



Rendcombian

Rendcombian

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Editorial

Now that the building of the boarding houses has begun and our new Headmaster is installed, it is tempting to focus our editorial once more on the theme of change. However, whilst our school's development promises a finer physical environment, it is worth remembering that Rendcomb's atmosphere and qualities do not reside simply in buildings.

We place emphasis on producing an informal society in which the individual is encouraged to find his own character, rather than being schooled to develop in a certain direction. Individuality and friendliness are the key elements; so too is a lack of pretentiousness. We believe that Rendcomb's strengths are better described by the term 'independent' than by evoking the image of a

'public' school. We trust that the structural changes taking place at present will not detract from what is special, if not unique, about our school, nor restrain Rendcomb's continued evolution in its own open-minded way.

We believe that our magazine reflects a range of activities and a quality of achievement that complement, and indeed spring from, Rendcomb's humane environment. We hope that the words of its pupils show that a degree of informality is not incompatible with high standards.

ROLAND MARTIN
AUBREY POWELL

Rendcomb's First Term - June 1920



The Record 1

News in Brief

Christmas Term 1987

The new school year saw the arrival of **Mr John Tolputt, MA, our new Headmaster, with his wife, Patta, and their children, Anna and Edward.** We welcome them most warmly and hope that they will all be very happy at Rendcomb.

We were very glad indeed to welcome **Mrs Charlotte Holdaway** back to Rendcomb after her tremendously courageous recovery from severe injuries received in a road accident.

We also welcomed **Miss Wendy Musto**, who joined the staff to teach **French.**

We congratulate **Mr and Mrs King** on the birth of their second son, **Andrew Thomas**, on 12th November, and **Mr and Mrs Frank Fry** on celebrating their **Ruby Wedding.**

On 20th September parents, staff and pupils set out on a **twenty-mile sponsored walk, collecting £4,500 for the Cobalt Appeal** launched by Cheltenham General Hospital. Everyone gathered in the evening for a barbecue which complemented perfectly the family atmosphere of a most enjoyable day.

Apart from 6B's now traditional visit to **Longleat**, the Fifth Form visited **RAF, Cosford**, on the Joint Services Open Day, and theatre trips included C. S. Lewis's '**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**', '**Pride and Prejudice**', '**The Taming of the Shrew**', **Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot'** at the National Theatre and '**Macbeth**' in Bristol's charming 'Old Vic'.

Mr Michael Craddock gave an intriguing and informative talk to the Arts Society on '**Don Quijote**'. Visiting speakers included **Mr Quentin Keynes** who talked about '**Madagascar, the Mysterious Island**', **Professor Wickramasinghe** of University College, Cardiff, who surprised most of us with his lecture '**Comets and the Origin of Life**', and **Dr I. N. Jones** of Reading University, who gave the **Michael Wills Memorial Lecture**, an equally fascinating talk on '**Weather on Other Worlds**'. **Dr Morehead**, Principal of Hatherop Castle School, came and gave a talk, illustrated by a video, on the **cruelties and injustices inflicted on animals.**

In October, before the cold weather had a chance to set in, the **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award** candidates went on a practice expedition in the **Brecon Beacons**, followed by their final assessment in the **Black Mountains.**

On 14th October the senior school **debated the issue of testing new chemical products on animals**, helped by **Dr Bill Brown**, a former pharmaceutical lecturer and **Mr Steven Beddard**, Secretary of Animal Aid.

The **Junior House** celebrated the **5th November** with an enormous bonfire in the orchard above the Old Rectory.

In November a group of pupils and staff gave a **fine performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance'** on three successive evenings, thanks to the coaching of **Mr Craddock** and **Mr Lane.**

Towards the end of the term the **Science Department** said goodbye to **Mrs Linda Taylor**, who had been the Laboratory Assistant for twelve and a half years.

