to Julie Pritchard and her helpers for their efforts with costumes, props and general encouragement.

We wish Pete well in his future work, both as writer and actor.

S. J. L.

The Comedy of Errors

Following the success of the outdoor presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last year, it was felt that the event should be repeated. An adapted version of *The Comedy of Errors* provided an ideal script for the end-of-term production.

The cast rose admirably to the occasion, the lead parts being taken by members of 6B. Both the Antipholus roles were expertly handled by Tim Shaw and Charles Webb, and the Dromio twins taken by David Newby and Dorn Sharman. Naomi Gibbons and Becki Doyle handled the characters of the two sisters, Adriana and Luciana; a manic Doctor Pinch, complete with smouldering costume, was played by Colin Morey, with excellent supporting parts from Doug Ellison, Ed Compton, Gus Pickett and Gemma Leathart.

The play, set in the fashionable 1920s, was packed with energy and enthusiasm; there were many excellent moments with real wit and sparkle, and the last dance scene made a fitting *finale* to the performance.

Thanks must go to the directors, the Head Master and Sally Mills, and to dance teacher Katherine Bates for their ability to draw the best out of the cast. As usual, Matron and helpers created the wonderful costumes and James Smith and his team were very efficient with the front of house.

By the way, who was the member of staff playing the kitchen wench? I hope he makes the most of his acting talent in his new job...!

S. J. L.

See back cover for photographs.

The Fashion Show

For two nights the Rendcombian world was invited to break off the shackles of another dank November, as the Art Department took over the Dulverton Hall.

For those not familiar with the concept of art, the 'Fashion Show' gave an intriguing insight into what goes on within the confines of the art rooms, or at least what had been going on there for the few weeks before.

For most non-artists, and for quite a few of the artists themselves, there was little clue as to how the show would turn out. Inter-audience speculation had reached a new high, and it was left to Mr Griffiths to open proceedings and to answer all the questions in the minds of the audience.

We were treated, not for the first time, to the individual parlance of the above-mentioned under the mystique of dimmed lights. As his words stopped, the lights brightened once again on the stage, and a group of young men entered to the backdrop of *YMCA*, toughing upon the nostalgic pleasures of the older members of the audience. These men were accompanied by a leather-clad Mr Patterson rediscovering his youth, obviously very enthusiastic about the opportunity to reminisce.

The show was off and running, and for the next half-hour a whole spectrum of colourful and outrageous clothing was modelled, supported by accompanying music. All these outfits were modelled in imaginative, original and memorable ways, and the whole performance was gelled together effectively, as ever, by the unerring eloquence of Mr Griffiths.

The show incorporated also a techno-nightclub, again with a whole array of costumes, but this time with a more contemporary 'party-wear' feel to them. The music for this was a sample of the increasingly celebrated work of Tim Shaw and his decks and produced the desired effect of transforming the versatile Dulverton Hall into Rendcomb's very own nightclub.

What was evident throughout a hugely enjoyable occasion was the great deal of time and effort that had been put not only into ensuring that everything went according to plan, but also into the design and manufacture of the clothes. All who watched will surely remember outfits made from coke cans and crisp packets, no doubt purchased from the village shop, and the colours and acrobatic agility of a group of lively fifth-formers.

It was an occasion laced with touches of comic genius and humour. I'm quite certain that all those who remember the seventies never thought that a group of nineties pretenders could ever re-enact the period so immaculately. Bob Witchell, equipped

with probably the most flamboyant of Matron's wigs, touched on the ludicrous, while Adam Simpkin was sublime, suave and altogether smooth during his rendition of the recently revived *Stayin' Alive*.

The show was unique: where else could you get all the above-mentioned plus a puppet on string, surfers, the perfect marriage (minus the groom's organisational abilities), two strapping bouncers and Mr Newby and Mr White in tandem, all in the space of an hour? Credit goes to Mr Griffiths, Mrs Blackwell and more particularly to all the art students - I should never have doubted the amount of work going on inside the Art Department.

STEWART TAYLOR

Activity

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be popular within the College, at both 'Bronze' and 'Gold' levels and with boys and girls alike.

The number of pupils participating in the Bronze level of the Award was again very high, with virtually all fourth-year pupils taking part; they pursued a variety of activities for the Skills and Physical Recreation sections, with most taking part in First-Aid for their Service. The 'Bronze' cookery group 'afternoon tea-party' was again a well attended and most successful event, and this year we were particularly honoured to have Mrs Joan Nash, the Award District Field Officer, attending the function.



The pupils approached their practice expedition with real enthusiasm, and almost all groups were efficient in their planning and execution of the two-day venture around the Cotswolds. The final assessment took place in the Forest of Dean; the weather was kind, and the view from the camp-site was, as ever, stunning. All the candidates showed remarkable efficiency in camp-craft and management, and four of the groups were, as in the practice, impressive in



their meticulous execution of the walk. One group unfortunately did not complete the assessment successfully, but they will have the opportunity to demonstrate their improvement in navigational skills next term.

A strange feature of the Duke of Edinburgh calendar, when tying it up with the academic year and the publication of *Rendcombian*, is that shortly after signing up the new 'Bronze' and 'Gold' candidates in September, the first real event of the year is the 'Gold' Assessment expedition for 6A. This year it took place in the Brecon Beacons and, despite the horrendous rain, hail and gale-force winds that plagued them for most of the four days, the candidates came through strongly, impressing the external assessors with their spirit and fortitude.

The only 'downer' was the fact that Rob Hart had to retire from the expedition after suffering severe sickness at the end of day 2; I have no doubt that he will manage to complete the Award in the near future.

The second event in the calendar is the presentation of the certificates to last year's successful 'Bronze' candidates; this took place at Kingshill School, with several other schools from the area attending. Participants from each unit were asked to put on a short presentation about their experiences during the Award; Toby Abbott and Annabel Howard produced an excellent 'straight/comedy act' that went down well with the audience.

The 14 regular 'Gold' candidates in 6B took on a variety of activities for each of the sections of the Award, with many opting for Cotswold Rangering as their Service (some say it is because they enjoy singing the theme song so much!); by the time this goes to print, they should have completed their assessment in this, which involves their organising and supervising an official walk in the Cotswolds for members of the public.

On the three practice expeditions they all came through very strongly: they were efficient in the planning and execution of their routes and were most impressive in their camp-management, navigational skills and teamwork. They cruised through the first expedition, in the Peak District, helped by good weather and perfect visibility over

Bleaklow, even showing real spirit when day 2 provided the heaviest of rain and zero visibility, while in the Brecon Beacons, despite the heavy rain and perpetual strong winds blowing in their faces over the four days, they came through with flying colours. We all look back on the second practice expedition, to Scotland, with mixed emotions: the area south of Loch Tay provided us with a tough challenge, compensated by stunning, wild campsites. We thought that the climb up Ben Vorlich, a Munro (any peak over 3,000 feet) was the hardest feat of the expedition until, whilst on that very same ascent, we heard the sad news that Peter Sudbury had died. That was undoubtedly the hardest thing to cope with, particularly with our being so far away from Rendcomb.

At the second camp-site we all helped to build a cairn (a pile of stones) in his memory; positioned on a grassy knoll, alongside a beautiful stream and overlooking the glorious Loch Tay, with the mighty peak of Schiehallion in the distance, it is a modest but fitting tribute to a very special friend who also had a deep affection for the Scottish mountains.

Any visitor to the College cannot have failed to notice Amanda Brealy's wonderful display of the Scotland Expedition in Saul's Hall. The photographs, along with Maggot the Mascot (a sheep's skull), provide a great insight into how valuable this annual encounter is for the participants: not only does it show the sheer magnitude of the mountains, the toughness of the terrain and the desolate beauty of the surroundings, but also how courage, teamwork and trust are combined with a sense of achievement, *camaraderie* and sheer fun (by the way, the tins of beer Alex and I were holding were really empty and just for show!)

May I take this opportunity, for the last time, of thanking all who have helped to make the scheme such a success within the College: this includes the tremendous enthusiasm and efforts of Derek Coombes in organising the equipment store, all those colleagues taking activities used by candidates for their Skill and Recreations sections, and the more specialised help of Sister Pritchard and Sister Hunt, who ran the First-Aid courses for the 'Bronze' Service and for the 'Gold' pre-expedition training.

I would also like to put on record my sincere thanks for the tremendous contribution that Peter Sudbury made over the years; as a keen supporter of the scheme, he organised the Community Service programme within the school, not only providing students with experience of visiting the elderly and so on, but enabling the Award candidates to use this for their Service section.

Special thanks must go to Nicola Gill and Elliot for their highly efficient organisation of the 'Bronze' expeditions and to Lindsay 'the good Doctor' Haslett for giving up his time to help with the



Third-year expedition to the Black Mountains.

Alex Breal

supervision and assessment.

Alex and Amanda Breal again proved excellent value on all the 'Gold' expeditions, both as supervisors and, with their enthusiasm, as motivators if a group's morale was low.

Finally, my sincere personal thanks go to John Willson for his unstinting contribution to the College's expedition work over the decades; he not only started the scheme, but through his dedication, experience and professionalism, has provided the candidates with the highest quality of training and supervision.

The school is very fortunate that my successor in both PE and Biology is also a highly qualified and experienced outdoor pursuits man. I wish Carlo, all other colleagues and future candidates every success and enjoyment in the Award; I have absolutely no doubt that it will continue to go from strength to strength at Rendcomb and that the College will fly the flag as one of the major participating institutes in the south-west for many more decades to come.

M. J. N.

unable to see their results, because the film in the camera had been double-exposed.

In addition to this and Westonbirt, an excursion around Cotswold villages produced some good landscapes and more material for the annual competition, which was opened to parents and staff for the first time, attracting well over 100 entries. The results were as follows:

1st <i>Mushrooms</i>	David Hughes (5 - p50)
2nd <i>Pheasant</i>	Paul Cordell (S)
3rd <i>Little Girl</i>	Luke Nicholls (6A)*
4th <i>Let's Negotiate</i>	Nicola Cowper (P)*

Highly Commended:

<i>Butterfly</i>	Jack Garland (5)*
<i>Pride of Coventry</i>	Jonathan Davis (5 - p53)
<i>Horses</i>	Graham Monteith (OR - p63)
Unnamed	David Hughes (5)
<i>Fireworks</i>	Douglas Ellison (6B)
<i>Cirencester Moon</i>	Paul Cordell (S)
<i>Sunset</i>	Chris Wood (S)

* inside front cover

Thanks are due to David Hughes, who has done a good job as Secretary during his GCSE year.

C. J. W.

Photographic Society

The dark room has been used by a number of groups again, by Expressive Arts, by the weekly Photographic Activity and by the Society itself but, in view of the relatively small amount of printing taking place, the Society has decided not to buy a colour enlarger; it will, however, be buying several second-hand SLR cameras.

The Expressive Arts group visited Abbey Studios in Cirencester and had a practical afternoon at Westonbirt Arboretum at a time when the leaves were just beginning to change colour. There were also a few periods in the dark room, and at the end of the one-term course they produced some interesting projects.

The Photography Activity group visited Limelight Studio in Cirencester and was allowed to use the studio for nearly an hour. Sadly, they were



Bridge Club

It seems that, after 24 years, the Club will cease to exist when the present members leave in July. Until recently the weekly meetings have been well supported, with an average of four tables per session; many players have developed a serious interest in the game and have played in national competitions. I have enjoyed running the Club and am only sorry that there are no junior members to continue the tradition.

I am grateful to Ben Renow-Clarke, George Langlands, Keith Bendall and, recently, Rebecca Gee for their loyal support and good-humoured interest over the past four years. I wish them well for the future and hope that they will find Bridge a useful 'leisure pursuit'.

Mrs Botham is very willing to hold classes for beginners; surely there are some would-be Bridge players in the school?

W. J. D. W.

Sic fatur lacrimans...

The European Film Club

Once again, a small group of dedicated cinephiles and sixth-form linguists joined together in School House TV Room on Sunday evenings to watch a selection of European films - mainly French and German - on video.

During the year members of the club saw films by celebrated directors, including Francis Truffaut, Louis Malle, Claude Chabrol, Jean-Paul Rappeneau, Cladue Berri, Werner Herzog, Rainer Fassbinder, Wim Wenders and Luchino Visconti. Particularly popular were *Jean de Florette*, *Manon des Sources*, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Au Revoir, Les Enfants*.

The club is aimed at anyone with a love of cinema. All films are subtitled, so knowledge of foreign languages is not required

I hope that the club can continue in the future.

L. J. H.

¡Hola!

Over the years many and various events have been enjoyed at Rendcomb by pupils' parents and their friends and relations, but none, I think so stylish and flavoursome as *¡Hola!*, the Spanish theme evening held on 3rd February, such a welcome treat for all sufferers of mid-Feb blues. Everyone had been bombarded with pre-publicity and

publicity to whoop up enthusiasm for and anticipation of this evening - wine, food and music, even, maybe, some mystery entertainment. We were assured that much expert wine-tasting had been undertaken to present us with a honed range of Spanish sherries and wines to choose from. Finally, we were invited to make up our minds fast, snap up some tickets - all in a good cause - and be there dressed in the suitably Spanish colours of red and black.

¡Hola, Hola, Hola! resounded greetings, as the crowd congregated in *El Griffio's* bar amid a froth of black lace, red ruffles and *mantillas*, with the odd brave *hombre* in skinny black legs and bandana or sombrero.

The wine list read interestingly, with personal descriptive recommendations from those educated palates of the tasting session; choices were made and, in a haze of *Jerez*, *Navarra*, *Rioja* etc, the throng moved to the tables in the invitingly decorated dining-room.

The evening was a wonderful mix. While being rowdily social, we ate some great tastes conjured by the Rendcomb chefs, including *tapas*, delectable little Spanish appetisers, followed by huge platefuls of saffron-coloured *paella*, brimming with mussels, prawns and rings of *calamares*, with juicy fruits to idle over afterwards.

Soothing our senses on top of all this was a serenade of sweet and sultry musical gems from Spanish composers, played for our pleasure on variety of instruments by pupils and staff, a pure delight.

The evening thus moved apace, with lots of wine, food, music and laughter until later... Then the moment on the programme arrived announcing Julia Morris, appearing with Nigel Maye and the Carmen Twins - the *Carmen Twins*???

Well, Julia sang like a bird, giving us a glorious performance of Bizet's *Habanera* from *Carmen*, during which Nigel Maye sidled in looking pretty athletic, rose clenched between his teeth, to set the scene.

But who were his promised partners to be? At last they emerged, shyly at first, two buxom and curvaceous *flamenco* dancers *extraordinaires*. They warmed to their talents rapidly, once 'contact' with the audience was established; the atmosphere became highly charged as Nigel's heart beat a little faster, having the attentions of these two intriguing *femmes d'un certain age* beamed upon him. They

danced and danced, with flourishes, swirls, beating of their castanets, stamping of their stilettoed feet, whirling round and round until, eventually,



before anyone could fathom the mystery behind these two proud dancing ladies, they melted away, but not before one of them had tossed into the audience a garter removed from a very hairy leg!

A memorable evening was enjoyed by all, and thanks go to the Parents' Association for organising it all so beautifully and giving us all such a good time. We will look forward with equal anticipation to February 1997's treat in store?

SOPHIA BLACKWELL

The Record 2

College Officers

Head Boy and Head of Stable House

Craig Marcham

Head Girl and Head of Park House

Anna Jensen

Head of Lawn House

Alister Harris

Head of School House

Rudolf Dühmke

Old Rectory Prefects Robert Hart, James Fairbank

Prefect of Breakages

William Heaven

Prefect of Hours' Work/Litter Francis Newcombe

Prefect of the Dining Hall

Leighton Freeman

Prefect of Lost Property

Christopher MacKinnon

Prefect of the Arts Block

Robert Hart

Prefect of the Green Room

Charlotte Bohlken

Prefect of the Dulverton Hall George Langlands

Prefect of the Library

Rebecca Gee

Head Librarian

Colin Morey

Head Church Usher

Robert Hart

Captain of Rugby

Nicholas Carmichael

Captain of Boys' Hockey

Stephen Amey

Captain of Girls' Hockey

Karen Pearce

Captain of Cricket

James Fairbank

Captain of Boys' Tennis

Nicholas Carmichael

Captain of Girls' Tennis

Karen Pearce

Captain of Netball

Rebecca Gee

Captain of Basketball

Rudolf Dühmke

Captain of Shooting

James Fairbank

Captain of Squash

Francis Newcombe

Valete

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

Stephen Amey, Katherine Bagshawe, Keith Bendall, Charlotte Bohlken, Nicholas Carmichael, Chotitputsilp Chaiwoot, Lindsay Duff, Rudolf Dühmke, James Fairbank, Leighton Freeman, Rebecca Gee, Alister Harris, Robert Hart, Suzannah Harvey, William Heaven, Nicholas Holt, Oluseun Ismail, Jack Jelfs, Anna Jensen, George Langlands, Christopher MacKinnon, Craig Marcham, Francis Newcombe, Luke Nicholls, Karen Pearce, Philip Price, Benjamin Renow-Clarke, Samranvanich Wannachan, Jan Schekatz, Adam Simpkin, Tony Winstone, Richard Witchell.

Oliver Blackwell, Edmund Clipson, Sophie Collier, James Fox, Benjamin Frost, Fenella Gerry, Richard Gooch, Bianca Mann, Nicholas Ridley, Rowan Renow-Clarke, Oliver Standley, Larissa Wellman.

Max Harmel, Hirabayashi Natsuko, Kubo Nami, Ozeki Harumi, Yamaguchi Kosuke.

6A leavers, June 1996



Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1996:

Form 6B: Nils Detjen, Georgina Farr, Delia Friesenhausen, Andreas Fritsch, Susanne Gilsbach, Rachel Gilyhead, Anne Hinz, Annette Killmer, Bettine Killmer, Joel King, Laochamroonvorapongse Manut, Christian Lucke, Alastair Nye, Christian Olshausen, Rebecca Perry, Sophie Peters, Abdel Rahman Saedaldin, Thorsten Schulte, Anna Karina Stuwert.

Form 4: Adam Card, Sonja Forster, Tsuneyoshi Yuki, Richard Walder.

Form 3: Simon Bullock, Michael Elsworthy, Hamasaki Sumika, Hara Aoi, Hasegawa Yutaka, Billy Head, Ino Hiroyasu, Midorikawa Mariko, Leila Nelson, Alice Osborne, Adam Padmore, Francisco Ruiz-Escribano, Lianne Sammons, Paul Szybiak, Garcia Valdecasas-Dorrego.

Form 2: Matthew Ewing, Sarah Padmore.

Form 1: Timothy Bates, Duncan Bond, Emma Cassidy-Gray, Joshua Coppersmith-Heaven, Holly Earl, Imogen Eaton, Hannah Ewing, Charles Fothergill, Samuel Gunner, Samuel Hicks, Georgina Holmes, Charles Jacobs, Christopher Jeffreys, Thomas Lait, Joseph Mociomitza, Laura North, Holly Osbourne, Alexandra Pardhy, Caroline Peters, Hayley Pratt, Daniel Roper, Matthew Storer, Zuki Turner, Edward Vaughan-Hughes, Henry Wilson.

The Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1996:

President	Ted Jones (1940-48)
Chairman	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-Chairman	Julian Comrie (1946-54)
Secretary	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77)
	Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway, Cirencester, Glos.
Treasurer/School Rep	Chris Wood (1965-71)
Girls' Secretary	Hannah Willcocks (1992-94)
Hockey Secretary	Philip Moore (1980-87)
Cricket Secretary	Julian Fellows (1981-88)
Newsletter Editor	Bill White

News of Recent Leavers

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

Francis Barton	Sheffield University - Biology
Alastair Christie	Southampton University - Anatomy/Physiology

Steven Croft Birmingham University

- Biochemistry

Alice Depauw Brighton University

- Modern Languages

Charlotte Edwards Durham University - Combined

Social Sciences 1996

Tina Eylmann Brighton University

- History of Art

Susie Fletcher De Montfort University

- Polymers/Textiles

Harriet Gowers Leeds University

- Politics

Annabel lies Loughborough

- Art Foundation Course

Frederick Ingham Brasenose College, Oxford

- English

Christopher Jarrett on staff of Bruern Abbey

Stephen Jones Southampton University

- Biochemistry

Benjamin Körber a bank in Berlin

Serena Lucas Secretarial College

Helen Madge Southampton University

-European Studies

John Morgan Leeds University

- Politics and French

Lucy Peters Newcastle University

- Business Management

Stephen Roney Birmingham University

- Biochemistry

Anna Ronowicz Ruskin College, Oxford

- Fine Art

Giles Somers Birmingham University

- Biochemistry

Michael Steen Southampton Institute of HE

- Business Studies

Rupert Wertheimer University of West of England

- Marketing

Leslie White Southampton University

- Chemistry

Mark Williams Oxford Brookes University

- Combined Arts

Jesse Wright Derby University

- Environmental Science

**Pride of
Coventry**

*Jonathan
Davis (5)*



Academic

We congratulate the following:

Stephen Smith	1st Class Honours B. Ed (Technology) at Trinity College, University of Aberystwyth.
Elizabeth Syed	1st Class Honours in German and Linguistics at Manchester University.
James Thraves	1st Class Honours in Classics and English at King's College, London, Kennedy Memorial Scholarship, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard.
Amanda Vaux	1st Class Honours in Drawing and Painting at the Edinburgh College of Art.

