



# Rendcombian

The Magazine of Rendcomb College, Cirencester







# Rendcombian

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*Reset in Times Roman typeface*

Front Cover

(Outside): Junior Biology  
(Inside): Textile Design

*Photo: S. J. Lea*

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

Back Cover

(Outside): Parents' Association  
Sponsored Walk, Family Day,  
& Cycle Ride. Founder's Day  
(Inside): Oliver and The Artful Dodger

*Collage: S. J. Lea*

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

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It is with great pleasure, and in gratitude for his signal services to Rendcomb during eight years as Chairman of Governors, that we dedicate this issue of *Rendcombian* to Torquil Norman.

## The Record 1

### Rendcomb Diary

**Births:** On 30th November 1992, to Paula and John Watson a daughter, Jessica Richenda.  
On 31st December 1992, to Karen and Paul Cairns a son, Scott Anthony.  
On 3rd January 1993, to Ann and Michael Slark a son, Edward.

### Christmas Term 1992

#### September

5. Term began. Ten girls entered the junior part of the school. For the first time a service of welcome for new pupils and their parents was held in the Church at 5.30 p.m.
6. The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition returned from mid-Wales.
12. The Second Form took part in the annual Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride.



*Wilts & Glos Standard*



13. The Junior House visited Broadway Tower Country Park. Godman House went to the Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon.
17. Mr Robin Peverett, Director of Training of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools visited Rendcomb.
20. Parents' Association Family Day: a sponsored walk raised £4,250 for the Paternoster School Hydrotherapy Unit.
23. Junior House Science Outing.
25. Rendcomb Parish Harvest Supper held in the Village Hall at 7 p.m. Entertainment provided by College musicians.
27. Harvest Thanksgiving Service. QP Concert: piano recital by Philip Martin.

## October

1. Pupils from Ingleside School visited.
4. Reception for new parents organised by the Parents' Association.
9. College represented at the three-day National ISIS Exhibition.
10. Rendcomb College Open Day.
11. Photographic Society visited Fort Talbot Museum, Lacock. Mr P. D. V. Wilkes, Head Master of Cheltenham College, preached at Morning Service.
14. Monmouth Group History teachers met at Rendcomb.
17. College staff ran the cake stall at the Village Autumn Fayre.
18. Godman House trip to London. Junior House trip to the Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon.
20. The first performance in a series of occasional drama productions under the title *Black Box Theatre*. Highlights were *Our Man* by Daniel Clucas and *After Liverpool* by James Saunders. These two performances were repeated on the next two nights.
23. Half-term began. First Form Parents' Meeting.
24. The marriage of the College Secretary, Mrs Anne Purdon, to Colonel Duncan Boyd was blessed in St Peter's Church.

## November

1. Rendcomb musicians played and sang in Vivaldi's *Gloria*, performed by the Golden Valley Singers in Holy Trinity Church, Stroud.
3. Sixth Form Study Skills Day.
5. Junior and Godman House bonfire.
6. Rendcomb musicians provided entertainment for the Soroptimists, who held their annual meeting in the Dulverton Hall this year.
8. Remembrance Service, Last Post and Reveille played by Roger Gorman. QP Concert, an organ recital by David Ponsford, who played works by Bach, Brahms and Liszt.
9. Sixth Form academic, art and music entrance scholarships began.
10. Sixth Form went to see *Antony and Cleopatra* at Stratford.
12. 1992 Confirmation Classes began.
14. Parents' Association Barn Dance.
15. Junior and Godman House Treasure Hunt. Choral and orchestral concert in St Peter's Church. Tim Shaw played the solo in Vivaldi's Violin Concerto in A minor. The choir sang Vivaldi's *Gloria*.  
Soloists: Edmund Compton and Claire Germaine, with Philip Webb and Gerald Turvey.
16. Oxford University entrance examinations began.





21. Farewell tea-party for Postman Jack Edwards and Mrs Edwards, attended by members of the Common Room and the Village. The Head Master presented a cheque to Mr Edwards as a token of the affection felt for him by the whole community.

24. The upper forms from Cold Aston Primary School spent a day at Rendcomb. 12 Heads of Primary Schools visited to meet representatives of Fairfield Catering and to sample the school lunch.

26. Governors' Meeting.

29. Advent Carol Services, morning and evening. Soloist: Stuart Sealey. Readers: Thomas Gilbert, Michael Smith, Stephen Jones, Christopher Oliver, Rebecca Knightly-Brown, Christopher Scarth, Rebecca Doyle, John Morgan, Charles Morgan-Harris, Lucy Payne.

30. Talk for members of the Fifth Forms by the Deputy Head Master on *Life in the Sixth Form*.



**Farewell to Jack**

## December

6. Chamber Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
7. Rendcombians sang in a concert in South Cerney Church, arranged by Miss Gill Hopwood.
9. Rugby Club Dinner.
13. Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church. Soloists: Julia Morris, Edmund Compton, Stuart Sealey. Readers: Timothy Hill, Lindsay Duff, Helen Hall-Wright, Stephen Roney, Peter Croft. Term ended.



**Christmas Party**

## Easter Term 1993

### January

10. Term began.
13. ORs Karen Betts, James Dowson and Francis Lee gave a talk, *The Gap Year*.
23. Rendcomb took part in the ISIS Exhibition in Oxford.
26. Form I visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford.



28. Two-day Understanding Industry Course for the Sixth Form took place in the Library and Reading Room.
31. Parents were invited to an introductory talk on Rendcomb's Personal and Social Education Course, given by the Revd Peter Sudbury and Mrs Sue Ellis of the Gloucestershire Health Authority.

## February

1. The Parochial Church Council met at the Rectory.
5. An Informal Concert was held in the Reading Room.
7. The Junior House visited 'Cadbury World' in Birmingham.  
Rendcomb hosted the local heat of the *Bridge Magazine* Schools Competition.  
QP Concert, a song recital by John Rowlands-Pritchard and David White.
8. The Third Form visited the Bristol Hippodrome to see *Me and My Girl*.
14. Informal Concert at 11.30 a.m.
16. Rendcomb's Dixieland Group entertained in the Village Hall at Southam, near Cheltenham.
18. The Choir sang Evensong in Bristol Cathedral.
19. Sixth-form Art students left on a three-day visit to Paris.
28. The Bishop of Tewkesbury confirmed 10 candidates from the College in St Peter's Church.

## March

1. Entrance Scholarship examinations for Third Form entry.
2. Rendcomb musicians played at the Golden Years Club in Ashton Keynes.
3. A matinee performance of *Oliver!* was given in the Dulverton Hall for children from local prep and primary schools.
4. *Oliver!*
5. *Oliver!*  
The Royal Navy gave a careers information seminar for fourth-year pupils.
6. *Oliver!*
7. Members of the Second Form competed in a Sports Quiz at the Abbey School, Tewkesbury.  
QP Concert given by the Bel Canto Wind Quintet.
14. Mr Brian Heap gave a lecture on Higher Education Choices to members of 6B and their parents.
15. The school was visited by the local Social Services Inspection Officer.
19. Governors' Meeting.  
Rendcomb Girls' Hockey XI held their dinner at the Hare and Hounds, Fosse Cross.
20. Choral Concert in Cirencester Parish Church: Roger Gorman and Dan Morris were the soloists in the orchestral works and the Choir performed Schubert's Mass in G.
21. Hockey matches against Old Rendcombian Society.
26. Rock Concert by college bands *Scream* and *Slyde* in the Dulverton Hall.
27. Term ended.



British Gas 'Flames' lecture



Comic Relief

## Summer Term 1993

### April

3. Richard Dunwoody (OR 1975-81 and Champion National Hunt Jockey) was perilously involved in the Grand National fiasco, when his neck was caught up by the starting tape. Later this year he was made MBE in the Birthday Honours.



25. Term began.
27. Sixth Form English students went to Stratford to see *Hamlet*.
28. The Junior House saw *The Forbidden Planet* at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford.

## May

4. Form I visited the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge.
7. An Informal Orchestral Concert was held in the Reading Room. Soloists included Hannah Willcocks, Marian Preen, Roger Gorman, Claire Germaine, Alister Harris and James Graham.
8. The Parents' Association hosted a Forties Night in the Dulverton Hall.
16. A talk was given to parents by the Gloucestershire Drugs Project.
18. Fourth year Geography Field Trip.
20. The choir sang the Schubert Mass in G in St Peter's Church for Ascension Day. Speakers at the annual Choir Dinner were John Talbot and the Director of Music.
22. Two-day visit by the Antic Theatre Company, providing a weekend Drama Workshop for Forms 4 and 6B and culminating in a performance on Sunday evening.
27. The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition departed for Skye, to return on 1st June.
28. 'A Private View', exhibition of 'A' level art work in the Dulverton Hall.
29. Founder's Day: Guest Speaker Lord Charteris of Amisfield, GCB, GCVO, QSO, OBE. The new Chairman of Governors, Mr Allan Wyatt, presided for the first time. Half-term began.

## June

1. Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition returned from Skye.
2. Return from half-term.
6. The Parents' Association Family Day with staff v parents cricket match and parent-pupil tennis doubles tournament, ending with a barbecue.
10. 16 Rendcombians were guests at the Shukutoku Japanese College in Cheltenham.
12. The September 1993 First Form and their parents were welcomed and introduced to the College at an Open Day.
13. The Junior House visited London and Godman House went to Longleat. Duke of Edinburgh 'Bronze' practice expedition.
15. Form 1 went on a Biology field trip to Miserden Park.
20. An Informal Concert was given by members of Forms 1, 2 and 3, featuring pieces prepared for the Music Assessment Week.



(right) **H. Morgan, 76 n.o.** *Enno Schuh*  
(left) **Jonathan Freeman (Form 2)**



22. Open Day for September 1993 Third Form entrants and their parents.
24. Governors' Meeting.
25. A piano recital was given by Stephen Lea and Claire Lloyd-Smith. Leavers' Ball for staff and members of 6A.
26. Leavers' Service, followed by lunch for 6A and their parents.
27. Reception at Park House for the new Housemistress and Housemaster.  
Barbecue for Godman House pupils and their parents.
28. Members of the Fifth Forms began work experience with local employers.

## July

1. 6B Biologists departed for a Field Course on Dartmoor.  
Form 5 had a barbecue with members of the staff.
2. Cricket Week began.  
Members of Form 3 entertained guests from Cheltenham Ladies' College at a barbecue and disco in Godman House.
3. The choir sang at a wedding in the church at Ampney St Peter.
4. Old Rendcombians' Day. Cricket on Top Field, lunch and the OR Society's AGM.  
6B Biologists returned from Dartmoor.
8. 11 students from the Shukutoku College in Cheltenham visited the school for a tour and various activities.  
Cricket Week ended with a reception at the Head Master's house.  
Some of 6B had a social evening with members of Westwing School, Thornbury.
9. The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' expedition departed for the Black Mountains in Wales.  
Rock Concert in the Dulverton Hall.
10. Term ended.
12. The Duke of Edinburgh expedition returned from Wales.

## Torquil Norman

The first thing everyone notices about Torquil Norman is how tall a man he is; the second is his friendly and welcoming way of bending down towards you and smiling, as if to minimise his advantage over you. Even so, I find that the best way of conversing with him is on a staircase, one step above him (Clock Hall is ideal); otherwise you find yourself with a crick in the neck, or staring firmly into his midriff.

He became Chairman of Governors after the tragic death in an accident of Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly's appointed successor, Admiral Sir Richard Clayton; Rendcomb College, at a moment of great sadness and difficulty, was fortunate to find such a superb substitute in the first chairman of the newly formed Future Policy Working Party.

Torquil Norman was a vocal and persuasive admirer of his predecessor, and he saw his own task as continuing the energetic work Sir Louis had done. He was not seen about the College quite so much - his own huge business commitments prevented this - but he used the time he had with remarkable concentration and to brilliant effect. He was a great chairman too, in the ordinary sense of chairing a meeting - fair-minded, focusing intently on the matter in hand, encouraging participation from everyone, occasionally intervening with a dazzling creative burst.

When I first met him, he spoke with characteristic verve about the Rendcomb development plan. In my first months at the College I watched him apply all his energy to keeping up its momentum, while ensuring that not a penny was wasted. We owe





most to our generous benefactors, but it is thanks also to Torquil's enthusiastic optimism, along with the foresight of Roger Medill and the Development Committee under Kaye Knapp, that Rendcomb now has what a head master of another school has referred to as the finest boarding accommodation in the country.

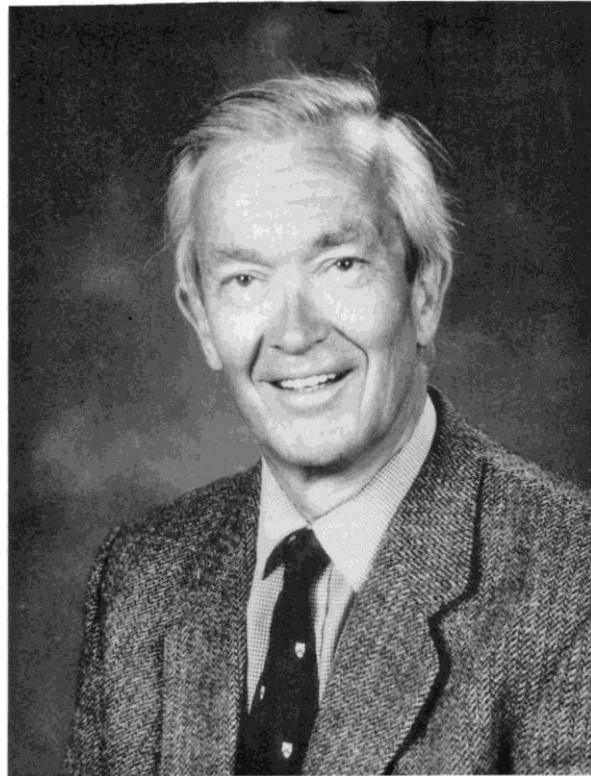
Our new boarding houses, then, are the most visible mark of Torquil Norman's chairmanship. But it would not be right to remember him just for bricks and mortar; he valued more highly the less tangible life of the school. He loves young people, and their enthusiasm; he pestered me continually about the General Meeting, because he sees this as a unique Rendcomb institution dedicated to letting pupils have a say. It is no coincidence that his business is in designing and manufacturing toys: he shares the child's view of things - open-minded, optimistic, fascinated by detail. At the end of his lecture to our Sixth Form on setting up a business, he was to be seen flying his latest frisby invention across the asphalt; he is - in the best and most flattering sense of the word - wonderfully childlike.

Perhaps this is why you always feel better after a conversation with Torquil. For six years I have continually been encouraged and inspired by him. Not that contacting him was always easy: the best time is at seven a. m. on his car phone, as he speeds to an office at one end or other of the M4 to start his crucifyingly long day. Talking to your chairman on a motorway by phone is a good discipline: keep calm, or you might cause a pile-up.

The College is fortunate to have had an inspirational leader to chair its governing body at a time when no school could stand still and survive. Having started his eight years by overseeing the planning of our new boarding houses, he ended with coeducation throughout the school and the admission of day pupils. For all he has done for Rendcomb, privately and in the public eye, everyone here has cause to be profoundly grateful to him, and to hope that he will find time to stay closely in touch with us.

J. N. T.

## Allan Wyatt



Allan Wyatt was elected Chairman of Governors at their meeting on 26th November 1993. He was educated at Oundle and, after National Service in the Royal Tank Regiment, he went to Queens' College, Cambridge, reading Classics and graduating with first class honours. In 1953 he entered the Civil Service and, after two years in the Department of Education, he was transferred to the Treasury. In 1978 he and his wife Susan, a graduate in History and a full-time teacher, fulfilled a lifelong ambition when he was appointed Head Master of Cranleigh Preparatory School, a large boarding and day school linked to the nearby public school. He retired in 1989 and lives near Bromyard in Herefordshire.

Rendcomb College offers him a very warm welcome in his new post.



**Mount Teide, Tenerife**

*Douglas Ellison*

## David Hawkswell

When Jack Fell retired as Head of Physics in 1973, after 34 years of outstanding scholarly service to the College, we all knew his position would be impossible to fill.

His successor, David Hawkswell was the first to proclaim that he was 'no scholar' and wisely developed his own talents in his extensive contribution to the College, spanning 20 years.

David always applied his own down-to-earth approach to all his activities, brushing aside detail to get on with the central business in hand.

Perhaps his best remembered contribution to Rendcomb will be the establishment of the Computer Department, which heralded a new use of what to many were the Stable Block dormitories. Much time and energy were devoted to familiarising countless Rendcombians with the basics of computers before progressing to the latest items of hardware, introduced with David's infectious enthusiasm.

Sport has been a very important part of David's life, and we knew of his considerable tennis ability before his arrival. It was in this area that he made an impressive contribution through two decades of Rendcomb summers, which will not be quite the same without the Hawkswell-Holt duo manning the tennis courts.

Hockey and rugby were the other sports in which David was fully involved in his younger days, and many will remember the black-track-suited figure giving vocal encouragement (and abuse!) as appropriate.



**David and Joan Hawkswell**

*P. J. Sudbury*

As tutor/housemaster for many years in the 'horizontal' house system, David exhibited his role as first and foremost a family man. He was ably supported by Joan in all he did, and he spoke often with pride of his own children, Sarah and Steven. We

know he and Joan will enjoy having more time to follow their family's activities.

No doubt much of their new-found leisure will be spent pursuing their consuming hobby of delving into dark corners of secondhand bookshops in search of that elusive first edition?

In this and in all their activities we wish them a long, happy and fulfilling retirement in Ambleside.

R. K.

## Bridget Goldsmith



'Hurricane Bridget' arrived in Rendcomb five years ago, with little or no meteorological warning from Wells Cathedral School, to take up the post of Head of Biology, and she made an instant impact on staff and pupils alike. Her first photograph in *Rendcombian* was of her sitting on Dr Craddock's knee on Comic Relief Day in 1988!

Bridget's love of Biology, travel and conservation is most infectious, and many Rendcombians have been deeply affected by it during her five years here. She maintained the tradition of field trips, often combining the sixth-form ones for 'A' level projects with the Geography Department and always capitalising on the raw interest of the juniors. Recently, I was privileged to see her in action with Form 1 on the woodland trail of the Wills's estate at Miserden, where we all learned much about trees. Her involvement with the British Schools' Exploring Society encouraged others to travel abroad,



and certain Rendcombians experienced her zest when she acted as a group leader for a BSES expedition to Iceland, studying Botany. Her energy, sense of humour and determination are most valuable on all such occasions.

Red and turquoise dustbins heralded the introduction of serious recycling in the school, as part of Bridget's conservation schemes, a subject which she does not treat lightly. Of course, she was well ahead of the Cotswold District Council, which has recently installed a recycling centre in the village. In *Rendcombian* she once wrote that conservation 'relies on personal enthusiasm and the community spirit' both being obvious qualities of Bridget, who leads by example.

Bridget is keen on sport, playing hockey for Lansdown Club in Cheltenham, and her contribution to girls' games will not be forgotten. The records remind us how she built up the hockey: in 1991 the 1st XI played 11 matches, while the 2nd played 7. She also enjoys squash and cricket, as many staff and pupils know, and I realise that I am losing my occasional tennis partner.

Although she lived in Cheltenham, Bridget supported school events, matches and extra-curricular activities with great enthusiasm, and one could be forgiven for thinking that she lived on site. In particular, her contribution to bridge, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, theatre and choir deserve a special mention. I am especially grateful for her outstanding contribution in the Junior House, where she revealed real empathy for this age group, occasionally referring to them as her 'little cherubs'.

Bridget leaves us to take up one of the two deputy headships in Taunton School in Somerset, and we wish her well in her new and challenging post. We shall miss her cheerful presence around the school, and we hope that she includes us on her long list of friends throughout the world.

An account of this kind would not be complete without mentioning Bridget's unreserved approach and open expression of her opinions, which must represent a real strength, even if it can lead to embarrassment at times. To quote that anonymous Old Rendcombian who described her as 'one of the most inspiring people' she had met, '*don't change!*'.

C. J. W.

**Charlotte and John Holdaway**

## Charlotte Holdaway

*Charlotte Holdaway's departure from Park House almost marks the end of 22 years' outstanding service to Rendcomb, and in particular to Rendcomb girls.*

*The introduction of girls here was from the very first a great success, and there is no doubt at all that this success was due in greater measure to Charlotte's remarkable wisdom, abundant energy, deep sympathy and boundless kindness than to anything else.*

*Below is the outcome of an interview she gave to Rebecca Knightly-Brown, which gives some idea of Rendcomb's debt to her and to her husband John.*

Mrs Holdaway came to Rendcomb in 1971, to teach French on a part-time basis. At that time German was taught only as a sixth-form minority-time option, and it was Mrs Holdaway who started it as an 'O' and 'A' level course.

In 1972 the first 11 girls came into the Sixth Form, and Mrs Holdaway, then the only female member of the staff, became their tutor. During this first year the girls lived with members of the staff in their houses and had the present careers room as their common room.

Mrs Holdaway organised the first girls' netball team, which won almost all its matches. Squash also was very popular with the girls, and their team played schools such as Kingswood, Marlborough and Dauntsey's. At the time Mrs Holdaway owned a large estate car, and this became the transport for the entire teams, netball or squash.



Girls' hockey started about 10 years later, coached by Mr Essenhig and Mr Wood. There was also an annual swimming gala, and the girls could keep horses in the school stables and ride as a games option.

The introduction of girls meant also an enlargement of the choir and a wider range of acting talents; boys were no longer required to play the female parts in school plays!

Mrs Holdaway helped to co-ordinate the Community Service for many years. Pupils helped at the Paternoster School for handicapped children and also with the Riding for the Disabled Association. Every year old people from the surrounding area came to tea in Park House and then toured the college grounds.

In the years before she took over Park House, Mrs Holdaway organised many regular outings. The annual visit to Longleat lasted for 18 years, and there were also visits to Alton Towers and to the ballet in London and Bristol. A regular fixture was the 6B girls' visit to Berkeley Castle, followed by tea at the Holdaways' house in Badgeworth. In those days there was no organised leavers' dinner, and after their 'A' levels the 6A girls were invited to a party at the Holdaways'.

In September 1988 Mrs Holdaway became Housemistress of Park House as it began its transition from a mixed to an all-girls' house. The same year saw the introduction of girl prefects to the Junior House to help with the boys there, a move which has been a great success. Park House is now seeing the introduction of boarding girls in the lower years, a beginning of full coeducation.

Old Rendcombian girls have gone on to a wide range of successful careers and activities. For example, Sally Blythe, from the second intake of girls, went on to become Radio Television Hong Kong's best-known English-speaking 'hackette'; more recently, Aleksandra Malkjović was part of a scientific expedition to Indonesia in search of the rare Seram long-nosed bandicoot.

So, over the past 22 years, Mrs Holdaway has seen many girls through Rendcomb, from the very homesick to the rebellious. Every one has appreciated the help she has so kindly given, and she will be greatly missed around Park House, although she will still be here seeing the Fifth Forms and 6A through to their examinations.

Finally we offer to Mrs Holdaway an apology for all those times when we have kept her noisily entertained, and we say 'Goodbye and thank you!'.

## Lorraine Harrison

With the departure of Michael Craddock in July 1992 to be Head of English at King's, Gloucester, we needed someone to teach a full timetable of English for one term, pending John Watson's arrival in January.



In the event we were extremely lucky to secure the services of Mrs Lorraine Harrison, who had been Head of English at Hatherop Castle School before its reorganisation. Lorraine taught at all levels from the Second Form to 6A, and all her pupils had cause to be grateful for her dedicated professionalism, experience and interest, especially at a time of such traumatic National Curriculum changes and confusions. She also proved herself a most affable and willing member of the Common Room.

We were glad that Lorraine was able to accompany our English specialists' visit to Stratford recently for the Kenneth Branagh *Hamlet* (a text she had patiently unravelled with the intellectuals of 6B). We thank her for her 'above the call of duty' help and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

J. N. H.

## John Watson

*Mr J. P. Watson joined the English staff in January of this year. Christopher Oliver and Nicholas Barton interviewed him.*

Born in 1954, Mr Watson attended Monkton Combe School from pre-prep through to the senior school. This was made easier by the fact that his father was one of the housemasters. Following Oxford and a Certificate in Education at Nottingham, he was employed at his old school for one year. Following this, his first major appointment was at Bishops



Stortford College, after which he moved to Stowe School. Before his move to Rendcomb he taught at Cheltenham College for eight years, for five of which he was a housemaster, and then for four terms at a preparatory school in Kent.

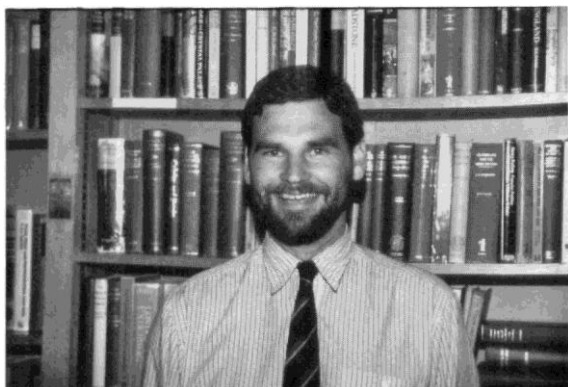
When asked what attracted him to Rendcomb, he replied that he is very interested in the local countryside and enjoys the atmosphere of this part of the world. There are also local connections with friends, family and sporting activities. He first came across Rendcomb through these sporting links, by playing for the Gloucester Gypsies, and was struck by the standard of sport here.

'What do you think of Rendcomb after a few terms here?'

He feels that the community here is friendly and normal, with a strong family atmosphere. There is a healthy staff to pupil relationship, probably the best he has seen yet! He finds that people can relax here. The country is very spectacular, from the serenity of the Churn valley to the top fields, where he feels 'on top of the world'.

His specialist sport is hockey. He gained a blue at Oxford and has played also for Wiltshire and the West of England. At cricket he became an Oxford Authentic and played for Wiltshire.

When quizzed about possible changes to the existing routine, he said he would like the summer timetable - afternoon school at two - to cover the whole of the summer term.



He particularly likes the friendly respect between year-groups and the work-inducing atmosphere of evening prep times. He thinks Godman House is a good idea and offers members of the Third Form a less daunting prospect than going straight into a senior house. On the sports field, he feels that there is a good commitment, but that generally a more confident approach is needed.

When asked about leaving school after 'A' levels, he recommended higher education after a gap year: university is not an extension of school, and a first year there can be wasted if the student does not adopt a balanced and mature approach.

We wish him, his wife Paula and his family a very happy stay at Rendcomb and congratulate them on the birth of their daughter in November.

## Judy Hunt

*Mrs Hunt, who joined us as Assistant Matron in September, was interviewed by Daniel Irving.*



Judy Hunt was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and brought up and educated in Sunderland. She has had a variety of jobs: she started work as a casualty sister in Sunderland and soon joined Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, where she spent five years based in Aldershot, Woolwich, Germany and Hong Kong. She then left the army to get married and had two children.

Later she took a job in industry, keeping her preference for the medical profession by working for Wellcome Medical Laboratories. She went on to work as a nurse for the *Daily Mirror* newspaper company and then for the Plessey Company in Swindon, coming to Rendcomb in September 1992.

Judy has stayed in the medical profession for the whole of her career because she feels that it is a challenge, especially at Rendcomb where no two days are the same and she is always busy.

She is not the first Matron to be working here

with a son at the school, in the Third Form. Questioned on this subject, she says that, surprisingly, neither she nor her son is affected by the situation; they rarely see each other unless he visits sickbay.

Judy's initial view of Rendcomb is that it is a pleasant place to work, both for pupils and for herself. She believes that it is an ideal situation for a school and that there is a very friendly atmosphere.

She feels that her job is just as much to act in a caring role for the younger pupils as it is to act in the medical sphere.

## James and Jane Stutchbury

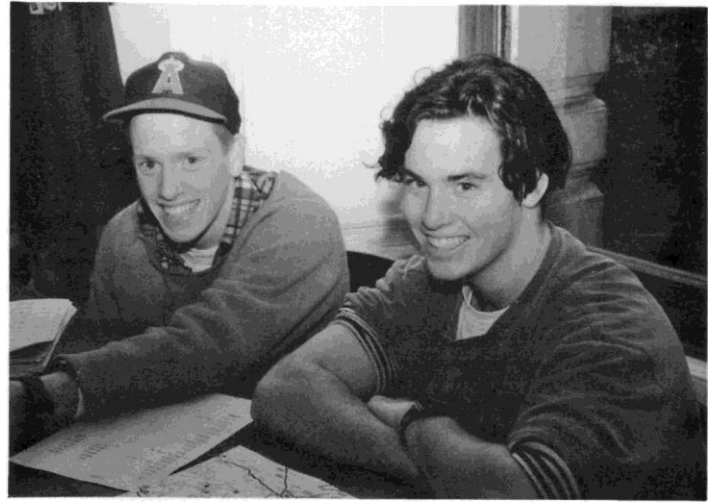
We are very pleased to welcome James and Jane Stutchbury to Park House from September. James is taking over from Bridget Goldsmith as Head of Biology, and Jane and he will be Housemistress and Housemaster of Park House, the girls' boarding house. With their two children, Harriet and Charlie, aged six and three, they are coming to us from Cranleigh, where they have been deeply involved in the life of the school.

Jane will be teaching English as a Foreign Language, to help the students from overseas with their language work. James is a keen clay pigeon shooter and interested in fly fishing; he hopes to interest some of the students here in his hobbies.



We hope that the whole family will settle in quickly, and we look forward to the contribution they will make to the community here at Rendcomb.

S. J. L.



**John Bannerman** (right), an Australian student who spent this year at Rendcomb as a staff assistant

## Junior Girls at Rendcomb

For 20 years there have been girls at Rendcomb; it was one of the first boys' schools to accept them, and many other schools have since followed the example.



*John Wright Photography*

At the beginning of this Christmas term junior girls were accepted for the first time; there are ten of them, three in the first year, two in the second, four in the third and one in the fourth. At the moment they are all day girls but, as more of them enter at 11 and 13, some of them will start to board, probably in Park House. Most of the girls would like to board already, especially in the winter, and it will be only a matter of time.

Although there are so few at present, they get on well with the boys in their forms, and Park House



provides a place for them to mix with girls from other years. Both the Junior House and Godman House have facilities which the girls can use, and they can stay to do prep if they wish; they also have their own studies in Park House, where they can stay overnight if necessary, and a common room where they are registered every morning. They take all their lessons with the boys. They have the same choice of games as the sixth-form girls, hockey, tennis squash and netball being the main ones. Mixed tennis has been played for many years, and mixed hockey is now beginning.

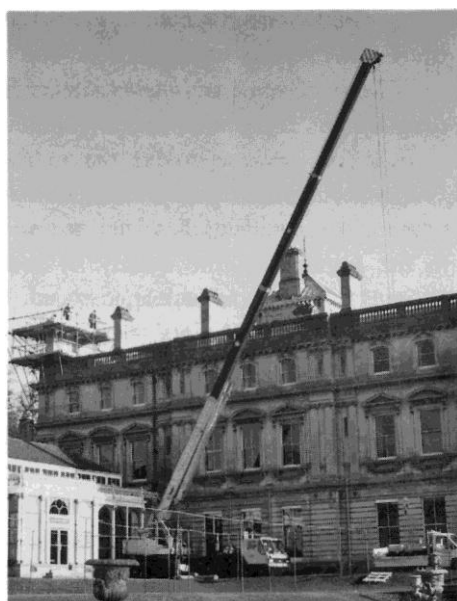
For most girls Rendcomb is very different from their last school, especially if it was an all-girls school! But, despite the occasional sexist comment, the junior girls are having a good time, and it won't be long before Rendcomb is a truly coeducational school.

REBECCA KNIGHTLY-BROWN

## Reports

### Bursar's Notes

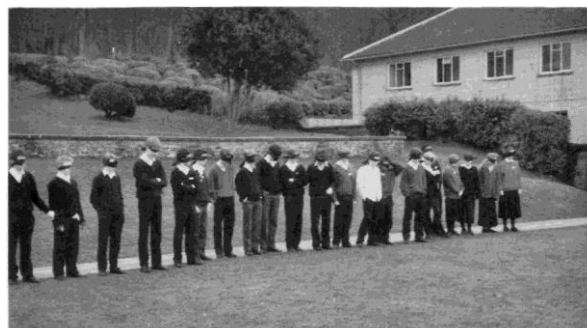
If brevity is the soul of wit, let me be brief. It is difficult to be witty about the replacement of one of our chimneys on the Main Building at a cost of £27,000, but it was becoming mightily dangerous and just had to be done. The new one looks splendid and matches all the others perfectly.



The Rendcomb roofs are a perennial problem, and I am glad to be able to report that they are being tackled gradually by the Trustees over what is likely to be a

ten-year plan, repairing during this summer the Stable Block tower and the roof to the south-east of it.

I had the pleasure of observing part of the Understanding Industry symposium organised with aplomb by Michael Slark. The accompanying photograph might be entitled *Shot at Dawn*, or how to dispose of those who do not pass their exams.



E. T. Thring

The Parents' Association have, as ever, been active, and they do have a gleam in their eye over improving the lighting in the Reading Room and building a small extension to the Sports Hall to accommodate the weight-lifters; the first of these is quite easy, the second rather more difficult to achieve.

Sitting in my office after a week of beautiful sunshine, I wonder how we managed to get through another mild winter with virtually no snow; I cannot imagine that we shall be so lucky in 1994, but I continue to hope so.

Sadly, one or two of the old beech trees in the Park are now becoming so dangerous that we have decided to remove them or part of them, and this will be done during the summer holidays; there are, however, plenty of young trees coming on. In the 12 years that I have been here, with the help and advice of the Chairman of Trustees, we have carried out fairly extensive replanting programmes, and I rejoice to see the trees at the south side of the main playing fields, which I planted when I arrived, together with the spinney below them, flourishing.

This year we have some unusual summer holiday visitors, amongst whom will be 80 girl golfers, staying here whilst competing in the English Girls' Golf Championship, an International Summer School for Guitarists and - heaven help us - about 600 runners camping and being accommodated over the August Bank Holiday weekend, who will be cross-country-running all over Gloucestershire. I shall be glad to welcome the school back on Sunday, 5th September!