The **guest speaker** at the fourth annual Rugby Club dinner was the **former Gloucestershire and England player, John Fidler.**

The term ended in what has now become the traditional way, a **Christmas Dinner for pupils and staff** and the **Sixth Form dance**, followed by the **Carol Service** in **Cirencester Parish Church** on **Sunday, 13th September.** As usual, parents, friends and the general public filled the Church.

Easter Term 1988

The weather was the mildest for many years, and the **First XI** managed to play **14 out of their 15 matches.**

For those with longer-term prospects in mind there were visits from **Navy, Army and Air Force Liaison Officers**, the last putting on a highly entertaining, if controversial, talk and film presentation on 21st January. It was agreed that the **Careers Convention** held on 4th March, was a great success.

Mr Denis Price gave a witty and moving personal view of **Prague** in his Sixth Form lecture '**The Paradox of Prague**'. The senior school debated and rejected the motion '**This House would abolish Independent Schools**'. The Arts Society highly enjoyed two videos, '**Being There**' and '**Children of a Lesser God**' and read '**The Real Inspector Hound**' by Tom Stoppard with such success that it was decided that the Sixth Form should perform it next term.

As well as the **Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award practice expeditions**, the demands of **GCSE** took fourth- and fifth-formers on a number of field trips and course work outings.

12 members of the Cirencester Probus Club, an association of professional people, came to lunch on 17th March and were shown round by members of the school.

There were **42 candidates for the boys' entrance scholarship examinations** on 17th February and **12 for the girls' scholarships** on 22nd and 23rd February. Names of successful candidates are given later in this issue.

The many theatre trips included **two sixth-form outings to Cheltenham**, to see 'Hamlet' and 'Rebecca', a **fifth-form trip to Cheltenham** to see 'One for the Pot', and a visit to Oxford by the **Junior House** to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Our home-grown talent performed well in this year's junior play, about school life, 'Unman Wittering and Zigo' by Giles Cooper.

A lively and colourful American group, the **Stony Batter Drama Company**, from the Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania were our guests for a few days in March. As well as participating in school life, they performed 'Spoon River Anthology' before an enthusiastic audience.

The **Confirmation Service** was conducted by the **Bishop of Tewkesbury** on 20th March, the culmination of two terms' preparation for 21 candidates, 18 of them from the College.

Musical life this term showed a new informality. **Two informal concerts** were given on 31st January and 21st February, mainly by **junior members** of the school. Congratulations must go to them for their professionalism and enthusiasm. Also a **musical pot-pourri** was presented, showing a wide range of musical styles and varied, often hidden, talents from the Music Department and the Masters' Common Room! A **guitar recital was given by Mr Dunn** and his pupils on 28th February. Throughout the term the orchestra worked hard in preparation for **Mr John Willson's farewell concert**.

During the Easter holidays sixth-form geographers went on a trip to the **Slapton Ley Field Centre in Devon**, 22 fourth-formers made their **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Assessment Expedition** and a party went on a skiing holiday to **Risoul in France**.

Summer Term 1988

This term saw the culmination of two years' preparation for the **new GCSE exams**, as well as the usual 'A' levels.

John Willson's farewell concert on 15th May was certainly the cultural highlight of the term, with a particularly memorable and gripping performance of **Beethoven's Eroica Symphony**. Other musical events included an **informal concert** on 20th June and a song recital by **Kate Ellis**.

In May the **Show of Strength Theatre Company**, with Nick Thomas (OR), gave a performance of *Sail or Return* and in July 6B staged a successful production of **Tom Stoppard's The Real Inspector Hound**, directed by themselves.

The **Junior House** visited the **Museum of Army Flying** at Middle Wallop in May; the **Third Form** went to **Butlins in Minehead**; the **Sixth Form** went to **Stratford** to see *Macbeth* and to **Bristol** to see *Don Giovanni*. **6B** spent a day in **London**, and **6B girls** visited **Berkeley Castle**; **Form Four** went to the **Royal Show** in July.