Scholarships for Entry in September 1996

Sixth Form Entry

Rachel Gilyhead (Cirencester Deer Park School)	Open Scholarship Dulverton
Annabel Howard (Rendcomb College)	Trust Bursary Music
Alastair Nye (Churchfields School, Swindon)	Scholarship

Fourth Form Entry

David Newby (Rendcomb College)	Dulverton Trust Bursary
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Third Form Entry

Billy Head (Beaundesert Park School)	Art Scholarship Sport
Paul Szybiak (Prior Park School, Cricklade)	Scholarship

First Form Entry

Timothy Bates (Woodmancote Primary School)	Noël Wills Scholarship
Emma Cassidy-Gray (Hatherop Primary School)	Open Scholarship
Charles Fothergill (Richard Pate's School)	Choral Scholarship
Zuki Turner (St John's Priory School)	Academic/Music Scholarship



Pupils from Querns School, Cirencester visit Rendcomb I. T. department.

‘A’ Level

This summer’s GCE Advanced Level results were:

Katherine Bagshawe -	English Literature, Music
Keith Bendall -	French, German, History, Music (AS)
Charlotte Bohlken -	Art and Design
Nicholas Carmichael -	Business Studies*, French*, German
Chaiwoot Chotitputsip -	Mathematics*
Lindsay Duff -	English Literature*, French*, German
Rudolf Dühmke -	Biology, Chemistry (M), Mathematics*, Physics*
James Fairbank -	Biology, Geography
Leighton Freeman -	Chemistry, French
Rebecca Gee -	Business Studies, Mathematics
Alister Harris -	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Music (AS)
Robert Hart -	Art and Design, Business Studies
Suzannah Harvey -	Art and Design
William Heaven -	English Literature*, French*, German
Nicholas Holt -	Art and Design*, Geography, History
Seun Ismail -	Art and Design*, Business Studies
Jack Jelfs -	Art and Design, English Literature*, History, Music (AS)
Anna Jensen -	Business Studies*
George Langlands -	Mathematics
Christopher Mackinnon -	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics*
Craig Marcham -	English Literature, Geography, History
Francis Newcombe -	Business Studies, English Literature, Geography
Luke Nicholls -	Business Studies, English Literature, Geography
Karen Pearce -	Biology, Business Studies, French
Philip Price -	English Literature, Geography, Mathematics (AS)
Benjamin Renow-Clarke -	English Literature, German, History
Wannachan Samranvanich -	Mathematics*
Adam Simpkin -	Business Studies, French, German (AS)
Tony Winstone -	Music (AS)
Richard Witchell -	Business Studies

Fifth-form entry:

Lisa Engelstädter -	German*
Jan Schekatz -	German*

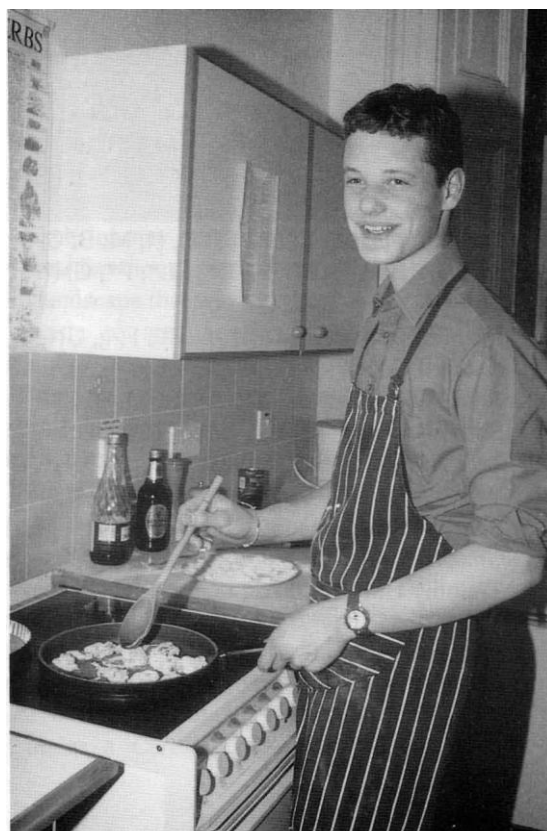
Key:

* - Grade ‘A’

AS - Advanced Supplementary

M - Merit in Special Paper

Sixth-form cookery class



GCSE

The GCSE results were:

Sixth-form entry:

Stephen Amey - PE
 Christopher Baker - PE*
 Charlotte Bohlken - E, F*, M
 William Brittain-Jones - PE*
 Andrew Donovan - PE
 Victoria Dühmke - E
 James Emerson - PE
 Manolito Garcia - MS, PE*, SP*
 James Graham - PE
 Matthew Hall - PE
 Marcus Haynes - MS, SP
 William Hunt - MS
 Colin Morey - MS*
 Stewart Taylor - MS, PE
 David Wragg - MS

Fifth-form entry:

Toby Abbott - AD(DP)*, E*, EL, F, G**, H*, M*, B, C, P
 Ralph Barnes - AD(DP), e, EL, F, g, m, ds, EA
 Oliver Blackwell - AD, E, EL, f, g, m, ds, EA*
 Ann Chaiwatanasirikul - AD, e, el, g, M, ds
 Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul - e, EL, G, gn, M, DS
 Edmund Clipson - AD, E*, EL*, F, M, DS, EA*
 Sophie Collier - AD(DP)***, E**, EL, F*, G**, GN*, M, B, C
 Harvey Davies - E*, EL*, F**, GN*, H*, L*, M**, B*, C, P*
 Jonathan Davis - AD(DP), E, EL, F, G, M, B, C, P
 Philip de Havilland Hall - AD(DP), E, EL, F, G, M, B, C, P
 Edward Forster - DR, e, F, gn, h, M, B, C, P
 James Fox - AD, E, EL, F, G, M, DS, EA
 Jonathan Freeman - E, EL*, F**, G*, GN*, M, B, C, P
 Benjamin Frost - E, EL, F, G*, H, M, B, C, P
 Jack Garland - AD(DP), E*, EL*, F*, GN*, H*, M, B, C, P
 Fenella Gerry - AD(DP)*, E, EL, F, g, GN, m, ds
 Richard Gooch - AD(DP), E, EL, f, g, ss, EA*
 James Gibbs - E, EL, F*, G*, H, M, B, C, P
 Sebastian Grey - AD, E, EL, F, L, M, DS
 Jake Hawkins - E, EL, F, G**, H, M**, B*, C**, p*
 Sebastian Heinemann - e, el, F, g, GN**, M, ds
 Chas Holliday - AD, E, EL, F, G, H, M, b, c, p
 Timothy Hill - E*, EL, F**, GN*, H*, L*, M**, B*, C**, P*
 Richard Histed - E, EL, F, G, H, M*, B, C, P
 Annabel Howard - DR*, E*, EL, F*, G**, H, M*, B*, C*, P

David Hughes - AD(DP), E, EL, G*, GN, M*, B, C, P
 Andrew Jarrett - AD*, E, EL, F*, G, M, MU*, B, C, P
 Julian Keith - E, EL, F**, G**, GN, H, M, B, C, P
 Bianca Mann - AD, E, EL, f, g, m, ds, EA*
 Sam Maylott - E, EL, F, G, H, M, B, c, p, EA
 Hannah Nichols - AD, E, EL, F, G, gn, M, DS
 Janet Pearce - E*, EL, F*, G, GN, H, M, B, C, p
 Charles Perry - e, el, f, g, m, mu, ds
 Adam Phillips - E, EL, F**, GN*, H*, M**, MU*, B*, C*, P*
 Rowan Renow-Clarke - AD, E*, EL, F, G*, M, B, C, P, EA*
 Nicholas Ridley - E*, EL, F, G*, L, M, B, C, p
 Christopher Scarth - E, EL, F*, G, N, H, L, M*, B, C, P
 Jan Schekatz - e, F, g, GN**, m, b
 Tristan Sharman - AD, E, EL, F, G, m, DS
 Oliver Standley - E, el, F, G, m, DS
 Mark Sutton - E, EL, G, GN, M, MU, B, C, P
 Ashley Taylor - AD(DP), E*, EL*, G, GN, H, M, B, C, p
 Edward Turvill - AD(DP), e, EL, f, G, M, B, c, P
 Rupert Webb - E, EL, F*, GN, H, L, M, B, C, P
 Simon Webb - DR*, E, EL, F*, GN, M*, MU*, B, C, P
 Larissa Wellmann - e, EL, g, GN**, m, ss
 David Williams - AD(DP), E, EL, F, G, M, DS

Fourth-form entry:

Lisa Engelstädter - GN**
 Susanna Höelscher - GN**
 Tina Rink - GN*

Third-form entry:

Helen Mizon -I*

Key: capital letters show grades A-C,
 lower case letters grades D-F
 ** - grade A*
 * - grade A
 AD - Art and Design
 AD(DP) - Art and Design (Drawing and Painting)
 B - Biology
 C - Chemistry
 DR - Design and Realisation
 DS - Double Award Science
 E - English Language
 EA - Expressive Arts
 EL - English Literature
 F - French
 G - Geography
 GN - German
 H - History
 I - Italian
 L - Latin
 M - Mathematics
 MS - Media Studies
 MU - Music
 P - Physics
 PE - Physical Education
 SP - Spanish
 SS - Single Award Science

Excursion

Rugby Tour to Canada

For most rugby players at Rendcomb the months of July and August usually mean a relaxing time away from school, in which little rugby is played. Pre-season training usually amounts to a couple of hours on the first Sunday back; this, however, was not the case last summer.

Early in August 1995, 28 Rendcombians, accompanied by Mr Slark, Mr Newby and Mrs Pritchard, travelled to Canada on a 16-day rugby tour.

springs to mind. Despite the abundance of muscle and brute strength, they were very welcoming, and a fine evening was followed the next day by energetic training.

The first match of the tour was played on Wednesday, 2nd August, against a select side picked from our joint hosts, the Calgary Canucks and the Calgary Saracens. The heat was intense and led the whole squad to remove the sleeves from their tour shirts in order to make them a little more lightweight. Rendcomb took time to get into gear, but won the game 26-10.

The next couple of days were spent with different billets, and plenty of time was available to see the sights and do a bit of shopping before moving on to our next destination, Red Deer.



On arrival at Heathrow one could sense a real air of excitement and expectation amongst the group. This lasted for most of the long flight, but the atmosphere was clearly more subdued when we finally touched down in Edmonton, perhaps because our intended destination was Calgary!

Owing to an engine problem we had to land and then change to a different plane for the flight to Calgary. All in all, it was a difficult journey: some of our first-aid equipment was confiscated; Patrick Boydell's luggage was lost (the fact that airport security was handled by an organisation called Group 4 is perhaps no coincidence), and we arrived hours late for our reception at Calgary.

However, we did eventually meet our first billets, and this was our first glimpse of the average Canadian rugby player - 'huge' is the word that

The coach journey was not too long, but again the heat was ferocious, particularly in the strange, lunar-like landscape that was the 'Badlands', and the stop en route to see the Dinosaur Museum at Drumhella was very welcome.

Red Deer was very different from the big city of Calgary, and the outcome of the match against the Red Deer Titans was an emphatic 52-point victory. Added interest was provided by the television coverage by the local cable station, and the resulting video made interesting viewing on the next stage of the journey, to Edmonton. Sadly, the soundtrack was lost and with it Mr Slark's contribution as 'expert' analyst.

On arrival at Edmonton we discovered that the clubhouse or our hosts, the Druids, was situated directly under a Canadian football stadium, and

before meeting the billets there was a chance to watch the second half of a game.

The next day saw us visit the West Edmonton Mall; this was vast, to say the least, with thousands of shops and even an indoor water-park. Those brave enough, or perhaps stupid enough, were able to try a bungee jump (to the horror of the staff!), but most of us declined, preferring to save our energy for the match, which, despite the wet and muddy conditions, we won convincingly by 31-5.

After Edmonton, we moved to Banff for a couple of relaxing days; set in the Rockies, the scenery was spectacular, and the experience of sitting in a hot tub watching the sun go down against the mountains is something few of us are likely to forget. We were able also to have a go at white-water rafting; the actual rafting was quite tame (although Tony Winstone might not agree!), but the water-fights provided great entertainment, with the Slark/Newby raft at the centre of the action! Also at Banff, we held our first 'court' session, with judge Les White warming to his role and handing out heavy sentences to a series of unfortunate offenders.

From Banff we travelled to Vancouver, a journey that lasted some 12 hours but took us through the heart of the Rockies. The scenery was absolutely breathtaking, but I am not convinced that Mr Newby needed to take a photograph of every mountain we saw; as Mr Slark said, 'once you've seen one mountain...'

The next day we played our first match in Vancouver, against a strong Red Lions side; pursuing our policy of giving every member of the party as much rugby as possible, we started with a 'B' side, which unfortunately left just a little too much for the 'A' team to do, and we were narrowly defeated by 13-12.

The final days of the tour were spent in the Sandman Hotel in downtown Vancouver. It took us very little time to take over the fourth floor: takeaway pizzas were soon arriving in numbers, and the swimming pool and sauna were in constant use.

Our final match was played against Richmond, and it was unfortunate that we should pick our last game together to have a bit of a 'shocker'. Very few of our moves worked, and the opposition capitalised on our mistakes to win 17-13.

Everyone was disappointed to have lost, but many opted to lift their spirits by hiring 'limos' or going to the Hard Rock Cafe for a meal; it actually turned out to be one of the best nights of the tour, ending with what became a very valuable discussion about the likely make-up of the 1995 1st XV.

Of course, we could not leave Vancouver without seeing the sights; it made for a very interesting day and, despite the fact that the tour was nearly over, the party was in high spirits, although

we are still not certain about the story of Alex Tibbs and a certain suspension bridge! A second 'court' session left Seun Ismail in particular out of pocket and the party as a whole rather better off and ready for a good final night.

We were thankful that our return journey posed fewer problems than our flight to Calgary. The tour was a fantastic experience and was enjoyed immensely by everyone who took part. Thanks must go to Mr Slark, Mr Newby and Mrs Pritchard for their efforts in both organising and running the tour, and to all those who helped and supported us in all sorts of ways. We all hope that future tours are equally successful.

NICK CARMICHAEL

The Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride

The cycle ride was on the first weekend back at school after the summer holiday. I had been looking forward to the ride the whole first week of term. On Saturday morning we all met together outside the Junior House. We were all issued with a map showing the route to all the churches we were to visit. The weather was beautiful, sunny and warm after a whole day of rain.

When we were ready to go, Mr Wood took some photographs of us, and then Mr Sudbury said, 'Right, now let's take some photographs with a *real* camera!'

We set off from Rendcomb, crossed the main road and went off up a steep little lane. My father rode with the rear group; Mr Wood rode with the group in front. Mr Sudbury took the easy option, although he claims that it was the most arduous job of all, driving the 'back-up vehicle', the minibus carrying the lunch, drinks and first-aid kit. Mr Stanfield drove his car behind the pack.



I was cycling along between the two groups, with the rear group behind me and the other group in front. I was enjoying the ride, but I suddenly realised that I could no longer see the group in front, nor the smaller group behind! I cycled furiously to catch up with the front group, but I still couldn't see them! I read the map, took a turning and cycled on. I came to Woodmancote thinking I would catch up with the front group in a minute. I looked up: ahead I had a clear view of North Cerney, and over the valley I saw Rendcomb. At this, I immediately knew something was wrong and cycled back to Woodmancote.

My father had realised I was missing and cycled to find me, couldn't find me and gave up hope, thinking I had found the right way for myself. In the meantime I thought about what to do. I was just ringing on someone's doorbell to ask for directions, when a helpful-looking Reverend driving a Rendcomb College minibus turned the corner! He shouted 'Cyclist! What are you doing here? Jump in the back!'

I realised how much ground I had covered only when Mr Sudbury drove the minibus with my bike in the back through the country lanes to catch me up with the rest of the pack!

After this unfortunate incident, the ride was successful, and there were no more mishaps. We visited some beautiful old churches, including Elkstone, Winstone, Duntisbourne Abbots, Duntisbourne Rouse, Daglingworth, Bagendon and Rendcomb.

The total distance of the ride was 31 kilometres - 19 miles - but I probably covered much more than this. In some places it was very tiring. At Duntisbourne Rouse Church there were refreshments laid out for us; also to welcome us was a great big dog, who barked at us a lot; maybe he didn't like the look of our legs!

At Daglingworth Mr Sudbury very kindly bought us all ice-creams and drinks, which were very much appreciated. At the end of the ride we all raced up the hill to Rendcomb; I ended up first back to the Junior House! Mr and Mrs White, Mrs Sudbury and a few of the boys from the Junior House were there, cheering us on up the hill!

All in all, it was a nice day out.

PAUL BONGIOVANNI

'Hardy Country'

On 12th September the 6A English students went with Messrs Denny and Holt on a day-trip to Dorset, to visit various places associated with the Thomas Hardy novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, an 'A' level set book for 1996.

Contrasts in location and atmosphere play a considerable part in the book's meaning and exceptional intensity; unsurprisingly, then, the outing proved to be not only an enjoyable change from classroom routines but an illuminating visual commentary on what had hitherto been quaint Wessex names on a printed page. This was particularly true in that much of this beautiful, seemingly timeless landscape has changed little since Hardy's day.

Mr Denny, who now lives in deep Dorset himself, had used local knowledge to plan a carefully thought-out itinerary. We went first to Marnhull (the novel's Marlott) in the Blackmoor vale, where Tess was born, then through the Chase, the scene of her undoing in the wood.

Next we proceeded south to the Valley of the Great Dairies, scene of the happiest phase of the book - gurgling streams accompanying packed lunches, but cows conspicuous by their absence.

At Woolbridge Manor, the location of Tess's wedding night, we admired the Elizabethan architecture but were not tempted inside by the day's local furniture auction, before moving on to Bere Regis Church to see the richly coloured, heraldic D'Urberville window and the family vault of Tess's supposed ancestors.

We returned northwards via some bleak, remote Flintcomb Ash-type plateaux and eventually reached Marnhull again for a brief look at what has popularly come to be known as Tess's Cottage; 'part of her body and life it ever seemed to be, the slope of its dormers, the finish of its gables'.

It was a memorable day, despite the ferocious rain, and we were all very grateful to Tom Denny for giving up his time, for his imaginative routeplanning and for the delicious tea which he and his wife provided at the end of our literary pilgrimage. Will that Wessex cake assist the 'A' level results?

J. N. H.

The Hebrides

The 1995 Biology Field Trip, 17th-24th October

'Why all the way up to the West Coast of Scotland, sir?' But one had only to glimpse at the harbour of the Isle of Colonsay from the approaching ferry, and it all became self-evident.

In black and white terms, the function of this trip is to collect data for the 'A' level Biology Investigation. This includes a series of full 'line transects' of the zonation of specific coastal sites, with respect to the type, density and maturity of the flora. The Isle has a fine combination of very special

habitat features, exposure, Gulf Stream, aspect and geology as just a starting point.

But this is to describe the experience in one-dimensional terms. There are so many other aspects of this unique kind of field trip that one finds difficulty in describing the many levels on which it operates.

There is the landscape, wild, rugged and breathtakingly spectacular; it can defy belief. There are the people, warm, open and refreshingly genuine; a community such as this is a rare beast in our savage world. This presents a paradox, as undeniably the mainland offers a more 'civilised' life, yet fundamentally it is less so.

