

# Rendcombian '94

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, Cirencester





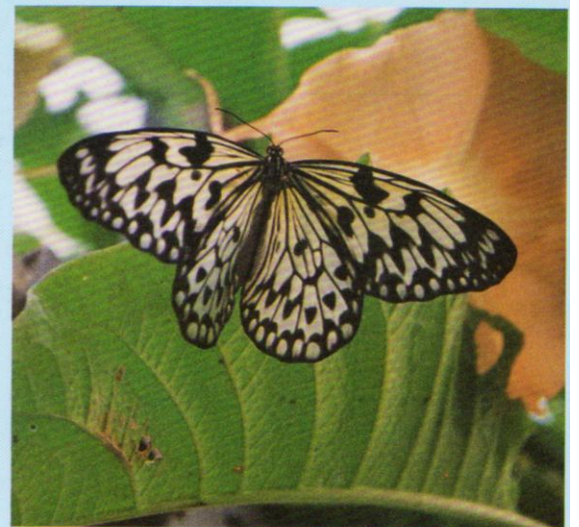
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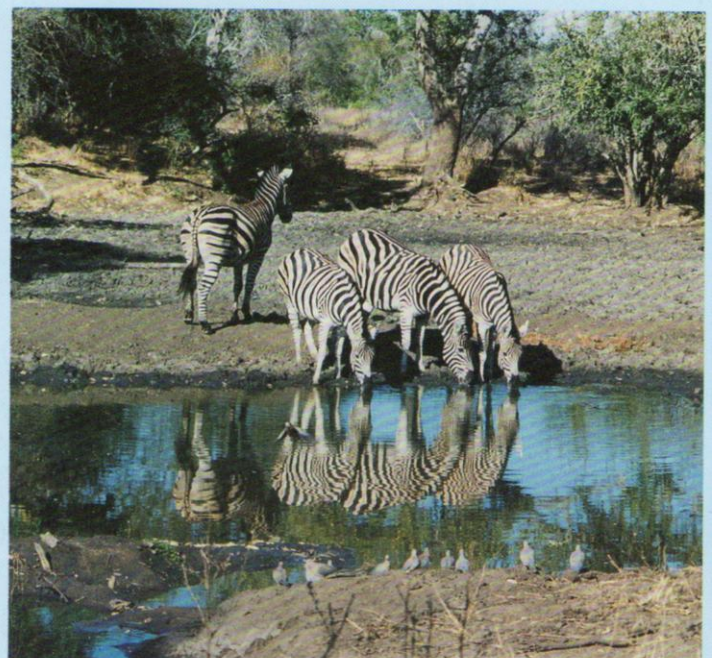


Christopher Mackinnon (5)



*Room with a view*

Joan Essenhig (staff)



*Keeping guard*

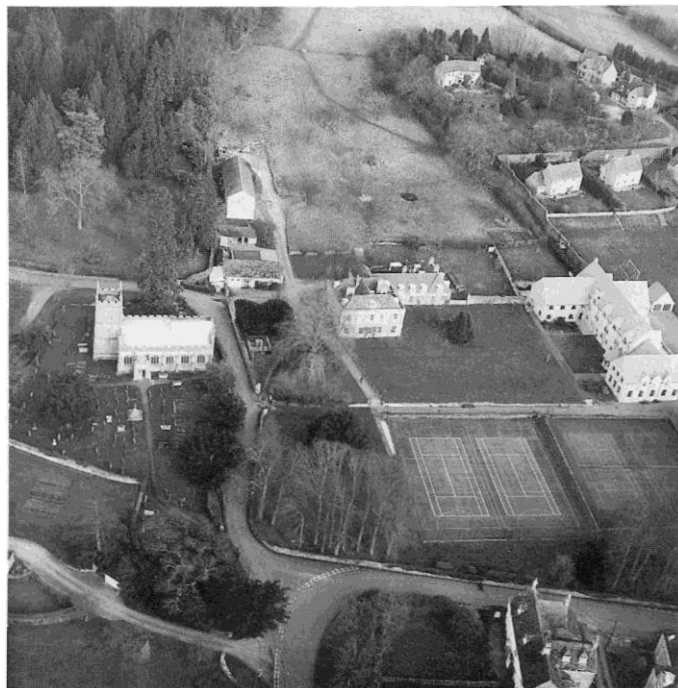
Richard Histed (3)



# Rendcombian

No. 12

September 1994



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Front Cover Outside: Rounders and Bridge      *Photos: S. J. Lea*

Back Cover

Outside: Fourth-year Physics

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

Inside: *Guys and Dolls*

*Photos: C. J. Wood*

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*(Contact details updated October 2016)*

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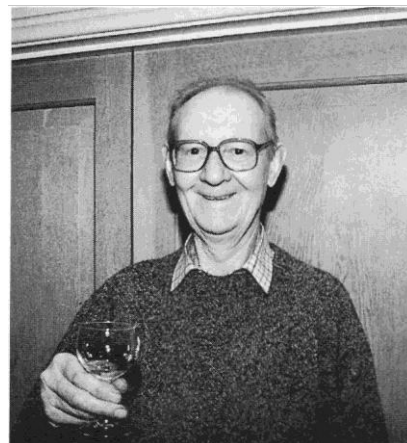
## The Record 1

*We warmly congratulate:*

**Frank Fry** - who has now worked at the College for 42 years, on celebrating his 80th birthday on 11th November 1993.

**Stephen Lea** - on his admission to the degree of Master of Music at Bristol University.

**Paul Sykes** - on his admission to the degree of Master of Science at Brunel University.



**Frank Fry**

## Rendcomb Diary

**Christmas Term 1993**

**September**

5. Term began. Church Service for new pupils.



6. **Junior House Silver Cycling Award Course** throughout the week.

11. Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride.

15. Junior House and 6A physicists visited the Jodrell Bank Science Centre.

19. **Church Fête** in the College grounds, opened by **Richard Dunwoody, OR.**

21. Sixth Form English students saw *The Country Wife* at Stratford.

24. Pupils, staff and friends enjoyed the Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Entertainment was provided by college musicians. The Fifth Forms attended a *Living History of Science* lecture on Marie Curie at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Culham.

27. Talk to the Sixth Form by Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP for Gloucester and Tewkesbury.



## October

1. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition departed for mid-Wales.
3. The Parents' Association hosted a reception for new parents.
4. Mrs Sue Ellis gave a PSE talk to 6B, *Relationships*.
9. College Open Day.
10. QP Concert.
14. Black Box Theatre: *Le Banquet de Theatre*, an evening of one-act plays and short sketches.
15. Black Box Theatre.
16. The Gloucestershire Organists' Association held a master-class in St Peter's Church.
17. Informal concert.
- Junior House ice skating at the Link Centre, Swindon.
21. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition departed for Brecon Beacons.
- 6B Performing Arts group saw *Moby Dick* at The Other Place, Stratford.
22. Half-term began.

## November

1. Mr John Cooper gave a talk on Psychology to the Sixth Form.
7. Concert of music by Fauré, given in the Reading Room. Soloists included Susie Fletcher and Charlotte Harrison. The choir performed the *Requiem*.
11. The Sixth Form saw *The Tempest* at Stratford.
13. The Fourth Forms attended a lecture, *Explosives in Parlour and Pantry*, at the RMCS, Shrivenham.
14. Remembrance Sunday. The College held its usual service at 10.45. *Last Post* by Tristan Day, trumpet.
19. Governors' Meeting.
28. Two Advent Carol Services were held in St Peter's Church. Soloists included Charlotte Harrison and Stuart Sealey.

## December

2. 6B Media Studies students visited the *Stroud News and Journal* offices.
3. Christmas Concert given in the Dulverton Hall by the Orchestra, Wind Band and chamber groups.
5. A service to mark St Barbara's Day held in St Peter's Church.
8. Rugby Club Dinner.
9. Christmas Dinner for Junior and Godman Houses, followed by sketches.
10. Christmas Dinner for Forms 4 and 5, followed by a Rock Concert in the Reading Room.
11. Sixth Form Christmas Dinner and Dance.
12. Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church. Term ended.

## Easter Term 1994

### January

9. Term began.
11. Forms 1, 2 and 3 attended *Bubble Circus*, presented by Alan Ward.
19. Godman House went skating at the Link Centre, Swindon.
- Members of 6B Performing Arts Group attended a Dance Workshop given by Sally Beard.
- QP Concert, piano recital by William Howard.
31. Mr D. J. Stopford came to speak to the Sixth Form about student grants.

### February

1. 48 candidates attended for First Form scholarship and entrance examinations.
3. The Choir sang Evensong in Bristol Cathedral.
- Chemistry students and members of the Photographic Society attended a lecture, *Chemistry in Pictures*, by Dr Milner of Kodak Ltd, at Birmingham University.
4. Informal Concert with Parent/Teacher consultations.
7. Talk to the Sixth Form by David Lloyd from Sir William Halcrow, *Who needs Engineers?*
10. Duke of Edinburgh Awards for the South Gloucestershire District were presented at Rendcomb.
- Many Rendcombians, past and present, received 'Gold' Awards from the Lord Lieutenant.



11. Sixth-form Art students went to Amsterdam, returning on 14th February. Half term began.
21. Talk to Sixth Form, *Rail Privatisation*, by Mr D. I. Nader.
23. Performance of *Guys and Dolls*, repeated on next three evenings.
27. 20 candidates from the College were confirmed in St Peter's Church by the Bishop of Gloucester.
28. Talk to Sixth Form by Mr A. J. P. Butler, Chief Constable of Gloucestershire.

## March

1. Scholarship examinations for third-form entry.
4. Careers Convention for Form 4, 5 and 6.
6. Lecture by Mr Brian Heap, *Higher Education Choices*.
7. Talk to Sixth Form by Eric Blencowe (OR), of the Department of the Environment, *The Protection of Endangered Species*.
8. Governors' Meeting.
12. Choral Concert at the Church of St Philip and St James, Cheltenham. The main work was Mozart's *Vespers*. Instrumental solos by Polly Parsons (flute) and Simon Webb (organ).



16. Reunion for ORs from 1920s, with lunch in the Library.
17. 6B Performing Arts Group went to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* at the Bristol Hippodrome.  
Rock Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
19. Term ended.
20. The Rendcomb U16 Rugby XV played in the final of the Stroud District Cup at Stroud RFC, losing 7-12 to Marling School.

## April

9. Richard Dunwoody, OR and Champion National Hunt Jockey for the second year running, rode his second Grand National winner, Miinehoma.
17. Term began.
19. Fifth Form saw *Macbeth* at Stratford.
20. The Junior House saw *Return to the Forbidden Planet* at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford.
23. The Choir sang at a St George's Day concert in St Mary's Church, Fairford. Stuart Sealey, Charlotte Harrison and Susie Fletcher sang solos.
27. Drama Forum for 6B Theatre Studies Group, given by *Disappearing Faces*.
29. Concert by Orchestra, *Last Night of the Proms*.

## May



21. Second Form's two-day Severn Vale Cycle Ride.
26. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition went to Scotland.
27. *Private View*, display of sixth-form art work in the Dulverton Hall.
28. Founder's Day: Guest Speaker Sir Michael Angus. Half-term began.
31. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition returned.

## June

1. Half-term ended.
5. Parents' Association Family Day: Parents v Staff Cricket Match, followed by barbecue.
12. Junior House Walkabout.
15. 12 Rendcombians visited the Shukutoku College in Cheltenham for an evening of Japanese culture.



19. A small group of juniors visited North Leigh, near Woodstock, to see the Ermine Street Guard give a display of Roman battle tactics, artillery and equipment:



Juniors with members of the Ermine Street Guard.

1. To raise funds for the summer cricket tour of Barbados, **the touring party built a groyne across the River Churn**, to encourage fish breeding, and collected dead wood from the Wilderness.
5. The Choir sang Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral.
12. The Choir sang Evensong for Ascension Day, followed by the Choir Dinner with parents.
13. Dinner and Auction in aid of the Barbados Tour, Guest Speaker Dennis Silk.
15. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze' practice expedition.  
QP Concert featuring musicians from Wells Cathedral School.

Informal concert at 11.30a.m. for junior musicians.

Recital at 8.00p.m: Yukiko Totsuka (piano), Tim Shaw (violin), Hannah Gowers (piano), Charlotte Harrison (soprano).

24. 6A Leavers' Dinner and Dance.
25. 6A Leavers' Service, followed by lunch for pupils, parents and staff.
26. Barbecue for Godman House pupils and parents.
29. 6A Duke of Edinburgh Gold' Expedition left for the Welsh Mountains.  
Members of 6B visited Oxford University.

W. J. D. White



## July

1. Performing Arts Group Presentation.
2. 6A Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition returned.
3. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' Assessment Expedition left for the Forest of Dean.  
Old Rendcombian Society Summer Reunion and AGM.
4. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' Expedition returned.
6. 6B Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition left for the Peak District.
7. Junior House visited 'American Adventure'.
9. 6B Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition returned.  
Term ended.

## 75th Anniversary Celebrations, 1995

18th March Concert by past and present members of the College.

28th May Thanksgiving Service in Gloucester Cathedral at 2.30 p.m.

June Friends of Rendcomb Concert to raise funds for an Anniversary Scholarship.

8th July Cricket Match v the Old Rendcombian Society.  
Anniversary Ball at the College.

August College Rugby tour to Canada.

October Rugby Match, Old Rendcombian Society v a President's XV.

To mark the anniversary, a second volume of *A History of Rendcomb College*, covering the years 1960-95, is being prepared; it is hoped to publish it in May 1995.

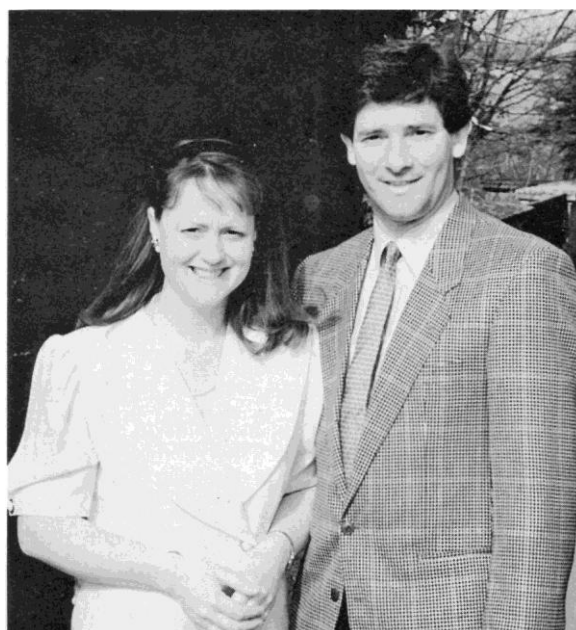
## Christopher and Elizabeth King

How time flies! It seems like only yesterday when a fresh-faced young man arrived for interview for the post of Head of Geography. He was the one candidate that we knew had no chance; not only was he wearing a bright mustard-coloured suit, but in conversation he said that he supported Bristol City - enough said!

Thank goodness that the interviewers did not take either point into consideration, for so it was that in 1983 Chris departed Sutton Valence School in Kent to join the Rendcomb staff under the pseudonym of 'Wing', as his photograph in the first issue of *Rendcombian* displayed.

He soon made his mark on the department: resurrecting the daily weather monitoring programme, filling the wall with masses of pupils' project work, kick-starting field work - including organising resident field-trips to Dorset, Dyfed and Arran - and in later years acquiring the 'Meteo-Sat' weather picture receiving computer.

Within the classroom Chris's teaching style was a blend of energy, enthusiasm and discipline, while



injecting into his lessons a breadth of scope, freshness of vision and practical common sense born out of two and a half years' postgraduate experience with the Water Board. The added spice to his lessons lay in the

verbal insults aimed at a certain male member of the Biology Department - usually relating to age, height, physical disabilities etc - which were 'unknowingly' but rapidly telegraphed to the victim by eager pupils during the next lesson, followed by the equally insulting riposte, again 'unknowingly' relayed back across the courtyard; this game of ping-pong reflected the other important element of Chris's teaching style: fun for the pupils! \*

His integrity, empathy and rapport with the boys soon became apparent when he took on the role of Tutor in the Main Building, followed by the role of Assistant Housemaster to Park House, at that time also accommodating boys.

But the prize was in being offered the post of Housemaster of Stable House, particularly satisfying for him, having been a member of the Development Committee whose brainchild was the new boarding arrangements and facilities. A notable trait that Chris not only showed throughout his time in Stable but positively promoted in his charges, was that house loyalty is important, but not as important as The School, a principle that reflected his strong belief in the Rendcomb ethos.

Chris always proved an asset to any committee, with his calm, objective and professional ways, though he could be highly provocative when he wanted to, be it in the weekly Housemasters' Meetings, on the Steering Committee or as Chairman of the Common Room Committee.

His interpretation of his brief for the last role took the job from one of simply ordering flowers for ill colleagues to forging an active instrument for allowing staff views to be aired and where necessary conveyed to the Governing Body; this undoubtedly helped to reinforce the fragile bridge between the two parties and will have provided good practice for his new job.

Chris's commitment went far beyond the classroom, boarding house and common room: his contribution to extra-curricular activities was vast. Although his first year of rugby coaching was memorable for the wrong reasons - taking his illustrious U14 XV to a record of played 10, lost 10 - things certainly improved, and when the 'Old Man' hung up his boots from coaching the XV, in came CPMK.

His successes with the squad were not confined to the usual school matches, but included two enjoyable and highly successful tours, to Portugal in 1988 and Ontario in 1991, both splendid experiences for us all!

His cricketing prowess was demonstrated as coach to the 2nd XI and Team Manager of the Staff XI, while he was a regular member of the Staff Common Room All-Stars Basketball Team and, of course, the staff soccer XI/V.

In 1989 Chris took over the running of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, continuing to develop the exceptional reputation the College has for the number of successful candidates at both 'Bronze' and 'Gold' levels. This list is but a sample for Chris's involvement in the life of the school!

Amidst all this, let us not forget the enormous contribution that Liz has made: from the teaching of Computing, Drama and Geography to her role on committees and, probably the most exacting of all, that of helping Chris run the boarding house, an even more commendable feat in that during this time, of course, Liz was able to provide St Peter's Church Sunday School Nativity with its first-ever authentic 'Three Kings'. Her qualities of approachability and sympathy, but firmness when necessary, made her popular with the pupils and perfect for the job.

Chris will be remembered by the staff not, only for his enormous contribution to school life, but for his professionalism balanced by good humour and a warmth of personality. We have undoubtedly lost a good colleague and friend whose influence and achievements over his 11 years here are remarkable; his new post as Deputy Head of Kimbolton School will provide plenty of challenge, and we wish Chris and Liz, not forgetting James, Andrew, Henry and Pepper, every happiness and success for the future.

M. J. N.

*\* We apologise to Mr Wing and to the author of 'Mr Perrin and Mr Traill'. Ed.*

## **Commander Edward Thring, Royal Navy**

Edward Thring, before he came to Rendcomb in 1981, was a Naval Supply Officer and thus used to managing, supplying and feeding people in confined spaces - perhaps as good a description as any of the job of Bursar.

He arrived here following Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly's decision that the running of the school's finances, buildings and estates needed someone's fulltime attention. Edward was our first Bursar; nowadays he speaks with humour and affection of the early months spent gently prising responsibilities away from those who did not necessarily see the need for change and establishing a new system from scratch. He must have needed then his resilience and sense of humour, and his ability to stand flak without becoming discomfited or bearing grudges.

I remember my first meeting with Edward as though it were yesterday. He took Patta and me up to Top Field and inch by inch around the buildings, showing off with justifiable pride the facilities he had done so much to help improve. We were both struck by his good humour, his directness and his shrewd common sense. As we got to know him better, we discovered how well he knew his staff, their family circumstances, their troubles and their needs. One of his people had a minor accident on the way to work: Edward was the first on the spot. This sort of care is probably the reason why he is held in such affection, as some memorable moments at Domestic Staff Christmas Dinners have proved.

Edward sees that there is life beyond Rendcomb and

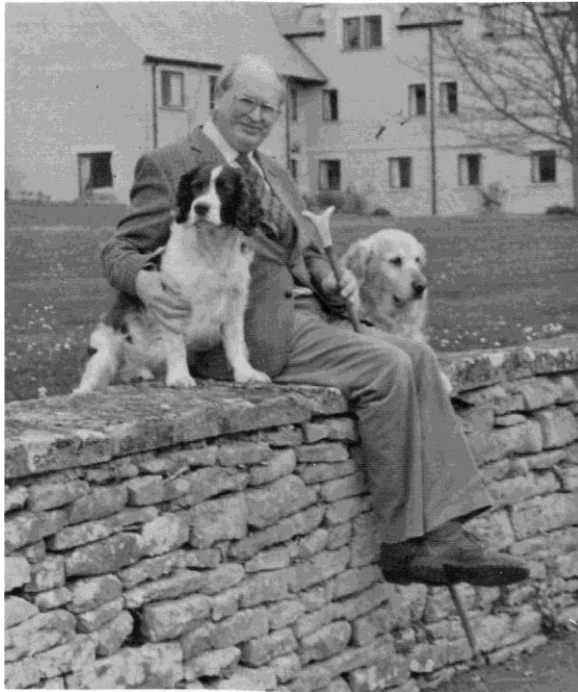


encourages others to see it too. But he does not court popularity or shrink from saying what has to be said. Saying 'No', for example, comes with the territory; I used to call him the Abominable No-Man, and he was always happy to be the fall-guy, if that was what was needed. But he was fair-minded too: colleagues probably do not know how often he argued their case for them behind the scenes.

The past 12 years have been a time of great change. Perhaps Edward's greatest achievement was the close and personal attention he gave to the details of the two new Boarding Houses. He followed their progress with pride, at the same time co-ordinating and helping to plan the elaborate and complicated changes to the Main Building, changes which had to be carried out during the eight weeks of the summer holidays.

He came to Rendcomb just at the right time, when there was a great deal to be done; he had the imagination to see where money really needed to be spent, and the strength, if necessary, to persuade others to do it.

We have also said goodbye to Elizabeth, whose flair for interior decoration has made its mark, especially on the domestic areas of our buildings. Living a mile or two from the College, Liz - like Edward - kept a sense of perspective about it, and this made her company and good cheer all the more refreshing.

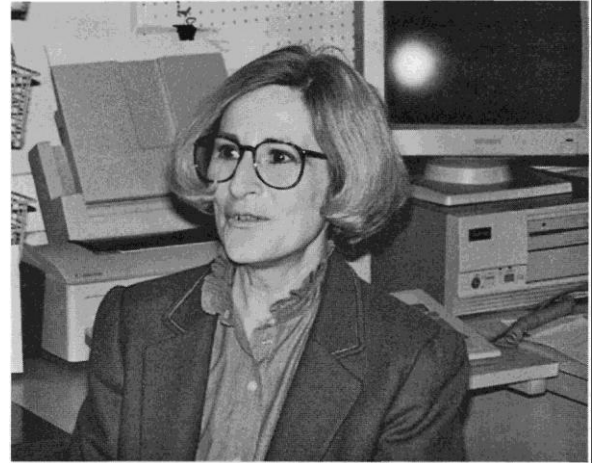


We will miss Edward's kind nature and the sight of him striding around the grounds with his dogs. The Portacabin will seem a safer place, though in reality Bob and Elsa share their Master's gentleness and would not hurt a fly. We wish them and all the family well, and Edward a long and happy retirement.

J. N. T.

## Anne Boyd

Over the past seven years, if you telephoned Rendcomb, as likely as not the first person you would speak to would be Anne Boyd. Anne was the voice of Rendcomb, and she was able to establish right at the outset a very special tone of friendliness and concern. Her upbeat and cheerful style followed through into the rest of her work: often she would be found in the office counselling a parent, encouraging a pupil, or helping a member of staff: more often she would be doing all three at once while attacking a pile of correspondence.



The office is, I am afraid, Piccadilly Circus. My predecessor, I understand, tried to do something about it, pointing out to all and sundry that the office staff had work to do and could not be disturbed in the mornings. I never managed to get this message across and, to be fair, Anne never encouraged me to do so: the attraction of the job for her seemed to lie exactly in the contact with people, the tumultuous business, the doing of several things at once.

She was assisted in this by her legendary efficiency. 'Head Master's Secretary' is a misnomer; Anne was really an Office Manager, though this implies delegating and supervising, rather than the punishing work-rate which was her trade-mark. The only time Anne seemed ill at ease was on the rare occasions when the work dried up - the nature of the school year is that there are long periods of intense pressure interrupted by short periods of calm - when she would fiercely insist that I rouse myself from my torpor and produce some letters at once.

Anne and Christine Sudbury became a great team; we are fortunate that Christine continues the work and that we have found someone like Judi Stocks to continue it with her. Meanwhile we will miss Anne's wonderful energy, her love of Rendcomb, which Rendcomb returned a hundredfold, her humour and spirit, and her good sense. We wish her and her husband Duncan a happy and glorious new life in Wiltshire.

J. N. T.

## Marta Ferro

This term, sadly, we say goodbye to Marta Ferro, who joined the Modern Languages Department in September 1990 to teach French and German part-time.



Marta can, to quote the Head Master speaking on Founder's Day, 'speak more languages than you've had hot dinners' and certainly, on her arrival at Rendcomb, she immediately made her mark. Her pupils soon came to appreciate her kind but firm manner in the classroom and her determination to obtain from them a high standard of work and behaviour.

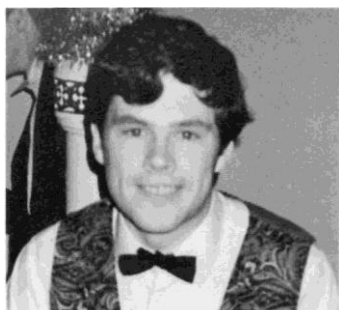
She will be remembered for her quiet efficiency, total reliability and loyal support of the College. I am particularly grateful to her for her patience and care in preparing the Fifth Form second set for the GCSE German. With her sunny, cheerful personality, she always managed to keep a balanced sense of perspective, even on the occasion when a cassette-recorder broke down in the middle of the GCSE 'speaking' examination, a moment every language teacher dreads!

A popular member of the Common Room, Marta will be greatly missed. We wish her, Leo and their three daughters all the very best for the future.

C. A. H.

## Dominic O'Connor

As one recalls the contributions that Dominic gave to life at Rendcomb, the more one realises how much the school will miss him. He came here in 1986 as a teacher of History and English, and I doubt if even he himself would have foreseen the range of activities that he would become involved in.



Dominic's enthusiasm within the classroom was matched by his commitment outside it. As a keen sportsman, he soon became involved in coaching rugby and hockey - who will ever forget the Rendcomb 4th XI? - and went on to develop the sailing. The time and expertise he gave to the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions were immense; his energy, patience and good humour saw the numbers involved in the activity increase dramatically, so much so that Rendcomb is noted for the Gold Awards that are achieved.

Before the building of the senior houses Dominic was a fourth-form tutor, and then for four years was the assistant housemaster of Godman House. In this role he organised trips, assisted with the tutoring, gave up weekends for camping, and much more. It was the natural rapport he had with the pupils that was so impressive. He gave them all the time they wanted and was treated in return with respect and affection.

Limited space cannot do justice to Dominic's involvement at Rendcomb. Apart from the teaching, sport and tutoring, he performed in school plays, would be a saviour for many a colleague who forgot breakfast duty, would play practical jokes on pupils and staff alike, drove a bus each Sunday for the Roman Catholic service in Cirencester, became the official interpreter for art trips, and there were the legendary second-form castle trips; the list goes on...

Dominic will be remembered for all the above, and also for the gentleman that he was. He was considerate, generous and fun to be with. ORs hold him in high esteem; they appreciate the efforts he made on their behalf, and indeed the gap that will be left on his departure.

We wish him all the very best in the future.

P. S.

## Tony Hazelhurst

Tony came to Rendcomb at the beginning of the Lent term 1993, after John Bannerman's eventful and popular stay, in itself a tough act to follow. However, Tony threw himself at it wholeheartedly and was warmly accepted by all.

Like John, Tony came to Rendcomb after completing his Australian equivalent of 'A' levels. He worked around the school wherever he was needed, up-top with Mr Essenhig, helping Mr Kampe and even taking lessons and supervising third-form prep!

His other exploits included coaching cricket, supervising the swimming pool and being a valuable member of the senior Griffins basketball team which beat Wycliffe. During the Christmas term he helped with the non-rugby activity, organising the football competition.

He travelled on the Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Ben Nevis, which he considered his very favourite memory. He says that going to the sixth-form bar at Rendcomb was rather a culture-shock, being



completely different from 'back home'; he thought they were a good idea, nevertheless.

He found that Rendcomb was a good base to travel from. During the Easter holidays he travelled England, Scotland and Wales by car, and during the summer holidays he Interrailed around Europe. He visited London, one of his main aims in coming to England, fourteen times.

He says that his best memories include the countryside, the snow in November, and all the good friends he made and with whom he wishes to stay in contact.

He has now returned to his home country to pick up his higher education course where he left off, and he recommends that everyone take a year out, as it gives a chance to broaden horizons.

He wishes good luck to Rosemarie Watt, who will be his replacement, and hopes that we shall show her the same support and friendship we showed him.

And finally he says: ENJOY!

CHRIS JARRETT

## Duncan Hardie

After joining us from Kingswood in January, Duncan left in July but continued to work part-time during September, when we were all sad to see him go.



He came here after seven years at Kingswood, where he was a prefect in 6B and a head of house in 6A. Under his belt he had nine GCSE passes and two 'A' levels. He had represented his school at 1st standard in rugby, hockey and swimming, captaining the last. Basically, lessons didn't interest him, but any kind of sports did.

He didn't hide the fact that he preferred Rendcomb, with 230 pupils, to Kingswood with almost twice as many. He likes Rendcomb's relaxed atmosphere, no wearing of ties etc, except when needed, when we all look smart. For this reason he intends to return as often as possible, to the rugby club dinner, for example.

He came to Rendcomb for experience with children and to get to know the ins and outs of teaching. This

summer he will be helping at a sports summer-school at Kingswood for children in the Bath area.

In October he will be going to Greenwich University to do a three-year course in sports science and physiotherapy. He wishes to thank Mr Newby and all the staff, and the Head Master for allowing him to come to Rendcomb in the first place.

CHRIS JARRETT

## Mrs J. K. Stocks, BEM



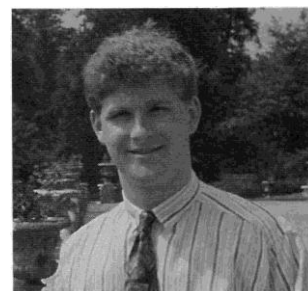
Judi Stocks came to Rendcomb in January to work temporarily in the Bursar's office and succeeded Anne Boyd as Head Master's Secretary in April. She and her husband Rick live in Ashton Keynes. They have a son, Mark, who is 24, left the RMA Sandhurst last December and is now serving in Germany, and a daughter, Debbi, who is at Trent University. Her husband is a serving army officer, and they count service in Norway and Kuwait among their many postings.

Judi, who enjoys cooking, walking, reading and travel, has thrown herself thoroughly into her job here, one of the most exacting the College offers. She has impressed us all, and we look forward to her being with us for many years.

We warmly welcome the following to the staff next September:

## A. St J. Brealy (OR)

Alex Brealy was educated at Rendcomb (1982-87), St Andrew's University and Christchurch College, Canterbury. For the past year he has been taking a PGCE at Exeter University. He will be teaching Geography, RE and Mathematics. He is a keen sportsman; among his skills are cricket, tennis, hockey and sailing.



He has travelled in America and Europe and taught English in Hungary for a period. We welcome him and his wife, Amanda, and congratulate them on their wedding in July.

## **Lt. Col. J. F. A. Grey**



Jeremy Grey joins us, with his wife Suzie and his sons Barnaby and Sebastian, from a varied career in the army, to take over from Edward Thring as Bursar. He has been stationed in Hong Kong, Canada, Germany, Malaysia and Norway. His experience has included instructing in the Junior Leaders' Regiment, accountancy, military intelligence in Whitehall and the Far East and regimental soldiering.

Barnaby has just finished his 'A' levels and hopes to work in Kenya before going to university; Sebastian comes from Oakley Hall to join the Third Form here. The family will be living in Combe House.

## **Miss R. E. Houghton**

Rachel Houghton will take over as Head of German. She was educated at Exeter University and Jesus College, Oxford, and comes to Rendcomb from Pate's Grammar School. She lives locally, in Woodmancote. She has spent time in Germany and France, working and studying. Her interests include needlework and dressmaking; she plays the double bass and is interested in water sports.



**Rachel Houghton**



**Nicola Pryse**

## **Miss N. A. Pryse**

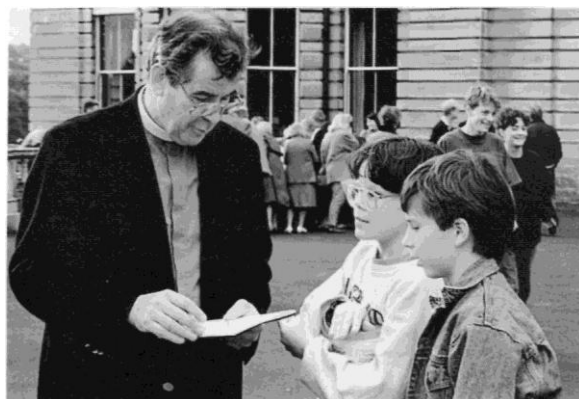
Nicola Pryse comes to Rendcomb from Alleyn's School, Dulwich to take over as Head of Geography. She studied at Manchester University and Queens' College, Cambridge. Her family home is in Kingston, Surrey. She and her fiancé Elliot Gill, are to marry in St Peter's Church on 17th December. Elliot is a Hydrological Engineer; Nicola enjoys squash, walking and travel.

## **Reports**

### **Chaplain's Notes**

The first term of the new academic year was an extremely active and enjoyable one, with weddings very much to the fore. We began the day before the term started with the wedding of Becky White, daughter of David and Judy White, to Tom Glenister, and a week later an Old Rendcombian, Barney Hatcher, married Carol Stacey. On 2nd October another OR, Julian Fellowes, married Hilary Calvert at Siddington Church in one of my previous parishes, and I was very pleased to be invited back to conduct the service.

The school year began with the second of our 'Services of Welcome' for new pupils and their families, and once again it was an extremely happy service and appreciated by all who attended.



A fortnight into the term we held the Church Fête in the college grounds. Once again we were lucky with the weather, and a large number of stalls, set against the background of the Chedworth Silver Band and the Cirencester Drum Majorettes, kept people happy and entertained. The Fete was opened by Richard Dunwoody, the Champion National Hunt Jockey and an Old Rendcombian. He and his charming wife stayed for the whole afternoon, chatting, signing autographs and visiting one or two of his old haunts; we were most grateful to them both for taking the time to be with us.

The following weekend was our Harvest Festival, and we began on the Friday with the Harvest Supper in

the Village Hall. As has now become traditional, we were joined by the church ushers and entertained by pupils to a selection of songs and instrumental pieces, which were very much appreciated. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on the Sunday and, in a full and beautifully decorated church, we sang the traditional harvest hymns and heard the choir sing Harold Darke's setting of the *Jubilate* as the anthem.