On **Founder's Day** the **Guest Speaker** was **Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, GCB**, and the foundation stone of **Lawn House** was laid by the **Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Colonel M. St J. V. Gibbs**.

In June the **Parents' Association** organised its first auction to raise funds for resurfacing two tennis courts, and a **cricket match and barbecue** on 3rd July.

The **Leavers' Weekend** took place during second exeat. On Friday, 24th June, **Sixth Form leavers had a supper party with the staff**. On Saturday there was a **church service for leavers and their parents**, at which **Mr White** gave an address, followed by a **buffet lunch**.

At the end of June the **Cricket Touring Party** left for **Jersey** for a week's sunshine and cricket; **6B held a barbecue** on the last Friday of term, followed by a disco; the **ORs' AGM and supper** were held on 9th July.

This year we are very sorry to say goodbye to **John Willson**, Senior Housemaster for many years, to **Charlie Hannaford**, Housemaster of Park House, and his wife **Jane**, to **Lynda Troughton**, the Bursar's Secretary, to **Linda Taylor**, assistant in the science laboratories, to **Veronica Pogson**, who has taught computer studies, and to **Hilary Leigh**, who has been teaching second and third form mathematics for a year. We wish them all the very best for the future.



Rafting

C. J. Wood



C. J. Wood

John Willson

When describing the new boarding-house developments in his Founder's Day address in 1987, the Chairman of the Governors referred to John Willson as the last of a line of 'formidable' bachelors who had run the Senior House. I cannot say whether the adjective 'formidable' aptly describes his predecessors, but it is certainly fitting for John and the influence he has had on so many aspects of Rendcomb life over the past 21 years.

There have been three main areas for which John has been responsible for all or for part of his time here: music, climbing and the Senior House. As Director of Music until 1982, John's dedication and enthusiasm quickly brought about a rapid increase in the number of pupils learning musical instruments, a steady rise in the grades gained in the Associated Board examinations and a small but regular number of candidates taking Music at 'O' and 'A' level, many of whom did exceptionally well. The success of these pupils was due to John's own thorough teaching and also to that of the talented visiting Music staff whom he engaged. But the most memorable aspects of John's period as Director of Music were undoubtedly the orchestral and choral concerts. Looking back through the records to refresh my memory, I am amazed at the scope and variety of the works performed by such a small school very shortly after John joined the Staff.

In 1968 he staged a performance of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*, followed in the same season by two performances of Mozart's Coronation Mass in Cirencester Church; this ambitious programme for the year was to some extent possible because of the outstanding talent of three pupils - David Shield, Richard Fry and Michael James, whose singing was to be the mainstay of choral performances for many years. The increase in the number of pupils learning musical instruments led to the re-establishment of the College orchestra in 1969, and from then on more pupils were able to join the orchestra of visiting musicians for major works such as Bach's *St John Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, *Samson* and *Judas Maccabeus*.

The general level of interest in music is perhaps well shown by the fact that in 1972 there were 54 pupils in the Choir - nearly a third of the School! John's personal liking for choral music of the 17th and 18th centuries can be clearly seen in the programmes during his first ten years: particularly worthy of mention is perhaps the concert of music by Purcell and Bach in May 1976 when Robert Sherratt took some of the bass solos.