The wildlife offers a rare privilege, a television nature documentary before your very eyes, living it rather than watching it on a screen, a luxury increasingly denied to many. There are seals, both grey and Atlantic, watching, playing in shallow, clear water, or you can see a flight of four buzzards mobbing a female eagle...

So, with a mixture of timeless space, piercing fresh air (lots of it!), absorbing nature and the knowledge that the resulting project is well regarded, that is why it's 'all the way up to the West Coast of Scotland'. It is not just a field trip.

J. H. S.



Some thoughts on the Hebrides -

The thought of an island 50 years behind the mainland seems like the impossible, although that is what we have found on Colonsay. The island's stunning, although bleak, scenery and its neat compactness are personified by the untouchable community. This community, like its fragile Celtic past, is something so unique that it should never be allowed to be altered.

JAMES FAIRBANK

As Colonsay slowly slips out of sight, I know that the memories will never be forgotten. We were given a foresight as to what to expect, although nothing could prepare us for what we were about to experience, the stunning scenery, the beautiful beaches and the general atmosphere that one soaks up from the islanders.

The weather was almost perfect and the work manageable, as it was blended with free-time activities, such as clay pigeon shooting, walking to Oronsay and so on. The accommodation was superb, and so was the cuisine. Thank you very much.

LEIGHTON FREEMAN

Colonsay is a beautiful island, partly stuck in the past. The friendliness and loyalties you would not find in a large community. Life on the island is very simple, but you immediately feel at home.

AL HARRIS

To my surprise, the trip was actually very enjoyable.

The quietness of the island was the first thing that struck me; however, even though it was so quiet, the presence of the islanders was always felt.

I was very intrigued and almost confused by the small scale on which the islanders think. I noticed this at the *Kalich* (Scottish dance), which to me seemed just like a get-together; however, the expression on the islanders' faces was suited to a New Year's Eve event.

On the whole it was very interesting, verging on the fascinating or even, dare I say, unbelievable!

SEUN ISMAIL

The island certainly left an impression on me. I was fascinated by the close-knit community, the way in which islanders all lived, worked and played in such a small space. The island had a safe, friendly atmosphere which I had never experienced before.

The surroundings also were interesting, the beaches, wildlife, buildings and landscape. On the wildlife side, I particularly enjoyed seeing the eagles and seals and picking mussels, which we later ate.

The landscape was different, typically Scottish yet less dramatic than highland areas of the Scottish mainland. 'Pigs' Paradise' and the caving were good fun.

ANNA JENSEN

Before I arrived in Colonsay, my visions of the island were completely different from what they are now.

I imagined it would be a lot smaller, with about 10 people on it, and I thought I'd be sick of the place within about two minutes!

However, I soon realised that I was wrong. Over the last week I've really enjoyed being on the island and visiting all the places on it which must mean so much to the people of Colonsay.

It's been good to be away from home for a week and have time to think my own little thoughts!

However, even though I've had a brilliant week, I can't even begin to imagine living somewhere so isolated as Colonsay.

KAREN PEARCE

Geography Fieldwork



GCSE hydrology investigation on the R. Churn

The Geography department has gone a long way towards achieving its aim of all students' participating in at least one day's fieldwork per pupil per year. Visits have included:

- first year investigation of the River Churn,
- third year survey of local retail outlets,
- fourth year survey of Cotswold farms,
- fifth year visit to Cadbury World and the South Coast
- sixth-form study of Cardiff Bay and **residential week in the Lake District.**



Macbeth

This lively touring production from the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, was hosted by the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, when the Rendcomb fifth-year pupils and the sixth-form English elite descended upon it for the evening performance on 16th November. The purpose of this visit was to familiarise the Fifth Form with the play, which they were studying for GCSE, in its most natural and clear setting, on the stage.

The performance was powerful and energetic and had the kind of quality and clarity of acting which allows a Shakespeare play to become that much more understandable and accessible to a modern audience. The understanding thus afforded was, without doubt, particularly useful to those studying *Macbeth* for GCSE, as a greater depth was given to each character than it is possible to gain from a stilted reading in class.

The players of particular note were Macbeth and the slovenly porter as, although they arguably have the best lines, these are also some of the most difficult to perform, having become so well known and almost dictéd. Nevertheless, they performed them innovatively and slickly, and this quality was echoed in the play as a whole, which contained some refreshing parts and moved along smoothly.

The only part of the production which did not work as well as it might have was owing to the abstemious budget. The cast was very small, and there were actors who popped up so many times that it became, for us lesser mortals, a little confusing. There was also a general disappointment at the non-appearance of the witches or apparitions, merely a taped voice echoing from behind us; this, however was not a fatal flaw.

The evening was indeed most enjoyable for all, and even those without an admiration for Shakespeare's poetry were given the chance to dress up in an outrageous blazer and tie (boys) or dress (girls) and be, or pretend to be, erudite and appreciative. The trip was a most definite success.

CHARLES WEBB

The Tempest

The opening effects of this lively RSC production, seen on 8th February by all the sixth-form English students, made an initial assault on our ears with a kaleidoscope of flailing human shapes in what was perfectly mimed to confirm the title of the play and to set audience expectancy on a sharp edge for what was to follow.

This particular production, ripe in imagery created by the glossy colours and delicately

executed acting, brought the profound ideas of this decorative play to life. With Prospero, Ferdinand and Miranda adorned in white to symbolise their virtue, a stunning contrast was made with the dark-clothed, black-hearted Antonio and Sebastian, who kept our interest at a constant high as their knife-edge cynicism and cruel wit ebbed back and forth in evil rapport.

One specialised cast of character could be noted in Caliban, sickeningly hunched, draped in hideously rotting rags, bawling out expletives in a grating shriek that kept our amusement and shock alternating accordingly. His actions were enhanced only by the deeply comical addition of 'sidekicks' Trinculo and Stephano. Audience mirth was kept continually fresh with this, the bawdiest and crudest of drunken scenes, the punning deft.

In the graver side of the play, nothing could surpass the emotive quality of the love-scene between Ferdinand and Miranda. The acting superb, it was a truly moving, all-engrossing experience; again, the beauty of the wording, so often disguised to us in the educated learning of the text, became suddenly clear.

Perhaps Ariel (boldly dressed in a fashion that maybe some had not expected) was the most captivating character on stage. With her high, wordy songs, dainty feet and almost elastic flexibility, she confirmed our text-based impression of her. The shrewdness of this acting was really in the keen imitation of spiritual movement, the tiny, bird-like actions and frivolous dance-steps completely conveying the essence of the airy nymph. Her inducement of sleep on the court party even created a soporiferous feeling throughout the audience, adding to the hauntingly apt mime.

There seems nothing to praise more highly in a Shakespeare production of this kind, in my view, than the utter transformation of the complex Jacobean wording into something almost modern in its ability to be understood. The RSC touring company playing *The Tempest* at Newbury achieved this in an enthralling variety of ways.

TABITHA PELLY

The Provoked Wife

On 14th February the sixth-form English specialists went to the Everyman Theatre for the Oxford Stage Company's production of *The Provoked Wife* by Sir John Vanbrugh. 6B were studying *The Way of the World* for 'A' level, and here was a chance to see another Restoration comedy.

The play portrays passion, adultery and deceit and evolves from the events in the lives of ten main characters.

The production was fast-moving and dramatic, although the plot itself was extremely ironic and, in effect, comical to the end.

Staging was simple, using only one set scene but adding big drapes of white material to cut parts out, to add special effects of dreams or to show the audience a scene far off.

Lighting was kept simple, using mainly white and yellow from the stage floor itself and from the side of the stage. This gave a darkened effect, but at the same time a warm feeling too.

Costumes, on the other hand, were very striking, elaborate and rich, true to the era but also helping to emphasise the comedy, being bright and flamboyant.

Action was excellent from all involved, especially, I thought, from the actors playing Sir John Brute, Lady Brute, Lady Fanciful and the male Mademoiselle, who took on the scatty, bewildered but somewhat scheming French maid.

I think we all greatly enjoyed, though, the great skills of a certain player, shown in the many parts he was asked to play: 'Treble' - singing master, 'Razor' - valet de chambre, 'Sir John' - justice of the peace, 'Lord Rake' and 'Colonel Bully' - his companions.

He also managed to act as maid to Lady Fanciful, and we found that it was through him that much of the humour of the play was put across.

Also, musical effects were heavily used, and we were shown examples of other talents by some of the players, although the singing at some points left something to be desired.

However, we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and relished the rare chance to see the colourful drama of this era.

NAOMI GIBBONS

Animal Farm

On 9th May the Fifth Form went to the Niccol Centre in Cirencester to see a one-man show by Guy Masterson based on *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's classic satirical novel and a GCSE set text.

The performance was awaited with an excited silence by the audience, not quite sure what to expect. And then, as a woman from the floor waved frantically up to the man operating the lights, the room darkened and fell into an expectant silence. From the depths of the stage echoed the majestic voice of Old Major, creator of animalism and father to the play.

It was shortly after this powerful opening that a figure, simply clothed and without props, sauntered onto the stage and was bathed in a pool of light as he passed. The audience froze with him, each one thinking the same thing - 'How will he do it? Will he be good?' - and perhaps the more sceptical, 'It's impossible'.

But, as the story unwound and the characters grew more and more intense, it was easy to spot the talent. One man, one solitary individual grasping the attention of so many others for so long was truly spectacular.

For each character of the much celebrated and controversial novel Masterson invented a different tone of voice, an unusual accent or perhaps a movement or position easily connected to that character. The endless repetition of this splendid classification made it easy to detect mood and feeling: irony sprang from the ends of Squealer's trotters, and Boxer's voice resounded in faithful stupidity.

In addition to the energetic and enthusiastic interpretation, Masterson offered effects creating a sense of reality: doors slammed, pigs roared and men cheered as Napoleon's speech concluded the play.

It was a piece of genius, as if a whole cast were present; the audience was enthralled, encased in the play, comrades to the characters so professionally portrayed by Masterson. The thunderous applause which echoed around the tiny theatre at the end was enriched with joy, and partly with relief. Anxious questions had been answered: it was excellent.

SOPHIE COLLIER



Graham Monteith ,OR

Madrid 1996

Well primed by various projects and a Spanish Theme Evening, 22 'A' level art students set out on the department's first trip to Madrid and Toledo.

The warmth of the sun, the dryness of the soil and people in shirtsleeves made an immediate

impression after the early-morning mists of February in England, and our first explorations of Madrid took us to the Puerto del Sol and the glorious Plaza Major.

Indeed Madrid proved to be an excellent city to explore, with its rich mixture of grand fountains, splendid buildings, wide main streets, narrow alleyways, huge palms and colourful shops.

There was some excellent and interesting food available, and many students made a distinct effort to follow instructions and explored real Spanish cafes and bars for lunch, while in the evening we ate as a group, further exploring Spanish wine and cuisine before having a look at Madrid's extraordinary night-life.

The city's art galleries were excellent, and we found both the Prado and the Thyssen collection full of really inspiring and exciting work.

The Goya 'black paintings' created a real impression, as did Velasquez's *Las Meninas*, but maybe the real surprise was the emotional effect created by Picasso's *Guernica* in the Reina Sophia Museum.

The Sunday was spent exploring the mediaeval city of Toledo, where the huge Cathedral contrasts so dynamically with the twisting streets and where *The Burial of Count Orgaz* by El Greco can still be seen in its own small chapel. The wonders of the city were enhanced by a beautiful warm sunny day, which raised the quality of the atmosphere and showed off the ochre-red buildings against the rich blue sky.

I'm sure we all have our own special memories of the place, and I hope that the whole experience gives the students a desire to travel and explore with an open and enquiring mind in the future.

We returned from Madrid to a blizzard that delayed our journey by over three hours! As we struggled up the M4 in the blinding snow, the memories of Madrid were already of value!

Thanks go to all those who made the trip a success, *especially* the minibus drivers! Never... was so much owed by so many to so few.

M. S. G.

Germany in March

Dienstag - Duisburg

We left Rendcomb at 8.45 a. m. on our nine-hour journey through the Channel Tunnel, France, Belgium and Holland to Germany. The journey was fairly uneventful. Miss Houghton tried to persuade us to practise our essential German phrases, but of course we spent most of the time eating, chatting or sleeping. The minibus was fairly cosy inside, even though we had all tried to save

space with careful packing (apart from Hannah, who had to have her five pairs of shoes, not to mention the slippers!), and before long we were sitting in a sea of sweet and chocolate wrappers. We finally arrived at Duisburg, just inside Germany, and headed straight to a pizza place down the road from the youth hostel. Then, after a filling meal, it was off to bed to prepare for Munster.

CHRIS SCARTH & JACK GARLAND

Mittwoch - Munster

After waking up in a hard bed in Duisburg - it wasn't the best youth hostel we stayed in - we had our first traditional German breakfast of rolls and sausage, cheese or jam, and then set off for Munster. It took us about an hour and a half to get there, and the youth hostel was really nice - five-star - with en suite bathroom. We immediately set off towards the centre of Munster, and everyone was able to use the much loved phrase, *Wie komme ich*

am besten zum Bahnhof?

There Miss Houghton and Dr Haslett told us to go to the tourist information centre to practise our role play, after which we went to the market, the *Friedenshalle*, and the cathedral.

We then went off in groups for a while and met in the youth hostel at five p.m. At seven p.m. Mr Wellmann,

Larissa's dad, who was in Munster on business, very kindly took us all out to a restaurant for a really good and typically German meal. There was loads of it, including, of course, *Würste!* We then went for a walk along the river and stayed up talking until midnight. The whole day was really wonderful.

HANNAH NICHOLLS

Donnerstag - Bremen

We left Munster at about nine a.m. and began our journey to Bremen. The journey passed quickly; most people slept for a lot of it. As we arrived in Bremen some of us were nervous at the thought of meeting our hosts for the two nights to come. Tension was high as the names of the hosts we would be staying with were read out. As it turned out, they were very nice people from lovely families. They were all pupils at Charlie Bohlken's old school, the *Okumenisches Gymnasium zu Bremen* or *O. G.* for short. Most of us went into town

with our partners in the afternoon, and some of them took us out for a meal in the evening.

MARK SUTTON

Freitag - Bremen

We had to be in school for 7.45 a.m. (!!), so everyone was very tired after having an evening out. It was the end of the school term and the last day for their 6A leavers. In the middle of the second lesson loud music started to be played outside the classrooms; then some of the pupils, who were celebrating their last ever day of school, burst in, threw sweets around and drew hearts on everyone's cheek with lipstick; it was a bit like Red Nose Day, really. It was 9.30 a.m., and all the teachers, including Miss Houghton and Dr Haslett, retreated to the staffroom, but were nevertheless attacked with lipstick. There was a big disco in the main hall, and there were no more lessons for the rest of the day. Perhaps Rendcomb should celebrate

the end of each term in the same way!

In the afternoon we all met and were given a guided tour of Bremen by Frau Plag, one of the teachers from Charlie's school, which included the famous town musicians, the donkey, the dog, the cat and the rooster. We also saw the cathedral, the narrow streets of the

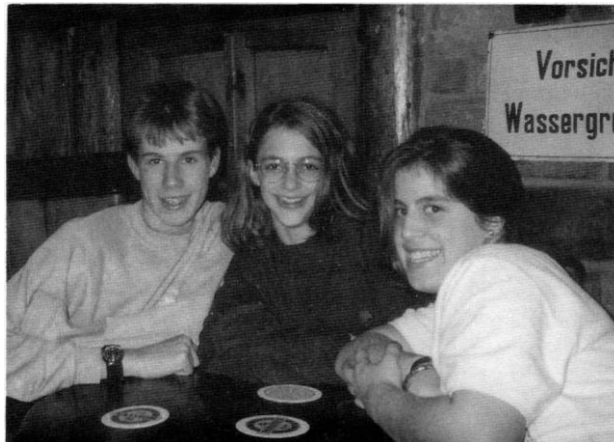
town hall.

In the evening we were entertained by our German partners again. Miss Houghton and Dr Haslett were invited to spend the evening with Charlie's parents. We all had a great time!

GEMMA LEATHART

Samstag - Hamburg

We began the day with sad goodbyes to our host families in Bremen and climbed into the minibus, heading for Hamburg. After about an hour we arrived at the youth hostel, which just happened to be rather close to the red light district, the world-famous *Reeperbahn*. We decided to head for the town and managed to embarrass ourselves by holding up half the cars in Hamburg, reversing out of a dead end into a car park the minibus couldn't fit into! (It was not the driver's fault; there wasn't a sign at the entrance...). We then had a guided tour through the *Rathaus*, a magnificent town hall,



visited the harbour, and Susannah, Nadia and I entertained bored people on a bus by dancing for them. Later we all went out to a really great restaurant and had an equally great meal. In all, Hamburg was my favourite day.

KATE NICHOLAS

Sonntag - Berlin

At midday we met Benni Körber at his old school in Berlin, and we all went out for lunch. He took us on a tour of Berlin. The difference between the buildings in East and West Berlin was incredible. In the west they tend to be of a romantic feel, whereas in the east they are all very bland and grey. The people seemed different too: the East Berliners had a very Russian look to them.

There was a massive rebuilding project going on there, and many of the old buildings were being restored. Although in the poorer part of the city there were many derelict buildings, they had been decorated with some pretty impressive *graffiti*.

Berlin is huge, and we spent Sunday afternoon looking mainly round the east of the city. Our tour started at the Brandenburg Gate, which used to be blocked by the Berlin Wall, but which you can now walk through again.

We walked down *Unter den Linden*, the central artery of East Berlin, and admired the architecture of the *Marx-Engels Platz* and the neighbouring *Alexanderplatz*. We also went to an art gallery in a back garden, where sculptors in metal display their work. Some of it seemed rather meaningless, but some - such as a burnt-out bus half-buried in the ground - was quite interesting.

We then went back to Benni's school, where we met our host families and spent the evening with them.

DAVID HUGHES

Montag - Berlin

In the morning we went to school with our host-partners. The lessons were very different from our everyday lessons at Rendcomb - much less formal. The best was Music, where we divided into nationalities to sing to each other, which was my idea, of course! We were even brave enough to sing them a German song!

There was one boy who stood out from the others because he was very good-looking and had green hair. I wished that I had tried even harder in my German lessons, to give me more confidence to chat him up! Unfortunately, I had to admire him from afar...

We visited the museum at 'Checkpoint Charlie', which tells the story of the Wall, of escape attempts

and of the 200 people who died over the last 30 years trying to get from one side to the other.

We then went shopping down the *Kurfürstendamm*, the German equivalent of Bond Street. Later in the evening we went to their school play, *Unter dem Wunderbaum*. I didn't quite catch it all (!), but it was very visual, and there were lots of funny bits, such as a boy running around in tights, pretending to be a horse.

After the play we all went into the common room with our exchange partners. Dr Haslett and Frau Hau started an international game of 'Win, lose or draw', which was a success. Afterwards we went back to our families. It was a great day!

NADIA EL-TITI

Dienstag - Braunschweig

At eight we left Berlin, having said goodbye and thank you to the families that we stayed with. When we arrived at Braunschweig, we were met by Herr and Frau Biehl, friends of Miss Houghton. They then took us on a tour of the town.

First we went to a very beautiful twelfth-century church, with an elaborate organ that Simon tinkered with, and then to the Town Hall, including its museum on the history of the town. We asked Herr Biehl about growing up in Nazi Germany; it was really interesting.

After that we went to the cathedral square, where there was a market, and then back to the Biehls' house for *Kaffee und Kuchen*, a great German tradition of coffee and loads of cake in the afternoon. We also met Marieke Biehl, who was Miss Houghton's school exchange partner; Miss Houghton was very excited to see her again.

We then went back to the youth hostel to get changed and went to have a meal with Marieke. After we had eaten, we went to the 'Jolly Joker', a night-club well known to Miss Houghton and Marieke from their school days. We were kicked out at half-past ten, as this is the law for under-sixteen-year-olds in Germany, and then went back to the youth hostel and had to say goodbye to Marieke. Another great day!

ADAM PHILLIPS

Mittwoch - Essen

The journey to Essen took much longer than expected, as the traffic on the *Autobahn* was terrible, but with some skilful map-reading we finally arrived at the youth hostel in a pretty suburb of Essen, called Werden. After unloading our bags we went into the town to spend our last few *pfennigs*. Later in the evening we went on a tour of the area in a minibus, trying to find a nice place to

eat on our last night. Back at the hostel at about 11 p.m., we crowded into the boys' dorm for a final gathering and some presentations. We were all so tired at this stage that we fell asleep after half an hour, to be woken up by Frau Hau and Dr Haslett after midnight and sent to our own rooms.