Remembrance Sunday saw the church full once again, as villagers joined staff and pupils to remember those who had died or been injured in the service of their country. The choir sang *Requiem Aeternam* and *Kyrie Eleison* from Fauré's *Requiem*, and Tristan Day, of the First Form, played the *Last Post* and *Reveille*.

On the 1st Sunday in Advent the choir excelled itself with two services of Advent Carols. The evening service, sung by candle-light, was particularly memorable and was enjoyed by a congregation which included a large number of families and friends.

On 5th December the church and choir played host to the 'Gunners of Gloucestershire', who came to celebrate the feast day of their patron saint, St Barbara. Major-General Michael Willcocks, father of our Head Girl and a serving Gunner, read one of the lessons, and the choir was on top form, singing a traditional Cathedral Matins with responses, psalm, canticles and anthem. The Gunners were most impressed and have asked if they can come again this year.

As usual, term ended with a Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church, where the congregation sang the traditional carols and the choir excelled itself once again with a selection of new and well-known carols.

The Lent term is generally a short one; nevertheless, this one was not without its excitements. On 3rd February the choir made its annual pilgrimage to Bristol to sing Evensong in the Cathedral. Then on 27th February we welcomed the new Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Reverend David Bentley, to conduct our Confirmation Service. The new Bishop is a keen cricketer, and in his address to the candidates he used his knowledge of the game to draw a parallel between cricket, which is an individual as well as a team sport, and Christianity, which is an individual as well as a community faith. The following were confirmed by the Bishop: Toby Abbott, Ralph Barnes, Charles Barton, Oliver Blackwell, Harvey Davies, Jonathan Davis, Edward Forster, James Fox, Jonathan Freeman, James Gibbs, Richard Gooch, Tim Hill, Richard Histed, David Hughes, Charles Perry, Nicholas Ridley, Christopher Scarth, Mark Sutton, Ashley Taylor and Luke Weston.

Early in the Summer term the choir sang Evensong in Gloucester Cathedral, a new venue for us. Encouraged by the presence of the Dean and the whole of the Cathedral Chapter, including Canon Roger Gray, who had just retired from our Governing Body, the choir sang extremely well. As well as being a great honour to sing there, it was also a useful familiarisation exercise, as the choir will be leading the singing there at our Seventy-fifth Anniversary Service next May.

Once again the choir celebrated Ascension Day

with Choral Evensong in St Peter's Church, a service which also celebrated the work of the choir during the year. At the Choir Dinner afterwards we said thank you and goodbye to those who were leaving the choir and looked forward to another good year, with the majority of choir members remaining at Rendcomb.

The final special service of the year is always the Leavers' Service, the content of which is very much the choice of those leaving the College at the end of their time here. This year the lesson was read by Mr Chris King, a leaver himself, and, as has become the tradition, the address was given by Mr Bill White, who wondered what the Founder would think of Rendcomb today, nearly 75 years after its foundation. He concluded that most of what the Founder had hoped Rendcomb would provide for its pupils was still available; although there had been some changes, such as coeducation and the provision of three separate senior houses, to name but two, the ethos of the place was basically unchanged: Rendcomb pupils were still able to develop their own particular qualities at their own particular pace. He urged those leaving not to forget what they had learned at Rendcomb and suggested that they should make a little album of memories, which would help them recall their days here.

During the year we welcomed as preachers Canon Norman Chatfield from Gloucester Cathedral, the Revd Tim Hastie-Smith, Chaplain of Stowe School, and the Revd Dennis Porter from the Leprosy Mission. In their different ways all of them challenged us to become more involved as Christians in the world, a challenge that I hope those leaving Rendcomb at the end of this academic year will feel able to respond to.

The Church has been well served this year. Last September Mr Chris Wood was licensed by the Bishop to assist with the chalice at Holy Communion, and he and Dr Graham Smith have helped regularly at the 8.45 a.m. Service, whilst Robert Sage and his team have organised the Offertory Procession very effectively. At the Morning Service and at other important services Mr Bill White and his team of ushers under Graham Monteith have 'managed' the congregation in a very smooth and efficient way. At the end of what is supposed to be his last year in the role of 'Supremo' I would like to pay tribute to Mr White for all that he has done in making things run smoothly in our church. It has been a great comfort to me to know that even when things are looking totally chaotic - queues of parents, grandparents, godparents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunties all waiting to get into a Confirmation Service and no seats left - all that I have to do is hide in the vestry for a few minutes and then come out to find everyone seated and happy. (Who would dare not to be!!!)

The ushers at the Morning Service this year have been Graham Monteith, Peter Barry, Paul Bigg-Wither, Rebecca Knightly-Brown and Polly Parsons, and at the Communion Service Robert Sage, Nicholas Barton, David Chalk, Andrew Martin, James Moore and Nicholas Pollard. To them and to all who are leaving



Rendcomb at the end of this term we say 'thank you for your support whilst you have been here; do call and see us when you are passing, and may God's blessing be on everything you do'.

P. J. S.

## Bursar's Notes

This is my swansong, and it has been a very happy final year. During it we were able to start work on the Stable Block roof and, in particular, on the Stable Block tower, which was becoming dangerous.



Wanting to leave the place tidy for my successor, I resurfaced the back drive up to the Main Building and also the very bumpy road to Park House, putting a light stone coating on top so that it blended with the surroundings.

The Parents' Association has

achieved much this year, with help from the College in providing an extension to the Sports Hall for weight training and in renewing the lighting in the Reading Room. David Croft and I visited Pierpoint School and selected a suitable wooden building for the extension: although we struck a hard bargain over the purchase of the building, moving it and erecting it on site was quite a big job. I am sure you will agree that the new lighting looks very attractive, and our thanks go to Geoffrey Morgan, of the Parents' Association Committee who masterminded it.

I have always enjoyed my work at Rendcomb and have even looked forward to coming to work every morning. There is such a happy atmosphere about the place that it is a real pleasure to work here, and I leave after 13 years with very many happy memories. My thanks go to everyone, parents, pupils and all the staff, who has helped to provide them.

E. T. T

## The Parents' Association

The austerity I mentioned in my notes last year has persisted through 1993-94, but I am pleased to report on behalf of the Parents' Association that they have donated a record amount of money to the College, mainly contributing towards the extension to the Sports Hall and the new fighting in the Reading Room. On behalf of the Association I should like to thank parents, pupils, staff and their families for their support during the year.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the outstanding support that Commander Edward Thring has given the Association during his 13 years as Bursar of the College. We shall sadly miss him, but we wish him and his wife every happiness in their well deserved retirement.

MALCOLM D. HART, CHAIRMAN



Mr Shaw shooting straight on Family Day

## The Junior House

This has been a year of little physical change within the house, although the arrival of more girls justified the opening of a second girls' changing room. The mixture of boys, girls, day and boarding has worked well, and on many occasions day pupils have stayed for evening prep, joined the boarders for weekend events and even boarded themselves.



**Polly Parsons and Rebecca Knightly-Brown,** the resident sixth-form prefects, contributed significantly to the smooth running of the house because of their genuine interest in the welfare of the juniors and because of their natural friendliness. Mr Patterson has quickly become an effective assistant housemaster, and he took on the great responsibility of 'pyromaniac' in lighting this year's bonfire in the orchard. We are grateful to Mr Morgan for doing duties on Thursday evenings, as a stop-gap, and we welcome Miss Rachel Houghton into the role next year.

Juniors have enjoyed a wide range of activities, many of which are reported elsewhere, and most of these take place between lunch and the afternoon prep session, although badminton and bell-ringing still happen on a Wednesday evening.

There has been good interest in the cycling activity this year, and it was particularly well supported in the weeks leading up to Form 2's Severn Vale cycling weekend. Edward Farnsworth took the prize for the most breakdowns! Over 85% of the juniors attended a five-day silver level cycling course run by the Gloucestershire Road Safety Unit, and this was based on the country lanes in and around Rendcomb.

Skating, swimming and tenpin bowling were offered on some Sundays, and parents were invited to join their sons and daughters for walks in the Cotswold countryside.

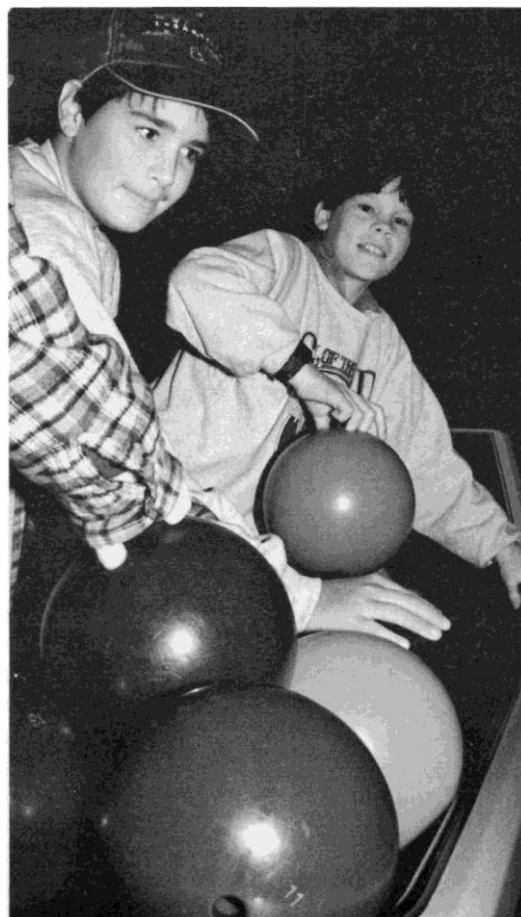
The summer Walkabout involved groups' walking back to school from starting points as varied as Withington, Yanworth, Northleach, Upper Coberley and Hilcot. It was a very pleasant day for walking, and not surprisingly many groups included the nature of inn-signs in their investigations!

Earlier in the year the keen soccer players were able to try out their skills in a match against Hatherop Castle School. Rendcomb won 3-2, and Matthew Williams, who is a good all-round sportsman, scored all three goals.



Many juniors have demonstrated their acting skills this year. First, all members of Form 2 took part in the Christmas Party sketches, which were both imaginative and entertaining. For the first time they took off the Staff Common Room, with hilarious consequences. In the Lent term nearly all the juniors were involved in *Guys and Dolls*, and more recently a handful of Form 1 took part in a Cirencester production of *Carmen*.

The two major trips this year were in contrast: the Jodrell Bank visit was a working day out, which was included in the end-of-year examination for physical



science; the day out at the American Adventure in Derbyshire was purely to celebrate the end of the school year and to have some fun. Fortunately it was not busy, and several people boasted 18 rides on 'The Rapids' - I believe them, because they were absolutely soaked when they returned to the coach.

Both forms had singles tennis tournaments in the last week of the summer term, kindly organised by Irene Gilchrist, who had run their tennis activities, and James Starkey and Matthew Williams were the victors.

As a goodbye and 'thank you' to an outstanding Form 2, staff, prefects, matron, girls and boys had a skittles match and excellent chicken and chips at the Seven Tuns in Chedworth.

C. J. W.

## The Library

Libraries are so often like ducks swimming in a river: on the surface, all seems peaceful, but underneath a lot of activity is occurring. So it is with Rendcomb. The programme to upgrade the library, begun by Mr Hawkswell, has continued this year and expanded into new fields. With the CD-Rom computer now installed as a valuable fixture for research into tertiary education and *The Times* newspaper, attention has turned back to the book stock and the organisation of the library generally.

The continuous process of upgrading the stock has seen 330 new books added this year, and some of the older, more out-of-date volumes have been taken off the main shelves and 'retired' into the reserve store. This gives much-needed space which can then be used to display books more effectively and, of course, house further acquisitions in the future. One priority for new purchases is to widen the library's appeal by bringing in more books suitable for a lower and middle-school readership. Any suggestions and recommendations in that field will be gratefully received.

A library is, however, truly 'user-friendly' only if the user can find the books wanted quickly and with a minimum of effort. The library team has therefore embarked upon a programme of 'signposting' the books, so that the library can be used more effectively. This has involved more precise labelling of the shelves and the creation of a separate reference section for the books that are most frequently consulted.

Closely linked to the 'accessibility' principle is what has proved to be one of the major tasks of the year - and probably next year, too! - namely re-cataloguing. This involves resuscitating the rather moribund card index and at the same time replacing some of the more archaic features of the book classification system, bringing it more into accord with the Dewey system. This has several advantages: it will bring our library into line with the system used in most public libraries; it will make books on a particular subject easier to locate, whether via the shelves or the card index; and it will make any future transition to computerised stock

control easier to achieve and quicker to carry out, via CD-Rom databases.

The other major task of the year has been in book conservation. Something like a quarter to a third of the stock has now been jacketed, and many volumes have been rebound, repaired or earmarked for future rebinding. The bookstacks themselves are due for renovation and restoration over the summer holidays.

Obviously, all of this activity has depended on the dedication of the library team, and Andrew Martin and James Button have been tremendous in their enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year. Every Tuesday the tables have disappeared under a pile of books, plastic jackets, catalogues, filing cards and sticky tape, as they set to work. But their care was not confined to Tuesday afternoons: much of the attractive appearance of the library is due to their work on a day-to-day basis, returning books to their appointed place, tidying the magazines, chasing up stray books - and occasionally furniture! Without their efforts and those of the cleaning ladies, the library would be much the poorer.

Andrew Martin leaves this year, and I cannot let the occasion pass without recording my gratitude to him. He has been a librarian for much of his time at Rendcomb; he has overseen the introduction of the book conservation programme and the CD-Rom, and he has kept the technologically-challenged writer of this report up to the mark in computer matters with his customary patience and good humour! He will be much missed. His mantle as Head Librarian passes to James Button for 1994-95.

M. H. G.

## The Duke of Edinburgh's

### Awards

*Climb every mountain, ford every stream.*

As the song goes, so do the 'Bronze' and 'Gold' groups who set out on their expeditions the length and breadth of Britain. The 'Bronze' candidates experienced the demands of the Forest of Dean in the now traditional end-of-year walk, with the delights of the setting of Beeches Farm campsite with its panoramic views of the Wye Valley. 30 candidates completed the award course at this level during the past year.

The 'Gold' expeditions ranged furthest afield, of course, with routes undertaken in the Torridon Mountains of north-west Scotland. Dartmoor, mid-Wales, the Peak District and, for assessment in the Brecon Beacons.

John Willson assessed the groups with his customary efficiency and good humour. He also renewed his former role as expedition trainer for the Gold groups on the departure of Dominic O'Connor for East Africa. John has managed to pick up the reins with few difficulties, which is not surprising, given that he has maintained a close connection with the school





**'Gold' award practice.**

throughout the period since his official retirement. 27 successful 'Gold' candidates attended various royal palaces to receive their awards officially this year. In July of 1993 a party from Rendcomb attended a major Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, where we all shared in the atmosphere created by the presence of royalty, numerous celebrity guests and fellow award-winners. The music for the occasion came from the Scots Guards and a steel band, gently filling the air as we strolled in the grounds.

I should like, on my departure from Rendcomb, once again to record my thanks to all those members of staff who have allowed themselves to be enrolled into the D of E team. Dominic O'Connor was of enormous help in running the 'Gold' expeditions and is greatly missed in that role. Michael Newby was a regular on the Scottish trips; Peter Sudbury worked with the Community Service team and... well, the list would contain almost all the full and part-time staff. On behalf of all the successful candidates, I thank you for your involvement in what is a highly successful programme, and I wish Mike Newby every good luck as he takes over the 'supremo' role next year.

C. P. M. K.

## **The Friends of Rendcomb**

During the past year eight new Friends have joined the roll, bringing the total number to 123.

At a meeting on 18th May the Trustees resolved to make an appeal to charitable trusts and individuals with an interest in education, the aim being to raise funds for a scholarship to mark the College's 75th anniversary. They are to meet again on 15th September to assess progress.

I am very pleased to report that Mrs Jane Gunner,

an Old Rendcombian, and Mrs Judith Young, a parent, have agreed to become Trustees.

Anyone who would like further information about the Friends should contact me at no 17, Rendcomb.

DAVID SELLS

## **Founder's Day**

*To mark the College's move to full coeducation, both the Head Boy and the Head Girl are to be invited to speak on Founder's Day, instead of alternating from year to year.*

## **The Chairman of Governors**

Before welcoming Sir Michael Angus, the Guest Speaker, Mr Allan Wyatt recalled his early impressions of Rendcomb, about which he had spoken last year, and his feeling that the chief concern was to make Rendcomb and what it had to offer better known.

He went on to record the Governors' appreciation of the work of Rendcomb's first Bursar, Commander Edward Thring, retiring this summer after thirteen years in a pioneer role. Edward had served the College as Bursar, and the Governors as their Clerk, with distinction and kindness, and he had made the job so attractive that there had been literally hundreds of applicants to succeed him.

The Chairman then made way for the Head Girl.

## **The Head Girl**

Hannah Willcocks, remarking that her launching on this new venture, speeches from both the Head Girl and the Head Boy on Founder's Day, fell on the anniversary of



**Sir Michael and Lady Angus, the Head Master and the Chairman of Governors.**

the burning of Joan of Arc and the launching of the *Titanic*, went on to mark Rendcomb's conversion to coeducation throughout the school by commenting on her own experience.

She had come here after seven years in a convent school, where the nuns had presented boys either as grubby, sports-mad creatures or as sexual predators from outer Mars; they had no interest in study and were never to be trusted...

Her two years at Rendcomb had taught her that, while the nuns might have a point, the two sexes could and did mix well, compete on equal terms in academic and sporting events and even surprise each other by exchanging pursuits traditional to their sex.

The staff told her that that arrival of girls at all ages had made the boys less aggressive, more thoughtful and mature and better behaved. This view made her wonder what they had been like before...

If education was what was left when all that had been taught was forgotten, she found single-sex schooling far from complete. What she had received at Rendcomb was a preparation for life, and she was grateful for it.

## **The Head Master's Report**

Remarking that this year he was departing from his usual review of the events and personalities of the past year, the Head Master chose as his theme the quality of independence.

Perhaps to a greater extent than was generally realised, he said, schools were increasingly subject to inspection, control, regulation. He was concerned that the school now walked a tightrope between necessary security on the one hand and paralysis on the other.

The Children Act, health and safety legislation and the National Curriculum, all these had, with the best intentions, increased bureaucracy in schools, bringing the danger of deflecting teachers from the tasks for which they were qualified.

At least Rendcomb could follow the National Curriculum only as far as it suited the school's purposes, maintaining its own curriculum beside it.

Rendcomb valued Latin and a second foreign language; in the long day and week it had time for team sports, for staging major musicals, for choirs and orchestras, for minor sports, for the informal contact between pupil and teacher which made the classroom contact so much richer.

The Head Master then gave an example of the directive governing the testing of Form 3, to which he taught English:

*To calculate the final level for the reading component: if the TA in AT4/5 is not at level 7, but is higher than level 4, then the PC level is worked out as follows: AT3NC Test Level x 8 + AT4/5 level x 2. Divide the total by 10.*

Teachers were not the only professional group threatened by bureaucratic nightmare. Friends in the police told him that it could take 135 documents to secure a conviction for a simple assault.

There had been some alleviation of the burden for schools as a result of the work of Sir Ron Dearing's committee. Also, the government had reduced the frequency of visits by the social services from annually to every four years.

The two visits Rendcomb had so far received had been helpful and encouraging: it had been useful to see the school, its relationships and procedures, through the eyes of a professional in another discipline, and the report had been detailed and fair.

The school would soon be visited by inspectors from the Office of Standards in Education. While everyone groaned under the paper-work involved, the need for reassurance that there was real quality in all the school's operations must be recognised.

Unfortunately inspectors were too often prisoners of their own ideologies; if independence meant anything it meant freedom to teach in a way which worked and produced the right results; it meant the freedom for teachers and parents together to find what they wanted to do in their schools, combining their experience, judgment and common sense. What really mattered slipped through the bureaucratic net: it was the special chemistry between teacher and pupil without which - as we all remembered from our school days - nothing worthwhile happened.

Turning to farewells, the Head Master commented that this summer saw the departure of an intake of which he had been one, those who came in September 1987. They had seen changes: Nelson Mandela had been in prison when they came; at Rendcomb they had seen the opening of the new houses in 1989 and the arrival of full coeducation in 1992; now those small boys with whom he had come to Rendcomb were about to take their 'A' levels, and he paid tribute to their deeply individual service to the school.

He paid warm tribute also to the staff who were leaving, to Marta Ferro and her work in the Language Department, to Ann Boyd, who had done so much for the school over and above her splendidly performed duties as Head Master's Secretary, to Chris King, first housemaster of Stable House and, with his wife Liz, Rendcomb's Geography Department, now going with their three sons to Kimbolton School, where Chris was to be Deputy Head Master. The Geography Department was losing also its founder, Colin Burden, who would in future be concentrating on his work in the Craft Department; his work in Geography and his management of Rendcomb's cricket, which he was to hand over to John Watson, had been of great service to the school.

Rendcomb was to lose also its first Bursar, who had done so much for the school both within and beyond his bursarial duties. He wished him and his wife, Liz, a very happy retirement.

Finally, Charlotte Holdaway, to whose remarkable service to Rendcomb he had tried to pay tribute last year, would be leaving, a year after she had retired as Housemistress of Park House and Head of Modern Languages.

After this long list of departures, the Head Master welcomed the newcomers to arrive in September, Nicola Pryse to take over Geography, Rachel Houghton to take over German and Alex Brealy (OR) to teach Geography and Mathematics.

Meanwhile, there were so many other people he should thank, teaching staff, administrators, maintenance staff, caterers, cleaners. There were the Trustees and Governors, the parents - with particular reference to the enterprise and generosity of the Parents' Association - and those who mattered most, the pupils. His thanks to all these people were too brief, but heartfelt.

In closing, the Head Master looked forward to the events being arranged to mark the 75th anniversary of the school's foundation, a list of which will be found at the end of the Rendcomb Diary.

## **The Guest Speaker, Sir Michael Angus**

Introducing Sir Michael Angus, the Chairman commented on his very distinguished career in industry, as Chairman of Unilever and Whitbread and, until very

recently, as President of the CBI.

Sir Michael began by commenting on the advanced educational theories which had been realised at Rendcomb's foundation and on the immense contributions to education made by the Founder's family. By all accounts and records, Rendcomb had become a great school, with a high level of educational attainment, producing rounded individuals, their personal gifts and talents fully developed.

Rendcombians were privileged to receive such an education, and indeed standards throughout Gloucestershire were among the highest in the country. However, national schooling standards were not good enough and placed Britain at a disadvantage in the international market place. Standards in higher education compared well internationally, but our entry rates into it, despite recent improvement, were lower than those of France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

A recent study by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit showed that 12% of school leavers had basic problems in reading, writing or numeracy: they were not fully literate. He had recently learned that the Ford Motor Company in Dagenham had to provide education for new recruits from local schools to give them adequate communication skills and numeracy levels for semi-skilled jobs.

At higher levels, a comparison made in 1991 of the number of pupils leaving school with the equivalent of a GCSE at grades 'A' to 'C' in their native language, Mathematics and one science showed the UK with 26%, Japan with 50%, Germany with 62% and France with 66%. Since then there had been some improvement, but Britain remained at the bottom of the list.

There had been recent advances: National Vocational Qualifications were a step forward; useful apprenticeships were now available and the expansion of further education gave hope.

Nevertheless much confusion remained in the schools. There was now a general consensus against the trendy educational philosophies of the seventies and early eighties, and the National Curriculum and frequent testing were seen as remedial solutions. Unfortunately a combination of an arrogant Secretary of State for Education and union representatives whose political motives were suspect had developed into all-out war. It was to be hoped that Sir Ronald Dearing's sensible suggestions would be taken to heart.

He felt encouraged by what the government was doing to meet industry's educational needs: a few days ago it had issued a report on competitiveness; considerable progress had been made towards targets, and the importance of lifetime learning was now stressed.

Industry must have the skills to harness the immense potential of advancing technology and to channel it for our economic advantage; otherwise, our competitors would seize the initiative from us.

There were, of course, other vital aspects of the





**Hannah Willcocks, the Head Master and Chris Oliver.**

educational system, beyond the needs of industry: it was vital for it to cultivate a critical intelligence and to act as an agent of cultural transmission and enlightenment.

Sir Michael quoted a Japanese report on the proportion of significant invention since the end of World War 2, showing the Japanese share at 6%, the French at 14%, the United States' at 22% and the British at 55%; however, it seemed that the practical spin-off from this inventiveness was rarely forthcoming in this country: there was a sad record of its being exploited abroad by our competitors.

The factors contributing to this were, he said, obstructive trades union practices, class antagonism, the low national status of engineers, the unhelpful influence of banks and politicians' aversion to risk and tendency to short-term meddling.

The major causes of the present situation were a dilatory response to technical change and an education system which in the past had often appeared inimical to industry. In the seventies and early eighties an anti-industrial spirit had developed in the country, viewing industrial growth with suspicion and some disdain. The cultural values and attitudes of the period had brought a danger of a static tradition, moving from innovation to preservation, from novelty to antiquity. Even today, in schools some careers masters advised against careers in industry: it was more prestigious to read Greats at Oxbridge and become a bureaucrat than to read Engineering at Salford and design plant and machinery.

However, there had been a fundamental change in the last decade, with the promotion of the enterprise society, on an internationally competitive industrial and commercial base, now supported, albeit to differing degrees, by all political parties. He had been encouraged to read in last year's *Rendcombian* of the *Understanding Industry* Symposium held at the College and of the visit by pupils to the Institute of Directors Convention.

Industry needed the best brains and talents the country could provide, both from men and from women, and he noted that today we had equal quantities of them entering industry in all its disciplines.

Years ago the best brains in the country had

entered the Civil Service, because it was considered highly respectable; then they had gone into the City where, although the work was deadly dull, it was believed to be financially rewarding. Today British Industry was both respectable *and* financially rewarding; it was also exciting and had a clear economic purpose. He commended a career in industry to the very best pupils from Rendcomb.

## The Head Boy

Chris Oliver said that on his first visit to Rendcomb he had known instinctively that it was the place where he would like to spend the next five years. At that time he could not say precisely why; now that the five years were over, he would try to do so.

First, there was the smallness of the school. Everyone knew everyone else and depended on their goodwill.

Then there was the collective input of pupils, staff, parents and governors, all working for the good of the whole. As an instance of this co-operation he mentioned the support given to the Barbados Cricket Tour, adding parenthetically that there would be a retiring collection for this project.

Besides fostering friendships with other pupils, an aspect stressed by his predecessor, Peter Croft, Rendcomb encouraged excellent relations between staff and pupils, both in the classrooms and in the houses. He believed that this was because Rendcomb had remained loyal to the Founder's philosophy: it had not become an archetypal public school; there was no CCF, no inter-house competition; no trophies or colours were awarded. As a result, people were brought closer together, competing not against each other, but towards their own standards.

These principles had produced an ethos suited to anyone from any walk of life: people were judged on their merits, not on their failures.

Another source of strength was the school's ability to forgive and forget. People who were learning were bound to make mistakes; if they learned from their mistakes, Rendcomb forgave and forgot.

Finally, the school had the ability to move with the times: this was shown by the rapid success of coeducation and the admission of day pupils.

The Founder's ideas had made Rendcomb the special place it was and, as we looked forward to the 75th anniversary celebrations, they would keep it so.

Thanking Sir Michael Angus for making this Founder's Day a very special occasion with his excellent address on the educational needs of the country and what Rendcomb could contribute, he added a small footnote.

That morning he had heard on Radio 4 an interview during which Sir Michael had given the Chancellor of the Exchequer 'nine out of ten', explaining that, if one gave people ten out of ten, they stopped trying.

Chris Oliver asked if, therefore, he might award Sir Michael 'nine out of ten' for his address.

# Talks

## Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP

Mr Clifton-Brown, who talked to the Sixth Form on 27th September, comes from a distinguished family of politicians - his grandfather was Speaker of the House of Commons - and he has been interested in politics since he visited Parliament at an early age.

He spoke for ten minutes to the Sixth Form, impressing on us his message: help those less fortunate than ourselves. That, he said, was what had encouraged him to become a politician. We were then enlightened about the arduous and often unfriendly world of politics; he gave us also his views on the Government's position about some current issues, such as unemployment and juvenile lawlessness.

He was quizzed first by Kai Thomas, who asked for his views on the recent election of a British National Party councillor in Millwall. Mr Clifton-Brown replied that he felt it symptomatic of the decline of decency and co-operation in Britain that a man could be elected who so clearly stood for hatred and non-co-operation.

Rob Sage asked him to comment on corporal punishment; he responded that he had always felt that a reasonable dose of the birch had never done more harm than good and that caning was sorely missed nowadays.

'But doesn't it go somewhat against your party's Children Act?' retorted Rob, undaunted, and Mr Clifton-Brown was obviously caught out of his depth.

But there was no respite for the hapless Member for Cirencester and Tewkesbury; James Moore opened up with a broadside about cannabis legislation, while from another angle Steven Croft thrust in the rapier of 'lack of financial aid for the recession-hit construction industry' and twisted it. By now Mr Clifton-Brown was floundering; his answers became increasingly tangled and daubed with waffle, as if he were trying to cover the cracks in his argument. No coherent answer could be unravelled from the web of dogma.

At last some feminine inquisitiveness from Hannah Willcocks stretched Mr Clifton-Brown up to the volatile area of capital punishment. He, perhaps sensing the impending bell to save him, hurriedly filled us in with yet more party doctrine, saying it would be an unwise move to restore it; the house had voted against it, and what we really needed to look at is the prison service etc. ad nauseam, by which time Mr Sudbury stepped in to end it all.

Throughout, though, Mr Clifton-Brown remained very calm and apparently in control, giving the impression of assuredness and knowledge, for which he must be admired. We, however, left the talk feeling that we had not received all the honest answers we had hoped for.

FRANCIS BARTON

Len White with Karl.

## Guide Dogs for the Blind

Mr Len White, a registered blind person from Cirencester, brought his guide dog, Karl, and talked to members of the Junior House about the ways in which blind people can be more mobile and so improve their quality of life.

Some idea of the problems associated with blindness was conveyed, and it was made clear that the dog plays several important roles, as guide, pet and friend.

Mr White described the life of a typical guide dog from the puppy-walking stage, through 12 months of intensive training, to its handover to a blind person for 50 pence or to its rejection as a guide dog, when it would be offered to the police, the hard of hearing or just for adoption. Now that the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association breed all their dogs, the success rate is 80%, compared with the very low 20% in the 1930s when the Association was founded.

Mr White made it clear that the training of a dog and its relationship with a blind person rely on kindness and patience, and he demonstrated the trust between himself and Karl. Although he is not allowed to show his dog working in harness, those who saw Mr White leave the Old Rectory could not fail to be impressed and moved by the sight of Karl stopping at each stone step.

We are most grateful to Mr White for giving up his time to share with us his experiences of blindness, dog training and working.

C. J. W.



## ***The Bubble Circus***

On 11th January the Junior House and Godman House assembled in the Reading Room to experience The Bubble Circus. It was presented by Mr Alan Ward, who used to train teachers in Cheltenham and who has written many books on scientific experiments. Mr Ward showed us how to make bubbles in a variety of ways, using solutions made from certain washing-up liquids. He then went on to demonstrate the surface tension in bubbles, as well as other properties, which he emphasised using a variety of tricks.

He also made square and triangular bubbles, using special wire frames; in fact, much of his apparatus was made from everyday objects.

We enjoyed the circus and learned a great deal from the experiments. We hope others will have the opportunity to see this in the future.

NELLIE ABBOTT  
CHARLOTTE LEE-WOOLF

## **Viewpoints**

### **Early Days**

*There follow four reports of newcomers to the Junior House on their first impressions.*

My first fortnight at Rendcomb College was a very exciting one, full of activities such as squash, badminton, tennis, snooker/pool, basket ball, football and many more things. The work is fairly easy, but I've heard it gets much harder. I've enjoyed my two weeks at Rendcomb and I hope it will carry on this way.

WILLIAM WARRINGTON

On the first Sunday I didn't know anybody, only recognised a few people from our test. Steadily I got to know the people in my dorm and also the others.

Sunday evening was spent unpacking our trunks and being told what to do in the morning.

On Monday we had our first lesson, later than normal because it was our first day. It was technology with Mr Patterson (Deputy Housemaster). He asked us to type in a name which got us into the system, but for some reason it didn't work, so we had to wait until next time before we could start working on the computers.

After lunch was history with Mr Graham, but before that we started our silver cycling course, which went on for one week with the best on Friday. Our last lesson of the day was Maths with the Head Master. Tea was at 5.45.

At 6.20 we had our first prep session. Snackers (which is hot chocolate and biscuits) was at 7.30, and then it was bed.

The next day we started lessons much earlier, just like a normal working day. All our lessons are new except Maths. We had Biology first, then French, Double Woodwork, then lunch. After lunch we had cycling again, then English was our last lesson. At the end of the week I was fairly tired and was glad to be going home after church.

I have enjoyed Rendcomb College very much and am looking forward to the rest of the year. I have made good friends with everyone in my form and with some of the second form.

ANDREW SAGE

My first day at Rendcomb was, and seemed, very long and tiring. The lessons are quite hard, but the teachers are very nice and helpful. You get a lot of prep, but it isn't that difficult. Lessons start at 8.45 and breakfast is at 7.30.





If you're not very good at getting up, there are two bells, one at 7.00 and one at 7.05. You have to get up on the second. I hate the bells.

In the Junior House you have duties. You do each duty once every three weeks. This includes ringing bells, bringing in milk and sweeping the common room, where everyone does prep. You will know when you're doing a duty, because there's a notice that tells you.

When my parents left, I cried, which is not usual, but it's quite easy to cope without them.

After the first week you get used to your routine, and everything seems normal.

There are lots of activities to do, from badminton to rugby. It's not all work and no play.

The food isn't that nice, really, but the breakfast is the best. You'll get used to the food after a while.

I think Rendcomb is a really Excellent place.

DAVID MONK

I've really enjoyed my first fortnight at Rendcomb. Everyone has to be very friendly and helpful, including the prefects. Mr and Mrs Wood are very nice and understanding to everyone who has problems. They do very well to keep up with us!

All the teachers are good fun, all with their different senses of humour. Mr White never ceases to amuse us in classics, but he is also very firm with the way he teaches. Also Mr Griffiths paints our faces to help get proportion right, or asks us 'who painted this picture by John Constable?'

The Head Master is very friendly and generous and also gives very interesting talks and speeches.

The second-formers are very funny and never short of money to buy tuck off you. They are a nice, rowdy bunch, but never get on the wrong side of them. It's for the best!

The best time is going to bed, because it is a very long and tiring day. You need sleep, because it's a very early start in the morning. The college meals are usually quite nice, but some days there are some rather strange tastes.

So my advice to any new people starting at Rendcomb in years to come is: have fun, enjoy yourself, make friends instead of clinging to parents, because I can tell you it will make your time a lot more enjoyable for the next seven years of your life.

Good luck to all those starting next year!

MATTHEW WILLIAMS

## Memories

Like a ravenous bird of prey,  
Old age swoops in  
To rip and tear at flesh and blood  
And mind, leaving nothing  
But bones and skull  
And a meaningless blackness  
That glares through empty sockets.