With the increasing expertise of the pupils' orchestral playing, it became possible to give full orchestral concerts: Sibelius's *Finlandia* and Dvorak's Eighth Symphony provided an excellent musical evening in 1980, when past pupils (I think for the first time) returned to join the orchestra. One outstanding example of the impact of John's work was the concert in 1985 when two former pupils, Andrew Rontree and Adrian Lewers returned to play the solo parts in Mozart's piano concerto No. 23 in A major and Mendelssohn's violin concerto in E minor, and another was Jeremy French's performance of Beethoven's *Moonlight* Sonata in 1979. But most abiding in our memories will be John's final concert in which he achieved his ambition of performing Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony. Such moments, I am sure, must have given John very great pleasure, as well as a sense of real achievement during his time at Rendcomb. Nonetheless, I suspect that in some ways it was his success with the Church Choir which meant as much to him as the larger choral and orchestral concerts. A deeply committed Christian, John had always shown a particular interest in Church music and liturgy, and dedicated himself to enhancing the Sunday services with a wide range of anthems and psalms which displayed both the enjoyment and the expertise of the singers. Lastly it would be unforgivable not to mention the many concerts in which John has been the soloist in either piano or organ works - despite his diffidence about performing in public - and which have given so much pleasure to his audiences. In short, perhaps John's great contribution as Director of Music has been to give experience of taking part in large-scale musical works, both orchestral and choral, to a large number of pupils, and this, I know from my own experience, is something for which many Rendcombians owe him a great debt.

To turn now to John's other commitments. After a few appearances on the Rugby field, he decided that his sporting energy could be used more profitably (and more pleasantly?) if he was able to pursue his new hobby of climbing. So, for twenty years groups of Rendcombians have gone each week to Chepstow. The camaraderie of the climbing groups, the informal atmosphere of the weekly outings and John's highly professional approach (evident in his recent book "Rock Climbing in the Wye Valley") have ensured that a number of pupils have acquired a lifelong passion for this sport, some gaining wider experience by joining in John's summer expeditions to the Alps or the Dolomites. For many years at a more humble level he took a group of first-formers to Snowdonia at the start of the summer holidays, and more recently his expertise has been welcomed by those taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This has been an unusual, perhaps unique, contribution to Rendcomb's extra-curricular activities and one in which John's meticulous attention to detail and his concern for those in his charge has been particularly evident.

Shortly before taking up the post of Senior Resident Master some thirteen years ago, John had a serious climbing accident. Despite obvious pain and discomfort, he insisted on undertaking this onerous post, displaying the great physical and mental stamina - and some might say obstinacy! - so typical of him. He found the responsibilities of running the Senior House of a hundred boys and also of being the lynch-pin of much of the everyday administration fairly testing at first, and it was some time before increased confidence edged out the abrupt dismissal of a query or complaint with the familiar wave of the hand or sweeping back of his hair. Throughout his time as housemaster, John has run the Senior House with firm authority; on the administrative side he has been meticulous and also innovative in his approach to daily routine: on the pastoral side he has held to high principles and gone out of his way to see that pupils were treated fairly, whatever the circumstances, the pupils knowing that, even if he reacted impetuously at the time, his sense of fair play would always win through in the end. His special understanding of the problems of the teenager was seen at its best in the great care he took over his tutor groups, showing particular concern for the less talented or less popular members.

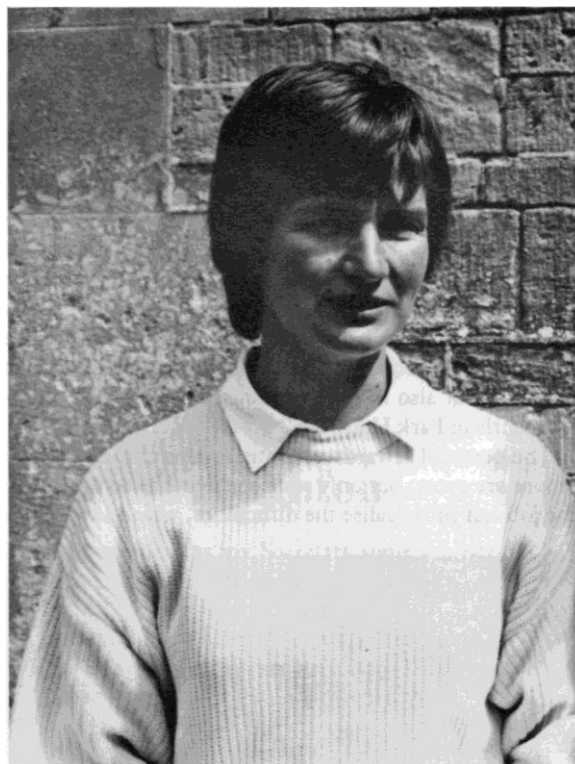
John is not a naturally gregarious person, and for this reason perhaps to many he may have appeared a rather remote and unbending figure, especially if the only contact was about the school or in the classroom. But in climbing groups, in musical circles or in a quiet conversation, he quickly showed a surprising ease of manner, a concern for other people and an affability normally concealed under a gruff exterior - or as William Cowper said "... beneath a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face." As a colleague, unless beset by problems, he was always generous in giving his time to help out others who were hard-pressed, and in moments of crisis remarkably painstaking in his efforts to get to the cause of a problem.