SIMON WEBB

Donnerstag - Nadi Haase!

We got woken up at 7 a.m. and stumbled into the showers half asleep. We got the minibus loaded up before breakfast and set off at 8.30. Everyone was depressed about leaving, especially as some of us had loads of revision to do as soon as we got back home.

The journey was very boring, as most people fell asleep; there was, however, a little more space, as Larissa and Suzanne had gone back to Munich, and we all gobbled chocolate. Music was at times a problem, as tastes ranged from Hannah's ABBA and Andrew Lloyd Webber to Dr Haslett's Cranberries and everyone else's rap, rave & pop. Ear plugs came in handy, especially for those short of sleep!

We did some last-minute shopping in Calais and then took the tunnel back home. We arrived back at Rendcomb on time and were all exhausted from the long drive, but had thoroughly enjoyed our trip. Many thanks go to everybody, particularly all our German hosts, who were incredibly generous with their hospitality.

JONNY FREEMAN

Normandy in May

Thursday

Having loaded the minibus to breaking-point with bags and sleeping-bags, we were ready to depart. Our 'chauffeur', Dr Haslett, checked our passports and was much amused by the collection of highly flattering photographs. Once in Portsmouth, many of us realised, wandering around, that on Thursday evenings it is not particularly interesting and that there is very little to do by way of amusement.

Fortunately, it was not long before we were to board our overnight ferry. We became acquainted with our reclining seats, accurately described by Chris Baker as 'tasty'. Unfortunately, the sea was turning nasty, and I started to feel the effects at about 2 a.m. By about 4 a.m. I had returned to my reclining seat, my face a different colour from the usual. All my compatriots were fast asleep by this time, causing me some jealousy.

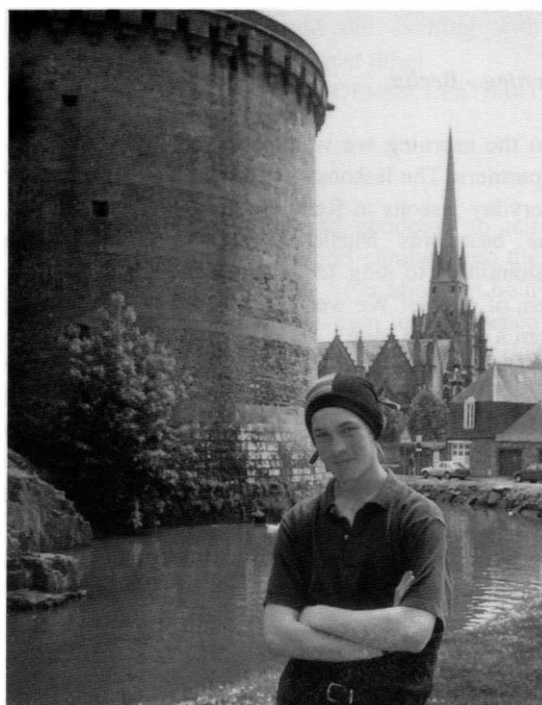
Friday

Back on dry land, we took breakfast in a café in France; *thé* and *croissants* proved the perfect antidote to the night at sea. It was then back to the road, with Dr Haslett again assuming control, Miss Houghton remaining asleep. We reached the house which was to become our dwelling-place for the next two days, set in picturesque and tranquil surroundings. It seemed somehow inappropriate that we were going to take it over, and it wasn't very long before the interior began to look more familiar to us, albeit less picturesque.

It was then on to a farm specialising in the production of goat's cheese. Of course, we were able to meet the goats themselves; they found our clothes very interesting. The cheese was so delightful that we couldn't leave without making a purchase, which was to serve us well for the remains of the weekend.

By now the minibus was clocking up a fair few miles on French soil, and it was soon on the road again for our next port of call, a cider factory. Here we observed how the manufacture of cider has developed over the last century or so, as well as getting an idea of how it is done today. Predictably, we also sampled the cider and took the odd souvenir with us.

Back at the country house, we tucked into a home-made *ragout*, complete with the rare ingredient, *le boeuf*. It was served with rice and was a source of great pride to the master chef, Will Hunt. The preceding appetiser won almost as many points for artistic impression as for taste; credit goes to Dr Haslett and Miss Houghton here. The whole meal defeated everyone, and so was a surprisingly good effort on our part.



Saturday

It was hardly a case of 'early to rise' on Saturday morning, and so there was a mad scramble for the sole shower. Those waiting could see sunshine through the windows, putting us in such a good mood that a Bob Marley LP came out of its sleeve and onto the stereo. The warmth induced Charles Webb to excite us all by wearing shorts.

The afternoon saw us appreciate the good weather more fully in a number of cafes in the town of Fougères, after looking round the church and the beautiful *jardin public* and admiring the castle.

To keep us occupied for the rest of the afternoon, our *comperes* had compiled for us what amounted to a treasure-hunt/quiz, which involved our asking the inhabitants of Fougères a string of rather obscure questions, with which they fortunately were more than pleased to help us. The rain started to lash down while we were searching desperately for a picture of Jacques Chirac; we knew that the sun couldn't last. Our team didn't win either, and we felt the need to console ourselves with *baguettes*.

This time we each made our own arrangements for the evening meal, and it was a large pizza that got the better of me on this occasion. Conversing had begun, and it continued well into the evening back at the house, Dr Haslett fondly reminiscing over the music of his generation and assuring us of the quality of the 'Cranberries'. Meanwhile, a civilised game of Pictionary was thrown into disarray after it emerged that not everyone can draw.

Sunday

Time was short, and after clearing the house we were left with little time to visit the D-Day museum at Arromanches, which was a shame; most of us went for a *baguette* and a wander around the town instead.

So we returned to 'Blighty', leaving behind a place that we had grown very fond of. It was difficult to revert to life in Rendcomb on Monday morning.

Finally, I must on behalf of all who went say a big 'thank you' to Miss Houghton and Dr Haslett for all their efforts on what was an enjoyable, but also an *academically beneficial* excursion. I think that they both enjoyed it as much as the rest of us, despite some British-esque weather.

STEWART TAYLOR

set 96*

During National Science Week, which boasted 5,000 events, different groups visited Cheltenham General Hospital, Oriel College, Oxford, and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory to learn about current advances in the fields of Medical Physics, Oceanography and Virtual Reality.

Cheltenham General Hospital: Medical Physics

On Saturday, 16th March, the sixth-form Physics students visited first the Electronics

Department, where drips, ECG machines and other electronic equipment from the whole hospital is serviced, repaired and tested. Next door the mechanical equipment, including surgical equipment and endoscopes, is serviced. We were able to look through an endoscope which was in a box with a selection of materials to simulate the inside of a body, and at the end a pair of eyes appeared from a small, fluffy 'stick me on your 'fridge' animal. Various surgical tools and instruments were on display, some of which were familiar from such TV programmes as 'E.R.' and 'Casualty'. The most grotesque was a slicing instrument for taking 20 cm-wide skin grafts.

We later made a tour of the Endoscopy unit, where a variety of flexible endoscopes were demonstrated. Incredible though it may seem, within a flexible tube about as wide as your little finger there are a light source, controls for adjusting the head, and tubes for taking small biopsies, for sucking away excess fluids and for blowing air into the patient, and the bundle of optic fibre for the picture, to be viewed either on a TV screen or through a lens on the top of the endoscope.

We were also shown a video about a new method of repairing hernias, which uses a small polypropylene gauze stitched to the muscle layer under the skin to prevent the bowel's coming through the muscle layer.

We should like to thank Mr Wood, Dr Smith and Mrs Botham for taking us and Cheltenham General Hospital for making us so welcome.

DOUGLAS ELLISON

Oriel College, Oxford: *Underwater volcanoes, deep-sea hot vents and black smokers*, by Dr Rachel Mills of Southampton University.

One of mankind's last frontiers is the ocean floor; Dr Mills described her recent visits to the mid-Atlantic deep in a joint expedition with the

Russians, and the wonders, mysteries and surprises of nature to be found there, sulphur-eating bacteria, hydrothermal vents of 'black smokers' such as Godzilla (45 metres high), worms from hell, fascinating natural chemistry laboratories concentrating minerals, and many other things. She considered the geology, the biology and the chemistry of this alien world, using excellent slides to illustrate her points and providing something of interest to each of the lower-sixth students who attended.

C. J. W.

Rutherford Appelton Laboratory: *Virtual Reality - it's a kind of magic*, by Professor Bob Stone of VR Solutions, Ltd.

Imagine being able to walk into a computergenerated art gallery and step into a painting, to emerge on the other side in a 3-D animated world. Well, after a short history of virtual reality, Professor Stone demonstrated this to third-year students, using a combination of video and slides, the painting chosen being one by Lowry, because of the simple angular representation of buildings and people. He showed also how surgeons can operate on a simulated human body, feeling flesh, organs and beating arteries in world where mistakes are forgiven!

Professor Stone is one of the UK's leading experts in the pioneering technology of Virtual Reality. His team has developed VR systems for aero-engine and nuclear submarine design, for supermarkets, for keyhole surgery training and even for a BBC1 TV game shown in April.

Using these and many more examples, the lecture showed how Virtual Reality has evolved from pioneering research and how it is now changing the shape of British industry and education, ready for the next millennium.

C. J. W.

IOD Annual Convention

On 24th April Mr Slark and eight Business Studies students attended the Annual Convention of the Institute of Directors at the Albert Hall. The focus this year was on *Europe... the Choices*. The convention opened with a keynote address by John Major on the importance of European integration.

The discussion was centred on two debates, the first being *This House believes that the likely benefits of a European Single Currency would be outweighed by its disadvantages*. Lord Tebbit and

Sir John Haskins (Chairman, The Burton Group plc and Chairman EMAP) spoke for the motion; Georges Jacob (Chairman, The Federation of Belgian Industry) and Alan Beith (Deputy Leader, The Liberal Democrat Party) spoke against the motion.

Some arguments in favour of a single currency were the elimination of transaction costs for firms and travellers, the reduction of uncertainty about exchange rates and increased efficiency resulting from free movement of capital.

Among the arguments against it were that countries would lose their national identity and that national governments would no longer be able to have an independent monetary policy, facing restrictions on their fiscal decisions.

Members from the floor were invited to speak on the motion, followed by voting from the floor. The result was a majority in favour of the motion.

The motion for the afternoon debate was *This House believes that EU member states should be free to regulate their own labour markets*. Peter Lilley (Secretary of State for Social Security) and Sir Stanley Kalms (Chairman, Dixon's Group plc) spoke for the motion; John Monks (General Secretary, TUC) and Christopher Hastings (Chairman, Northern Foods plc) spoke against. Yet again members from the floor were invited to speak, and a vote was taken resulting in a majority in favour of the motion.

Overall, the convention was found to be both interesting and useful in pointing out some of the key issues of the debate over Europe.

KAREN PEARCE

Hockey Internationals at Milton Keynes

On 16th June a party of 66, made up of a good cross-section of pupils, staff and guests, travelled to the new National Hockey Stadium at Milton Keynes for the final day of the pre-Atlanta tournament.

It was a beautiful day, and the green plastic of the water board synthetic pitch looked just like lush grass.



In the first match seen the German men annihilated the Pakistanis with superior passing and movement. By this time sun-cream was being slapped on extensively, litres of cold drinks being imbibed and any chance of getting within reach of the water cannons regarded as a bonus.

The other two matches were Great Britain against Holland, first the women and then the men. The standard was beneath that of the Germans; however, both matches were exciting to watch, and at times Britain played very well, encouraged by a patriotic crowd.

Overall, it was a hugely enjoyable experience, and one to be repeated in the future.

C. J. W.

Sport

Rugby Football

This season was one of considerable contrasts, with fixtures lost to the drought and hard ground at the beginning of term and threatened by cold weather and frost at the end. The senior teams enjoyed an outstandingly successful season, with a record that can be matched by few of their predecessors, while the junior teams struggled to compete in the traditional block fixtures against larger schools.

From a wider perspective, College rugby remains in transition, as the impact of the changing gender-balance continues to be felt. The fixture list must inevitably continue to be amended in the light of this development, and next season will see substantial changes in this respect.

A significant aspect of this season has been our inability to field the junior 'B' teams that have been such an important feature of Rendcomb rugby in the past and that have ultimately provided the 1st XV with many important players. This year was no exception, with James Fairbank seizing the opportunity to make the scrum-half position his own and enabling Nick Carmichael to move to fly-half, a position from which he was able to dominate most matches. James will, I fear, be one of the last of this breed of late developers nurtured by the 'B' team system.

Despite the need to acknowledge such wider issues, it is important that they are not allowed to overshadow the outstanding records of the 1st and 2nd XVs. For many of these players the season began in August on the highly successful tour of Canada (reported elsewhere). Against opponents of much greater size, the tourists played some impressively dynamic and expansive rugby and were fine ambassadors for Rendcomb and for their sport. However, as we prepared to say farewell to some of the key members of this tour party at Heathrow, there was a sense of uncertainty about the coming domestic season amongst those who would be returning to Rendcomb in September to form the 1995 1st XV.

In the event, there was more to fear from the brown and parched landscape that greeted us as we dropped below the clouds. The 1995 1st XV proved to be as successful as any in the history of College rugby. The team was built around a nucleus of players in their final year who had developed an unshakeable common bond and team spirit, so that when they were forced to dig deep, as in their second successive victory against Dauntsey's and,



Third year pupils at Madame Tussauds



above all, in their unforgettable victory over Dean Close, resilience and self-belief were present in abundance. These key players were supplemented by a number of younger players who grew in stature as the season progressed, as they too benefited from being part of a team that took the field with an immense sense of inner conviction.

The 2nd XV also played an enormous part in the success of the season. Once again, Martin Griffiths produced a side which, despite being almost written off by some at the start of the season, was able both to develop players for the 1st XV and be highly successful in its own right. The spirit and attitude in the senior squad were exemplary, and Martin must take much of the credit for this; indeed, his contribution to the success of senior rugby over the last two seasons has been huge, and I am greatly in his debt.

It is also important in this context to mention the contribution of the 3rd and 4th XVs, which underpinned the success of the 1st and 2nd. Here James Stutchbury was joined by OR Dan White, who brought great enthusiasm and expectations of the highest standards to his coaching, and this was reflected in the successes enjoyed by the 3rd XV in the second half of the season. The 4th XV can boast a 100% record, albeit from one match, and the U16 XV, brought together for the district cup, reached the semi-finals of that competition. The senior players can be justifiably proud of their season.

Elsewhere success proved to be more elusive. All of the junior sides suffered from a lack of strength in depth, and this problem was most obvious in block fixtures against schools with far greater playing resources than Rendcomb's; next season's fixture list will inevitably have to reflect this reality. Nevertheless, a good deal of attractive and positive rugby was played by the junior sides, and the commitment and enthusiasm of the players, often in difficult circumstances, remains highly commendable.

Much of the credit for this should go to my coaching colleagues amongst the junior teams: Mike Newby, Alex Brealy and Martin Graham with the U13s (supplemented by a contingent from Querns on Wednesdays), Paul Sykes and John Williams with the U14 XV and Lindsay Haslett in his last season with the U15 XV. Lindsay has coached various teams over the years and has made a substantial and enthusiastic contribution to Rendcomb rugby. He has never failed to entertain us with his perennially optimistic views about the prospects for Irish rugby and, on behalf of all involved in Rendcomb rugby, I would like to wish Lindsay every success and happiness for the future.

The club dinner again proved to be a splendid occasion, with an amusing and thought-provoking contribution from the Head Master and memorable

and impressive speeches by captain Nick Carmichael and OR and Harlequin Ben Maslin. Ben's words were amusingly self-deprecating in tone, and yet he clearly conveyed his great pride in being a Rendcombian and at having played his early rugby here. It was a valuable experience for current players to hear from 'one of their own' who is playing the game at top level, and less than a week later we were all delighted to see younger brother, Dan Maslen, playing for Cambridge in the Varsity Match. It was a shame that his contribution to the game was curtailed by injury; it seems to be a Maslen family trait that they leave the field early whenever the TV cameras are present! Nevertheless, their exploits and those of other ORs who are making their names in the world of rugby serve to emphasise the fine tradition of Rendcomb rugby. It is a tradition of which a small school such as ours should be proud, and it is one that must be maintained in the future despite changing circumstances.

Finally, my thanks go to all those involved in rugby this season: coaches and players, ground-staff and catering staff, and, of course, our many supporters.

M. S.

The Griffins

On occasional Sundays during the rugby season a 'select' XV drawn from the Rendcomb community has gathered to play 'social' rugby against such giants of the rugby world as Cirencester Post Office and The Wild Duck (public house!). The team is built around a core of ORs, staff (Slark, Newby, Haslett, Riste) and both (Alex Brealy and Dan White).

The following ORs have appeared: Hamish Auld, Steve Hazell, Miles Brown, Nick Barton, Alex Paton, Ian Thompson, Chris Jarrett, Adam Phelps and Patrick Boydell.

If anyone is interested in playing in future matches, please contact me or Mike Newby at the College.

MICHAEL SLARK

1st XV

Often at the beginning of a new 1st XV season the talk is largely about the players that are no longer with the side; this year was no exception. The team was first discussed during the tour of Canada in the summer, and at that time it did look as though there would be a few weaknesses. However, a number of players did begin, somewhat unexpectedly, to show great potential while on the tour and, on our return to school in September, the team quickly started to take shape. Looking back

now on one of the finest seasons in the history of Rendcomb rugby, I can see that there was something just a little bit special about the way this side performed.

The early weeks of the season were considerably disrupted owing to the hard ground although, when finally we did start playing fixtures, the team did not seem to be suffering from a lack of match practice. The first two games were won really quite convincingly, and it was unfortunate that, having beaten a very mobile and free-running Kingswood XV in the third, the team should have let its concentration slip as it did in the fourth match.

It was the old enemy, Wycliffe College, coming back once again to haunt a Rendcomb 1st XV. The team needed to pick itself up immediately in order to get back into the winning habit, and that is exactly what happened. Extra strength, in both attack and defence, was added to the back division in the form of Ben Renow-Clarke as a centre, and for the next match we travelled to Bredon to win an untidy, nevertheless crucial, game. The last match before half-term saw us beat Dauntsey's School for the second time in successive years. We made tackle after tackle and, on a day when things just weren't going our way, managed to withstand all of Dauntsey's intense pressure to win by virtue of a penalty goal in the closing minutes of the game.

We didn't start the second half of the season as well as we had started the first, losing to a powerful Marling side. However, once again the team bounced back with three successive victories, beating teams such as King's, Gloucester, and Magdalen College School.

At this point the team had won eight games, but it was at the hands of our next opponents, Sir Thomas Rich's, that we suffered our third - but final - defeat. That led us to the last week of term and the big crunch game against Dean Close.

This year we had the home advantage, and the team really rose to the occasion, hanging on for victory by one point in what I'm sure was one of the toughest games any of us had every played in; never before had I seen 15 players so completely drained! Enough energy did remain, though, to defeat Kingham Hill in mid-week and round off a spectacular season with a fittingly comprehensive victory over a very talented Old Rendcombian XV.

The pack this year, as is so often the case with Rendcomb sides, was usually smaller than that of the opposition. However, the work-rate was enormous, and they provided some fantastic ball for the backs to work with. Francis Newcombe was inspirational in his powerful running and excellent ball skills. Other senior forwards, such as Craig Marcham, Will Heaven, Steve Amey and Rudi Dühmke, also led by example, and I have no doubt that the younger players will have learnt a great deal

from them. Charles Webb had a very good season, and the effort he put into every match was outstanding.

Behind the pack, James Fairbank looked comfortable at scrum-half and did all that was asked of him after coming into the side half-way through the season. All the backs linked well, and the strength of both Seun Ismail and Alister Harris gave us some exciting attacking options. The offensive tackling of Leighton Freeman proved absolutely crucial in tight matches.

Most importantly, the team played as a XV, and the commitment of everyone in the side was, at times, quite unbelievable.

The team would like to thank Mr Slark for the effort he put in to the 1st XV and into Rendcomb rugby as a whole. His coaching was always direct, and he must take a good deal of the credit for 1995's being such an outstanding season. We all hope that next year is equally successful.

Thanks must go also to the 2nd XV, to their coach Mr Griffiths and to the numerous captains for the part they played in the senior squad.