E. T. T.

## The Parents' Association

In these austere times it was encouraging to see the solid support for all the Association's activities.

I write these notes being the Chairman for less than one year, having been elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 1992. Having to follow Allan Hare, who had been chairman for three years and a member of the Association for two years before that, is no easy task; his enthusiasm and his commitment to Rendcomb College are an example to all future members of the Committee.

Likewise it was difficult to replace Mike Yardley, the secretary, on his leaving the locality and returning to his native Essex. His steady influence was much appreciated.

The economic climate was always in the mind of the Committee when determining the emphasis on the social aspects of the functions, whilst at the same time recognising that the school certainly appreciates our financial efforts. Three useful pieces of equipment were provided for the College:

Public address system	£900
CD Encyclopaedia for the Library	£840
Lighting for the Dulverton Hall	£400

The moneys in hand, held by the Association in consequence of functions held during the academic year, are, subject to the approval of parents, to be contributed to a major project, an extension of the Sports Hall and/or lighting for the Reading Room.

Our first social event of the year was the New Parents' Evening, an opportunity for new parents to meet the Committee and some members of the staff over drinks and nibbles in the informal setting of the Reading Room. This event proves to be well received and will continue in the future.

The Barn Dance last autumn - again a permanent feature in the school calendar with the established 'Odd Piece' - proved to be as popular and affordable as ever.

The special evening event caused much debate among the Committee as to the style of the event. In previous years the French Evening and the Burns Night were highly successful and therefore difficult to follow. The end result was a '1940s Night'. Great effort was needed from both the organisers and the participants in the form of dress and acknowledging their true age and memories. The decorations, by courtesy of the 29th Regiment, South Cerney, and the

school art department, were commendable. It would be unforgivable if I did not commend the members of the school's 'Big Band' under the direction of David White; its performance during the evening was of the highest calibre. It would be remiss of me not to mention further the splendid dress of those who attended; I was led to believe (by Peter Sudbury) that many of the costumes were those actually worn during the 1940s, and that they still fitted the owners! The end result was a splendid evening.

How can life at Rendcomb continue without the annual Family Day? The weather was excellent. As usual, the pupils, staff and parents worked hard behind the stalls and sideshows to produce a great event, and the usual high turnout was self-evident. I wish to bring to the attention of all those who follow the family day cricket match that, for the first time, the teachers did not win: the parents were delighted to achieve an honourable draw. The final analysis of the day perhaps appears in the words of John Tolputt, 'a wonderful day in creating a special family atmosphere'.

Without doubt the most rewarding function, which took place in September 1992, was the sponsored walk on behalf of the Friends of Paternoster School, in aid of their hydrotherapy swimming pool. I was proud when, with my predecessor Allan Hare, on behalf of the Parents' Association we presented the Friends of Paternoster with a cheque for £4,250. The walk was organised by the staff of the school and the Parents' Association. Congratulations go to the students, staff, parents and friends of Rendcomb who walked and raised a very welcome amount of money for such a worthy cause.

It would be wrong if I did not mention the sterling support of Russell and his staff; his flexibility in the catering arrangements has been a tremendous relief to the Committee, the quality of the meals excellent, and this has been much appreciated.

It is the aim of the Parents' Association to give support to Rendcomb College in many different ways and to encourage a coming together of the parents, pupils and staff, not just through social events, but with healthy dialogues, especially in these times of change for the schools. We are grateful to the Head Master and all his staff for their belief in and commitment to a strong Parents' Association, and above all we say 'thank you' to parents for their enthusiasm and support.

**MALCOLM D. HART, CHAIRMAN**

## Chaplain's Notes

The big change this year has been the introduction of Rite A of the Alternative Service Book as the liturgy of our weekly celebration of the Holy Communion. The change came about gradually over a number of years: first the ASB readings were introduced, then the Rite A *Gloria*, then the Offertory Procession, and then finally this year we introduced a nave altar and a 'Rendcomb Order of Rite A' booklet.

In general the changes have been well received, and I, for one, am much happier, both from a sociological and a theological point of view, to be part of the gathered congregation, rather than being separated from them by screen and chancel. The smoothness of the change has in no small part been due to the calm and efficient operating of the Holy Communion ushers, and I am most grateful to Charles Morgan-Harris, Peter Croft, James Mackinnon and Mark Sansome for all their help.

It is to the Morning, or Second, Service that we invite visiting preachers, and this year we have been privileged to hear some very interesting and challenging addresses.

The tone was set by Mr Peter Wilkes, the Head Master of Cheltenham College, who invited us to think carefully about the lifestyle and morals of those we might select as role models, and Canon Roger Grey, the Diocesan Director of Education and one of our Governors, who helped us in our approach to Advent.

In the spring term the Revd Gregory Cameron, Chaplain of Wycliffe College, spoke about Dracula, and in the summer term, in an amusing address, Canon David Nye, Rural Dean of Cheltenham, tried to explain the mysteries of the Trinity. The Ven John Lewis, Archdeacon of Cheltenham, rounded off the year with an interesting talk on the way in which symbols affect our everyday life, and the relevance of some Christian symbols.

This year it has been a great joy to welcome an increasing number of parents and friends to this service, and I am most grateful to Mr Bill White and his team of ushers - Andrew Platt, Simon Barrett,

Tom Hughes, Lucy Payne, Marian Preen and Theo Ramsden-Hare - for the warm welcome they give to all our visitors and the calm and efficient way in which they find seating for them all.

There have been our Rites of Passage. This year, for the first time, we began the academic year with a Service of Welcome for all new pupils and their families. It was very well received and looks well set to become an established part of the Rendcomb year.

On 28th March we had hoped to welcome the new Bishop of Gloucester to Rendcomb to conduct our annual Confirmation Service; however, it was not to be, and we were most grateful to the Bishop of Tewkesbury for stepping into the breach. Those confirmed by the Bishop were Aidan Barry, Imogen Cox, James de Lisle Wells, James Emerson, Manolito Garcia, James Graham, Marcus Haynes, Christopher Mackinnon, Bryony Roberts, James Smith, Michael

Smith, Rebekah Smith and Philippa Wood.

On Saturday 26th June our annual Sixth Form Leavers' Service gave an opportunity to those leaving the College to sing for the last time, in St Peter's Church, their favourite hymns, to hear Mr David Hawkswell, himself a leaver after 20 years here, read the Lesson, and to hear Mr

Bill White invite them to reflect on their time at Rendcomb.

The activities of the Choir will be covered elsewhere, but on behalf of the congregation I would like to thank them for some fine singing on special occasions, but also during our regular services: the Vivaldi *Gloria* and the Schubert Mass in G (in a liturgical setting on Ascension Day) were memorable examples of the former, as was the world premiere of Marian Preen's anthem *City Bright*, also performed on Ascension Day. Thanks are due also to Messrs David White and Stephen Lea for respectively conducting and accompanying the Choir, and to both of them for their organ-playing on Sundays and at Morning Prayers. John Talbot has been a most conscientious Tower Captain, and I am most grateful to him and his team for the work they have done in maintaining the bells and sorting out the belfry.



Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride, raising funds for Gloucestershire churches  
P. J. Sudbury



Ever since I came to Rendcomb Mr David Hawkswell and Dr Graham Smith have assisted at the Holy Communion by administering the Chalice. I am grateful to them both for all their help. As I mentioned earlier, Mr Hawkswell leaves Rendcomb at the end of this term, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him and Mrs Joan Hawkswell for all that they have done for the Church in Rendcomb, and to wish them all the best in the Lake District, where they intend to settle.

Throughout the year the Church has been regularly cleaned, decorated and maintained inside and out. I am grateful to Mrs Pat Edwards and her team of cleaners, to all who arrange the flowers so beautifully, to Mr Paul Kampe and his maintenance team, to Mr Frank Fry and all who help him with the churchyard, and to Andrew Martin and Matthew Gee who, as part of their Community Service for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, have completed the painting of the churchyard railings and are now engaged in renovating and painting the outside doors of the Church porch.

Finally, a word to those who are leaving: please do come back and see us. You will be most welcome at any of the services, and I am sure the hymns will be the same as you sang (or failed to sing!) whilst you were here. In the meantime we wish you all the best and Godspeed in everything you attempt to do.

P. J. S.

## The Junior House

The Old Rectory has seen many changes since the foundation of the school in 1920, but this year will always represent a significant chapter in its history, because in September the first day pupils and the first girls joined the junior forms.



After a year it seems as if junior girls have always been with us, and surely this must be a good sign. Arriving in time for morning assemblies, they have integrated well, often staying on for activities or prep and sometimes returning for evening play rehearsals and films. We were particularly proud of Bianca Mann and Rowan Renow-Clarke, who played major roles alongside Ralph Barnes and Sam Maylott in *Oliver!*

To facilitate such changes Dorm 3 has been converted into a room for junior girls; Dorm 1 has become a rest room, and Dorm 5 has been refurbished with new bunk-beds and furniture to match Dorm 2. By popular demand a table-tennis table has been placed in the games room, displacing the snooker table up to the rest room. There has been a decline in the use of computer games, and other activities have certainly benefited. With day pupils in mind, one prep is now done in the afternoon in the winter terms, allowing more time for reading in the evening after the second prep.

Boarders are now allowed home every Sunday after church, if they have no commitments at school. In fact, there have been a number of activities or outings on Sundays, such as the Sponsored Walk, rehearsals for *Oliver!*, the Sports Quiz at the Abbey School, Tewkesbury (teams consisted of Rupert Webb, Sam Maylott, Tim Hill, Ashley Taylor, Chas Holliday, Tom Gilbert) won by the Elms, swimming at the Oasis - made possible thanks to Mr Phillips and his Isuzu Trooper - the car Treasure Hunt with Godman House (remember the clue 'who is the vicar talking to at Barnsley?') and the varied programme of outings.

Broadway Tower Country Park was virtually invisible in the low cloud and looked most

(left) Swimming at the Oasis, Swindon

(below) Christmas party sketch



unpromising, but the children's spirit turned this into a memorable first trip, if only because they enjoyed getting so dirty on the adventure playground, which the weather had turned into a mudbath. Cadbury World, the Museum of Road Transport in Coventry, the RAF Museum and the Natural History Museum in London all provided interest in many forms, and these are reported elsewhere.

Cycling proved as popular as ever, beginning with Form 2's visiting Gloucestershire churches in September and later riding along the Ridgeway. This was encouraged by the introduction of a cycling activity in the summer term, which allowed keen cyclists to practise both on and off road.

We have been most fortunate this year to have two excellent girl prefects, who have shown great interest in the children as well as in the running of the house. We wish Lucy Payne and Marian Preen the very best in their further education.

Miss Goldsmith leaves the school this summer, and her presence in the house on Monday evenings will certainly be missed. We are all grateful to her for her help and care over the last two years.

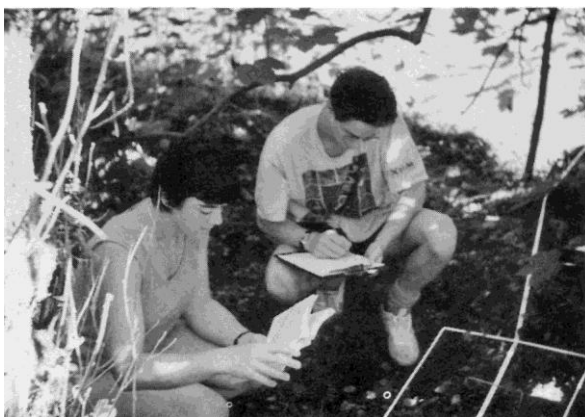
Finally, Dr Smith hands over to Mr Patterson as assistant housemaster after many years of sterling service.

C. J. W.

## Biology at Rendcomb

Rendcomb is a biologist's paradise. When the sun shines, the great outdoors beckons. Within five to ten minutes the most reticent pupil is converted into an animated field ecologist. The scope is endless, including investigations of invertebrates, 'Gribbles', in the River Churn, plant populations in grassland and woodland, wall and tree communities.

Such studies are invaluable, not only as training grounds in scientific method, but in terms of improved natural history, otherwise a dying art. By the fourth and fifth years, GCSE assessments give added impetus, and in the last few years the 'A' level also has demanded a project component on these lines.



Timetable arrangements and flexibility have allowed for a number of field trips to local places of interest; we are spoilt for choice. Destinations have included the Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bristol Zoo, Slimbridge, Westonbirt arboretum, Sapperton orchid reserve, Miserden Park nature trail. Many of these have good educational facilities and provide a varied programme, with plenty of fun.

It remains for me to wish Mr James Stutchbury as much enjoyment from the biology department as I have had, and bequeath him any enthusiastic up-and-coming biologists, without whom life would be very dull!

B. M. G.

## Bookshop

After nearly ten years, it has been decided to reduce the scale of the bookshop to an 'order only' status. This will enable both departments and pupils to purchase books to firm order; no stock will be carried. The 'Schoolkit' stock for the supply of pens, batteries, tapes, calculators etc. will continue as before.

The bookshop has provided not only a valuable resource in the provision of books for the College, but also a source of funding for a diverse range of items. Over the years finance has been made available for such varied items as:

books for house libraries,  
snooker balls for the college table,  
tennis ball machine,  
charity donations,  
prizes for tennis tournaments etc.

In the last year a computer CD-Rom system and colour printer for the computer room have been purchased, and further donations of books made to house libraries and the English Department.

During the whole time the bookshop has been run, much of its success has been due to the work of Derek Coombes. Not only does he see to the day-to-day selling of books and schoolkit, but he has also been responsible for the ordering of new stock and preparing the accounts. Derek will remain in control of the book-ordering system and the sale of schoolkit.

D. A. H.

*Andrew Martin*

## The Library

In addition to the usual purchase of books to keep the stock up to date, the Library has been fortunate to benefit from two major acquisitions from other sources.

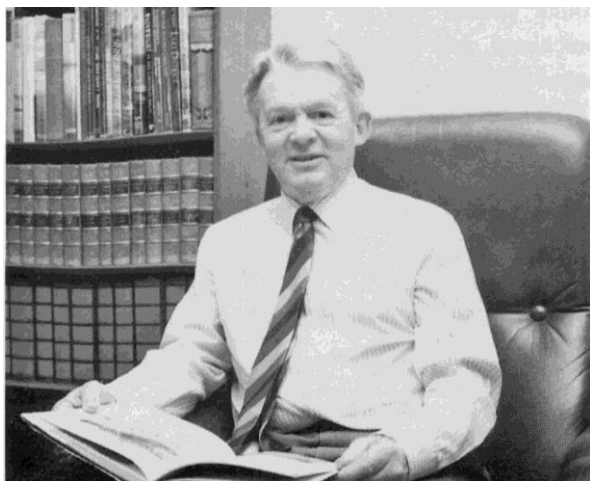
The Parents' Association gave us the World Book Encyclopaedia, Dictionary and CD-Rom. This has a great many advantages, including the presentation of the articles in graded form, from a simple introduction up to an in-depth approach, and the link with the CD-Rom, which contains all the text from both the encyclopaedia and dictionary, allows instant research and cross-referencing.

As part of the careers funding, an RM Nimbus 386 CD-Rom computer has been provided in the Library, to give access to information on tertiary education via the ECCTIS system. This will provide also the latest information on available places during the post-results period.

Apart from this, the CD-Rom can be used in conjunction with the new dictionary mentioned above, and also to access other CDs, including 'The Times', containing all the text and some pictures from a complete year's issues of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Much of the credit for another year of successful progress in the Library must go to Andrew Martin, the Head Librarian, and James Button. These two boys, assisted by Nerys Machin, have been almost totally responsible for its day-to-day running, and they deserve the thanks of all those who find it a valuable resource. Mr Graham, who is taking over as Staff Librarian, is fortunate to have the services of both Andrew and James next year: they are a formidable and hardworking team!

D. A. H.



David Hawkswell

## The Friends of Rendcomb

I am glad to write that a number of ORs and parents have joined the roll of Friends during the past year, and that we have been able to invest further funds.

I hope that anyone interested in helping the College will consider becoming a Friend. After you, or your children, have left Rendcomb, it is quite a good way of keeping in touch; a letter is sent out each autumn giving news of the Friends' Trust, of the College and of notable forthcoming events.

If you wish for further information, please contact me at no 17, Rendcomb.

DAVID SELLS

## Computing

The Computer Room continues to be widely used, both for formal lessons and on all non-games afternoons. Over 50 pupils are currently involved in taking the Cambridge Information Technology course in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms. All pupils in Forms 1, 2 and 3 also have regular lessons.

During the year the facilities have been upgraded by the provision of a CD-Rom Computer, a Hand-Scanner and another colour printer. The computer and the printer were purchased with funds provided by the Bookshop.

The CD-Rom Computer, which is identical to the one in the Library, besides providing an up-to-date insight into this type of information retrieval system, is of course available as a resource for project work. At present the discs available include World Atlas, The Times Disc for 1992/93, which is upgraded every three months, and two Encyclopedia/Dictionary Discs. Much of the information can be printed out or transferred to files for use on other computers. The Scanner enables any type of image to be copied to a computer file, where it can be edited and eventually included in a Desk Top Published Document.

The following fifth-formers obtained Cambridge Information Technology Modules. Five modules result in the award of the University of Cambridge Certificate in Information Technology.

A. Bainbridge (5), M. Bartlett (7), A. Beales (2), M. Brown (5), J. Button (6), N. Channing-Williams (1), S. Croft (7), S. Deen (3), R. Hancock (5), A. Higazi (3), C. Jarrett (7), P. Roberts (7), P. Smith (5), M. Steen (6), A. Topalian (6), J. Underwood (7), R. Wertheimer (4), C. Yardley (5).

D. A. H.



# Founder's Day

## The Chairman of Governors

Welcoming the Guest of Honour, Lord Charteris of Amisfield, and all the other guests, Mr Allan Wyatt referred to the commendable brevity with which a former Chairman, Colonel John Godman, had opened proceedings. However, as this was his first speech as Chairman, he asked for a little leeway.

Coming comparatively late in life to work in a school, he had visited a great many, both before and after his retirement. Against this experience he offered his first impressions of Rendcomb.

First, there was the remarkable beauty of the place, an asset easily taken for granted. Then there was the courteous good humour of the pupils, which he had later found to be backed by enthusiasm, by an invaluable curiosity and by care for others. And then there was the extraordinary degree to which a school of only moderate size scored distinctions in so many different directions at once.

Deeper knowledge of Rendcomb had impressed him with a sense of the widespread, strong loyalty of all who worked here, loyalty to the total enterprise, not simply to a particular sector. This commitment was reflected and complemented by the good fellowship and support given by the Parents' Association. Behind all this lay, despite the many changes in the educational scene in the last 70 years, the unique bearing set for the school by the Founder and the constant care and support given by his family.

He was sharing these impressions of Rendcomb simply to emphasise that this community was something very special, to be fostered with all possible care, especially in these difficult times. One



way in which everyone could help was to strive to give Rendcomb the wider fame it deserved, indeed to proclaim it from the rooftops.

## The Head Master's Report

Regretting that he lacked President Lincoln's power of brevity and of memorability, the Head Master returned to the subject he had raised last year, the crude measures now available for judging the success of a school. He reaffirmed his belief that there was more to education than could be revealed by exam league tables or fostered by a national curriculum: there was room also for disinterested curiosity, for sheer enjoyment or, more simply, fun.

*The diverse riches of boarding-school life*



Looking back over the year and the moments of delight it had brought, he found another quality in all these experiences, the quality of attention, of concentration, of work.

As instances, he recalled the quality of 'a Hugh Costelloe try', Chris Carmichael's rugby captaincy, Piers Roberts's six goals in a match, Matt Giggs's hunger for goals, Mike Smith playing hockey and squash for the county, Nick Carmichael the classic striker, Mark Valentine encouraging and inspiring Rendcomb on the cricket field...

He remembered Helen Hall-Wright's singing, Roger Gorman playing the trumpet, Daniel Morris the

clarinet, Nerys Machin's choreography, the acting and singing of Ralph Barnes, of Bianca Mann, of John Morgan, Rufus Blackwell, Rowan Renow-Clarke, Hannah Willcocks, Sam Maylott, Francis Barton, Poppy Smith and Tim Shaw, indeed of Tim Shaw's playing in a violin concerto...

There was the sponsored walk, supported by so many pupils and parents on a glorious September day, the superb art exhibition, each piece an unique and surprising expression of personal vision, the wonderful Schubert Mass in G, the Vivaldi *Gloria*, the Mozart Serenade for 13 wind instruments...

There were the distant exploits of the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, one in the Highlands of Scotland even as he spoke, toasting those celebrating Founder's Day at Rendcomb in a can of lager taken along especially for the purpose, and another described by Mike Newby at a school assembly, summing up the courage and concentration needed to walk along a high edge, roped together and each confident in the others...

He looked back over the girls' netball, the warm welcome given by the church ushers, the visit he had received from girls' and boys' hockey captains one evening to give him a superb word-picture of the progress of each of the many teams, Julian Wilkie's running achievements...

His memories included John Carroll, Rendcomb's Cambridge cricket blue, the Ascension Day Choral Evensong and the choir dinner where John Talbot spoke so wittily - thanking David White for having more confidence in the choir than they had in him - the fine tennis with the parent/pupil tennis match, the parent/staff cricket match and Bobby Morgan's 76 not out...

There were, too, the Ridgeway Cycle Ride, Marian Preen's piano playing and the choir's singing the anthem she had composed, Bill White's moving and now traditional talk at the Leavers' Service, the energetic leadership given by this year's prefects and their belief in the best that Rendcomb can offer, last weekend's splendid Antic Theatre: a group of final-year drama students had worked for a weekend with Rendcomb actors and musicians and produced a polished and thought-provoking final performance...

Beside Rendcomb's sharp-eyed archers, who had brought the school to the forefront of national archery and were, he understood, soon to be featured in the *Gloucester Pink'un*, there were the Community Service volunteers, who earned so much praise and affection from those they served and helped, the careful librarianship of Andrew Martin and his

team, the superb under-sixteen Richard Cound rugby final, fighting back from 16-0 at half-time to lose by a whisker at 16-13, the two-day Understanding Industry Course with so many fine individual contributions, the excellent GCSE coursework in Design and Realisation...



Thinking over all these events, bearing in mind that there was much more quality, perhaps hidden from his eye but just as real, vivid and memorable to those who experienced it, thinking also over the thousands of hours of purposeful teaching and learning, he was struck by the delight and glory when something went really well. He thought then of the concentration, the work and unselfish preparation, giving up immediate freedom in favour of real listening and attentiveness. These, he believed, were moments of truth.

\* \* \*

Reverting to the subject of the National Curriculum, the Head Master said that he had just started his time as Area President of the Secondary Heads Association, which combined in harmony the heads of maintained and independent schools. The area, Gloucestershire, Avon, Devon and Somerset, contained 460 schools. Rendcomb had always worked closely with the maintained sector, still had Gloucestershire Foundationers nominated by the Education Authority among its pupils, and was proud to count the Chief Education Officer among its governors.

The whole process of testing fourteen-year-olds

was still in jeopardy; it was being fitted into' Rendcomb's third-year examinations, whilst maintained school heads faced the formidable task of protecting the interests of their pupils. Independence in education meant that parents had a say and, if the school did not listen properly, a sanction.

With independence he coupled boarding. During the year Rendcomb had received its first Social Services Inspection under the Children Act. The three-day visit from the local inspector had been a careful and stimulating event. She had reserved her highest praise for the commitment of the house staff, appreciating their round-the-clock exposure to their charges. Rendcomb was indeed fortunate in the quality of these men and women.

The school had been helped and encouraged by this inspection and by more ordinary measures of achievement. There had been a 90% 'A' level pass rate, 100% in English, History, French and Biology and Art. In the GCSE 27 out of 30 candidates had achieved five Grades A-C.

Congratulating pupils and staff on these achievements, the Head Master paid warm tribute to Bridget Goldsmith, who was leaving to become Deputy Head at Taunton School, and to the long years of sterling service given to Rendcomb by David Hawkswell, who was retiring this year, and by Charlotte Holdaway, who was leaving Park House.

## **Address by Lord Charteris of Amisfield, GCB, GCVO, QSO, OBE**

Lord Charteris remarked that the previous evening he had been described by a television interviewer as 'a ripe old Stilton Cheese', although Stilton was one of the best cheeses produced in the country. Referring to his fall from a horse, which had prevented his speaking on Founder's day last year, he thanked people for their kind concern, saying that he could now pass the 'Claret Test' that is to say he could tilt his neck back far enough to down a glass of claret.

He spoke about education, remarking that virtually everyone in the hall was involved with it in some way. He had observed education during the 14 years he had spent as Provost at Eton, and he felt that today it was more important than it had ever been before.

He quoted John Alexander Smith, addressing

undergraduates in 1914, saying that education gave one the ability to form a sound judgment of the world and of people around one. He said that, in his view, one's aim in being educated is to become a rounded, recognisable, sellable individual, developing personal gifts and talents to the full. Only then could the student become a person of independent mind - there was no harm in moving with the herd, so long as it was going in the right direction - and develop an individual style and qualities of leadership, avoiding the stereotypes found in today's society.



**The Head Master and Lord Charteris of Amisfield**

He believed that such civilisation as the human race enjoyed today was owed to the activities of educated people; thanks to them, mankind did progress, although there were often signs to the contrary. The development of science had given human beings such power that we lived in a time of both danger and opportunity: educated people were needed to take the opportunities to make the world a better place to live in.



## Speech of Thanks

*by the Head Boy, Peter Croft*

After thanking Lord Charteris for his address, Peter Croft spoke of his time as a student at Rendcomb and of the privilege of being Head Boy of such a school.

He emphasised the sense of friendship found here and how the relatively small, informal ambience led to the establishment of those long-lasting relationships which are given an opportunity to develop throughout one's life as a student living away from home. Friends and a good working environment provided support for one's studies and development.

Peter reminisced about some aspects of the seven years he had spent at Rendcomb, from the antics of first-formers in the Junior House to outings and camping for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In conclusion he cited the number of Old Rendcombians who were still in touch with each other; the friendships made in one's early years often lasted a lifetime. Education was more than academic study: it was - he referred to Lord Charteris's speech - about the formation of character and of being an individual in one's community. He thanked the staff throughout the school and the parents for their support and then expressed the thanks of all present to Lord Charteris for his witty and thought-provoking speech.



**The Head Boy and Head Girl laying a wreath on the Founder's grave**

## Talks

### Engineers Who?

On the evening of 16th November a discussion was held in the Reading Room with a panel of engineers, chaired by the Head Master. The panellists were:

Alex Beardmore	- a semi-retired GPO consultant,
Dennis Peters	- a water research engineer,
Tony Foster	- an aircraft and navigation consultant engineer,
Rob Wilson	- an integrated circuit design engineer.

The discussion was open to the Fifth and Sixth Forms; there was a large turnout, and the room was almost full. The panellists introduced themselves, and then discussion was thrown open to questions from the floor.

The first question came from David Chalk of 6B: 'In the present economic situation is engineering a good choice as a career?' This was a particularly tough question with which to open the evening, but the panel had no qualms. Alex Beardmore took it up and replied in the positive: 'engineering is a safe and secure job in the present economic climate'. David appeared satisfied with the answer but was flustered when asked by the chairman if he was planning to become an engineer.

The absence of female panellists prompted David Elliott, also a 6B physicist, to enquire why. The simple answer was that there were no women available for the panel and that few women were taking engineering degrees, Dennis Peters explained.

The evening proceeded thus, with questions coming from all corners of the room. The panel always supplied satisfactory and detailed replies, which were interesting and reassuring to the individual considering a career in engineering. They dismissed the 'green' issue, saying that engineers avoided causing environmental problems by careful planning beforehand.

We would like to thank the panellists for coming and leading an interesting discussion, and the Head Master for chairing the meeting.

**DAVID ELLIOTT  
NIK POLLARD**

## 6B Visit Outer Mongolia

As the Christmas term was drawing to a close, any excuse to miss prep was seized upon; Miss Goldsmith organised the minibus trip to the Royal Agricultural College to hear a talk on Outer Mongolia on 8th December, and several 6B biologists went along.

The talk dealt with a four-month expedition to Outer Mongolia made last year. The party landed in the capital, Ulan Bator, and was taken by a convoy of old Russian trucks to its base in the mountains to the west of the country. Mongolia is about the size of Europe and lies between the USSR and China.

Until two years ago it had been under Soviet occupation for over 60 years, and a lot of its temples had been destroyed, although the Buddhist religion is rapidly rebuilding. The weather varied from very hot to freak hailstorms and snowy blizzards up in the mountains.

The expedition consisted of two hikes, each of about 700 km, starting towards the north and then heading south. They stayed in tents, but were frequently invited into the 'Gurrs', homes built from wood and hide by the mountain folk, by the hospitable locals, who were more than keen to pose for the cameras!

They had to buy horses and camels from the Mongolians for the hike, at about 50 dollars each, and they were shocked to find that the only way of 'shoeing' a horse was to tie it to the ground and simply bang the shoe on with nails. However, the horses didn't seem to mind. The locals lived purely on dairy products and meat, and the doctors in the party were amazed not to find any vitamin deficiencies among them, although the animals were found to be very wormy. After the trip, as a sort of thankyou to the animals, they were given a thorough worming!

They encountered only one problem: one member was hit by a boulder during an avalanche and was quickly flown to Hong Kong for treatment.

It turned out to be an enjoyable evening, extremely interesting to hear about untouched parts of the world, where they hardly have an economy to worry about!

JULIAN WILKIE

## Understanding Industry

What is the Understanding Industry Course about? That is the question that many of us in the Sixth Form

were asking when we found out about the two-day conference in store for us.

On the first morning we all crowded into the Reading Room for an introductory presentation by Peter Hill about what the course aimed to achieve. This session included a short 'game', in which we were divided into several groups, given information cards and asked to obtain the relevant details of a mystery structure by relating to other people in the group.

Everybody set to, eager to become the first group to finish. We soon found that the need to work together and support each other was important. Ending on that note, we were divided into syndicates and subdivided into groups before heading off for our next session.

During the rest of the morning we had two sessions: one on Management and Enterprise and the other on Marketing. In these we learned about entrepreneurs and self-management, the way large businesses are governed and the links between departments, and the general workings of small and large companies. All the session leaders provided interesting and relevant talks, and many included group participation and overhead projector or slide displays.

That evening each syndicate met to prepare a small-business case study, based upon what we had learned so far. The subject of our scrutiny was the fictitious 'Spiro' of Spiro Car Dealers, jack of all trades and master of none. He found himself in the predicament of dropping sales while in the middle of a long-term deal in which he would have a large initial cash output for a drawn-out, long-term overall return. This gave him a severe cash-flow problem, causing him to call upon the enlightened experience of the Rendcomb Sixth Form. Each syndicate was supplied with either flip charts or acetate and pens for the overhead projector, and we had two hours to prepare our presentation.

The second day opened with sessions on Production. Once again they were informative and were found valuable by everyone. I'm sure that everyone especially appreciated the gift of a pen, courtesy of Motorola!

After lunch the syndicates had to present their case studies to a panel consisting of Duncan Cairns (Cairns & Co.), Ian Larrard (Midland Bank) and Peter Gray and Peter Hill from Understanding Industry. They used either an OHP or a large flip chart to illustrate their conclusions. Every syndicate proved to have put in a lot of effort, and all the presentations

were judged excellent, notably the ornately decorated and headed acetate by Matthew Pentney and Co., but in the end the panel decided that John Talbot's group held an edge over the others in its clarity and the quality of its solutions. For their efforts, its members were awarded a book token each, kindly given by the Midland Bank.

Overall, the conference was enjoyed by everybody, even by some younger pupils, who saw the spectacle of some of the Sixth Form being led blindfolded round the school, emphasising their interdependence, in a Personnel period.



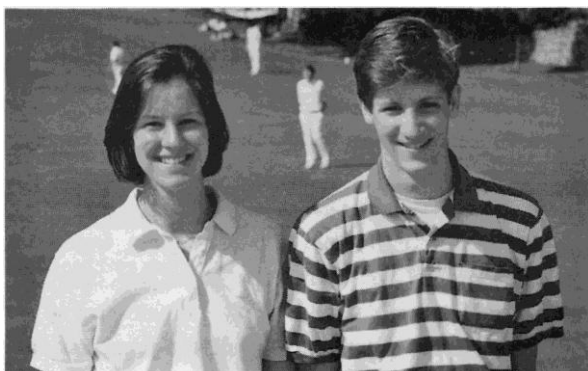
Our thanks go to Mr Slark for putting the programme together and for ensuring the smooth running of the event.

DAVID ELLIOTT

## Viewpoints

### The Schuh Twins

*We have been very fortunate to have Enno and Theda Schuh with us at Rendcomb over the past year. They joined 6B to study in an English school for a year, before returning to Germany to continue their studies. They have written a few words for us about their year here.*



Having been through 10 years of school in Germany and with three to come, we felt we wanted to come to England for a year to improve our English within an educational environment. Our school in Germany is very classically oriented, and our main language work so far has been Latin and Ancient Greek.

We had visited Rendcomb the year before and were impressed about how friendly the atmosphere was and how beautiful the landscape, having lived in the urban environment of Hanover, our home city.

On our arrival in September we soon made friends with the people in our houses. Many fellow-students were keen to help us with the language, and by the time the first few days had passed we were starting to learn the school rules and how the whole boarding environment worked. Looking back now, the daily pattern which has become routine took a long time to get used to for newcomers used to a different system.

We managed to get involved in lots of sports activities and other interests, including the choir, taking part in concerts and singing in the weekly Sunday services.

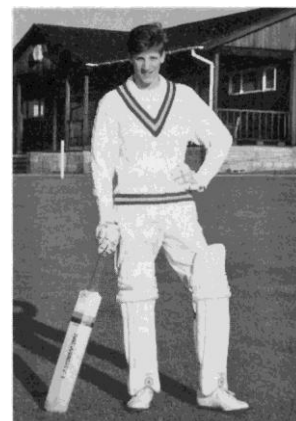
The Christmas term passed quickly; we went home to Germany over half-term - a journey made easier by the coach connections between Cirencester and Heathrow - and a highlight was the Christmas Dinner where, with the boys in DJs and the girls in party dresses, we had an excellent evening.

The spring term brought hockey and, having been keen players in Germany, we joined the teams, playing for the boys' 2nd XI and the girls' 1st XI.