I remember her slim, trim shape,  
Hair neatly waved,  
Clothes smart and fashionable For a woman of  
sixty-eight,  
The high-pitched, nervous laugh Punctuating the  
excited chatter.

Now she sits,  
Slumped in an armchair,  
Fingers working at invisible knitting,  
Soup-stained jumper clashing Violently with a  
skirt That is too small.  
The laugh and chatter remain,  
But the jumbled words Tumble from a mind  
Desperately searching for sense In a world of  
confusion...

REBECCA DOYLE

## Wild Canada

*Anita Duguid (OR 1990-92) went with the British Schools Exploring Society's 1993 Expedition to British Colombia during last July and August. Sponsored in part by the Old Rendcombian Society, she was a member of the Large Mammal 'Fire' or Group. An abridged version of her report follows...*

After the goodbyes at Heathrow, we boarded the Air Canada plane for Vancouver, arriving at 16.45 local time - 00.45 UK time - and heading for Shaunessy Elementary School, where we slept on the floor.

At 03.45 on Friday, 16th July, we were woken up and, after a cold shower we went by bus to Vancouver North Station, where we loaded the train with tents, cooking and scientific equipment, rucksacks etc. We departed at 07.00, travelling through fantastic scenery, similar to the Lake District but four times the magnitude. Williams Lake loomed up at 17.30, and after unloading everything we walked a mile to Williams Lake Junior Secondary School for another night on a school floor. This time we had our last hot shower for nearly six weeks!

Saturday afforded us a sleep-in, until 06.30! After an eight-hour drive to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park we walked to our transit camp at the Atnarko village, which had been deserted for 20 years. We were given our food to cook, carbohydrate 'walking material' and relatively palatable. More equipment was distributed to each fire, making our rucksacks even heavier; I had a problem carrying it one mile, let alone for the next six weeks!

Sunday was our first proper day in the wilderness. After a breakfast of bread and peanut butter the Park Ranger frightened us with his talk on bear safety; it was informative, but it made us realise how much we were on our own and what we were up against.

The weather was very sunny, over 100 °F, with

mosquitoes everywhere. Our Large Mammal fire left to walk to Still Water Lake in the heat of the day, a very tiring experience taking three hours. Some of us caught the sickness bug, including our fire leader, who really set us an example by continuing to walk despite being sick and feeling very weak. We unloaded the communal kit we had carried and returned to the transit camp by 21.15, exhausted and hungry; I was wondering whether I was mentally quite strong enough as well as physically fit enough to cope with the expedition.

People were dropping like mosquitoes with the sickness bug, myself included. The Chief Leader, who also caught the bug, declared a rest day and those who had recovered spent Monday swimming in the river and trying in vain to avoid the mosquitoes.

On Tuesday our fire, waking at 05.00, started walking to Still Water Lake. On the way the bug came back with a vengeance, and I started being sick. This was not a time for slacking and, with the fire's support I went on very slowly to the lake; we stopped for a break, primarily to summon up the courage to attempt the next ten miles, up 3,000 feet and with 78 switchbacks. The first mile seemed to take an eternity, actually five and a half hours. We reached our base camp on Turner Lake at 21.15, exhausted, but elated that we had overcome our first hurdle. The mosquito bites itched continually, so sleep was hard to come by.

Wednesday came on us too quickly. We went back to Still Wafer Lake and restocked with communal kit for base camp. We walked up really slowly and arrived at the canoe jetty, two miles walking distance from base camp but only 20 minutes by canoe. I had never

imagined canoeing in such beautiful scenery before; it made me feel very small and humble...

Thursday was a repetition of Wednesday; by the time we reached base camp for the third time in three days, we had walked 80 miles and climbed the equivalent of Mt Snowdon three times from sea level to summit, and my body knew it! I was getting much fitter though, used to carrying both a heavy rucksack and mosquitoes around.

Friday was a rest-day, which our bodies needed. We had a thought-provoking talk from Chief Leader John Cohen, allowing us all to remember our fortune at staying in such a beautiful and wild location.

On Saturday, 24th July, each fire walked to its science phase base; ours was on Janet Lake, 16 miles away. Some equipment had to be left at base camp and, as it was in a bear-inhabited area, we had to erect a bear-stash, put everything in bags and suspend them 30 feet above ground.

We left at 07.30, walking slowly up through a forest towards Ptarmigan Dome, where we reached alpine vegetation. We scattered round Janet Lake searching for a suitable camp-site; it was difficult, as most areas were either boggy or rocky. We chose the far side of a steep scree slope and established our tents on a grassy area about 100 metres from the cooking area; this distance was to stop any bear attracted by the food smells from accidentally stumbling across 12 juicy sleeping prospective meals. The temperature at this altitude was below zero and we all grew suddenly fat with the layers we dressed in.

The leaders and boys went back to base camp for the rest of our equipment and the five girls were left to create a bear stash - under rocks, as we were too high for trees - chop wood, build a stove of stones, dig a toilet, create an oven - a hole in a bank with a stone for a door - and wash everyone's clothes.

On Tuesday our leader decided that, as there were no bears in our area owing to lack of food, we should scale as many mountains as we could, looking for mountain goats and other large mammals. We climbed to the top of Oracle Mountain, 7,000 feet. It started raining and, owing to the wind, we felt that we could easily be blown off! We went down a scree towards Gem Lake where, despite high temperatures, some snow remained, and snowballing became the order of the day.

On Wednesday we went up to 7,693 feet, a climb of 2,500 feet from camp. We saw various moraines and some true ice, with the pale blue tint - putting my Geography to good use. I felt a real sense of accomplishment, especially when fighting to overcome my fear of heights at 7,693 feet and crawling along a ridge 25 centimetres wide!

The next day we all went back to base camp for supplies of food, taking bivvy bags and sleeping virtually under the stars; the moon was almost full, so the view across Turner Lake was something that has remained with me since and will do so for the rest of my life.



Anita Duguid (top)



We spent the next few days hunting for any signs of deer or goats, seeing only plenty of marmots. We were getting very disheartened at the lack of large mammals, especially as we kept getting information from other fires on the radio about what they had seen. It became a standard joke over the air that the Large Mammal fire was 'large mammalless'!

On 2nd August we set off at 05.30 for Panorama Ridge, passing Molly Lake, where the Hydrology and Meteorology fire was camping. We left them in their slumber and carried on through the scrub and across the river, fast-flowing but not too deep. We climbed a very steep scree slope and up the ridge, on hands and knees when required. The views from the summit were extraordinary, snow surrounding us and glacial lakes below. We were lucky enough to see our first large mammals, mountain goats with their kids; we watched them running down the ridges and nibbling at lichen peeping through the snow; at last we had something to tell the other fires!

After a rest-day we split into our individual science phase groups; I walked with a few others round Janet Lake and elsewhere in the valley. This was only halfway through the expedition, and I was feeling very happy; it was a shame there were only three weeks left.

On Friday, 6th August, we slept through our alarms, set for 04.30 and woke at 06.30. Three of us with a leader who was a doctor went to Table Top Mountain. To get there we had to walk along a very steep scree slope, from which I managed to slip and fall 12 feet down on to a rock with two jagged edges, which fortunately went into the fleshy lower parts of my body; the doctor said two inches more and I would have broken my back. Despite pain and ripped trousers, I was feeling very lucky still to be able to walk, and I recovered by taking painkillers and sitting on the snow. I was determined not to let the others down, so with them I climbed a severe slope without a rope. After lunch we went on to the summit.

Saturday was our last day at Janet Lake, and we all went for a long walk round the area. We were all very quiet; I think we were considering how sad we would be to leave this beautiful, unspoiled piece of the world, which could so easily be damaged.

Our alarms went at 04.00 on Sunday morning and we had a fantastic view of the sunrise casting spectacular shadows over the mountains. We cleared up the site so that the only sign of our stay was the flattened grass where the tents had been. We got to Turner Lake base camp by lunch-time; we were definitely getting fitter; our journeys seemed shorter, and we girls were finding it easier to keep up with the 'super-fit' males in our fire. By the time we had sorted out food supplies and chatted with the other fires about the large mammals they had seen, I got into the tent at midnight after being awake for 20 hours, completely exhausted mentally and physically.

Monday being a rest-day, Chief Leader John Cohen read us a speech from a Red Indian Chief to the President of the United States; it was very thought-provoking and reminded us that, although we claim to own parts of the land, we in fact do not!

The next part of the expedition was to be the adventure phase, but since we had not sighted a bear to date, the Large Mammals group decided to stay at Still Water Lake, where the salmon were spawning and might attract the bears to fish. We walked without leaders to the lake on Tuesday; there had been reports of a bear with cub and a cougar. Despite our stealth, we saw no large mammals and began to wonder whether we were on a 'wild bear chase'!

On Wednesday we went back to Turner Lake for supplies. The 78 switchbacks and 3,000 feet, instead of taking us five and a half hours as on the first occasion, took us one hour 25 minutes, a record; we were now super-fit packhorses!

We made friends with a couple who had a cabin beside the lake where they stayed for three weeks every

summer. Mrs Larson kindly thought we all needed feeding up and brought us some Chelsea buns she had baked. After the dehydrated carbohydrate in packets we had been eating for four weeks, the buns made it seem as though our taste buds were in heaven and made us yearn for some home cooking, or at least food which did not taste like spaghetti!

Since the river was teeming with fish, we decided to supplement our diet; after numerous hours the boys caught a large salmon which had just spawned. Baked in the embers, it proved to be a welcome addition to the buns.

Thursday was a bear-tracking day. We decided to head down-river towards the Atnarko settlement, as bears had been sighted there. Three of us walked silently, stopping occasionally to eat the wild raspberries which grew on the side of the trail, the first fresh fruit we had eaten since leaving the UK. Again, we saw no bears, but we did see signs of their existence, bear scat and a hornets' nest which had been dug up.

Four of us decided that perhaps the best time to see them would be in the early morning, so on Friday we launched the canoe in the dark at 04.30, two of us paddling while two looked for bears. We went up to the top end of Still Water Lake: everything was so peaceful, and we watched the sun rising; it was beautiful. On the way we saw six otters playing happily on floating logs and a deer running along the lakeside. We saw four golden eagles circling overhead and watched them for over an hour, until they were joined by four bald eagles; it was a memorable sight.

When we got back to camp our taste buds had yet another treat: the boys had managed to catch seven trout, so we had fish for tea again, with lettuce and fresh potatoes, which Mrs Larson gave us. Twelve very contented Young Expeditioners then went to bed.

After another day without success, six of us were invited to spend a night in the cabin of another friend, Stanley. He has been brought up at Lonesome Lake, nearby and had lived beside Still Water since leaving home as a teenager. He told us many stories about bears. Once a bear came into his cabin; he grappled with it and it bit his leg, so he tried to pull its ears off; it turned around and ran off. In his 78 years of life he has seen 300 different bears and fought 11 of them; he is not frightened of them in the least.

On Tuesday we walked back to camp, packed up and went on to Turner Lake base camp. We chatted to all the rest of the fires and heard a talk by John Edward, younger brother of Stanley, who told us that the salmon and bear population were now less than 10% of what they were when he was young; he used to see a bear

every day, but now only occasionally. Caribou were hunted to extinction in Tweedsmuir Provincial Park in the 1930s.

I could not help thinking how far I have come on the expedition, both physically and mentally, and how much you can do even if you think you cannot - virtually nothing is impossible!

On Saturday, 21st August, after three days' packing and organising the return of the equipment we headed by coach back to Hagensburg, where we stayed on the gym floor at the school and had a hot shower with soap, the first for five and a half weeks. In the UK you would never get excited about a shower but, believe me, after

five and a half weeks you do! We then ate fruit and a beefburger in the village cafe, - civilisation at last!

A man in the café, heard our sad story of seeing no bears throughout the expedition and offered to show us some 'garbage bears' at the local dump. It was so sad to see bears hunting through rubbish for food, but at least now we could say we had seen a black bear...

Back at Shaunessy Elementary School we spent three days cleaning equipment and seeing Vancouver before flying home on 26th August, arriving at noon the next day; I was tired but had learned a lot about life, the countryside and myself. I have also many memories which will remain with me for the rest of my life.

*The following is taken from a prophetic speech, referred to by Anita, made by Chief Seathl of the Suquamish Tribe and addressed to Franklin Pierce (President of the US 1852-56).*

'The Great Chief sends word that he wishes to buy our land. The great Chief also sends words of friendship and goodwill. This is kind of him, since we know that he has little need of our friendship in return. But we

will consider your offer, for we know that, if we do not sell, the white man may come with guns and take our land. How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?...

We are part of the earth, and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers.

The rocky crests, the juices in the meadow, the body heat of the pony and man - all belong to the same family. So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us...

If we decide to accept, I will make one condition: the white man must treat the beasts of the land as his brothers...

One thing we know, which the white man may one day discover: our God is the same God. You may think





you own him as you wish to own the land, but you cannot. He is the God of man, and His compassion is equal for the red man and the white. The earth is precious to Him, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator...

Continue to contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. '

## ***The Riverside***

The dew-drops on the grass sparkle  
With a lustre second only to the diamond.  
The river's banks are draped in flowers of every  
kind;  
The yellow flags stand proud and tall among the  
anemone,  
Deadnettle and dogrose, each one's scent mingling  
To form the sweet perfume of Spring.

The river flows boldly on over the weir,  
Where the dense green undergrowth conceals the  
vole  
As she tends her young under the gnarled oak tree.  
The ripples that form every now and again discern  
the  
Brown trout's lie. It lies in wait, sleek and  
handsome,  
Like a torpedo waiting to strike.

On the opposite bank amongst the willow trees  
The heron stands erect and majestic, motionless  
and alert.  
Beneath the water at its feet, tiny fish-fry flash like  
sequins  
On a ball-gown, as they roll and dart in the rushing  
current.  
A flash of blue and orange announces the arrival  
of the kingfisher,  
A beautiful creature indeed. It settles on a branch  
and stares  
Into the torrent, as though mesmerised by the  
twinkling of the water  
And the beauty of the scene.

Down here by the river there is nothing to disturb  
nature's beauty,  
All living things in perfect harmony.  
The river weaves a spell of tranquillity over the  
grassy meadow,  
Peace never disturbed,  
Never betrayed.

CHARLIE ALLEN

## **Nepal and India 1993-4**

On 29th October 1993 I left by plane from Gatwick with two other volunteers for Link Overseas Exchange, bound for Delhi. There we met two Link volunteers

who had just completed their six-month visit to Kathmandu. We stayed with them for two days in a Delhi hotel, and during that time they filled us in with the background at the school where we would be teaching.



*Tim Shaw*

We arrived in Kathmandu by an internal flight on 2nd November and went on to Dreamland School in the district of the city called Bag Bazaar.

We met the Head Master, Mr Lama, and his deputy, Mr Smith, who is an Anglo-Indian. During the next two days we met the other members of the teaching staff and a number of students. At our first Assembly we were given flower necklaces and welcomed to the school.

We began our teaching on 5th November, and I handed out a number of pens and pencils I had taken with me. These were much appreciated, and I gave some to the other teachers who were badly equipped.

There were about 150 students in the school, a mixture of boarders and day pupils. We were teaching children aged between two and a half and fifteen. We took five lessons a day and were approached by another school wanting us to teach English, as their English Department was almost non-existent.

Kathmandu is known to be one of the most polluted cities in the world. It has a population of about 350,000: the vast amount of traffic in the city centre, and the fact that it is in a valley, contribute greatly to this pollution.

For a number of reasons inflation has tripled in recent years: there are power-cuts most days, and sometimes these last for three hours. It would seem that these cuts are avoidable, as the government is selling electricity to India.

The government does not seem to encourage tourists to go beyond the Kathmandu valley; if they do, the permits for the visits are very expensive. The living conditions of the country people are very poor; they would seem to be forgotten. They have no teaching aids, no medical help and no power-generating facilities. These could easily be provided for them.

I had been hoping to trek in the foothills of Everest, but unfortunately twisted my ankle very badly and became somewhat incapacitated.

Kathmandu has a very rich culture, and this is particularly evident in the old part of the city, which is on the eastern side. Durba Square is filled with numerous temples, each with breath-taking beauty. The square also contains the oldest wooden building in the world. On a good day, from a roof-top, you could see some of the mountains around the city.

During our time there we learnt to recognise the best bargains, and we were soon well known amongst the locals, particularly those who had children at the school.

As our permits ran out, we had to leave Nepal for one month; we were determined to make the most of this month and see as much of India as we could. We visited Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Konarak, Varanasi, Agra and Gorakhpur.

Our tour started in Calcutta, where we had been invited to spend Christmas and New Year with the Deputy Head Master's family. We visited numerous sites and certainly brought home some interesting memories, some fond, some very useful.

After Calcutta we travelled to the capital of Orissa, Bhubaneswar, to visit the magnificent ancient temples. We then went on to Puri, as we wanted to see the coast and visit yet more temples: however, as we learnt later, entry to these temples is not permitted to people outside the Hindu religion.

Whilst in Puri we had the chance to join in the local life and see for ourselves the richness of an unspoilt culture. The fishing village, surprisingly Christian-based, provided our hotel. We decided to stay for a few days and, having hired a bike each, we travelled 78 kilometres to another sun-drenched coastal temple. The tourists swarming over it like ants and its dilapidated state were unable to detract from its magnificence.

After a few days we took the 27-hour train journey to Varanasi; the train was only ten hours late. We did not become very involved here, but were able to sit back and watch the life-style of the people: Varanasi is one of India's most religious Hindu cities.

Agra was next on our list, and we visited the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort.

The journey back to Nepal was pleasant, although we had our frantic moments with the bus company: we were quoted all sorts of prices for the tickets, as well as types of journey and bus.

Our final visiting-point before returning to Kathmandu was Pokara. We reached this beautiful lakeside by travelling on the top of the bus, which became quite a thrill. I could not help but relax when

inside this Nepali town, taking a chance simply to sit back and reflect on what I had just witnessed and experienced in India. I had little over a month before leaving and returning to England...

My time, I know, was well spent, not only in making new friends, but also in the experience of every aspect of life I had seen.

ROGER GORMAN (OR 1988-93)

## *The Piano*

A zebra-striped creature standing proud -  
Or lying grand, polished to a tee,  
My majesty is in accuracy, yet indefinably.

An abstract art, anxious to be painted, I am still-life.  
As still as an ancient, archaeological stone,  
untouched by time,  
And timeless myself, an instrument of expression.

I can be moving without changing place;  
Versatility is my game -  
Articulation serves me well, and I return deep,  
With meaningful phrasing, struck from the bass  
line.  
I can disconcert the best concertist, trying his best.

My name is loud and soft, and -  
Although I know where I stand -  
You often see me change my tune, or turn a  
different key.  
I can whistle or I can sing, and make you do it too;  
I'm antonymous but regular; I'm octal and  
organised.

Now when you confront me, you feel potential:  
I can do what I like; I can flummox and intrigue.  
I am the figure of intransigence; I will always win;  
I'm the one you have to listen to; I feel powerful;  
There is a spark of arrogance in my tone;  
I hammer out with exhibition.

Most of all, I am a culture, not a cult.  
I am a ripe old fruit; many are transfixed, forever  
my friends.  
I am a devotion, not a hobby, the most mysterious.  
There is more in me than just hammers and strings.  
The ivory keys, a composition of notes, a piano is  
all I'll ever be.

CHARLES BARTON

## **Activity**

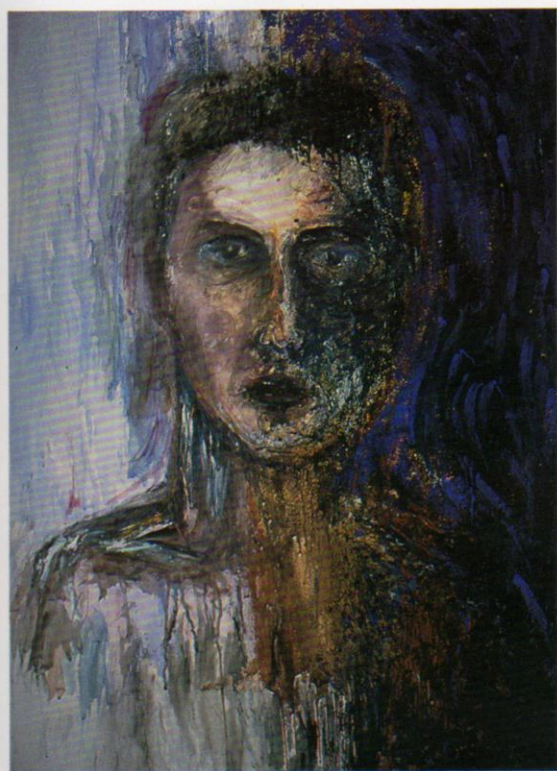
### **Art**

Nostalgia may not be what it was, and certainly too much looking back can be a negative influence. Learning is usually much more stimulating and relevant





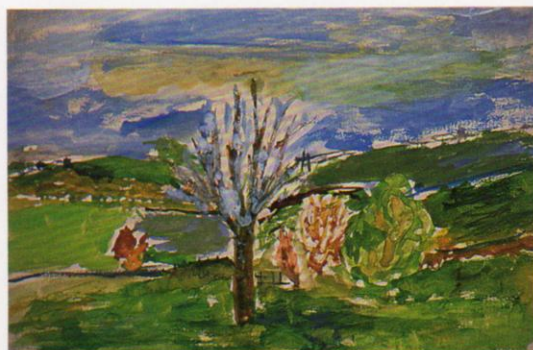
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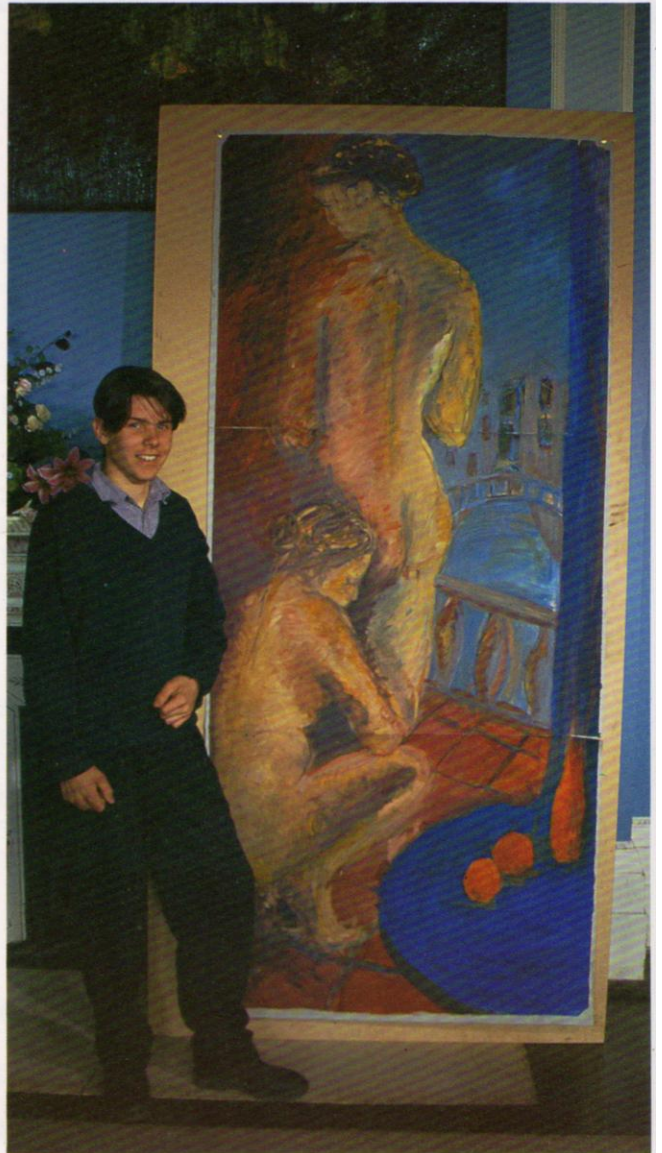
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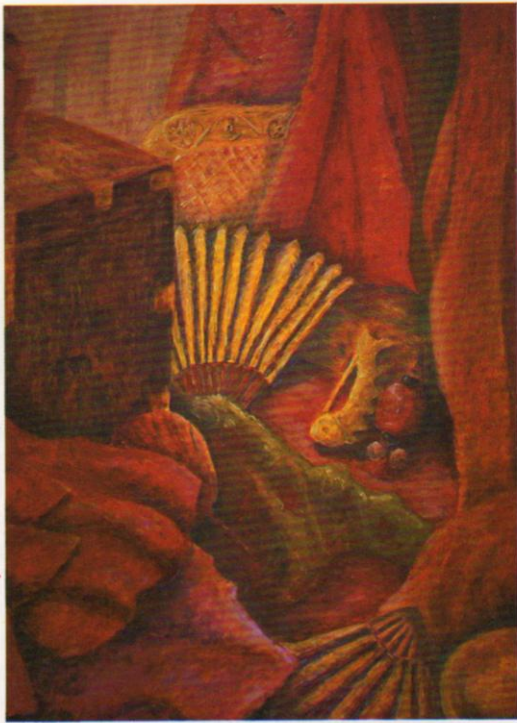


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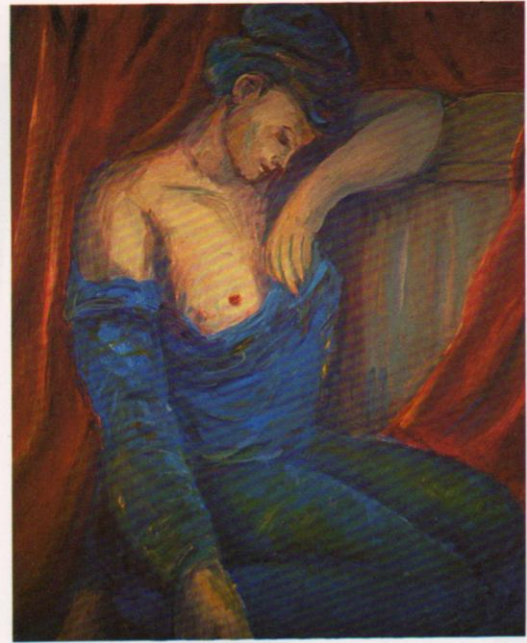


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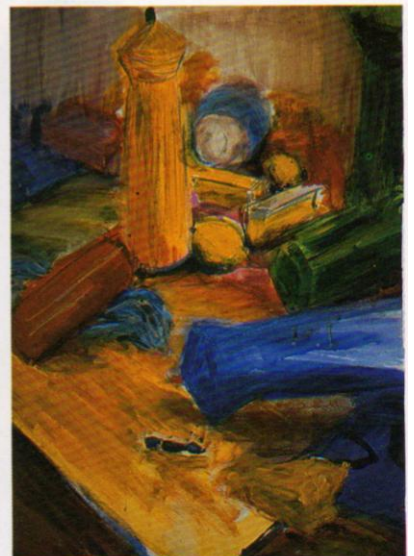
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m



n



o





Richard Witchell (5)  
CDT: Design and Realisation  
*Footstool in English Brown Oak*



Charlotte Edwards (6)  
Sixth Form Option  
*Bookcase in Brazilian Mahogany*

Tony Winstone (5)  
CDT: Design and Realisation  
*Ottoman in English Elm*



when you feel that you are doing it freshly: thus, although we may have taken life drawing classes before, it can be the first time for any student, and that sense of excitement in undertaking a new journey needs to be nurtured and an open attitude maintained. Although I may be able to make a reasonable guess at how things will develop next year, I don't really know, and that is one important factor in keeping the department alive and thriving.

However, when we do look back we find a department that has matured into having a real sense of identity, and over the last twelve months we have been delighted with the progress the students have made. 'A' level and GCSE are thriving; results and numbers are high; most of the work has been bold, interesting, yet skilled and well thought-out. Activity sessions and option groups have seen numerous non-examination artists producing wonderfully individual creations, from pots to painting to prints to huge-scale posters for Park House walls and Black Box theatre productions.

At 'A' level James Moore surprised many, especially his housemaster, with his commitment, hard work and enterprise; all this, in combination with considerable skill, produced many magnificent pieces, and I hope he will maintain his progress at art college. Equally industrious was Robert Sage: his excellence in drawing would have led many to sit back and rest on their laurels. It was not so with Robert: he took on incredibly difficult colour compositions and produced superbly well understood paintings of great richness and subtlety.

However, the most delightful colourist was Paul Bigg-Wither, whose latter work simply glowed with the most glorious combinations of colour; with sustained thinking and hard work Paul came through to lead his peers in understanding how to use colour and surface.

Relying more on last-minute inspiration, Graham Monteith discovered he could draw using colour; his glib remark, 'I just put it on where it looks good', was a remarkably successful approach, combined with some serious thought.

Even Julian Wilkie found that he could not rely on surface skills alone; his final piece was the most admired at this year's exhibition; it was an excellent culmination to his many years of quality work at Rendcomb, skill, eye and brain combining to produce a wonderfully evocative painting.

Polly Parsons produced some lovely work: the subtlety of her watercolours showed great touch, sensitivity and awareness, and her final exam piece was full of the most intelligent handling of paint. All this and a neatly mature quality in her design work make Polly a student with much potential.

Hannah Wykeham was to come to us via Biology and, while her progress was hindered by lapses of memory, Hannah will always have the deep satisfaction of knowing that in the end she made it: the success of her exam piece and preparation work was to surprise many, including herself. I, however, always had faith.

I always had faith, too, in Georgina Buck, and while

I doubt if George will ever make a portrait artist, certainly - if her self-portrait is anything to go by - she did show considerable perseverance, and much of her 6A work had considerable boldness of handling and richness of colour, especially her final exam piece, which was outstandingly successful.

So this year's 6A was an impressive group, and they, in combination with a potentially excellent 6B, have produced much exciting and skilful work. They were great company on this year's trip to Amsterdam, and many of their 'A' level projects contain considerable depth of thought and understanding.

The fifth-year GCSE students also matured into an excellent group: many have done spectacularly well, and people such as Nick Holt, Hague Willmott, William Heaven, Jack Jelfs and Nick Carmichael produced really notable work for their exams.

The fourth year are a large and highly talented group whom we expect to mature well and, with art remaining such a popular option for GCSE, no doubt the simmering talent and interest in the junior years will have high standards set for them.

M. S. G.

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

<i>a Strange Place</i> - oil paint	Nicholas Holt (5)
<i>b Metamorphosis</i> - paint, glue, sand & collage	Jack Jelfs (5)
<i>c Landscape</i> - watercolour	Andrew Sage (1)
<i>d Chestnut Tree</i> - conte and watercolour	Shaan Deen (6)
<i>e Fishes</i> - watercolour	Tara Sleggs (2)
<i>f Puppets</i> - watercolour	Polly Parsons (7)
<i>g Oriental Still Life</i> - mixed media	Robert Sage (7)
<i>h Dutch Interior</i> - oil paint	James Moore (7)
<i>i Two Oranges in Venice</i> - oil paint	Mark Williams (6)
<i>j Still Life</i> - oil paint	Paul Bigg-Wither (7)
<i>k Figure Composition</i> - oil paint	Georgina Buck (7)
<i>l Entrances</i> - oil paint	Julian Wilkie (7)
<i>m Life Model</i> - oil paint	Robert Sage (7)
<i>n Flora and Fauna</i> - soft pastel	Hannah Wykeham (7)
<i>o Still life</i> - watercolour	Mark Wilks (6)



*Ceramic relief by Nick Carmic*

## Organists' Masterclass

On 16th October an organists' masterclass was held in Rendcomb Church, taken by a member of the Gloucestershire Organists' Association, Mr Malcolm McKelvie.

A few of us were called upon to play a selection of pieces. When we had finished, Mr McKelvie talked to us about what we did wrong, what we did right and a few other things. He also talked to us about the instrument and how he came to play the organ because no one else volunteered to play.

After tea Mr McKelvie gave a short recital of pieces by Boëllmann, Bach and a few others.

SIMON WEBB

## Orchestra

The Rendcomb orchestra has gone from strength to strength this year. With a confident leader, Hannah Willcocks, and valuable staff support from Mrs Dearnley and Mrs Morris, we have covered a large repertoire.

The Christmas concert in December included the march from *Die Meistersinger* by Wagner and a movement from the Rococo Symphony by Stamitz. These were complemented by a number of Christmas pieces, including the march by Mendelssohn and *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson.

The concert was interspersed with solo and ensemble items, including an original piano composition written and performed by Yukiko Totsuka; the Wind Band played two items, and the Girls' Choir gave a very spirited performance of three movements from Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. There were also carols for audience participation, and everyone agreed it was an excellent evening.

The orchestra worked throughout the Spring Term and gave a superb *Last Night of the Rendcomb Proms* concert on 29th March. Again an enthusiastic audience rose to the occasion, joining in *Land of Hope and Glory*, *Jerusalem* and *Rule Britannia*. Other orchestral items included a selection of tunes by George Gershwin, Concertino by Küchler and a movement from Haydn's Piano Concerto in C with Jonathan Freeman taking the solo.

Solo contributions were given by the GCSE and 'A' level musicians. David White performed Hannah Willcocks's Nocturne for piano and there were solos from Richard Witchell, Alister Harris, Stuart Sealey and Tony Winstone. The Wind Band gave us a taste of the 'Glenn Miller Sound' with *In the Mood* and, amidst

flag-waving and streamers, everyone rose to the occasion.

S. J. L.

## The Choir

It would be hard to imagine a better year. The choir was strong in all departments, with confidence boosted by the knowledge that the top line was secure in the hands and voices of newcomers Charlotte Harrison and Suzie Fletcher. High notes held no terrors and, if volume were needed, it was there aplenty, even to the extent of members' having to put hands over ears when rehearsing in the Reading Room. All of which is not to forget the skill and musicianship of Tristan Day in the

first year, who led a cohort of wicked but conscientious and enthusiastic trebles that grew in number and expertise as the year went on.

Each season sees a conspicuous advance on the last. Repertoire becomes more demanding. This year cathedral visits expanded from just Bristol to Bristol and the dizzy heights of Gloucester. Fauré's *Requiem* was polished off in less than half a term; Mozart's *Vespers* were squeezed in between an exhausting *Guys and Dolls* and the end of the Lent term - was it as much as three weeks' preparation time? An outstanding memory is that of the resilience of those in the

*Guys and Dolls* cast who managed to stagger into church on the morning after the night before to give of their all for the Confirmation Service.

There have been several moments when the tingle factor has been exceptionally high this year. Stuart Sealey's solos in the Fauré *Requiem* must go down in the annals as some of the most moving singing Rendcomb has ever heard. Then there were the solos and duets of Suzie and Charlotte, in particular *Above him stood the Seraphim*, and Tristan Day's *Blessed be the God and Father* replete with aitches by the third performance. Descants, learnt at the drop of a hat to lift the hymn-singing in church on Sundays, left a lump in the throat of the Chaplain - ah, now we know how to cope with his singing. The whole choir really rose to the complexities and sumptuous sonorities of Ireland's *Greater love hath no man*, the Morrill Canticles and Quilter's heart-stirring *Non nobis. Domine*, always a winner, even at the fourth, fifth, sixth performance...

The Choir Dinner in May marked the end of the season for Smart Healey. Hannah Willcocks, Hannah Wykeham, Chris Norman. Chris Millard and Matthew



Hannah Willcocks and Tim Shaw playing on Founder's Day.