Lastly I owe him a personal debt of thanks for the long stint he did teaching the elements of Latin grammar to the first two forms. The precision of the subject appealed to him and, although some of his pupils may not have

appreciated at the time his exacting standards, in later years they will realise how valuable his teaching was.

Such then in outline is the character whom Rendcomb is losing at the end of the summer term. We are grateful to him for his tremendous contribution to life here, for his comradeship and his example of courage and sense of purpose, and we hope that he too will take with him many happy memories of his time here and a sense of fulfilment. We wish him a long and contented 'retirement' in Chepstow.

W. J. D. W.



C. J. Wood

Veronica Pogson

Mrs Pogson joined Rendcomb two years ago to help with the increased number of computing lessons we were offering. Her assistance both in and out of lessons has been invaluable and pupils of all ages have gained much from her skill and enthusiasm for the subject and also from her sympathetic approach.

It is unfortunate that we have to lose such an excellent part-time teacher on the appointment of a new full-time member of staff for the Physics department. I have greatly enjoyed working with her and I know that she will be fully occupied without the Rendcomb computing lessons.

D. A. H.

Charlie Hannaford

Charlie Hannaford came to Rendcomb in 1983 with a wide range of teaching experience behind him. Clifton and Sherborne were followed by a spell in New Zealand, after which he returned to teach and to run a house at Millfield. The move from a school with over a thousand pupils to one a quarter that size may have seemed surprising; but the opportunity to take over a thriving Biology Department in an HMC Boarding School with a strongly academic Sixth Form of one hundred provided a new and stimulating challenge; and for a good Gloucestershire man it was something of a home-coming.

For Charlie, challenge is a key note. Beneath a friendly and relaxed exterior there is a man always eager to tackle something new, though only if he feels he has mastered the job in hand and done it full justice. But little did he, or I, realise on his appointment as Head of Biology that within a year he would also be running Park House in succession to Denis Price.

When I offered him this additional responsibility, the decision was not an easy one. He had just started to settle down in the Biology Department, and both he and his family were very much enjoying their new home in the Mill House, an idyllic spot for anyone, let alone a biologist. When you have only just completed a stint as Housemaster, with all the twenty-four-hour commitment and lack of privacy it entails, why submit yourself to it again? Fortunately for Rendcomb, the temptation to tackle this fresh assignment was too great; Jane nobly agreed to relinquish her new home and not only to provide the tremendous support that any Housemaster needs from his wife, but also to become Housemother to the thirty-three girls in Park House.

The personal rewards and satisfactions of running Park House are great, but only someone who has actually done the job can fully realise the difficulties, which I can safely

say are considerably greater than in any traditional boarding house. This is one of the main reasons for the extensive changes now taking place at Rendcomb.

Charlie's natural authority and sympathetic affinity with the young, particularly with seventeen and eighteen year olds, provided the ideal mixture for this exacting post. Recognising that any school must work with its senior pupils, and not only with prefects, he was always ready to listen to ideas, but he was also a shrewd judge of what would be acceptable and what would not. His aim was to gain agreement if possible by persuasion and an appeal to common sense. Jane's warm and sympathetic influence in the house, especially with the girls, was a vital ingredient in its success; and the realisation by the boys and girls in Park House that both Jane and he were very much in aid of them made for a happy and harmonious community.