The summer's cricket was a new experience: cricket is not played in Germany and, with the coaching of Mr King, I (Enno) found the sport a really enjoyable experience, rising to the heights of the 2nd XI.

Geography and Biology field trips provided chances to tour round other parts of the English countryside, and the good weather in the summer term allowed extensive use of the outdoor facilities.

Once examinations were taken (and passed!) we had to start to say our 'goodbyes' to all our new friends. We would like to thank all those who made the year so enjoyable. We would especially like to thank our Housemaster and Housemistress, Mr Newby and Mrs Holdaway, all the staff for their teaching and





encouragement, and to all 6B pupils: you are great!

So, Rendcomb, goodbye; we will be back as ORs some day soon...

ENNO AND THEDA SCHUH

## 25 Years On

*1968 saw two families join the team at Rendcomb, who are still with us at present, Joan and David Essenhigh and John and Anne Holt. Nick Barton and Chris Oliver interviewed Joan and David and asked them about their memories of the intervening years...*

On 2nd December 1968 David and Joan Essenhigh arrived at Rendcomb from Marlborough College. David was appointed as head groundsman and cricket coach and Joan became laboratory technician for the Biology and Geography departments.



David had played cricket for Wiltshire and was a national staff coach. He had helped many famous cricketers over the years, including 'Jack' Russell and the fast bowler David Laurence; he has also coached the Gloucestershire County Cricket teams. Joan came as a professional archery coach and has helped to build up the team here to win in many competitions. In more recent years they have been assistant house-staff in Park House.

David takes great pride in seeing the grounds at their best here. He has seen the sporting scene grow as the College extended the top field. He can remember sailing on the lake down by the Cheltenham drive, now silted over, and seeing gym classes in the orangery, now the Dulverton Hall. He has served under three Head Masters and has seen the further development of the Stable Block into the laboratories we see today, the building of the senior boarding

houses and the development of Godman House.

They have both taken a busy part in the life of the village. David used to help with the Public Works scheme in which pupils from the College would help with the gardening and general jobs round the village; he is a member of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council.

They had never planned to stay at Rendcomb, but now they feel they couldn't leave! Their house is in a superb location, and they love the pleasant atmosphere of the College. They feel that Rendcomb pupils have difficulty in believing that they are as good as those in other small schools: many of them are surprised at how well they do in competitions and subsequently gain in confidence. They look forward to the OR reunions, to meet old friends, and they enjoy the company and the helpfulness shown by all those helping 'up top' and assisting in the many activities in which they are both involved.

They are both very busy people - always have cheery smiles - and are a real asset to the community. Who knows what the next 25 years will bring for them?

*John Holt writes:*

When I first mentioned to my previous Head Master that I was considering accepting the offer of a job at Rendcomb College, near Cirencester, he said he had never heard of the school and that it would be a sideways career step only, and then he misguidedly offered me a pay-rise to remain in Kent in the shadow of the majestic Cathedral. However, mouths had to be fed, bills paid, and I felt the call of the West Country again: at least Gloucestershire was adjacent to God's Own County. It is frightening to think that we have been here ever since, for 25 years, roughly one-third of an anticipated life-span and two-thirds of a career.

My first impressions of the school were, understandably, mixed. Its position was obviously very favoured, and I have never tired of the panoramas, especially in the early summer and autumn, across the Churn valley and to the egocentric Hebraic clumps of trees seen from the road to Top.

I shall never forget the school assembly on my first morning: amazingly the entire school of 145 boys (smaller than my previous school's sixth form) gathered in what is now the Reading Room to usher in the new academic year with a suitably well-known hymn and to hear Anthony Quick's words of welcome and exhortation. The insularity implied was confirmed for me later that term when I spoke to an old villager

in the street: no, he had not lived in the village long, only 27 years, and no, he was not a local, he had been born in North Cerney.

All the indoor play productions were then performed in the present Reading Room on a small stage with minimal room backstage. I remember co-producing *Androcles and the Lion* with Jean Quick - Jonathan Dixon, later to become a professional actor, made his debut in this as a 12-year-old! - and then producing two enjoyable farces, *Pillar to Post* and *See How They Run* in successive years; amusing enough, though scarcely of Brian Rix class. The last decade has seen the College's drama ambitions and achievements soar well beyond that kind of thing.

Meanwhile, beyond the campus, I remember taking (with Art teacher Keith Thorne, now sadly departed) a sizeable school party to visit Paris and the Loire Valley chateaux - before Alton Towers' heyday! In the Fifth Form in that era was a certain fresh-faced Chris Wood, who showed definite promise in his essays on *Henry V* before defecting to the Chemistry laboratory.

Anne and I enjoyed our 12 years (1975-87) running Godman House, even if one or two year-groups appeared more like menageries than examples of civilised youth. Still, we met many very pleasant pupils and parents, and some gave us presents on departing: I have never known if *The National Trust Book of Long Walks* was meant as a thank-you or a gentle hint. We had two sleepwalkers who walked or fell from windows: both survived, even the one who blearily rang our doorbell at 3 a.m. The actual building of Godman was gradually added to over the years in lego fashion, but the finished product is admirably functional.

From Godman we moved to Wilderness House and the beautiful garden created and nurtured by Jack and Vera Fell. Nature is rampant, as the house's name implies, and we have seen some memorable sights: a hedgehog painstakingly carrying her young, one by



one, in her mouth along the garden path to a new nest; foxes; persistent rabbits; woodpeckers, with their superb colours, jabbing at lawns and trees; unobtrusive wrens; numerous pheasant trumpeters; ring-doves; straying sheep. The tapestry has been endless and so, seemingly, have been the weeds.

I still have hopes: like all English teachers, I hope to stir a few more teenagers to a love of great literature, for which there is no substitute except perhaps in music and painting; to achieve one day the par of 12 for the four short holes of the college golf course; to be still staggering my way to the occasional volley on the tennis court when I am 60; to share with sixth-formers and colleagues more golden evenings of Shakespeare at Stratford. More seriously, I hope the College comes through its brief time of transition renewed and prosperous, with the idealistic vision of its Founder still glowing and exemplary.

## Our Visiting Musicians' Views

*Apart from Mr White and Mr Lea, Rendcomb is fortunate in having a number of visiting musicians, who come here at different points during the week to teach a wide variety of instruments. Over half the pupils learn to play one or more, and the instrumental staff are involved in many different events in the life of the College.*

*Two such players, Kai Thomas and Christian Millard, interviewed a number of our peripatetic staff, asking them their views on Rendcomb, Music, life, the world...*

Kai started by looking at the contemporary music scene, asking drum teacher Greg Watson and electric guitar teacher Paul Cordell about their musical background. Mr Cordell was inspired by hearing Elvis Presley's *Hound Dog*, the first piece he learned to play, and Mr Watson had been struck by the album *Van Halen 1*. When asked why they became teachers, Mr Cordell answered, 'To give me the freedom to carry on with my own writing'; he combines his career as a teacher with that of composer and performer. He finds that more girls are now learning, inspired by the female rock groups and breaking into what has traditionally been a male-dominated world.

Mr Watson feels that music is given a high priority at Rendcomb. Some schools place music at the bottom of the list, but here the higher profile means that pupils are better motivated and generally

more reliable at attending lessons. Mr Cordell thinks that the facilities here are excellent: every practice room has a piano, and any aspirant bands have the opportunity to use the recording studio facilities to their advantage.



Christian spoke with **Chris Green**, teacher of saxophone, trumpet and clarinet, Colin Shiner, who teaches brass instruments, and Lesley Vernon, who teaches the younger piano students.

To his first question, how does Rendcomb differ from the other schools they work in, Mr Green replied that he was impressed by the relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and that a good working environment is very important; normally an instrumental teacher is confined to a small room all day, having little contact with people other than his pupils. Mr Shiner remarked on the small-community atmosphere, and Mrs Vernon commented that the boarding environment allowed a common standard of discipline and expectation to be maintained throughout the school, so that pupils largely knew what was expected of them.

When asked how they would improve the facilities at Rendcomb, all three agreed that the facilities, by and large, were very good, but they did feel that more practice rooms were needed, to allow more people to work simultaneously.

Christian then asked, 'What would you say are the most important qualities of a music student?'

All three replied that without regular practice very little progress was ever made. Mr Green said that practice enabled the student to grow to love music, and made playing the instrument a positive and rewarding experience. Mrs Vernon felt that her ideal

pupil would be patient, persistent and imaginative, with the ability to make every practice session fun by bringing a sense of freshness and purpose, by trying to see something new in every piece. 'A sense of humour when everything falls apart is something that I like to see!'

Christian developed this point, asking what they felt most satisfying about music teaching. Mr Shiner replied that he found it very satisfying to see people struggling with a piece and then its suddenly coming together. Mrs Vernon enjoyed helping beginner students, struggling to co-ordinate their hands in the early stages, eventually skipping around the keyboard with enormous freedom.

Finally, when asked why each of them became a music teacher, all three had different paths to their present position. Mr Green had wanted a job which could combine his greatest love and his greatest hobby with working in a more relaxed atmosphere. Mrs Vernon had trained as an infant teacher, and after a number of years as a class teacher, working with a large group of infants, she had wanted to specialise in piano teaching on a one-to-one basis. Mr Shiner had taken early retirement from an educational career to go back to his first love, music teaching; from an earlier serious hobby he had developed a successful second career.

Both interviewers extend grateful thanks to the staff for sharing their thoughts. They found talking to them interesting and were glad to gain an insight into a significant area of Rendcomb's activities.

## Activity

### Art

We continue with the belief that working in painting and drawing offers a strong grammar to the visual arts, so most of our work has a distinct Fine Art bias, but we also try to maintain new and ever-changing alternative activities, and during the year it has been particularly interesting to see the development and wonderful work produced under the label of Textiles activity and options.

All the credit here goes to Mrs Sophia Blackwell, who had masterminded what can be done with a minuscule budget combined with enthusiasm and expertise. Thursday afternoons were quite a spectacle, with Sophia surrounded by hordes of students of various ages, all desperately working on various

cloths and clothing and wielding brushes, stencils, screens etc. under her napoleonic command.

The other highlight of the year, besides an exhausting but worthwhile visit to Paris, was to see the growth that the students made; two from 6A will be going to art college in September, and it was particularly enjoyable seeing some of last year's group who have done so well on Foundation courses and gained excellent places on various degree courses.

The best work of the year came from 6A, where Alex Faiers produced some dramatic drawing, and Matt Giggs made a notable impression on the Founder's Day exhibition with a piece combining self-portrait with pure fantasy. Jeremy Sawtell relied on massive amounts of sustained hard work and thought, and that his final exam piece should be so successful is a major achievement.

Tom Hughes was to surprise many, including himself, with the quiet authority of his latter pieces, while Theo Hare found a novel way of collecting still-life materials and an excellent use for Volvos. Roger Gorman's memory problem rather hindered his progress at times, while Tara Keegan, Alice Lethbridge and Melanie Caseldine all revealed noticeable qualities and spent much of their time discussing them!

A rather bizarre approach to self-motivated endeavour meant that some heavy cajoling was needed at times, but they all got there in the end, and Tara and Alice in particular should be well pleased with their exam pieces, which showed skills and understanding of colour and use of materials; all produced some work to be proud of and made definite progress.

In contrast, 6B sometimes tried a differing approach, occasionally working past the end of lessons and coming in to work during prep. James Moore has had a particularly successful year, and it will be interesting to see if he can maintain his high standards while he is being chased closely by Robert Sage, Julian Wilkie and the strongly emerging Paul Bigg-Wither and Graham Monteith. Polly Parsons, Georgina Buck and Hannah Wykeham have been quietly working away - not so quietly in George's case - and have the potential to do well next year.

This year's Fifth Form were exceptional: not only were they considerably talented, but also they worked with enthusiasm, motivation, interest and personal maturity. The best of their work was excellent, and they were an amazingly responsive and good-humoured group. Those going on to 'A' level are strong prospects, and their work on exhibition in

Clock Hall was so striking that even Miss Musto was speechless for a while; I can offer them no greater accolade.

Lower in the school the fourth year are coolly efficient and developing extremely well. Their response to advice and practical help is open and honest, especially when Tom Denny and I have a loaded watercolour brush in hand.

The third year are going to supply an extremely large and enthusiastic group with much talent, although the awesome are missing from the GCSE set.

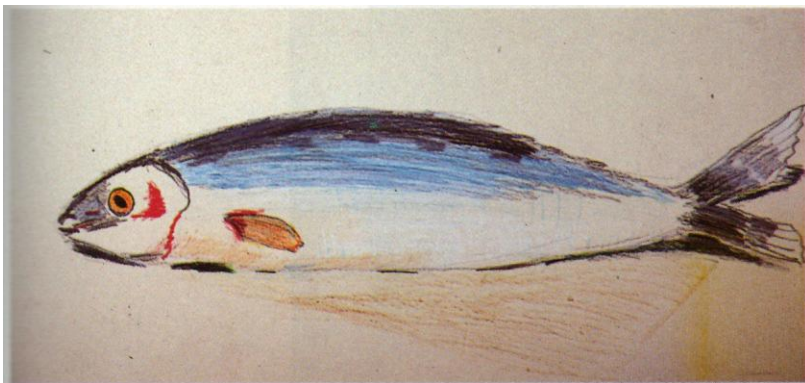
The juniors have much talent, especially among the new intake of girls, whom we expect to be making an even more distinct impression at 'A' level in a few years' time. Their desire to wield a paintbrush and transform blank white paper into objects of richness, colour and rhythm is strong and impressive; the future in their hands has real potential.

M. S. G.

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

<i>a</i> Fish study - crayon	Ashley Taylor (2)
<i>b</i> Fish design - oil, pastel & watercolour	Tara Sleggs (2)
<i>c</i> Landscape - watercolour	James Starkey (1)
<i>d</i> Landscape - watercolour	Beshlie McKelvie (1)
<i>e</i> St Sebastian - watercolour & pastel	Mark Williams (5)
<i>f</i> Man holding hat - pastel	Andrew Riley (5)
<i>g</i> Sculpture - clay	Graham Monteith, left (6)
<i>h</i> Self portrait - oil paint	Mark Williams (5)
<i>i</i> Puppets - watercolour	Martin Adams (5)
<i>j</i> Van Goch in Arles - oil pastel	John Morgan (5)
<i>k</i> Still life with fish - oil pastel	Paul Bigg-Wither (6)
<i>l</i> Oak tree - watercolour	Gemma Choudry (4)
<i>m</i> Self portrait - watercolour	Tom Hughes (7)
<i>n</i> Helmet - oil paint	Alex Faiers (7)
<i>o</i> Figures in action with self portrait - oil paint & pastel	Matt Giggs (7)
<i>p</i> Landscape - oil pastel	Jeremy Sawtell (7)





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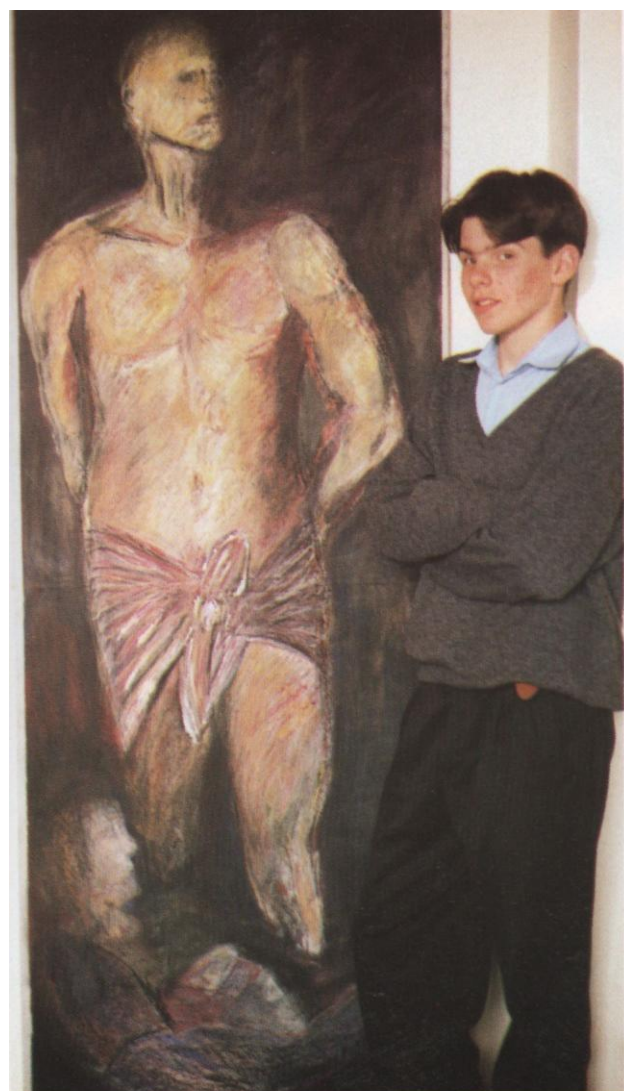
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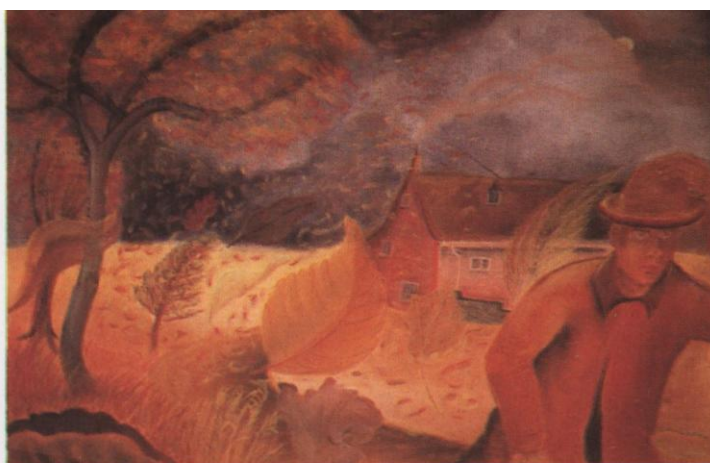
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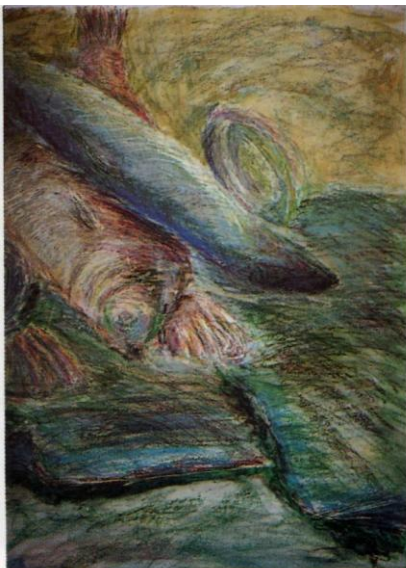
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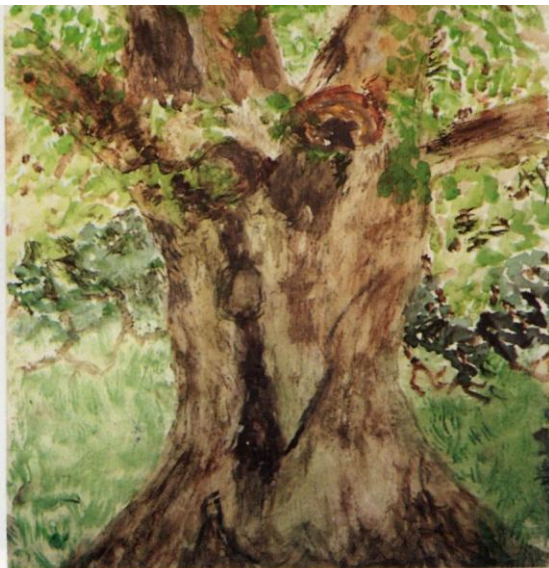
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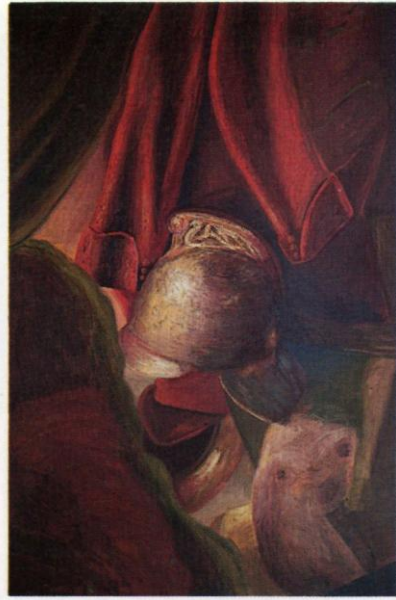


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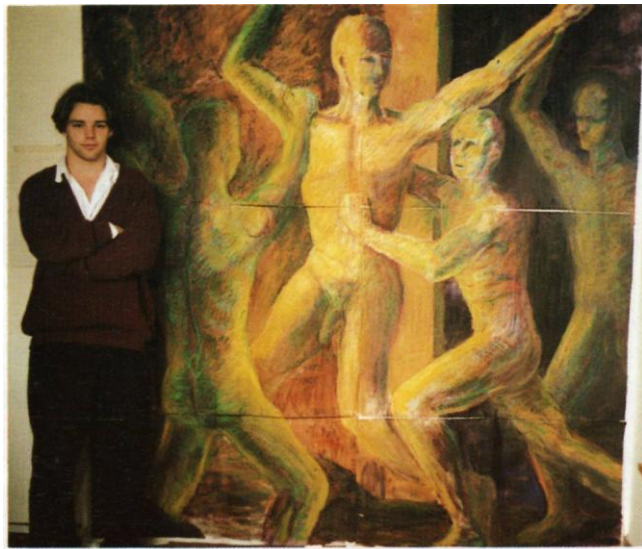




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*Small items using English timbers.  
From left to right: ash, burr elm, walnut, beech, plane, ash.*

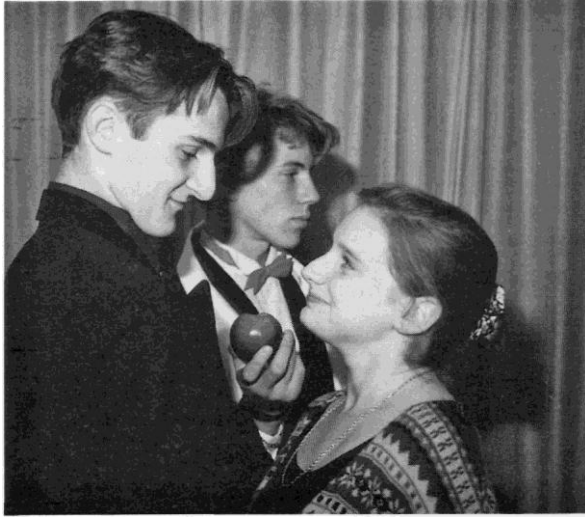


*Michael Harper with his GCSE Design and Realisation coursework: Garden Seat in English Oak.*



## Black Box Theatre

A blitzkrieg of posters around the College devastatingly announced: *Be there!* And indeed the combined talents of Mr Tolputt and Mr Griffiths produced an evening which proved to be unmissable.



*After Liverpool* was a series of bizarre, interrelated moments from life to which it seemed horribly easy to relate: love turning to hate and back again, procrastinators trudging through life with materialism as their forte, people taking no time to think as others might. Mathieu Laroche deserves a special mention, as he strode across the stage with great courage and conviction.

The middle section, a short interlude allowing the cast to change costumes, was titled *My Best Side*, and was presented over the course of the three evenings by different members of the staff, stars in a

rather peculiar light. Mr Griffiths and Miss Goldsmith took the part of the dragon; Mr O'Connor hilariously, even alarmingly, played the part of a nubile princess as if born to it! Mr Bannerman and Mr Denny, on different occasions, played St George, the former as a rather smug, sly character, the latter a gloweringly menacing type whose resonant accent vibrated chillingly round the Dulverton Hall.

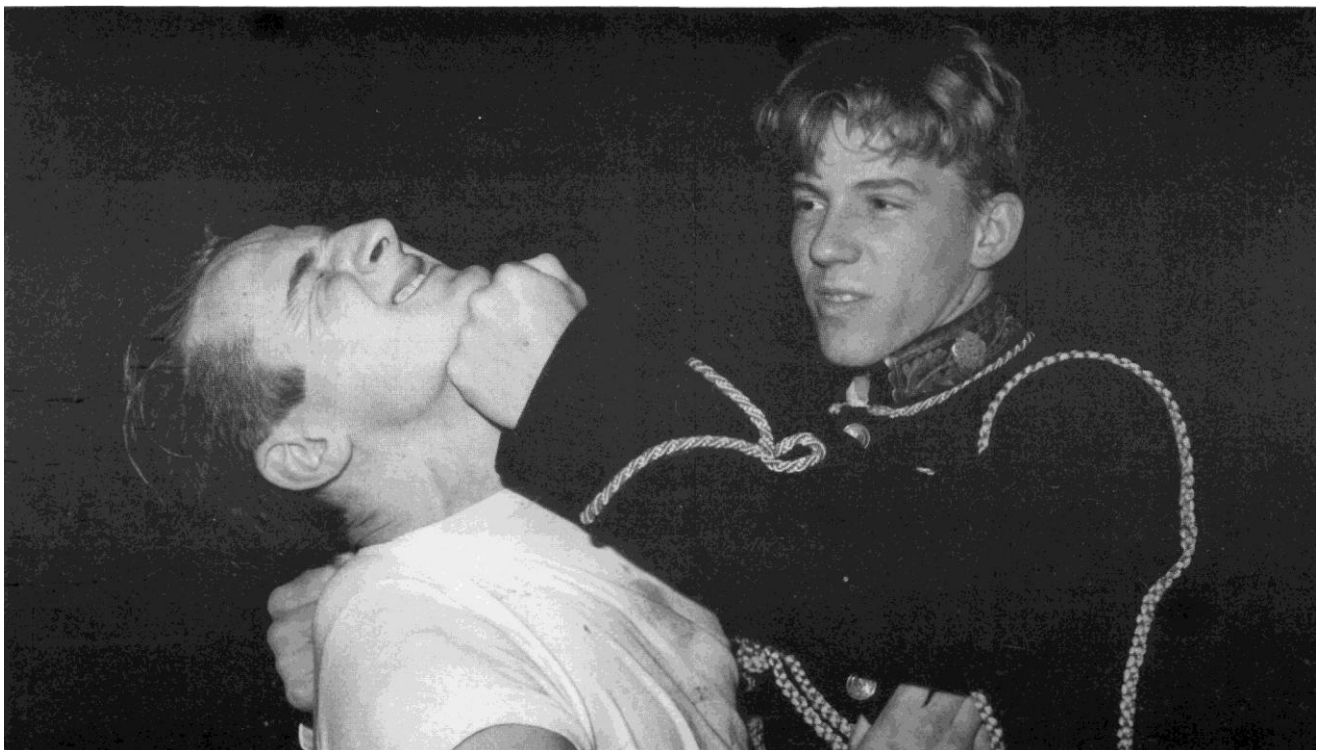
*Our Man*, however, was the icing on the cake. The scenery which had been on stage all evening now became the inside of a man's head, with players representing the senses: Joanna Morse played a rather disinterested 'nose', Rebecca Fowler the ever-alert and helpful 'eyes'; Hugh Costelloe was typecast as 'mouth', and Helen Hall-Wright acted as 'ears' with her usual charisma. Hannah Willcocks and Rowen Elmes gave *Our Man* its edge. Rowen leapt around the stage with vigour and determination as 'Sir' and Hannah, the co-ordinator phones', remained calm and collected as ever.

As the play unfolded it became obvious that this was not simply a joke, and the senses alerting the soldier into battle produced an almost eerie atmosphere, encapsulating the audience. The play combined energy, humour, joy and sadness. To say that *Our Man* drew to an end would be wrong: it finished with a punch, leaving the audience wide awake and contemplating what they had just witnessed - the agonising death of a human being.

Congratulations go to Mr Griffiths and the Head Master for co-ordinating one of the best performances ever seen at Rendcomb, and thanks to Mr Lea, who provided subtle improvisation on the piano to link the evening's scenes.

*Our Man*

CHRISTOPHER OLIVER



## *Oliver!*

'Food, Glorious Food!' were the words ringing round the Dulverton Hall from numerous workhouse boys, begging for food during the first scene. These young first and second-formers provided the dramatic beginning to the play, arousing the packed audience and setting the scene for an enthralling performance of *Oliver!*

The performance begins with a young orphan, Oliver, played superbly by Ralph Barnes, asking for seconds of 'gruel' and being sold to an undertaker. This part was played by Tim Shaw and, along with Francis Barton's Mr Bumble, was among the most powerful performances of the evening.

Oliver, having attacked the undertaker's assistant, manages to escape and is taken under the wing of Fagin and his gang of pick-pockets. John

Morgan's Fagin was a really virtuoso performance and, with his excellent accent, was for me the most impressive.

Oliver's journey continues: trained by the Artful Dodger, he unfortunately gets caught on his first 'dip'. He is taken in by Mr Brownlow, an upper-class gentleman who soon finds out that Oliver is not to blame, and tidies him up. The parts of Mr Brownlow and the Artful Dodger were filled extremely suitably by Chris Oliver and Sam Maylott: a classy, respectable fellow and a cheeky little rascal!

Whilst on an errand, Oliver is accosted by Nancy; she is working for Fagin and is in love with Bill Sykes. She drags him off to see Bill, the most feared villain around. A surprisingly impressive performance came from Bianca Mann as Nancy, still only a second-former, singing several moving solos.

At the same time, elsewhere, it is found out that Oliver is in fact Mr Brownlow's grandson. During a rendezvous between Mr Brownlow and Nancy the latter is killed by Bill Sykes (Rufus Blackwell) who in turn is killed, shot by the local police, the Bow Street Runners.

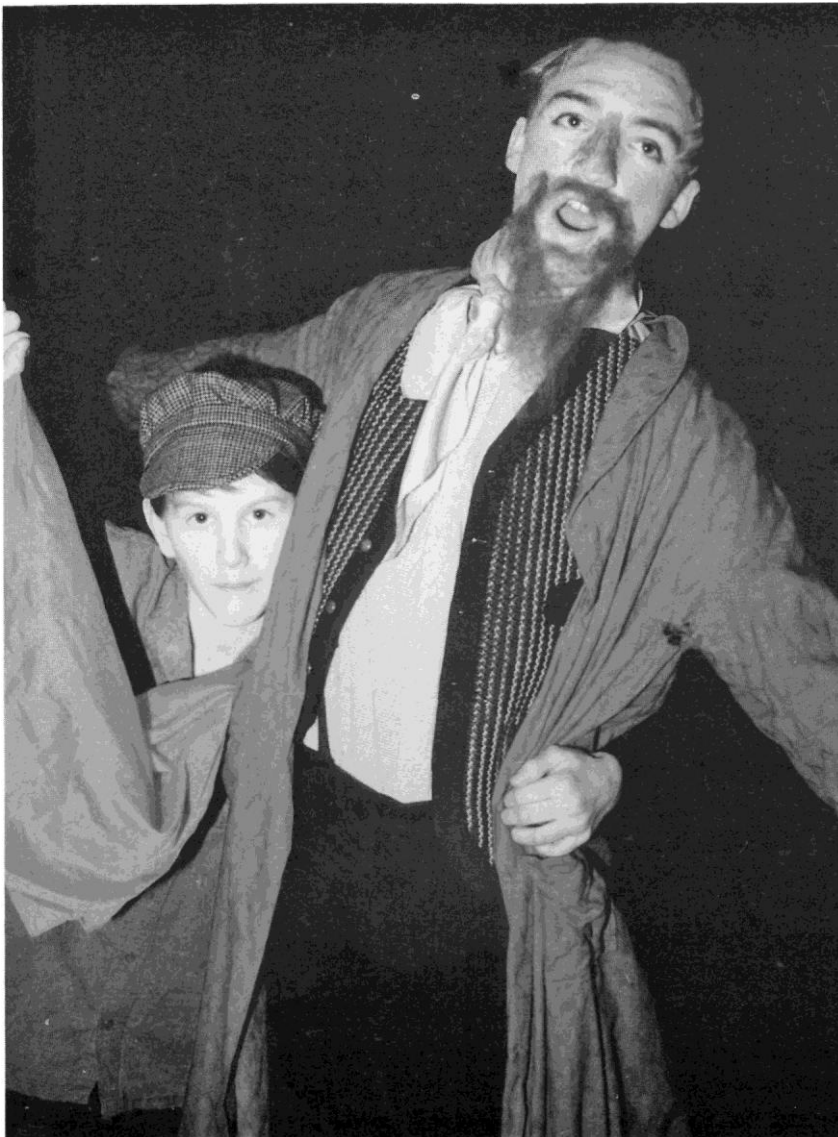
The play draws to a conclusion with the entire cast returning to sing again, as the finale, *Food, Glorious Food!*

**JULIAN WILKIE**

*and an inside report...*

to be honest, when I was first approached by the Head Master regarding a part in *Oliver!*, I was not over-enthusiastic. I pictured long, drawn-out rehearsals within a cold Dulverton Hall and learning lots of lines. So it was with slight reluctance that I attended the first rehearsal.

However, five minutes into it I realised that this was not to be the case. The atmosphere was one of cheerful expectation of the final outcome, and dedicated commitment from the other members of the cast.



Although the direction came in the main from Mr Tolputt, he was very open to suggestions from the cast and, once the production began to take shape, we fined and honed the material to produce a slick result.

As we grew closer to the date of performance, inhibitions started to disappear and talent to shine. Our two second-form girl stars, Bianca Mann and Rowan Renow-Clarke, showed their skill in singing, dancing and acting, and we hope they will continue to add sparkle to future Rendcomb productions.

Other notable juniors included Timothy Shaw, as the macabre undertaker, and Poppy Smith as the flirtatious Charlotte with her eye on Noah Claypole, brought to life by Seun Ismael. Hannah Willcocks threw herself into the part of Widow Corney, trying to subdue her admiration for the vacillating Bumble, played by Francis Barton.

Special mention must go to the star performance and professionalism of Ralph Barnes in the title role. Not only was he completely dedicated to making *Oliver!* a success but, as one member of the audience pointed out, he was 'very relaxed in the part, showing immense confidence'.