Pentney. The latter three have served the choir for more years than the Director has had Rendcomb Sunday lunches. To them the College owes an enormous debt. Matthew was awarded the Order of the Gorman Scarf for his idiosyncratic understanding of rehearsal times. Hannah Wykeham served the choir loyally for all her two years, even clocking up a lovely solo in mid-career. Hannah Willcocks will be remembered among many things for not falling off her chair, having perched there in many rehearsals cross-legged. She held the alto line together with real professionalism and authority. In her role as Choir Dinner Speech-Maker, she managed to get her own back at the Director, admonishing him for trying to organise everyone too much with lists and to perform complex music with the barest minimum of rehearsal-time. (His excuse is that everyone would be far too bored if we actually knew the music at each performance. Why not live dangerously? It's much more fun.)

It is always very gratifying watching people progress through the choir, and in particular seeing baby tenors growing into baby basses. Both Tim Hill and Richard Gooch found that tenor hurt too much and are now being very grown-up and responsible in the bass line. Tim Shaw has had his eye on the spacious senior bass seat that Stuart occupied and has pushed past Francis Barton to claim it by the end of the year. Francis was far too humble and Christian to claim it for his own. There is hope that Tristan will grow into his shirt collar, Edmund Compton will look up, David Monk will open his mouth and William Warrington will not always go red when he watches the conductor.

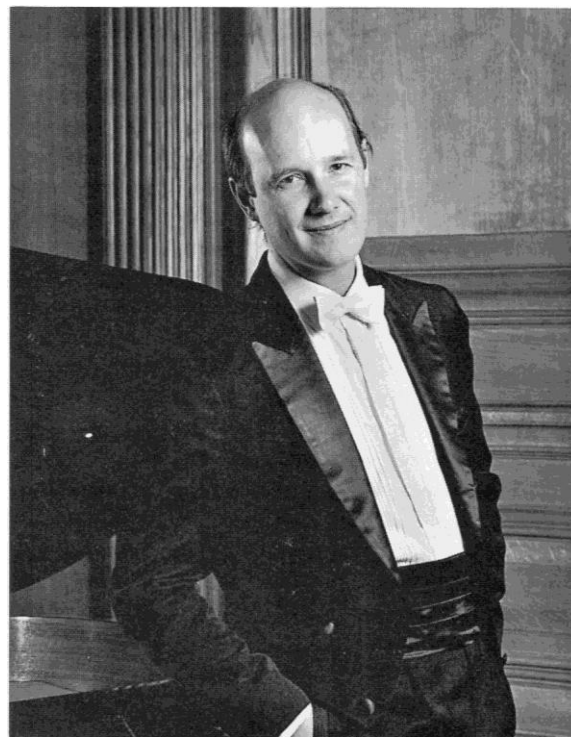
Our thanks go, as always, to Stephen Lea. How he manages to keep his mouth diplomatically shut during all the goings-on passes comprehension. He accompanies with unfailing skill and understanding and is always there when we need him. Our Chaplain continues to sing with us... but much more, he showers us with kind enthusiasm and appreciation. He can be assured that descants to hymns will continue next year, as it promises to be just as good as this.

D. B. W.

## QP Concerts

The season of QP Concerts took in three very different recitals. Julia Morris shared a platform with Chris Davey; William Howard, the distinguished concert pianist, gave a recital, and a clutch of 'young musicians' from Wells Cathedral School crowned the year with a concert in May.

It may have been daunting for Julia Morris and Chris Davey to put their voices, skills and reputations on the line, but the result was a delightful mix of solos and duets from different periods and different countries. In the end we, the audience, really did see what good performance is all about, and that our teachers really can practise what they preach. William Howard is one of the leading British pianists working in this country at the moment.



**William Howard**

*Hanya Chlala*

Rendcomb was fortunate to catch him in between BBC recordings, having the great Brahms *Handel Variations* 'in the bag'. The variations are a long and technically demanding piece, of special interest to our advanced musicians. However, what caught the imagination of most of the audience were the little Smetana pieces sandwiched in between the Brahms and the late C minor sonata of Schubert. While Schubert and Brahms are what we expect to hear in a major piano recital, Mr Howard's special advocacy of Czech music scored a palpable hit.

The Wells Cathedral School musicians were a talking-point days after they had performed. Their astounding technical brilliance was the cause of unbounded admiration. They offered few concessions to their own human frailty or to our capacity to cope with listening to demanding twentieth-century music. For many it was a relief to settle into listening to Beethoven in the shape of the D minor Sonata Op 10 no 3, played by a mere slip of a girl who nevertheless showed the maturity and assurance expected of a hardened recitalist. Music by Martinu - though fairly modest - was more attractive than some might have expected, and it featured for the second time in this composite recital, the work of a young 'cellist who, apparently, while playing on a mere box of an instrument, produced the most divine sounds. He is off to the Julliard School in the not too distant future.

The Wells musicians were a lesson to us all in deportment, presentation, sheer brilliance, yet down-to earth humility. They communicated with each other and, most importantly, with us, the audience. It was a miraculous evening.

D. B. W.

## Carmen

*Three comments from younger members of the cast*

With hardly any notice at all from Mr White, one Monday nine boys from the Junior House and Godman went to the Phoenix Centre in Cirencester for a rehearsal of Bizet's *Carmen*.

The first attempt was a disaster. We did not get any volume in our songs, but then again we had practised them only a couple of times. Also, we felt really strange: the room had a strange smell; we didn't know anyone, except for Mr Shiner, the conductor and Rendcomb brass teacher, and we hated singing high with all these basses around us; it made us feel puny!

With the next few rehearsals things got better: we knew the songs better; we got to like them and we got more confident about singing them as we knew the people better, especially as there were some girls of our age!

Suddenly there were two weeks left; the rehearsals moved to the Bingham Hall - also in Cirencester - and everything was hectic.

But here came the fatal week: we had a rehearsal on the Monday and then started the actual four nights on Wednesday. The performances went all right; there were hundreds of people for each performance, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

LAURIE BARTON

It all started when Mr White was asked to provide some boys from the choir to take part in the Cirencester Operatic Society's production of Bizet's *Carmen*, which was being performed between 15th and 18th June at the Bingham Hall. Most of the rehearsals took place in the evenings.

Mr Shiner, who organised the music, took a long time banging notes into us, but after three weeks we had got the music note-perfect. Miss Aileen Anderson, the producer, finally managed to get us to act like mischievous boys who enjoyed teasing little girls.

Mr Shiner provided his own orchestra, and the lighting gave some spectacular effects. The whole cast did their bit well, providing some great songs, such as the famous *Toreador* aria. The production was a great success, as shown by the audience: every night we were called upon to give an encore!

RALPH BARNES

I was wanting to take up acting as a career and thought this would be a great experience for me, and it was. There was always a warm, friendly atmosphere, and this made the acting good, with the help of Miss Aileen Anderson. The music was very good as well, thanks to Mr Shiner. There was a full house every night. I really enjoyed it!

RICHARD GOOCH

## Slyde - 17th March

As the final chords of *Keep on Rocking In The Free World* die away into the darkness, the feeling of appreciation and admiration is tangible in the Dulverton Hall. The main lights are switched on, and the chatter amongst the dissipating audience is generally positive - Slyde have done it again, bigger, better, more stylish than ever before.

The evening had begun with Giles Somers and Steve Jones (DJ Slick and MC God) making an awful racket with a very popular *Somers' Magic Hardcore Techno Feast*, apparently recorded live at Heathrow.

Then it was on to the proper stuff, with Purple Remedy, the fourth-year band, getting the mosh going at the front of the hall. They excelled with Nirvana's *Heart-Shaped Box* and made a valiant effort at Smashing Pumpkins' anthem *Today* before delighting everyone with their very own *Daze*. Tim Shaw's vocals and Sam Gillott's lead guitar were outstanding, yet the band as a whole has become really impressive, making good use of their obvious talent.

They were followed by the unknown quantity, Used Tickets, who were very secretive of their identity, claiming only to hail from the north of the country, as betrayed by the guitarist's Leeds United shirt. Their disguises were impenetrable, but the aforementioned guitarist bore an uncanny resemblance to Nik Pollard, while the bassist was a dead ringer for Charlie Barton. Could it have been they? Our suspicions were heightened by the use of *Sleeptalking*, Purple Remedy's first-ever hit, revitalised with swirling sound-effects, and then *Duel* by Swervedriver.

After an aggressive, vitriolic display from the fifth-year Scream, undaunted by the indifference of the crowd, Slyde finally made their entrance, bursting on stage with the energetic *Kill Your Television*. This Ned's classic was greeted vociferously by their faithful, before another old favourite, *Chelsea Girl* by Ride, honed to perfection, secured our total attention. Covers of Pearl Jam's *Rear View Mirror* and *Animal* further emphasised just how good Nik Pollard is: the sound is so authentic, whatever they attempt.

During *Drive Blind*, featuring James Moore on guitar, one might have been forgiven for mistaking them for Ride; it really is high-quality stuff. Yet amongst all their storming covers the creative genius of Pollard and Kai Thomas was allowed to shine, renditions of *Button Moon*, *Down On The Farm*, *Kwik Fit* and *Carling Black Label* sandwiching their magnificent *Always* and *Demon Lover*.

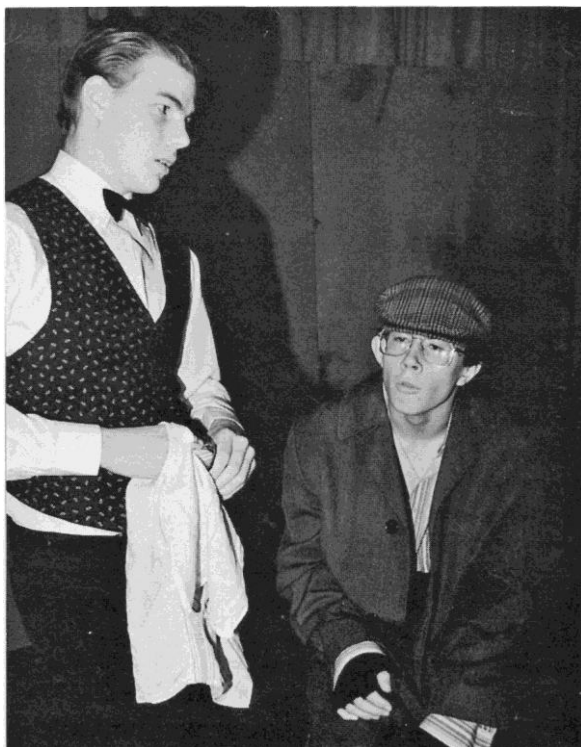
The future of the Rendcomb rock concert may be in jeopardy, though, if attendances continue to fall as they have done recently, because support for these events is vital. More and more people are defecting to dance music, leaving a very small core group of true fans who actually appeared to be listening to the music rather than chatting to friends at the back of the hall. Let us hope that the legacy of groups such as The Trivial

Things, Crazy Boneheads and Slyde will not be allowed to fade away.

As if making a similar plea to the audience, Slyde left us with a breathtaking medley, combining the well-known *Alive* (Pearl Jam) with Red Hot Chili Peppers's *Under The Bridge* and of course Neil Young's classic *Rocking In The Free World*, whilst fitting in an awesome, incredible drum solo from Dave Elliott, which went on for several minutes, yet never became repetitive or predictable. Slyde were really very exciting that night.

FRANCIS BARTON

## Black Box Evening



For this year's Black Box Theatre evening the Dulverton Hall was transformed into a classy Parisian restaurant, the audience seated round café tables, the subtle strains of jazz violin music adding to the *ambiance*. The lights went up on Chris Jarrett, a stylish

French waiter, looking as though he had stepped from the set of *'Allo, 'Allo* to introduce the evening's entertainment.

Entitled *Le Banquet de Theatre*, the evening comprised short plays and sketches, offering delights from Pinter to Martin Griffiths with a wide spectrum of improvisation in between. The first item on the menu was *Crossing the Line*, presented by the fourth and fifth



*Trouble in the works.*



year Drama Activity Group. We were very fortunate to have in the audience Pete Benson, who afterwards said how impressed he was at the interpretation of what was particularly powerful drama. Mention must be made of the contribution by Seun Ismail, Charlie Allen and Becky Doyle, who took the lead roles.

The second half of the programme saw work by the 6B Performing Arts Group with support from Hannah Willcocks, Steven Croft, Dominic O'Connor and Tony Hazelhurst. Hannah provided entertaining interludes on *Values and Cheap Shoes*, addressing the audience as guests at her dinner party. Glass in hand, she became increasingly intoxicated with each appearance; Hannah had the doddering walk to a tee.

Fred Ingham and John Morgan made a neat performance on Pinter's *Trouble in the Works*, carefully

crafting the conversation, and they appeared again as a duo supporting Susie Fletcher as a saucy waitress in *Stretched over an Eternal Triangle*.

The final performances had the audience gripped. Dominic O'Connor and Steven Croft played two gentlemen waiting for a train, with the sole fixture of

a waste-paper basket placed on the platform to give focus to their actions. Both carried their characters admirably: Dominic as a respectable gent and Steven as a dirty tramp put both sides of a very funny series of situations. Full congratulations must go to the make-up team for their ability to age Steven by at least 20 years! Thanks go to the directors,

John Tolputt and Martin Griffiths, to the technical team co-ordinated by Stephen Lea and to Matron and her helpers for their usual excellent costume and make-up support.

CHARLOTTE HARRISON

## ***Guys and Dolls***

*(photos opposite and inside back cover)*

This year's play, performed in the fourth week in February, was an archetypal American musical, giving opportunity for an extensive variety of comedy and portraying also the moral code so characteristic of this type of spectacle.

A large proportion of the comedy was brightly provided by Anna Ronowicz, playing Adelaide, an over-enthusiastic 'bimbo' with less intelligence than aspiration. Her lively singing and vivacity captured the sympathy of the audience. Steven Croft, as her fiancé, and eventually overdue husband, Nathan, was so convincing that he gave the impression of having spent a lifetime organising illegal crap games before taking part in the play! Together these two formed a particularly realistic, yet amusing, relationship.

The second couple in the play was Sky Masterson, Tim Shaw, and Sarah, Beccy Doyle. Sky, a debonair gambler with a lucky reputation, was ably acted by Tim, whose confidence in singing and relaxed attitude on the stage were especially impressive. In her part, a missionary girl struggling to convert the gamblers of New York, Beccy appeared comfortable. She maintained her accent unflatteringly and conveyed the innocence and wit of her character with considerable perception. The contrast between these two was well exploited to emphasise the irony of their mutual attraction.

Perhaps the most eye-opening scene involved the infamous 'Hot-Box' girls. Rumours had spread of a compromising episode and, when the occasion eventually arrived, those expecting were not to be disappointed! The girls were courageous in their strip scene, and many a sigh was to be heard from those wishing that this sight could become a regular Park House show!

Also, humour was derived from the 'crap-shooters', and there were many notable moments. Big Jule (Itseng Kwelagobe) established significant presence on stage, gaining much appreciation of his entertaining role. Charlie Allen and Douglas Ellison also formed an enjoyable partnership in singing and acting as suspicious gangsters, while Brannigan (John Morgan) was plausibly frustrated at his inability to catch them.

In general, the play was of a standard which will be difficult to follow in the future. Mr Tolputt's directing was immaculate, exercising an impeccable understanding of the play's different aspects and, in combination with Paul Milton's choreography, achieved a professional production. Behind the scenes the art department was diligent in ensuring striking scenery,

and Mrs Wood and Matron must be congratulated on the costuming and make-up. Mr White's organisation of the music left many tunes in mind after the play and contributed greatly to the overall atmosphere and the unquestionable success of the show.

FRED INGHAM

## **Performing Arts**

This year has seen the start of the Performing Arts course for the Sixth Form, leading up to either the 'A' or 'AS' level examination. There have been eight members of the group in 6B, and they have achieved a great deal over the year.

With the help of the Head Master on the drama front and Miss Sally Beard teaching dance, the course has covered a large area of activity, ranging from vocal improvisation and recording a 'radio play' in the college recording studio to taking significant roles in school productions and seeing theatre performances.

In October we went to see *Moby Dick* at 'The Other Place' in Stratford and were very impressed at the portrayal of the story and the stage effects simulating the anguish and toil of a whaling ship at sea.

In the spring term we visited the Hippodrome in Bristol to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The purpose of this visit was primarily to observe the dance routines and stage movement, although the attraction of Phillip Schofield in the lead role was of significant importance to the girls!

We were fortunate to receive a visit from *Disappearing Faces*, a travelling theatre company which came to the College for a morning's workshop, looking at stage presence, characterisation and production skills.

Apart from their contribution to the *Black Box Theatre* and *Guys and Dolls*, the group, with added help from some of the fourth-form drama activity group, produced an evening of performance on 1st July. It consisted of two short plays, extracts from *Time of my Life* by Alan Ayckbourn and *Dog Accident* by James Saunders. These were followed by *George Gershwin Remembered*, a musical tribute to the life of the great composer with songs and dance routines, which was well received.

We are keen to promote the Performing Arts at Rendcomb in all their guises, and we hope that more keen actors, musicians and dancers will take the course in future.

S. J. L.

## **Cycling for the Diocese '93**

On 11th September 13 members of Form 2 and 11 of Form 3 set off on a 38km (24 miles) cycle ride.

We were raising money for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Trust and for St Peter's







Church, Rendcomb. We raised £497, which was split between the two funds. On the ride we stopped at ten churches, at Elkstone, Cowley, Brimpsfield, Syde, Winstone, Duntisbourne Abbots, Duntisbourne Rous, Daglingworth, Bagendon and, of course, Rendcomb. A few parents were involved in the ride, either cycling or by car. Beshlie McKelvie and Pippa Wood also joined us for a part of the way, on horses. During the ride we tackled steep hills, farm tracks and a deep, long ford. Overall it

was a great success, and the funds were pleased with the money we raised.

JAMES STARKEY

## ***Severn Valley Cycle Ride***

*or The Rain it Raineth every Day*

Clearly the gods did not like the break in tradition in moving the second-form cycle ride from the Ridgeway to the Severn Vale: they provided an extremely wet weekend on 21st and 22nd May.

Despite this the 13 boys, one girl, Laura Donovan, and three staff enjoyed over 50 miles of on and off-road cycling, and not once did they complain about the weather. The heavy rain did, however, make certain types of brakes ineffectual on steep descents, and the first victim was Rose, our intrepid Australian student, who could slow down only by steering into the bank on the way down into Daglingworth. Unfortunately, she was unable to continue, but she did provide valuable support during the weekend.

The second casualty was Ben Butler, who could avoid the Woods' Citroen by hitting a wall in Frampton Mansell. Happily, after first aid in the post office and second aid back at Rendcomb, he was able to mount up again before the day was out.

The rain also made the reading of maps difficult, and John Shenton and friends found many alternative roads in the early stages!

The route followed canals and railways as much as possible, beginning at the Thames and Severn Canal near Frampton Mansell. This canal was opened in 1789, to join the Stroudwater Navigation to the River Thames at Lechlade, this linking the Severn to the Thames.

The group enjoyed travelling between the canal and the River Frame, beneath a very low canopy of fresh, green growth and passing by countless relics of the Golden Valley's industrial past. In the centre of Stroud they saw a refurbished lock, which represents the determination of the Cotswold Trust, formed in 1972, to preserve and restore the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal.

Using cycle lanes and two disused railways, one of which had been rerouted owing to the building of a new by-pass, the now 15 cyclists reached Ryeford, near Stonehouse, where, after refuelling with yet more chocolate bars and drinks, they struck out on country lanes for the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal at Purton. At first the tow path was hard going, owing to patches of puddle clay from recent temporary damming of the canal by Bristol Water, which extracts water from the canal for the city, but soon the proximity of the Youth Hostel raised spirits considerably.

The hostel at Slimbridge was very welcoming, and the priorities were to hang up our wet clothing and to enjoy a hot shower. After a filling supper the tired cyclists made use of the games room, with its table- tennis table, pool table and video games, as well as the comfortable lounge, which had an attractive extension overlooking a pond stocked by the Wildfowl Trust with ducks, geese and black swans. As darkness set in and the bats began flying, so the conversation dwindled and the weary cyclists took to their bunks.



**Wet, wet, wet!**

After changing the inner tube on Olly Anthony's bike - the only major breakdown of the weekend - we set off on the Sunday morning in yet more rain (where does it all come from?). Towpath terrain varied from track to grass, and the going varied from easy to heavy, but there was still time to leave the canal to investigate the place where the Stroud water Navigation met the River Severn at Upper Framilode. As we approached Gloucester, those with 24-inch wheels, who had pedalled harder than most of us, were beginning to feel the strain, but with a little encouragement they reached the docks, where we were greeted by Mr Patterson and Mrs Wood, our faithful support team, and several parents.

There was a real atmosphere at the docks, created by the presence of shire horses, tugs, a fun fair and a rare-breeds display. For some of us it was a pleasant opportunity to wash away mud accumulated during the morning's ride and to change into clean clothes.

The final section took the group, with the team leader at the front (where else? ) and Dave Williams (OR 1966-71) at the rear, through the centre of Gloucester, over the inner ring road, Mr Patterson and Mrs Wood sporting their highly visible yellow jackets, and down narrow country lanes in sunshine to the finish at Dowty's Staverton factory. Having covered more than 80 kilometres (50 miles for the un-metricated) mostly in poor conditions, we deserved the lift up the escarpment back to Rendcomb.

We are grateful to Mr de Lisle Wells for transporting the bikes in his cattle truck, to Williams Cycles of Cheltenham for the loan of a good selection of spare parts, and to our ever-present support team, Mr Patterson and Mrs Wood.

The Severn Vale ride was diverse, challenging, enjoyable and rewarding. No doubt we shall be there again in the future.

C. J. W.

Severn Vale Reflections (in the puddles!)

*I enjoyed the weekend very much, but I went off the map a couple of times.* J. T. T. S

*Ouch! It hurt.* B. J. B.

*I had a great time, but I brought back half of the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal in my shoes.* B. B.

*I beat everyone at chess, cards and how many times you can make your pedal come off.* S. J. W. T

*Yo! I had a very cool time.* O. A.

*The most memorable part was when Nick and I beat everyone else along a five-mile section of the towpath by five minutes.* P. M. A. W.

*I had a great time, even though I was constantly dripping with water. I had a brilliant evening at*



**Rose Watt with Severn Vale cyclists.**

*Slimbridge. I would do it again.* L. D.

*Waterproof maps in future!* T. H. B

*We had a great time cycling, but at night we all turned into cocoons because of the youth hostel's sheet sleeping bags.* E. S. C.

*I'll never ride a bike again.* R. W.

*Two of our group tried to impress some girls at the youth hostel and were told to grow up.* T. J. G. G.

*It was a lush cycle ride. Not to be missed!* M. J. W.

*Someone tried to overtake me, went into my back wheel and fell into some nettles.* J. P. S. P.

*I would not have believed how much you can enjoy a weekend cycling in the rain.* C. J. W.

*Lush; cold and soggy.* J. J. S.

*I shall remember the Fred West conversation at the youth hostel.* N. S. S.

*Thanks to those who helped to organise it.* T. H. B.

## **Fund-Raising for Barbados**

On 11th July a party of 25 from Rendcomb will set off for a two-week cricket tour of Barbados. We have been raising money so that the group can go on cultural and educational visits whilst on the island, to make it a really fulfilling and varied fortnight.

There have been numerous retiring collections at concerts and at the Founder's Day speeches, but the first major effort was on Sunday, 1st May, when all the pupils involved in the tour did a fair amount of manual

work for the College under the direction of the Bursar and Mr Watson. The 6A boys constructed an impressive-looking groyne down on the Chum with Commander Thring, and the rest of us cleared the Wilderness of fallen branches and other logs. There was a lot more wood in our stacks than you might imagine!

The second event was the Dinner and Auction on the evening of 13th May. Many parents and guests attended and enjoyed a fine meal, prepared to perfection by Mr Riste and his staff. There followed speeches by Mr Essenhigh, Mr Watson, Itseng Kwelagobe and by the star attraction, Dennis Silk, President of the MCC, whose speech was most entertaining.

The evening was rounded off with the Auction of Promises, numbering well over 30 and including a farmhouse holiday for ten on the west coast of Scotland, a woodpigeon shooting weekend with John Batley, a guided tour of Lord's and tickets to the Royal Tournament, all of which were snapped up at good prices.

On top of all that there is still one more source of revenue, the runs and wickets sponsorship of the touring players during the term. At the time of writing, however, with a quarter of our matches already cancelled owing to rain, the sum raised so far is not vast, but there is room for improvement with four matches to come; we hope to be adding to our four-figure total and representing the school in style this summer.

The tour party is: Mr and Mrs Essenhigh, Mr and Mrs Watson and Jessica, Aidan Barry, Nick Barton, Itseng Kwelagobe, Chris Lawton, Chris Oliver, Francis Barton, Patrick Boydell, Freddie Ingham, Chris Jarrett, John Morgan, Ian Thompson, Mark Wilks, Jesse Wright, Susie Fletcher, Charlotte Harrison, Annabel lies, Anna Ronowicz, Steffan Bartlett, Seun Ismail and Francis Newcombe.

FRANCIS BARTON

## Bridge Club

There have been two regular meetings each week during the year. In September, at the beginners' session, we were pleased to welcome four sixth-formers, David Elliott, Christopher Norman, Peter Barry and Benni Körber: they quickly learnt the basic skills and joined the senior group in January.

At the Sunday meetings we have had two, sometimes three, tables, depending on other commitments. The standard of play has improved considerably in the past few months, but more practice in free time would be very valuable. A heat of the *Bridge Magazine* Schools Competition was held at Rendcomb in early February, with teams from Warwick School, King Edward's, Bath, and Abingdon School joining the Rendcomb contestants; as polite hosts, the Rendcomb players took the last three places!

This term we shall lose Matthew Gee, a stalwart

member of the Club for four years; we hope he will find his Bridge Club days at Rendcomb useful in the future. In addition to those already mentioned, George Langlands, Ben Renow-Clarke, Keith Bendall, Richard Bardsley, Nicholas Holt and Jonathan Underwood have played regularly during the year, and will perhaps want to continue next year.

W. J. D. W.

## The Photographic Society

Numbers have dwindled this year, but the faithful few have achieved an enormous amount in the dark-room, especially with colour processes and large black and white prints. Bookshop profits given to the society by Mr Hawkswell enabled the purchase of a Jobo CPE-2 processor, which is essentially a thermostatically controlled bath with a motor to rotate developing drums of different sizes.



Richard Histed using the processor.

Immediately, the results of colour printing became more consistent, and members were proud to be able to display their colour work in addition to the usual black and white prints.

When we learned that the colour chemistry we were using was to be phased out, we were somewhat exasperated; however, the new RA4 chemistry uses shorter times and lower temperatures, resulting in much cleaner prints. The only disadvantage is the smell of the developer, so we may have to buy an extractor fan in the near future.

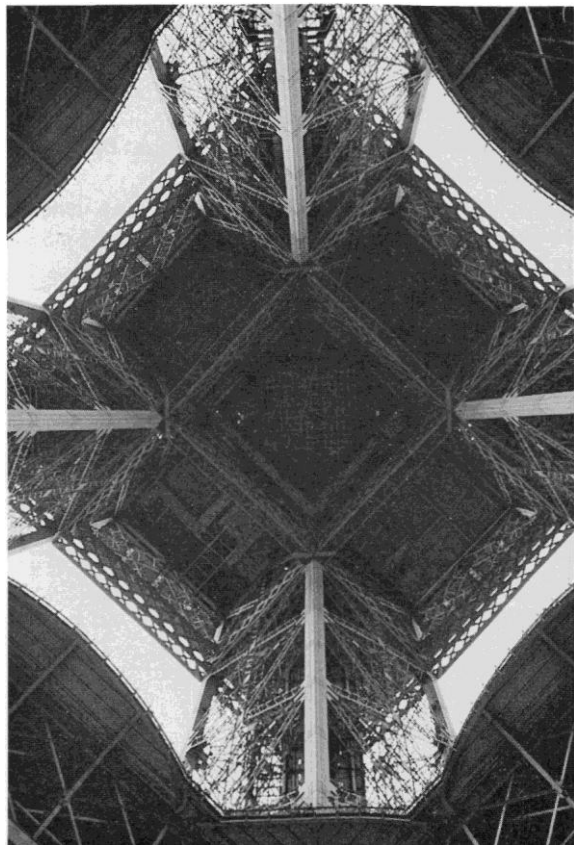
Members of the society attended a lecture at Birmingham University on 8th February entitled *Chemistry in Pictures*. It was given by Dr Milner of Kodak Ltd, and it turned out to be more suitable for



photographers than for chemists. Dr Milner went through the basics of the black and white process and graduated to the various layers in the colour film, illustrating his points with slides and demonstrations. Overall, it was most appropriate for our practical members.

Once again the annual competition was open to the whole school and, although we would like to have seen more entries, the standard was generally high. The results were (competitor's year given after name):

<b>Colour:</b>		see page
1st: <i>Elephant</i>	Richard Histed (3)	cover
2nd: <i>Butterfly</i>	Christopher Mackinnon (5)	"
3rd: <i>Portrait</i>	Polly Parsons (7)	"
4th: <i>Calm after the Storm</i>	Tim Shaw (4)	84



<b>Highly Commended:</b>		
<i>Lunch</i>	Chris Wood (staff)	
<i>Room with a View</i>	Joan Essenhigh (staff)	cover
<i>Eiffel Tower</i>	Tim Shaw (4)	below
<i>Silver Linings</i>	Tim Shaw (4)	26

<b>Black and White:</b>		
1st: <i>Cat &amp; Mouse</i>	Nicholas Holt (5)	22
2nd: <i>The Cross</i>	Douglas Ellison (4)	below

Andrew Martin, our long-serving secretary, leaves the school this summer, and we are extremely grateful for his efficiency in running the dark-room, issuing film and paper and producing a word-processed handbook for the society.