NICK CARMICHAEL

Played 14; Won 11; Lost 3; Points for 301; Points against 104.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	W	69-3
v Rednock School (A)	W	29-0
v Kingswood School (H)	W	20-5
v Wycliffe College (H)	L	0-15
v Bredon School (A)	W	13-0
v Dauntsey's School (A)	W	13-11
v Marling School (H)	L	21-25
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	W	13-10
v Magdalen College School (H)	W	30-5
v Cokethorpe School (A)	W	30-0
v Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	L	5-15
v Dean Close School (H)	W	6-5
v Kingham Hill School (H)	W	29-0
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	W	23-10

Team from: N. Carmichael (Captain), F. Newcombe (Vice-Captain), S. Amey, W. Brittain-Jones, C. Marcham, A. Donovan, R. Dühmke, W. Heaven, C. Webb, J. Gibbs, J. Fairbank, S. Ismail, B. Renow-Clarke, P. Price, L. Freeman, A. Harris, C. Baker.



In his report Nick inevitably fails to do himself justice. Three years ago in these pages Chris King made the case for Itseng Kwelagobe as the best-ever 1st XV captain and, although such a debate is purely hypothetical, if for no other reason than the differing circumstances of the two seasons, Nick is an equally deserving candidate for such an accolade. He has made a magnificent contribution, both as player and captain, and has been the key figure in a year-group which has always upheld the finest traditions of Rendcomb rugby. They have been a pleasure to work with over the years, and I thank them for their efforts and wish them well for the future.

M. S.



2nd XV

At the beginning of the season it seemed as if 1995 was going to be a very hard year for the 2nd XV, as unfortunately we had lost a lot of valuable experience with last year's 6A.

The first problem that faced the team and our coach, Mr Griffiths, was who was going to be captain of the team? After much debate it was decided that James Fairbank and I should captain the side in alternate matches.

Unfortunately, owing to the scorching summer, our first match, against Bristol Cathedral, was cancelled because the ground was too hard. However, this served to our advantage, as it gave us three weeks to prepare for our match against Kingswood. By then the team, after hard practice and fitness training and with a lot of new faces from the 5th Form, looked more competent. On a hot Saturday afternoon, with 100% effort from every member of the team, we managed to beat Kingswood 15-7.

The next match was against Wycliffe. It was James Fairbank's turn to be captain, but unfortunately after about 20 minutes he put in a crunching tackle and dislocated his shoulder, so we had to call upon Chris Scarth to take his place at scrum-half. Again the team played exceptionally well, and we won our second match 20-5.

In our third match, against Farmor's, we fielded an 'A' team, a mixture of 1st and 2nd XV players. It proved an easier match than we expected, and we won 51-0.

Our Bredon fixture was played away and, with a half-time score of 13-0, we stepped up a gear into overdrive, and the second half gave a wonderful exhibition of Rendcomb rucking and running at their best, producing a 57-0 win.

We had to play Dauntsey's after a long coach journey, but this really can be no excuse; they were a better team, and we lost 10-25 despite a brave effort by everyone.

When we came to play Marling, King's, Gloucester, and Magdalen I was unfortunately ill, but luckily James was fit again. We lost to Marling, and James moved up to the 1st XV, so against King's and Magdalen we had to call on our third captain, Richard Witchell, who did very well and led the team to two further victories, 10-5 and 13-5 respectively.

The next match was against an exceptionally strong and previously unbeaten Sir Thomas Rich's team, a confident side which looked even more dangerous after scoring a try in only five minutes. However, despite the loss of George Langlands with a broken nose, we fought back and, with a combination of aggressive defence and all-round determination, we forced our way into the lead and ultimately richly deserved our victory, having shown enormous commitment.

Against Dean Close, in a game we all knew would be hard and very physical, lacking players moved to the 1st XV or out with injury, we lost 7-26, although the team put in its maximum effort.

For the last match of the season, against Kingham Hill, Adam Simpkin, who had been injured for most of the season and had supported the team at every match, was captain. We played on a snowy, frozen pitch and won 48-0.

The team's main playing strategies were based on a fast-moving game, with line-outs assisted by James Gibbs and lots of fast recycling of the ball from the forwards to produce excellent ball for the backs.

The front row were comparatively short in stature compared to other teams, consisting of Ed Turvill, one of our fifth-year players who improved over the season with continual commitment, James Graham, who won many of the opposition's scrums and was a consistent thrower in the lines, and myself. The second row was an excellent partnership between George Langlands and Lindsay Duff, who also proved to be valuable jumpers in the line-out. Adam and Jake Hawkins were our flankers, both aggressive and determined players and often first to the breakdown. James Gibbs was an excellent

number 8 and jumper, moving up to the 1st XV halfway through the season, the only fifth-former to do so.

James Fairbank at scrum-half was a very skilful player who went on to prove himself in the 1st XV also. At fly-half was Tim Hill who, although another fifth-former, played in a critical position both calmly and skilfully and was a great asset to the team. The centres were the Witchell cousins, Richard and Robin, who worked well together and scored a number of tries between them. On the wings we had Rupert Webb and Robert Hart; Rupert was always a hard, powerful runner and tackler, whereas Robert was a fast-pace man on the wing. Manolito Garcia was our superb full-back, a new position to him, but he got used to it and played excellently. Also a major player was Charles Barton, who played in various positions during the season and was a great asset to the team with his all-round skill.

I would finally like to thank Mr Griffiths and Mr Slark for their coaching and support throughout the season, and I would like also to thank the 1st and 3rd XVs for always being helpful and co-operative, which produced an excellent rapport throughout the Rendcomb Rugby Club.

TONY WINSTONE

Played 11; Won 8; Lost 3; Points for 265; Points against 100.

Team from: T. Winstone, R. Witchell, J. Fairbank, A. Simpkin (Captains*), C. Baker, C. Barton, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Davanzo, P. de Havilland Hall, A. Donovan, L. Duff, M. Garcia, J. Gibbs, J. Graham, S. Grey, M. Hall, R. Hart, A. Hawkins, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Holliday, A. King, G. Langlands, B. Renow-Clarke, C. Scarth, T. Sharman, T. Shaw, J. Smith, A. Taylor, E. Turvill, R. Webb, R. H. M. Witchell, D. Wragg.

** I hope I have explained clearly the variety of captains; I think some of the team's success may have been due to this.*

T. W.

3rd XV

It took a while for the 3rd XV to find a foothold on the season's rugby, losing to Kingswood, Wycliffe and Dauntsey's without claiming a point. There was consolation in the early season with a win over Rednock in the U16 cup competition. The 40-0 victory took us into the semi-final, which we lost very unfortunately by a penalty to nothing. However, once we had worked on our weaker points and become a little more proficient with some moves by the backs, there came a transformation in the effectiveness of Rendcomb's attack.

An away match at Marling brought some of the most hard-earned points I have ever seen. Despite

our losing, all Rendcomb's points were won through constant recycling and innovative backplay; every score was the result of good rugby, worked from well within our own half. Unfortunately the tackling-back was a bit unsure, and Marling won, thanks to a few breakaways.

Spirits lifted, the 3rds went on to win against King's, Gloucester (21-10), Wycliffe 4th XV (27-0) and Kingham Hill (48-0), the only blot on the second half of the season being the match against Dean Close.

All who took part should be encouraged by the progress they made as a team this season.

TRISTAN SHARMAN

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 5; Points for 159; Points against 187.

Team from: T. Sharman (Captain), T. Abbott, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Davanzo, S. Grey, M. Hall, P. de Havilland Hall, C. Holliday, N. Holt, A. Jarrett, J. Keith, A. King, C. Perry, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, T. Shaw, J. Smith, M. Sutton, A. Taylor.

U15 XV

Although the season was plagued by injury to key players, the spirit in the squad was always strong, and the members of the team gave 100% in all their matches.

At the beginning of term we were greatly encouraged by a new fly-half, Paul Cox. He strengthened our backs and gave the forwards an incentive to win some ball.

Our best wins came in the Northern Section of the Stroud District Cup, where we comprehensively beat Sir William Romsey's School, Cirencester Deer Park School and Farmor's School. Only a narrow defeat against Kingshill School prevented us from winning the group outright. Nevertheless, we did reach the semi-final, scoring over 100 points in only four matches.

Our major problem stemmed from the smallness of our squad, but some players' performances stand out as worthy of special mention. Paul Cox played in only 10 games before illness and injury struck, but in that time he scored 17 tries. Ben Butler was a pillar of strength at tight-head prop, and Dominic Morris was ever dependable at full-back, where his fearless tackling was a credit to him and the team. Ian Forster's strong running in the centre also showed promise for the future.

I and the rest of the team would like to thank Dr Haslett for his coaching throughout the season, and for his enthusiasm for the game.

JOHN SHENTON

My thanks go to John who, as captain, led the side with increasing confidence during the season. He set a marvellous example in training and will undoubtedly go a long way in the game.

L. J. H.

Played 15; Won 5; Lost 10; Points for 213; Points against 302.

Team from: J. Shenton (Captain), H. Aldrich-Blake, O. Anthony, D. Ashby, B. Butler, E. Compton, B. Cox, T. Day, R. Edmondson, I. Forster, T. Gilbert, N. Hall, S. Maylott, D. Morris, J. Pelly, R. Sammons, Spenley, C. Smith, N. Stanfield, J. Starkey, Y. Takanashi, P. Webb.

U14 XV

The attitude of the squad throughout the term was impressive, always working very hard in both practices and matches, and always keen to learn and develop both individual and team skills. Unfortunately, as can be seen from the record, the results were very disappointing.

We started the season off slowly, losing our first three matches without scoring a single point and, although we notched up a victory against Farmor's, lack of confidence meant that we continued to lose matches, often ones that we should have won. The situation was not helped by the strength and size of most of our opposition; often our side showed greater skill, but they had the monsters to crash through.

The forwards played well, with Ben Cox, Tom Mais and Laurie Barton showing power and courage, while William Warrington saved the side on many occasions with his hard tackling. The backs handled the ball well, while Matthew Williams kicked well and Carlos Garcia showed strong attacking play and tough tackling.

There were many times when the forwards and backs worked well together, producing some textbook rugby, but so often we just could not keep it going for all of the match; this is something to work on next year. I have no doubt that, with the character and obvious potential of the players, we shall prove ourselves in seasons to come.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Sykes and Mr Williams for their time, patience and coaching expertise? It may not have been the most successful season, but we all certainly enjoyed it.

DAVID NEWBY

Played 11; Won 3; Lost 8; Points for 96; Points against 211.

Team from: D. Newby (Captain), A. Ames, D. Armstrong-Wilde, L. Barton, J. Brittain-Jones, A. Cox, A. Dolleymore, E. Farnsworth, C. Garcia,

D. Godfrey, O. Jeffcott, T. Mais, D. Riddle, W. Warrington, M. Williams, W. Witchell, T. Berry, A. Sage.

U13 XV

What a difference a year makes! Having lived on the euphoria created by the '94 team's success, we were brought down to earth with a real bump. The squad was low in numbers and experience, with only two of the Second Form having played for the 'A' XV last season, the rest being ex-'B'-team players or complete newcomers to the game. To add to the difficulties, injury and illness hit the squad - as can be seen from the list of players who turned out for the team during the season! - and, even worse, the sides we played were the strongest they had had for years.

Nevertheless, the attitude of the group was pleasing; practices were attacked with enthusiasm and energy, and so individual and team skills developed rapidly. We started the season with our usual practice match against Kingham Hill, designed as a coaching exercise, with the opportunity to change players around during the game. An unconvincing, narrow win over Farmor's was followed by a trouncing from Crypt, who played a good rucking and handling game, helped by their six-footers who stormed through at every opportunity.

Confidence waned as further defeats followed, again usually inflicted by some monster(s) in the opposing team; why are the old chaps at RFU headquarters still so intransigent about playing 'midi' rugby by size and weight, rather than by age?

The season was salvaged, not by the comfortable win in the final match, but by the tremendous performance in the Kingham Hill Sevens Tournament, an event featuring several talented prep-school sides. It was run on a league basis, with the lads, despite their beating the eventual winners earlier in the competition, finishing runners-up by a one-point margin, a most creditable achievement.

By half-term we had found a set of forwards who were playing with cohesion, technical skill in both tight and loose, and a fair degree of mobility. Freddie Lait led the pack with passion and commitment, his never-say-die attitude saving the side on so many occasions and enabling them at least to feel a sense of pride even after some crushing defeats. Oliver Morris was uncompromising in his rucking and scrummaging, forming the pivot of the pack, while fellow-prop Robbie Nicholas, when he began to believe in himself, proved tough and formidable in all areas of play. The 'wee ones', Martin 'Psycho' Good and Charles Cowper showed bags of courage and skill- improvement over the season, while the determination and work-rate of Paul Bongiovanni,

Robert Uzzell, Robert Knight, Richard Birkbeck, Henry Wright and Richard Collinson contributed to the effectiveness of the unit.

The backs seemed to have the potential, but never really lived up to it, lacking the confidence to handle, run moves or put in big hits when tackling, Ben Stanfield was sharp at the base of the scrum and effective at sniping runs down the blind side; Jonathan Pratt showed real pace and good lines of running as an attacking full-back; Ollie Jones, Henry Weston and Rafe Smallman stuck at their task, supporting each other well, while the first-formers Stephen Ward, Rupert McKelvie, Nat Maylott and James Sabourin acquitted themselves well, showing tremendous courage and learning lots over the season.

Special mention must go to Dominic Sharman as captain; not only is he a talented young man whose natural speed, exceptional handling skills and aggression enabled him to be a major part of the team's offensive play, but he also managed to cope well with the frustrations of a disappointing season. We thank him for his tremendous efforts on the pitch and for his calm, reliable organisation off it.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank all the squad for making it a most enjoyable season for us.

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

Played 10; Won 3; Lost 7; Points for 126; Points against 227.

Team from: D. Sharman (Captain), R. Birkbeck, P. Bongiovanni, T. Butler, R. Collinson, C. Cowper, G. Drew, M. Good, O. Jones, R. Knight, F. Lait, E. MacCurrach, R. McKelvie, N. Maylott, O. Morris, M. Neale, B. Newton, R. Nicholas, J. Pratt, J. Sabourin, R. Smallman, B. Stanfield, R. Uzzell, S. Ward, H. Weston, H. Wright.

Sevens Squad: Sharman (Captain), Bongiovanni, Jones, Lait, Morris, Pratt, Sage, Stanfield.



**Mrs Sandy Westhead,
Head of Sport, September 1996**

Girls' Hockey

The senior game consisted of about 30 girls and it provided players for the 1st, 2nd, U16 and U15 XIs. The new girls were slow to develop their skills, but were encouraged by the determination of last year's team members and the ability of the fourth-year girls to play alongside them; consequently it was unfortunate that only two matches were designated as 2nd XI or sixth-form fixtures,

Practices took place regularly on Mondays on the Royal Agricultural College's Astroturf, and it was rewarding to see many players improving their ball-control, passing and tackling. The selection of Annabel Howard for the county U18 team was an added bonus to the season, Annabel first being selected as a reserve, but after Christmas playing in matches.

Messrs Morgan, Wood and Essenhigh provided both coaching and umpiring during the season, and the girls showed their appreciation of this during the successful dinner held at the Cotswold Explorer Inn near Northleach.

1st XI

It is worth noting that, although illness meant that three different goalkeepers were used, only six goals were let in by Rowan Renow-Clarke, Kate Nicholas and Nellie Abbott. This reflects the effectiveness of Andrew Branston's coaching, as well as the determination and ability of the keepers themselves. Early in the season a 4:3:3:1 formation was adopted to strengthen the support at the back, and this worked better than expected, thanks to the rapid covering by the halves and centre-back and the excellent timing of interceptions by right-back Sophie Brown.

Inevitably there were gaps at the front during times of attack, but the hard work and skills of Annabel Howard, combined with the inspiration and goal-scoring ability of Polly Wigfield (11 goals), compensated for this quite well. Sisters Janet and Karen Pearce improved enormously as wings, providing more and more passes into the circle, and Karen proved to be a reliable and effective captain both on and off the field.

On various occasions younger players had to play for the XI, and Tara Sleggs deserves a special mention for coping so well as a defender, becoming the staffs choice as most improved player of the season.

Played 10; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 18; Goals against 6.

v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	D 0-0
v Cirencester College (A)	W 6-0
v Cotswold School (A)	W 3-0
v Monkton Combe School, Bath (A)	L 0-2
v St. Clotilde's Convent, Lechlade (H)	W 4-0
v St. Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	D 1-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	L 0-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	W 1-0
v Westonbirt School (A)	W 2-0
v Wycliffe College (H)	L 1-2

Team from: K. Pearce (Captain), A. Howard, P. Wigfield, J. Pearce, R. Gee, V. Dühmke, K. Bagshawe, S. Brown, J. Mais, A. Jensen, R. Renow-Clarke, K. Nicholas, N. Abbott, T. Sleggs, B. Mann, C. Kerton, A. de Lisle Wells.

Sixth Form XI played 1; Won 1.
2nd XI played 1; Lost 1.



U16 and U15 XIs

Since a significant number of the 1st XI squad were fifth and fourth-formers, they were able to use their individual skills and appreciation of teamwork to provide considerable stability to these two teams. At these levels there is a great wealth of talent, which bodes well for the future, but a few deserve special mention. Laura Donovan proved to be an incisive and effective right-wing. Anna de Lisle Wells covered a vast amount of ground and distributed the ball to her forwards with great accuracy. Phillipa Hunt played very well in variety of positions, and Charlotte Kerton, ever goal-hungry, scored 13 during her successful season.

U16 XI played 3; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 1; Goals for 4; Goals against 4.

U15 XI played 6; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 16; Goals against 5.

Teams from: A. Howard (U16 Captain), J. Mais (U15 Captain), B. Mann, F. Gerry, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, H. Nicholls, S. Collier, J. Pearce, P. Hunt, L. Donovan, N. El-Titi, C. Kerton, K. Nicholas, B. McKelvie, S. Brown, T. Sleggs, S. Hoelscher, G. Leathart, A. de Lisle Wells, S. Sprawson, C. Webb, N. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Donovan, N. Kubo, C. Emerson.

C. J. W.

Junior Girls' Hockey

The season began well, with Anna de Lisle Wells and Nellie Abbott attending the Gloucestershire Centre of Excellence. We were without our goalkeepers for the first few weeks of practices, whilst Andrew Branton put them through their paces. This coaching was invaluable, and the goalkeepers played with confidence and ability throughout the season.

During the Lent term Lottie Webb, Nellie Abbott, Anna de Lisle Wells and Eleanor Bruce attended the county U14 trials and all four were selected to attend next season's Centre of Excellence. Anna and Eleanor were also selected for the 'B' squad and played in the West of England Tournament during the Easter holidays.

S. M. W.

U14 XI

The commitment and enthusiasm shown by this group, both in practice and in matches, is clearly reflected in their results. They were eager to learn and improve their skills but, more importantly, they really wanted to play as a team, encouraging each other to play their best hockey.

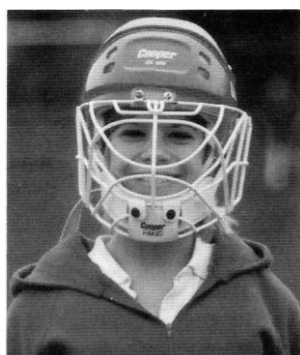
The team itself was full of characters who all contributed to a relaxed atmosphere, promising hockey of the highest standard. Charlotte Emerson, Rachel Lamont and Jamela Saedaldin were always dependable in defence. The halves worked well together with the forward line to produce many openings; Anna de Lisle Wells, Lottie Webb and Pat Chaiwatanasirikul played brilliantly and with intelligence, effective both in attack and defence. The forwards were an impressive unit, Katie Dobson with her skilful stickwork, Sophie Sprawson and Sarah Dobson both reliable and fast, scoring many of the goals this season. However, the results would have been very different without the excellent 'keeping' of Nellie Abbott in goal.

A special word of thanks is due to Anna de Lisle Wells, the captain, for the interest she showed in the team and for her leadership in matches; many congratulations go to Anna on reaching the county U14 squad.

Also a big 'thank you' goes to everyone in the team; it has been most rewarding and enormous fun coaching you over the last two years, and I have no doubt that you will be a formidable team in future seasons.

J. N.

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 12; Goals against 10.