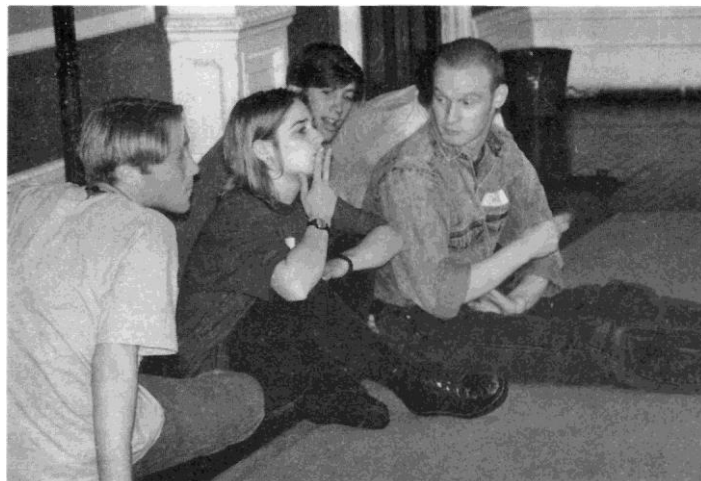
**Mrs Wood making up Bill Sykes**

We grew in unity as a cast; it was great to see pupils of all ages in the College working towards a common goal. This happens only in a relaxed environment such as we are so fortunate to have at Rendcomb, and when inspired by people such as Mr White, Matron, Mrs Wood and, of course, the Head Master.

**CHRISTOPHER OLIVER**

## **Joint Antics at Rendcomb**

*Antic Theatre*, the creation of eight final-year drama students from the University of Kent is a 'devising' company. Throughout 1992-3 we have functioned as a collective, creating all our own work from scratch, as opposed to working on an already written play text. The opportunity to work in such a way, to be solely responsible for all that we create, means that the scope of this form of theatre is limitless.



Eager to break with the long-established traditions of conventional theatre, we took every opportunity to experiment, especially in taking our company out of theatre buildings and in working with various non-theatre communities. Before our schools tour in the spring, *Antic* had put on performances in woodland settings, using natural illuminations and pyrotechnics, and, most notably, we spent a very intensive four weeks working with a group of Canterbury's homeless community to produce an entirely collaborative performance piece which explored and exploded the myths surrounding homelessness. It was a great success; one proof of this is that some of the participants have set up their own theatre group and are producing their own plays.

With our belief that theatre should not remain static, that it should be accessible and flexible, we embarked on our tour of five schools in the south of England. In our somewhat dilapidated minibus containing our set, props and costumes we were fulfilling our dream to take the theatre out to our audience, to introduce theatre into an environment familiar to our audience and not requiring the wearing of a suit and paying a fortune for the privilege of seeing a play.

The idea behind our work in the schools was not simply to go in, put on a play and leave, but to spend time in each school and to place the emphasis on the process of creating theatre. As anybody involved with school productions will know, getting a play up to performance standard requires a long and arduous period of rehearsal. So, by spending only a couple of days at Rendcomb, we were able to work (and play!) with greater intensity, exploring the creative aspects of theatre as well as just performing.

*Antic* arrived at Rendcomb on 22nd May with a pre-rehearsal play-structure of *The Colour Conspiracy*, within this outline were gaps to be filled by the students. The emphasis over the weekend was on collaboration between *Antic* and the Rendcombians. We, as theatre company, aimed to share our skills and to combine our talents; the students were encouraged to do the same. What a talented bunch they were too! Writing, performing, lighting, music... Had the minibus been bigger, we would have liked to take all our new company members with us on tour.

Our time at Rendcomb was so memorable, and the commitment of the students quite remarkable. I'm sure that, when at the start we sent them off playing detectives round the grounds, they thought we were insane, those 'arty-farty types'! I'm sure there were many times when they would rather have been away swimming, but they stayed and they participated; with great credit to them they understood that, as we had come without a script, we had to find and utilise other sources: we and they had to observe people, their gestures, what they said. You had to let your imagination flow, to improvise and to lose any inhibitions about looking the fool in front of others.

I have written nothing about the 'plot' of the piece. So many people approached us after the performance asking, with puzzled faces, 'What was it about?' Without wishing to disclaim all responsibility for the performance, I would like to direct those questions to the students involved. Through many discussion and practical exercises the meaning of the play was unfolded by the students themselves: *Antic* were exploring issues of collective and social responsibility, how society copes with a crisis, prejudice within a filmic, detective genre. What the issues were was for the audience to discover for themselves and, when still unsure, to approach those who gave meaning to the piece, the Rendcomb students.

The workshop and the performance of *The Colour Conspiracy* at Rendcomb College were for us the highlight of the tour. While it was wonderful to

have an audience on Saturday night, I must stress that the real importance of our weekend was in the participation of the 12 or so students; it was the process and the collaborative creation that is due applause, as well as the culminating performance.

Theatre should be for all, and I truly believe that anyone who has the slightest inclination can be involved in the making of a play. So! pick up your musical instruments, your paint-brushes and your performance skills and make your own theatre!

As I leave the University of Kent after four years of studying and doing theatre, I shall think with great fondness of *Antic's* visit to Rendcomb. As an OR it was great to be able to put something back into the school which really encouraged me in the field of drama. There is obviously still so much potential for theatrical endeavours there, and an abundance of talent; I hope that those involved with *The Colour Conspiracy* will go on to do many more plays. Thanks to all of you at Rendcomb for your hospitality and strong support, and especially to Chris Oliver and Co. for taking part in our mad antics.

JESSICA NAISH (OR 1987-89)

FOR ANTIC THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF KENT

## QP Concerts

### Piano Recital by Philip Martin

Rendcomb was privileged indeed to hear Philip Martin in performance at a QP concert in the Dulverton Hall on 27th September. Mr Martin plays regularly in the major London concert halls, and in 1987 his performance of Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini was seen on the BBC television 'Omnibus at the Proms' programme. He is a frequent broadcaster, and a feature of his recording work is an extensive knowledge of the American repertoire. His own compositions have attracted particular attention; in 1991 he completed his second piano concerto, and his songs are in the repertory of several American performers.

The recital opened with Mozart's Piano Sonata in B flat K333, played with the crystal clarity we hope to hear in such a beautifully crafted work. The audience was instantly aware that this was going to be an exceptional experience.

Two Chopin Nocturnes and six Debussy Preludes followed in the first half of the concert. Mr Martin gave us some insight into the Preludes as he chatted to us in his relaxed, witty Dublin style. This



gave the evening an intimate feel and added to the enjoyment of the music. By now we began to believe that the instrument was a living, breathing creature.

The concert's second half consisted of the Liszt Sonata in B minor. Mr Martin had promised that this work would be 'under his hands', as he had recently broadcast a live performance of it on BBC Radio 3. It is built in Liszt's favourite way, by taking a collection of basic themes, made from mere handfuls of notes and transforming and redeploying them. Philip brought every note to life, from first to last revealing so skilfully the connections and relationships of the constantly changing theme. His playing gave equal place to technical virtuosity and to deep musical thought.

It was fitting that, as an encore, Mr Martin chose to play one of the Schubert *Moments Musicaux*. I am sure that he would feel it appropriate to play, for an appreciative young audience, something they could aspire to and which would encourage them to play on ... for life... for he is a natural communicator of the joys of playing for fun and fulfilment.

L. V.

### **Organ Recital by David Ponsford**

On the evening of 8th November the Music Department hosted another QP concert, this one an organ recital given by David Ponsford, a baroque keyboard specialist and conductor.

The recital was given on the Allen digital organ in St Peter's Church, the first to be given there since the organ's installation three years ago. The varied programme included items from the Early Baroque to the 20th century and featured the Toccata and Fugue in D minor by Bach and the Fantasia and Fugue on B.A.C.H.

These were interspersed with shorter works: chorale preludes by Bach and Brahms and two pieces by the 20th-century composer Jehan Alain, which impressed a number of those present.

The clarity of detail in Mr Ponsford's playing and his expert choice of registration for the instrument made for an extremely enjoyable and stimulating recital, which was well received by the somewhat small, but enthusiastic, audience.

S. J. L.

### **Song Recital by John Rowlands-Pritchard**

On 7th February a large audience attended a recital given by John Rowlands-Pritchard (baritone) and

David White (piano) in the Reading Room. The programme was in two parts: the first featured songs written by Ivor Gurney, a Gloucestershire-born poet, and the second a selection of songs by different composers all using the words of Thomas Hardy.

Mr Rowlands-Pritchard made the evening even more interesting by linking the songs with commentary and narration, putting them into context. He gave a very commendable performance and had taken great pains to put the programme together well. He was ably accompanied by our own David White, who supported him well.

S. J. L.

### **The Bel Canto Quintet**

The 1993 series came to a fitting conclusion with the impeccable playing of the Bel Canto Wind Quintet. As with all the other concerts in the season, the standard of professionalism was very high, and the music diet varied. The concerts have been an excellent opportunity for town and gown to meet, as well as an opportunity for the ears and eyes of Rendcomb students to be opened and for their sights to be raised.

Two members of the group have already performed as soloists at Rendcomb - Janet Upton and Gail Darby - so it was good to welcome our oboe teacher, Janet Baldwin, in a performing capacity.

The programme was an intriguing mix of ancient and modern, with two pieces by Ravel bridging the gap by being ancient in a modern guise. If the Ligeti pieces portended worrying bleeps and squeaks, the reality was different. Marian Preen expertly identified *ostinati* and pedal points, while the less intellectual among us (was Rog there?) were attracted by the inventive and unusual sonorities. There was some pretty nifty finger-work in evidence throughout the evening, but especially so when Janet Upton forsook her flute for the piano for the Piano and Wind Quintet by Mozart. Mr Sudbury was heard to heave a sigh of relief.

D. B. W.

### **Wind Band Night**

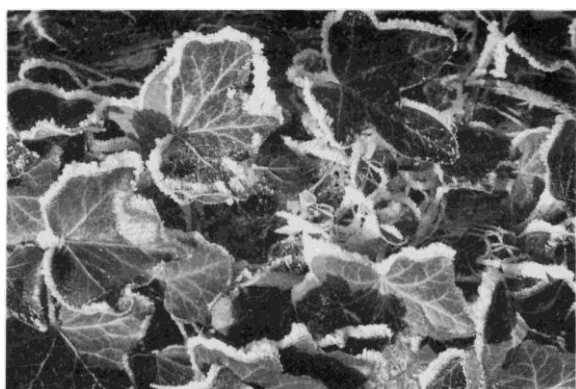
On 17th September we were visited by the West Wiltshire Concert Band with their conductor, Sue Blay. The band was joined by musicians from Rendcomb, Alex Faiers, Helen Hall-Wright, Tony Winstone, Dan Morris, Roger Gorman, Paul Williams

and Stuart Sealey. Many Rendcombians supported the evening concert, held in the Sports Hall.

The programme included Suite no 2 in F by Holst and Fantasia on the *Dargason* by R. Heath. A highlight was a selection played by the Big Band, a smaller group of players chosen from the Concert Band. This included *Misty* by Errol Garner and a medley of tunes from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

Both members of the band and listeners in the audience enjoyed the evening thoroughly. It showed the high standard of music-making achieved by teenagers in other counties, and we should like to extend a big 'thank you' to all who participated.

STUART SEALEY



Frozen Ivy

C. J. Wood

## Evensong at Bristol Cathedral

The Choir's annual pilgrimage to sing Evensong at Bristol Cathedral seems to bring on an air of expectant calamity. The coach was ordered this year, and it did arrive and deliver us. The Cathedral stood where it stood last year, and the welcome... well, the welcome was apologetic. 'I'm afraid repairs are in hand which cannot be stopped. You can use the song room, if you like.' We looked at the choir stalls: they were there. Was there electricity? The lights were on. Had the organ blown up? Mr Lea was already at the helm, and it was playing away happily. What could the matter be?

The Director of Music took a firm decision. 'We practise in the Cathedral.' We stepped into our places in the stalls. Marcus had his usual little chat with Gerald. John Talbot kept up a running commentary as union leader of the bass line. Edmund and Philip pretended that they were perfectly at home in such august surroundings. Helen smiled.

In place - folders open, the Byrd *Magnificat*

poised - the Director signalled, and it all began... the banging, that is, not the singing. The singing might have been there, but it was inaudible against the thunder of a thousand stonemasons chipping away at the flagstones in the north aisle. And so it continued all afternoon, completely dwarfing any sound the choir might be making. We all hoped we were singing with the organ, while the Director guessed what was going on by lip-reading.

The big question was: would the masons go into extra time, or would the actual service proceed without them? Mercifully, silence rang golden through the Cathedral at 5.07. Blissfully, the organ's dulcet sounds prepared the congregation for prayer. A Canon Residentiary flew in at 5.14 and said 'Go — Amen', so we went and sang the service.

The anthem? *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord.* Parry was, in the event, quite right, and what a glorious sound he made us produce - eight parts, a double chorus, a quite triumphant blaze of sound. *I was GLAD...* and an ecstatic top B flat from our best-ever treble line sent shivers down our spines.

Rendcomb showed once again that it can rise to any challenge that fate might throw at us. *Vivat Rendcombia! Vivat! Vivat!*

D. B. W.

## Chapel Choir

Chapel Choir has had a vintage year. On the one hand it has benefited from the accumulated experience and confidence of some very long-serving singers. In addition the top line acquired Edmund Compton and Philip Webb, who imparted such a sense of professionalism and quality that the whole choir was lifted on to an altogether higher plane. This in turn opened up the possibility of ever more demanding repertoire and a capacity to turn music around in quite a short space of time.

Memorable moments throughout the year have often come about through the excellence of our soloists. Claire Germaine not only led the alto line but sang two splendid arias from the Vivaldi *Gloria*. Edmund sang numerous solos at the drop of a hat. Gerald Turvey made a first venture as a tenor soloist in the Byrd Second Service. Stuart Sealey gave a brilliantly macho performance in the liturgical singing of the Schubert Mass in G. Hannah Wykeham sang there too, but really broke her duck as a soloist on

Whit Sunday.

The choir took in its stride not only big occasions - the carol services, the Vivaldi and Schubert set pieces - but also the technically demanding repertoire such as *Gloria in excelsis Deo* by Weelkes. This provided a fitting conclusion to what was deemed the best-ever Carol Service. In the same service, at the other stylistic extreme, was Poulenc's *Hodie Christus natus est*, a challenge for any choir of professional standing, let alone Rendcomb. But Rendcomb can do it, alongside the regular Sunday-by-Sunday work, even adding a world premiere of an anthem composed by Marian Preen for good measure.

We pass painfully into the PG Era. How will the choir be able to cope with life post-Gorman? Who else can arrive 20 minutes late for rehearsals in such style? Who else has the nerve to saunter in, shirt flapping, scarf flying, hair at an angle, only to collapse in a heap in a chair next to Marian, who herself has earned a place in Rendcomb folklore as the 'Keeper of Rog.'? But there are other personalities whom we shall all miss. No one has quite the same air of 'oh-so-cool-super-suave' Dan Morris, who quite clearly always knew exactly what everything was about. At least the bass pew will be free of mugs on Sunday mornings for a while, that is until the baby basses have grown up a bit and have to cope with the morning after the night before at 9.45 on a Sunday.

It has been the year of the pair of Schuhs. Enno

learnt very early on that the choir was the 'A' Team and that anyone not there on a Thursday afternoon could only have been a wimp. He was not altogether sure what he had to do once there, but he would definitely be there doing it every week. Theda survived to the very end, even the rehearsal (or was it a performance?) where she was the only alto. She always came back smiling.

Special thanks and admiration go to Helen Hall-Wright, who as the first sixth-form Choral Scholar completed an excellent two years of loyal service. It has been good to see her gain in confidence and to hear her voice grow and mature. Thanks go as always to Stephen Lea, always supportive, kind and sympathetic in every way. Finally to Peter Sudbury go thanks for his constant support and wisdom. The general consensus is that his bass singing is getting there.

And the future? The Director of Music has confidence that the future looks good. With such a solid year behind us, a promising intake of scholars and the experience and expertise of singers in the middle of the school already established, next year could well be another one of vintage achievement and development.

D. B. W.

**Guitarist (Sabattier Effect)**

Colin Morey



## Slyde - The Concert

On 26th March the Main Building throbbed to the sounds of Rendcomb's end-of-term Rock Concert. The Dulverton Hall resounded with the fury of drums, guitars and head-bangers 'doing their stuff'. The atmosphere was captured in words by Kai Thomas...

Slyde entered the fray after *Scream* had worked their way through their four-song opening slot to a mass of cheers and cries. Perhaps a concert to rival that of *The Trivial Things* was about to take place...

Although musically the band's opening *Smells Like Teen Spirit* was not of the highest standard, the crowd bounded around energetically, setting the scene for much of the evening.

It was followed by a stonking version of *Drive Blind*, which pleased the *Ride* fans in the crowd, and an ingeniously devised *10.15 Saturday Night*. Miss Alice Lethbridge took over vocals for *Don't Cry* and was generally well received. The ballad *Nothing Else Matters* followed, climaxing with a typically superb guitar solo from Nik Pollard, the fast-becoming guitar legend, who also took over vocals for the band's brilliantly contrived versions of the advertisements *Do It All* and *Kwikfit*. The band continued the high standard of playing through the mid-set, including their own excellent doom metal song *The Reaper*.

One highlight of the evening was the appearance of John Bannerman, who sang the classic *Alive*, whipping the crowd into a mad frenzy with his unbelievably energetic performance.

Another *Ride* song, *Leave Them All Behind*, was the most intricately weaved song of the set, with James Moore on his rather nice Strat guitar adding weight to the whole song. This was completely contrasted by the hilarious but brilliant rock cover of Chris Isaak's *Wicked Game*. The set proper ended with Nik Pollard's little baby, *Always*, with its wandering bass-line performed most resplendently by Kai 'The Vole' Thomas.

As the end of the evening beckoned, the band's own *Alone*, which half the crowd knew from a prior recording, ensured that the evening would live on in memory, with rasping vocals from Thomas, loud and aggressive guitar from Pollard and a drum line that will never be copied by another drummer from David Elliott.

John Bannerman re-entered stage right for *Keep On Rockin' In The Free World*. Call it what you want. It was brilliant. The middle of the song was unbelievably magic, as Dave Elliott once again proved

his mark with a drum solo the like of which has never been seen before. The guy is **AWESOME**.

Finally the band performed their showpiece (sorry, should that be ring?), the ubiquitous *Knockin' On Heaven's Door*. The crowd alone could be heard from the Sports Hall, since every one of them knew the words. James Moore played a vital rhythm guitar part; Pollard performed two stunning solos; Thomas sang with the air of one who knows, and Lethbridge did backing vocals. Melanie Caseldine and the most popular Chris Oliver also made an appearance.

Our thanks go to the P.A.\* for buying us the P. A., to Mr Lea, Andrew Martin and Enno Schuh.

\*Parents' Association

## Photographic Society

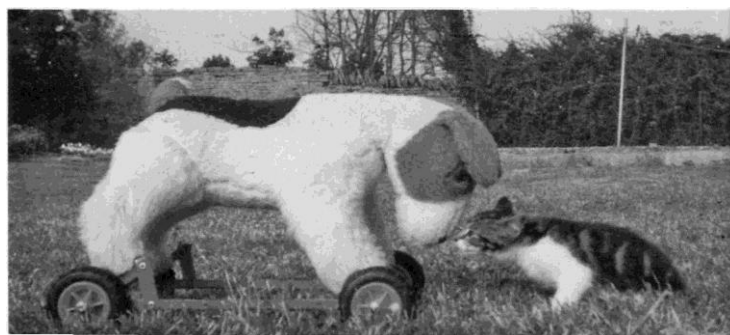
This year, in response to demand, the society expanded its use of colour processes. Traditionally we have produced only black and white negatives and prints of reasonable quality, but now we have adapted our equipment for colour and, although this is still in the experimental stage, we are able to produce colour transparencies and prints from negatives.

The photography activity group studied a range of processes this year, including the more unusual techniques of negative printing and the sabattier effect.

The group also took photographs in Cirencester and later designed an advertising leaflet for the town entitled *Time to visit Cirencester*.

This year's competition, which was open to the whole school, invited some interesting entries, which were displayed on Founder's Day. The results were:

<b>Colour:</b>	1st: <i>Friend or Foe (see below)</i> William Hunter-Smart (7)
	2nd: <i>Rays</i> Mark Wilks (5)
	3rd: <i>Sunset</i> Daniel Kemp (5)
Highly commended: <i>Mount Teide</i> Douglas Ellison (3)	
	<i>Dales Barn</i> D. A. H.
	<i>Frozen Ivy</i> C. J. W.



**Black and White:** 1st: *Triplane* Andrew Martin (6)  
2nd: *Guitarist* Colin Morey (3)

William Hunter-Smart, who won the competition, is to be congratulated on completing his photography skill for the Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' award.

ANDREW MARTIN

## Bridge Club

This year there has been a meeting on Thursdays for beginners and a meeting on Sundays for more experienced players.

We were glad to welcome back Richard Hutson, who, with James Mackinnon, formed the senior pair: I hope that they are able to continue to play bridge after they leave.

A strong group of players from the Fourth Forms attended the beginners' session up to Christmas and then joined the Sunday meetings. Most players improved their bidding technique and card play, but much greater progress would be made if players would practise regularly between club meetings.

Unfortunately we had no one who was available to enter the Guardian competition in November, but a heat for the *Bridge Magazine* competition was held at Rendcomb in February, run by Mr Kambites; six teams competed. Although our teams failed to qualify for the next round, all players gained from the experience of taking part in a competition.

Attendance at the Sunday meetings has been unpredictable this year; at best there were five tables. Bridge requires regular (and disciplined!) practice, and this can be achieved only if there is good support for club meetings. Perhaps the traditional time on Sunday evenings is no longer suitable!

The following have attended meetings: J. Mackinnon, R. Hutson, B. Greene, M. Gee, F. Ingham, S. Roney, J. Underwood, T. Gaskill, F. Barton, M. Steen, B. Renow-Clarke, G. Langlands, O. Blaydon, N. Holt, R. Bardsley, K. Bendall.

W. J. D. W.

## The European Film Club

As has now become, customary, the club met on Sunday evenings in the School House TV Room. All of those who attended were in the Sixth Form, and

most of them were language students, though neither qualification is necessary to become a member.

During the year members saw films by such distinguished directors as Francis Truffaut, Louis Malle, Claude Chabrol, Jean-Paul Rappeneau, Claude Berri, Gerard Brach, Werner Herzog and Luchino Visconti. Particularly popular were *Jean de Florette*, *Manon des Sources* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. It goes without saying that Gerard Depardieu was as ubiquitous as ever, and was the name on everybody's lips by the end of the year!

The club is aimed at anyone with a love of films. All are subtitled, so no knowledge of foreign languages is required. Do come along next year if at all interested.

L. J. H.

## Treasure Hunt

It was a wet and dreary Sunday afternoon, 15th November, when we set off for the Treasure Hunt. After lining up for the clues we leapt into our car and set off. Although we had been told that it was not a race, we lurched round corners, met other parents head-on and splashed through puddles, visiting tiny Cotswold villages and hamlets.

We searched churchyards for inscriptions and pubs for dates. Owing to some local knowledge we managed to solve some clues without visiting the places. All the time we were on the lookout for oak-trees with large leaves, the length being the deciding factor.

We arrived back just as choir practice was starting, thus keeping all parties happy. Perhaps next time the route might be a trifle shorter?

SIMON AND PHILIP WEBB





## Sponsored Walk

### *A personal account*

The day started badly, I would have said, at least for me. I woke up far too early and began to regret it; when I finally went down to breakfast I had some of the most horrid fried bread it has ever been my mistake to experience.

But the worst was yet to come: I had lost my carefully-saved bottle which used to contain squash, and I had only a pair of my best jeans to wear.

However, with the ever-stoic Richard Witchell as my companion, I checked out on time, grabbed a route and set off.

My friend and I set a fast but manageable pace, overtaking several groups of walkers, among them Miss Goldsmith, who uttered prophetic words when she spoke of rain.

However, I was not to be daunted, even without a coat and with a menacing, overcast sky.

We trekked on and, upon reaching a pleasant farm called, according to our route guides, Woodlands Farm, Richard proved his agricultural expertise by producing some valid - yet unfortunately irrelevant, in the sense that it wouldn't aid our walking - comments on the status of the farm, based on the number of tractors visible. By then I had started to use some of my considerable stock of chewing-gum; I wondered just how long it was going to last me...

After some extensive field-crossing and stile-hopping, we ventured along muddy tracks. Then a view of a vast number of pheasant-pens came upon us, very nice, as these views go. We set off towards Withington and came across a majestic view of the village ruined, or complemented, by a huge pylon in the middle distance.

We trudged through a field into the village, both wishing that we had brought some money to buy a drink with. After spotting the pub and being told by Richard that we could get some water for free there, I noticed Mr Sudbury standing a way off and ushering us into a check-point. After signing in we were told about a diversion from the planned route, which must have saved at least half a kilometre.

Following the diversion, we journeyed under a railway bridge and came to some kennels, complete with cats and violently woofing dogs. Then, going along a road, we saw a welcoming sight: the minibus, with attendants and, most important, drink, was just up ahead! I felt as though I couldn't leave it, but I did, eventually.

Then there was more muddiness and unbearable slopes, after which we came to Chedworth airfield, hotly pursuing some fifth-formers and being pursued by Ben Renow-Clarke, Matt Morris and others. They caught up with us at the Chedworth check-point,

where we all signed up.

I set off again, the trustworthy Philip Price replacing Richard as my companion. The arduous trek led through Chedworth Laines over road and field to the White Way, and then over a gate to a plunging valley. We walked up the other side along a fence and, just as I was saying that we would be

lucky to make it back without its raining, the heavens opened and disgorged water over Philip and me.

We dashed across the remaining fields, jogged along the road and rushed through the Wilderness in a mad panic, to emerge wet and muddy by the Main College. We slowly hobbled into the dining-hall after signing in and gratefully received a cup of soup and a packed lunch.

After eating I limped upstairs - my ankles and thighs were pure agony - and tried to see if I could do anything about my muddy jeans. Failing miserably, I lay down for a while before venturing downstairs again, much more reserved than before, to sign out for the six-mile walk with James Fairbank and family.

We set off, even though I was sure that the only force keeping us going was my diminishing supply of chewing-gum. I engaged Mrs Fairbank in conversation about our daily routine and whether James had been doing all that he should, and nothing that he shouldn't, and so on.

However, at the drink-stop I accelerated, pondering on the need for it and deciding that it was for slow, or unfit, parents.

I continued for a while on the road to North Cerney, thinking about the curious lack of mud so far. I followed a bridleway just after Calmsden and saw



the garish orange windsock of RFC Rendcomb pointing the way home. The route took us across the airfield, where we noticed a yellow biplane warming up outside the hangars; and we walked, and we walked, the ever-so-slightly undulating terrain of the airfield making a vast expanse of neatly-mown grass look like another short field.

After the airfield, on which my legs started to ache again, came another check-point. Then it was across a road and into another field, where I almost impaled myself on the support of an electric fence, which was fortunately not switched on.

Avoiding injury at the fence, I met what was to be definitely the biggest obstacle of the day, a pool of semi-congealed - no other words describe it - slurry, blocking what seemed to be the way onward. I nervously hopped across the first bit, which had dried. Then my foot went through the crust, and my battered

old trainers began to fill with foul sludge. I had to move quickly, so I hopped to the side and edged along, brushing the nettles and balancing on the six inches of solid ground available.

Thankfully over that, I pressed on, seeing the yellow biplane airborne, my mind buzzing with thoughts, my legs buzzing with agony, and a grand view of Rendcomb from the other side of Kennel Bottom, and then up towards Main College. That was Walk C done with!

All there was to do was go to the dinner, not a barbecue, I may add. My only complaint, apart from near-death exhaustion, was the slightly dubious chicken curry and baked potato eaten with my parents. Sunday, 20th November, would be a thing to remember!

**LINDSAY DUFF**



# Academic

We congratulate the following:

Daniel Maslen	Sports Scholarship, Girton College, Cambridge
Christopher Moody	First Class Honours in Politics and Economics with European Studies at Exeter University
Jessica Naish	First Class Honours in Drama and Theatre Studies at University of Kent
Richard Pitt	D. Phil, Oxford, Chemistry
Nicholas Smith	Domus Scholarship, Brasenose College, Oxford, Chemistry
Mark Twyman	D. Phil, Oxford, Chemistry
Susan Waddington	First Class Honours in Natural Sciences at Durham University

## Scholarships for entry in September 1993

### Sixth Form Entry:

Susie Fletcher (Dodderhill School)	Choral Bursary
Hannah Gowers (Cheltenham Ladies' College)	Open Scholarship
Charlotte Harrison (Queen Mary's College, Baldersby)	Choral Scholarship
Serena Lucas (Tremough Convent School)	Bursary
Anna Ronowocz (The Hon Lady Goodhart School)	Art Scholarship
Jesse Wright (Marling School)	Bursary

### Third Form Entry:

Sophie Collier (St Edward's School, Cheltenham)	Minor Scholarship
Harvey Davies (The Elms School, Colwall)	Major Scholarship
Fenella Gerry (Kitebrook School)	Art Scholarship
Andrew Jarrett (Pinewood School)	Music Scholarship
Andrew Morton (Emscote Lawn School)	Art Scholarship
Janet Pearce (Wycliffe College Junior School)	Sinclair Scholarship
Nicholas Ridley (Oakley Hall School)	Bursary
Tristan Sharman (St Edward's School, Cheltenham)	Bursary
Edward Turville (The Downs School)	Music Scholarship
Luke Weston (Oakley Hall School)	Bursary

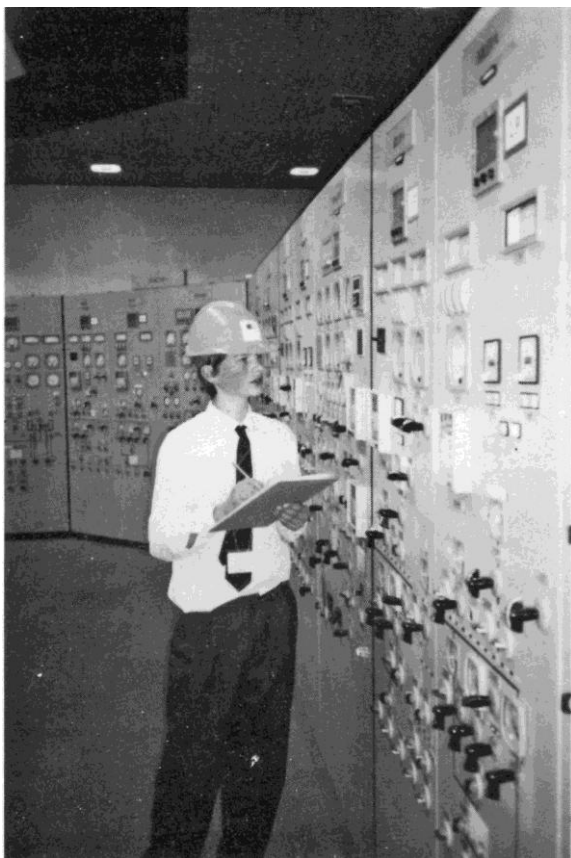
### First Form Entry

Melanie Abbott (St Andrew's School, Chedworth)	Bursary
Laurence Barton (St John's School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship
Theo Berry (Peponi House School, Nairobi)	Scholarship
Richard Collinson (Beaudesert Park School)	Art Scholarship
Charles Garcia (St John's School, Cheltenham)	Music Bursary/Bursary
Charlotte Lee-Woolf (Arnold Lodge School)	Art Scholarship
Sarah Merifield (Blue Coats School, Edgbaston)	Bursary
Samuel Todd (Berkhamsted School, Cheltenham)	Scholarship

## 'A' Level

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

Simon Barrett - Business Studies\*, Geography  
 Christopher Carmichael - English, French\*, German  
 Melanie Caseldine - Art & Design  
 Hugh Costelloe - Biology, Business Studies\*, Chemistry  
 Peter Croft - Business Studies, Mathematics, Physics  
 James East - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
 Rowen Elmes - Business Studies, English, Geography  
 Alexander Faiers - Art & Design, Biology, Geography  
 Rebecca Fowler - Business Studies, English, French  
 Sarah Fox - Business Studies\*, English, Geography  
 Claire Germaine - French, Music



Oldbury Power Station

David Elliott

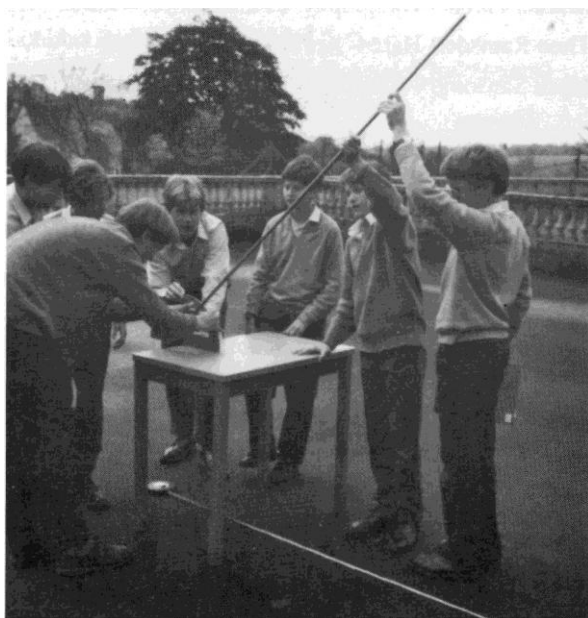
Matthew Giggs - Art & Design\*, English, History  
 Roger Gorman - Art & Design, Music  
 Alastair Graham - Biology, Business Studies\*, Geography  
 Benjamin Greene - English, Geography, History  
 Timothy Haine - Biology, Business Studies  
 Helen Hall-Wright - English, French, History  
 Thomas Hughes - Art & Design, Biology, English  
 William Hunter-Smart - Chemistry\* (M), Mathematics\* (M), Physics\*  
 Richard Hutson - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics  
 Tara Keegan - Art & Design  
 Mathieu Laroche - Biology, Business Studies, French  
 Alice Lethbridge - Art & Design  
 Benjamin Mabey - Biology, Chemistry, English  
 Nerys Machin - French, German, History  
 James Mackinnon - Biology (M), Chemistry, Mathematics  
 Danielle Meyers - English, French, German  
 Patrick Morgan - Biology\*, Chemistry\*, Mathematics\*  
 Charles Morgan-Harris - Business Studies\*, Geography, History  
 Daniel Morris - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
 Joanna Morse - Biology, Geography  
 Clare Newman - Biology, English\* (M), French\* (M)  
 Lucy Payne - Biology, Chemistry  
 Andrew Platt - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics  
 Marian Preen - Geography, Mathematics, Music  
 Theo Ramsden-Hare - Art & Design, English  
 Mark Sansome - Chemistry\* (M), Mathematics\* (M), Physics  
 Jeremy Sawtell - Art & Design\*, Biology, Geography  
 John Talbot - English, Geography\*, History  
 Mark Valentine - Biology\*, Geography, History  
 Juliette Ward - Chemistry, Mathematics  
 Paul Williams - French, German, History