C. J. W.



A. D. Martin



# Academic

We congratulate the following:

Michael Bews	1st Class Honours in Computer Science at the University of Wales
Mark Nicholls	Scholarship and 1st Class Honours in Politics at Durham University
David Shield	1st Class Honours in Music, Technology and Computing, Open University

## Scholarships for entry in September 1994

### Sixth Form Entry:

Katherine Bagshawe (Dodderhill School, Worcester)	Choral/Drama Scholarship
Rebecca Gee (Headington School, Oxford)	Anniversary Scholarship

### Third Form Entry:

Emma Banwell (Abbey School, Tewkesbury)	Anniversary Scholarship
Ian Forster (Bruern Abbey School, Oxon)	Open Scholarship
Phillipa Hunt (Terrington Hall School, York)	Anniversary Scholarship
Charlotte Kerton (Hatherop Castle School)	Sports Scholarship
Jenny Mais (Wycliffe College Junior School)	Open Scholarship
Charley Smith (Cheltenham College Junior School)	CDT Scholarship

### First Form Entry:

Paul Bongiovanni (St Gregory's School, Cheltenham)	Open Scholarship Foundation
Eleanor Bruce (Berkhamstead School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship Anniversary
Matthew Collier (St Andrew's School, Chedworth)	Scholarship Anniversary
Antonia Gilbert (Pate's School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship Anniversary
Freddie Lait (Hatherop Castle School)	Scholarship Sports
Dominic Sharman (St Edward's School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship Anniversary
Rebecca Whatman (St John's Priory School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship

## 'A' Level

This summer's GCE Advanced Level results were:

Aiden Barry - Biology, Chemistry  
 Kirsten Bennett - German, History\*, Mathematics  
 Paul Bigg-Wither - Art & Design, Business Studies, Geography  
 Georgina Buck - Art & Design  
 David Chalk - Biology, Chemistry  
 David Elliott - Mathematics, Physics, French PU\*  
 Matthew Gee - Business Studies, History, French PU  
 Daniel Irving - English, French, Geography  
 Rebecca Knightly-Brown - Biology, Chemistry, English  
 Itseng Kwelagobe - Business Studies, History  
 Christopher Lawton - German, French PU  
 Andrew Martin - Biology, Chemistry, Geography

Christian Millard - Business Studies, French, Geography  
 Graham Monteith - Art & Design, Business Studies  
 James Moore - Art & Design\*, Geography, Mathematics  
 Christopher Norman - Biology, Business Studies, French PU  
 Christopher Oliver - Business Studies, English, French PU  
 Pollyanna Parsons - Art & Design, Business Studies  
 Matthew Pentney - Business Studies, Mathematics  
 Nicholas, Pollard - Chemistry (D), Mathematics\*, Physics  
 Robert Sage - Art & Design\*, Biology\*, Geography, Mathematics\*  
 Kai Thomas - English, Mathematics, French PU

Julian Wilkie - Art & Design, Biology,  
Mathematics, French PU\*  
Hannah Willcocks - English\* (M), French\*,  
German\* (M), Music  
Hannah Wykeham - Art & Design, Business  
Studies, French

6B entry:

Francis Barton - French\*  
Ann-Christine Eylmann - German\*  
Benjamin Körber - German\*  
Adrian Kress - German\*  
Verena Weiershauser - German\*  
Rudolf Dühmke - German\*

\* - Grade 'A'

D - Distinction in Special Paper

M - Merit in Special Paper

French PU - French for Professional Use

## GCSE

The GCSE results were:

Stephen Amey - e, EL, F, g GN, M, b, C, p  
Richard Bardsley - E, EL\*, F, G\*, H\*, M\*, B, C\*,  
p\*

Steffan Bartlett - E, EL, F, H, l, M, B, C, p  
Keith Bendall - E\*, EL\*, F\*, G, H\*, M, B, C\*, p  
Oliver Blaydon - AD\*, E, EL\*, F, G, H\*, M, B, C, p  
Ean Branton - AD\*, E, EL, F, G, M, B, C, P  
William Brix - AD, e, EL, G, gn, h, m, b, p  
Nicholas Carmichael - AD, E, EL\*, F\*, GN\*, H\*, M,  
B, C, P  
Andrew Chalk - E, el, F, G, GN, M, b, C, p  
Gemma Choudhury - AD, E\*, EL\*\*, F\*, GN\*, H\*,  
M\*, B, C\*, P  
Adam Crawford-Taylor - AD, E, EL\*, F, GN, H, M,  
B, c, p  
Lindsay Duff - E\*\*, EL\*\*, F\*\*, GN\*, H\*, L\*, M\*,  
B, C, P  
Rudolf Dühmke - M\*, B\*, C\*, P\*  
James Fairbank - E, EL, F, G, H, M, B, C, p  
Leighton Freeman - E, EL, F\*, GN\*, L, M, B, C, P  
Alister Harris - AD, E, EL, F, GN, M\*, MU, B\*, C\*,  
P Robert Hart - AD, E, el, F, G, H, M, B, C  
William Heaven - AD\*, E\*, EL\*, F\*, GN\*, L, M\*, B,  
C, P  
Nicholas Holt - AD\*\*, E, EL, F, G\*, H, M\*, B, C, P  
Seun Ismail - AD, E, EL, F, H, M, B, c, p  
Jack Jelfs - AD\*, E\*, EL\*, G, gn, H, M, B, C, P  
George Langlands - E, EL, G, GN, H, M\*, B, C, P  
Simon Lee - E, EL, F, gn, L, M, B, c, p  
Christopher Mackinnon - E, EL, F, G\*, H\*, M\*, B,  
C\*, P

**Form 1 investigate the electric fence.**



Alex Mar - DR, e, el, G, M\*, B, C, P  
 Craig Marcham - AD, E, EL, F\* G\*. H\*, M, B, C, P  
 Philip Marran - e, el, f, g, gn, M  
 John Martin-Busutil - AD, E, EL, G, GN, M, B, C, p  
 Matthew Morris - AD\*, E\* EL, F\*, H, M, B, C, P  
 Francis Newcombe - E, EL, F, G, H, M, B, C, P  
 Luke Nicholls - E, EL\*, F, G, H, M, B, C, p  
 Philip Price - AD, E, EL, F, G, H, M, B, C, P  
 Ben Renow-Clarke - E\*, EL, F\*, GN\*, H, L, M\*, B, C, p  
 David Royal - DR\*, E, EL, f, G, m, b, c, p  
 Stuart Sealey - E, EL, F\*. GN, h, M, MU\*, b, c, p  
 Michael Smith - AD\*, E, EL\*, F\*, GN\*, L, M, B, C, P  
 Chris Walmsley - AD\*, E, EL, f, G, H, M, B, C, p  
 Hague Willmott - AD\*, E, EL, f, G, h, m, b  
 Tony Winstone - DR, e, el, G, gn, M\*, MU, B, C, P  
 Richard Witchell - DR, E, EL, F, M\*, MU, B, C, p

Key: capital letters show grades A-C  
 small letters grades D-F \*\* shows grades A star'

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

## Music

These candidates passed their Associated Board Music Examinations during this year:

### Grade 1

Laurence Barton Bassoon  
 Sebastian Bagnall Drum Kit (D)  
 Edward Farnsworth Trumpet  
 Charlotte Harrison French Horn (D)  
 Helen Madge Piano (M)  
 Luke Weston Saxophone  
 Laura Donovan Flute (D)  
 Chris Baker Drum Kit (D)  
 Andrew Morton Oboe  
 Charles Perry Drum Kit

### Grade 2

Carlos Garcia	Oboe
Susie Fletcher	Flute (M)
Edmund Compton	Organ
Richard Gooch	Organ

### Grade 3

Tristan Day	Piano, Trumpet (M)
Tara Sleggs	Piano (M)
David Newby	Clarinet
James Fox	Saxophone
Charlotte Webb	Saxophone
Joel Pelly	Saxophone
David Hughes	Saxophone
David Elliott	Dram Kit (D)

### Grade 4

Colin Morey William	Saxophone
Brittain-Jones	Tuba
Adam Phillips	Piano (D)
Nicholas Ridley	Clarinet
Carlos Garcia	Piano (M)
Poppy Smith	Piano
Manolito Garcia	Piano, Flute
Charles Allen	Flute
Jonathan Freeman	Piano
Nick Carmichael	Drum Kit
Richard Witchell	Theory
Jack Garland	Clarinet (M)
Keith Bendall	Saxophone
Andrew Jarrett	Saxophone(M)
Alister Harris	Theory
Tony Winstone	Theory

### Grade 5

Hannah Gowers	Clarinet (D)
Patrick Boydell	Drum Kit

### Grade 6

Charles Barton	Piano
Edmund Compton	Viola
James Smith	Clarinet

### Grade 8

Hannah Willcocks	Piano (M)
Charlotte Harrison	Singing

(D) - Distinction  
 (M) - Merit

# The Record 2

## College Officers

*Head Boy and Head of School House*

Christopher Oliver

*Head Girl and Head of Park House*

Hannah Willcocks

*Head of Lawn House*

Julian Wilkie

*Head of Stable House*

Robert Sage (Arts Block)

*Prefects in Godman House*

Nicholas Barton (Hours' Work)  
Graham Monteith (Head Usher)

*Prefects in Junior House*

Rebecca Knightly-Brown  
Polly Parsons

*Prefect of Junior Girls*

Kirsten Bennett

*Prefect of Dulverton Hall*

Andrew Martin (Head Librarian)  
Itseng Kwelagobe  
David Elliott

*Prefect of Reading Room*

*Prefect of Sports Hall*

*Prefect of Main Building &*

*Head of the Swimming Pool*

*Captain of Rugby*

*Captains of Hockey*

Christian Millard  
Itseng Kwelagobe  
Kirsten Bennett,  
Georgina Buck,  
Christopher Lawton  
Itseng Kwelagobe  
Steven Croft, Polly Parsons

*Captain of Cricket*

*Captains of Tennis*

*Captain of Senior Netball*

*Captain of Junior Netball*

*Captain of Squash*

*Captains of Shooting*

Polly Parsons  
Rowan Renow-Clarke  
Mike Smith  
David Elliott,  
Graham Monteith

**Junior House 1993-94: Form 1 on front and back rows.**



## Valete

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

Peter Barry, Nicholas Barton, Kirsten Bennett, Paul Bigg-Wither, Georgina Buck, David Chalk, David Elliott, Matthew Gee, Daniel Irving, Rebecca Knightly-Brown, Itseng Kwelagobe, Christopher Lawton, Andrew Martin, Christian Millard, Graham Monteith, James Moore, Christopher Norman, Christopher Oliver, Pollyanna Parsons, Matthew Pentney, Nicholas Pollard, Robert Sage, Kai Thomas, Julian Wilkie, Hannah Willcocks, Hannah Wykeham.

Richard Bardsley, Oliver Blaydon, Ean Branstion, Andrew Chalk, Simon Lee, Philip Marran, Matthew Morris, David Royal, Stuart Sealey, Michael Smith, Christopher Walmsley, Hague Willmott.

## Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1994:

Form 6B: Katherine Bagshawe, Charlotte Bohlken, Rebecca Gee, Anna Jensen, Andrea Masek, Karen Pearce, Adam Simpkin, Paul Weston.

Form 4: Sebastian Grey, Annabel Howard, Larissa Wellmann.

Form 3: Harry Aldrich-Blake, Yukihiro Asami, David Ashby, Emma Banwell, Sophie Brown, Robert Edmondson, Ian Forster, Yukiko Haneda, Phillipa Hunt, Sachivo Ichikawa, Kaori Kawanabe, Charlotte Kerton, Natsuko Kusano, Gemma Leathart, Jenny Mais, Yohei Nakagawa, Charley Smith, Seiko Sugihara.

Form 2: Anna de Lisle Wells, Katie Dobson, Andrew Dolleymore, Yoo Keung Kang, Thomas Mais, Daniel Riddle, Robin Uzzel, William Witchell.

Form 1: Paul Bongiovanni, Eleanor Bruce, Matthew Collier, Thomas Drew, Ellen Drurey, Rosalind Frazer-Holland, Antonia Gilbert, Martin Good,

Christopher Hillier, Oliver Jones, Freddie Lait, Matthew Neale, Robert Nicholas, Nicola Scarth, Dominic Sharman, Benjamin Stanfield, Rose Thrower, Amy Turner, Luke Tyler, Rebecca Whatman.

Lower Form 1: Nicholas Bowyer, Jenny Crook, Giles Drew, Edward MacCurrach, Richard Moor.

## The Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1994:

<i>President</i>	Ted Jones (1940-48)
<i>Chairman</i>	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Julian Comrie (1946-54)
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77) 9 Shepherds Way, Cirencester. GL7 2EY.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Barrett (1969-76)
<i>School Representative</i>	Chris Wood (1965-71, Staff 1976-)
<i>Girls' Secretary</i>	Justine Platt (1988-90)
<i>Rugby Secretary</i>	Graham Lawton (1985-92)
<i>Hockey Secretary</i>	Philip Moore (1980-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary</i>	Julian Fellows (1981-88)
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Bill White (Staff 1961-) 9 Rendcomb, Cirencester, GL7 7HB

## News of Recent Leavers

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

### **Martin Smith**

University of Hertfordshire - Mechanical Engineering

### **Adam Halliwell**

Estate Agency in Cheltenham

### **Simon Hardie**

Hotel Management in London

### **James Thraves**

Westfield College, London - Classics & Archaeology

### **Christopher Brown**

University of Newcastle

### **James Grafton**

Westminster University - Media Studies

### **Katherine Hodgkinson**

Newcastle University - Fine Art

### **Matthew Smith**

Wrexham College - Stained Glass

### **Emily Tabassi**

Dartington Hall - Drama & Performance Art

### **Hamish Auld**

High Wycombe College - Furniture Design

### **Patricia Renny**

Leeds Polytechnic - History of Art

### **Sophie Denny**

Bristol College of Art - Fashion & Textiles

### **Simon Barrett**

Bournemouth University - Business Admin & Marketing Research

### **Christopher Carmichael**

Exeter University - French

### **Peter Croft**

Warwick University - Mechanical Engineering

### **James East**

Queen Mary & Westfield, London - Mechanical Engineering

### **Roland Elmes**

University of Central Lancashire - Hotel & Catering Management

### **Samantha Fox**

Worcester College of Higher Education - Primary Teaching & PE

### **Claire Germaine**

King Alfred's College of Higher Education, Winchester - Primary Teaching & Music

### **Alastair Graham**

Reading University - Agriculture

### **Ben Greene**

Southampton Institute of Higher Education - Cinematics

### **Tim Haine**

University of Plymouth

### **Stuart Hall**

Humberside University - Engineering

### **Rebecca Hodgkinson**

Buckingham University - HND Institutional Management

### **Tom Hughes**

Southampton University - Archaeology, 1994

### **William Hunter Smart**

Bristol University - Economics & Philosophy, 1994

### **Tara Keegan**

Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education - HND Institutional Management

### **Ben Mabey**

Heriot Watt University - Biology

### **James Mackinnon**

Birmingham University - Medicine

### **Julian Madeley**

Bristol University - Sociology

### **Danielle Meyers**

Liverpool University - French & German

### **Patrick Morgan**

Leicester University - Medicine

### **Charles Morgan-Harris**

Leeds, Trinity & All Saints - Geography & Business Management

### **Daniel Morris**

Loughborough University - Mechanical Engineering

### **Claire Newman**

Birmingham University - Law

### **Antony Palin**

Bedford College - Secondary teaching & PE

### **Lucy Payne**

Nottingham University - Biology



**Marian Preen**

St Martin's College, Lancaster - Geography with Music

**Sophie Robinson**

St Andrews University - History

**Mark Sansome**

Southampton University - Economics & Philosophy

**Jeremy Sawtell**

Reading University - Agriculture

**Rachel Seed**

Bristol University - Psychology

**John Talbot**

Homerton College, Cambridge - Primary Teaching & History

**Tim Underwood**

Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education - Business Studies

**Mark Valentine**

Exeter University - Biology & Geography

**Paul Williams**

Southampton University - German

**Piers Gorman**

De Montfort University, Leicester - Construction Technology & Management

## Outings

### Marie Curie

Fifth and sixth-form science students attended this *Living History of Science* lecture at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Culham, on 24th September.

We were not alerted to this forthcoming trip until the day before, but it didn't sound like a bad idea: this was an opportunity to miss four lessons! The coach was due to leave at eight-thirty the next morning, and we looked forward to that time with some enthusiasm.

The talk was about the life and work of Marie Curie. We were expecting a bearded old man standing in a huge amphitheatre explaining the structure of an atom of radium. This was not to be the case.

Owing to the fog we arrived half an hour late, and the performance had started. We quietly shuffled into a modern lecture hall that could hold 200 people. To our astonishment the floor was taken by an actress

in the garb of the 1920's.

The talk was given by a woman playing the part of Marie Curie. She described the process whereby she extracted radium from other substances, the honour of receiving the Nobel Prize for Physics and Chemistry and she led a hard but fruitful life. At one point she showed us how much radiation we were giving off, calling Martin Adams up from the audience. The high amount of clicking when the Geiger counter was waved over his stomach led us to wonder whether he had had his normal beans on toast for breakfast.

The talk was most enjoyable and gave a new insight into early Chemistry. The trip back to school was almost as much fun, as we discovered the many uses of a sugar lump.

### Forms 1 and 2 to Jodrell Bank

We set off for Jodrell Bank on 16th September and, after long and tiring journey, we arrived at 11.00. Everyone piled out of the coach and set off for a walk around the arboretum. On the way we found different planets, with information about each. The planets were to scale according to their distance from the Sun, Pluto the furthest and Mercury the nearest.

We had lunch and visited the shop. We had a quick look at the exhibition, which was *Pathways to the Universe*.

Then we went to the planetarium, a big dome. You sat in your seats and looked up and saw planets and stars. We were given information and shown photographs of planets and stars taken in space. We were told which planets are the hottest, that Jupiter is the largest gas planet and that, until March 1991, the most distant planet was Neptune. Pluto is the smallest and coldest planet. Earth, our home planet, is 150 million miles from the Sun.

The planetarium show finished, and we went to the various exhibitions, doing the worksheets and finding out interesting information. The day finished, and we set off back to Rendcomb. It had been a very good day.

BESHLIE MCKELVIE

**Jodrell Bank Science Centre.**



## *The Tempest*

On 11th November a party of English students and teachers, together with a pair of culture-seeking Germans, went to see *The Tempest*, Shakespeare's last play, at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford.

As we entered the theatre the setting was dramatic, and the scenery proved effective throughout the performance. Perhaps the most impressive staging of the night was contained within Ariel's magic, as tables were mysteriously conjured onto the stage under tablecloths, and Ariel himself levitated frequently, suddenly materialising from behind a screen.

Certainly the most controversial moment of the play was the parting of Prospero and Ariel, where Ariel spat upon Prospero; this is an unusual interpretation of the relationship between these two characters and induced a loud murmur from the audience.

However, the applause at the end was appreciative, especially of the performance of Trinculo, the jester, Stephano, the drunken butler, and Caliban, who was particularly vividly portrayed by David Troughton. Prospero himself was notable for his eloquence.

Thus it was a fascinating and often amusing production, of a provocative nature. This variation made for an entertaining and productive evening, and thanks must go to the English department for arranging it.

FRED INGHAM

## *The Country Wife*

On 21st September a coach-load of English specialists set off to experience Stratford's Swan Theatre showing *The Country Wife* by Wycherly.

6B had little background knowledge of the play, and they were perhaps slightly shocked by the bawdy atmosphere created by all the characters. The thing that struck us as particularly effective was the audience participation and involvement in some scenes, perhaps due to the form of the stage; there was also, for the boys, the added interest of *the femmes fatales*.

All performances were impressive; the main characters, Homer and Pinchwife, were in a league of their own and united with the rest of the cast in the middle and at the end for a lively, unscripted song which seemed to go down well with the audience. Perhaps one of the most engaging scenes was that in which Marione Pinchwife pretends to be Alithea, Pinchwife's sister, captured by the makeshift use of scenery and costume, which could have proved difficult but was carried off successfully.

In character with the play, the style of acting was over the top, but maybe not enough in the knife-threatening scene between Pinchwife and Marione on discovery of her communication with Horner.

We could imagine the controversial reaction the play would have provoked in its day and, even today, we were surprised by a few insinuations. *The Country*

*Wife* has not been performed since. . . , so our thanks must go to the English department for seizing the opportunity to see such a lively and entertaining performance.

ANNABEL ILES  
ANNA RONOWICZ

## *Macbeth*

On 19th April the entire Fifth Form went to see the RSC production of *Macbeth* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

It was a lively and engaging performance; the stage was used very creatively, and its ability to move up and down and backwards and forwards was fully exploited. Though we had all read the play, as it is one of our set books, it was a constantly interesting and involving performance. Macbeth was excellently played by Derek Jacobi, whose performance of a man teetering on the brink of lunacy and collapse was fascinating. As the play progressed we were tempted to feel for Macbeth, not as a monster, an epitome of evil, but as a scared and haunted man, almost painfully human in his dealing with circumstances that had moved far beyond his control.

The threat of the witches, the three weird sisters, was present throughout the play; the shadow cast by their opening scene remained with us through to the end.

Also formidable was Cheryl Campbell's performance as Lady Macbeth, whose hidden madness became more and more apparent until it manifested itself horribly in the sleepwalking scene. The two main characters were supported very well by the rest of the cast, including a convincing Banquo and his particularly menacing ghost!

Most captivating was the deterioration of Macbeth through to the infinitely touching Act V, Scene V, when his soliloquy was delivered with passion, echoing the helplessness and loss of both his sanity and his wife's life.

In all, it was an excellent performance; new life was breathed into an established, yet still spellbinding play.

JACK JELFS

## *Henry V*

Sixth-formers visited the Royal Shakespeare Theatre on 9th May for the production of *Henry V*.

As we sat in the front-row seats, we were engulfed by the mysterious, smoky atmosphere of the first scene, when the narrator, Tony Britton, came on. His voice boomed through the fog, and the lights in addition made a very eerie effect.

In contrast, the second scene showed Henry in court, which was sectioned off by a rope, perhaps to create the feeling of a chapter in time. To enhance this idea of looking in, there were people dressed in 1940s

costume walking across the back of the stage and looking into the scene, a good way of presenting the idea of a historical play.

There was a great sense of excitement in this first scene, as Henry decides to attack France, and this energy and vibrancy certainly carried on through Iain Glen's performance of the King. The energy was captured also by the great use of the stage and the flights of intense action in battle scenes and courtly squabbles. In the second half, during the battle scenes, the stage sloped up towards a back projection, helping to create a sense of scale and space.

Juxtaposed against the high drama were comic scenes between the 'make-shift' soldiers, Pistol, Nym and Bardolph. Katherine and her waiting-lady also had a comic scene, part French, part bad English, which came over to the audience very well, despite the language. Katherine had another scene, with the King at the end, which again used the comic theme of misunderstanding and communication barriers to gain laughs.

The idea of a 'colour code' worked remarkably well: the French were dressed in blue and the English in rustic colours and armour. The colours were all blended within the groups on stage and were very effective, especially against the red of the movingly symbolic poppies at the edge of the stage.

The performance was enjoyed throughout because of its energy, gained through such colour and rapid movement around the stage. We enjoyed the special effects as well: being in the front four rows, we found all the action physically very immediate, while also having this feeling of looking into the scene and opening up the stage like a book.

ANNA RONOWICZ

**Captain Tempest, Bosun and Ariel**

*Pola Jones*

## ***Return to the Forbidden Planet***

On 20th April most members of the Junior House went on an outing, to see *The Return to the Forbidden Planet* at the Apollo Theatre.

It is a musical, linked to Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and it contains many of the same characters.

The story is about a man called Dr Prospero, who invented the 'X' formula to increase his brain power to one hundred per cent. The formula sometimes had disastrous effects, and Dr Prospero's wife sent him into outer space with their baby daughter, Miranda. Years later Captain Tempest takes a crew to outer space and finds Dr Prospero's robot, Ariel; Miranda falls in love with Captain Tempest. In the end Dr Prospero feeds himself to one of his monsters, and everyone is sad.

The characters in the play are Captain Tempest, a very straight man, Cookie, the ship's cook and rather stupid, Dr Prospero, a scientist, Gloria, the ship's science officer and Prospero's wife, Ariel, a robot and Miranda, a young teenager, daughter of Gloria and Prospero.

Most of the songs are 50s and 60s 'rock 'n roll' songs, and every member of the cast can play at least two instruments, such as drums, bass, lead and rhythm guitars, keyboards and trumpets.

The stage effects were good, such as the smoke in the side doors, to hide the person using them, and the monster tentacles that came through the roof of the ship. Strobe lights also were very effective and made it seem as if there was no gravity.

Audience participation involved having to do an odd action when the ship had to 'reverse polarity'.

The humour was linked mainly to some of Shakespeare's great lines, and it was funny to see Patrick Moore make an appearance - on screen - at the beginning, interval and end of the show.

Not many props were used, except gold-painted hair-dryers, used as guns. The female crew costumes





Ernest 'Badger' Neal, Head of Biology at Rendcomb from 1934-1945 with James Stutchbury (left), the present incumbent.

were black one-piece suits with blue stripes down the side and a blue belt; the male costumes had yellow stripes and a yellow belt, and red stripes and a red belt were worn by Captain Tempest. Miranda wore a colourful dress, Dr Prospero black trousers and a lab coat. Gloria wore a tartan skirt and a lab coat.

Everyone who went on the trip enjoyed it, and people were talking about the show for a long time after it had finished.

NICK STANFIELD

## *She Stoops to Conquer*

Samuel Johnson once said of Oliver Goldsmith's play: 'I know of no comedy for many years that has so much exhilarated an audience, that has answered so much the present end of comedy - making an audience merry.' Certainly it does seem to be a play which has maintained popularity since its publication in 1771. Thus, when it was heard that it was being put on in the West End, it seemed too good an opportunity of seeing a set work for Rendcomb sixth-formers to miss.

The plot is one of deception, love and embarrassment, involving the mistaking of a house for

an inn and its inhabitants for landlords and barmaids, attempted elopements and other such elements, all of which are very amusing when acted well.

In this respect we were fortunate, for among those with leading roles were Miriam Margolyes as Mrs Hardcastle, who proved to be the perfect image of a selfish, greedy but foolish and doting mother, and Donald Sinden as her husband, whose old battle stories and stubborn manner evoked much laughter.

Their son, Tony Lumpkin, 'a mere composition of tricks and mischief', certainly drove the play on with his puckish energy, and the other two male characters were also very convincing throughout.

Thus it was only with the two remaining females that the standard of acting seemed to waver: whilst one, Miss Neville, spoke clenching her teeth and with a slightly affected lisp, the other, Kate Hardcastle, seemed happy to stand back and watch the limelight being taken by other members of the cast.

However, this did not mean that the play was ruined: what with carriages rushing from one side of the stage to the other, legs falling off tables, clocks lowering from ceilings and a generally superb production of a play so full of humour and satire, one could hardly have failed to enjoy it.

HANNAH WILLCOCKS

Hout Bay, South Africa.

Tim Shaw





## Sport

### Rugby Football

A full fixture list was again completed with few cancellations; this year saw the addition of a new 'block' against Belmont Abbey, a perfect fixture for the future curtailed by their recent demise. We were again forced to combine the Colts with the senior three teams, while at the junior end we were able to run 'B' XV's at U14 and U13 levels. Despite a modest overall record, all of the teams played with great commitment and pride - even against the toughest and largest of opposition, which seemed to be the case in most encounters - and even when the points were mounting up against them. The effect of the change in gender balance in the College was certainly felt this season and highlights the strong fixture list that we have developed over the years. This problem will clearly be worse next year, and with this in mind we have had to review and alter our fixtures for next season, a sobering and even sad exercise that will undoubtedly be detrimental to our rugby reputation within the County and beyond.

Although, owing to block fixtures, I rarely had the opportunity to see the XV in match action, I was most impressed by the overall approach and commitment of the senior squads to their rugby. The quality of the XV's play was undoubtedly helped by the mixture of the 'Old Guard' - especially Chris Oliver and the talented Chris Lawton - with the strength and reliability of the 6B men and the enthusiasm, courage and skill of the 'rookie' fifth-formers. There is no doubt, though, that the most influential player was skipper Itseng Kwelagobe; always leading from the front, he developed a high level of team discipline and commitment and impressed one with his individual power, technical capability and understanding of the game. I have no doubt that he will go on to play at a very high standard.

Itseng's leadership was a major factor in the final exciting match of the season, against the Old Rendcombians. In a fascinating encounter the Old Boys failed to take advantage of the strong wind behind them in the first half, going into the break as leaders by 7-5. The lead changed hands three times in a nail-biting

second half, with the College just holding on to a 13-12 victory; it was a fine match, played as usual in an excellent spirit and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It is refreshing to hear of the many ORs who have continued with their rugby football, in many cases to very high senior club level and even beyond. One notable recent addition to the list is Ben Maslen, who has not only appeared several times on television playing in the cherry and white colours of Gloucester - just don't mention the Orrell match! - but was selected for the England Students team, sadly injury preventing him from playing. Other successes include his 'little' brother Dan, who also looks set to grace our screens next season in the Varsity match as scrum-half for Cambridge, Gareth Davis, who played for the Anglo-Welsh U21 side, Hugh Costelloe, who has proudly worn the shamrock of London Irish Colts and was in the Gloucestershire County Colts team which was runner-up at Twickenham in the County Championships, and Nicholas Priscott, who captained the Surrey Colts this season. Congratulations to them all and best of luck for next season and beyond.

At this juncture it is most appropriate to mention the unfortunate departure, as of September, of Mr Christopher King. Not only has he been a valued colleague and friend over the years, but his contribution as a coach to sides of all ages has been immeasurable, particularly over recent years with the XV; after ten years of coaching the 1st XV I was rather apprehensive at leaving the squad in the hands of a much older man from a university renowned for being runner-up to Loughborough in the UAU final. However, my fears were soon allayed, and over the last five years he has not only helped them to some excellent results but developed in the players an enthusiasm and commitment to the game along with a knowledge and style of play that will stand them in good stead in future years. His leaving is particularly sad because, in moving to Kimbolton School, he has forsaken the sacred art of rugger for the dubious 'art' of soccer! On behalf of all involved in Rendcomb rugby, I would like to wish Chris every success and happiness for the future.

Highlights of the season, other than the ORs' match mentioned above? We again contributed substantially to the District team at U16 level with Nicholas



Carmichael, Stephen Jones, Francis Newcombe and William Heaven. In the District Competition the U15 team reached the semi-finals, while the U16 team deserves commendation on reaching the final where, in a re-run of last year's final, they narrowly failed to take the Cup by 7-12. The Club Dinner again proved a splendid occasion, helped by some exceptional speeches, especially by the young and talented stand-in for the Guest Speaker, England 'B' player John Steele, who had a late playing commitment.

Finally, many thanks to all those involved in the rugby this season, especially coaching colleagues, the groundsman David Essenhigh and David Mead, the ever-supportive parents on the touch-line and, of course, the players.

M. J. N.

### 1st XV

The 1993 XV is to be regarded as a quality claret, too young to be at its best, but full of potential for the future. We may not have won many matches, and the unfortunate thing is that many people will probably look back at our season and think it a complete disaster. However, what I think was the most important thing was that, although we went into most of our matches as the underdogs, not one team playing against us can claim an easy victory.

The sheer lack of numbers in 6A meant that a large number of fifth-formers found themselves thrown into the deep end, playing for the 1st XV. Nevertheless, it must be said that, if any of them lacked experience, they more than made up for it in guts and commitment to the game.

Francis Newcombe, who was ably assisted by Craig Marcham, deserves a special mention for his great ability to win valuable line-out ball, often against far bigger opponents.

Stephen Jones, our tight head prop, and our hooker, Les White, were very solid in the front row, and Les's loose play was invaluable; this bodes well for next season.

Our back row consisted of Chris Oliver, Nick Barton and Francis Barton, who - when fit - were very mobile and sound in defence. Francis came into the side after the unfortunate loss of James Moore because of injury.

Scrum half Nick Carmichael coped very well with the immense pressure of playing 1st XV rugby and gave good service to Patrick Boydell, our outside half. Patrick deserves a special mention for his outstanding kicking throughout the season.

The centres, Alex Tibbs and John Morgan, were sound in defence, and they both created many scoring chances for men outside them. Their great speed and agility will no doubt be invaluable to next season's team.

On the one wing we had Seun Ismail, a very strong and fast runner with great potential for next season. Alister Harris was on the other wing, and he must be congratulated for his dedication to the game. His

aggressive tackling was a major feature of every game we played.

Leighton Freeman started off as full-back and showed a safe pair of hands and considerable determination. Chris Lawton later switched from centre to full-back, and he proved to be a very potent attacking force.

The high point of the season was the match against the Old Rendcombians' XV, which - a shock for most people - we managed to win. The final score was 13-12, and this was a classic display of the dedication, commitment and pride of Rendcomb 1st XV rugby.

Finally, on behalf of the senior rugby players, I would like to thank Mr King, Dr Haslett, Mr Watson and Mr Williams for their time, patience and continual encouragement throughout the season. I would like also to extend our very best wishes to Mr King at his new school.

ITSENG KWELAGOBE

Itseng has failed to mention in his report the outstanding contribution he made to the team this year. A fine player and technically sound as loose-head prop, he led his side from the front. There is a very good case to be made for him as the best-ever 1st XV captain.

C. P. M. K.

Played 13; Won 3; Lost 10; Points for 172; Points against 315.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Lost	8-17
v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Lost	5-42
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	7-8
v Rednock School (A)	Won	72-0
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	5-53
v Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-35
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	17-12
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	12-17
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	12-32
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	8-25
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	3-20
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Lost	10-42
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won	13-12

Team from: I. Kwelagobe (Captain), L. White, S. Jones, F. Newcombe, C. Marcham, C. Oliver, J. Moore, N. Barton, N. Carmichael, P. Boydell, A. Harris, J. Morgan, A. Tibbs, S. Ismail, C. Lawton, S. Amey, F. Barton, L. Freeman, F. Ingham, W. Heaven, R. Sage.

### 2nd XV

In a year when the 1st XV was to contain a minimum of six U16 players, hopes for the 2nd XV were high at the start of the season. There was a sizeable nucleus of players who already had some experience of senior school rugby, and those now joining them did not lack either talent or enthusiasm for the game. A thumping victory against Bristol Cathedral School in the first fixture of the season, with the forwards hungry for the ball and determined to take the game to the opposition,

seemed to confirm the optimistic prognosis. That this most promising of starts was not maintained may be put down to a number of factors.

First, the loss of a scrum-half, Simon Lee, in the opening minutes of the first match with a broken ankle was a terrible blow, to the player literally and to the team metaphorically. Various people, notably Philip Price, Robert Hart and Leighton Freeman, were tried there during the remainder of the season, though none, through no fault of his own, was really at home in the position. As a result, the vital link between forwards and backs was never fully established, and our play in a crucial decision-making position was too often hesitant and uncertain. At the end of the season Robert probably stands the greatest chance of continuing in the role next year, but he will have to be more assertive and abrasive if he is to dominate an opponent.

Our second major problem was the perennial one afflicting 2nd XVs, namely the loss of players to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV and the subsequent disruption of important units in the side. In the course of the season, Stephen Amey, Rudolph Dühmke, William Heaven, Alex Tibbs and Fred Ingham were all deservedly promoted, but the loss of Alex from our three-quarter line was the most prolonged and, indeed, the most damaging to our attacking thrust. After his departure, the backs seemed to lack the incisiveness and penetration to breach the gain-line as they had done earlier in the season.

These setbacks apart, there were - of course - many individual and team performances to admire. Adam Crawford-Taylor, Philip Price and Steven Croft are players who may be small in stature but are big of heart. Their commitment, tenacity and sheer enthusiasm for the game do them much credit and help to remind us, in these days of six-foot-ten-inch forwards and seventeen-stone three-quarters, that rugby is still a game for all shapes and sizes.

Chris Walmsley came into the side at full-back just before half-term and made the position his own from then on: he has good positional sense, tackles and counter-attacks effectively and, if he can improve his line-kicking, will be an asset to senior rugby in the future. Rudolph Dühmke, new to both the College and the sport, showed himself a fast learner and a talented games player; his presence in the 1st XV over the next few seasons will surely be an influential one.

Along with him Stephen Amey, Stephen Roney, Chris Jarrett, William Heaven, Freddie Ingham, Steven Croft and Ian Thompson can expect to be significantly involved in the 1st XV next season. The last of these, Ian Thompson, was skipper of the side, and his skills were not always seen at their best in a rather static back-line. Despite this, his fearless tackling, good hand/eye co-ordination and

all-round feel for the game made him an exemplary leader. In spite of the results - and it should be noted that, apart from one instance, this team was never really turned over by any other - he can look back on the season, as can the squad as a whole, with justifiable satisfaction and pride.

One Final Word: I am sure that proper tribute will be paid elsewhere in Rendcombian to the role played by Chris King in the development of Rendcomb rugby over the past decade or so. I very much enjoyed working with him during the season and, like the players themselves, was grateful to him for advice and encouragement. His loss to rugby here is considerable.

L. J. H.

Played 12; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 8; Points for 126; Points against 181.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Won	53-10
v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Lost	0-20
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-7
v Rednock School (A)	Drew	3-3
v Marling School (A)	Won	38-5
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-22
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost	3-46
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	8-17
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-8
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	3-19
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	3-24
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	15-0

Team from: I. Thompson (Captain), M. Adams, S. Amey, P. Bigg-Wither, O. Blaydon, W. Brix, A. Crawford-Taylor, S. Croft, R. Dühmke, L. Freeman, R. Hart, W. Heaven, F. Ingham, C. Jarrett, G. Langlands, S. Lee, P. Price, B. Renow-Clarke, S. Roney, D. Royal, R. Sage, S. Sealey, M. Smith, A. Tibbs, C. Walmsley, M. Wilks, R. Witchell, J. Wright.

### 3rd XV

While it was not the most successful season, it had to be one of the most enjoyable. Despite being 0-30 down at one stage, we always kept playing with all four cylinders burning.

The power-house of the team was our front row, Jack Jelfs, Tony Winstone and Steff Bartlett. These three gave us a lot of our clean possession. At rucks and mauls they also provided the rock-like base for us to expand from and win so much of our second-phase ball.

Our first match was a draw, and during this early stage of our development the two players who stood out were Will Brix and David Royal. Will, with his devastating tackling and inspired back-play was an



'Balcony' in Conté by Tim Shaw (4).

example to us all. Big Dave played a big part in our penalty moves: get the ball, give it to Dave and let him run.

With Dave, the names Jesse Wright and Lindsay Duff must also be mentioned. All through the season they provided us with a pair of locks which were a solid foundation to build on. At times they both played rugby which most players would envy.

During my time as captain I saw the scrum-half-fly-half link develop between Rob Hart and Hague Willmott: from tentative beginnings, this grew to become an irreplaceable partnership, linking the forwards and the backs. James Fairbank and Nick Holt were the mainstay of our backs and, when the ball got to them, they played their part with a combination of grace and mindless aggression; they got the ball moving forward when we lost our momentum.

The award for best tackling must go to Ben Renow-Clarke. He flew at them like an eagle and fell on them like a ton of bricks. The last words must go to Richard Witchell: Mr I-can-play-in-any-position was our highest try-scorer.

All that remains for me is to thank our supporters for their encouragement and Mr Williams and Mr Watson for leading us though an enjoyable season.

GEORGE LANGLANDS

Played 4; Drew 1; Lost 3; Points for 21; Points against 124.

v Kingswood School (H)	Drew	15-15
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-37
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	3-37
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	3-35

Team from: G. Langlands (Captain), P. Marran, J. Fairbank, W. Brix, O. Blaydon, G. Somers, H. Willmott, R. Hart, D. Royal, B. Renow-Clarke, J. Wright, L. Duff, T. Winstone, S. Bartlett, R. Witchell, M. Smith, C. Walmsley, P. Bigg-Wither, R. Sage, J. Jelfs, N. Holt, M. Adams, M. Morris.

## U15 XV

This was always destined to be a difficult season for this group, and so it proved: the more so as their opponents so often seemed to be the most successful teams in their respective schools.

With few natural rugby players and lacking in size, matches against strong opposition inevitably became a matter of damage limitation. Ironically, such occasions often witnessed our best performances.