Team from:
A. de Lisle Wells
(Captain), N. Abbott,
E. Bruce,
P. Chaiwatanasirikul,
K. Dobson,
S. Donovan,
E. Drurey,
C. Emerson, R. Frazer-
Holland,
N. Hirabayashi,
N. Kubo, R. Lamont,
H. Ozeki, J. Saedaldin,

N. Scarth, S. Sprawson, A. Turner, C. Webb.

U13 XI

The team did not have a good season, if results are important. However, there was a very positive side to it. Not only did the U13 players improve their stickwork and positional play, they began to develop a much more confident approach to the game. This newly found confidence in their own ability was evident when some of the team attended the county mini-hockey tournament in the Lent term and narrowly missed a quarter-final place.

There are not enough second-year girls to form an U13 team, so five U12 girls have had the opportunity to play in matches, with Rebecca Ricketts and Helen Pearce playing regularly. This should prove to be a good experience for next season.

S. M. W.

Played 7; Lost 7; Goals for 1; Goals against 29.

Team from: E. Bruce, J. Crook, E. Drurey, O. Evans, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, V. MacKinnon, H. Pearce, R. Ricketts, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Thrower, A. Turner, R. Warrington, R. Whatman.

Boys' Hockey

There were few changes to staffing and pitches this season, and we continued to strive for higher levels of personal skills and for patterns of play which would suit all of the many surfaces encountered on our circuit.

Synthetic surfaces are now being laid down at more schools, and at the end of the term we were all excited at the prospect of having our own 'Astro' at Rendcomb, then subject only to planning permission.

The grass first pitch suffered as a result of the dry summer, but we were able to play on it in most conditions, including two matches when it was frozen solid. By good fortune the snow and subsequent thaw appeared during a period of few fixtures, and the King's block, which was worst affected, is always replayed later as a return fixture. Overall only 15 matches were cancelled. New fixtures were played against The Royal Grammar School, Worcester, Bristol Cathedral School, Henry Box, Witney and Rose Hill Schools.

The following deserve a special mention for representing Gloucestershire during the season: Chris Baker, Harvey Davies, Rupert Webb, Ian Forster, William Warrington and Dominic Sharman.

It was good to see Rendcomb competing so well in two tournaments. The U13 side just failed to qualify in its group in the Gloucestershire Mini-Tournament, but they played constructive hockey, holding the runners-up, Cheltenham College Junior School, to a draw. The 1st XI won all their matches in the King Edward's School, Bath Festival, details of which appear later. The record, including tournament results, was:

Played 82; Won 38; Drew 15; Lost 29; Goals for 182; Goals against 131.

C. J. W.

1st XI

The 1996 season could well have fallen totally flat. All available luck seemed to have been used up in the previous vintage year, while this year's XI did not seem to have quite the same depth of talent as their predecessors. Team selection was by no means straightforward, and the early practices did not reveal much promise.

In fact the season went very well, as the final record shows. As is the case with so much of life, it was all a matter of confidence, and when that began to flow the team played more and more effectively. The players lacked some of the pace of their predecessors, but they certainly had the skill on the ball, and in the end they scored a stack of goals, really punishing the weaker sides we played during the term.

The best of the early results were a comprehensive win over Cheltenham College 2nd XI and an away draw at Colston's School, where on a difficult Redgra surface the team showed the right determination and discipline, creating enough chances to have won.

The most astonishing match was played mid-term in appalling weather conditions in a new fixture against Henry Box School, whose skilful band of club players gave our defence a real lesson in ball control. Despite some thrusting play by our forwards, we were perhaps lucky to escape as lightly as we did. Various individuals spent the rest of the season trying, fairly unsuccessfully, to emulate the full-circle spinning routine we had seen so ably demonstrated. Excellent performances in victory against King's School, Gloucester, and in defeat against Dean Close were interspersed with woeful displays against Kingswood and New College, Swindon; the season would then have faded out, but for the prospect of participating for the first time in the Festival staged by King Edward's School, Bath.

The Festival was a great success; we were able to take a strong squad, including the worthy and loyal Ben Renow-Clarke and Richard Witchell, and we played superb hockey throughout to win all four matches, including a highly prized victory over Bromsgrove. Out of some 20 schools Rendcomb was one of just three teams left unbeaten after four games; we scored 18 goals with only one against us. Nicholas Carmichael was able to take his personal tally past 50 in the two seasons he has played for the 1st XI, and his 10 goals in the tournament won him the top award.



Carmichael's outstanding achievement should not be allowed to detract from the performance of the rest of the team. They set him up with numerous chances, and he has that great gift of hitting the target with the minimum fuss and the maximum power. Much of the quality play leading to scoring chances came down the wings from Alister Harris and Adam Simpkin, building on the energetic midfield work of Leighton Freeman or Charles Barton. Christopher Baker has his lazy moments in midfield, but he is a class performer, who

contributed much to our success, and he deserved his place in the county U18 squad.

The defence was built around the solid goalkeeping of Francis Newcombe and the sound fullback play of Charles Webb and Adam King. Charles sometimes left us with our hearts in our mouths, but he eventually grew more accustomed to plastic rather than real pasture. Adam King was the most improved player of the year, particularly in his reading of the game. The youngsters in the team, Rupert Webb and Harvey Davies, will have gained much valuable experience, particularly in their tackling and positional play, to put alongside their obvious skills on the ball.

Finally, the captain, Stephen Amey, curbed his temper, controlled his aggression and did a fine job; he can be proud of what his team achieved. His own form eventually came good, despite one or two awful tackles, and he and the rest of the team took to heart the lessons that needed learning when the discipline did slip.

The 1st XI grass pitch on Top had not really recovered from last summer's drought conditions, and David Mead had a difficult task in coping with problems compounded by some occasionally frightful weather. My thanks are due to him for overcoming those problems to the extent that he did. My thanks are due also to MSG and CJW for their continued loyal support. Next year may be the first on Rendcomb's own Astroturf; by the time this article is read, we shall know if the long wait is over.

H. M.

Played 18; Won 11; Drew 2; Lost 5; Goals for 58; Goals against 18.

v The RGS, Worcester, (H)	W	9-0
v Christ's College, Brecon (H)	W	3-2
v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	W	3-0
v Cheltenham Hockey Club (H)	L	1-2
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	D	1-1
v Henry Box School (H)	L	1-3
v Pate's Grammar School (H)	W	7-0
v Kingswood School (A)	L	0-1
v Dean Close School (A)	L	2-4
v New College, Swindon (A)	L	0-3
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	W	1-0
v Bournside School (U16 fixture - A)	W	1-0
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	D	1-1
v The Crypt School (H)	W	10-0

King Edward's School, Bath, Hockey Festival:

v Bromsgrove School	W	2-1
v Torquay Grammar School	W	3-0
v Newcastle-under-Lyme School	W	7-0
v Nottingham High School	W	6-0



Team from: S. Amey (Captain), C. Baker, C. Barton, N. Carmichael, H. Davies, L. Freeman, A. Harris, A. King, F. Newcombe, B. Renow-Clarke, A. Simpkin, C. Webb, R. Webb, R. Witchell.

2nd XI

We had a lot of success from what was a team of mixed age, only three members having previous 2nd XI experience. However, we established what was to become a regular team that gelled well together and had the ability to play good hockey on any surface. This was shown by our wins against St Edward's on Redgra, Bristol Cathedral School on Astro and Cheltenham college on grass.

The front line was made up of six players for each match, owing to the system of rolling substitutions which we employed with good effect. The key members of our attack were Matt Hall, and Charles Barton; Matt became a running centre-forward, which allowed Charles to pass the ball through. Charles was promoted to the first team, which he richly deserved.

The other forwards were all effective, with Sebastian Grey, Manolito Garcia, James Gibbs and Andrew Donovan working well as a team, showing a combination of pace and skill. Points of note were Manny's ability to run with the ball stuck to the end of his stick, Seb's scoring the most memorable goal of the season and Andrew's scoring the winner at Brecon, which made up for the horrendously long journey.

The halves, Philip Price and Sam Maylott, were an extremely useful asset to the team, especially when Phil adapted to left-half, becoming an accomplished and essential player. Sam is a young, talented player with a good future in the 1st XI; he also provided us with some vital goals.

Defenders Christopher Scarth and Ashley Taylor were solid and played well together, Chris often able to hold his own against much stronger and bigger players.

Finally we come to the goal-keepers: George Langlands was an important part of a winning team until Sam stood on his ankle at Prince Henry's. He was replaced by Toby Abbott, a fifth-former with tremendous ability and another great prospect.

Towards the end of the season new players arrived. Of these James Fairbank filled the vital centre-half role and allowed us to develop our

system. Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul came in as centre-forward and scored a vital goal against King's, Gloucester. Our record reflects the hard matches we played and shows the tremendous enthusiasm and commitment of all the team, especially when injuries and illness took their toll in the second half of the term. We did, however, win the typically robust OR match, which for me was particularly pleasing.

All that is left is for me to thank Mr Griffiths for putting up with me, and more importantly for travelling with us so cheerfully to Brecon and Evesham and on more than enough other journeys.

RICHARD WITCHELL

Richard forgets to mention his own vital role in the team's success; he always played with enormous energy and commitment, and by the end of term his tackling technique and distribution became so effective that he was deservedly included in the 1st XI.

M. S. G.

Played 11; Won 5; drew 4; Lost 2; Goals for 14; Goals against 12.

Team from: R. Witchell (Captain), G. Langlands (Vice-Captain), T. Abbott, C. Barton, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Donovan, J. Fairbank, M. Garcia, J. Gibbs, S. Grey, M. Hall, T. Hill, S. Maylott, P. Price, B. Renow-Clarke, C. Scarth, T. Sharman.

3rd XI

After the indulgent Christmas period, it was something of a shock to be faced, on the first Monday of term, with Mr Stutchbury's demanding fitness regime. Despite this it became clear that the 3rd/4th squad had a wealth of potential skill, suggesting a promising season in store.

These initial hopes were dampened, however, when we lost our first game 1-3 to Wycliffe's 1st XI on their Redgra.

We bounced back admirably, in Arctic conditions, winning 3-1 against Cheltenham the following Saturday, with the forwards showing high skill levels, notably Tristan Sharman, Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul and Jon Davis, with Tim Hill assuming a commanding position at centre-half.

We then beat Colston's 1-0 in a performance that was uninspiring on our part, but a win is a win.

There followed a one-sided contest against Pate's 2nd XI, which we won 13-0 and which allowed us to explore new options without any pressure from the opposing side, notably scoring by defender Robin Witchell. Despite the nature of the game, the team showed character in staying focussed and playing

attractive hockey, in spite of obviously weaker opposition.

Next we battled against a strong Kingswood side to secure a 1-0 victory.

At this stage of the season the team was justifiably confident, but we were knocked off our perch, as it were, against an impressive Dean Close 3rd XI, which won 7-0 on their Astroturf. This match, although a disappointing loss, showed perhaps most clearly the mature and restrained nature of the 3rd's players, who held their heads up high and played with commitment until the final whistle.

Having gone through six sticks already, William Brittain-Jones managed to snap yet another in our 5-0 victory over King's, Gloucester.

In the last game of the season we had our revenge against Wycliffe's 1st XI, winning 4-1 at home. Against this raucous team we yet again showed an impressive restraint, looking the better side and playing some of the best hockey of the season. The team was predominantly fifth-year, and this bodes well for future seasons; it is certain that many of the players will eventually make the 1st XI.

All in all, the season was a resounding success, not only in terms of results, but also in terms of commitment. This was largely due to Mr Stutchbury's influence; his efforts were greatly appreciated by the team. His half-time talks were particularly uplifting, telling us exactly what was needed, and no doubt contributing to the success of the season.

CRAIG MARCHAM
ROBIN WITCHELL

Played 8; Won 6; Lost 2; Goals for 28; Goals against 12.

Team from: C. Marcham (Captain), R. Witchell (Vice-Captain), T. Abbott, W. Brittain-Jones, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, E. Turvill, T. Hill, J. Fairbank, J. Gibbs, T. Sharman, J. Davis, C. Holliday, R. Arnold, A. Hawkins.

4th XI

The season started off well, with great enthusiasm, and it was obvious that there was going to be a lot of competition for places in both the 3rd and 4th XIs.

Despite the massive defeat by Dean Close on their Astroturf, the season was one of success, I feel, with great skill showing towards the end.

Notwithstanding the change of goal-keeper half-way through the season, it was clear that both Toby Abbott and Adam Hawkins would be challenging next season for a place in the 1st or 2nd XI. The defence was solid, owing to the skill of Jake

Hawkins at sweeper and Charles Perry's clean hitting.

But key success was due to the skill and passing of James Emerson and the commitment of Jim Graham.

Overall the side played well, owing to team coordination and the knowledge gained from the vastly experienced Mr Brealy. I am sure that many of these players will succeed next year in higher teams.

The season has been one to remember. The side was full of team spirit and skill that should be commended. All the players tried their hardest at all times to achieve the results gained.

CHRISTOPHER MACKINNON

Played 7; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 25; Goals against 26.

Team from: C. MacKinnon (Captain), J. Davis, J. Freeman, J. Emerson, J. Garland, J. Graham, A. Hawkins, J. Hawkins, R. Histed, C. Holliday, N. Holt, J. Keith, C. Perry, N. Ridley, W. Samranvanich, J. Smith, M. Sutton, S. Taylor.



U15 XI

Despite a frozen Astroturf pitch and bitter conditions for the first match, the captain Ian Forster rallied the team with some fine attacking runs. However, the side did not take chances, and some indecisive defensive play was exploited.

The first match was long forgotten as, five minutes after half-time in the next, the side led 3-1.

They had practised hard between the matches and developed a coherence in attack which allowed Dominic Morris to supply frequent thoughtful crosses from the right wing.

Lack of confidence, which finally allowed this game to finish as a 3-3 draw, was absent in a 6-1 victory over Marling. Charlie Smith admirably took over the right-wing role from the injured Dominic Morris and helped to set up numerous goals. Theo Berry also settled to an unfamiliar position at inside-left, but marked and tackled tenaciously.

Half-term perhaps was enjoyed too heartily, and the team appeared out of touch against a talented

Kingswood side. However, amongst the mayhem, John Shenton came of age and showed great maturity and command at sweeper.

With a goal in the first minute by the captain, the side took vengeance for this defeat on Dean Close and beat them 8-0. Before this match a change in the line-up was made after a wise observation by JNH, who had witnessed the previous match. Harry Aldrich-Blake more than justified JNH's faith in him as centre-forward with a fiercely struck hat-trick.

Confidence now characterised the team, and skilful runs by David Ashby and probing passes by James Starkey set up a convincing 5-0 victory over King's, Gloucester. As well, Robert Sammons, dependable in defence, showed how much he had developed as a player. Seven more goals were scored in the next match, which heralded yet another change of personnel. The injured Ian Forster was replaced by the recovered Dominic Morris. The victory owed much to the solid defensive work of Nick Stanfield and Philip Webb.

Overworked in some matches and hardly required in others, Ben Butler in goal improved immeasurably through the season and played with determination and growing ability. Tom Gilbert ably deputised for Ben in goal on occasions, and Joel Pelly, who was rushed onto the bus for one away match, performed with resolve.

Scoring 29 goals and conceding several never allowed proceedings through the season to become dull. In fact, it was thoroughly enjoyable to be dealing with such honest-hearted and hard-working players. Self-belief has grown immensely, and they will all perform commendably in future seasons, if they avoid contact sports and do not play on the farm with big toys during the hockey season!

J. P. W.

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 29; Goals against 20.

Team from: I. Forster (Captain), H. Aldrich-Blake, D. Ashby, T. Berry, B. Butler, D. Morris, R. Sammons, J. Shenton, C. Smith, N. Stanfield, J. Starkey, P. Webb. Also played: T. Gilbert, J. Pelly.

U14 XIs

This year's group were so similar to the present senior squad when they were the highly successful under-13s: bags of enthusiasm, commitment and determination, along with considerable depth of ability. Such characteristics ensured the added spice of enormous competition for places in the 'A' team; practices were always a pleasure to take, as all players were prepared to work hard and concentrate, be it in individual, unit or team training, while their overall skills and team-

play improved as each week went by. Their style as a squad will undoubtedly stand them in good stead for next year, when it is hoped that they will have regular access to an Astro surface.

The 'A' XI had a disappointing start to the season; cancellation of the opening match, which would have been a sure victory, led to a three-week delay before the first match. This proved a dismal performance against Cheltenham College on Astro, with the side falling into the trap of trying to resort to heavy-handed grass techniques.

A solid 2-0 victory in the next match restored confidence, while their third outing, against a strong Kingswood side, proved a most bizarre affair; from our push-back to start the game, the opposition's tall, fast centre-forward intercepted and raced through the defence to score within 30 seconds! From then on we spent most of the match blasting, pushing and flicking shots at their goal, hitting the posts, the bar, even the back of the goalie's head, but could not put the ball into the net. All the time there was the potential threat of their centre-forward's making a break to put the game beyond our reach; fortunately every time he did so he was unceremoniously stopped in his tracks by either Nick Hall at full-back or Ben Cox in goal.

Courage and persistence paid off, for only two minutes from the final whistle we were rewarded with a lucky bounce over the keeper to draw the match.

Playing our next game against Dean Close on the RAC Astro was not the wisest move and led to a convincing defeat, but fortunately the season ended on a high with fine team performances and handsome victories in the last three matches.

The forwards' attacking play was impressive; Andrew Sage and Yuki Takanashi provided pace and fine crossing-skills as wingers, while strikers Carlos Garcia and William Warrington showed flair, good stickwork and fiery shooting power. This unit was ably supported by the hard-working midfield, who were tenacious in defence and always sharp and skilful in the counter-attack; Tristan Day and Matthew Williams, on the left and right respectively, starved opposition wingers of ball and provided an extra injection of pace to the front line, while central players James Brittain-Jones and David Newby produced early and accurate distribution of the ball and shot with venom from the top of the circle. Nick Hall and Will Witchell were tough and uncompromising as backs, balancing each other well, reliably making the tackles and efficiently and accurately clearing the 'D'. If an attacker managed to pass the solid defence, he was then confronted with the wall-like appearance of goal-keeper Ben Cox; he had a fine season, showing good speed and decision-making and bags of courage.

The 'B' side started the season with a spirited 3-0 victory over Cheltenham College 'C' team, but then had mixed fortunes. The Christ's College match proved an exciting, end-to-end battle, with both sides showing fine interplay and attacking hockey, the Rendcomb men coming out 4-3 victors. Rafe Smallman and Andrew Dolleymore were fast and effective on the wings, while strikers Henry Weston, Oliver Jeffcott and Edward Farnsworth worked well together and proved accurate on the shot. The halves, Robert Mann, Laurence Barton, Richard Collinson, Ben Newton and Kosuke Yamaguchi were industrious, solid in defence and always keen to support the front line in attack. The last-named became the find of the season, his speed, stickwork and strength helping him to become a regular member of the 'A' team during the last quarter of the term. At full-back Tom Mais and Dean Armstrong-Wilde were rock-solid, reliable and strong in the hit, while in goal Dan Riddle was aggressive, sharp and gutsy.

Special mention must be made of Nick Hall and Edward Farnsworth, who, as captains of the 'A' and 'B' sides respectively, proved highly efficient and reliable both on and off the pitch. They always led by example and demonstrated well the ability to read the game and balance constructive criticism with praise.

We have no doubt that in years to come, with the added resource of an Astro, this group will go on to maintain the high standards of the present senior teams, and we would take this opportunity to thank all members of the squad for such a fine season, not only most successful, but extremely enjoyable!

M. J. N. /D. W.

The 'A' XI:

Played 7; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 13; Goals against 6.

Team from: N. Hall (Captain), D. Armstrong-Wilde, L. Barton, J. Brittain-Jones, B. Cox, T. Day, E. Farnsworth, C. Garcia, T. Mais, D. Newby, D. Riddle, A. Sage, R. Smallman, Y. Takanashi, W. Warrington, H. Weston, M. Williams, W. Witchell, K. Yamaguchi.

The 'B' XI:

Played 7; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 8; Goals against 13.

Team from: E. Farnsworth (Captain), D. Armstrong-Wilde, L. Barton, R. Collinson, A. Dolleymore, D. Godfrey, O. Jeffcott, T. Mais, R. Mann, B. Newton, D. Riddle, R. Smallman, H. Weston, K. Yamaguchi.

U13 XIs

The U13s had a very enjoyable and interesting season. Mr Chris Wood and Mr David

Essenhig took the game, and for all practices we worked hard together, with all the players improving as the season got under way, beginning to support and work for each other.

We had a wonderful seven-a-side tournament at Dean Close, where we played some of our best hockey, with everyone giving of his best.