Key: \* - Grade 'A'  
 (M) - Merit in Special Paper

## GCSE

The following results were obtained in the GCSE examinations:

Martin Adams - AD\*, B\*, C, E(2), F\*, GN, H, M, P  
 Adam Bainbridge - B, C, DR\*, E(2), F, H, M, P  
 Mark Bartlett - c, E(2), F, g, GN, 1, M  
 Francis Barton - AD\*, B\*, C\*, E\*(1), F\*, GN\*, H\*, M\*, P\*, EM  
 Adam Beales - AD\*, B, c, E(2), F, GN, H, m  
 Rufus Blackwell - AD, B, C, E(3), F, G, H, M  
 Patrick Boydell - AD\*, B, C, E(2), F, G, GN, H, M  
 Miles Brown - b, DR, E(2), EL, F, g, H, M  
 James Button - B, c, E(2), F\*, G, GN, H, m  
 Nicholas Channing-Williams - AD, b, DR, e(2), H, m  
 Alastair Christie - AD, B, C, E(2), EL, F\*, GN\*, M, P  
 Steven Croft - B\*, C, E\*(1), F\*, H\*, L\*, M\*, P\*  
 Shaan Deen - AD, B, E(3), EL, F, g, m, mu  
 James Ellison - AD\*, B, c, e(2), F, G, H, M, P  
 Timothy Gaskill - B, C, E(2), F\*, G\*, GN\*, H, M\*, P\*  
 Raymond Hancock - C, DR\*, E(2), F, G, H, M, P  
 Michael Harper - AD, B, c, DR, e(3), f, H, M, p  
 Benjamin Herbert - B\*, C, E(2), F\*, G, H\*, L, M\*, P, EM  
 Adam Higazi - B, C, E(2), F, G, H\*, M, P  
 Frederick Ingham - B, E\*(1), EL\*, F\*, G\*, H\*, L\*, M\*, P, EM



**Form 2 practical mathematics:** measuring the height of the tower.

Christopher Jarrett - B, C, EC? ), el, F, G, M, P  
 Stephen Jones - B\*, C\*, E(1), F, G\*, H\*, L, M\*, P, EM(M)  
 Daniel Kemp - B, c, E(2), F, G, gn, H, M, P  
 John Morgan - AD\*, B\*, E(1), EL\*, F\*, H\*, L\*, M, P  
 Andrew Riley - AD\*, B, E(1), EL, F\*, G, GN\*, H\*, m  
 Piers Robert - B, C, DR\*, e(2), F, H, M, P  
 Stephen Roney - B\*, C\*, E(2), F, G\*, H\*, L\*, M\*, P\*, EM(M)  
 Paul Smith - B, C, E(3), F, G, H, M, P  
 Giles Somers - B, C\*, E(2), F\*, G\*, GN\*, H\*, M\*, P\*, EM  
 Michael Steen - B, E(2), EL, F, GN, H, M, p  
 Ian Thompson - B, c, E(2), F, G, GN, M, MU, P  
 Alexander Tibbs - AD\*, B, C, e(3), F, G, H, M, P  
 Armen Topalian - B, c, E(2), F\*, G, GN, H, M  
 Jonathan Underwood - C, E\*(2), F\*, GN\*, H\*, L\*, M\*, P\*, EM  
 Rupert Wertheimer - AD, B, E(2), el, f, gn, h, M  
 Leslie White - C\*, E(2), F, G, GN, H, L, M\*, P\*  
 Mark Wilks - AD\*, B, E\*(2), EL, F\*, G, H, M, P  
 Mark Williams - AD\*, b, E(2), EL, F\*, G, GN, H, m  
 Charles Yardley - AD, E(2), el, F, g, h, m

Key: capital letters show Grades A-C  
 small letters show Grades D-F  
 \* = Grade 'A'

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

The figure after 'E' shows the grade in Oral English  
 (M) after 'EM' = Merit



# The Record 2

## College Officers

<i>Head Boy and Head of Stable House:</i>	Peter Croft
<i>Head Girl:</i>	Helen Hall-Wright
<i>Head of Lawn House:</i>	Rowen Elmes
<i>Head of School House:</i>	Jeremy Sawtell
<i>Prefects in Godman House:</i>	Alastair Graham Charles Morgan-Harris
<i>Prefects in Junior House:</i>	Marian Preen Lucy Payne Sarah Fox
<i>Prefect of Junior Girls:</i>	Andrew Platt
<i>Head Usher:</i>	
<i>Prefect of Dulverton Hall:</i>	Matthew Giggs
<i>Prefect of Reading Room:</i>	Daniel Morris
<i>Prefect of Arts Block:</i>	Alex Faiers
<i>Prefect of Sports Hall:</i>	Patrick Morgan
<i>Prefect of Dining Room:</i>	Joanna Morse
<i>Prefect of Main Building:</i>	Danielle Meyers
<i>Prefect of Grounds:</i>	Christopher Carmichael
<i>Prefect of Hours' Work:</i>	Mark Sansome
<i>Librarians:</i>	Andrew Martin (Head) James Button Nerys Machin Chris Carmichael
<i>Captain of Rugby:</i>	
<i>Captain of Boys' Hockey:</i>	Patrick Morgan
<i>Captain of Girls' Hockey:</i>	Marian Preen
<i>Captain of Cricket:</i>	Mark Valentine
<i>Captain of Boys' Tennis:</i>	Christopher Carmichael
<i>Captain of Girls' Tennis:</i>	Juliette Ward
<i>Captain of Netball:</i>	Lucy Payne

*Captain of Archery:*  
*Church Ushers:*

Andrew Martin  
Marian Preen  
Simon Barrett  
Peter Croft  
Thomas Hughes  
Theo Ramsden-Hare  
Charles Morgan-Harris  
Mark Sansome  
James Mackinnon

## Meeting Officers

<i>Chairman:</i>	John Talbot
<i>Secretary:</i>	Peter Croft
<i>Banker:</i>	Mark Sansome
<i>Scribe:</i>	Andrew Platt

## Valete

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

Simon Barrett, Christopher Carmichael, Melanie Caseldine, Hugh Costelloe, Peter Croft, Shivnee and Shaznee Deen, James East, Rowen Elmes, Alex Faiers, Sarah Fox, Claire Germaine, Matthew Giggs, Roger Gorman, Alastair Graham, Ben Greene, Timothy Haine, Helen Hall-Wright, Thomas Hughes, William Hunter-Smart, Richard Hutson, Tara Keegan, Mathieu Laroche, Alice Lethbridge, Benjamin Mabey, Nerys Machin, James Mackinnon, Danielle Meyers, Patrick Morgan, Charles Morgan-Harris,

Form 1 92/93



Daniel Morris, Joanna Morse, Clare Newman, Lucy Payne, Andrew Platt, Marian Preen, Theo Ramsden-Hare, Mark Sansome, Jeremy Sawtell, Theda and Enno Schuh, John Talbot, Mark Valentine, Juliette Ward, Paul Williams.

Adam Bainbridge, Mark Bartlett, James Ellison, Timothy Gaskill, Raymond Hancock, Michael Harper, Adam Higazi, Nicholas Nicholson, Andrew Riley, Charles Yardley.

## Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1993:

Alice Depauw, Charlotte Edwards, Susie Fletcher, Hannah Gowers, Charlotte Harrison, Annabel lies, Benjamin Körber, Serena Lucas, Helen Madge, Anna Ronowicz, Jesse Wright.

Rudolph and Victoria Dühmke, Keiko Nitanda, Emi Sasaya, Arisa Shabata, Yukiko Totsuka.

Chutima and Kittipong Chaiwatanasirikul, Edmund Clipson, Sophie Collier, Harvey Davies, Kelly Edgington, Edward Forster, James Fox, Benjamin Frost, Jack Garland, Fenella Gerry, Richard Gooch, Andrew Jarrett, Keith Julian, Andrew Morton, Hannah Nicholls, Janet Pearce, Nicholas Ridley, Tristan Sharman, Oliver Standley, Edward Turvill, Luke Weston.

Melanie Abbott, Sebastian Bagnall, Laurence Barton, Theo Berry, Benjamin Butler, Richard Collinson, Benjamin Cox, Tristan Day, Sarah Donovan, Charlotte Emerson, Edward Farnsworth, Charles Garcia, Toby Harrison, Oliver Jeffcott, Charlotte Lee-Woolf, Sarah Merifield, David Monk, David Newby, Andrew Sage, Samuel Todd, William Warrington, Charlotte Webb, Matthew Williams.

## Old Rendcombian Society

Officers in 1993:

*President:* Ted Jones (1940-48)  
*Chairman:* Brian Smith (1965-72)  
*Vice-Chairman:* Neil Lumby (1968-73)  
*Secretary:* Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77)

*Treasurer:* Robert Barrett (1969-76)  
*School*  
*Representative:* Chris Wood (1965-71)

## News of Recent Leavers

### **Hamish Auld**

Banbury College - Art Foundation Course

### **Alisdair Baker**

Manchester Polytechnic - European Language 1993

### **Daniel Bowerman**

Birmingham University - Civil Engineering

### **Claire Boydell**

Stirling University - English 1993

### **Charlotte Carroll**

Oxford Polytechnic - Politics & English 1993

### **Gareth Davies**

Portsmouth Polytechnic - French & German 1993

### **Zoe Davis**

Coventry University - Equine Studies

### **Linda Eklof**

University College London - Physics

### **Kate Hodgkinson**

Cheltenham College of Art - Foundation Course

### **Graham Lawton**

Guy's and Thomas's Medical School - Medicine

### **Ben Marshall**

Falmouth College of Art - Foundation Course

### **Dan Maslen**

Girton College, Cambridge - Politics

### **Bridget Morrell**

Loughborough College of Art - Textiles

### **Rosie Moser**

Secretarial Course

### **Andrew Pollard**

Leeds University - Medicine

### **Jonathan Powell**

Reading University - Agriculture 1993

### **Cate Ravell**

St Hughes College, Oxford - Biochemistry

### **Patricia Renny**

Cheltenham College of Art - Foundation Course

### **Iain Richardson**

Plymouth Polytechnic - HND, Marine Studies

### **Sophie Robinson**

St Andrew's University - History 1993

### **Jonathan Roney**

Imperial College, London - Biochemistry 1993

### **Tom Shillington-Balfour**

Sheffield University - Business Management with French Business Management

### **William Smalley**

Gloscat - OND, Construction

### **Jason Smith**

Stafford Polytechnic - HND, Computer Studies

**Matthew Smith**

Banbury College of Art - Foundation Course

**Nicholas Smith**

St Anne's College, Oxford - Biochemistry

**Emma Thwaites**

Southampton Institute - Sociology

**Clare Watson**

Teaching in Aberdovey

**Petra Watts**

Sussex University — French

**Amy West**

Christchurch, Oxford - English

**John Wheeler**

Bath University - Economics

## Outings

### *L'Art a Paris*

At four a.m. on 19th February 23 bleary-eyed pupils and four staff left Rendcomb for Heathrow and eventually Paris. The flight took only 40 minutes, but we had to wait another 40 for the plane to find a place to park.

Once we were off the plane, Mrs Blackwell took charge, and we headed by train to the *Gare du Nord*, followed by a long walk to the hotel, *Saint Georges Lafayette*.

Most of our rooms were on the top floor, involving five flights of spiral stairs. The thought of collapsing now was wonderful, but we had a busy schedule in front of us; Mr Griffiths drove us out with instructions to explore the city and find an interesting lunch, strictly forbidding the hamburger bars.

Armed with a map, we walked down to the Seine and to the first museum, *I'Orangerie*. Here we saw Monet's Water Lilies, six large paintings in a circular room. Monet's work was so huge and splendid that we all woke up, except for George.

That evening we were all taken down to a small restaurant and then allowed to experience some of the Parisian nightlife before an early night and some much-needed sleep.

The next morning, after a typical French-style breakfast of croissant, hot chocolate and strong coffee, we either walked or took the *Metro* to the *Musée d'Orsay*, a huge converted railway station. The impressive size of the museum meant that we could not possibly see and appreciate everything, and we were promptly directed by Mr Griffiths to the top

floor to see the Dégas pastels and works by Monet, Renoir, Toulouse Lautrec and many others who made a great visual impact.

Lunch each day was taken on the Paris streets and usually consisted of a *baguette* or *crepe*, followed shortly by another *baguette* or *crepe*. In the afternoon we visited the *Musée Rodin* and saw the famous sculpture 'The Kiss' and other statues round the gardens and building, but not 'The Thinker', which was in China!

Most people then went on to the Eiffel Tower, which was only a short walk away. Then some of us went on further, to the *Arc de Triomphe* and then down the *Champs-Élysées*, exploring the shops and wonderful streets.

That evening we were introduced to authentic Thai food, which intrigued most of us and was eaten by a brave few. A few of us then ventured to the *boulevard de Clichy* to see the most famous nightlife in Paris and the red-light district, where our hotel was situated, but after a quick look decided that a quiet bar was better.

Sunday, traditionally a day of rest which most of us seemed to need, meant even more places to see. In the morning we went to the *Centre Pompidou*, a huge glass building which had had a mixed reception when built. There we saw many different examples of modern art by artists such as Matisse, Kandinsky and Picasso. The work here was decidedly different from what we had seen in the other museums, but it was extremely interesting to look at and much debated with the staff.

The afternoon was spent either at the Picasso Museum or at the *Musée de Cluny*, different, but both intriguing. Our last evening was spent at the *Sacre-Coeur*, only a small distance from our hotel and up hundreds of steps. From the *Sacre-Coeur* we could see the whole of Paris illuminated, from the Eiffel Tower to *Notre-Dame*, a mammoth spectacle.



Alice Lethbridge

The next morning a brave few got up early enough to accompany the staff to the *Sainte-Chapelle* to see the amazing stained-glass windows. The rest of us met at the *Louvre* for a picnic-style lunch before visiting the museum. The building itself was magnificent, and each room was elaborately decorated. Everyone managed to see the 'Mona Lisa' above the Japanese heads; there was a slight anticlimax, as no one had expected it to be so small. Despite our tiredness, we enjoyed many of the great pieces.

After another long walk and a train journey we arrived back at the airport, exhausted, aching, but happy. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Paris, and our thanks go to Mr Griffiths, Mrs Blackwell, Mr Denny and Mr O'Connor for giving us not only the chance to see such fine art work but also the opportunity to discover a little of the city and develop a taste for travel, exploration, art and culture.

REBECCA KNIGHTLY-BROWN

## Art in London

7th July - 8.27 - Ahh! almost half an hour until breakfast. I rolled over in bed and switched the radio on. *Eight 27!* I had approximately five minutes to be on the asphalt ready to leave for London on the Fourth Form and 6B art trip. I managed to sprint down by 8.30 (just!) to find the coach ready to leave. With no breakfast, no wash or shower, and not even a quick look in the mirror, I settled down in the coach, and we set off.

We reached the National Gallery at almost exactly 11 a.m. and soon devoured the school packed lunches that were handed out on arrival. With the intent of either completing a questionnaire on various artists and paintings or gathering information for the 'A' level projects, we marched into the gallery armed with pad, pencil and an essential gallery guide.

Works by great artists, such as Turner, Constable, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Cézanne and Monet were admired by all, even Mr Griffiths. Unfortunately, my quick sketches of several paintings for my project were not quite in the same league, and even some of the watercolours were better than mine!!

At 12.45 we met outside the gallery and dispersed in groups for lunch, eventually making our way to the Tate Gallery for 2.45. By now, the admiration of such a fine display of art was limited to the 'real' artists, while the non-GCSE-art-taking

fourth-formers were perhaps less interested; could they hang on for another hour and a half?

It seemed so, as we all made the most out of an opportunity to see some of the world's greatest paintings and sculptures - thank goodness I had realised it was 8.27 and not 7.27!

JULIAN WILKIE

## Junior House at Ironbridge

Our first stop was the Iron Bridge itself. It was built in 1777, both as a new crossing over the River Severn and as an advertisement for cast iron. At one end of the bridge is the toll house, and you can still see the board showing the tolls, but of course these are all in old money.

About 300 metres upstream lies the Visitors' Centre, which used to be a warehouse. Inside there is a museum, which tells the story of the gorge and the floods, with a section all about the use of water. Also there is a very interesting model of the gorge, ten metres long and set in the scenery of the 18th century at the height of the industrial revolution.

We then drove up to Coalbrookdale, where we saw the Old Furnace, in which the ribs of the Iron Bridge were made. Here Abraham Darby made discoveries which changed history: he found that coke was more effective than charcoal in producing iron, and that the molten iron could be tapped into moulds. It is not difficult to imagine what it would have been like to see such a furnace in full production (see the poem which follows).

The Museum of Iron contained many exhibits showing the development of the iron industry, and we were given workbooks to help us find out more about the great engineers who pioneered the industrial revolution.

Our final destination was Blists Hill, a reconstruction of a small town with its associated industries in the 19th century. At Lloyds Bank you could change your money into old money, called pounds, shillings, pennies, halfpennies and farthings. In the sweet shop there were sweets made in the old way, such as Yorkshire Mixture. The lollies were awful, and the sherbet was grainy! The doctor's surgery was quite off-putting. All the instruments were on view, and the syringes had to be the most gruesome: the needles were so thick that you could see down them, and the syringes themselves were big, fat and made of metal!

Overall it was an interesting and enjoyable day.

**RALPH BARNES**

**JAMES GIBBS**

**DAVID HUGHES**

### **The Visitor**

I stood silently, listening and hearing.  
Hearing the splash and lash of a waterwheel  
working the bellows.

I heard the trundle of a wheelbarrow,  
the chitter-chatter of the busy workmen.  
I smelt the steam and smoke.

Workmen hot and tired, but still working,  
Working even harder, stirring the slag-pit.  
I heard the cling and bang of them, charging the  
furnace.

And then the smells and sounds were gone,  
and I was walking home, still blind and sad.  
But I had enjoyed my day at Iron Bridge.

**BESHLIE MCKELVIE**

### ***Antony and Cleopatra***

Despite several poor reviews of the RSC's performance of *Antony and Cleopatra*, the intrepid sixth-form English scholars set off for Stratford on the cold, rainy night of 10th November - with open minds.

Many of us ended up glad of this: the performance was absolutely compelling. The only let-down was John Nettles's portrayal of the 'scarce-bearded Caesar', acting as if he was in desperate need of a zimmer-frame; the rest of the cast was magnificent.

Richard Johnson's Antony was sufficiently weathered to show that he had been under a great amount of pressure, but his performance was emotional, vivid and absolutely compelling. Clare Higgins walked 'in a halo of sexuality' and provided perhaps one of the best performances we have ever seen at Stratford.

The producer, John Caird, had adapted the play, omitting several scenes owing to the complexity of performance on a stage much smaller than the one the play was written for, but that did nothing to detract from it. The whole audience was absolutely captivated throughout, and only praise could be heard in the theatre lobby afterwards.

However, we felt that the audience detracted from our enjoyment of the play, as they seemed to find many of the serious areas hilariously funny, especially those concerned with Cleopatra's eunuch Enobarbus; we felt him more gravely injured by their lack of pity on him than he had been by his physical loss!

The play flowed rapidly, yet smoothly, between the two worlds of Rome and Egypt, thanks to a monumental, monolithic set designed by Sue Blane. It was so simple, yet so realistic, that it really did have to be seen to be believed.

The major shock of the play? The revival of Antony and Cleopatra, whom we saw being raised to heaven in glory at the end; we all agreed, however, that this seemed a reasonable and enjoyable adaptation.

It was another magical night at Stratford, and our thanks go to Mr Holt and Mrs Harrison for accompanying the trip; we also say a fond goodbye to Mrs Harrison for a good term's enjoyment!

**JOHN TALBOT**

### ***Hamlet***

Kenneth Branagh was the name on all our lips as we went into the theatre on 27th April... and the same name was still being whispered as people left. This particular performance of Hamlet brought more comic moments than one might have expected, yet the characters were not stretched past the limits that Shakespeare set when he wrote this, the longest of his plays.

The humorous moments served a dual purpose: first, they added an extra dimension to the play, and secondly they made the tragedy even greater when it eventually occurred.

Gertrude was given a stronger character through the emphasis of her damning rejection of Claudius, whilst Ophelia's final scene before her death would have touched even the most cynical. Claudius was as malignant as ever, and the angry young Laertes was played with much depth of character.

In a play where all the actors acquitted themselves superbly the whole production upheld the high standards with neat and effective scene changes. We were indeed privileged to have witnessed a production of Hamlet the like of which may not be seen for years to come. Our thanks go to the English Department for organising the trip.

**KAI THOMAS**



## ***Juno and the Paycock***

A group of English students from the Sixth and Fifth Forms travelled to the Theatre Royal, Bath, on 23rd March to watch Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*. This production has recently been resurrected by the Dublin Gate Theatre.

The play is set in 1922, during the height of the troubles after the 'Easter Rising', when the IRA was born, and so this play is unfortunately still relevant to our society today. *Juno and the Paycock* can best be described as a tragedy with darkly comic turns, highlighting the sufferings of the Dublin working class caught up in the middle of the political struggle.

The set for the play consists of the Boyles' two-roomed apartment in a run-down tenement block. The designer had obviously put a lot of thought into the impressive and very convincing scenery, which manages to convey the poverty of the family before any dialogue has been spoken. O'Casey sets out to show the evils of fanaticism; he condemns the violence by viewing it through a family's perspective and by showing how it destroys the family.

However, O'Casey realised that, to get his anti-war message across to the public, his play would have to be entertaining to attract an audience. The comedy element is brought into the play by the double-act between the work-shy Captain Boyle, a sort of Irish Rab C. Nesbitt, and his parasitic side-kick Joxer Daley.

In general the men are the villains, with Boyle as the type-cast Irish dreamer who can complain that 'the world is in a state of *chassis* (chaos) but won't do anything about it. Bentham is the charming British deceiver - thought to symbolise England - and Johnny Boyle is involved with the IRA.

It is Juno Boyle who is the hub of the family, while her drunkard husband shirks his responsibilities. Juno is played sympathetically by Anita Reeves, who gives probably the most powerful performance in the play. Although she loses everything, her house, her family, she is still ready to start again; this shows the strength of the family and offers hope in a bleak ending.

This production has gone on to gain much acclaim from the national press. With its blend of violence and poverty it shows the futility of the 'troubles' in Ireland, whether they be due to religion or politics or both; it makes little difference. The play has offered no solutions to the situation, but it is still relevant in its plea for morality and humanity in a conflict to which there seems to be no solution.

ANDREW RILEY

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

On 28th April the Junior House went to this musical at the Apollo Theatre in Oxford. Seeing the title *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, Shakespeare's forgotten Rock 'n' Roll Masterpiece, we did not know what to expect, but at the beginning the cast mixed into the audience, producing a great atmosphere, full of excitement and confusion.

The cast wore brightly coloured space-suits; their faces were painted and their hair-styles outrageous. It was all summed up by their footwear, the famous Doc Marten boots.

The music was fifties and sixties vintage, and everyone enjoyed the impersonations of Elvis Presley, The Beach Boys, Jerry Lee Lewis and many others, with songs varying from the slow *It's in her kiss* to the fast *Hound Dog*.

To overwhelm the audience there was an amazing guitar solo, which lasted more than 10 minutes, and you could not fail to be impressed by the way in which members of the cast played several different instruments during the performance.

The audience soon got carried away and started to clap, cheer and whistle. Eventually we were all standing, and some people went on to the front of the stage to dance. Everyone was disappointed when the end arrived, but thankful that there was a 15-minute encore to satisfy us. It was one of the most thoroughly enjoyed performances that many of us have seen, and we all want to go again.

TOBY ABBOT, JONATHAN FREEMAN,  
OLIVER BLACKWELL

P.S. English students - and Mr Holt - would have had a field day with the enormous number of quotes from a wide range of Shakespeare's plays!

## ***In Search of Gold***

The first expedition of the year was to Dartmoor, a pleasant area of the country noted for its abundance of bogs and marshes and general lack of vegetation. Five girls and two boys set off to Dartmoor with Mr O'Connor for a mere two days' walking to ease us into the vigorous nature of Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold'.

The first night was very cold. Most people had taken a light sleeping-bag, to cut down on weight, and regretted it; not only was the uneven ground cold, but the wind outside kept you awake.



*Andrew Martin*

Halfway through the second day three of the girls decided that a short cut was in order, so Mr O'Connor let them take the two-mile route under the able eye of John Talbot. The rest of us continued the long way round. Our rendezvous, a letterbox in the middle of Dartmoor, was to be at about 12 noon. After waiting for them for an hour and a half, there was still no sign. Panic ensued; while Mr O'Connor searched, the rest of us sat in a stable, surrounded by reminders of the last inhabitant, and waited: still no sign.

Quick calculations established that we had enough time to leave the moor before it got dark and to call the Mountain Rescue. A police helicopter landed to whisk Mr O'Connor away, and the remaining four of us surmised over the fate of our four lost friends...

At two a.m. the rest of our group returned, cold, tired and ready to sleep. Needless to say, they did not walk the next day; I don't think Mr O'Connor quite trusted them. The rest of us walked, the thought of a pub meal our only stimulant.

The Scotland trip, to the Torridons in the summer half-term, was enjoyed by all, despite the torrential downpour for four days out of six. The journey there took about 12 hours, including stops for breakfast and lunch, and we arrived at the campsite in the early evening.

The first day of walking was hot, which also meant midges, and there were hundreds of them; even Jungle Formula wasn't strong enough. At 11.30 a.m.

Mr Newby and Mr O'Connor toasted Founder's Day; the rest of us listened over the radio net; despite being promised a share of the beer, all we had was rain-water and some pear-drops found in the pocket of a waterproof jacket.

Our campsites each night were by fresh-water lochs and streams clean enough to drink out of without purifying and, although it was cold, a few of the brave managed to swim or to shower in a waterfall.

The last day blistered feet and sore shoulders did not stop us climbing a mountain, even though we couldn't see a thing through all the mist. The last evening was spent in a comfortable pub, with proper food. We were up at 5 a.m. the next morning to get back to Rendcomb. The minibus was silent as everyone slept!

REBECCA KNIGHTLY-BROWN

Dartmoor group: Mr O'Connor, Kirsten Bennett, Nkechi Osamo, Hannah Wykeham, Georgina Buck, Rebecca Knightly-Brown, John Talbot, Chris Oliver and Chris Lawton.

Scotland Group: Mr Newby, Mr O'Connor, Kirsten Bennett, Rebecca Knightly-Brown, Polly Parsons, Karen Betts, Chris Lawton, Andrew Martin, Robert Sage, Matthew Gee, Christian Millard and Tony Hazelhurst.

## Ridgeway Ride

Thirty-two cyclists, including most of Form 2 and a few experienced bikers from the fourth year, tackled the Ridgeway from Overton to Streatley during a weekend in May. The weather was sunny and hot most of the time, and the terrain was very mixed. It consisted of mud and puddles on the first day, which was good fun for riding through, but later on there were rocky bits, making downhill cycling scary.



Unloading

We met many people using the Ridgeway; the first ones were on horseback. We were climbing over a gate near Barbury Castle, and they showed us how to open it! Others were walkers, cyclists and farmers, and happily all the sponsored walkers on the last hill stood to one side as we went through very fast.

There were a number of crashes during the two days. Many people were sure that they would fall off and, after just two minutes, Sam Maylott and Mark Sutton touched handlebars and toppled into the mud. Rupert Webb braked on a gravel-covered stretch of road, and his bike went from under him, sending him rolling across the junction; he escaped with a few grazes. James Gibbs and Charles Perry collided near the end of the ride, and within a few miles Charles' *derailleur* had to be removed. Mr Wood then pushed him to the final descent into Streatley.

The frequent minor breakdowns were swiftly dealt with by the adults who swept up the stragglers. Tony Winstone and Tim Hill probably had the greatest number of breakdowns, but they did complete the course.

The Court Hill Ridgeway Centre is the name of

the youth hostel where we spent the night, and there were various places where we could enjoy ourselves, such as the nearby wood, the common room or the 'cubby hole'. Our rooms were six main cabins called *Scutchamer's Knob*, *Seven Barrows*, *Devil's Punchbowl*, *White Horse*, *Blowing Stone* and *Segsbury Camp*, named after places we had passed en route. There were stables for our bikes, the people were friendly and the meals were reasonable. Fortunately there was a tuckshop for us to stock up for the next day.

We don't think we could have made it if Mrs Winstone and Mrs Wood had not supplied us with refreshments, fruit and chocolate bars at the various collection points. They travelled in the back-up vehicle, which was a four-wheel-drive Vauxhall Frontera driven by Mr Winstone and generously supplied by Cirencester Garage. It was useful also for taking Mr Wood, Mr O'Connor, Mr Phillips (Adam's dad) and David Williams (OR, not our David!) to the pub at night! Then, when we got back to Rendcomb on the Sunday, having sung cheerfully in the minibus, we had to clean the Frontera, which had accumulated a fair amount of Ridgeway mud.

A lot of effort went into the ride itself, but there were a large number of people involved in the planning and the back-up. Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Wood, Mr and Mrs Winstone, Mr David Williams, Mr Phillips, Mr and Mrs Freeman, Mr and Mrs Hughes, Mr Patterson, Mr Abbott and Mr Cairns, Williams Cycles and Cirencester Garage, because it was a most enjoyable and memorable weekend.

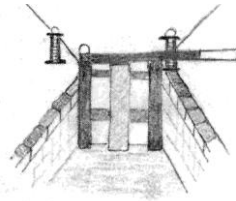
RALPH BARNES, JAMES GIBBS,  
PHILIP DE HAVILLAND HALL,  
TIM HILL, RICHARD HISTED,  
DAVID HUGHES, CHARLES PERRY,  
ADAM PHILLIPS, ASHLEY TAYLOR,  
RUPERT WEBB.



## Canal Holiday '93

On 3rd April the Woods, 13 of Form 2, three of Form 1, Julie Rogers and Andrew Martin set off in the narrow boats, *Calandra Lark* and *Grey Wagtail*, to tackle the Black Country Ring.

The first day was very wet, and the only break from the rain was the long King's Norton tunnel, which took half an hour to navigate.

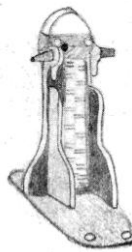


On the Sunday we left Oozell Street Loop in bright sunshine and, descending from Birmingham to Kingsbury Water Park, we encountered the greatest number of locks in one

day, 37. The next day we visited Drayton Manor Park and Zoo. It was brilliant! Later on James Starkey indulged in 'bridge-hanging', missing the first boat but managing to stay suspended until the second boat arrived. The wind became so strong that slow running was impossible; this made mooring very difficult, and we eventually tied up by headlight.

It was at Rugeley on Tuesday that we experienced fish and chips midlands-style, and we were pleased to find out that a collapsed part of the canal had been repaired, making completion of the ring possible.

No day is uneventful on a canal holiday, and Wednesday was no



exception. It was after Penkridge that I ran onto a bridge and tried to jump onto the boat, but I got tangled up in several pipes and ended up in the canal! Unfortunately Mark Sutton had to go home early, because he was running a high temperature, so it was fortunate that we had moored near the M54.

On Thursday we did 'the 21' locks of the Wolverhampton flight in under two hours, which is the shortest time that Mr Wood has known. The run across Birmingham will be remembered for the Brades Staircase lock, for Chris Scarth's falling into the last lock of the holiday, for flower pots - an 'in' joke - and for weaving in and out of the dredgers on the Main Line.

We had completed the Black Country Ring in six days, which was just as well, because the rain on Friday was torrential. Shopping in Birmingham proved to be a popular alternative to cruising, and some of us found a great juggling shop. That evening we had our 'last Supper' at Sawyer's restaurant in King's Norton.

The next morning we arrived back in Alvechurch



boatyard after a wonderful holiday. We had travelled 100 miles, negotiating 80 locks, and it was well worth it.

TOBY ABBOTT

## Annecy

As you may have gathered, not all of the British 'correspondents' spent an ideal fortnight in France. I was lucky enough to get on well with my exchange student and his family.

Of course, I was overly nervous on the journey to Annecy, and I cherished every moment with my English friends before being thrown into the alien life of a foreign family. I had heard the horror stories concerning the French character and hygiene facilities. I was only glad that Claude had visited me in Britain first.

Naturally all my fears were unfounded. The family I stayed with was one of the most welcoming and relaxed I have ever met. I can honestly say that I enjoyed staying with a French family much more than going abroad with my own family, although this may be because I was not confined with my younger brother for two weeks.

The French lifestyle was much more laid-back than I had expected; both my pen-friend's parents were sports teachers on their school holidays, which may account for this. I spent a very energetic and full fortnight; I was lucky enough to live in the mountains close to Annecy, so I experienced the best of town and country life, and there was no shortage of things to do.





**Andrew Riley's exchange partner in Annecy**

However, not everything went entirely smoothly: there were a couple of near-disasters involving the mountains. First I managed nearly to fall off a mountain (twice!). Then I mangled my exchange student's bike coming down another mountain. I am very sorry for causing so much stress and expense to my captive family; maybe next time I should stay somewhere at a lower altitude.

I would like to thank Claude and all his family - I met just about all of them at a reunion, which is something I will probably never forget - for being so kind and understanding. The Annecy trip completely changed my view of France and French life, which came mainly from the *Tricolore* text books. I can only express my regret for the miserable, damp, British April which Claude had to live through when he visited me. Also, I hope he can forgive me for the time he had to spend at school, but I'm sure it wasn't as bad as he assured me it was!

**ANDREW RILEY**

## Cadbury World

The whole area of the factory is covered with advertisements of Cadbury's products. Even the adventure playground has a *crunchie* see-saw, a *twirl* climbing frame and a *creme egg* vehicle.