His distinction as an England and Barbarian rugby player contributed to the school's success in that sport, and during his last two years he was invited to be coach for the Gloucestershire County XV, a great honour. His interest in sport was wide and it was largely through his enthusiasm and hard work that the practice golf course was established in the Park.

As a colleague, Charlie will be remembered for his conviviality and ease in relationships. His gift for friendship was founded on a mature attitude, a lively sense of humour and great warmth of personality. His judgement was much respected, and he threw himself whole-heartedly into the many hours of committee work on the future development of Rendcomb.

In conclusion, Charlie's influence and achievement at Rendcomb in a mere five years have been quite remarkable. The Second Mastership of Seaford College will provide plenty of challenge in the future, and we wish him and Jane every success and happiness in their new post.

R. M. A. M.



C. J. Wood

Tony Partridge

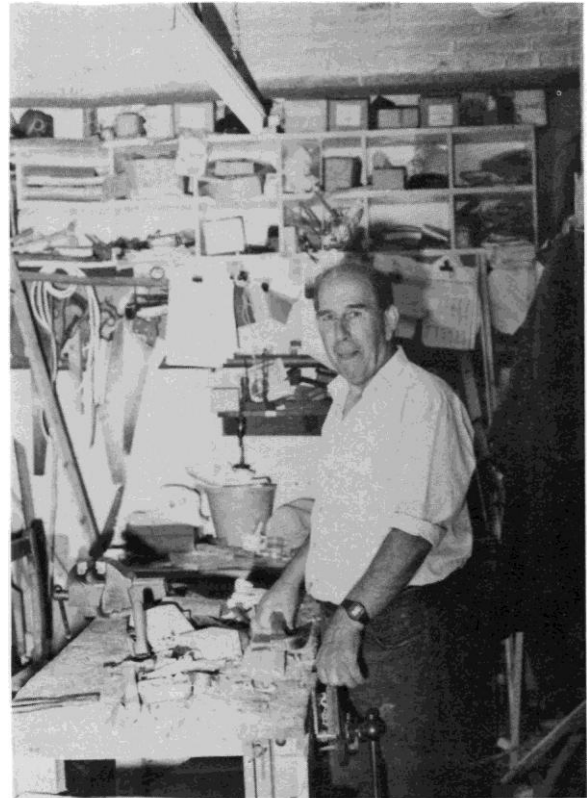
Tony's favourite cry is 'Anything is possible', and this symbolises a very remarkable man. When I first came to Rendcomb seven years ago, I soon realised that Tony was an absolute tower of strength and that the routine maintenance of all the buildings and houses was in very safe hands.

Tony is an extremely practical man, and I never cease to be amazed at what he has achieved with his minuscule labour force, compared with those of other schools and, what is more, most of it gets done without my being involved at all. When I do think of something clever to do, Tony has either thought of it before me and done it or stalled because it was not as clever as I thought it was: and he has generally been right.

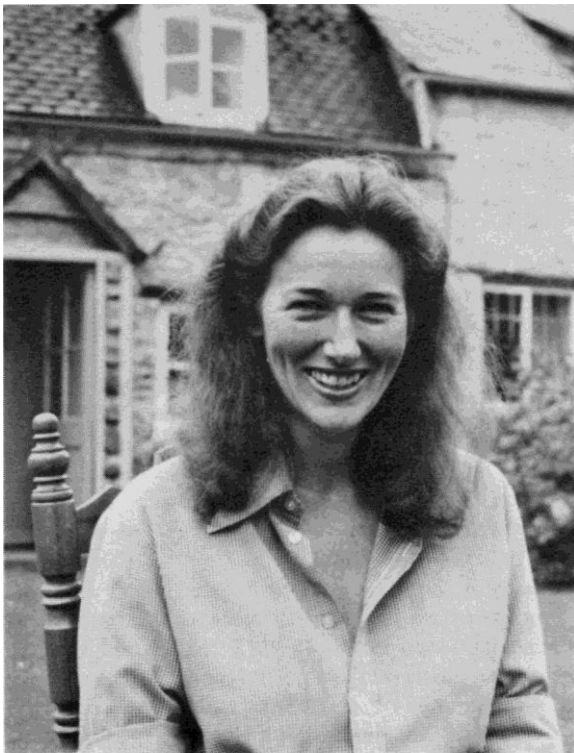
Tony delights in 'muddle areas' and to visit his cellar can be described only as a muddle area visit. But he knows where everything is and seemingly creates order out of chaos.