Once again Freddie Lait had a great season, his defensive work well supported by Stephen Ward, who never stopped running. Giles and Tom Drew also had their moments. Rob Nicholas and Charlie Cowper played well in goal.

Ed MacCurrach improved and held his own at centre-half, always promoting. Robin Uzzell and Ollie Jones, Richard Birkbeck, Matthew Collier, Martin Good, Ollie Morris and Robert Knight all played in midfield and worked hard to keep our defence as tight as possible.

Up front Jon Pratt and Ben Stanfield allowed Dominic Sharman, to show his ability; he scored most of our goals, something he really enjoys. James Sabourin, Dominic Fastnedge, Nathaniel Maylott, Matthew Neale, Paul Bongiovanni all played well at times.

Before I finish, we must not forget Tom Moss, Nicholas Marlowe, Tom Butler and also Rupert McKelvie, who, although injured for most of the season, helped us all with his support.

Finally I would like to thank all the parents who supported us, and Mr Chris Wood for all his help throughout the season.

D. E.

U13 'A': Played 12; Won 4; Drew 3; Lost 5; Goals for 15; Goals against 18.

Team from: D. Sharman (Captain), F. Lait, R. Nicholas, B. Stanfield, T. Drew, P. Bongiovanni, R. Uzzell, O. Jones, M. Good, C. Cowper, J. Pratt, E. MacCurrach, D. Fastnedge, S. Ward, J. Sabourin, N. Maylott, G. Drew.

U13 'B': Played 4; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 1; Goals against 6.

Team from: R. Uzzell, M. Neale (Captains), M. Collier, M. Good, R. Knight, O. Morris, R. Birkbeck, T. Butler, C. Cowper, G. Drew, D. Fastnedge, R. McKelvie, N. Marlowe, N. Maylott, T. Moss, J. Sabourin.



Cricket

All the teams have grown in confidence this season and have finished the term with notable successes. The U14 reached the quarter-final of the Lords Taverners U14 County Cup and the U15 reached the semi-final of the Stroud District U15 20-over competition. Also, the young 1st XI matured strikingly over the season, losing only one of their last six matches and winning three of them.

In conclusion, I would like to express gratitude to colleagues for their fine coaching in Arctic conditions, to Russell Riste for meeting with efficiency and good humour the ever-changing catering demands of a cricket season, and to David Mead for his untiring work producing splendid cricket pitches.

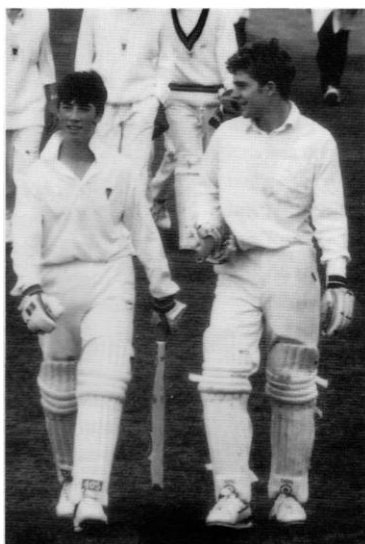
1st XI

The team visibly grew in stature during the season. There was no doubt about their potential, but their youth and inexperience was rather exposed at the start. However, with increasing confidence and growing team spirit, they played with skill and competitiveness. The team was defeated in the first three matches, steadied its performance with some close finishes in the next three, and then won three out of the remaining six games.

Despite losing the opening games, the team never lost heart and learned some valuable lessons about the necessity for line and length bowling and application in batting. As well, the Cheltenham College 'conversation' left an indelible mark on the verbal imagination of some players!

The draw against a strong Prior Park team gave the XI a significant boost. A fine 56 by the combative Francis Newcombe was ably supported by a skilful 31 by Adam Simpkin. The application by Charles Webb and James Gibbs over the last nine overs also showed real character against a fine bowling attack.

Accurate bowling reduced Marling to 43 for 4, chasing 140. Dogged batting brought victory for the visitors, but with only two overs left to play. Against King's, Gloucester, the team fought even harder, and King's overhauled Rendcomb's score of 172 only by hitting a six off the penultimate delivery of the match. Fine batting by the captain, James Fairbank, in both these matches showed to the younger members of the side the virtue of application and controlled aggression.



Buoyed up by pushing the opposition close in the last two games, the team comprehensively defeated Bristol Cathedral School by 73 runs. A determined knock of 22 by Chris Scarth, in his first match for the 1st XI, helped set a total of 128 on a freezing, damp day. With three wickets in the first over, out of a total haul of seven by Ashley Taylor, the team never allowed the opposition the merest hint of victory.

This confidence was clearly evident against Cokethorpe. In the rain, James Gibbs came of age with a fine spell of 4-9, and Francis Newcombe, with dismissive power, scored 65 not out to win the game by 10 wickets.

Picking up after half-term where he'd left off, Francis Newcombe batted superbly against New College and, until out for 78, looked set for a

distinguished century. Sam Maylott ably supported him with a competitive and skilful 27. Six wickets in an aggressive bowling spell by Ashley Taylor nearly halted the progress of the visitors, who eventually won the match, but again in the last over.

Determined batting by James Fairbank, 35 not out against Sir Thomas Rich's, and Charles Barton, 44 not out against Pate's Grammar School, ensured that the next two matches were drawn.

A disastrous start against the ORs saw the side slump to 14 for 5. However, compassionate OR captaincy by Alex Brealy allowed the 1st XI to claw its way back to 92 for 5 at lunch.

Resolute batting by Charles Barton, 43, and Adam King, 37, helped the team to a final total of 161. However, as the Old Boys mounted their run chase, a close finish looked a possibility, and so it was. For the fourth time this season, a match was decided in the last few balls. Off the last ball, with only a six needed to win, the 1st XI took the tenth wicket to win by five runs.

Eight members of the XI will return next year. Five of these are fifth-formers, whose ability was highlighted by the four wickets apiece taken by Ashley Taylor and Harvey Davies in the OR match. James Fairbank has moulded the team with firmness and sensitivity, and the team's successes owe much to his leadership. The season has been a memorable one, and the competitive good humour of the young side has been very rewarding. I look forward with optimism to their continued development next year.

J. P. W.

Played 12; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 6.

v Cirencester College (H) - Lost by 5 runs
Cirencester 147-8 decl. (Hall 3-23)
Rendcomb 142-8 (Davies 27)

v Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 173 runs
Cheltenham 263-4 Rendcomb 90 (Newcombe 36)

v Monmouth School (H) - Lost by 88 runs
Monmouth 251-4 decl.
Rendcomb 163-6 (Simpkin 46, Newcombe 35)

v Prior Park College (A)- Match Drawn
Prior Park 234-3 decl.
Rendcomb 144-8 (Newcombe 56, Simpkin 31)

v Marling School (H) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 140-7 decl. (Fairbank 42)
Marling 142-5

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 172-9 decl. (Fairbank 52, Maylott 39)
King's 178-5 (Harris 3-46)

v Bristol Cathedral School (A) - Won by 73 runs
Rendcomb 128 (Fairbank 26)
Bristol 55 (Taylor 7-24)

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Cokethorpe 82 (Gibbs 4-9)
Rendcomb 84-0 (Newcombe 65*)

v New College, Swindon (H) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 179-7 decl. (Newcombe 78)
New College 180-7 (Taylor 6-31)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match Drawn
Sir Thomas Rich's 172-6 decl. (Taylor 3-45)
Rendcomb 107-9 (Fairbank 35*)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 97-9 decl. (Barton 42*)
Pate's 79-7 (Davies 4-21)

v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)-Won by 5 runs
Rendcomb 161 (Barton 43, King 37)
OR Society 156 (Taylor 4-32, Davies 4-56)

Team from: J. Fairbank (Captain), C. Barton,
H. Davies, J. Gibbs, M. Hall, A. Harris, A. King,
S. Maylott, F. Newcombe, A. Taylor, C. Webb.
Also played: K. Chaiwatanasirikul, I. Forster,
A. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Scarth, A. Simpkin,
R. Witchell.

2nd XI

At the start of the season we were not sure of our capabilities, with only two or three recognised batsmen in the squad. We knew we might have to struggle, and this was shown in our first two matches, when batsmen gave away their wickets cheaply.

We came into form when we played King's, Gloucester, with Chris Scarth and Tim Hill putting on a substantial partnership for their first wicket. Chris batted very well and was unlucky to be given out lbw when he was on 49. Tight bowling from Matt Hall and Nick Ridley restricted the flow of runs, King's declaring with too little time left for us to get the score needed.

The next two matches were both influenced by people who were not normally in the XI.

This included, in the Sir Thomas Rich's match, Will Witchell (under 14), who batted with common sense against what was remarkably poor bowling to score 63, whilst putting on a stand of 99 with the captain. The bowling was tight, especially by the brothers Robin and Will Witchell, who claimed half the wickets between them, giving us our only win by the decisive margin of 88 runs.

Put in to bat against Pate's, we collapsed to 10 for 3. Our score was greatly boosted by noncricketer William Brittain-Jones, who claimed the prize for the highest score in the 2nd XI, 66 not out. There was some big hitting in the unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 60.

Manny Garcia claimed the title of leading wicket-taker, supported well by Robin Witchell. Batting was our weak point, with Chris Scarth scoring our highest total of runs. James Emerson produced very tidy figures and entertained us with his batting. Adam Hawkins was our wicket-keeper; most of the byes were not his fault.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Mr Slark for coaching us, maintaining his usual good humour throughout the season.

RICHARD WITCHELL

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3.

v Cheltenham College (A) – Lost by 10 wickets
Rendcomb 67 Cheltenham 71-0

v Prior Park College (H) – Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 31 Prior Park 32-2

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) – Match Drawn
King's 160-9 decl. (Hall 3-14, Garcia 3-27)
Rendcomb 112-2 (Scarth 49, Hill 30)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) – Won by 88 runs
Rendcomb 206-9 decl. (Scarth 20, Hawkins 21, W.
Witchell 63, R. Witchell 47)
Sir Thomas Rich's 118 (R. H. N. Witchell 3-11)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) – Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 149-8 decl. (R. H. N. Witchell 38,
Brittain-Jones 66*)
Pate's 150-2

Team from: R. Witchell (Captain), R. H. N. Witchell,
L. Duff, J. Emerson, M. Garcia, M. Hall, A.
Hawkins, T. Hill, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, E. Turvill,
C. Holliday, R. Histed.



U15 XI

The season started with a poor loss against an unusually weak Cheltenham College side. A famous Rendcomb batting collapse, with only Harry Aldrich-Blake making many runs, left almost nothing to bowl at, though Harry did impress with the ball as well.

Against Prior Park the fielding was very good: all the five bowlers chipped in with a couple of wickets, and Tristan Day took a very sharp catch to close the opposition's innings. Our batting suffered early on, before a middle-order revival, and we were unlucky not to force the draw.

John Shenton laid the foundation for a good innings against Marling with a fine 56, and our bowlers bowled very well. We were unlucky not to win.

The first of our Cup matches, against Kingshill, was a comfortable victory, with fine bowling again from Harry Aldrich-Blake.

Bredon were a very weak side, so we had time to run up a good total, helped by a fine 38 from Ben Butler. When it came to bowling, we did very well and cruised to victory.

The match against Bristol Cathedral was a very well contested one. Both sides fielded and batted well, and it went right down to the last ball. Harry excelled with both bat and ball, and he nearly won the match for us late on in Bristol's innings.

The match against Cokethorpe, reduced to 20 overs because of rain, was memorable for a brilliant catch by James Starkey on the boundary and good fielding by Tom Gilbert.

Against Farmor's some very good fielding was almost let down by an awful batting collapse, but we managed to scrape through this, our second Cup match.

Our final group match in the Cup was against Deer Park, who fielded well and won, but it was very close. Tristan Day and Harry Aldrich-Blake bowled excellently again.

Magdalen were in a class of their own, and we did not field well, but Ian Forster got a quick 40 before we lost.

The match against Sir Thomas Rich's was one that we really ought to have won; we dropped two catches when they had only one wicket to fall, so we were very upset to lose. However, this match brought probably the best catch I have ever seen, by Ian Forster at silly mid-on, diving low and catching left-handed.

Ian Forster then struck a very good 83 as we scored a good total against the Crypt, but we did not have the fire-power in our bowling to finish them off.

Kingham Hill were a weak side, and we bowled them out very cheaply. Ben Butler steered us to a nine-wicket victory with a very patient, solid innings of 40 not out.

Against King's, Gloucester, yet again we had a batting collapse, but Harry had time to take 5 for 21 before the match was over.

Finally, we played Marling in the semi-final of the Cup. They bowled well and didn't have a big target to chase to get the winning runs.

The season has seen some very good improvements, especially in Harry Aldrich-Blake's bowling; he ended up with 34 wickets, the most in the school. Well done, Harry, and everyone else.

NICK STANFIELD

Played 15; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 8.

v Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 44
Cheltenham 78-4 (A-Blake 3-19)

v Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 21 runs
Prior Park 121 Rendcomb 92

v Marling School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 170-7 decl. (Shenton 56)
Marling 137-9 (Stanfield 4-18, A-Blake 4-47)

v Kingshill School (H) - Won by 5 wickets
Kingshill 83-9 (A-Blake 3-23)
Rendcomb 85-5 (20 overs)

v Bredon School (A) - Won by 109 runs
Rendcomb 135-5 decl. (Butler 38)
Bredon 26 (Stanfield 4-14)

v Bristol Cathedral School (A) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 152 (Butler 31, A-Blake 46)
Bristol 153-7 (A-Blake 4-36)

v Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Cokethorpe 77-5 (Gilbert 3-13)
Rendcomb 78-2 78-2 (20 overs)

v Farmor's School (H) - Won by 6 wickets
Farmor's 53-9 Rendcomb 54-4 (20 overs)

v Cirencester School (H) - Lost by 1 wicket
Rendcomb 76-9
Cirencester 77-9 (Day 5-15, A-Blake 3-13)
(20 overs)

v Magdalen College School (A) - Lost by 92 runs
Magdalen 186-6 decl.
Rendcomb 94 (Forster 40)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Lost by 1 wicket
Rendcomb 92
Sir Thomas Rich's 93-9 (A-Blake 3-15,
Stanfield 4-25)

v The Crypt School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 162 (Forster 83)
Crypt 87-7 (Stanfield 5-26)

v Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 9 wickets
Kingham 70 (Stanfield 4-11, Gilbert 4-21)
Rendcomb 74-1 (Butler 40*)

v The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 57
King's 58-5 (A-Blake 5-21)

v Marling School (A) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 43-9 Marling 46-1 (20 overs)

Team from: N. Stanfield (Captain), B. Butler,
T. Gilbert, J. Starkey, H. Aldrich-Blake, J. Shenton,

P. Webb, R. Sammons, D. Morris, I. Forster, E.
Compton, T. Day, W. Witchell, D. Sharman.

U14 'A' XI

The first two games of the season saw the U14 'A' XI wind up with losses to Cheltenham College and Marling. Our first win came against Bristol Cathedral School, in real style, the captain, Richard Witchell displaying some beautiful strokes and unluckily getting caught on the boundary on 89, and Nick Hall showing great skill to get his 50 not out.

In the field it was equally impressive, Yuki Takanashi, with his turbo-charged arm, tidying anything that managed to get to the boundary; Laurie Barton and Matthew Williams, equal to their tasks closer in, along with the rest of the field skittled the opposition out for 66.

The Magdalen match was tough, even though we were at home: Magdalen, a little selfishly, staying in well after tea, managed 195 for 7. Rendcomb fell short, but with brave efforts from our batsmen.

The match against the Crypt brought our next victory. Tristan pay got a very creditable 27, the rest of the runs being made by William Witchell, James Brittain-Jones, Andy Dolleymore, Dean Armstrong-Wilde, Yuki Takanashi and Nick Hall.

Revenge against Marling came in the Taverners Cup match, which we won by 30 runs, Tristan Day scoring 45 not out.. This put us through to the next round, where we were defeated by Wye Dean School with 8 balls remaining.

Our biggest victory came against Kingham Hill, followed by a win against King's, Gloucester, and a loss to Pate's.

D. E. W.

Played 10; Won 5; Lost 5.

v Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 87 Cheltenham 88-1

v Marling School (A) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 89 (Hall 31, Williams 23)
Marling 90-5

v Bristol Cathedral School (H) - Won by 115 runs
Rendcomb 181-3 decl. (Witchell 89, Hall 50*)
Bristol 66

v Magdalen College School (H) - Lost by 84 runs
Magdalen 195-7 decl.
Rendcomb 111 (Witchell 20, A-Wilde 25,
Cox 19, B-Jones 19)

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Lost by 7 wickets
Rendcomb 76
Sir Thomas Rich's 77-3

v The Crypt School (H) - Won by 5 wickets
Crypt 82
Rendcomb 83-5 (Day 27)

v Marling School (H) - Won by 30 runs
Marling 80-4
Rendcomb 110-6 (Day 45*)

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Kingham 19 (Witchell 5-12, Day 5-7)
Rendcomb 20-0

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 36 runs
Rendcomb 172 (Witchell 62, Hall 46)
King's 136

v Pate's Grammar School (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 94 Pate's 95-2.

Team from: R. Witchell (Captain), N. Hall, B. Cox,
Y. Takanashi, L. Barton, M. Williams, D. Armstrong-
Wilde, J. Brittain-Jones, T. Day, A. Dolleymore,
A. Sage, W. Warrington, O. Jeffcott, B. Stanfield.

U14 'B' XI

Despite the defeats, this was a season in which the 'B' XI could quite conceivably have won all its games, and it is to their credit that the players went for victory in every game, instead of opting for a safe draw.

There is considerable talent at this level, particularly in the batting. The captain, David Newby made 146 in the season, and Oliver Jeffcott, Henry Weston, Ralph Smallman and Carlos Garcia all made useful contributions. If they stay together as a group and develop a little more 'match toughness', I am sure they can be successful.

I certainly enjoyed coaching them, for they were never less than enthusiastic, and I hope they will continue playing the game in years to come.

L. J. H.

Played 3; Lost 3.

v Prior Park School (H) - Lost by 32 runs
Prior Park 121-8 decl Rendcomb 89 (Newby 28*)

v Cokethorpe School 'A' XI (A) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 149-3 decl (Newby 84*, Weston 42)
Cokethorpe 150-4

v The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 10 runs
King's 191
Rendcomb 181 (Newby 34, Jeffcott 44)

Team from: D. Newby (Captain), R. Collinson,
E. Farnsworth, R. Fung, C. Garcia, D. Godfrey,
H. Iseki, O. Jeffcott, T. Mais, R. Mann, B. Newton,
D. Riddle, R. Smallman, H. Weston, K. Yamaguchi.

U13 'A' XI

This season's results reflect a great enthusiasm for the game. The all-round knowledge and experience was low, and old hands needed to support the new ones. The record I am proud of, having had a very pessimistic mind at the start of the season.

We had to form a 'team understanding' for our first match, against Sir Thomas Rich's. This was going to be a hard fixture, owing to our inexperience. We managed to scrape a draw with hard, concentrated batting.

Next came Marling, down to earth with a bang! We were taken apart by a team littered with Gloucestershire players.

We then had to pick ourselves up to play Bristol Cathedral. They reached 163 for 3 wickets, which meant another draw on the cards; we needed to do the same job as we did against Sir Thomas Rich's. It got very tense when our first three batsmen were out cheaply. Robin Uzzell and Steve Ward saved the day with two impressive innings.

We now needed our first win, which was to come after exeat, against Farmor's. The easiest fixture of the season came up next, against Kingham, and we knew that we needed only 100 runs to be secure. We got them, with a 32 from Sharman and a 28 from Stanfield.

Better was to come when we played Pate's, on paper the toughest team. When we got bowled out for 75, we thought it would be an uphill struggle, but with secure bowling and good fielding, notably from Steve Ward we won a great game, bowling them out for 64.

The season has shown notable performances, from John Pratt, behind the stumps for the first time, and from Ollie Jones, who started with 0 and finished 37. Also Rupert McKelvie showed that a spin bowler can be of great importance. Thanks must be said, too, to our ever-enthusiastic coach, Mr Sykes.

DOMINIC SHARMAN

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 2.