Unfortunately, in the winnable fixtures, their outcome making the difference between a reasonable and a disappointing season, the team seemed to lack the collective appetite for victory revealed by their opponents. Accepting defeat with equanimity may well be an admirable quality, but it can also become a difficult habit to break. On the one occasion when they collectively grasped the prospect of victory, they played some impressively committed rugby against opponents

who were by no means as weak as the score-line might suggest.

Special mention must go to Chris Baker and James de Lisle Wells for their contributions as captain and vice-captain respectively; also to Charles Webb and Andrew Donovan, who were conspicuous by their efforts throughout the season, and to James Smith and Charles Barton, who were keen to learn and never gave less than their best.

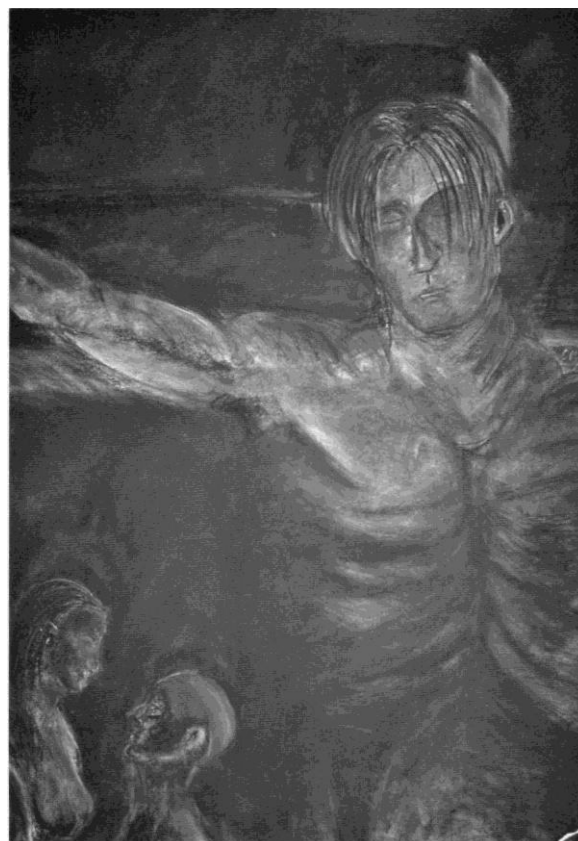
For those players in the group who are committed to the game and are ambitious to improve, the structure of the senior game, with players spread amongst four teams, will perhaps offer an opportunity to put the rather modest sporting record of this group behind them.

M. S.

Played 11; Won 1; Lost 10; Points for 101; Points against 309.

v Bristol Cathedral School (A)	Lost	17-24
v Hereford Cathedral School (H)	Lost	0-57
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-10
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	7-60
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost	3-17
v Cokethorpe School (H)	Lost	5-10
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	8-12
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-31
v Belmont Abbey School (A)	Won	56-0
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	5-66
v Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	0-22

Team from: C. Baker (Captain), J. de Lisle Wells (Vice-Captain), S. Taylor, C. Barton, A. Davanzo, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Liese, A. Donovan, T. Shaw, W. Brittain-Jones, C. Webb, A. King, J. Smith, R. Witchell, J. Graham, M. Garcia, A. Hawkins.



'Personal Presentation' in charcoal by Oliver Blaydon (5)



## U14XVs

*Our greatest glory is not in not falling, but in rising every time we fall.* (Confucius - 551-479 BC)

This could not have applied more than to the U14s! As coaches, the season proved long and frustrating for us; from week one the squad approached the practices with terrific enthusiasm and commitment, showing rapid development of individual and team skills. However, several factors led to a distinct lack of success in terms of match results.

First, the common statement from our opposite numbers, as we compared teams in pre-match conversation was: 'the Under —s are not too good, but our Under 14s are outstanding!' - and so they were, showing either exceptional size, speed, aggression or skill, or - most usually the case - all of these qualities! Hence, despite battling to the end, the Rendcomb men came out runners-up. This problem was on occasions compounded by the 'lack-of-confidence factor', so evident in players of this age and usually demonstrated in the form of weak tackling; this was particularly seen in the first half of the term against some excellent opposition sides.

The 'A' team really played to its potential only against Rednock and King's and then produced some impressive rugby. In two other matches Rendcomb was the better disciplined and more skilful side and should have won convincingly but were thwarted - not to mention very frustrated and aggrieved - by 'the third party'. The 'B's performed magnificently and deserved to win two of their matches against strong sides, while the Bloxham fixture proved rather a mismatch.

At the end of each battle, though, both teams still managed to adhere to Confucius's principle; all credit to them!

In terms of individuals, certain players and their contributions spring to mind. In the 'A' XV the rock-solid tight play of Ashley Watkins, the tenacity and sharp hooking of Nicholas Ridley - rewarded with a magnificent supporting try against Belmont Abbey - the superb line-out jumping of Julian Keith and James Gibbs, the power of Philip de Havilland-Hall and Charles Perry, the mobility, support play and sheer industry of Edward Turvill, Luke Weston and Harvey Davies, the enormous improvement in passing and running from the base of the scrum by Sam Maylott, the speed, careful handling and improved tactical awareness of fly-half Tristan Sharman, the improved attacking partnership of Chris Scarth and Mark Sutton, the powerful running of Rupert Webb compared with the elusive running of Andrew Jarrett, the devastating tackling of Jack Garland and Toby Abbott, and finally the calm, skilful catching combined with the impressive tactical kicking and incisive running of Tim Hill.

In the 'B' team the forwards improved their skills and commitment in both tight and loose play, with Chas Holliday and Richard Histed combining well and James Fox, David Hughes and Andrew Morton 'giving it their all' against monstrous opponents in each match. The backs also developed as the season went on, with

Jonathan Freeman looking sharp at the base of the scrum and linking well with Oliver Blackwell, while Ralph Barnes, Edward Forster and David Williams became more confident and effective in both attack and defence. Special mention must be made of poor old Jonathan Davis, who showed great potential at the beginning of the season but was injured for most of the term, and to the second-formers John Shenton and James Starkey, who contributed enormously to the 'B's, showing great courage, determination and skill.

We must take this opportunity to thank James Gibbs and Chas Holliday for their efficiency and reliability as captains for the 'A' and 'B' teams respectively; they were not the loudest and most aggressive skippers we have worked with over the years, but both were excellent in leading by example right to the final whistle, irrespective of the score. They were an inspiration to the teams and undoubtedly instrumental in helping them to maintain their sense of pride.

Finally, our thanks go to all the U14 squad for their efforts and company over the term, and of course for the many hours of enjoyment on a games afternoon.

M. J. N. / P.S.

## 'A' XV

Played 13; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 9; Points for 74; Points against 313.

✓ Bristol Cathedral School (A)	Lost	0-35
✓ Hereford Cathedral School (H)	Lost	5-42
✓ Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-40
✓ Rednock School (H)	Won	32-14
✓ Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	0-47
✓ Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-30
✓ Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	10-7
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	17-8
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-9
✓ Belmont Abbey School (A)	Drew	10-10
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-17
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-29
✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	0-25

Team from: J. Gibbs (Captain), T. Abbott, H. Davies, J. Davis, P. de Havilland-Hall, J. Garland, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, R. Histed, C. Holliday, A. Jarrett, J. Keith, S. Maylott, C. Perry, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, T. Sharman, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, E. Turvill, R. Webb, L. Weston.

## 'B' XV

Played 3; Lost 3. Points for 10; Points against 60.

✓ Kingswood School (A)	Lost	10-10
✓ Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-45
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-5

Team from: C. Holliday (Captain), T. Abbott, R. Barnes, O. Blackwell, H. Davies, J. Davis, E. Forster, J. Fox, J. Freeman, B. Frost, R. Histed, D. Hughes, A. Jarrett, A. Morton, C. Perry, J. Shenton, O. Standley, J. Starkey, E. Turvill, D. Williams.



U13 XV match v Oakley Hall.

### U13 XV

The season started off with only a few people knowing much about rugby, and in the first few weeks of term we had our first match. This showed that we needed much more practice.

After two matches, though, we got our act together. We won three matches in a row, and were very confident. Our sixth match was played as a mixed U14 and U13 side against Moultsford, and they were a very good team.

The last match of the season was played under very difficult weather conditions, but we pulled through and won the game.

I think the team became better and better as the season went on. Everyone in the team was really committed, and the results show that, on the whole, we played well.

JOHN SHENTON

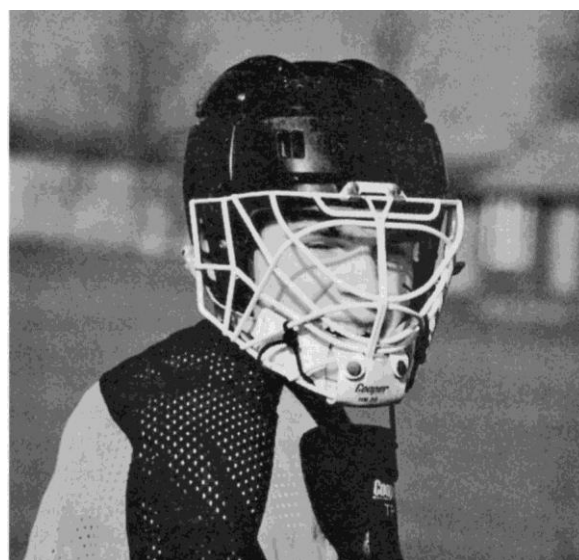
Played 7; Won 4; Lost 3; Points for 73; Points against 127.

v Oakley Hall School (A)	Lost	0-50
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	5-33
v Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	29-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	5-0
v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	19-7
v Moultsford School (H)	Lost	0-37
v Oakley Hall School (H)	Won	15-0

Team from: J. Shenton (Captain), T. Berry, B. Butler, E. Compton, T. Gilbert, J. Pelly, J. Starkey, P. Webb, L. Barton, T. Day, E. Farnsworth, C. Garcia, O. Jeffcott, D. Monk, D. Newby, A. Sage, W. Warrington, M. Williams.

## Hockey

This sport is concerned with improving personal skill, encouraging co-operation and understanding within a team of eleven or more players, accepting umpires' decisions, whether good or bad, learning from mistakes, enjoying the game, looking the part (more numbered shirts), entertaining the opposition and having a good tea. I believe that we succeeded in these areas most of the time, largely owing to the dedication of players and coaches alike. In the case of Rendcomb playing fields there is another factor, the weather, as our hardy band of spectators will confirm, but they say it is worth it for the tea!



Stephen Jones.

We continue to use the Royal Agricultural College's Astroturf pitch on Mondays and Thursdays, and a change in the juniors' games days has enabled them to learn and practise their skills on this true surface. Although some of our eight grass pitches on Top Field suffer from rugby played in the previous term, many visitors have commented on their quality and, of course, the vista which we sometimes take for granted. Our thanks must go to the groundsmen, David Essenhigh, David Mead and their pupil helpers, for their hard work throughout a season in which there were few cancellations.

Ten teams were run on a regular basis, with girls from Forms 1, 2 and 3 involved for the *last* time; all girls will play hockey in the Christmas term in future. The occasional mixed senior fixture, a 5th XI match and U16 and junior girls' matches added variety and were made possible by the flexibility of our visiting games teachers, Mrs Gilchrist and Mr Chase, and by the help of our PE assistant, Mr Hardie.

Unfortunately we were without Mr Holt this season, following his retirement from the game. He had coached hockey here for 25 years and was responsible for the general administration as well as the 1st XI for a significant period.

After more than 30 years of service to hockey at Rendcomb, Mr White decided to make this his last year, and he coached the U15 'B' squad with his usual enthusiasm. He will be a great loss, but I know that he will continue to contribute from the side-line as a spectator of his beloved sport.

Amongst the pupils the standard of play was high, and this was coupled in most cases with great determination. The senior XIs had a most successful season, winning more than half of their matches and scoring nearly 80 goals, while the U15 'A' team proved that they could play quality hockey, providing much entertainment for their supporters.

The interest in hockey at Rendcomb is reflected in the turnout for the Old Rendcombian Society fixture. This year three men's matches took place, and a fourth was prevented only by the local clubs' playing on the same day.

Harvey Davies and Jonathan Davis were selected to play for Gloucestershire U14 sides, and the former deserves particular congratulation for captaining winning 'B' sides on several occasions.

C. J. W.

Overall record: Played 83; Cancelled 6; Won 34; Drew 9; Lost 40; Goals for 148; Goals against 164.

## 1st XI

The season has been illuminated by skill in abundance, as a generation which has played and practised much of its hockey on Astroturf reaches the top of the school. I did question in last year's report, however, whether the new generation would be able to match the vast commitment and physical energy displayed by their predecessors. This season we did struggle at times to cover the ground, make things difficult for the opposition and win sufficient possession to make full use of our skill.

Undoubtedly more games should have been won; this year we were clearly superior to Cheltenham College's 2nd XI, and towards the end of the encounter with Dean Close we began to dominate and should have secured at least a draw, but in both games we failed to take our chances. Other games were less creative, and the eleven were at their most lethargic and disappointing against King's, Gloucester. The season ended on a high note, however, with good performances against the Old Rendcombians and Cirencester Hockey Club, to follow earlier wins in the first match against King's, Gloucester, and against Christ's, Brecon.

Christopher Lawton showed outstanding ability at centre-half, although he still lacks the vision for the final pass. He captained the side by example, and for much of the time his contribution was immense, reflecting a greater degree of self-discipline than I had dared to expect. He can be proud of his achievements for the 1st XI over three seasons.

Joan Essenhigh

My thanks, as ever, are due to Chris Wood for his patient and wonderfully efficient administration and to David Essenhigh for his pitches, alas little used by the 1st XI. I must be a lone voice on the hockey circuit lamenting the disappearance of proper grass at the top levels of the game.

H. M.

Stephen Jones narrowly gained selection as goalkeeper at the start of the season and held his place by some fine performances and splendid reaction saves. The only way to describe our left-back, Itseng Kwelagobe, is 'very solid', and his presence was enough to deter most attackers, once they had experienced his tough tackling and hard hitting. Chris Walmsley at right-back was also an outstanding tackler, and he made an impressive debut in the team. At half-back the skill and positional sense of the senior professional, Robert Sage, was complemented by the fierce competitiveness of Stephen Amey.

In our flexible midfield pattern of play Julian Wilkie's ability to carve openings in the opposition's defence was balanced by Mike Smith's ball-control



**Frost stopped play!**



**Chris Lawton.**

and unhurried distribution.

On the wing John Morgan constructed many surging attacks down the right, while Stephen Roney's amazing wind-up to hit the ball managed to deliver some stunning crosses. Patrick Boydell played all the positions in the forward line, proving his versatility and effectiveness. Kai Thomas at centre-forward at last began to score goals, some of them outstanding, while laying on a mass of chances for others.

CHRISTOPHER LAWTON

Played 10; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 4; Goals for 15; Goals against 14.

✓ Cheltenham HC (H)	Drew	3-3
✓ Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	Lost	0-1
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-0
✓ Christ's College, Brecon (A)	Won	2-0
✓ Kingswood School (A)	Lost	1-2
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-1
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	2-2
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Drew	2-2
✓ Cirencester HC (A)	Lost	2-3
✓ Bournside School (A)	Won	1-0*

\*Rendcomb 6A XI

Team from: C. Lawton (Captain), S. Amey, P. Boydell, S. Jones, I. Kwelagobe, G. Monteith, J. Moore, J. Morgan, S. Roney, R. Sage, M. Smith, K. Thomas, I. Thompson, C. Walmsley, J. Wilkie.

## 2nd XI

*A season of high hopes and extensive fruitfulness*

At first sight the boys' game looked to have potential, and even wind-lashed January afternoons on the Astroturf in Cirencester held out the promise of some reward. With so many good players competing for good places in the 1st XI, the 2nd XI ought to have a good season, if only a good team could be jelled together.

Not only were they to be successful, they also played excellent team hockey with a *panache*, style and good humour that actually magnified their personal skills.

The first, crucial, match against a strong Cheltenham College side saw us record a deserved win in a tight encounter, our new system of play and sweeper working remarkably well. Nicholas Carmichael sharply took the vital goal after some persistent work by Alister Harris, while at the other end Francis Newcombe in goal bravely thwarted their increasingly desperate efforts. It was a particularly satisfactory result, considering that we lost 1-6 last year.

A visit to Colston's saw a journey-weary team 0-2 down after five minutes. However, the team woke up and applied some pressure, and some slick short-corner moves from Ian Thompson brought us level. In the second half Graham Monteith in particular kept their midfielder quiet, and Steven Croft smashed in the winning goal from the back of the 'D' to clinch a well deserved comeback victory.

When King's, Gloucester, visited Rendcomb our confidence was high: they struggled on our grass, and we struggled to hit numerous goal-scoring chances into the net. Dominance and excellent build-up play was eventually rewarded with goals from James Moore and Nicholas Carmichael.

The frustrations of the previous match were certainly resolved in the next two games, as we demolished a potentially strong side from Christ's, Brecon, and then dismissed Kingswood with some ease. Only 1-0 up at half-time against Christ's, we put in a blistering second-half display; fast, incisive passing and some immaculate finishing saw us record a 6-0 win and play our best hockey of the term. Goals were being scored by intelligent teamwork, James Moore often using his experience to get in behind defenders, while in our defence Adam Crawford-Taylor was quietly efficient, Francis Barton improving as he developed his timing, and Ian Thompson a skilful and adventurous full-back. The system proved even more effective against Kingswood, their defence being constantly cut to pieces by Chris Jarrett and, especially, James Moore, who also scored some magnificent goals; one thumping volley from the back of the 'D' had the goal-keeper diving out of the way!

Back to earth with a bump! In this case back to the Astroturf at Dean Close; we suffered from our recent lack of astro practice and were quickly 0-3 down. A strong second-half fight-back, with Graham Monteith to the fore, saw us regain our pride, but not quite enough to rescue the match. Our bitterly disappointed captain ultimately blamed the team coach, who was in bed with flu!

The return with King's, this time on their Astroturf, saw us again winning matches but failing to link or pass with quite our previous effectiveness. Only in the second half did a series of inspired passes between James Moore and Chris Jarrett lift the team and produce the winning goal.



A difficult game followed, against a powerful OR team and, although we created numerous chances, they were frustratingly missed, and only in the second half, after a gentle reminder of first principles, did we really take a grip of the match. Steven Croft was physically and verbally energetic and, as the OR team was increasingly outplayed, the 2nd XI really started to show the style that had made for such a fine season.

A successful blend had been worked between experienced sixth-formers and youthful fifth-formers, and all those who played made considerable contributions. Graham Monteith was a remarkably cool and technically proficient captain and, with James Moore's effective use of his experience and fitness, the team always had a positive and attacking flavour. This meant that our defence often had to be heroic, but the best form of defence is attack, and one should never be frightened of failure, always be positive!

M. S. G.

✓ Cheltenham College 3rd XI (H)	Won	1-0
✓ Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Won	3-2
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-0
✓ Christ's College, Brecon (H)	Won	6-0
✓ Kingswood School (A)	Won	7-0
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	2-3
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	1-0
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Won	2-0

Team from: G. Monteith (Captain), N. Carmichael (Vice-Captain), F. Newcombe, A. Tibbs, A. Harris, J. Moore, C. Jarrett, S. Croft, A. Crawford-Taylor, I. Thompson, F. Barton, R. Witchell, L. Freeman.

### 3rd XI

It was a very successful season: the weather was kind, with no matches cancelled, and we played some good hockey and enjoyed ourselves. The side always tried to attack, and all the forwards scored during the season.

Nick Barton proved once again to be a very good captain and always led by example. Andrew Martin had an excellent come-back season in goal, never once letting the side down. William Brix and Matthew Pentney were a very good pair of full-backs: no forward had an easy time against them.

In the middle of the field Christian Millard, James Fairbank, Chris Mackinnon and Richard Witchell always worked hard, fetching and carrying with great skill.

The front five, Simon Lee, Nicholas Pollard, Mark Wilks, Nick Barton and Chris Oliver were always a handful for any defence.

Thanks must go to everyone who played, and to the 4th XI, who gave everything in practices. It was a very enjoyable season.

D. E.

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 2.

Team From: N. Barton (Captain), N. Pollard, A. Martin, M. Pentney, M. Wilks, M. Adams, L. White, B. Renow-Clarke, W. Brix, S. Lee, S. Freeman, H. Willmott, R. Witchell, J. Fairbank, P. Price.

### 4th XI

This season saw both the usual enjoyable aspects of the game and a team spirit that should be commended. All the players were prepared to give of their best to make for an entertaining game, providing fiercer competition



1st XI v The Old Rendcombian Society.

to all challenges. Smiles were always lurking behind grimaces and readily emerged at frequent intervals. Both losses were by narrow margins, and the match against Dean Close was particularly impressive, since few of our players had experienced the Astroturf game before this occasion. It was disappointing to have the Old Rendcombians' match cancelled at the end of the season, but the consolation was that the 4th XI was guaranteed a winning season.

Various individual performances contributed significantly to the season's success. George Langlands in goal was effective, if somewhat dangerous; Christopher Mackinnon often shocked the opposition by striking the ball with a vehemence which his size would not seem to permit. Craig Marcham worked hard to convince the team that he was making an effort, whilst Philip Price demonstrated considerable skill on the left in complicated passing movements with the promising Ben Renow-Clarke. Paul Bigg-Wither played with character and Fred Ingham scored goals in style. Overall, the team co-ordinated very well, and all the players felt comfortable as a team. I would like to thank the players for their willingness to produce an animated and profitable game, and David Essenhigh and Duncan Hardie for some vigorous coaching and their ability to appreciate the humorous side of the game. I am sure that the 4th XI will continue to involve itself in hockey in the year and that higher teams will benefit from their game.

FRED INGHAM

Played 5; Won 3; Lost 2; Goals for 16; Goals against 1

✓ Cheltenham College (H)	Won	3-2
✓ The King's school, Gloucester (A)	Won	4-3
✓ Kingswood School (A)	Won	8-0
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-3
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	0-1

Team from: F. Ingham (Captain), P. Price, H. Willmott, A. Christie, G. Langlands, P. Bigg-Wither, C. Mackinnon, J. Fairbank, C. Marcham, B. Renow-Clarke, L. White, D. Elliott.

## Senior Girls' XI

The senior girls played hockey in the Christmas term and had the benefit of being coached by three of the boys' coaches, namely Messrs Essenhigh, Morgan and Wood. Although they were slow to compete for the ball at times, several girls displayed considerable skill, especially Georgina Buck, Lucy Peters and Imogen Cox, and many others improved rapidly. Susie Fletcher proved to be a reliable goal-keeper, and she thwarted the opposition on many occasions. At the dinner held at the *Hare and Hounds* farewell was said to Julia Walters, who dealt with the administrative aspects of girls' hockey.

Played 11; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 6; Goals for 8; Goals against 14.

✓ Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	4-0
✓ St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Lost	0-1
✓ The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Lost	0-2
✓ Westonbirt School (A)	Drew	0-0
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	0-0
✓ St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	0-2
✓ Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	1-0
✓ Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	1-5
✓ Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	2-0
✓ The Cotswold School (H)	Lost	0-2
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	0-2

Team from: K. Bennett, G. Buck and R. Knightly-Brown (Captains), P. Parsons, H. Willcocks, H. Wykeham, C. Edwards, S. Fletcher, H. Gowers, A. Iles, S. Lucas, L. Peters, G. Choudhury, T. Eylmann, I. Cox, P. Smith, V. Dühmke.

## U16 XI

Two matches were played at the end of term, reuniting the Fifth Form as a team. A mixture of levels blended together exceptionally well and, with Mike Smith as captain and midfield linchpin, the whole team played as an effective unit. William Brix and Chris Walmsley used different approaches in defence but proved highly

Sinclair field, scene of the girls' hockey.

P.J. Sudbury



reliable, and up front Nicholas Carmichael and Alister Harris continued their good understanding. Stephen Amey was formidable in midfield and made a particularly notable contribution to the first match.

There was some excellent, stylish play in two very close matches, and the boys showed great potential for the future.

M. S. G.

v King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Won	2-0
v The Crypt School (H)	Won	3-0

Team: M. Smith (Captain), F. Newcombe, C. Walmsley, W. Brix, S. Amey, R. Witchell, A. Harris, S. Lee, N. Carmichael, L. Freeman, J. Fairbank.

## U15 'A' XI

The considerable success which has been achieved this season has been based on a willingness to listen, to train hard and to support each other. The resulting awakening of confidence in the side has been heartening to witness.

Despite tactical protestations by the coach that the team was facing Cheltenham College 'B' XI as expected, it was clear to all that the opposition was in fact the College's very talented 'A' team. However, disciplined and committed defence kept the score to 0-0 at half-time. An opportunist goal, deflected by Andrew Donovan, kept the scores even at 1-1 until ten minutes from the end. That the losing score was only 3-1 against a fine side was a testament to the character of the Rendcomb XI.

The self-belief was becoming clearly discernible when the team turned a 5-0 defeat from the season before into a final scoreline of 1-1 against Colston's. In fact, a Rendcomb win would not have been an unfair reflection of a hard-fought match. An authoritative 4-0 win followed, against Oxstall's. The pick of the goals was William Brittain-Jones's scoring direct from a short corner.

The side dominated the match against Christ's, Brecon, but it took the virtuoso skill of Chris Baker to beat three players and place the ball past a good goalkeeper to open the scoring late in the second half. Two more goals by Andrew Donovan showed him to be a centre-forward of undoubted ability. A competitive game against Wycliffe again saw the centre-forward score, for the sixth time in five successive matches - quite a record!

However, strong opposition played well to beat the side in the next two matches. Much commitment, though, was shown against King's, Gloucester, and the team was deservedly 1-1 at half-time. Without the formidable defence of William Brittain-Jones, injured and consigned to the left wing, the side was overstretched in the circle on two occasions in the second half, despite great discipline from the captain, Charles Webb, playing in the unaccustomed position of centre-back.

A lesser group of players might have let their final

game slip, but fiery determination saw them finish the season with a fine victory over the King's, Worcester, side. Adam Hawkins in goal made, as he had in several matches, some striking and crucial reflex saves. A Baker penalty stroke and a Brittain-Jones short-corner blast finished the season in memorable style.

Charles Webb led the side with increasing authority and was ably supported by all the team, in particular Adam Knight at sweeper and Charlie Barton at inside- right. This was one of the most enjoyable seasons I have had, and my thanks go to the whole team, who played with good humour and application at all times.

J. P. W.

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 16; Goals against 17.

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

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), A. Hawkins, A. King, W. Brittain-Jones, J. de Lisle Wells, C. Baker, R. Witchell, M. Garcia, C. Barton, A. Donovan, M. Hall, C. Allen, A. Law.

## U15 B' XI

The season has been a mixture of complete disaster and spectacular success, not necessarily evident in the results. The team was totally outplayed by Cheltenham College 'C' in their first match. Against Colston's they were 0-5 down at half-time; suddenly they found inspiration and dominated the second half, scoring three goals and playing good hockey.

This spirit prevailed in the matches against Kingswood and Dean Close; the team played a fast game, stopping and passing the ball well and impressing spectators with their enthusiasm and skill. For some inexplicable reason, certainly not lack of determination, the same flair deserted them in the last two frustrating games.

The group has been exceptionally loyal and eager to improve; practices have been valuable, especially the six-a-side games in which they improved their passing and speed. They should all make useful members of senior teams; so perhaps it is invidious to single out individuals from such a well-knit group, but Charles Allen, Angus Law, Robert Arnold and James Emerson show particular promise. I am grateful to Charles Allen and James Emerson for captaining the team.

I hope they have enjoyed the last two seasons as much as I have; they have been a splendid group to take, friendly, hard-working and co-operative - and, for me, a memorable finale!

W. J. D. W

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5; Goals for 10; Goals against 20.

v Cheltenham College 'C' XI (A)	Lost	0-7
v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Lost	3-6
v Kingswood School (H)	Won	5-1
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-1
v Cheltenham College 'D' XI (H)	Lost	2-3
v The Crypt School (H)	Lost	0-2

Team from: C. Allen (Captain), J. Emerson (Captain), S. Gillott, A. Law, I. Cox, S. Taylor, J. Smith, J. Graham, A. Perrin, N. Nicholson, T. Shaw, A. Davanzo, J. de Lisle Wells.

### U14 XIs

Unfortunately, the statistics fail to reflect accurately the performances for both of the teams this season; though the 'A' XI wins did not quite balance the defeats, two probable victories were missed by the cancellation of two matches, while most of the 'B' games were more closely contested than the scores suggest.

The usual problem of adverse weather in the first half of the season dramatically reduced practice time 'up Top' and also meant

prolonged positional experimentation. Consequently, early match performances by the 'A' team. Lacked balance and flow, though the 'B's started with a real bang against a weaker than usual Cheltenham College 'C' team, that match proving to be their only victory of the season.

Our high hopes of success for the 'A's were realised only to a degree; too often the early wide ball was not released, the aggressive first-time shot at goal was not made or the defence when under pressure were too slow to clear the ball. These problems led to clear chances of victory frustratingly ending up as defeats, as in the Dean Close and King Edward's matches, though the latter team had the enormous added advantage of playing on their own Astro pitch (oh for a rich and generous parent or OR to come to our rescue!).

The 'B's suffered similarly from a lack of real oomph in both attack and defence, while the mid-field tended to allow the opposition to dominate, although in fairness it must be said that the teams they played were stronger and more skilful than the usual 'B' standard.

Nevertheless, we were both impressed with the overall improvement in skill, understanding and knowledge of the game exhibited by all players in the group as the season progressed. Similarly, their attitude was excellent, keen to learn, competitive, ever hard-

working and never losing sight of the all-important enjoyment factor.

There are too many noteworthy individuals to mention by name, though we would like to highlight a few. First, our thanks to Harvey Davies, who as skipper of the 'A' XI was efficient and totally reliable off the pitch, while in both practices and matches he was a committed and skilful player, qualities which, added to his calmness and knowledge of the game, made him the perfect captain.

Equally, Ollie Blackwell, as captain of the 'B's, was always positive and competitive and led by example. Special mention must be made of the goal-keepers, Toby Abbott and Luke Weston, who were of such similar merit that they played alternate games for the 'A's and 'B's, and without doubt their speed, ability and sheer courage saved both sides on many

occasions. The honour of 'Most Valuable Player' was shared by Tim Hill, a tremendously skilful, aware and quietly influential player, right-winger Jonathan Davis, whose speed and stickwork was dazzling, and Rupert Webb, a tough but skilful and hard-working performer.

'Most Improved Player' honour, again shared, has to go to Tristan Sharman and Nicholas Ridley, whose keenness to learn and overall development of skills and application was quite exceptional and helped to make them invaluable members of the squad.

There is clearly plenty of potential in this group, and we have no doubt that, having played together for a season, they will come through strongly next year. Our thanks go to all the players in the squad for such an enjoyable term, not forgetting the numerous anxious parents whose frequent touch-line support was greatly appreciated.

M. J. N.  
M. C.

### 'A' XI

Played 7; Won 3; Lost 4; Goals for 10; Goals against 15.

v Cheltenham College 'B' XI (A)	Lost	0-4
v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Won	2-0
v King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Lost	0-3
v Christ College, Brecon (H)	Won	3-1
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	1-5
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	4-1

Team from: H. Davies (Captain), R. Webb (Vice-Captain), T. Abbott, O. Blackwell, J. Davis, P. de Havilland-Hall, J. Gibbs, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Holliday, J. Keith, S. Maylott, N. Ridley, C. Scarth, T. Sharman, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, E. Turvill, L. Weston.





## B'XI

Played 5; Won 1; Lost 4; Goals for 9; Goals against 14.

v Cheltenham College 'C' XI (A)	Won	6-2
v King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Lost	1-2
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	2-5
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-2
v The Crypt School 'A' XI (H)	Lost	0-3

Team from: O. Blackwell (Captain), T. Abbott, P. de Havilland-Hall, J. Freeman, J. Garland, R. Histed, C. Holliday, J. Keith, J. Pearce, C. Perry, N. Ridley, T. Sharman, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, E. Turvill.

## Junior Hockey

The junior boys and girls worked hard in the first few weeks to improve their skills, and the reverse stick technique came quickly to most of them. They particularly enjoyed their visits to the Astroturf in Cirencester, which allowed them to practise penalty comers and other set pieces with confidence. We were fortunate to have three dynamic goal-keepers who displayed fearless determination at all times, Tom Gilbert, Ben Butler and Nellie Abbott. I am particularly grateful to Joan Newby and Irene Gilchrist for helping so enthusiastically with coaching and matches.

## U13 'A' XI

Over half the side were from the first year, so it was bound to take time for the level of skill to allow slick passing under all conditions. In the early matches support play was lacking, and the forwards did not keep the ball moving to upset the opposing defence.

Fortunately Theo Berry and John Shenton proved to be very solid at the back and they were well supported by Tristan Day, Carlos Garcia and Andrew Sage, all of whom were strong at taking the ball forward, especially Garcia, as was evident in the excellent match at Dean Close. When James Starkey and David Newby, the two main forwards, found the confidence to enter the circle and score eight goals between them, the team was a joy to watch.

This success was, in part, due to excellent service provided by Matthew Williams on the right wing, and he was sorely missed in the match against The Downs, in which the 4-3-3 formation was less effective. These players and others, such as Sebastian Bagnall and William Warrington, have a great deal of potential for the future.

C. J. W.

Played 8; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 5; Goals for 11; Goals against 18.

v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Lost	0-6
v The Elms School 2nd XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v Christ College, Brecon (H)	Lost	0-2
v Oakley Hall School (A)	Drew	1-1
v Dean Close Junior School 2nd XI (A)	Drew	0-0
v Cheltenham Coll. Jun. Sch. 4th XI (H)	Lost	3-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	6-0
v The Downs School (H)	Lost	1-4

Team from: T. Berry (Captain), J. Starkey, T. Gilbert, J. Shenton, N. Stanfield, C. Garcia, D. Newby, A. Sage, W. Warrington, T. Day, S. Bagnall, M. Williams, L. Donovan, B. Butler, P. Webb.



Cornish Coastline.

## U13 'B' XI

The commitment, enthusiasm and sheer effort shown by this group, both in practice and in matches, unfortunately is not reflected in their results. The members of the squad were eager to learn and to improve their skills, but more importantly, as the season progressed they encouraged each other to play their best as a team.

They played well in all their matches. The game against Cheltenham College was a particularly good contest, with both sides playing some impressive hockey and providing plenty of excitement for the spectators, but the match of the season had to be their final performance of the term, against the Downs School. It was a marvellous encounter with end-to-end action, where all the skill, energy and tenacity of the Rendcombians revealed themselves and, along with some sturdy defensive work and some well-taken goals, enabled the team to scrape home. What a way to end the season!

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the squad, especially Philip Webb and Edmond Compton, who, as captain and vice-captain respectively, led by example and guided their players so admirably.