He retires at the end of August, but I am thankful to say that he is continuing on a part-time basis until he feels that he has really had enough of Rendcomb. I can only emphasise that he has been a tower of strength at Rendcomb and always a tremendous help to me personally, and so not only does Rendcomb lose a superb Clerk of Works who has an enormous knowledge of all aspects of the maintenance of the College, but I am also losing a man of very wise counsel.

E. T. T.



M. Bewes



C. J. Wood

Lynda Troughton

Lynda came here as my Secretary some three-and-a-half years ago, and when she told me that she had to leave in the middle of the Summer Term I was devastated; she had become very much part of the Rendcomb scene and a Girl Friday not only to me but to all the Staff at Rendcomb.

She has been so approachable and helpful to everyone that at times I could hardly fight my way through her office to her desk, and I know that everyone at Rendcomb will miss her winning smile and 'can-do' approach to problems, which seem to vanish when she tackles them. At the same time we welcome Anne Vickery who comes to us from helping to run a wine importing business in Essex; her past experience should be most useful here, and she has already endeared herself to the staff by providing a husband who is a useful spin-bowler for the Staff Cricket Team.

Lynda was a good friend to all, and we wish her success and happiness in her future life.

E. T. T.



C. J. Wood

Ruby Wedding - Frank and Emily Fry

The Editors much regret that, by an oversight, this notice was not published in last year's *Rendcombian*.

It could be said that Frank and Emily met by accident. During the Second World War Emily was working at Edgeworth Manor, then a convalescent home for servicemen. Frank arrived there after his arm had been broken by a kick from a mule while he was serving in the 7th Mountain Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Italy.

When he was discharged from the army, Frank came to work in the manor gardens, and he and Emily were married at St Mary's Church, Edgeworth, on 14th December, 1946. The Commandant and nursing staff made a big occasion of it, and all 45 patients attended the service, among them Tony Partridge! Their meeting again in 1962, when Partridge's came to Rendcomb to build the Headmaster's house, brought back many happy memories.

Frank and Emily had come to Rendcomb in 1952, and they say they have been very happy here. Emily worked at the College for 26 years before she had to give up owing to ill-health. Frank worked whole-time until November 1978, and he is still going strong on three days a week; he will be 75 this November!

Their son Michael, his wife Lynn and their grandchildren Hugo and Amy gave them a family party to celebrate the occasion. We add our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for their Golden Wedding in due course.

D. de G. S.

Linda Taylor

It is difficult to realise that Linda Taylor has been at Rendcomb for over 12 years, such has been the smooth running of her work in the Science Department.

Initially she replaced Joan Hobbs and divided her time between the biology and chemistry departments. With the expansion of the school, Linda concentrated on the technical needs of the chemistry department, but she was always ready to maintain her contact with the biology department and respond to *cris de coeur* on technical matters, particularly at examination time.

With as many as 24 candidates for the 'A' level practical examination, Linda's skills and attention to detail ensured that the students would be as well prepared as possible on 'the day'. However, much preparation and expertise are required in the build-up to the examination and the weekly practical periods, which have to be organised with similar care and attention to detail.

GCSE, with its regular assessments, has required considerable organisation of time and equipment, and again Linda has been a tower of strength in meeting the new demands.