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match Drawn
Sir Thomas Rich's 141-5 decl.
Rendcomb 83 (Sharman 53)

v Marling School (H) - Lost by 182 runs
Marling 192 Rendcomb 10

v Bristol Cathedral School (H) - Match Drawn
Bristol 163-3 decl.
Rendcomb 58-3

v The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 78 runs
Crypt 135 Rendcomb 57

v Farmor's School (H) - Won by 32 runs
Rendcomb 117 (Sharman 76)
Farmor's 85 (Stanfield 7-26)

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 79 runs
Rendcomb 118-4 decl. (Sharman 32, Stanfield 28)
Kingham 39 (Stanfield 5-9)

v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 11 runs
Rendcomb 75
Pate's 64 (Sharman 5-13)

Team from: D. Sharman (Captain), R. Uzzell,
O.. Jones, B. Stanfield, N. Maylott, S. Ward, F. Lait,
E. MacCurrach, J. Pratt, M. Neale, P. Bongiovanni,
R. McKelvie, T. Butler.

U13 'B' XI

As last year, two fixtures were played. The first was lost at Cokethorpe, when understandably the players were very nervous. The second was played against Cheltenham College Junior School at Rendcomb, and the match was drawn. The team was ably captained by Robbie Nicholas, and Dominic Fastnedge deserves special mention, as he scored a total of 56 runs without being out and took three wickets in the course of two matches.

J. G. W.

v Cokethorpe School (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 35 Cokethorpe 36-2

v Cheltenham College Junior School (H) - Match Drawn
Rendcomb 98-5 decl.
Cheltenham 70-5

Team from: R. Nicholas (Captain), P. Bongiovanni,
M. Collier, T. Drew, M. Good, R. Knight, O. Morris,
R. Birkbeck, C. Cowper, G. Drew, D. Fastnedge, N.
Marlowe, T. Moss, J. Sabourin.



Mr David Essenhigh during a
coaching session for local children

Boys' Tennis

This year was bound to be something of an anti-climax after the unprecedented successes of last season's 1st VI, but nevertheless some enjoyable and increasingly skilful and tactical tennis was played.

The healthy membership of 24 boys testified to the sport's continuing popularity, and I am sure this keenness will survive into the next millennium.

Our first match was against Dauntsey's, whom we had heavily defeated in 1995. Clearly out for revenge, Dauntsey's had a decisive 8-1 win, with our regular first pair, Nick Carmichael and Rudi Dühmke, gaining our face-saving rubber. In mitigation it must be said that the match took place on grass courts, a surface that some of our team had never seen, let alone played on, and we could not readily adapt to the different type of game required. The inexperienced 2nd VI fared even worse!

We then suffered another defeat, against Wycliffe, though the set scores were closer and our first pair did well. The 2nd VI this time came within an ace (literally?) of gaining an honourable draw, but eventually were narrowly defeated.

Our rosiest afternoon came against Dean Close, whom we conquered for the second year running. Everyone played his part that day, with particular credit going to the newly formed second pair of Chris Baker and Leighton Freeman, who competed hard and came away with an invaluable two wins from their three rubbers. The 2nd VI were decisively beaten overall, despite some close set encounters.

Cheltenham College 2nd VI, whom we had beaten easily last year, reversed the result this time in no uncertain terms. Finally, we defeated King's, Gloucester, in a enjoyable late-season mixed doubles match.

Despite some disappointments, individuals showed definite promise. Nick Carmichael, Rudi Dühmke and Chris Baker particularly provided flair and a useful nucleus, though shareholders seeking their percentages should not yet invest too much in their top-spin backhands!

Leighton Freeman grunted his way again to some glass-shattering smashes and improved his volleying. Craig Marcham offered a Head Boy's suitable calm in the crises, and the much improved, enthusiastic Rupert Webb looked a good prospect for the coming seasons.

Other members of the team all had their purple patches, even if these were rarely strung together to bring much tangible reward. My grateful thanks are due to Nick Carmichael, a capable captain, while the vice-captain, Rudi Dühmke, demonstrated that there is more to German tennis than Becker, Stich and Graf.

The annual parent/pupil doubles tournament was held in warm sun on Sunday, 9th June, and again proved a popular event. Group winners were Nick Carmichael (seniors) and Tom Mais (juniors); adults relished shrugging off their tennis rust, and the entry fees produced a healthy donation to next year's charity, the RSPCA.

Next year the school may have to find itself a part-time professional coach - lean, energetic, patient, skilful - to visit once or twice weekly to train team members, but unfortunately such coaches do not come cheaply, so we must wait and see. I have certainly greatly enjoyed running the sport I have loved and played since I was a ten-year-old prep-school midget. May I thank all members of past college teams for their friendship and efforts, and wish Rendcomb tennis good fortune in 1997 and beyond.

J. N. H.

1st VI

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3.

v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 1-8
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 1½-7½
v Dean Close School (H)	Won 5½-3½
v Cheltenham College 2nd VI (H)	Lost 1-8

Mixed VI

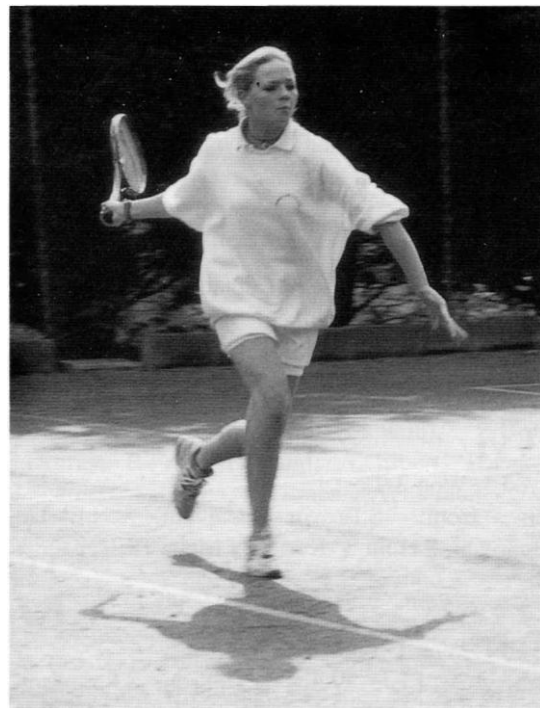
v The King's School, Gloucester Won 10-6

Team from: N. Carmichael (Captain), R. Dühmke (Vice-Captain), C. Baker, L. Freeman, C. Marcham, R. Webb, R. Heinemann, S. Ismail.

2nd VI

Played 4; Lost 4.

Team from: S. Amey (Captain), C. Marcham, R. Hart, S. Ismail, A. Donovan, R. Arnold, C. MacKinnon, M. Sutton.



Girls' Tennis

As the weather improved this season, then so did the standard of senior tennis. It was unfortunate that our harder fixtures happened at the beginning of term, against the larger schools such as Dauntsey's and Cheltenham College. Although the results look disappointing, they do not reflect how exciting and close the matches were.

We would like to thank Felicity Blades for providing the senior girls with extra coaching, which has certainly contributed towards their improved play.

The fourth-year girls began their matches after half-term and won their first two without dropping a set. The U14 team in their first fixture managed to win 4-0, and in the process took all but one match to love.

Just before the final exeat of term a most enjoyable mixed match was played against King's, Gloucester, which Rendcomb were delighted to win 10-6, reversing last year's result.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the captains, Karen Pearce (1st VI), Janet Pearce (2nd VI) and Sophie Brown (U15 VI), for doing such a wonderful job of organising their teams.

S. M. W. and J. N.

1st VI

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3.

v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 2-7
v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost 0-12
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 1-8
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 6-3
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 9-0

Team from: K. Pearce (Captain), J. Bartholomew, S. Collier, V. Dühmke, A. Howard, A. Jensen, J. Pearce, P. Wigfield.

2nd VI

Played 3; Lost 3.

Team from: J. Pearce (Captain), K. Bagshawe, J. Bartholomew, C. Bohlken, F. Gerry, S. Harvey, G. Hunter-Smart, E. Jakobs, J. Mais, B. Mann, J. Shenton.

U15 VI

Played 3, Won 2, Lost 1.

Team from: S. Brown (Captain), N. El-Titi, L. Donovan, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, J. Mais, T. Sleggs.

U14 VI

Played 1; Won 1.

Team: A. de Lisle Wells, K. Dobson, S. Sprawson, C. Webb.

Netball

1st VII

Unfortunately, the statistics fail to reflect accurately the performances of the senior team this season. The usual problem of adverse weather conditions in the first half of term dramatically limited the quality of practice time and also meant prolonged positional experiment.

Nevertheless, there was an impressive overall improvement in skill, understanding and knowledge of the game at both individual and team levels as the season progressed.

Rebecca Gee ably captained the VII and provided competitive centre-court play, along with Karen Pearce and Katherine Bagshawe. Sophie Collier and Annabel Howard proved excellent defence, while Janet Pearce and Jenny Bartholomew, who had not played netball before, played their roles as shooters with great expertise.

S. W.

Played 6; Won 2; Lost 4.

Team from: R. Gee (Captain), K. Bagshawe, J. Bartholomew, S. Collier, V. Dühmke, A. Howard, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, J. Mais, J. Pearce, K. Pearce, R. Renow-Clarke.

2nd VII

Despite bad weather's affecting practice time at the beginning of the season, the girls' skills improved, as they were hard-working and keen to learn and had the right attitude to the game. Most important, they did not lose sight of the enjoyment factor. Morale was boosted with a win against King's, Gloucester.



Susie Harvey, as captain and goal-attack, gave endless encouragement to her players. Bianca Mann, Naomi Gibbons and Rowan Renow-Clarke combined well as centre players, while Posy Ingham, Jacqueline Shenton and Heather Elsen, who had never played netball before, provided a rock-solid defence. It was good to have Vicky Dühmke back in the squad, after injury, for the last few matches. The season ended well, with a much more positive approach to and understanding of the game, which augurs well for future seasons.

J. N.

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 4.

Team from: S. Harvey (Captain), J. Bartholomew, C. Bohlken, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, V. Dühmke, H. Elsen, F. Gerry, N. Gibbons, P. Ingham, A. Jensen, B. Mann, R. Renow-Clarke, J. Shenton, P. Wigfield.

U15 VII

The team performed brilliantly all season, with many notable successes. The girls' enthusiasm to learn more advanced skills, plus the natural talent of players in the third and fourth years, gave the team its basis for winning six out of seven matches.

The opportunity was taken to enter the side in a prestigious U15 Gloucestershire County Netball Tournament. 18 school teams were entered and split

into two sections; we finished third in our section, winning five matches, drawing one and losing only two, missing the semi-finals by only one point and coming fifth overall.

Superb, reliable shooting from Phillipa Hunt, ably assisted by Charlotte Kerton, encouraged the centre-court players, Katie Dobson, Sophie Sprawson, Tara Sleggs/Nadia El-Titi, two of them under 14, to work hard to get the ball into the circle. Solid defence play from Jenny Mais, who led the side as captain with assurance all season, and Laura Donovan made it difficult for other teams to score the necessary goals. In some games strong defence play made it almost impossible for opponents to get the ball into their circle at all.

Phillipa Hunt, in her role as goal-shooter, went from strength this year, ending by securing a place in the Gloucestershire U16 'A' netball team at the age of 15.

P. S. W.

Played 7; Won 6; Lost 1.

Team from: J. Mais (Captain), K. Dobson, L. Donovan, N. El-Titi, P. Hunt, C. Kerton, G. Leatheart, S. Sprawson, T. Sleggs.

U14 VII

The U14s had a superb season, winning seven out of their nine matches and creating a solid base from which to work next year.

The shooting was shared successfully between Lotte Webb and Sophie Sprawson, with Katie Dobson playing a superb role as captain and centre. Anna de Lisle Wells and Nellie Abbott played well on the wings, but the most improved players of the season were the two defenders, Sarah Donovan and Jamela Saedaldin, who became a formidable partnership for opponents to play against.

It was a most enjoyable season for players and coach, and we look forward to next year.

P. S. W.

Played 9; Won 7; Lost 2.

Team from: K. Dobson (Captain), M. Abbott, A. de Lisle Wells, S. Donovan, R. Lamont, J. Saedaldin, S. Sprawson, C. Webb.

U13 VII

The second-year girls worked with enthusiasm and commitment this season. They improved their skills, and in particular are now more agile around the court. Towards the end of the season they began to intercept the ball from the opposition more effectively, whilst their own passing became more

confident and accurate. It was also pleasing that all the girls got to play in at least two matches.

A number of them have natural flair for the game: Eleanor Bruce and Christina Schotten did well as shooters; Becky Whatman and Roz Frazer-Holland proved versatile in their positions but were formidable at times in their defence, whilst Helen Pearce and Ellen Drurey played solidly on centre-court.

Although the record of games won was a little disappointing, they worked hard to consolidate their skills and were always cheerful; thanks for that must go to Rose Thrower.

Consequently, their future as U14s looks very promising.

N. G.

Played 8; Won 1; Lost 7.

Team from: R. Thrower (Captain), E. Bruce, E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, H. Pearce, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, A. Turner, R. Whatman.

U12 VII

Many of the U12 team were new to netball when the season began. After only one practice they were faced with an experienced Wycliffe side. This match saw the start of a string of defeats. The girls were not disheartened, however, and put great enthusiasm into the subsequent games. They tried hard to learn new skills and work as a team and half-way through the term they pulled it together and won their only victory, over Selwyn School, Gloucester.

The U12s hold potential for next year, and Nellie Gilson was a fine captain throughout the season.

D. R. B.

Played 8; Won 1; Lost 7.

Team from: N. Gilson (Captain), J. Arnold, F. Burden, J. Crook, O. Evans, A. Forbes, V. MacKinnon, H. Pitt, R. Ricketts, R. Warrington.

Rounders

The first and second-year girls have all worked hard to learn the skills required for rounders this term. 15 matches were played, with every girl having the opportunity to play at least twice during the term for one of the teams.

When we joined with the U 14s to make a Junior Rounders side for two matches, the experience of the older girls helped the younger ones to achieve two wins, one against Grittleton House away at Chippenham and one against Kingham Hill at home.

A good victory for the U13s was scored against Colston's School.

There have been notable successes with the bat from Rose Thrower, Becky Whatman and Heidi Pitt, who scored the majority of the rounders for the College. Both Jenny Arnold for the U12s and Roz Frazer-Holland for the U13s bowled well and accurately for their respective teams, with Roz beginning to vary the pace and spin the ball well in the latter half of the season. Ellen Drurey at backstop and Becky Whatman at first post supplied most of the stumpings with their fast and effective throwing and catching.

It was a good season, enjoyed by most, with all matches played in very good spirit.

P. S. W.

Junior IX

Played 2; Won 2.

Team from: N. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. de Lisle Wells, K. Dobson, S. Donovan, E. Drurey, R. Frazer-Holland, H. Mizon, H. Pitt, C. Schotten, J. Saedaldin, S. Sprawson, R. Thrower, C. Webb, R. Whatman.

U13 IX

Played 10; Won 1; Lost 9.

Team: E. Drurey (Captain), E. Bruce, A. Forbes, R. Frazer-Holland, A. Gilbert, H. Pearce, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. Thrower, A. Turner, R. Whatman.

U12 IX

Played 3; Lost 3.

Team from: J. Crook (Captain), J. Arnold, F. Burden, O. Evans, A. Forbes, N. Gilson, V. MacKinnon, H. Pitt, R. Ricketts, R. Warrington

Clay Shooting

An Overview

Without doubt this has been a splendid season of most competitive shooting. Rendcomb is firmly established within the top schools, and the quality of our shooting at the 'Nationals' this year was most impressive.



1996 Independent schools' National Clay Shoot at Shugborough Estate. Squad from left to right: E. MacCurrach, J. Brittain-Jones, W. Witchell, R. Arnold, R. H. N. Witchell (Vice-Captain), T. Winstone, J. Fairbank (Captain), A. Donovan, J. Gibbs, W. Brittain-Jones, H. Aldrich-Blake, R. Witchell.

I must extend my thanks and congratulations to the captain, James Fairbank, and vice-captain, Robin Witchell, for their efforts in the field and for their leadership skills, most evident to the squad as a whole.

As we look forward to next year, we wish our leavers, James Fairbank and Tony Winstone, the very best for the future and hope that they will reappear for the ORs in the Nationals of 1997.

The next chapter of Rendcomb shooting will be keen and competitive under the leadership of Robin Witchell and William Brittain-Jones. I look forward to seeing them both in action.

In conclusion, Mr Watson and I would like to thank the fine body of men involved in the many shoots this season; it really is 'the Sport of Princes' and has given us all a huge amount of enjoyment.

J. H. S.

The 1995-96 shooting season was for Tony and me a great success. With only two people leaving the team, we already had a skilled nucleus of shooters from which we could build a successful team.

The entire year is engaged in producing a quality team with which we can make a challenge for the Independent Schools Shooting Championships, held at the beginning of the summer term. With reference to this event, other inter-school matches and even the Western Area Championships are regarded as match-practice only.

As last year, we interspersed our weekly school-based practices with trips to the Chatcombe Estate shooting school. Here we learnt many new techniques, such as gun down shooting, which helped us to improve our scores. Both the 'A' and the 'B' teams were, as I have already mentioned, built around a nucleus of experienced shots, but this season did see the emergence of a number of talented newcomers, such as Ed MacCurrach in the First Form and Harry Aldrich-Blake in the Fourth. There was also Andrew Donovan, who came into the team before the Nationals and proved to be a valuable, although inexperienced, shooter; we thank him for this.

The National Championships 1996

Perhaps the most satisfying thing about the 'A' team was its development over the past 12 months, and our progress in matches showed this. We emulated the previous year's positions at both the Western Area Championships and at the Nationals - fourth and tenth - although we shot much better at the Nationals on a tricky course and against strong opposition. The individual highlight was the score of

38 ex 50 by the aforementioned Harry Aldrich-Blake. It was both an enjoyable and a most satisfying season, and the results of both teams at the Nationals was indicative of this.

Having come to the end of my shooting career at Rendcomb, I wish to thank Mr Watson and especially Mr Stutchbury for making shooting such a success throughout the school. I wish this highly promising club all the best for the future and expect to hear about the acquisition of some 'silverware' from the Nationals next year.

JAMES FAIRBANK



Riding

Two groups depart each Thursday afternoon to take lessons at the Talland School of Equitation near Cirencester. One group caters for complete beginners, who are taught the basics of horsemanship under the watchful eye of BHS instructors, whilst the other group is taken through more advanced riding skills on beautifully schooled horses.

The interest in riding as an activity has gained momentum to such a degree that this year teams to represent Rendcomb College in One Day Eventing and in Polo have been formed.

During the Easter holidays an Assessment Day was arranged at Huntley Equestrian Centre, to monitor the extent of the interest in One Day Eventing. The enthusiasm and talent shown there meant the formation of a Senior and an Intermediate Team. 10 pupils are working with their horses and ponies to prepare them for One Day Events during the summer holidays, with the ultimate aim of entering the Inter-Schools Finals in September.



Rose Thrower and mount

The Rendcomb College Polo Team entered its first Inter-Schools Polo Championship in June, performing well and with much enjoyment for those taking part and for those watching. This is a hard sport, requiring strength, determination and good horsemanship, and the current members of the team all practise their skills every Sunday afternoon right through the summer term and into the holidays.

Meanwhile, it was also pleasing to see the riding lessons going so well, ending in both the beginners' group and the more advanced group's taking on some spectacular cross-country fences during their last lesson of term. All the girls and boys have improved this year and have also thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the process.

Congratulations go to everyone involved in the lessons, and good luck to all those in the Rendcomb College teams competing this year.

P. S. W.

Sailing

It took amazing courage to struggle into our wet suits and make for the freezing-cold water on that early summer's afternoon. Half of the group took sailing tuition and the rest of us worked to develop our windsurfing technique. We were instructed to set up the windsurf and to glide gracefully across the lake in what seemed like gale conditions.

In reality this was far more difficult than it seemed. We persevered, battled with the elements and spent many frustrating moments under the windsurf instead of on top of it.

By the end of the course, however, 'jibing, tacking' and so on, became regular words in our vocabulary. We survived!

The sailors were making good progress and many of them worked to either establish a basic ability or improve on past experience. A number of them worked towards various certificates of the Royal Yachting Association and learned a great deal in the process.

I would like to thank Mr Lea for organising it; the whole exercise was great fun!

GEORGINA HUNTER SMART

Those who took part this year: G. Hunter Smart, P. Wigfield, A. Peters, T. Shaw, D. Ellison, C. Morey, A. Davanzo, A. Phillips, S. Grey, J. Hawkins, D. Hughes, A. Jarrett, P. de Havilland Hall, C. Perry, M. Sutton.