J. M. N.

Played 8; Won 2; Lost 6; Goals for 11; Goals against 23.

v Colston's School (H)	Lost	0-5
v The Elms School 3rd XI (H)	Lost	1-5
v Chelt. Coll. Junior Sch. 5th XI (A)	Won	6-3
v Oakley Hall School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Dean Close Junior Sch. 3rd XI (A)	Lost	0-4
v Chelt. Coll. Junior Sch. 5th XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v The Crypt School (H)	Lost	1-2
v The Downs School (H)	Won	3-1

Team from: P. Webb (Captain), E. Compton (Vice-Captain), M. Abbott, L. Barton, B. Boughton, B. Butler, B. Cox, L. Donovan, S. Donovan, E. Farnsworth, O. Jeffcott, B. McKelvie, D. Monk, T. Sleggs, S. Todd, C. Webb.

## U13 Girls

It was good that the junior girls had two opportunities to play hockey together, as next season they will not be playing in mixed teams. On both occasions they won, reflecting their determination and skill.

C. J. W.

- v Hatherop Castle School (A)
- v Oakley Hall School (A)

Team from: T. Sleggs (Captain), L. Donovan, B. McKelvie, S. Donovan, C. Lee-Woolf, C. Webb, M. Abbott.

**Colin Burden receiving a bat from David Essenhigh on behalf of the cricket staff.**

## Cricket

Bear with me while I reminisce. 31 seasons have come and gone. The Rendcomb cricket scene has changed a great deal since I came in 1963. The College was still very small - only 98 boys. There were three squares, three bags of cricket kit, three cricket staff and a part-time groundsman. Teas were served in the old thatched pavilion, transported to Top by boys on a handcart via the village road.

David Essenhigh's long association with Rendcomb cricket began in the spring of 1969, when he was appointed groundsman and cricket coach. In 1970 the present pavilion was built, and in 1971 the playing area between it and the Wilderness was levelled and seeded. Those at Rendcomb during that period remember the long hours of stone-picking that followed!

In the 1975 season the 1st XI lost its record of 32 unbeaten matches against Cheltenham Grammar School. In the 80's three families made major contributions to Rendcomb cricket: the Brealys (4 players), Webbs (3) and Healeys (2). During this period many Rendcombians represented Gloucestershire and the West of England Schools.

In the 1983 season seven centuries were scored by the 1st XI (G. Brealy 4, D. Webb 3), Ian Bishop took 50 wickets and went on to open the bowling for English Schools. 1985 saw Landage levelled and seeded; this provided an excellent area for junior games. John Carroll gained a blue at Cambridge in '92, '93 and '94.

Numerous Gloucestershire Schools' Trials and county matches have been held at Rendcomb. Jack Russell and Sid Lawrence are names that come to mind. In '91 and '92 we hosted one-day Internationals between England U14 and Welsh U15 XIs.

What shall I remember of the 1994 season? The 1st XI's defeat of a strong Pate's XI - for the second year running; Charles Barton's 103 not out against Kingham.

The U15 XI's getting to the final of the South Gloucestershire Cricket League; Harvey Davies's prolific scoring for the U14 and U15 league sides; the Barton family's (3) making their mark on Rendcomb cricket at the beginning of the 90s; taking a talented



1st form group and wondering what sort of XI they will produce at the start of the second millennium...

Thanks from staff, pupils, parents and visitors must go to our three tea-ladies, Penny Wood, Julie Rogers and Judith Hunt, for all their hard work. I should like to thank the nine cricket staff for their support, hard work and willing participation, and David Essenhigh and David Mead for producing such good wickets and grounds during my four years as master-in-charge.

I hope my successor, John Watson, will enjoy Rendcomb cricket and its magnificent surroundings as much as I have.

C. C. B.

## 1st XI

I really enjoyed the cricket season this year. Itseng Kwelagobe was an excellent captain, encouraging everyone to greater effort.

Francis Barton came of age and batted soundly. Chris Lawton showed us what a good all-round player he is.

Chris Jarrett, Ian Thompson, Francis Newcombe, James Fairbank, Freddie Ingham and Mark Wilks all had their moments. Patrick Bordell, Mat Morris and John Morgan all bowled well and supported Itseng Kwelagobe and Chris Lawton.

Harvey Davis, at under fourteen, played two matches for the 1st XI: he shows great promise and should play for the XI next year.

I must thank Chris King once again for his support and wish him luck in his new job! Thanks go also to the tea-ladies, Penny Wood, Julie and Judy, Joan Essenhigh and to Colin Burden.

Colin is now giving up as cricket master. Thank you, Colin, for all you have done for Rendcomb cricket, and good luck to you and your family in the future.

Lastly, thanks go to all who helped with the scoring, Michael Steen, James Button and the others. After a hard term we are all looking forward to going off to Barbados for two weeks to play cricket!

D. E.

With thoughts about the tour to Barbados lurking in the backs of our minds, the enthusiasm, determination and team spirit that we have shown throughout the season have been exceptional.

I must congratulate and thank my vice-captain, Christopher Lawton, for stepping in as captain when I was away and also for his most valuable contribution both as opening bowler and no 5 batsman.

Congratulations go also to our fifth-form players, Matthew Morris, James Fairbank and Francis Newcombe. Their first full season as members of the 1st XI has been very impressive, and I wish them all the best for next season.

Francis Barton deserves a special mention for his outstanding batting performance this season. I'm sure that he will prove a destructive force against the West Indian attack. Ian Thompson, Chris Jarrett, Freddie Ingham and Patrick Boydell proved that they could always be relied upon when the going was tough, and I wish them the very best for next season.

My thanks go out to Mr Essenhigh, our coach, for his encouragement and also for the time he and David Mead spend in preparing the cricket fields. Thank you, and all the best.

ITSENG KWELAGOBE

Played 11; Won 2; Drew 4; Lost 5.

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 102 (Lawton 47)  
Sir Tomas Rich's 73-3 (Lawton 2-14)

v The Royal Grammar School, Worcester (H) -  
Chesterton Cup - Lost by 6 wickets Rendcomb  
105-6 in 40 overs (Barton 40\*, Morris  
22\*)  
Royal Grammar School 106-4 (Morgan 2-19,  
Lawton 2-23)

v Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 171 runs  
Cheltenham 260-4 decl. (Boydell 3-40)  
Rendcomb 89 (Lawton 28, Barton 21)

v Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 5 wickets  
Rendcomb 149-8 decl. (Barton 56, Jarrett 27,  
Lawton 27)  
Bloxham 153-5 (Boydell 5-41)

v Marling School (H) - Match drawn  
Marling 168-5 (Kwelagobe 2-38, Lawton 2-55)  
Rendcomb 52-3 (Barton 24\*)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 159 (Thompson 30, Newcombe 26)  
King's 82-9 (Lawton 4-20, Kwelagobe 4-28)



Chris King receiving his bat.

- v New College, Swindon (H) - Won by 4 wickets  
New College 132 (Kwelagobe 4-21, Lawton 4-47, Boydell 2-21)  
Rendcomb 133-6 (Lawton 54\*, Barton 23, Kwelagobe 20\*)
- v Barton Peverill College (H) - Lost by 9 wickets  
Rendcomb 158 (Kwelagobe 56, Ingham 52)  
Barton Peverill 159-1
- v Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 1 wicket  
Pate's 111 (Morris 5-47, Kwelagobe 4-21)  
Rendcomb 113-9 (Barton 46, Morgan 21\*)
- v The Old Rendcombian Society (H) - Lost by 88 runs  
OR Society 214-4 (Lawton 2-30)  
Rendcomb 126 (Thompson 36, Barton 29)
- v The Gloucestershire Gipsies (H) - Match drawn  
Gipsies 197-5 (Kwelagobe 3-44)  
Rendcomb 119-7 (Kwelagobe 44\*, Lawton 22\*, Ingham 19)

Team from: I. Kwelagobe (Captain), C. Lawton (Vice-Captain), I. Thompson, C. Jarrett, P. Boydell, F. Barton, M. Wilks, J. Morgan, S. Roney, M. Morris, F. Newcombe, J. Fairbank, F. Ingham, J. Wright, H. Willmott, H. Davies.

### Barbados '94

On 11th July a party of 20 pupils and four staff set off to Barbados to play five cricket matches against young players there. We had an excellent two weeks, with plenty of sun, sand and great cricket.

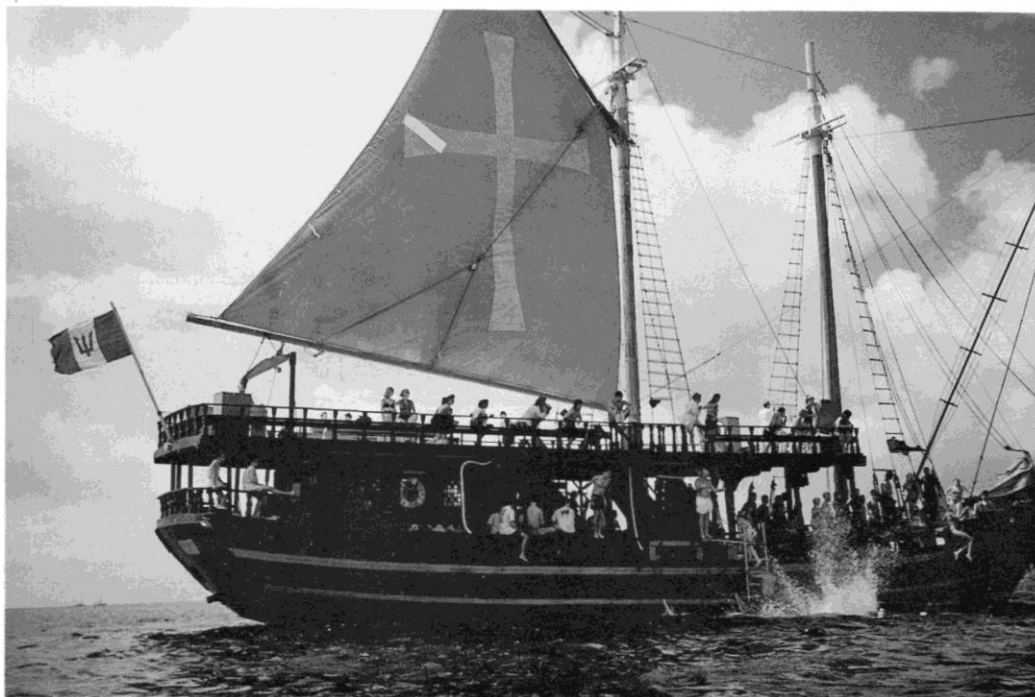


**Itseng Kwelagobe and Chris Lawton inspect the wicket at Queen's College, St. James.**

The highlight for all of us was to win our last match by 63 runs; Chris Lawton bowled superbly, taking six wickets for 21 runs.







**Relaxing on the Jolly Roger.**

Chris Jarrett had taken the quick bowlers on, scoring 48 before being run out; he was well supported by 34 from Itseng Kwelagobe and 24 from Mark Wilks. This game was a wonderful team effort, reflected in the pleasure taken in jumping into the swimming pool on our return to base.

We found the wickets very good, but interesting. The out-fields were at times quite rough to field on, and the wickets were much quicker than those in England: I felt that everyone improved on the tour.

One day we toured the island, seeing the sugar canes, which take two years to grow. We visited Harrison's Cave, a natural phenomenon about a mile long, abounding in stalactites and stalagmites. We saw Flower Forest, a 50-acre area on a hillside, a cross between a botanical garden and a nature trail, and the Chalky Mount Potteries.

On the fun side, we all enjoyed the Jolly Roger Cruise - walking the plank and swimming from the boat - water sports, jet skis, deep-sea fishing and the Atlantis Submarine. We also did a lot of swimming in the sea and in the pool on site.

We found the island, with its magnificent beaches, country roads, historic houses and churches and fields of sugar canes a wonderful place to play cricket. The people were so friendly, always helpful and always smiling.

We all have our memories, but mine must be my visit to the Kensington Oval; it was such a wonderful feeling to be where England beat the West Indies in April.

I would like to thank all the party for the help they gave us, and I forgive them for throwing me - fully clothed - into the swimming pool after we won our last game.

Thanks go also to all the parents for their help, to John and Paula to my wife, Joan and lastly to Gobi for his captain's work, on and off the field.

D. E.

v Foundation (35 overs) - Lost by 44 runs  
Foundation 212-7 (Thompson 3-6, Barton 2-24, Boydell 2-41)  
Rendcomb 168-8 (Kwelagobe 29, Boydell 24\*, Morgan 24\*)

v Queen's College (40 overs) - Lost by 53 runs  
Queen's 167-8 (Kwelagobe 4-25, Lawton 2-24)  
Rendcomb 114-8 (Jarrett 17, Morgan 17\*, Ingham 15\*)



**David Essenhigh rolling the Test wicket at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown.**



**Rendcomb winning at The Grantley Adams School, Christ Church.**

v The Barbados Cricket League U19 XI (40 overs) -  
Lost by 159 runs  
Barbados 238 (Kwelagobe 3-46, Morgan 2-3,  
Barton 2-34)  
Rendcomb 79 (Ingham 13)

v The Grantley Adams Memorial School (40 overs) -  
Won by 63 runs  
Rendcomb 227-6 (Jarrett 48, Kwelagobe 34,  
Wilks 24, Ingham 16)  
Grantley Adams 164 (Lawton 6-21, Kwelagobe 2-34)

Team from: I. Kwelagobe (Captain), I. Thompson, F. Newcombe, F. Barton, C. Jarrett, C. Lawton, M. Wilks, J. Morgan, J. Wright, P. Boydell, F. Ingham, P. Barry, N. Barton.

Supporters: C. Oliver, S. Bartlett, S. Ismail, A. Ronowicz, C. Harrison, S. Fletcher, A. Iles.

Staff: David and Joan Essenhigh, John and Paula Watson and Jessica.

## 2nd XI

The season was an eventful one. We had our ups and downs, but I must credit the team for their all-round performance and determination. Though many of our matches were abandoned owing to the weather, there were still some notable performances.

Our first match, which came only a week after we returned to school, was surprisingly successful. We showed great depth in our batting, Hague Willmott scoring an impressive 21 runs and Nick Barton with a quickly hit 22, memorable for his three sixes in a row.

Our second match, against Bredon 1st XI, showed our strength in batting again, with James Fairbank, who shortly afterwards moved up into the 1st XI, making a steady 30 and Aden Barry daringly scoring 22 not out.

Our bowling developed, with Hague Willmott producing some superb bowling. We were unlucky to come out only with a draw.

Our performance declined as the season drew on, but we did have some peaks. The match against Cheltenham College was played in blazing sunshine; it was a pity that our cricket did not match up to the weather. There was, however, a determined innings of 34 by John Chalk and one of 16 by Richard Witchell, the highest score of his life.

We then made the long, arduous journey to Bloxham. This did not affect all our players, Stephen Amey getting an impressive total of 30 and George Langlands, our ever-vigilant wicket-keeper, reaching his all-time best of 29. Also, Jesse Wright reached a hard-hit 24 not out. The weather unfortunately declined, and Bloxham managed to obtain a decent score on a somewhat wet wicket; I personally know it was a nightmare to bowl on.

The match against Marling was also spoiled by weather. After a good innings in which our runs were shared evenly, we managed to keep their score low with some magnificent fielding by Nick Holt and Lindsay Duff. This was a fine performance all round, and we were again unlucky to come away with only a draw.

Our last match, against King's, Gloucester, got off to a bad start, reaching a score of only 74. We tried our best to turn the match round, with Stephen Roney taking a monstrous catch and Philip Price and Olly Blaydon putting up a momentous struggle in the field, but to no avail; the loss was a *fait accompli*.

The season was a sporadic one, but at least we won every single toss! I thank the team again for their valiant efforts all season.

ALISTER HARRIS

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

v Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Won by 101 runs  
Rendcomb 150-8 decl. (Chalk 30, Barton 22)  
Sir Thomas Rich's 49 (Willmott 3-16)

v Bredon School 1st XI (H) - Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 107-7 decl. (Fairbank 30)  
Bredon 48-8 (Willmott 4-14, Harris 4-20)

v Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 87-9 decl. (Chalk 34)  
Cheltenham 88-3

v Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 131 (Amey 31, Langlands 29)  
Bloxham 135-3

v Marling School (A) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 162-8 decl. (Harris 36, Amey 25,  
Willmott 24, Wright 22)  
Marling 135-9 (Willmott 3-40)

v The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 7  
wickets  
Rendcomb 74 (Harris 30)  
King's 77-3

Team from: A. Harris (Captain), S. Amey, N. Barton,  
A. Barry, O. Blaydon, A. Chalk, G. Langlands, P.  
Price, S. Roney, H. Willmott, R. Witchell, J. Wright,  
N. Holt, L. Duff, J. Fairbank.

## U15 A' XI

This was a very rewarding season, where talents were constantly being discovered and where confidence grew visibly. Intelligent concentration and considered application of advice were the basis for personal and team successes.

Charles Webb led the side with natural authority and enthusiasm. He set fields with understanding and handled his bowlers most effectively. His batting in the early matches gave much confidence to the team and his 4 for 24 against Kingham Hill was a fine piece of leg-spin bowling.

Matthew Hall and Robert Arnold faced the challenge of opening the batting with great character. The former defended stoutly and was ably assisted by his pugnacious partner. Robert's 61 against Crypt showed aggression and skill. He also kept wicket with effective concentration in the final matches.

Charles Barton took full advantage of a winter in the nets and scored a total of 431 runs. His 102 not out against Kingham Hill demonstrated fluent batting off both the back and front foot and was a memorable personal triumph. He also took vital wickets with his bowling.

James de Lisle Wells batted with increasing control and hit the bad ball with fine timing. His 77 against Kingham Hill

demonstrated a full range of shots. I feel he will develop effectively as a bowler in future.

Angus Law developed well and timed the ball with skill. His 20's will, I am sure, become 50's in future years.

Adam King was a dependable opening bowler, taking 19 wickets in all; his accuracy brought many frustrated shots from batsmen. He was unlucky in his batting, but he has the ability to do well.

Charlie Allen performed with enthusiasm and character, both with the bat and the ball. His bowling in the Cup Matches was particularly valuable.

Robin Witchell bowled fast and took 12 wickets. Run-up problems led to some inaccuracy, but with practice he will be a forceful strike bowler in future seasons.

Chris Baker was very unlucky with injuries when wicket-keeping, but showed himself as an athletic fielder when fit. William Brittain-Jones and Adam Hawkins also supported the team with fine fielding. The former also struck the ball with unconventional ferocity!

In the Cup Matches the side had memorable successes and only narrowly lost the final of the Stroud District U15 Schools 20-over competition. Harvey Davies played up a year in this competition and batted with impressive technical skill and judgment. He scored the most runs in the competition, and a typical long innings from him in the final might well have won the match.

Commitment, team spirit and maturity have been the hall-mark of a splendid side. They have maximised their ability, and I would like to thank them for a most satisfying and enjoyable season.

J. P. W.

Played 14; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 7.

v Bredon School (A) - Won by 34 runs  
Rendcomb 114-6 decl. (Barton 25)  
Bredon 80 (King 5-21)

v Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 6 wickets  
Rendcomb 127-8 decl. (Webb 34, Arnold 37\*)  
Cheltenham 128-4



U15 'A' XI with coach, John Watson.

- ✓ Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 9 wickets Rendcomb 82 (de Lisle Wells 22)  
Bloxham 84-1
- ✓ Magdalen College School (H) - Lost by 1 run  
Magdalen 154 (Hall 4-21)  
Rendcomb 153 (Barton 38, Arnold 26, de Lisle Wells 25)
- ✓ Marling School (H) - Match abandoned Rendcomb 179-6 decl. (Barton 54, Webb 45) Marling 58-1
- ✓ Swindon CC (H) - Lost by 8 wickets Rendcomb 129 Swindon 130-2
- ✓ The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn Crypt 189-3 decl Rendcomb 124-5 (Arnold 61)
- ✓ Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 130 runs  
Rendcomb 215-5 (Barton 102\*, de Lisle Wells 77) Kingham 85 (Webb 4-24, Hall 3-8)
- ✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 142 (Barton 41, Arnold 36)  
King's 145-3
- ✓ Pate's Grammar School (A) - lost by 31 runs Pate's 104 (King 5-25)  
Rendcomb 73

### **Stroud District U15 Schools 20-over Competition**

- ✓ Kingshill School (H) - Won by 69 runs  
Rendcomb 147-2 (Barton 78, de Lisle Wells 25)  
Kingshill 78-6
- ✓ Sir William Romney's School (A) - Won by 8 wickets  
Sir William Romney's 68 Rendcomb 69-2 (Davies 20\*)
- ✓ Cirencester Deer Park School (H) - Won by 32 runs  
Rendcomb 133-3 (Davies 47, de Lisle Wells 36\*)  
Deer Park 101-5

### **Semi-Final**

- ✓ Maiden Hill School (H) - Won by 27 runs  
Rendcomb 95-5 (Davies 52\*)  
Maiden Hill 68 (Allen 3-8)

### **Final**

- ✓ Sir William Romney's School (A) - Lost by 24 runs  
Sir William Romney's 96-5 Rendcomb 72

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), M. Hall, R. Arnold, C. Barton, J. de Lisle Wells, A. Law, A. King, C. Allen, C. Baker, R. Witchell, W. Brittain-Jones, A. Hawkins, H. Davies, A. Perrin.

### **U15 B' XI**

This season's fourth-year group were very amenable, and they enjoyed conventional cricket and nets as much as conditioned practices. Their wide range of ability made it difficult at times to coach the potential team players effectively; however, many improved in some way during the season.

The greatest improvements came in the bowling of Manolito Garcia, Charles Allen, Andrew Donovan, Stewart Taylor, and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul. Sadly, too many batsmen did not learn to control their enthusiasm for strokes which gave away wickets when the bowling was good. The exceptions to this were Manolito Garcia, Stewart Taylor and William Hunt, who developed defensive shots during the season.

The team made an excellent start by beating Cheltenham College. Charles Allen, as captain, was a motivator as well as a good all-rounder in his own right, and his personal performance in that first match was an example to the rest.

Predictably and deservedly, he moved up to the 'A' XI, and the captaincy went to James Emerson, who took his role seriously, although he was unable to lead with his batting.

In the later matches the lack of a spin bowler and the poor depth of batting proved to be the downfall of this side. However, there were times when their fielding was outstanding, and Andrew Perrin, Adam Hawkins and Simon Rayburn certainly contributed to this. Nick Nicholson kept wicket most of the season, but in the King's match he demonstrated great fielding skills when he handed over to James Graham.

Thanks are due to the scorers, Colin Morey, Robert Ashby and others.

C. J. W.

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3.

- ✓ Cheltenham College 'C' XI (H) - Won by 8 wickets  
Cheltenham 83 (Allen 7-38)  
Rendcomb 86-2 (Allen 39\*, Nicholson 26\*)
- ✓ Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 103 runs  
Bloxham 141-7 (Allen 6-62)  
Rendcomb 38
- ✓ Bredon School (H) - Match drawn  
Bredon 145-5 decl (Arnold 3-31)  
Rendcomb 72-8
- ✓ Dean Close School (A) - Lost by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 52 Dean Close 54-3



- ✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 100 runs  
King's 186-4 decl.  
Rendcomb 86 (Chaitwatanasirikul 31\*)

Team from: C. Allen (Captain), J. Emerson (Captain), M. Garcia, S. Taylor, A. Donovan, N. Nicholson, J. Graham, W. Hunt, K. Chaitwatanasirikul, A. Perrin, D. Ellison, S. Rayburn, R. Arnold, W. Brittain-Jones, A. Hawkins.

## U14 'A' XI

Our team started the season with the Lords Taverners Cup, and our first match was against a good, well organised Marling team. Marling, after winning the toss, batted. Delighted and encouraged by taking their first four wickets for only 30 runs, which is fairly cheap, we were brought back to earth when their numbers five and six batsmen both got centuries. Although for the first game of the season our bowling was not poor, they made 264 for 4. Harvey Davies and I both got out after making double figures, and we quickly collapsed to 96 all out.

Our next match was against Cheltenham College. This has always been a tough fixture in cricket and in other sports; our batting was not up to scratch, and we lost.

Unfortunately, after the tough opening games rain dampened our enthusiasm, and we missed three matches which we might have won.

One of the highlights of the season was Harvey Davies's amazing concentration, batting when wickets were collapsing all round and finishing with an average of 180.5.



**Harvey Davies receiving a bat for his outstanding average.**

Others were James Gibbs's taking 16 wickets and Sam Maylott's taking 10 wickets and scoring an important 64 runs. Chris Scarth, who kept wicket, concentrated

and spurred on the bowlers in every match. Nicholas Ridley added fun and laughter and kept a smile on our faces in times of need.

Finally, thanks go to our rotating U14 'B' players who made the team complete and tried hard throughout, not forgetting Adam Phillips, who made sure the kit was on the bus and the scoreboard intact.

From me and from the whole team goes 'thank you very much' to Mr Slark. He has taught me more things about being a good captain, and because of this I have enjoyed this season more than ever. He is always calm and always wants to make a game of it when we win the toss and bat.

Looking back on the season, everybody seemed to enjoy the games completely; we were all quite sad when it closed, with some players just beginning to hit form.

ASHLEY TAYLOR

Played 10; Won 1; Drew 3; Lost 6.

- ✓ Marling School (H) - Lost by 168 runs †  
Marling 264-4 (40 overs)  
Rendcomb 96 (35.4 Overs)
- ✓ Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 109 runs  
Cheltenham 156-2 decl.  
Rendcomb 47
- ✓ Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 4 wickets  
Rendcomb 60 Bloxham 61-6 (Gibbs 3-14)
- ✓ Marling School (A) - Lost by 64 runs  
Marling 172 (Maylott 3-4, Ridley 3-61)  
Rendcomb 108 (Davies 53\*)
- ✓ The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn  
Crypt 164-4 decl.  
Rendcomb 82-4 (Davies 46\*)
- ✓ Farmor's School (H) - Won by 6 wickets  
Farmor's 123 (Davies 3-16, Maylott 3-30)  
Rendcomb 124-4 (Davies 68\*, Maylott 24)
- ✓ Kingham Hill School (A) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 132-4 decl. (Davies 54\*, Taylor 30\*, Hill 26)  
Kingham 126-9 (Taylor 4-10, Gibbs 3-38)
- ✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 99 runs  
King's 150-6 decl. (Taylor 3-44)  
Rendcomb 51
- ✓ Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 129-5 decl. (Davies 48, Gibbs 22, Taylor 20\*)  
Pate's 79-2

† Lords Taverners Cup

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

### U14 B' XI

It has been our pleasure to oversee a most enthusiastic squad with no little talent at this level. Bowling and fielding have quite clearly been our strength and, had our batting not been so brittle, it could have been quite a successful season. The highlight was undoubtedly the easy victory over King's, Gloucester, in the last match, when we bowled them out for 55, with Mark Sutton taking six wickets; our reply was 58 for 1.

Our thanks must go to the scorers, as well as the players, for making it such an enjoyable season. We hope that the full potential of these players will be realised at senior level.

J. G. W. / L. J. H.

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3.

Team from: T. Abbott (Captain), P. de Havilland-Hall, J. Davis, J. Freeman, C. Holliday, J. Garland, R. Histed, A. Jarrett, J. Keith, A. Morton, C. Perry, T. Sharman, M. Sutton, E. Turvill, L. Weston, D. Williams, S. Webb (scorer).

### U13 A' XI

Our opening match was against a very strong Marling side. Philip Webb and David Newby were the only batsmen who looked as if they wanted to stay at the crease!

Our next match was against an equally good side, Park School. Only one wicket was taken and, with one opponent getting 63 not out, our bowling was destroyed; our batting also was disappointing, against bowling which was not really of a very high standard.

It appeared that we had had a change of luck when we played a very weak Oakley Hall side. John Shenton, Tristan Day and I took valuable wickets, and we coasted to a very easy win.

Our first of two very close matches was against The Crypt School, who made 118 for 6 declared before tea; none of our bowlers had done particularly well, as it was a very hot day. When we came in to bat after tea, we started off quite well but, without a brilliant 25 scored by James Starkey, we would have lost easily.

We were beginning to think that luck was on our side, especially as James had had more lives than a cat. but we ended up losing by two runs.

Our second close match was against Farmor's School. Our batting had been good, with Tristan Day picking up 28 brilliant runs, and we were eventually bowled out for 103 shortly before tea. Tristan Day and David Newby picked up three good wickets each, but we narrowly lost by three wickets.

The next match, against Kingham Hill, was an easy but convincing win for us. Tristan Day picked up five wickets and earned a match ball.

The last match, against Pate's, was a humiliating defeat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Sykes for coaching us all season and for giving us great support and encouragement.

NICK STANFIELD

Played 7; Won 2; Lost 5.

v Marling School (H) - Lost by 9 wickets

v Park School (A) - Lost by 86 runs

v Oakley Hall School (H) - Won by 9 wickets  
(Stanfield 3-6, Shenton 2-4, Day 2-1)

v The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 2 runs  
(Stanfield 2-28, Day 22)

v Farmor's School (H) - Lost by 3 wickets  
(Day 28, Gilbert 13, Day 3-19, Newby 3-14)

v Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 58 runs  
(Butler 49, Day 24, Stanfield 3-8, Day 5-19)

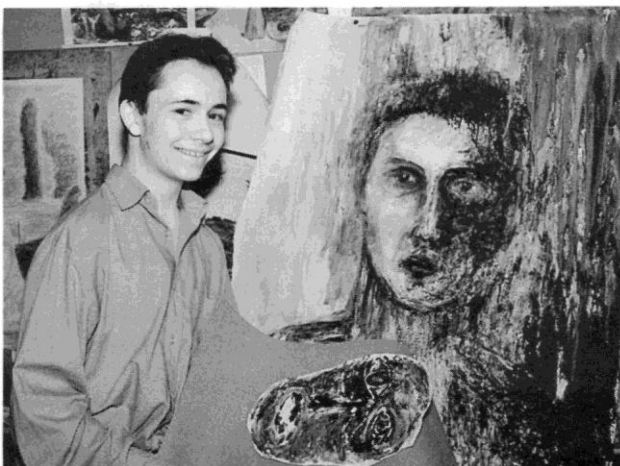
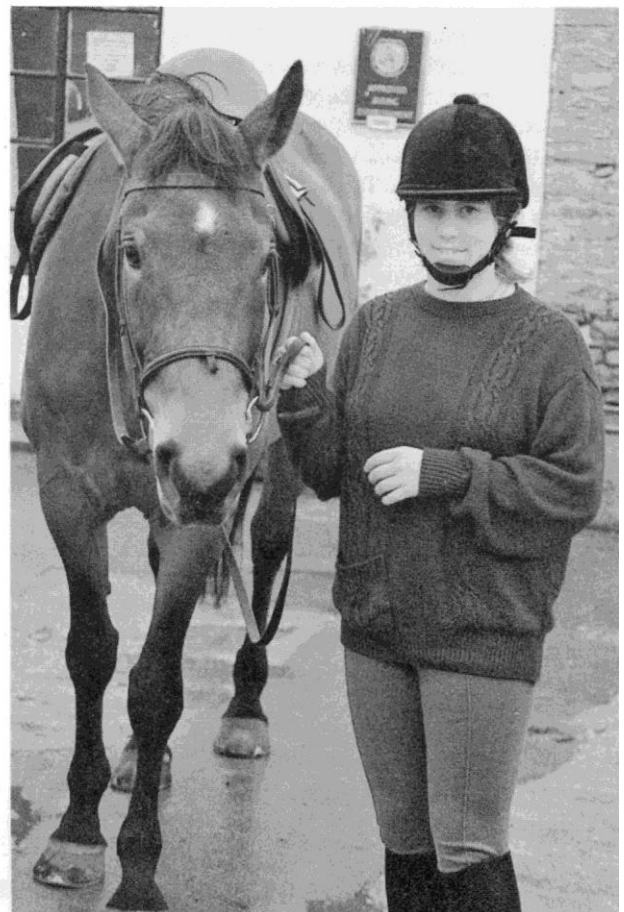
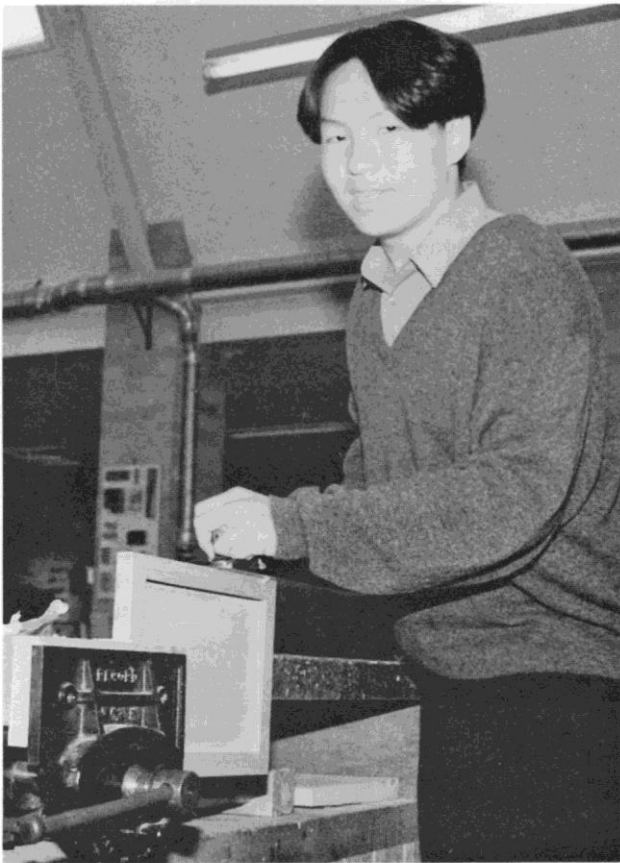
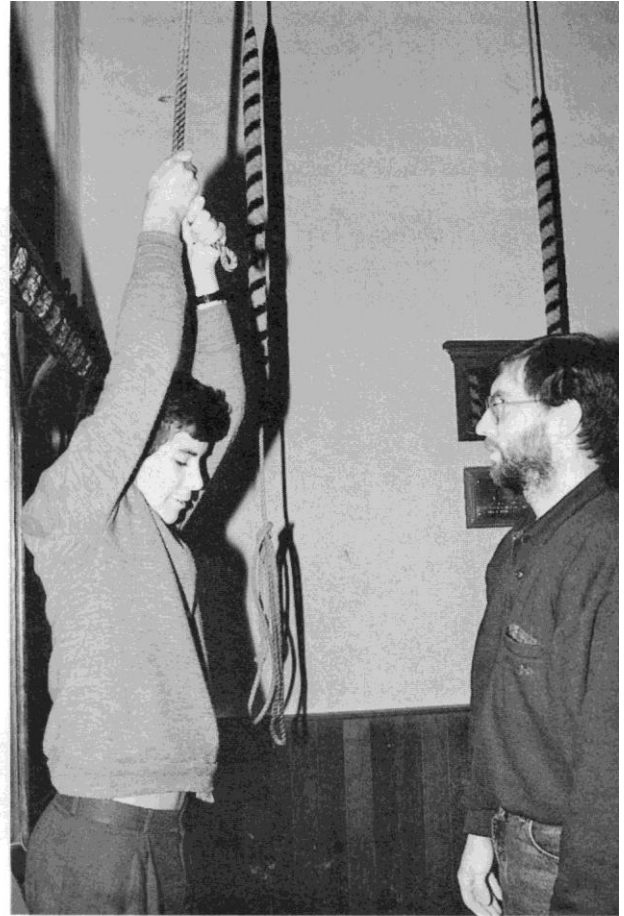
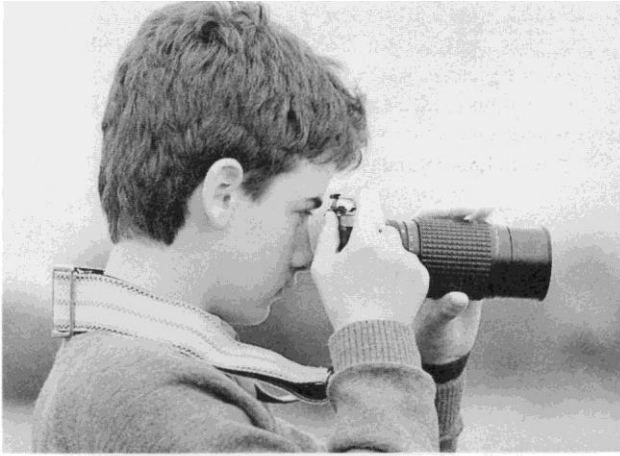
v Pate's Grammar School (H) - lost by 10 wickets

Team from: N. Stanfield (Captain), J. Shenton (Vice-Captain), T. Gilbert, J. Starkey, E. Compton, P. Webb, B. Butler, T. Day, D. Newby, D. Monk, A. Sage, S. Bagnall, L. Barton.