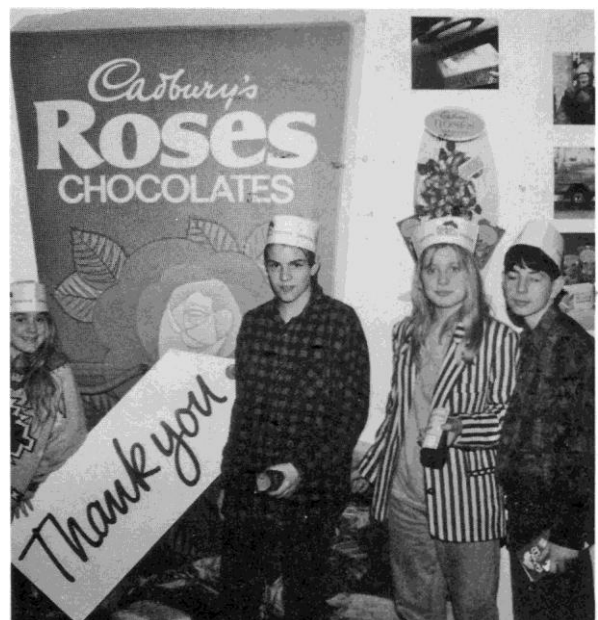
In the first section of the tour the origins of

chocolate are explained to you, and you can taste the ancient Aztec recipe. This is followed by a guided tour of part of the factory, and you receive a 'taster', in our case a medium-size fruit and nut bar. We get even more chocolate by handing in a 'passport' stamped at various points on the tour.

The last section takes us through the history of transport and advertising, and finishes with an impressive infinite mirror. At last we have arrived at the shop, where everything is very cheap, and we all lose control of our fingers, stuffing endless amounts of chocolate into our baskets and later into our mouths, making ourselves feel sick.

We all really enjoyed ourselves, and Mr. Wood deserves a big 'thank you' for organising the visit.

**JAMES GIBBS**



## The Shukutoku College

After a recent visit from students at the Japanese College in Cheltenham to one of our informal concerts, a group of us were invited back to attend a Japanese-style concert performed by the pupils there. Japanese girls from about 18 upwards attend the school for about 10 months, to learn English and experience English culture.

So, on 10th June, 16 pupils from Forms 2 to 6B joined with Mr Lea for an evening of Japanese music and food. The girls greeted us warmly, dressed in the traditional kimonos and wooden shoes.

Throughout the evening we tried our hand at origami and drank green tea in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony; the brave few tried sushi and seaweed dishes!

Hannah Willcocks, Alister Harris and Stuart Sealey provided music on the saxophone, guitar and piano; Stuart also sang a German piece. One of the Japanese girls played a couple of pieces on a koto, a traditional ceremonial instrument like a horizontal harp.

We were then presented with our names in Japanese. Each symbol has a double meaning, so 'Hannah' also meant 'flower' and 'Kirsten' meant 'happy and lucky'.

At the end of the evening we all left with our origami swans and Japanese names, experienced in the Japanese way of life! The Japanese girls waved us off, their cameras full of pictures of real English boys and looking forward to their next visit to Rendcomb. Our thanks go to the Japanese College for the evening and to Mr Lea for taking us there.

REBECCA KNIGHTLY-BROWN

## Form I to Slimbridge

*On 4th May the First Form, accompanied by Miss Goldsmith, set out for the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. There follow some comments.*

When we got to Slimbridge, we looked around at the birds and other animals and fed them with some bird-seed.

Then we went inside and were given a talk about some of the birds we had seen; this included a demonstration by Nick Stanfield showing how a chick is hatched.

Then we went outside again with a worksheet giving us some information about the wildlife we had seen. Following the complete tour, we bought some souvenirs and then went back to Rendcomb.

JOHN SHENTON

Our visit to Slimbridge was very good fun, and it was also educational. We had a talk on birds informing us about a lot of things, such as why birds have bright or dark feathers and do swans mate for life?

After that we spent some time wandering around and looking at the birds. They have facilities ranging from marshland to a tropical house. We enjoyed the trip to Slimbridge.

LAURA DONOVAN

Slimbridge is a wetland habitat for birds, and we also saw some fish. We were there just in time to see the new-born moorhens and mallards; we also saw a goose on its nest.

We were allowed to feed the birds, and the tamest was the Hawaiian goose. The park was separated into different enclosures, so that birds from different countries were in the right habitat.

TOM GILBERT

## Geography Field Trips

Once again the Geography Department ran a full programme of field work for all forms in the school, starting with the First Form and their projects based on researching the village of Rendcomb and running through to 6A with their 'A' level projects.

However, the main emphasis remains with the upper school and the GCSE candidates, who tackle much-loved (?) coursework projects. Variety characterises the work, with visits to Cheltenham to investigate the nature of its Central Business District, Stroud and the changing industrial structure of the Frome Valley, and a visit to a Cotswold mixed farm - Bourton Hill Farm, as run by Mr C. Branston - to look at the factors influencing decisions taken in the management of that enterprise. Closer to home, we take advantage of the grounds to measure the flow in the River Churn, and the factors affecting the micro-climate of Rendcomb form a major second coursework unit.

As a very considerable teaching aid this year the department has had the use of Meteosat Weather Satellite receiving equipment, purchased for the

school by the Parents' Association. This system takes and decodes information transmitted from 36,000 miles out in space by the Meteosat 4 satellite.



**Weather pattern, 6th July 1993**

It produces 'live' pictures every four minutes for different parts of the globe. Colour adds to the effectiveness of the presentation, and spectacular pictures are now stored for regular classroom use. Animation also is possible, by storing and then playing a sequence of up to 100 pictures. Evolution and movement of clouds and weather systems are then displayed to great effect.

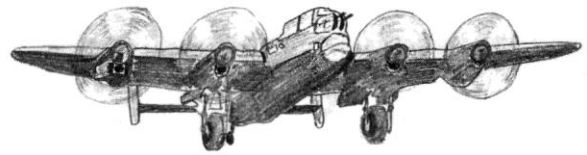
This year 6B has made targeted field trips, integrated with work being carried out on the syllabus. Glaciation in the Brecon Beacons, the villages of the Cotswolds, urban transects and structure model applications have all formed areas of study for day-trips. This programme will continue throughout their 6A year, building up a store of invaluable case examples.

C. P. M. K.

## Junior House Visit to London

As soon as we entered the RAF museum at Hendon, there was a lecture demonstration called *Plane and Simple*. It explained how aircraft fly, in terms of aerofoils and low-pressure regions.

After this we looked at the collection of aircraft and saw a video explaining the Dambusters' raid of 50 years ago.



**Lancaster bomber**

There was a Tornado flight simulator in the museum and, after trying it out, we concluded that it was rather disappointing.

The weather allowed us to have our packed lunches in the picnic area, and afterwards we had time to look round the Battle of Britain Museum, which had several scenes depicting the stages of the Second World War.

In the afternoon we moved on to the Natural History Museum, where we found quite a few new exhibitions. In the Ecology Section there was an impressive display of screens and mirrors producing the effect of an enormous globe. A glass construction with bridges made the area very attractive and interesting, and we were very surprised to see Mr Wood whizzing around in a wheelchair!



We looked at many other exhibitions, such as human biology, minerals, the story of the earth, dolphins and whales, fossils and gemstones. When we left the museum, the ice-cream vans were instantly surrounded by juniors desperate for refreshment. Overall, it was a successful day.

EDMUND COMPTON  
ROWAN RENOW-CLARKE

## The IOD '93 Convention

The Institute of Directors is keen to promote interest in industry among students, and so Rendcomb was fortunate enough to receive tickets for 27th April.

Despite the fact that we had to get up at 4.30 a. m. to meet Mr Slark outside the main building at 5.15, all of us except one managed to put in an appearance.

We caught the bus from Cheltenham with students and teachers from various other schools and arrived at the Albert Hall at roughly 9.15. The speeches started at 10, after we had stood for the National Anthem.

Lord Young was the Chairman, and the speakers in the morning were William Waldegrave, Andrew Knight and William Gates. They were mainly interesting and informative, although sometimes difficult to understand, because a fairly good knowledge of economics was required.

Lunch was a surprise, since we were expecting a few sandwiches, not the bulky lunch boxes the IOD provided; we even managed to get some wine by mistake.

The afternoon session began at 2.30 and, after we had heard Peter Morgan and Sir Alistair Grant, the last speaker was Richard Branson; his speech was definitely the most entertaining and much easier to relate to than the others. He talked about how a business should survive in the 90s, and the audience was in hysterics as he showed clips from advertisements he had composed for Virgin Airways, especially the ones which went slightly wrong.

On the whole, it was a very enjoyable and educative day, and I should like to thank Mr Slark for taking us.

**REBECCA FOWLER**



## Sport

### Rugby Football

Good weather throughout the season enabled a full fixture list to be completed, although the later starting date for the term meant that we were unable to play our usual 'practice' matches against Marlborough College.

The lower numbers at senior level meant a last-minute rearrangement of teams with a change to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XVs, the U16 side coming together only on occasions, along with a rare 4th XV match.

Illness and injury problems affected all teams, particularly in the U14s, where some of the 'B' XV matches had to be cancelled.

All teams recorded some fine performances and results; the degree of commitment at all ages during both practice and matches was excellent, paralleled by obvious enjoyment. The overall record of the U15s was exceptional, while the U16 side, although rarely having the chance to play together, were finalists in the District Cup. The final was an excellent display of rugby in appalling conditions and, although trailing at half-time to a strong Marling side, the U16s showed real tenacity and spirit, spending most of the second half in the opposition's 22; unfortunately they could not turn pressure into points and lost narrowly.

The XV acquitted itself well this season, with the formidable front-five providing the platform for some excellent forward play and the backs ever keen to tackle hard and run the ball. This set the scene for an outstanding encounter with the ORs, the 'veterans' arriving with yet another impressive side, particularly their awesome pack. The match was, to use the popular soccer cliché, 'a game of two halves': in the first half the College's tactics, to spin the ball wide at every opportunity, paid dividends and enabled them to take a healthy lead by half-time. However, in the second half the Old Boys decided to keep the ball tight, using the power of their forwards; then, having drawn in the school defence, they spun the ball wide. The tactics were perfect and enabled them to secure victory in what was an impressive exhibition match, played as usual in first-class spirit.

The Club Dinner was again a successful and most enjoyable affair, with that famous artilleryman from 'The Valleys', Mr Peter Sudbury, honouring and entertaining us as Guest Speaker; many thanks go to him for making it a memorable occasion. May I also take this opportunity to thank all players, colleagues and spectators for their effort, commitment and energy



throughout the season?

What of the future? Next year the XV will be young, but with considerable potential, while I hope that we shall have the numbers to reinstate the U16 team on a regular basis, in order to develop the obvious talents of this year's U15 side. When I look again at my report in last year's Rendcombian, I see that my comments highlight the unquestionable contribution made by the College to rugby football in general and our remarkable record and reputation, particularly when considering the size of Rendcomb and the fact that we do not pursue the game with the intensity and passion shown by some schools.

I can only hope that these comments will apply in several years' time, for the way in which the school is evolving will, as from next season, undoubtedly affect the number of teams we can produce - and consequently the depth of ability in each year-group - and inevitably necessitate a change in our fixture list. I hope that the effect of such changes is not too dramatic or too detrimental to Rendcomb rugby!

M. J. N.

### 1st XV

A sheer lack of numbers this year meant that the system had to be changed to create the opportunity for younger players to fill the gaps. Consequently the U16 'A' and 'B' XV's were replaced by the 3rd and 4th XV's, and a few fifth-formers found themselves playing at a higher level than they had expected.

For the 1st XV the season started well, with a good win over Bristol Cathedral School, and our success continued until after the first exeat, when we played Marling. This was a most disappointing game, and no one in the XV was happy with his performance against a side we felt was inferior to ours.



Enno Schuh

The front row, Itseng Kwelagobe, Rowen Elmes and James East, when all were fit, were a very destructive force, and together with the locks, Nick Barton and Alex Faiers, provided a stable platform from which we won a lot of ball. Prop Itseng Kwelagobe should be singled out for having had an outstanding season; he will be invaluable to next year's team, I am sure.

The back row, Patrick Morgan, Mark Valentine and Mark Sansome/Chris Oliver, were quick around the field and always supported the ball-carrier. Number 8 Mark Valentine was also superb at the line-out. His athleticism gave him an edge over many taller opponents, which was exemplified in the Old Boys' game.

Scrum-half Matt Giggs gave me good service off both hands, and our close understanding as half-backs was an important factor in the team's success.

The centres, Chris Lawton and Ben Mabey, were strong in the tackle and elusive runners, creating many scoring chances for men outside them. Chris was also a very effective long-range goal-kicker, which again bodes well for next season.

No fewer than six different people occupied the right-wing spot, but only one wore the left-wing jersey, Hugh Costelloe. An aggressive tackler, Hugh was also a very potent attacking force, finishing the season as top try-scorer, with ten.

Full-back Andy Platt was safe under the high ball and solid in all his defensive duties, but it was his timely intrusions at speed into the line which caused problems for the opposition, and it was Andy who normally made the incisive break through the first line of defence before a try was scored.

High points of the season were against Hereford, when the backs dominated totally, the impressive defeat of a dangerously good King's, Gloucester, side and finally giving the ORs a run for their money by playing our last match together as a side with a lot of commitment, teamwork, passion and skill.

Thanks must go to Mr King and Mr Newby for coaching us and encouraging us to play open, running rugby to the best of our ability.

CHRIS CARMICHAEL

Played 13; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 6; Points for 202; Points against 211.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Won	12-8
v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Won	27-10
v Kingswood School (H)	Drew	5-5
v Rednock School (A)	Won	25-8
v Marling School (H)	Lost	5-8
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	6-49
v Bloxham School (A)	Lost	5-35
v Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	34-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	33-13
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	15-23
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	10-23
v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	10-6
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	15-23

Team from: C. Carmichael (Captain), I. Kwelagobe, J. Bannerman, S. Jones, R. Gorman, R. Elmes, R. Hutson, A. Faiers, W. Hunter-Smart, N. Barton, C. Oliver, P. Morgan, M. Sansome, M. Valentine, M. Giggs, C. Lawton, H. Costelloe, A. Platt, C. Morgan-Harris, F. Ingham, J. East, S. Hall, B. Mabey.

## 2nd XV

It was not a bad season, as 2nd XV seasons go. With the abolition of the U16 side, the 2nd received some young stars from the fifth year. These included Pat Boydell, Freddie Ingham and John Morgan, all useful players likely to do well for the 1st XV next year.

Unfortunately, we seemed to lose more matches than we won; I don't know how that happened. We won four games, including two good wins against Marling and King's, Gloucester.

The match against King's seemed to be the one where everything worked and the backs got their act together. There was good forward pressure in the set pieces, where the front five not only held their own, but dominated a much larger and stronger set of forwards. The back row ruled the loose play, with Chris Oliver and James 'Roger' Moore being unafraid to take the game to the opposition, acting as an inspiration to the rest of the forwards. The backs' handling was superb, and they produced some of the best tackling I have seen from them.

The whole team seemed to play well throughout the season, but some players stood out. Simon Barrett improved immensely during the season, in his rugby and in his touch-judging! Andrew Riley's line-out jumping was hard to believe; he soared above the line-

out and used his superior height to good effect. James Moore and Chris Oliver have already been mentioned, and it was a great loss to the side when Chris was called up to play for the 1st, owing to recurring injuries.

However, his call-up allowed Graham Monteith to play for the 2nd. Graham is without a doubt the player who has improved most during this season: he tackled anything that moved and, when the chips were down against Wycliffe, he continued to play his heart out.

Behind the scrum Alastair Graham and Pat Boydell worked perfectly together and released the now formidable backs. John Morgan surged through any gaps, and Charlie Morgan-Harris exploited these breaks until, again, he was called up to the 1st. Freddie Ingham, at full-back, caught every ball and, when he entered the backs, was a strong and intelligent runner.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Newby, who came out of retirement (!) to take over from Mr Griffiths as coach, the numerous spectators present at every match and the players themselves for making this last season for 6A a most excellent finale to their Rendcomb rugby. It was a great pleasure to captain this team and, please, nobody mention Wycliffe again!

**RICHARD HUTSON**

Played 11; Won 4; Lost 7; Points for 87; Points against 229

v Bristol Cathedral School (A)	Lost	0-22
v Hereford Cathedral School (H)	Won	27-5
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-15
v Marling School (H)	Won	21-7
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	0-35
v Bloxham School (H)	Lost	3-25
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	19-5
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-65
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-35
v Cheltenham College 4th XV (H)	Lost	3-5
v Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	14-10

Team from: R. Hutson (Captain), A. Faiers and C. Morgan-Harris (also Captains), A. Graham (Vice Captain), S. Barrett, P. Boydell, N. Channing-Williams, P. Croft, S. Croft, R. Gorman, W. Hunter-Smart, F. Ingham, S. Jones, G. Monteith, J. Moore, J. Morgan, C. Oliver, A. Riley, M. Sansome, J. Sawtell, A. Tibbs, L. White, P. Williams.

### 3rd XV

'I thought we were to play the 3rd XV, not U16s!' was the statement that Dr Haslett, our coach, had to answer after nearly all our matches. These were mostly losses for, although we were made up mostly of under-sixteen players, a number of us had been promoted to the 2nd XV for most, if not all, of the season, leaving the 3rd XV somewhat short in important positions.

But through these problems we came and, at times, played some excellent rugby. Our 'formidable' front row was made up of Armen Topalian, Nick Channing-Williams and Stephen Roney, the last of whom must deserve a special 'thank you' for his commendable performance in rucks and mauls, often causing us to win the ball.

Mark Wilks played in the second row and was always a hard-working line-out jumper; although not always successful, he was always committed and gave a hundred per cent, as did Francis Barton, Martin Adams and Jeremy Sawtell, the scrum's back row.

Charles Yardley, our scrum-half, must get the credit for trying the hardest and often being successful, playing in a team one higher than he might have expected.

Matt Laroche and Adam Higazi, the wingers, played terrifically, as did Piers Roberts at fly-half. Although they had not the height of some of their opposite numbers, they were used to full effect, as were the centres, Paul Bigg-Wither and Alex Tibbs, and the full-back, Steven Croft.

We managed to play a few matches as under-sixteens and to borrow a few players from the 2nd XV. At times the team played classic rugby, linking beautifully and rucking flawlessly.

We played Magdalen College School at home and lost only 0-15, as opposed to last year's 3-43. Then followed a string of wins, notably 20-12 against Farmor's, which put us into the final of the Stroud District Schools' Cup. Against Marling, to whom the 3rd XV had lost badly early in the season, we thought we had the better of them and came within three points of winning, 12-15.

The team's thanks go out to Dr Haslett and Rowan Leake for allowing us to play enjoyable, if unsuccessful, rugby.

**CHRISTOPHER JARRETT**

Played 6; Lost 6; Points for 37; Points against 181.

v Kingswood School U16 XV (A)	Lost	0-38
v Marling School (H)	Lost	24-36

v Dauntsey's School U16 'A' XV (H)	Lost	5-45
v Bloxham School U16 'A' XV (A)	Lost	0-35
v Cheltenham College 5th XV (H)	Lost	3-5
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	5-22

### U16 'A' XV

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Points for 32; Points against 42.

v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-15
v Farmor's School (H)	Won	20-12
v Marling School (A)	Lost	12-15

### U16 'B' XV

Played 2; Won 1; Lost 1; Points for 39; Points against 24.

v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	22-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	17-24

Teams from: C. Jarrett (Captain), S. Roney, N. Channing-Williams, A. Topalian, M. Wilks, M. Adams, F. Barton, J. Sawtell, C. Yardley, P. Roberts, M. Laroche, A. Tibbs, P. Bigg-Wither, A. Higazi, S. Croft. Also played: L. White, M. Brown, A. Riley, T. Gaskill, R. Blackwell, R. Gorman, G. Monteith, D. Elliott, R. Smith.

### U15 'A' XV

This team had potential right from the start of the season and, unlike so many other years, that potential was turned into some very good wins and an accumulation of a lot of points.

Our first match proved to be a fairly comfortable win, but in our second, against Hereford Cathedral School, we came up against stronger opposition and struggled to match our performance to our ability. Putting this defeat out of our minds, we managed to win a few matches in a row, including a pre-cup clash against Rednock, but then lost to a Marling side much bigger than we were.

Injuries played a big part in our season, with the captain, Nick Carmichael, missing the second half of it. Then the new scrum-half, Simon Lee, burnt his hand, and Leighton Freeman, following in the footsteps of his captain, broke his arm and missed the last three matches. Despite these losses the team held together well under the captaincy of the former pack-leader, Stephen Amey.

The most remarkable match was against King's, Gloucester, at home. In the last two years we had lost heavily to King's, and it was a real lift to win this fixture.

A few names deserve a special mention: Adam Crawford-Taylor for his hooking throughout, Craig Marcham and Francis Newcombe for their outstanding line-out work, Stephen Amey for his strong scrummaging, Philip Price for running and tackling with great determination, and Leighton Freeman, whose catching was solid and whose willingness to 'prop-charge' the biggest of second rows became something of a trademark. Credit, however, must go also to everyone in the team for the spirit in which they played each match, whether we won or lost.

In the second half of the season the wins kept coming, but we were disappointed to lose in the 'Cup' to Rednock, a team we had already beaten earlier in the season. We lost also to Magdalen College School, but it was on a waterlogged pitch, and the game became very scrappy as handling worsened.

We would like to thank all parents who came to support us, at home or away, regardless of sometimes fluctuating weather. A special 'thank you' must go to Mr Slark for all the time, patience and hard work he put into this team throughout the season, and also to Mr Burden for refereeing all our home matches so well.

**NICK CARMICHAEL**  
**STEPHEN AMEY**

Played 14; Won 9; Lost 5; Points for 247; Points against 121.

✓ Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Won	15-5
✓ Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Lost	12-22
✓ Kingswood School (H)	Won	25-0
✓ Rednock School (A)	Won	17-5
✓ Marling School (A)	Lost	0-26
✓ Dauntsey's School (A)	Won	29-0
✓ Bloxham School (H)	Won	8-0
✓ Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	62-7
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	13-7
✓ Rednock School (A)*	Lost	7-10
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	5-7
✓ Wycliffe College (H)	Won	19-10
✓ Dean Close School (H)	Lost	3-22
✓ Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	32-0

\* Stroud and District Cup match

Team From: N. Carmichael (Captain), S. Amey (Vice-

Captain), A. Crawford-Taylor, S. Ismael, F. Newcombe, C. Marcham, A. Beales, W. Heaven, B. Renow-Clarke, S. Lee, M. Smith, A. Harris, S. Sealey, E. Branston, P. Price, L. Freeman, D. Royal. Also played: G. Langlands, R. Hart, O. Blaydon.

## U15 'B' XV

This year's U15 'B' squad was one filled with great enthusiasm and ability at this level. We had a real chance of finishing the season unbeaten, had we not lost a very close encounter away at Bloxham - 15-10, when we had led 10-5 with less than ten minutes to go!

Our opening match was a comfortable victory over King's, Gloucester, at home, and we won well against Magdalen College School. The team really applied itself well in very muddy conditions and were well worth their win.

The side was somewhat depleted for our last two matches. We lost at home to Wycliffe, after a spirited second-half performance, and our final game, at Dean Close, was played on a very 'tacky' pitch, where the team looked quite jaded and lost by over 20 points without reply.

My thanks go to all who represented the side this season, and indeed to Mr Williams for all his help and encouragement.

**GEORGE LANGLANDS**

Played 5; Won 2; Lost 3; Points for 50; Points against 62.

✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	15-5
✓ Bloxham School (A)	Lost	10-15
✓ Magdalen College School (A)	Won	20-0
✓ Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	5-15
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-27

Team from: G. Langlands (Captain), S. Bartlett, O. Blaydon, W. Brix, L. Duff, J. Fairbank, R. Hart, N. Holt, J. Jelfs, R. Lewis, C. Mackinnon, A. Mar, P. Marran, M. Morris, L. Nicholls, D. Royal, C. Walmsley, H. Willmott, T. Winstone, R. Witchell.



**Old Rendcombian Society XIV!**

*A. Giggs*



## U14 A' XV

We looked, from the start, a side with few players to choose from, and in many positions we were light-weight for some of the teams we played. We had very few attacking runners and, unable to rely on a dominant pack owing to our size, we were up against it.

This meant that we had to rely on a brave defence which was very good, but I have to agree that 'attack is the best form of defence'.

This is not to say that we didn't turn out some good performances, but some of our best matches were against our best opposition, and it was a question of keeping their score down.

Luckily the team's spirit remained very high, and practice sessions were full of commitment and fun. Much of this is due to Mr Sykes and Mr Griffiths, who coached us with great aplomb and kept us on the straight and narrow, for which we thank them.

CHARLES WEBB

Played 13; Won 2; Drew 1; Points for 58; Points against 343.

v Bristol Cathedral School (H)	Won	17-12
v Hereford Cathedral School (H)	Lost	0-47
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-15
v Rednock School (A)	Lost	0-42
v Marling School (A)	Lost	12-31
v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	0-61
v Bloxham School (H)	Lost	5-12
v Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	7-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	5-29
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-32
v Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	7-43
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-14
v Kingham Hill School (H)	Drew	5-5

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), W. Brittain-Jones, C. Barton, A. Davanzo, T. Shaw, J. de Lisle Wells, S. Gillott, S. Taylor, N. Nicholson, A. Donovan, A. Perrin, R. Arnold, A. King, A. Hawkins, C. Baker, M. Garcia, J. Emerson, R. Witchell, C. Allen, M. Hall, J. Graham, J. Smith, A. Watkins, D. Wragg.

## U14 B' XV

This year's team was rather hampered by a shortage of players and by illness on match days. However, many of our practices were enthusiastic occasions, and during the season a number of players who started in the 'B' side went on to make a useful contribution to

the 'A' and will be increasingly successful further up the school, now that they have made a start; this, I feel, is true of the year as a whole.

Indeed, as a group they may have lacked scale, but their spirit and willingness to play in an honest manner were outstanding, and credit is fully deserved here, especially by the captains of the two sides. The relationship between the 'A' and 'B' teams was always good-humoured, the larger and quicker boys were notably helpful and generous, and this was particularly rewarding.

Of the three matches played we were clearly outmatched by Kingswood, despite some excellent defence in the first half. We were just edged out by a good Magdalen side: in a tense and even match, with some heroic play by Andrew Perrin and Luke Nicholls, we fought back to miss out on a well-earned draw when Adam King's conversion attempt scraped the wrong side of the upright. However, much confidence had been gained, and a victory was won over a big Wycliffe team by using some good open inventive rugby and a disciplined defence. If the players learn from this, they should develop well, and I fully expect to see the skill and aggression of Andrew Perrin, Adam Hawkins, Ashley Watkins and Colin Morey being combined successfully with the awesome power of Graham Turvey, Richard Bateman and Simon Rayburn in the senior teams.

M. S. G.

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Points for 41; Points against 67.

v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	3-34
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	12-14
v Wycliffe College (H)	Won	26-19

Team from: S. Taylor (Captain), R. Ashby, R. Bateman, D. Ellison, J. Emerson, S. Gillott, J. Graham, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, M. Haines, W. Hunt, A. King, C. Morey, A. Perrin, S. Rayburn, G. Turvey, A. Watkins, D. Wragg. Also played: R. Webb, L. Nicholls, C. Mackinnon, J. Chalk, R. Bardsley, K. Bendall.

## U13 XV

As the results show, this was not a strong side, and hence we struggled against the bigger and more rugby-oriented schools. Moultsford and Oakley Hall exposed our inexperience and weaknesses, and we were heavily defeated by Marling and Dauntsey's. In some matches it was almost as if we could play well for one half of a game, but not both. Marling were

well ahead by half-time, and yet we actually 'won' the second half in terms of points scored; the Dauntsey's match was level at half-time, and then everything went wrong thereafter. Nevertheless, we did produce sound, competitive performances against Cokethorpe, King's and Cheltenham Junior, and the excellent win against Dean Close Junior showed what we could do once our tails were up and confidence was high. The back play, particularly, on that day was splendid to watch - the highlight of the season.

There were, therefore, many good performances amongst the setbacks, and in general the results do not give an entirely accurate picture of the season. The side was inexperienced, and the small pool of available players meant that we lacked vital skills in too many departments: to that extent the results were a fair reflection, but they do not reveal the sheer grit and determination that this side put in. We may have been short on expertise, at times even outclassed, but we never gave up, even in the most unrewarding of circumstances. It is an old cliché, but nonetheless true, that this team showed real spirit throughout.

M. H. G.

Played 9; Won 2; Lost 7; Points for 91; Points against 192

v Kingham Hill School (H)	Lost 12-31
v Marling School (A)	Lost 5-42
v Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 0-35
v Cokethorpe School (A)	Won 15-5
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost 0-5
v Cheltenham College Jun Sch 3rd XV (H)	Lost 7-12
v Dean Close Jun Sch 2nd XV (H)	Won 47-0
v Moultsford School (A)	Lost 0-27
v Oakley Hall School (H)	Lost 5-35

Team from: R. Webb (Captain), T. Abbott, O. Blackwell, J. Davis, J. Freeman, J. Gibbs, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, R. Histed, C. Holliday, S. Maylott, C. Perry, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, D. Williams, J. Shenton, J. Starkey.

## Hockey

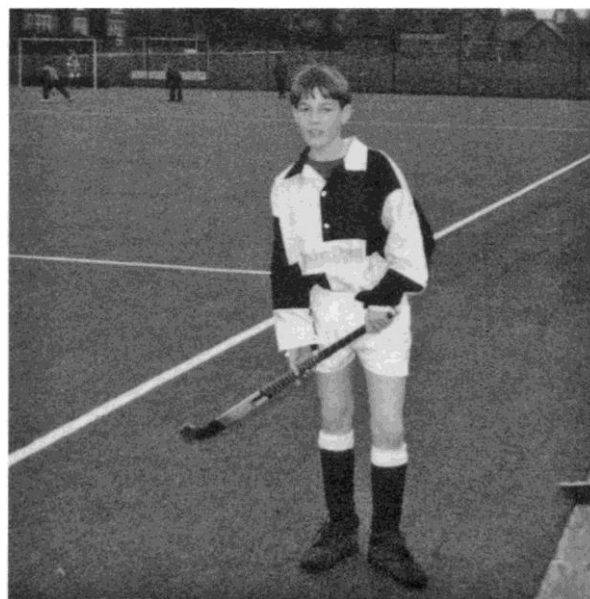
The combination of dedicated coaches, willing umpires, keen players, well kept pitches, good weather and team spirit made this a memorable season for many of us. We welcomed John Watson as coach of the successful U15 side, and John Bannerman took charge of the U13 enthusiasts. Martin Griffiths moved

up to first game, whilst David Essenhigh and I worked on game 2A to improve skills and, in particular, the standard of tackling. Otherwise there were no changes to the system, which still includes the use of the Royal Agricultural College's artificial surface on two afternoons each week.

This year's rule book contained more detailed interpretation of the modified obstruction rule, and most staff were unhappy about the way in which this now allows players to shield the ball as long as their opponents never get in a position to tackle. We wonder if the Hockey Association intended the game to develop like football in this area, and it will be interesting to see if the rule remains in next year's little book.

Owing to changes in exeats and half-term we lost the Prior Park fixture. However, a new fixture against Kingswood School, Bath, was introduced, as well as an under-14 game against Oxstalls Community School. Thanks to the efforts of Philip Moore and other Old Rendcombians, this year's fixture consisted of four men's matches and one ladies' match, all of which turned out to be of a high standard and most enjoyable.

For the first time Rendcomb was represented in the Gloucestershire mini-hockey tournament at under-13 level, and the squad competed well, finishing third overall.



Finally, congratulations go to **Charles Barton**, who played for the Gloucestershire U14 side. Sadly, there is still no organisation for under-16 or under-18 teams.

C. J. W.

Overall record: Played 95; Cancelled 5; Won 30; Drew 13; Lost 52; Goals for 133; Goals against 174.

## 1st XI

Schools' hockey continues to make rapid progress, and it is remarkable that Rendcomb has managed to hold its own in a fixture list containing several 'Premier League' teams. The 1st XI's most pleasing performances were against such teams, whose superior skill and tactics on Astroturf pitches might well have swamped us. Sheer determination and dogged defence kept the scorelines respectable in all but the early-season Cheltenham match. Other games did produce several wins, notably against Kingswood and King's, Gloucester.

The side was not short of skill, but it took time to develop the confidence which enabled the team members to depend on each other. At first the defenders were all at sea positionally, but they listened to advice and gradually became a more cohesive unit. The forwards could play attractively and effectively, but at times they let themselves down with a poor final pass or a fluffed shot. The victories on grass surfaces tended to be achieved through thrashed passes upfield, not very subtle and not much use on Astroturf, but we could adapt our game, as the first half against Dean Close and the whole match against Magdalen demonstrated.

It has once again been a pleasure to coach a Rendcomb side that required little motivation. They went out and did their best for the school, and they deserved the success they had. The discipline of the team, apart from the occasional lapse, was good, and they came to terms with life in 'professional' hockey, with its strict umpiring, apart from a liberal interpretation of the obstruction rule, and its high degree of skill and pace.

Patrick Morgan had some good games at inside-left and kept his side going throughout the season; he has been generous in his praise of the team in his report, and I am grateful to them all. I must also thank Mr Wood, for his usual impeccable administration, and David Essenhig, whose first pitch coped brilliantly with January floods and February drought but fortunately was not tested this year by ice and snow.

For the last two seasons the 1st XI has been drawn predominantly from 6A, and this has provided an edge in competitiveness and physical maturity. It will be interesting to compare next season, when the emphasis may have to be on a younger, possibly more

skilful blend. Will they have their predecessors' same resilience? It is a feature of Rendcomb sport that must not be lost.

H. M.

Each year it can be said that enthusiasm, determination and team spirit form the backbone of Rendcomb hockey, and this season was no exception. The 1st XI thankfully played the five-three-two formation to which we were all accustomed.

Mark Valentine was the goal-keeper and pulled off many incredible saves to keep us in contention with the opposition. At the back we had Rowen Elmes, reputedly a reliable stalwart in defence and custodian of oranges; he proved more consistent as the former than as the latter. With him there was Alastair Graham to form a solid backline which put paid to many opposing forwards' intentions. The wing-halves were Julian Wilkie and Robert Sage, who coped admirably in dealing with skilful wingers and in supporting our attacks. Robert's influence on matches grew with his confidence, ultimately permitting him to enter the hall of fame reserved for yellow card recipients. Julian managed to combine supreme fitness with a loathing for anything physical, if that is not a contradiction. At centre-half Christopher Lawton, despite his inept command of the English language, was a tower of strength and initiated most of our attacking moves. Much will depend on these three half-backs, who will be returning for next season.



In attack, on the right wing we had Christopher Carmichael, the self-confessed hero of the side, reserving his highest standards to please the supporters and hobbling the short-corner pushouts. He usually managed to outwit his marker and supply

perfect crosses for our centre-forward marksman, Matthew Giggs. Matthew's stature was not proportional to his energetic play and fine finishing. He was our top scorer, with ten goals, including four against King's, Worcester. Stephen Roney on the left wing took his time, but became the season's most improved player, supplying some superb crosses. The outstanding forward, however, not only because of his crop of red hair but also because of his tireless hard work in all games, was Charles Morgan-Harris at inside-right. He personified the virtues of Rendcomb hockey, covering immense areas of the pitch in giving the opposition no respite.

Sadly the results, although respectable, do not do full justice to a group of players who pulled together in matches with great determination throughout and who, most importantly of all, had great fun in the process. None of this would have been possible without Mr Morgan, whose patience, encouragement and love of the game not only were a driving force behind us but also transformed Mr Griffiths from a West Worcestershire Young Farmers' 'B' XI player into an unquestionably professional umpire.

My thanks go to all the members of game 1 and to David Essenhigh and his ground staff. I would like, on behalf of the 1st XI, to wish Mr Morgan and his colleagues the best for the 1994 season and to thank him for some unsurpassed coaching and umpiring and a great 1993 season.

**PATRICK MORGAN**

Played 12; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 6; Goals for 20; Goals against 21.

v Colston's Collegiate School (H)	Drew	2-2
v Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	1-4
v The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	5-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	1-0
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Kingswood School (H)	Won	2-1
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	1-2
v Corpus Christi College, Oxford (A)	Won	4-0
v Cheltenham Hockey Club (H)	Lost	1-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	3-1
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	0-3

Team from: P. Morgan (Captain), C. Carmichael, P. Croft, J. East, R. Elmes, M. Giggs, A. Graham, I. Kwelagobe, C. Lawton, C. Morgan-Harris, S. Roney, R. Sage, K. Thomas, M. Valentine, J. Wilkie.

## 2nd XI

We made a disastrous start, 4-0 down after only ten minutes of our first match and, as the new coach, I was devastated by our lack of skill, passion and nous. However, my quiet, gentle words of encouragement at half-time had some effect seemingly, for we went out and really competed, tying the second half 1-1. By the time the match ended it was our opponents who were frustrated and we who were growing in commitment and confidence.

The next match was much more successful and, although we missed too many goal-scoring opportunities, at least the defence was now looking strong, as James Mackinnon, Daniel Morris and Itseng Kwelagobe started to play as a unit. They were again outstanding in the next match, against Kings, Gloucester, and an extremely tight but particularly skilful encounter ended in a well-earned goalless draw.

Monkton Combe on their own Astroturf proved a little too slick, however, and, despite creating some half-chances and near-misses in a cacophonically supported second half, we were unable to beat their fine goal-keeper.

One momentary loss of concentration cost us a fiercely competitive encounter with Magdalen College School, and we were then extraordinarily unlucky to lose against Kingswood when their resolute defence and a very, very late goal stole the result from us.

However, we knew that we were playing some good-quality hockey at times, and that we now needed to start applying more pressure while attacking. This we did with a slight change of system and the promotion of John Morgan on to the right wing. He certainly helped, and after edging the advantage over a strong Dean Close team for most of the game, we were sickened when a bizarre mistake let them in late in the second half.

Nevertheless, the confidence gained from our recent improvements in attack and in general quality of play at last gained some just reward with a conclusive win over Burford. The first goal came as a result of an individual run and a devastating power-shot from the ever improving James Moore, while Kai Thomas, at last gaining a supply of quality ball, cracked in two fine goals and now looks a certainty for next year's 1st XI.

A tense game against Crypt School was decided by a piece of excellent build-up, where defence was turned into attack by a series of passes executed with surgical precision. Patrick Boydell linked with

Christopher Jarrett on the left, and his fast one-tuos with James Moore resulted in James's slipping the ball behind their defence for Kai to run on to and score with aplomb. In defence Itseng used his head and his presence to effect, and Richard Hutson was outstanding in goal. The winner came when the captain, Alex Faiers, put short-corner practice into perfection and scored.

The match against the ORs was an enjoyable encounter, but their experience and strength edged the day when their controversial short-corner routine stifled our spirited renaissance and secured them a deserved victory.

The season was notable for our excellent improvement in skills and fitness, particularly Graham Monteith's, for some passages of fine play and for the blending of different year-groups. The 2nd XI were a responsive group to work with, and practice with the 1st XI was good-humoured and positive; much credit here goes to some of the senior 6A players and their coach: thank you.

Thanks go also to Alex Faiers for his motivational skills as captain and to the overall coaching system, which helps to bring younger players into the senior game with the right approach. Well done, Mr Wood.

We played our last fixture as a 6A leavers' team against a skilled Bournside 1st XI on their Astro turf. It took the first half for us to start playing as a unit, but we claimed victory with devastating attacks orchestrated by Patrick Morgan, Peter Croft and Chris Carmichael, some awesome finishing by Matthew Giggs and a bullet-like shot from the now legendary 3rd XI full-back Mark Sansome, giving Alastair Graham an undefeated record as captain!

M. S. G.

2nd XI: Played 11, Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 6; Goals for 12; Goals against 17.

v Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A)	Lost	1-6
v The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	2-0
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	0-0
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-1
v Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-1
v Dean Close School (H)	Lost	1-3
v Burford School (H)	Won	3-0
v The Crypt School (A)	Won	2-1
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	0-2
v Bournside School 1st XI (A)	Won	3-1*

\*Rendcomb 6A XI

Mixed XI (girls and boys): Played 2; Won 1; Lost 1; Goals for 2; Goals against 2.

v Wycliffe College Mixed XI (A)	Lost	1-2
v Wycliffe College Mixed XI (H)	Won	1-0

2nd XI team from: A. Faiers (Captain), I. Kwelagobe, R. Hutson, J. Mackinnon, D. Morris, P. Croft, C. Jarrett, P. Boydell, J. Morgan, K. Thomas, J. Moore, E. Schuh, F. Barton, M. Sansome, P. Roberts, I. Thompson, S. Jones, J. East.

### 3rd XI

The boys in game 2A had to practise on small hard surfaces at the start of term and, although many expended much energy, progress was restricted. After the first match, against Cheltenham, in which they saw the advantages of quick, accurate passing and efficient stopping, most players modified their game, and suddenly the constituents of a good team were there: skill, motivation and spirit.

Chris Jarrett proved to be a very good captain of this largely under 16 team; when he was promoted to the 2nd XI Mark Sansome stepped into the role comfortably and led by example, always covering the ground and making the tackles at the back, ably assisted by Steven Croft and Mark Bartlett.

The system of three backs made the team more robust, but at times the centre of the pitch was not covered, owing to a lack of mobility among the inside forwards.

Perhaps the most improved players were on the wings, Chris Oliver, who suddenly took the game very seriously, and John Morgan, whose ball-control when under pressure gained him a place in the 2nd XI.

When they were on form, the most dangerous forwards were certainly Ian Thompson and Piers Roberts, who scored 17 goals between them. Piers made up for last season's slow development by improving his close control and increasing his repertoire of options in the circle, including pulling the ball back to flick it over the keeper.

Talking of keepers, this report would not be complete without mentioning the bravery and skill of Stephen Jones, who displayed immaculate timing and lightning reactions on many occasions.

For the last match, against Prince Henry's, a true U16 team was fielded. Its members had not played together for 12 months, but within 15 minutes they were supporting well, competing hard, winning tackles and moving the ball at speed in attack. It was



an excellent game and it summarised the success of this team in a most enjoyable season of hockey.

C. J. W.

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 20; Goals against 16.

✓ Cheltenham College 4th XI (A)	Lost	0-5
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	3-3
✓ Monkton Combe School U16 XI (H)	Won	3-0
✓ Magdalen College School U16 XI (A)	Lost	1-4
✓ Kingswood School U16 XI (H)	Won	7-0
✓ Dean Close School (H)	Won	2-0
✓ Wycliffe College 1st XI (A)	Lost	0-2
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	0-1
✓ Prince Henry's High School U16 XI (H)	Won	4-1

Team from: M. Sansome (Captain), C. Jarrett (Captain), P. Boydell (U16 Captain), S. Jones, S. Croft, M. Bartlett, F. Barton, C. Oliver, A. Tibbs, P. Roberts, I. Thompson, J. Morgan, A. Topalian, S. Roney, S. Barrett, A. Higazi, P. Barry, D. Kemp, M. Laroche, E. Schuh.

#### 4th XI

Looking at our results, you would think we had a poor season, but it is worth pointing out that we were never beaten by more than two goals.

The side was very young, consisting mostly of fifth-year boys, all of whom showed a lot of skill and effort, making them a great pleasure to play with.

One of our great successes was Simon Barrett in goal; he had not played there before this term, and he made a great number of excellent saves!

In the backs we had Tim Gaskill, Dan Kemp and Matthew Pentney. They all played very hard all season and provided the rest of the team with good ball from the opposition's attacks. The halves were Christian Millard, Adam Beales and Adam Higazi; they showed excellent potential for next year and were all more than a great asset to the team.

The forwards, Mark Wilks, Nick Barton, Nick Pollard and Dave Elliott, scored a number of goals through perseverance and excellent teamwork around the goal. Congratulations go to Mark Wilks, who scored the highest number of goals!

Lastly, our season would not have been possible without Mr Essenhigh. We thank him for his invaluable coaching and help throughout.

**NICK BARTON**

Played 9; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 6; Goals for 9; Goals against 18.

✓ Cheltenham College 5th XI (A)	Lost	0-2
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	2-4
✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Drew	1-1
✓ Magdalen College School (H)	Lost	0-2
✓ Kingswood School (H)	Drew	1-1
✓ Dean Close School (H)	Won	2-1
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	1-2
✓ The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	1-3
✓ Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Lost	1-2

Team from: N. Barton (Captain), S. Barrett, C. Millard, A. Beales, T. Gaskill, A. Higazi, D. Kemp, M. Wilks, A. Pollard, D. Elliott, M. Pentney, R. Blackwell, J. Sawtell.

#### 5th XI

✓ Monkton Combe School ((A)	Lost	1-3
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#### U15 A' XI

Rain in the early part of the term left only the tennis courts for practice. However, it was clear even in these rather cramped conditions that there was considerable talent in the group.

Except for one practice on the Agricultural College Astroturf, the first play on a full-sized pitch was on the grass at Colston's. The performance was committed, but rather faltering in attack against a capable side. Well taken goals, though, by Leighton Freeman in the first half and Simon Lee in the second half decided the match 2-1 in our favour.

Our next visit to the Astroturf at Cirencester was to practise before playing Cheltenham College 'A' XI on the same pitch. During the match the opposition demonstrated effectively their familiarity with the surface and were always in command, to win 2-0.

However, the team played with spirit and were unlucky not to score on occasions. It must be noted that the lowering of the decoy hawk over the pitch during the match did distract concentration at times!

Good weather and full grass pitch practices left us well prepared to face Monkton Combe. The team played impressively and did justice to the splendid 1st XI pitch to win 6-0. The dominance of two players was clearly seen in this match, with Nick Carmichael scoring a sharp-shooting hat-trick and Mike Smith backing him up with two fine goals. These came after a fine solo goal by Stuart Sealey.

The start against Magdalen was less urgent. The opposition made several opportunities, but a half-chance was put away by Nick Carmichael to assert control on the game. Confidence grew, and the captain completed his second hat-trick of the season. With a short-corner goal and an expert penalty flick, Mike Smith further demoralised our opponents.

With half-term in between, the hockey lost its crispness in the game at Kingswood. On a dry and bumpy Redgra pitch we met two skilled and athletic front runners. On balance, the result was a fair reflection of the game, and the captain led well from the front with two goals to draw the match.

The mood was very positive against Dean Close, and the team played with ability and commitment throughout the match. However, the opposition's more refined Astroturf skills and the run of the ball defeated chances of the final scoring shot.

Against King's, Gloucester, a squad of 12 players was picked, as George Langlands had earned a chance to play in the 'A' XI. Francis Newcombe, crucial in goal in all the other matches, took his turn effectively to play out of goal. Other players performed well in different positions. However, Alister Harris was the pick of the players. He was presented with good possession and he varied his crosses from right-wing with incisive runs along the by-line to produce the majority of the scoring chances in the second half.

The team, unfortunately, did not call on his skills enough in the game against King's, Worcester. Too much possession was directed down the middle of the field. Despite some indifferent play, though, Nick Carmichael scored five goals, two being well-struck short corners, to win the game comfortably in the end.

The strength of the 'B' team was clearly evident when a combined A/B XI defeated Prince Henry's 6-0. Philip Price and Ben Renow-Clarke played with particular skill and enthusiasm to make a significant contribution to the game. Alister Harris's opening goal, a hat-trick by Nick Carmichael and two from Mike Smith accounted for the score. The most memorable goal was a first-time strike by Mike Smith from a long corner. This was one of the few times I have seen a goal scored in this way, and it confirmed his impressive ability as a hockey player.

The success of the team had much to do with the strength of the defence, which was highlighted by the fact that only eight goals were conceded in the season. Chris Walmsley's tackling and distribution usefully complemented Adam Crawford-Taylor's dogged and reliable play. As well, the half-backs Stephen Amey and Richard Witchell marked with discipline and

developed encouragingly throughout the term. My thanks go to David Essenhig for some first-rate grass pitches. It was a most enjoyable season, and the 1st XI for future seasons should benefit from this rich vein of talent.

J. P. W.

Played 9; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 31; Goals against 8.

✓ Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Won	2-1
✓ Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	0-2
✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	6-0
✓ Magdalen College School (H)	Won	5-0
✓ Kingswood School (A)	Drew	2-2
✓ Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-2
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	5-0
✓ The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	5-1
✓ Prince Henry's High School (H)	Won	6-0

Team from: N. Carmichael (Captain), S. Amey, A. Crawford-Taylor, L. Freeman, A. Harris, S. Lee, F. Newcombe, S. Sealey, M. Smith, C. Walmsley, R. Witchell, W. Brix, G. Langlands, B. Renow-Clarke.

## U15 'B' XI

The U15 'B' side did not emulate its unbeaten glory of 1992 but emerged with the symmetrical record of three wins and three defeats, quite creditable bearing in mind the strength of some of the opposition.

After the disappointing cancellation of the Colston's match we began by losing narrowly to Cheltenham College in an extremely even contest, which was decided by a penalty corner near the end. However, we bounced back with an emphatic win over Monkton Combe; the team was starting to look more cohesive and determined. A narrow defeat followed against Magdalen College School, and then came possibly our highlight, a well deserved victory against Kingswood. Dean Close, predictably, were too well versed in Astroturf techniques on their own pitch, but the season ended on a winning note against Crypt School, leaving us well in overall credit on the goal aggregate.

Some of this team were probably of 'A' team standard in an average year: William Brix (full-back), George Langlands (goal-keeper), Ben Renow-Clarke (left-wing). All these showed increasing skill and an ability to select the right option instinctively. Of the rest, Chris Mackinnon has enough skill to prosper, if he can discipline himself and concentrate; Craig

Marcham was a sound, improved player who must acquire a reliable hit; James Fairbank also was useful, though prone to drift from his positional responsibilities and to fade in the second half (bigger school lunches needed?); Hague Willmott grafted in midfield and showed neat, sometimes too wild, touches; Philip Price made some dangerous, tortuous runs on the right wing but needs a better hit and more confidence to beat his man on the outside; Philip Marran, converted into a forward, was improved but erratic; Alex Mar, earning his promotion from Mr Graham's game, scurried very busily and developed well as a forward, though at times illegally confusing hockey with judo; William Heaven had some ideas but seldom moved out of an unsweaty trot to achieve them; Seun Ismael and Ean Branston were quite effective in their different styles (Seun rapier, Ean bludgeon) when in the right frame of mind. My grateful thanks go to George Langlands, who was a keen and reliable captain both on and off the field.

The sun shone and all contributed, then; this group should make various senior teams next year. A few needed to remember, however, that practising individual and group skills properly is a necessary prelude to success in this precise, fast and disciplined team game; there were those in the squad whose sporting ambitions seemed to go not further than defeating Granny at tiddlywinks.

It was a pity that the final match was three weeks from the end of term, concluding therefore with a whimper rather than a bang.

J. N. H.

Played 6; Won 3; Lost 3; Goals for 13; Goals against 7.

v Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	0-1
v Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	4-0
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Kingswood School (A)	Won	5-0
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-4
v The Crypt School (H)	Won	3-0

Team from: G. Langlands (Captain), C. Mackinnon, W. Brix, C. Marcham, J. Fairbank, P. Marran, P. Price, A. Mar, H. Willmott, S. Ismael, B. Renow-Clarke, W. Heaven, E. Branston.

## U14 'A' XI

The rather modest record of this age-group does not in any way reflect the work-rate, enthusiasm or even

general standard of the third-formers; they participated keenly in all practices and all developed their individual and team skills at an impressive rate, making them a pleasure to coach!



The 'A' XI possessed two main faults: first, as a group, they lacked a real competitive edge, especially in matches, therefore finding it difficult to put aside their dismal sporting records of previous terms and to begin to believe in themselves; this was reflected in their tendency all too readily to accept the loss of a goal or a defeat. Secondly, they tended to be 'a team of two halves'; they would either start the match at a stunning pace, only to fade badly in the second half, or the first period would prove dismal, during which time several goals would be conceded, before stepping up a gear in the second period but finding it too hard to make up the lost ground. These two factors, along with several matches involving talented opposition sides and on some occasions pure bad luck, led to a disappointing record.

Particularly dismal were the performances against Colston's, Kingswood, Magdalen and Dean Close, where weak all-round team performances against able sides led to heavy defeats. The best match of the term was against probably the strongest team, a talented King's XI. Despite injuries to key players, the Rendcomb men started at a storming pace, dominating the first half. The second half started at 1-1 and proved equally exciting; despite our tiring in the final quarter, it looked as if we would keep them out. Unfortunately King's managed to put the ball in the net in the last minute of the match to steal a victory. Nevertheless, the lads could feel very proud of their performance!

All played their part throughout the season, but special mention must be made of Christopher Baker, a very talented and hard-working inside forward,

Charles Webb, a skilful, dominating centre-half, Adam King, a tough and very capable defender, and Adam Hawkins, who was exceptional as goal-keeper, showing a first-rate level of ability and courage and saving us on many occasions.

I must take this opportunity to thank Charles Webb and Adam King for their contributions as captain and vice-captain respectively; they always showed the highest degree of maturity, efficiency and reliability, both on and off the park. Thanks go also to the rest of the players for a most enjoyable term, and I wish you the best for next season!

M. J. N.

Played 10; Won 2; Lost 8; Goals for 13; Goals against 28.

v Colston's Collegiate School (A)	Lost	0-5
v Cheltenham College U14 'B' XI (H)	Lost	1-3
v Oxstalls Community School (A)	Won	3-0
v King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Lost	0-1
v Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	1-3
v Magdalen College School (A)	Lost	1-6
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-2
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-6
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	1-2
v Prince Henry's High School (H)	Won	6-0

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), A. King (Vice-Captain), C. Allen, R. Arnold, C. Baker, C. Barton, W. Brittain-Jones, J. de Lisle Wells, A. Donovan, M. Garcia, J. Graham, M. Hall, A. Hawkins, N. Nicholson, J. Smith.

## U14 'B' XI

The close results of the matches were due to the skilful and determined play of the defence, particularly that of James Smith and Imogen Cox at back and of James de Lisle Wells, James Graham and Stewart Taylor at half: Samuel Gillott, in his first season in goal, quickly adapted to the position and provided valuable support. Effort and enthusiasm steadily increased during the season, and some good teamwork developed, thanks to the mature captaincy of James de Lisle Wells.

This was especially evident in the matches against Dean Close and The Crypt, when the forwards, Charles Allen and Andrew Perrin, at last found their form. The scoring of the solitary goal was a moment of great excitement – not least for their coach!

W. J. D. W.

Played 6; Won 1; Drew 3; Lost 2; Goals for 1; Goals against 4.

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

Team From: J. De Lisle Wells (Captain), S. Gillott, J. Smith, I. Cox, S. Taylor, A. Perrin, A. Donovan, M. Hall, J. Emerson, A. Davanzo, G. Turvey, T. Shaw, J. Graham (Vice-Captain), C. Allen, C. Morey.

## U14 'C' XI

v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-5
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Team: S. Taylor (Captain), G. Turvey, A. Watkins, S. Rayburn, S. Gillott, R. Ashby, C. Morey, D. Wragg, D. Ellison, R. Bateman, W. Hunt.

## U13 'A' XI

The U13 side started the season with many positive training periods, and I thought to myself 'this is going to be a champion team'. We had so much depth in the side that I didn't know what I was going to do with all the little tykes.

Surprisingly enough, we had a few mediocre performances, which jolted the players a bit at the start of the season. So, once they realised that they weren't invincible – as they first thought – they started playing as a team and doing the proper things.

At this point there was no looking back, and the season came to a climax with a third placing in the **U13 mini-hockey** County Championships in Cheltenham.



It would take too long to go through all the fantastic performances that we had, but I think a particular mention must go to the two captains, Sam Maylott and John Davis for the way they led the side whilst on the field.

Another mention must go to the goal-keeper, Toby Abbott, who played inspirational hockey throughout.

We had a lot of fun during the season, and it was a pleasure to coach this lot.

**JOHN BANNERMAN**

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 6; Goals against 9.

✓ Oakley Hall School 1 <sup>st</sup> XI (H)	Lost	0-5
✓ Dean Close Junior School 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI (A)	Drew	0-0
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	4-0
✓ The Downs School 1 <sup>st</sup> XI (A)	Lost	0-1
✓ Oakley Hall School 1 <sup>st</sup> XI (A)	Lost	2-3

Team from: J. Davis (Captain), S. Maylott (Captain), T. Abbott, J. Freeman, J. Gibbs, J. Hawkins, T. Hill, C. Holliday, C. Scarth, M. Sutton, A. Taylor, R. Webb, O. Blackwell, J. Starkey.

## U13 'B' and U12 Xis

Because of the weather the season got off to a slow start and, though individual skills were practised in the Sports Hall, the U13 'B' XI had little opportunity to practise as a team. This deficiency was exploited by Oakley Hall and by Dean Close Junior School, both of which scored a lot of goals against them.

However, as the weather began to pick up, so did the ability to play as a team, and two well-deserved draws, against King's, Gloucester, and The Crypt, and two narrow defeats, against Downs and Oakley Hall, showed how much improvement there had been during the latter part of the term.

In their only match, the U12 XI, with a number from the U13 'B' side qualifying to play, did well to hold Cheltenham Junior to a goalless draw.

All players gave of their best at all times, and their behaviour on and off the pitch was a credit to themselves and to Rendcomb. I wish them the best of luck next season.

P. J. S.

Played 7; Drew 3; Lost 4. Goals for 1; Goals against 18.

✓ Oakley Hall School (A)	Lost	1-8
✓ The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	0-0
✓ Dean Close Junior School (H)	Lost	0-8
✓ The Crypt School (H)	Drew	0-0
✓ Cheltenham College Junior School (H)	Drew	0-0
✓ The Downs School (A)	Lost	0-1
✓ Oakley Hall School (H)	Lost	0-1

Teams from: O. Blackwell, E. Compton, P. de Havilland Hall, L. Donovan, J. Gibbs, T. Gilbert, R. Histed, C. Holliday, D. Hughes, B. McKelvie, B. Mann, J. Pelly, C. Perry, R. Renow-Clarke, J. Shenton, T. Sleggs, N. Stanfield, J. Starkey, L. Trotman, P. Webb, S. Webb, D. Williams.



## Cricket

'One of the best cricket fields in England' wrote William Dreghorn describing Rendcomb playing fields in *Geology Explained in the Severn Vale and Cotswolds*. The small band of spectators who watched the 1st XI matches during cricket week would certainly agree.

The weather was good, the wickets hard, the outfield fast and the cricket of a high standard. The captain, Mark Valentine, used the conditions well and had an outstanding week, with scores of 61 not out, 104, 88, and 66 not out.

The season as a whole has been quite varied. The 1st XI fielded a young side, many of whom will be available next year. Their best moment was an excellent win against a strong Pate's XI. They were well supported during the season by some members of the 2nd XI.

Senior cricket should do well in the next couple of years, as the U15 'A' and 'B' sides had good seasons, the 'B' XI being particularly strong for Rendcomb. Francis Newcombe scored a fine century for the 'A' side against King's, Gloucester, and with Michael Smith played a few games for the 1st XI.





**Francis Newcombe receives a bat for his century**

The U14s really came into their own when playing in the Lords Taverners competition. They defeated Pate's and Newent Community School before losing in the semi-final to a strong Wycliffe College side.

The U13s were quite weak and suffered some heavy defeats, although some players show promise and will come through at senior level.

With the number of girls increasing in the junior school, there may be too few boys to field 'B' XIs in a couple of years. As some girls have shown a keen interest in the game and a number play in the 1st XIs of some independent schools, perhaps we should encourage their full involvement in 1994, so that they have a chance of playing for the 1st XI in the year 2000!

The pavilion, opened in 1970, was in need of some refurbishment. During the close season doors were replaced, flooring improved, the kitchen re-equipped and the interior painted. My thanks go to Paul Kampe and his maintenance team and to Roger Attwood, the school cabinet-maker.

The 'tea-ladies', Penny Wood, Judith Hunt, Julie Rogers and Hilary Smith certainly appreciated the transformation. Thank you, ladies, for all your help.

My thanks go also to all those staff who contributed to the success of the season and to David Essenhigh for running the 1st XI and preparing the pitches to such a high standard.

C. C. B.

## **1st XI**

The 1993 season started in a very hectic manner, with three matches in the first week, Swindon CC on Wednesday, Saturday in the field all day while Cheltenham College scored 293 for 1 and then bowled us out for 71, and on Sunday a victory by 44 runs against Dean Close in the Chesterton Cup.

Although we won only one more match, against Pate's in cricket week, we played good cricket all season and, with a little luck, could have won more.

Matthew Giggs and Ian Thompson formed a useful opening pair, their best stand being 70. Piers Roberts, batting at no 3 in his first season, scored 292 runs; Chris Lawton scored 211 and Matthew Giggs over 150; all showed great promise.

Mark Valentine had a wonderful season both as captain and as a batsman, scoring 475 runs, including a century in cricket week. As captain, he managed the side very well, playing positive cricket at all times.

The bowlers all tried very hard, with the opening pair, Chris Lawton and Itseng Kwelagobe always using the new ball well. Both were very lucky at times, with batsmen playing and missing. Chris with 26 wickets and Itseng with 22 were well supported by Daniel Morris with 20, including 5 for 7 against Pate's. Patrick Boydell, Francis Barton and Rowen Elmes all had their moments. With the first two beginning to bowl well, things look better for next year.

We fielded very well, at times excellently, Ian Thompson, Rowen Elmes and Chris Lawton being outstanding.

Towards the end of the season we played Francis Newcombe and Mike Smith from the U15 side; both show a lot of talent for the future.

I feel that the work we have carried out on the cricket squares since changing the topsoil has improved both the bounce and the pace, which can only improve our game.

It was good to see so many ORs back this year, raising two sides, and to see so many still playing club cricket; Giles Brealy tells me that he is doing some coaching as well.

I must thank Chris King for all his support and for the excellent way he runs the 2nd XI, also Penny Wood and the Matrons Julie and Judy for the super way that they did the teas. We did not have a regular scorer, so I must thank all those who helped us out, including Michael Steen, Richard Hutson, Stephen Amey and James Button.

Lastly, I must say how sorry we were to lose

Chris Jarrett through illness just as he was beginning to run into form; I hope that he will soon be fit.

D. E.

Played 15; Won 2; Drew 7; Lost 6; Abandoned 1.

Swindon Wednesday CC (H) - Match drawn

v Swindon 195-6 decl. (Morris 2-19)

Rendcomb 106-9 (Giggs 28, Boydell 22\*)

Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 222 runs

v Cheltenham 293-1 decl. (Morris 1-5)

Rendcomb 71 (Roberts 22, Valentine 14, Boydell 11)

Dean Close School (H) - Chesterton Cup - Won by 44 runs

v Rendcomb 190-4 (Roberts 66\*, Lawton 51\*, Valentine 50)

Dean Close 146 (Kwelagobe 4-30, Lawton 3-20, F. Barton 2-45)

Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 4 wickets

v Rendcomb 107 (Roberts 50, F. Barton 20)

Bloxham 108-6 (Lawton 3-42, Kwelagobe 3-52)

Marling School (A) - Lost by 62 runs

v Marling 151-7 decl. (Lawton 2-18, Boydell 2-27, F. Barton 3-56)

Rendcomb 89 (Roberts 34, Valentine 21)

Monmouth School (H) - Chesterton Cup - Lost by 7 wickets

v Rendcomb 51 (Roberts 14, Giggs 12)

Monmouth 55-3 (Kwelagobe 2-15)

Magdalen College School (H) - Match abandoned  
Magdalen 8-0

The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn

v Rendcomb 170-9 decl. (Jarrett 62, Valentine 44)

King's 82-8 (Lawton 3-24, Elmes 2-5, Morris 2-1)

The Gloucestershire Clergy XI (H) - Match drawn

v Rendcomb 191-5 decl. (Kwelagobe 61, Valentine 51, Thompson 29\*)

Clergy 85-9 (Lawton 3-11, Morris 3-12)

Prior Park College (A) - Match drawn

v Rendcomb 131 (Valentine 43, Roberts 25)

Prior Park 94-7 (Kwelagobe 2-18, F. Barton 2-20)

Barton Peverill College (H) - Lost by 98 runs

v Barton Peverill 231 (Kwelagobe 2-53)

Rendcomb 133 (Lawton 58\*, Newcombe 25)

Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 2 wickets

v Pate's 103 (Morris 5-7, Lawton 4-47)

Rendcomb 107-8 (Valentine 61\*, Giggs 16)

The Old Rendcombian Society XI (H) - Match drawn

v ORs 187-8 decl. (Brealy 106\*, Kwelagobe 3-47, Morris 2-24)

Rendcomb 141-6 (Roberts 31, Thompson 33, Giggs 23)

The Gloucestershire Gipsies CC (H) - Match drawn

v Gipsies 239-4 decl. (Morris 2-50)

Rendcomb 194-4 (Valentine 104, Giggs 55\*, Lawton 25\*)

WG Cricket (H) - Lost by 5 wickets

v Rendcomb 170-9 decl. (Valentine 88, Lawton 22)

WG Cricket 174-5 (Kwelagobe 2-66)

Wycliffe College (H) - Match drawn

v Wycliffe 176-9 decl. (Boydell 4-53, F. Barton 3-29)

Rendcomb 156-4 (Valentine 66\*, Newcombe 33)

Team from: M. Valentine (Captain), M. Giggs, I. Thompson, C. Jarrett, I. Kwelagobe, P. Roberts, C. Lawton, P. Boydell, F. Barton, R. Elmes, D. Morris, M. Wilks, N. Barton, M. Smith, F. Newcombe, S. Roney, J. Morgan, R. Hutson.



**Daniel Morris receives a ball from the Head Master**

## 2nd XI

The results this year reflect neither the enthusiasm nor the ability of the side as a whole. The team collectively demonstrated considerably more skill at the game than had been evident in the previous two years. In all games there were spells when a victory looked genuinely possible, but the luck never ran their way. Perhaps teams 'make' their own luck, and perhaps we didn't quite fight as hard as we might have done, but the promise is nevertheless very marked. A team of largely fifth-year pupils, many have already aided the 1st XI and will no doubt go on to considerable success next year and beyond.

Captained by Richard Hutson, we continued the policy of using everyone who opted for senior cricket. As a result, the whole squad has a story to report of the wicket that was taken or the runs that were scored.

John Morgan, Mark Willis, Freddie Ingham and Stephen Roney all batted with distinction throughout the matches played. Rufus Blackwell took up the challenge of keeping wicket and performed with increasing confidence from match to match.

Mark Bartlett and Steven Roney formed an effective opening bowling pair, and support came from almost all the rest of the team, again the policy of giving everyone a chance.

We tended to reserve our best performances for the best opponents. Victory over Cheltenham College 3rd XI was an excellent start to the term. A good draw at Magdalen College School showed considerable spirit in the side. Defeats were disappointing, in that collectively we could argue that we had the better 'team', but individuals chose to have their 'day' against us. Morale is high, and the 2nd XI can look forward to next year with high hopes.

C. P. M. K.

Played 7; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 5.

Cheltenham College 3rd XI (H) - Won by 10 runs  
v Rendcomb 141-4 decl. (Wilks 48, Morgan 50)  
Cheltenham 131 (Morgan 5-45)

Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets  
v Rendcomb 165-7 decl. (Roney 44)  
Bloxham 166-4

Marling School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets  
v Rendcomb 79  
Marling 82-4

Magdalen College School (A) - Match drawn  
v Magdalen 220-1 decl.  
Rendcomb 136-6

The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Lost by 97 runs  
v King's 160-8 decl. (Morgan 5-55)  
Rendcomb 63

Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets  
v Rendcomb 134 (Jarrett 54)  
Pate's 135-4

Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 8 wickets  
v Rendcomb 78  
Prior Park 80-2

Team from: R. Hutson (Captain), A. Barry, M. Bartlett, N. Barton, A. Beales, R. Blackwell, N. Channing-Williams, A. Higazi, F. Ingham, C. Jarrett, J. Morgan, S. Roney, E. Schuh, M. Wilks.

## U15 'A' XI

To win five out of nine matches demonstrated the team was both talented and competitive. In fact, having lost their first two matches, the team was unbeaten for the rest of the term, which is an impressive achievement.