Girls' 1st VI.

### Some Rendcomb Activities



## Boys' Tennis

Keeness was in the air this year, though the 25 boys playing the sport too often had their spirits and gear dampened by May rain. Nevertheless, sufficient practice was possible to enable many individuals to improve their standard conspicuously and pleasurably.



The 1st VI, led by the effervescent Steven Croft, probably had more talent and strength in depth than any Rendcomb team of recent years, and they had a most successful season.

The first match, against a Dauntsey's VI rated their best for at least a decade, was played on unfamiliar grass courts and early in the term, and we were well beaten, though the second pair, Stephen Jones and Mike Smith, did creditably. The 2nd VI very encouragingly gained a draw, with Robert Sage and Julian Wilkie - fit from long-distance running - looking a strong combination in winning all their rubbers.

Next, the local Cirencester club, South Cotswold LTC, were heavily defeated, and then we gained sweet and decisive revenge for last year's narrow defeat by Wycliffe, with both our 1st and 2nd VIs triumphing.

Defeat for a staff side could scarcely, I fear, be called a shock result, while there was another good inter-school victory, over the Cheltenham College 2nd VI. Rain unfortunately washed out the Dean Close fixtures.

The club was greatly strengthened this year by the advent of three new stars, Mike Smith, Benni Körber and Nick Carmichael, by the return of the Prodigal Son, Julian Wilkie, and also by the arrival of Adrian Kress, who would have been a regular 1st VI player in an average year. All these developed their skills and tactical awareness noticeably and gave us the necessary strength in depth to cope with opposition from bigger schools.

Enthusiastic Stephen Jones, benefiting from pre-breakfast runs, was a little more gazelle-like about the court this year, and Steven Croft grew in confidence and was again accurate and very quick in his reactions. A number of others did particularly well in the 2nd VI, who were unbeaten.

On a mid-June Sunday the annual Parent/Pupil

Doubles Tournament was held on the usual automatic handicap basis. There were fewer entries this year, largely owing to the looming presence of sundry public and internal exams, but it was again an enjoyable event and blessed with sunshine. The winning couple were Rupert Webb and his mother; some promising junior talent surfaced, and a £20 cheque was sent to this year's chosen charity, the Sue Ryder Home at Leckhampton. I hope the event attracts more parental support next season: with the handicap system all standards have a chance! Come forward, shrinking violets. At the end of term another pleasant day brought the ORs, led by Matthew Faircloth, to play against the school, with the right blend of social and competitive tennis achieved.

We have been grateful for the considerable help of a new outside coach, Mrs Felicity Blades, and I hope we can make fuller use of her in 1995. Four of the talented 1st VI should be returning - more experienced and muscular - next season, so we can be confident: one of the four is the captain, Steven Croft, whose enthusiastic and competitive approach was of great value.

J. N. H.

### 1st VI

v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	1-8
v South Cotswold LTC (H)	Won	8-1
v Wycliffe College ((H)	Won	6½-2½
v A Staff VI (H)	Won	7-2
v Cheltenham College 2nd VI (H)	Won	6-3
v Mixed Staff (H)	Won	5-4
v Old Rendcombians (H)	Won	7-2

### 2nd VI

v Dauntsey's School (A)	Drew	4½-4½
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won	5-4
v Cheltenham College 3rd VI (H)	Won	5-4

1st VI from: S. Croft (Captain), S. Jones, N. Carmichael, M. Smith, B. Körber, J. Wilkie, R. Sage, A. Kress.

2nd VI from: P. Bigg-Wither (Captain), R. Sage, J. Wilkie, A. Kress, K. Thomas, L. Freeman, P. Marran, M. Brown, G. Somers, S. Lee.



Staff VI.

## Senior Netball

The senior girls learned much from their opening games, against the talented 1st and 2nd teams of Cheltenham College. Our teams played in a pleasant manner in horrible wind and rain on a slippery court and became better as each game progressed. The 2nd Team, especially, deserved more goals to reflect their improvement in the third and fourth quarters. The season continued with a game against Farmor's for our U16 side, and again we were shown some splendid centre-court play and shooting skills by a side which had been playing together for five years.

There was a consequent greater seriousness in training, and gradually the skills improved. Despite snow's covering everything at Rendcomb, we travelled to King's School in Gloucester in a more confident mood. Our new-found enthusiasm shone through, as did the sunshine, giving us our first win by 20 goals to 4. Victoria Dühmke and Rebecca Knightly-Brown played their roles as shooters with great reliability. The centre-court players linked their passes together well, while Georgina Buck and Susie Fletcher proved excellent in defence. Polly Parsons had an outstanding game, controlling the centre-court play and carrying out her duties as captain with great responsibility.

This win set the girls up for an exciting match against St Clotilde's, where they met an unbeaten team. Excellent netball was played by both sides, the lead swinging over to each side throughout the game. With just five minutes to go the score was level at 15 all, but two late goals by the opposition gave a final score of 15-17. The seniors can be proud of their achievement in this game.

We travelled to Wycliffe College for the last game of the season with much-depleted teams, having lost 11 players to various other activities and sickness. Both the 1st and 2nd teams lost their games by large margins, but nearly every senior girl had been given a chance to experience playing in a match during the season. The season ended well, with a much better approach

to and understanding of the game, and this, coupled with the players' continued enthusiasm, should see them doing well in their matches next year.

P. S. W.

## Senior 1st VII

Played 4; Won 1; Lost 3; Goals for 47; Goals against 103.

v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	1-39
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	20-4
v St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	15-17
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	11-43

Team from: P. Parsons (Captain), V. Dühmke, R. Knightly-Brown, A. Ronowicz, S. Lucas, K. Bennett, A. Depauw, G. Buck, S. Fletcher.

## Senior 2nd VII

Played 2; Lost 2; Goals for 9; Goals against 64.

v Cheltenham College (A)	Lost	1-12
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	8-52

Team from: G. Choudhury (Captain), T. Eylman, C. Edwards, C. Harrison, H. Willcocks, H. Gowers, J. Presse, L. Peters, A. Iles.

## U16 VII

Played 1; Lost 1.

v Farmor's School (H)	Lost	5-43
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Team from: G. Choudhury (Captain), F. Gerry, V. Dühmke, R. Renow-Clarke, T. Pelly, S. Collier, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, K. Edgington, P. Smith.

## Junior Netball

The College and the junior girls themselves can justifiably be proud of their successes. Their enthusiasm to learn and their hard work in training were reflected in the results.

The opening game of the season saw the girls excited at the prospect of playing their first game together. They soon settled into a good rhythm of passing, and competent shooting by Janet Pearce and Charlotte Lee-Woolf ensured a win in their first game, 11 goals to 6.

A policy of letting each girl experience match-play saw a different team going to play at Kingham Hill. Notable shooting performances from Beshlie McKelvie and Bianca Mann, with good solid defending from Sophie Collier and Ann Chaiwatanasirikul deservedly gave them their second win, 16 to 2.

Unfortunately, the next three games were cancelled by our opponents, who were struggling to put out netball teams in their hockey season. Our next game was against Farmor's in what was a tense, exciting





game which could have gone either way. The centre court play was equally balanced, but unfortunately our shooters were not on form that day, and Farmor's were the eventual winners at 2-7. The margin would have been more but for the impressive and tireless defensive work by Laura Donovan.

The last match of the term saw a return game against Kingham Hill, in which Tara Sleggs excelled as Goal Attack, with Sophie Collier and Sarah Donovan playing extremely well in defence.

The Christmas term finished with a five-a-side quiz and mini-tournament, which was closely fought by all, with Charlotte Lee-Woolf, Fenella Gerry, Tara Sleggs, Sophie Collier and Charlotte Emerson eventually winning by just one point.

The girls all showed such enthusiasm for the game that three more matches and a tournament were arranged for the Easter term, to run alongside the seniors, who were training that term. The junior teams proved they had not lost their flair by winning a closely contested game against the Cotswold School by 11 goals to 10, with Fenella Gerry shooting particularly

well under pressure.

The U13 Team attended a Junior Netball Tournament in February, gaining valuable experience and being beaten only by the narrowest of margins in three of their games. They showed tremendous character and team spirit to win their last match, finishing fifth overall in their first tournament.

Unfortunately, the last two matches were against very strong teams, playing netball as their main game that term, which showed in the results. The juniors did, however, enjoy playing, with performances from the whole team, especially Bianca Mann and Kelly Reddington in the centre court.

Finally, whilst netball is very much a team game, it does depend on each individual's playing her role, and my congratulations go to all the girls who made the season such a success. Their enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment of the games bodes well for next year.

P. S. W.

Autumn Term: Played 4; Won 3; Lost 1; Goals for 49; Goals against 16.

v Hatherop Castle School	Won	11-6
v Kingham Hill school	Won	16-2
v Farmor's School	Lost	2-7
v Kingham Hill School	Won	20-1

Easter Term: Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Goals for 17; Goals against 72.

v The Cotswold School	Won	11-10
v St Clotilde's Convent School	Lost	2-19
v Wycliffe College	Lost	4-43

Teams from: R. Renow-Clarke (Captain), C. Lee-Woolf, F. Gerry, J. Pearce, K. Edgington, T. Sleggs, S. Collier, H. Nicholls, A. Chaiwatanasirikul, B. McKelvie, B. Mann, L. Donovan, L. Webb, N. Abbott, C. Emerson, S. Peacock, S. Donovan.

## Basketball

A great deal of interest was shown in basketball this year, particularly by the juniors: the Friday activity slot was always heavily over-subscribed, which inevitably reduced practice time. The enthusiasm was paralleled by a considerable improvement in individual skills, both on and off the ball, along with a general all-round appreciation and development of team skills.

A couple of friendly matches were arranged for the seniors, the *Griffins* proving much too strong for a Wycliffe team weakened by injury and a Staff All-Stars side handicapped by old age (the latter are hoping to put on a better show next time, helped by a proposed sponsorship deal with Zimmer/Sanatogen Ltd! ). The Junior *Griffins* played in a friendly match at Wycliffe, a very successful fun event used primarily as a learning experience for both schools. More fixtures, for both teams, are planned for next season, including the *Griffins'* entering the County Boys' Competition.

One major influence this year has been the arrival of Rudi Dühmke, a six-foot-four utility player with the height to dominate the boards and the skill, vision and tactical awareness to be guard and playmaker; Rudi is a real asset to the squad. He is a player of considerable experience, having played in Germany for several very successful teams, including captaining his school and district sides to three county championships, playing for the county side and helping them become National Champions in 1992.

Since arriving at Rendcomb

**Rudi Dühmke.**

he has been a key player for the U18 County Schools team, who were quarter-finalists in the England Cup, and for the U19 County team, the *Gloster Jets*, who were runners-up in the Open County Cup Competition and fifth overall in the National League Championships. On several occasions in these national competitions he has been top scorer and top rebounder. Rudi undoubtedly has a bright future ahead of him; still only a fifth-former, he has two more years at Rendcomb!

M. J. N.

### *Griffins:*

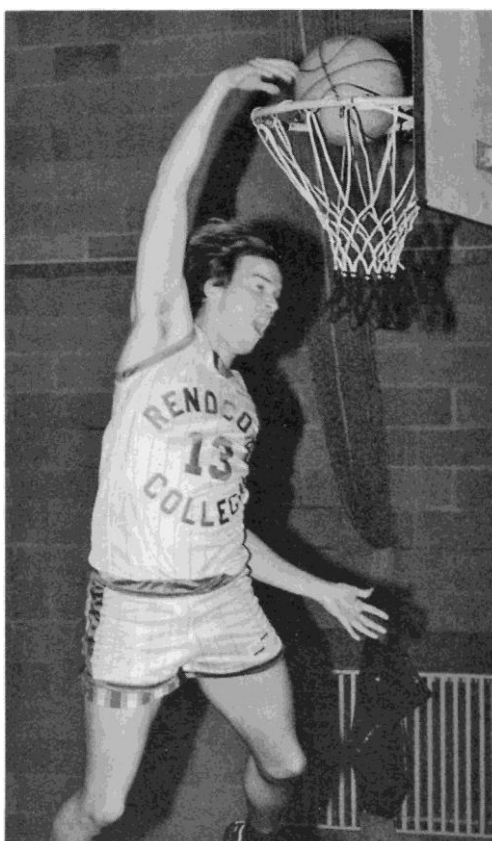
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won 81-42
(R. Dühmke 40 pts, Boydell 12 pts, Körber 10 pts)	
v Staff'All-Stars'(H)	Won 64-61
(R. Dühmke 26 pts, Carmichael 12 pts, Boydell 10 pts)	

Squad: R. Dühmke (Captain), S. Amey, P. Boydell, N. Carmichael, T. Hazlehurst, S. Ismael, C. Jarrett, B. Körber, A. Kress, J. Morgan, R. Sage.

### *Junior Griffins:*

v Wycliffe College (A)	'A'	Won 28-13
	(Baker 17 pts)	
	'B'	Won 23-7
	(V. Dühmke 9 pts)	

Squad: T. Abbott, C. Baker, K. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. Donovan, V. Dühmke, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, J. Hawkins, C. Holliday, C. Scarth, T. Sharman, M. Sutton.



## Squash

The matches played in the Gloucestershire County Squash League during the Christmas and Easter Terms have been most enjoyable and have helped develop the standard of squash in the school.

In the U19 League the team has been made up of U16 players exclusively. While they have not always won their matches, there have been notable performances which clearly suggest that the team

should perform well as they mature. As No 1 and Captain, Mike Smith, a county player, has played with intelligence and skill to beat players often two years older than himself.

Francis Newcombe has developed immeasurably in the last two terms and combines in his game power hitting and an intelligent touch on the ball. His determined approach has been shared by Nick Carmichael, who will undoubtedly win next year the matches he only narrowly lost. Seun Ismail has played with skill, and Chris Baker has shown great potential competing against boys sometimes three years older.

The U14 team has lost only twice in the two terms. Sam Maylott, No 1 and Captain, has proved his county status by beating opponents by skill and intelligence. Greater maturity will, I am sure, bring him the self-control which will make him a really fine player in the future. Both James Gibbs and Chris Scarth have played with commitment and ability. Most pleasing has been the development of Rupert Webb, who now reads the game well and places the ball with skill. Harvey Davies and Luke Weston have also made useful contributions to the success of the team.

With some encouraging play in the First and Second Forms, the squash looks firmly set for the future. Much of the credit for this must go to the excellent coaching of Julia Walter.

J. P. W.

## Rounders

The junior girls had a busy Rounders match schedule for the summer term.

The U14 team began the season against Wycliffe juniors. A notable performance by Charlotte Emerson, taking three catches at 3rd Post, together with the support of parents on the sideline helped make this a good opening game.

All the U13 matches were closely fought, but unfortunately were lost by narrow margins. Their best game, against Oakley Hall, saw Charlotte Lee-Woolf, Tara Sleggs, Sarah Donovan and Nellie Abbott batting well to score at least one rounder each. Laura Donovan was the strongest batsman and helped to take the first innings score to 11½ rounders. Oakley Hall replied with 2½ rounders and were asked to follow on in extremely wet and cold conditions. Unfortunately the match had to be abandoned before Rendcomb were able to bowl Oakley Hall out again.

The U15 team also played exciting games against Grittleton and Monkton Combe, although the opposition had good strong batsmen, who frequently found the outer edges of the playing fields, and we were unable to respond similarly.

The matches were all played with enthusiasm, and there were marked improvements by all the girls in all aspects of the game throughout the term, which bodes well for next season.

P. S. W.

### U13

✓ Oakley Hall School (H)	Abandoned at 11½-4
✓ Beaudesert School (H)	Lost 4-16
✓ St Hugh's School (H)	Lost 10½-13½

### U14

✓ Wycliffe College Junior School (H)	Lost 4-7½
✓ The Cotswold School (H)	Lost 4½-14
✓ St Edward's School (H)	Lost 3½-9
✓ The Cotswold School (A)	Lost 8-18½

### U15

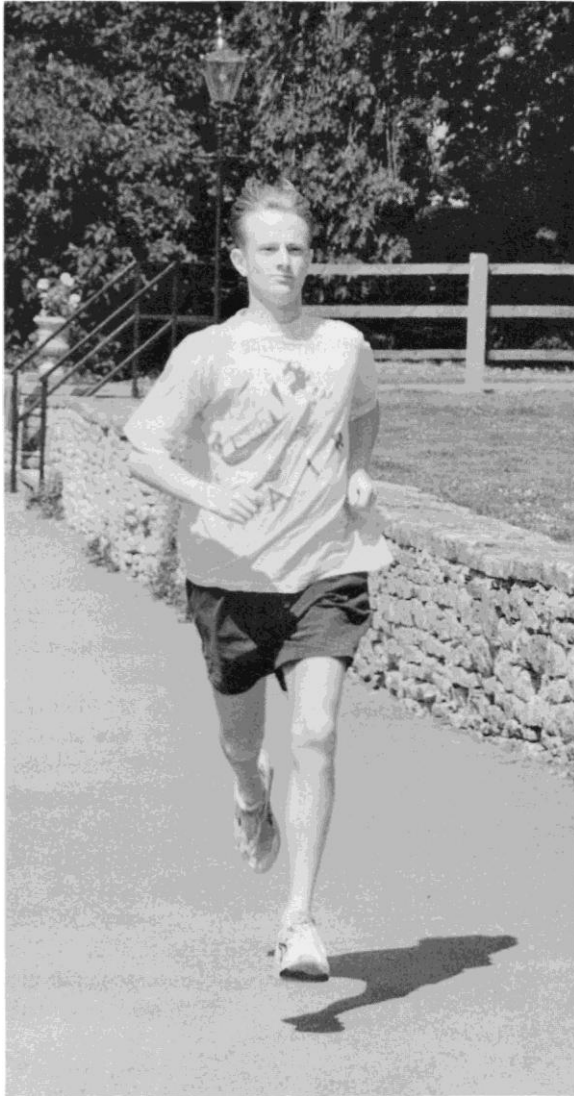
✓ Grittleton School (A)	Lost 3-6½
✓ Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost 7-26



## Athletics

Most people at Rendcomb will tend to remember Julian Wilkie for his excellent all-round contribution to the school; they will know that he 'is rather keen on athletics and has been quite successful', but few know the details of his achievements, over his seven years here, in middle-distance track events and cross-country.

Julian first showed his ability and potential at junior level: at the age of 12 he became Colts County Cross-Country Champion with a national ranking of 32; he went on in the 13-15 age-group not only to continue to dominate the cross-country scene but to establish himself as County Champion at 3,000 metres and 1,500 metres, his times of 4 minutes 33 seconds for 1,500m and 9 minutes 54 seconds for 3,000m being of Grade II National Standard.



**Julian Wilkie.**

At intermediate boys' level his performances continued to shine: he retained his County Champion's crown at 1,500m; in cross-country he produced top-ten performances in the Midland, South-West and England Schools' Championships in all three events; over 3,000m he achieved a ranking of 13th in the United Kingdom, his time of 8 minutes 2 seconds qualifying as Grade I National Standard.

On entering the Junior Men's grouping, despite a nagging leg injury, he has since improved his standing to that of 7th in the UK over 3,000m, while also finishing 3rd in the County Men's Cross Country Championships, winning the Junior Men's by 2 clear minutes.

Julian is hoping to pursue a Sports Science and Mathematics degree course at Loughborough University, which will allow him to continue his athletics to the highest standard at this world-famous institute of sporting excellence (remember Sebastian Coe!); we all wish him every success in the future and

have no doubt that we shall see and hear a great deal more of him and his running achievements in years to come.

M. J. N.

## Riding

The girls are extremely fortunate to have the superb facilities of one of the top European Equestrian Centres at Talland in Siddington less than ten miles away.

Up to eight girls have ridden each Thursday throughout the year, for enjoyment and to improve their riding skills, under expert tuition from BHS trained staff. The standard has ranged from complete beginners to more advanced riders who need to hone their technique and understanding of horsemanship.

Sarah Donovan, Charlotte Emerson, Hannah Nicholls and Lotte Webb, who started as novice last September, have improved considerably. All four girls have progressed to canter work and had their first jump this term; well done, to them all.

The more advanced riders have also listened and learnt a considerable amount. Tina Eylmann has advanced so well that she was given a wonderful opportunity to experience the feel of a top-class Grand Prix Dressage horse, by being allowed to ride the stallion Welton Louis, sire of many famous eventing and dressage horses, for one of her lessons. The standard of matching horses to the ability of riders has been very high and has contributed greatly to the progress of all the riders.

As well as learning a tremendous amount, each girl has very much enjoyed the experience this activity has given her.

P. S. W.



**Lotte Webb at the riding school.**

## Archery

The archery group has had another successful year with AAS achievement badges, white going to Beccy Doyle and Terry Noble and blue to Colin Morey, James Button and Beccy Doyle.

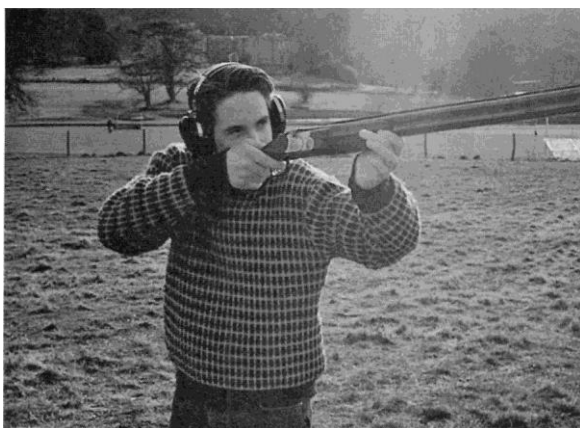
It was good to have Charlotte Harrison and Anna Ronowicz joining us in the Christmas term, followed by Beccy Fowler, Julia Presse and Melanie Eimer in the summer. It certainly made the boys try that much harder!

We had a most successful Christmas Dinner, thanks to Russell Riste and his staff. Our guest of honour was Chris Wood, who has always taken an interest in our club.

JAMES BUTTON

I would like to thank all who took part during the year, especially my three secretaries, Andrew Martin, David Chalk and James Button.

J. M. E.



## Clay Pigeon Shooting

'Shotguns?' was the incredulous question on some people's lips at the beginning of this year, 'aren't they what robbers use?' However, the creation of the Clay

Pigeon Shooting Club provoked quite a bit of interest amongst the pupils.

A crowd of experienced 'country bumpkins' and interested others gathered behind Park House on one hot September afternoon, to carry an assorted pile of odd-looking equipment up to a lonely spot in the Park. Soon the area echoed to the sharp report of guns, and down rained round black discs, or occasionally fragments of them...

The Clay Pigeon Shooting Club consists of six assorted traps - one of them a rabbit trap - originally two, now three club guns, some stores, the dedication of its members and the undying commitment of Mr Stutchbury, its founder and motivator, and of course Mr Watson. Clearly the club couldn't work properly with these elements alone, and the invaluable and voluntary help of local farmers, the Witchells, Branstons and Monteiths, and of other parents and friends must not be forgotten.

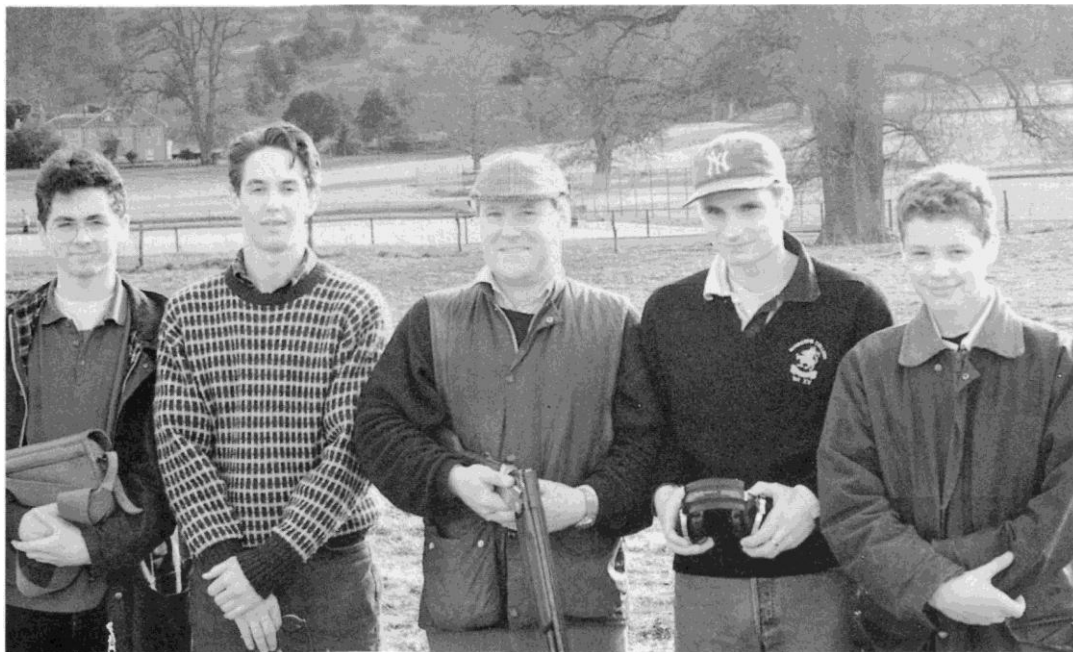
With 63 people, just over a quarter of the school, joining the club, there was a wide range of talent to deal with. Thursday afternoons became the allotted time for shooting practice and, under the tutelage of Mr Stutchbury and Mr Watson, we came to see that Mr Stutchbury's scores were not completely out of our reach.

The autumn term saw our first matches against what were to be our regular opponents, Dean Close, Cokethorpe and Cranleigh schools. Unfortunately we lost these matches, but by margins so small as to provoke plenty of 'if only I had hit one more!' laments from the team.

During the winter the harsh weather weeded out the 'fair-weather shooters' and created the infamous Rendcomb 'overcoat shooters'.

The spring term gave rise to further friendly matches, including wins over Cokethorpe and Dean Close, and culminated in our entry to the Western England Area Championships, where we performed superbly, resulting in gaining second place after an exciting shoot-off with another team; all our practice had been worthwhile for the medals in our pockets.

The other major event of the term was the Southern





Regional Championship, where we came fifth out of 20 schools and had the satisfaction of beating Eton. Unfortunately, to our chagrin, Cranleigh came first.

The first event of the summer term was the 'Nationals', and so it was with much trepidation that we set off to Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire. The distance to the venue meant we would be spending the night before at a farmhouse, which conveniently had a practice ground in its gardens. The accommodation was excellent, and there was enough breakfast to feed 30 people, let alone our two boys' and one girls' teams. Walking around the shooting ground was a delight in itself, as the countryside was as beautiful as the day, which seemed to inspire our girls' team - Rebecca Knightly-Brown, Serena Lucas and Polly Parsons - to

just lose to Cranleigh. Next year Cranleigh... next year...! The club is very sorry to lose its 6A members at the end of the year but, with a growing core of 'crackshots' in the younger years, maybe the Nationals are waiting to be won.

DAVID ELLIOTT

Teams from: G. Monteith (Captain 1993), D. Elliott (Captain 1994), M. Gee, C. Millard, J. Underwood, D. Chalk, N. Barton, M. Pentney, R. Wertheimer, J. Fairbank, R. Witchell, R. Bardsley, H. Davies, E. Branston, J. Chalk, W. Brittain-Jones, R. Knightly-Brown, P. Parsons, S. Lucas.



**Serena Lucas, Polly Parsons and Rebecca Knightly-Brown.**

*Andrew Martin*

come fourth out of 12 teams. Rendcomb 'A' team - Graham Monteith, David Chalk, James Fairbank, Jon Underwood, Harvey Davies and myself - came sixteenth out of 38 teams, managing to beat our own target; certainly for Rendcomb's first year in competition we had done ourselves proud. Thanks must again go to Mr Stutchbury and Mr Watson, who gave up their time to accompany us. For the rest of the summer term exams took a priority; despite this, we were still able to beat Cokethorpe in a match and

It is a real pleasure to share this fine sport with such a dedicated and loyal group of young people. I would like to thank the 6A leavers for their efforts in establishing the club and leaving it in such a healthy state. I look forward to seeing them back for the Old Rendcombian shoots. In conclusion I offer my special thanks to Mr John Watson for his invaluable contribution in every respect.

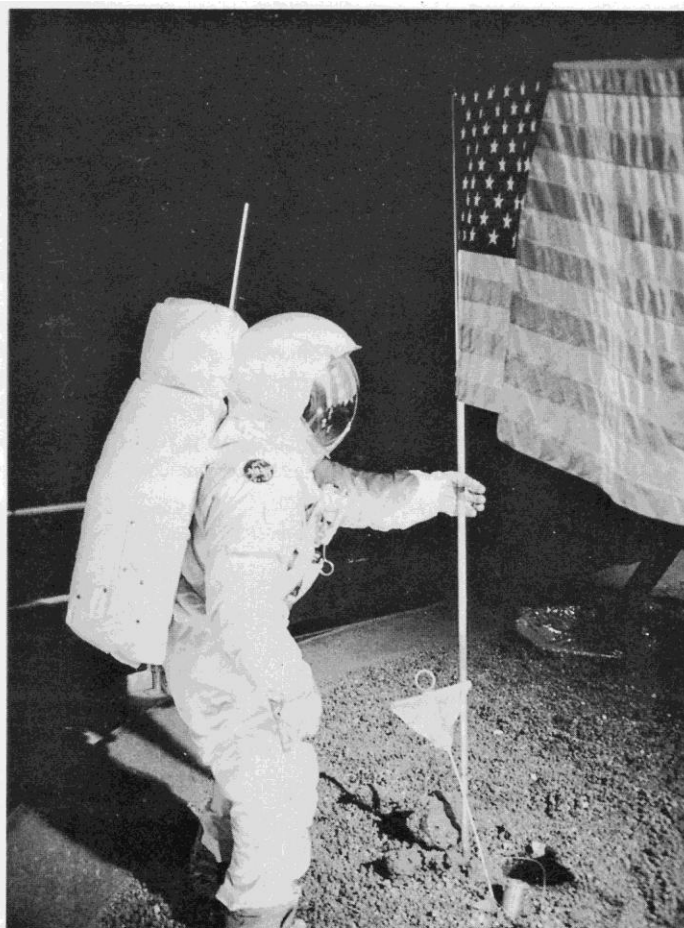
J. H. S.

Competition Entries

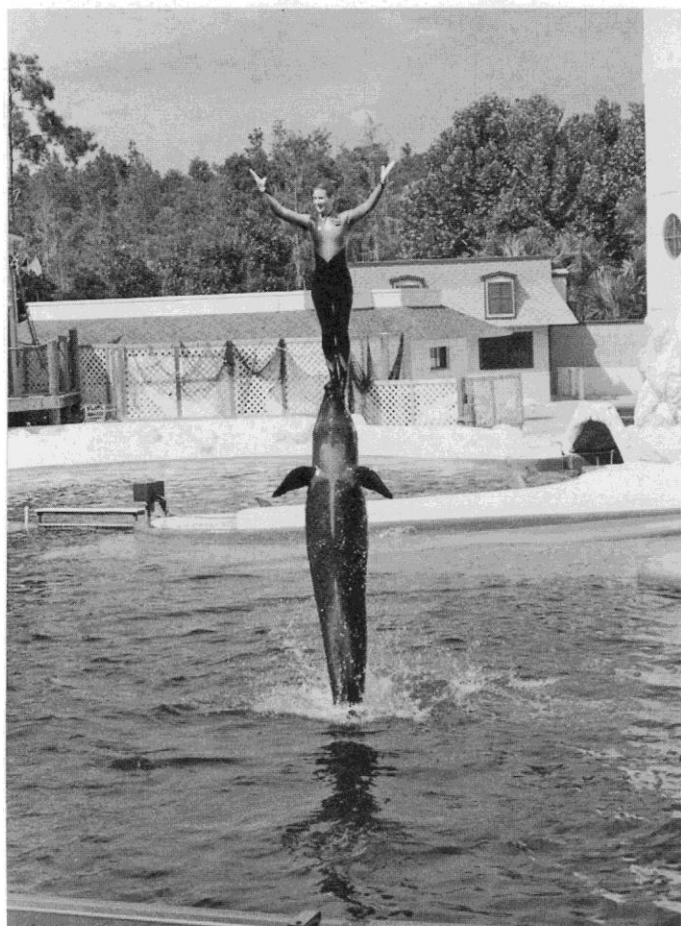


**Calm after the storm.**

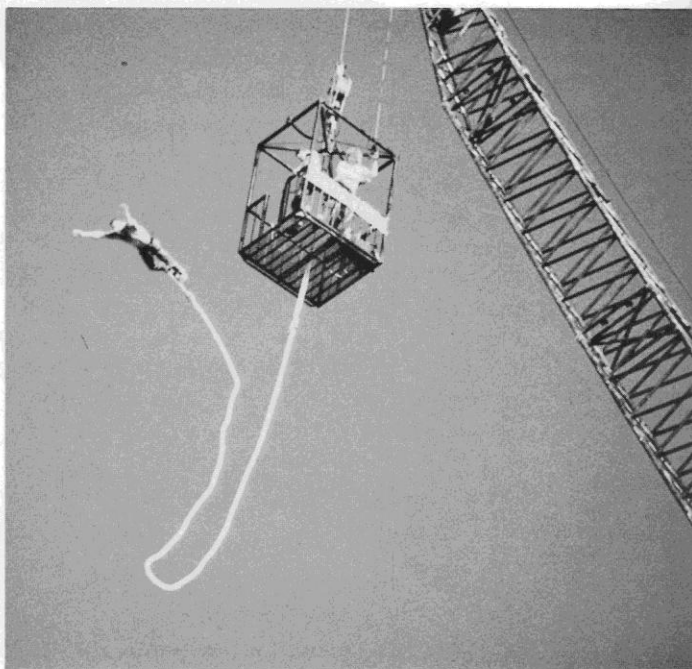
*Tim Shaw*



*Andrew Martin*



*Andrew Martin*



*James Gibbs*