A virtuoso performance of clean hitting by Nick Carmichael (43) and a skilful 46 by Mike Smith gave the team a solid total against Marling. Tight bowling by the captain, Mike Smith, and the flighted spin of Philip Price took the team to their first victory.

Poor weather meant the cancellation of several games, although a fine day allowed the game against Sir Thomas Rich's to go ahead. A capable all-round performance by the captain and some effective line and length bowling from Hague Willmott again saw the side victorious.

After the half-term lay-off, the team quickly regained their competitiveness, and fine fielding and bowling kept Prior Park to a slowly accumulated score of 135. With 34 runs wanted with four overs to go and only four wickets in hand, the Rendcomb team took on the challenge. Fine striking by Simon Lee and committed support by Stephen Amey and Philip Price left the side only four runs short in a thrilling finish.

However, some indifferent bowling against King's, Gloucester, left the visitors to bat relatively untroubled until Mike Smith caused a tumble of wickets in the last 40 runs, and the opposition

declared on 178 for 8. Rendcomb, led by the big-hearted Francis Newcombe, faced this total with concentration, fine batting and intelligent running between the wickets. After 20 overs the home side were 112 for no wicket. Their progress was inexorable, but sadly Francis Newcombe, having scored a brilliant 117, was out caught on the boundary when the score was 174. The required runs were scored in the next over with Hague Willmott batting for two hours for a splendid 44 not out.

Against Kingham Hill many batsmen showed their ability, and it was particularly pleasing to see Alister Harris score 29. However, when Rendcomb bowled, the tried and tested 'firm' of Smith and Morris were too good for the opposition.

Alister Harris, obviously having been training on a diet of raw meat, bowled with pace and ferocity against Pate's, taking three well-deserved wickets. However, none of the batsmen established himself, and staunch defence from Alister Harris and Sean Ismail secured the draw.

At 85 for two Rendcomb's innings against Wycliffe looked promising, but indifferent technique in some batsmen was exposed by accurate seam bowling. 122 on a hard wicket with a lightning-quick outfield hardly seemed enough. However, a long, aggressive and probing opening spell by Alister Harris put doubt in the mind of the opposition and slowed their scoring rate. He was unlucky only to gain one wicket. Bowling very intelligently from the other end throughout the match, Mike Smith never gave the batsmen any easy runs. Three memorable catches ensured wickets fell at the right times. A hard return drive was caught by Mike Smith, a searing slash was caught nonchalantly by Alister Harris at extra cover and Stephen Amey grappled to his chest a firmly hit shot at square leg. Mixing leg-spin and in-swing, Matthew Morris beguiled batsmen to take four vital wickets. A mention must go to George Langlands, who deputised as wicket-keeper for Francis Newcombe and rose to the occasion with typical commitment. An exciting game was won by 14 runs.

That both Mike Smith and Francis Newcombe looked comfortable when playing for the 1st XI this season was a measure of the talent in the side. As well, all-rounders Matthew Morris, Hague Willmott and Alister Harris will make their mark at senior level in future seasons.

It was a very pleasurable term, and almost more encouraging than the ability shown was the emerging confidence of the side over the season. I would like to thank Colin Burden for his support and David

Essenhig for the genuine cricket environment 'on top' and for the first-rate wickets.

J. P. W.

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

Cheltenham College (A) - Lost by 106 runs  
 v Cheltenham 212-7 (Morris 3-33, Smith 3-75)  
 Rendcomb 106 (Newcombe 39)

Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 145 runs  
 v Bloxham 204-3  
 Rendcomb 59

Marling School (H) - Won by 32 runs  
 v Rendcomb 140-8 (Smith 46, Carmichael 43)  
 Marling 108 (Smith 4-18, Price 2-12)

Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Won by 5 wickets  
 v Sir Thomas Rich's 92 (Willmott 4-12, Smith 3-21)  
 Rendcomb 93-5 (Smith 43\*)

Prior Park College (A) - Match drawn  
 v Prior Park 135-9 decl. (Morris 3-10, Smith 3-38)  
 Rendcomb 131-7 (Newcombe 28, Smith 27, Lee 23)

The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 9 wickets  
 v King's 178-8 decl. (Smith 7-47)  
 Rendcomb 179-1 (Newcombe 117, Willmott 44\*)

Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 59 runs  
 v Rendcomb 137-8 decl. (Willmott 24, Amey 24, Price 22, Harris 29)  
 Kingham 88 (Smith 6-21, Morris 3-13)

Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn  
 v Pate's 118-9 decl. (Morris 3-15, Harris 3-20)  
 Rendcomb 71-8

Wycliffe College (H) - Won by 14 runs  
 v Rendcomb 122 (Willmott 33, Smith 31)  
 Wycliffe 108 (Smith 5-22, Morris 4-38)

Team from: M. Smith (Captain), S. Amey, L. Freeman, A. Harris, S. Ismail, S. Lee, M. Morris, F. Newcombe, P. Price, H. Willmott, R. Witchell, O. Blaydon, N. Carmichael.

Also played: J. Fairbank, G. Langlands, T. Winstone.

## U15 'B' XI

It is always a pleasure to take such a motivated group of boys, and it is particularly rewarding when they make so much progress in only a few weeks.

The lack of preparation certainly contributed to the defeat at Cheltenham; however, bowling skills, tight fielding and general determination were all evident in this first match. Our batting was weak, and this was confirmed at Bloxham, where we had time for two matches, both played with equal enthusiasm. It was here that Richard Witchell displayed great confidence as a spinner, collecting no fewer than seven wickets during the afternoon.



The match at Oxford, played amongst the colleges and viewed by a large number of tourists, represented a turning-point for this side in that, after being 30 for 7 wickets, the remaining batsmen demonstrated that it is essential to occupy the crease and accumulate runs at a steady rate. The declaration at 127 for 9 gave a considerable boost to their morale, and they were robbed of a win by just one wicket.

The well deserved win came at Bredon, when we were away again! Rendcomb were extremely lively in the field, and the bowlers really worked for their wickets, highlighted by Nicholas Holt's accurate throwing-in, resulting in a run out, Christopher Walmsley's debut as a bowler (4 overs, 2 maidens, 1 for 10) and Richard Witchell's entertaining spin bowling. However, the real step forward was the batsmen's using a wide variety of sensible shots. George Langlands was a captain who encouraged his team, always leading by example from his central role as wicket-keeper, so it was good to see him secure the victory and carry his bat.

With their coach on the boundary with his leg

up, the team batted confidently in their first home match, declaring at 119. This total would have been higher without the delays caused by Seun Ismail's five sixes hit into the wood. Eventually Prior Park wickets began to fall, producing an exciting match, which finished with Rendcomb's needing one wicket and the opposition's needing eight runs to win. As ever, it was an excellent team effort, Seun Ismail and James Fairbank deserving to be 'men of the match'.

James Fairbank and Craig Marcham dominated the Rendcomb innings against King's, taking their combined total for the season to 212 runs and scoring more than half the innings total of 175. Once again it turned out to be a close match in terms of time, and the 10 wickets were shared amongst five bowlers to produce a well deserved win and a suitable end to the season.

Finally, thanks are due to Lindsay Duff for his dedicated and accurate scoring.

C. J. W.

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

Cheltenham College U15 'C' XI (A) - Lost by 45 runs  
v Cheltenham 79 (Chalk 5-27)  
Rendcomb 34

Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 7 wickets  
v Rendcomb 33  
Bloxham 34-3 (Witchell 2-2)

Magdalen College School (A) - Match drawn  
v Rendcomb 127-9 decl. (Hart 22, Marcham 43\*)  
Magdalen 86-9 (Crawford-Taylor 2-3, Fairbank 2-5)

Bredon School (A) - Won by 6 wickets  
v Bredon 44 (Witchell 3-5, Chalk 2-9)  
Rendcomb 45-4 (Fairbank 14)

Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn  
v Rendcomb 119-5 decl. (Ismail 59, Fairbank 27)  
Prior Park 112-9 (Ismail 4-31, Fairbank 3-29)

The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 96 runs  
v Rendcomb 175-8 decl. (Marcham 66\*, Fairbank 25)  
King's 79 (Fairbank 4-10, Chalk 3-13)



Team from: G. Langlands (Captain), J. Fairbank, A. Crawford-Taylor, R. Lewis, J. Chalk, C. Marcham, C. Walmsley, R. Hart, N. Holt, S. Bartlett, T. Winstone, S. Ismail, R. Witchell, B. Renow-Clarke, L. Duff.

## U14 'A' XI

One thing is certain about the English summer: it invariably rains at the wrong time. Outclassed in three of our four opening fixtures and not a cloud in the sky; the prospect of three eminently winnable matches in mid-season, and it comes down to rain by the bucketful.

Nevertheless, this was not a team to be demoralised; lacking an outstanding individual to carry them, their successes were derived from a commendably positive attitude, teamwork and a desire to improve. And these virtues were never more in evidence than in the exciting cup run, which culminated in narrow defeat at the hands of strong opposition in the semi-final of the competition.

In a sense it is invidious to single out individuals. But mention should be made of the contribution of Charles Webb, who captained the side with great determination and scored vital runs, often in difficult circumstances; also the all-round contributions of Adam King and Charles Allen, the latter typifying the enthusiasm and sense of fun that permeated the team, while Charles Barton personified their great determination and resilience; and, finally, Chris Baker, who developed into a promising wicket-keeper and also contributed vital runs.

In the final analysis, this was an enjoyable season, and this is an essential ingredient in school sport, and one which, sadly, seems to be increasingly overlooked. Fortunately, this is not something of which this team could be accused, and this is very much to their credit.

M. S.

Played 12; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 7.

Cheltenham College (H) - Lost by 10 wickets  
 v Rendcomb 34 (Webb 15)  
 Cheltenham 35-0

Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 10 wickets  
 v Rendcomb 44 (Webb 14\*)  
 Bloxham 45-0

Marling School (H) - Lost by 5 wickets  
 v Rendcomb 92-9 decl. (Baker 21\*)  
 Marling 93-5

Magdalen College School (A) - Lost by 134 runs  
 v Magdalen 199-3 decl.  
 Rendcomb 65 (de Lisle Wells 19)

Sir Thomas Rich's School (H) - Match drawn  
 v Sir Thomas Rich's 171-4 decl.  
 Rendcomb 41-1 (Barton 18\*)

Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 5 wickets  
 v Rendcomb 39  
 Prior Park 41-5 (King 3-13)

Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 19 runs<sup>1</sup>  
 v Rendcomb 80-8 (25 overs, Webb 39\*)  
 Pate's 61-5 (25 overs)

The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Match drawn  
 v King's 180-7 decl.  
 Rendcomb 83-2 (Barton 42, Webb 19\*)

Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 6 wickets  
 v Kingham 60 (Allen 4-5, Witchell 3-21)  
 Rendcomb 61-4 (Baker 18\*, Allen 17\*)

Newent School (H) - Won by 6 wickets<sup>1</sup>  
 v Newent 124 (23. 2 overs, King 3-18)  
 Rendcomb 128-4 (24 overs, Allen 51, Webb 31, King 17)

Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 3 wickets<sup>1</sup>  
 v Rendcomb 67 (23 overs)  
 Wycliffe 68-7 (21. 1 overs)

Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 4 wickets  
 v Rendcomb 104 (Baker 26)  
 Wycliffe 107-6 (Witchell 4-38)

<sup>1</sup> Lords Taverners Cup

Team from: C. Webb (Captain), C. Barton, R. Arnold, A. King, C. Allen, J. de Lisle Wells, C. Baker, A. Law, A. Donovan, R. Witchell, M. Hall.

## U14 'B' XI

They say that statistics can be misleading, but not, I regret to say, in the case of the U14 'B' XI in the summer of 1993. Quite simply, Rendcomb was unable

to compete with any of its opponents at 'B' level this year. The boys were enthusiastic in their approach to the game, but they never scored more than 50 runs in an innings or bowled the opposition out. As a result, matches against other schools tended to be short, rather brutal affairs, with our boys gaining little from the experience. Progress was made by some in practices, but it was never sufficient to overcome the challenges posed by our opponents from larger schools.

L. J. H. / J. G. W.

Played 5; Lost 5.

Team from: S. Taylor (Captain), R. Ashby, W. Brittain-Jones, D. Ellison, J. Emerson, M. Garcia, J. Graham, A. Hawkins, W. Hunt, C. Morey, N. Nicholson, A. Perrin, G. Turvey.

## U13 'A' XI

We opened our season against a strong Oakley Hall team. Only Rupert Webb, with our highest score of 16, put up any resistance against a very good left-arm bowler.

Our next match was against an even stronger Marling. Our bowlers toiled against some very good batting. To our dismay, they lost only two wickets, one boy making 104 not out. However, some spirit was shown, as Sam Maylott hit a very good 36 off some very good bowling.

Against Park School things were a little easier. I won the toss and chose to field, with Nick Stanfield taking five wickets for seven runs, enabling us to win by nine wickets.

Another win came into our grasp with a good team performance, this time against Prior Park. I managed to win the toss with the help of Sam Maylott, who ordered me to call tails. We batted first, and I declared at an adequate 120, with Rupert Webb and James Gibbs scoring well. I shall always remember this match because of the sight of everyone's faces gasping at the ball as Charles Pitt hit a six over a ten-foot-high boundary wall; it was never seen again!

With two wins and two weeks of rain we couldn't wait to get back on to the pitch; I think perhaps we became over-confident and a little rusty.

In our next game, against King's, Gloucester, we narrowly missed a draw; again there was some good bowling by James Gibbs and Nick Stanfield.

In our last three games, against Kingham Hill, Farmor's and Pate's, we suffered heavy defeats, having

injuries to three of our key players.

I would like to thank Mr Sykes for coaching and encouraging us all season, in some matches lighting his pipe, perhaps to throw a smoke screen across our poor batting.

ASHLEY TAYLOR

Played 8; Won 2; Lost 6.

✓ Oakley Hall School (A) - Lost by 10 wickets

✓ Marling School (A) - Lost by 117 runs  
(Maylott 36)

✓ Park School (H) - Won by 9 wickets  
(Stanfield 5-7, Taylor 3-11)

✓ Prior Park College (A) - Won by 94 runs  
(Taylor 3-9)

✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Lost by 59 runs  
(Stanfield 5-26, Gibbs 3-9)

✓ Kingham Hill School (H) - Lost by 55 Runs

✓ Farmor's School (H) - Lost by 8 wickets

✓ Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 9 wickets

Team from: A. Taylor (Captain), R. Webb, S. Maylott, T. Hill, J. Davis, C. Perry, N. Stanfield, M. Sutton, J. Gibbs, O. Blackwell, T. Abbott, C. Holliday, P. de Havilland Hall, C. Scarth, D. Williams.

## U13 'B' XI

Many of this year's First Form intake were new to the game of cricket, and so much time had to be spent in and around the nets learning the basic skills of batting, bowling and fielding.

Considerable progress has been made and, though the results of the few matches played have not been in our favour, there have been some useful performances and hopes raised for improvement next year. John Shenton, Nick Stanfield, and Chas Holliday have bowled well, and Lee Trotman, Jake Hawkins and Philip de Havilland Hall have played valuable innings with the bat.

P. J. S.

Played 3; Lost 3.

- Oakley Hall School (A) - Lost by 7 wickets
- ✓ Rendcomb 63 (Trotman 18)  
Oakley Hall 67-3 (Shenton 2-6)
- The King's School, Gloucester (A) - lost by 87 runs
- ✓ King's 129-7 decl. (Holliday 3-28)  
Rendcomb 42 (de Havilland Hall 13)
- Pate's Grammar School (A) - Lost by 46 runs
- ✓ Pate's 111-5 decl. (Stanfield 3-16)  
Rendcomb 65 (Hawkins 14)

Team from: P. de Havilland Hall (Captain),  
C. Holliday, E. Compton, J. Shenton, J. Starkey, D.  
Williams, T. Abbott, J. Freeman, L. Trotman, D.  
Hughes, T. Gilbert, R. Histed, J. Hawkins,  
P. Webb, J. Pelly, R. Barnes.

## Tennis

### Girls

Apart from extreme weather conditions, which gave rise to a few cancellations, the 1st and 2nd VIs had an admirable season. It is commendable that, with only 25 senior girls, we managed to form both teams and have enough keen and able players to include reserves in our squad. This enabled us to be very adaptable for the occasions when odd players had to abandon us for other pleasures, such as visiting universities or the not-so-pleasant task of 'A' level examinations.

Even though we were defeated by some stronger opposition, everyone had an enjoyable season and played to her full potential, many sets being keenly contested. The 6A and 6B girls formed a good *rapport* and always put up a strong fight to the end. Mention should be made of Gemma Choudhury, who, in the Fourth Form, played for the 2nd VI on several occasions with quiet confidence, and I am sure that she is a sign of 'things to come'.

We should all like to thank Mrs Walter and Miss Goldsmith for their time and encouragement, and to wish Miss Goldsmith all the best in her new job.

I would like to thank also everyone who played and to wish the 6B players every success next season. I am sure that they will be sad to miss their star player, Theda Schuh, who will also be leaving to return to Germany.

JULIETTE WARD

### 1st VI

✓ St Clotilde's Convent School*	Lost	1-7
✓ Dauntsey's School	Lost	0-9
✓ St Edward's School, Cheltenham*	Won	7-1
✓ Monkton Combe-School	Lost	2-7
✓ Wycliffe College	Won	7-2
✓ The Royal Agricultural College	Lost	5-4
✓ The King's School, Gloucester	Won	6-3
✓ Cheltenham College	Lost	3-6
✓ Burford Community School	Won	8-1
* 4 pairs		

### 2nd VI

✓ Dauntsey's School	Lost	0-9
✓ Monkton Combe School	Lost	3-6
✓ Wycliffe College	Lost	4-5
✓ Cheltenham College	Lost	0-9

Teams from: J. Ward (Captain), H. Hall-Wright,  
L. Payne, M. Preen, T. Keegan, S. Fox, M. Caseldine,  
J. Morse, P. Parsons, T. Schuh, N. Osamo, G. Buck,  
K. Bennett, H. Willcocks, G. Choudhury.

### Boys

Despite the small number (23) playing the sport in this year of the Great British Tennis Renaissance, there was no decrease in the usual enthusiasm, and on one occasion we managed three teams - all hands to the pump!

The first match was against Dauntsey's, whose 1st VI were again too strong for us, though the sets' scores indicate a much closer contest than the overall result would suggest. The 2nd VI, however, were well beaten by the opposition's strength in depth.

The next game, against Wycliffe, was a very even one, and with a little more luck we might have won; in the end, despite the fact that our new first pair (Chris Carmichael and Steven Croft) won all their three rubbers, we were just edged out 4-5. Revenge at home next year, perhaps? The 2nd VI again lost heavily, however.

Against the South Cotswold LTC the 1st VI showed the benefit of more match practice, and we emerged convincing winners, to lift morale.

It was at Dean Close that we paraded three teams, but our opponents had their best-ever side, coming fresh from defeating Cheltenham College 1st VI for the first time; we could cope neither with their excellent 1st VI nor with their general strength in

depth and we blushing returned to base without a single victory to our name.

Our 1st VI was then narrowly beaten by Cheltenham College 2nd VI, though our 2nd VI won decisively; and finally the 1st VI were just beaten by a staff VI that judiciously blended youth and experience.

One felt that this 1st VI, keenly captained by Chris Carmichael, was stronger than its results would imply, trying hard and playing much more thoughtful and skilful tennis by the final weeks. Chris Carmichael and Steven Croft, with their contrasting styles, were an impressive, mobile pair when the confidence and rhythm were there. Stephen Jones and Peter Croft blew rather hot and cold at second pair but improved with experience and ended strongly. After experimentation the third pair consisted eventually of Ben Mabey and Patrick Morgan, and their frequent spare-time practising paid off in greater reliability. This group were well backed up by the keen nucleus of players in the other teams.

The annual Parent/Pupil Doubles Tournament took place on Sunday, 6th June, and was blessed with ideal sunny weather. 12 pairs enjoyed the sport, with Michael Smith and Mr Smith winning the senior group, Angus Law and Chris Baker (guest stars) the junior. The combined entry fees of £24 were donated this year to the NSPCC.

Altogether it was, a successful, high-spirited term's tennis, despite the indifferent match results.

This year sees the departure of David Hawkswell, who has helped with the school's tennis for many years. David was himself a class player who was a former Navy Singles Champion, a winner of many tournaments in his day, and who had traded blows with such tennis legends as Lew Hoad and Roger Taylor. The loss of his expertise will leave a gap, but we thank him for all his efforts and wish him well as he tries to groove his forehand in Cumbria.

J. N. H.

## 1st VI

v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 1½-7½
v Wycliffe College (A)	Won 4-5
v South Cotswold LTC (H)	Won 6½-2½
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-9
v Cheltenham College 2nd VI (A)	Lost 4-5
v Staff (H)	Lost 4-5

## 2nd VI

v Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost 0-9
v Wycliffe College (A)	Lost 1-8
v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-9
v Cheltenham College 3rd VI (A)	Won 6½-2½

## 3rd VI

v Dean Close School (A)	Lost 0-9
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1st VI from: C. Carmichael (Captain), S. Croft, S. Jones, P. Croft, P. Morgan, B. Mabey, C. Morgan-Harris.

2nd VI from: J. Mackinnon (Captain), R. Sage, C. Morgan-Harris, B. Mabey, C. Yardley, P. Williams, M. Sansome, M. Brown, P. Bigg-Wither, A. Faiers, A. Topalian.

3rd VI: P. Bigg-Wither (Captain), T. Gaskill, M. Brown, G. Somers, M. Harper, R. Wertheimer.

## Archery

On a cold winter's day, instead of playing rugby or hockey, several sixth-formers, plus a few younger people not quite up to rugby and regarded as sensible, spend an hour or so in the Sports Hall for a period of archery.

Coached by Mrs Essenhigh, the group consists of archers ranging from 'I can barely hit the target' to 'bull's-eye every time'. They practise on two days a week, although during the summer the more dedicated members practise on top field as well.

One such member is John Talbot, who has been an archer for over three years, although he has been shooting seriously for only a year or so. He used to be a capable rugby player but, with his strong upper body and steady arm, he felt that his talents lay elsewhere, and since taking up archery he has steadily improved.

Competing on a fairly regular basis for the school in a local postal league and for his Gloucester club, he has already been placed third, second and first in consecutive open shoots and 'rose to fame' when he won the Junior County Championships in Bristol in July 1992. He went on to compete in the National Championship, finishing 23rd in his section, and in a South-West inter-county event in which Gloucestershire finished first.

An archery competition does not consist merely of shooting just a few arrows at the target: John's

competition, called a York round, involves shooting six dozen arrows at 100 yards range, four dozen at 80 yards and two dozen at 60 yards, a total of almost 150 arrows. It is not at all easy, so those doing rugby and hockey can feel that they have taken the easy option.

**JULIAN WILKIE**



**John Talbot and Joan Essenhigh**

*Andrew Martin*

This year started well, with John Talbot's being chosen for the county team after becoming Gloucestershire Boys' Junior Champion, and then, one day before his eighteenth birthday - the deadline - getting his final score for the top AAS badge, a gold.

From that point on the rest of the group seemed to take his lead, and there were a multitude of AAS achievement badges obtained at all levels. This was shown by a league table published towards the end of the summer term, where Rendcomb came about twentieth, beating many top clubs and schools.

Thanks got to everyone who participated, and especially to Joan Essenhigh for all the time she has given up to help us.

**ANDREW MARTIN**

## County Schools' Cross - Country Championships

Two of Rendcomb's 'fitter' non-rugby-players, one who has been running for years, the other turned so-called athlete only months ago, competed in the senior boys' race at Pittville Park in Cheltenham on 5th December.

Julian Wilkie and Robert Sage, both in 6B, knew that the task ahead was going to be difficult because, although they trained day in and day out, they were going to face opposition aged up to 18.

The day of the race, although fairly wet and slippery under foot, was almost perfect for cross-country: still, no rain and the hint of winter sun breaking through the clouds.

At 11.30 a.m. the race was under way. The course took the runners, from all over Gloucestershire, across three laps of parkland, with no really testing hills but plenty of awkward boggy areas. Some runners chose to wear tracksuits and just running shoes, whereas the more elite stuck to the traditional shorts, vest and spikes.

Robert Sage started off conservatively, well down the field, but moved through strongly during the middle of the race, while Wilks sped off with the leading group. Even without spikes, Rob had a good run to finish in ninth place, just losing out to the eighth-place in a sprint finish.

Wilks also lost out in a tight battle with the winner, who opened up a slight lead in the closing stages for a well-deserved victory.

The two were more than pleased with their performances, especially because they were at the bottom of the age-group, most of their opponents being one or two years older. They were rewarded with a trip with the Gloucestershire County Schools Team to an inter-county fixture at Cardiff.

**JULIAN WILKIE**

## Fishing

The winter rainfall has restored the Churn to its normal level, and it is to be hoped that it has given the river a much needed scour-out. I therefore felt it worth while to restock with some good-sized trout, and we have had a small but very enthusiastic band of fishermen this summer, who have been catching trout of all sizes, including a few of the large ones, which I



am sure will have been enjoyed by their parents.

It is good to see the young ones learning to fish for trout with a fly, and I will be keen to expand the number of fishing persons next year - it is a good activity for girls too - and will put some more large trout in the river to encourage them.

E. T. T.

## Judo Obituary?

I set up the Judo Club at the request of senior pupils in the summer of 1969. Coaching took place in the old gymnasium - now the Dulverton Hall - under the direction of Alan Davis from Cheltenham. The first grading took place six months later at the Cheltenham YMCA.

Judo was given a tremendous impetus when Keith Thorne joined the staff in the early seventies. He ran the club and developed the junior side, while Alan Davis continued with the seniors. During this period many pupils attended gradings at Rendcomb, Winchcombe, Cheltenham and Stonehouse. The college magazine of April 1974 commented that 'the arrival of girls in the judo club lowered the level of concentration but greatly increased the enjoyment'.

In 1976 junior members entered the Gloucestershire and the West of England Championships with great success. In the same year John Millard gained a half-blue at Cambridge and was a member of the Oxbridge team; Jon Tyler captained the British Polytechnic Team and represented Great Britain in Tel Aviv at the Maccabiah Games.

In 1979 Michael Twinning represented the West of England in the British Open individual Junior Championships at the Crystal Palace. In 1982 Tim Daniels won the Western Area Heavyweight Championship. Sadly, in December of that year Keith Thorne died; this was a great loss to me, to the College and to Rendcomb Judo. I took over the running of the club.

In 1984 Alan Davis had to give up his coaching owing to pressure of work, and Paul Godsell, who had been helping for quite a long period, took over.

Gradings continued, but in recent years intermittently, owing to pressure from other activities and the fact that many of the gradings take place in the holidays or on Saturdays, one of our major games days.

In September 1992 the club was flourishing, but by the end of the Easter term numbers had dwindled

to eight seniors. The club was suspended for the summer term.

For the club to enter its 25th year at least 25 members, who will support and attend on a regular basis throughout the year, are required.

C. C. B.



*Enno Schuh*

## Netball

The quality of play this year was outstanding from two very committed teams, and the results reflect their enthusiasm and determination.

In the first team the defence was dominated by Georgina Buck and Juliette Ward, who devotedly saved us from defeat, and the shooting was superb from both Tara Keegan and Helen Hall-Wright. In the centre court Sarah Fox and Marian Preen made a formidable team.

Our thanks go to Miss Goldsmith and Mrs Walter for all their help.

LUCY PAYNE

### 1st VII

Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3; Goals for 135; Goals against 99.

✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	24-3
✓ St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Won	28-6
✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	17-9
✓ Burford School (H)	Lost	12-16
✓ Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	4-36
✓ The Royal Agricultural College (H)	Won	15-5
✓ Bournside School (H)	Won	15-10
✓ Westonbirt School (H)	Lost	8-10
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Won	12-4

## 2nd VII

Played 8; Won 2; Lost 6; Goals for 63; Goals against 172

✓ The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	10-3
✓ St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Lost	7-29
✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	9-15
✓ Burford School (H)	Lost	5-18
✓ Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-38
✓ The R. A. C. 1st VII (H)	Lost	15-27
✓ Bournside School U16 VII (H)	Lost	2-36
✓ Wycliffe College (A)	Won	15-6

## 3rd VII

Played 2; Lost 2; Goals for 16; Goals against 44.

✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	1-17
✓ R.A.C. 1st VII (H)	Lost	15-27

## U14 VII

✓ Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	1-29
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## Squash

Both boys and girls have thoroughly enjoyed their squash this year. The newly cleaned and painted courts now make them a first-rate facility in the school.

With the expert tuition of Mrs Julia Walters, many players in all years are developing their skills



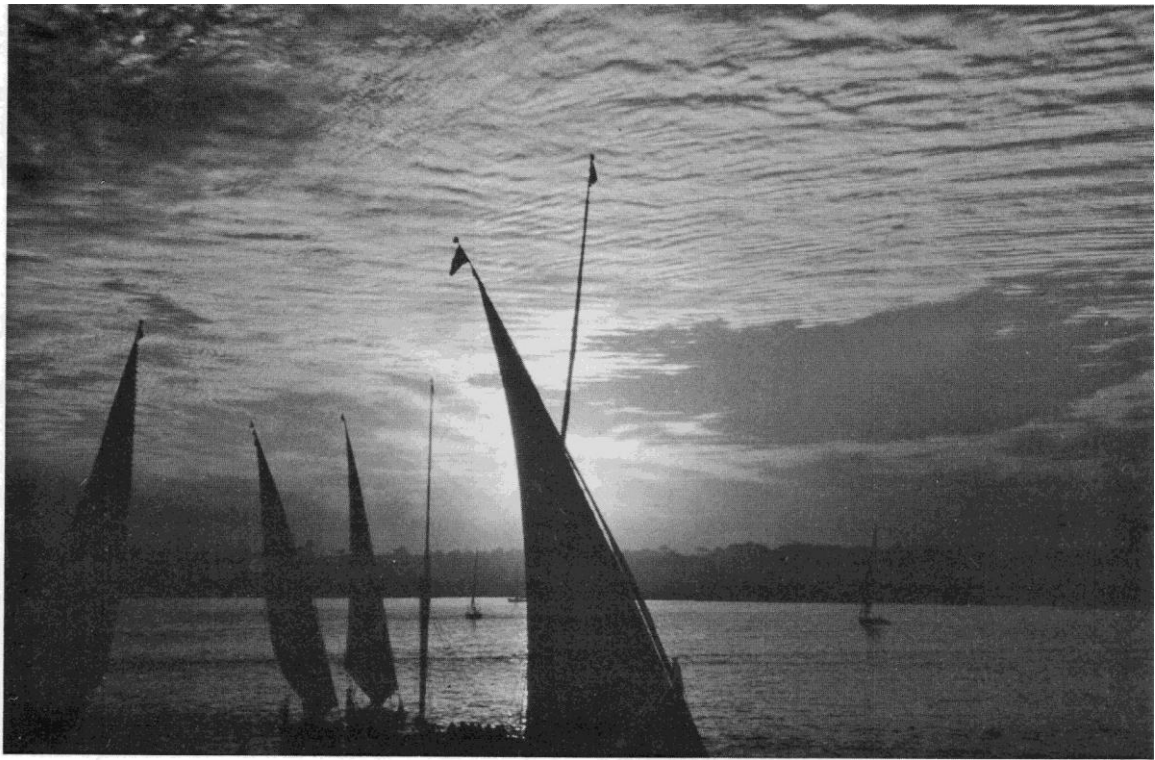
most encouragingly. In a strong Fourth Form Mike Smith, a Gloucestershire U15 team player, and Francis Newcombe have been the pick of the players. Adam King and Chris Baker in the Third Form and Sam Maylott and Rupert Webb in the Second Form have shown themselves exciting prospects for the future.

The enthusiasm and ability of the girls also places the squash club on a solid footing throughout the school. Polly Parsons and Nkechi Osamo are key performers in a keen squad of players.

With matches arranged next season for both boys and girls, all looks set for the squash club to maintain a central focus in the weekly sporting timetable of many pupils.

J. P. W.





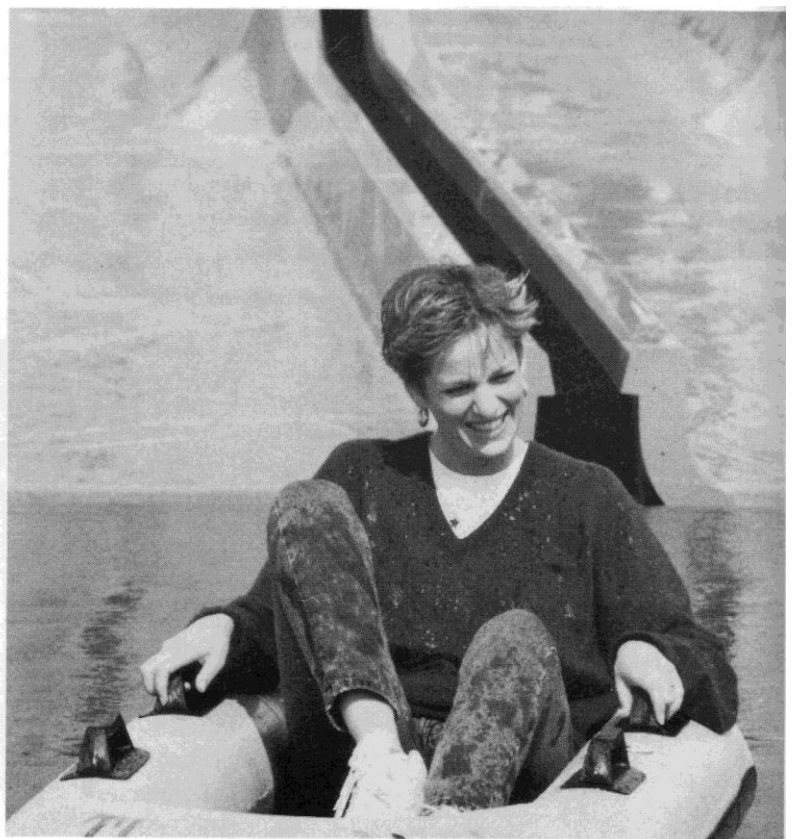
**Nile Sunset**

*D.A.Hawswell*



**Negative print**

*Photography Activity Group*



**HRH The Princess of Wales**

*Ian Thompson*