We knew that it would be difficult to replace such an important member of the team, but we are fortunate in having Connie Neale, who has organised her first 'A' level practical very successfully.

We wish Linda every happiness in Northumberland and we are sure she will soon be putting her skills to use again, in the field of science or medicine.

R. K.



C. J. Wood

The Development Committee

It might be said that the Development Committee was bred by the Future Policy Working Party out of Necessity. For some time a number of questions had been causing concern, in particular the crowded conditions and standard of accommodation in the main building and the adequacy of the tutorial system.

On 18th October 1984 the Working Party 'resolved to institute a Development Committee', asking it 'to make proposals for a comprehensive re-planning of the Main College Building and for consequential additional building or adaptation of buildings elsewhere'. The Committee was asked to consider 'what could be done with an expenditure of £300,000' and also 'what it would desiderate irrespective of cost'.

Chaired by the Second Master, until recently Housemaster of the Junior House, the Committee included the Housemaster of the Senior House and one of his predecessors, the Housemasters of Park House and the Junior House, with the Bursar to offer advice on financial matters; during its discussions it consulted the Housemaster of Godman House. The Headmaster was present at nearly all its meetings, in a role somewhat resembling that of a constitutional monarch, with the right to be informed, to advise and to warn. After three meetings a younger member of the staff was asked to join it.

The Committee met 27 times between 14th November, 1985 and 5th November, 1987, reporting to the Working Party on 23rd May and 14th October, 1986. Nearly all these meetings were held at 'unsocial' hours, that is to say at the end of a day's work, and on some occasions at unsocial temperatures, during the holidays when the heating was off.

Many divergent opinions were put forward, many kites flown, much paper consumed. Discussion in committee was nearly always lively, at times trenchantly so. During discussion further flaws in the body politic came to light, and plans were made to remove them. In spite of the differences in viewpoint which rapidly became evident, a consensus was always reached without taking a vote.

It had soon become obvious that the budget of £300,000 would do very little to improve the situation and, if spent, might well be regarded as money wasted. The Committee was not sanguine about the possibility of the Governors' adopting the recommendations thus wrought and presented 'irrespective of cost'. To its great pleasure, the event proved it wrong. After asking for one or two side issues to be examined, the Working Party and later the Governors, showing confidence and vision, accepted the Development Plan *in toto*; it will be reality by next September.

G. M. Trevelyan, the historian, said that 'England has been saved not by her statesmen, but by the committee sense of her people'. This committee would not claim to have saved the nation, but hopes it may claim, like Othello to 'have done the state some service'. The verdict will rest with future generations of Rendcombians.

D. de G. S.

Reform of the General Meeting

The condition of the Meeting had been steadily declining and so, at the end of the Summer Term 1987, a committee was formed to discuss the problems and suggest a new-style Meeting to the new Headmaster.

After about two months of discussion and planning, the suggested reforms were unveiled at a meeting just before half-term in the Christmas Term and were almost unanimously approved. The main plank of the reforms was to replace the full meeting, which was considered unwieldy, with a smaller meeting, composed of representatives from each form and the chairmen of all committees. The full Meeting will assemble only once a term, to allow people to stay in touch.

The only other major alteration was to divide the office of Chairman between two people, one taking the job of chairing the meetings and to be known as the 'Speaker', the other overseeing the work of the committee chairmen. Other changes were minor and mostly concerned discipline and making the Meeting more efficient: the Council was resurrected, the nominations procedure reviewed, the committees streamlined.

As I write, in January, these changes are being incorporated into the rules, which are also being revised. With luck, we hope to have a new constitution, with specific constitutional aims, before the end of the year.

JOHN BARNETT

Pam Heaton

For more than four years, the first contact people had with Rendcomb might be with Pam Heaton, on the phone or in the Secretary's office. Pam was invariably welcoming, calm and helpful, coping with things with her unruffled, quiet efficiency. I hope that she will remember Rendcomb with the affection we all have for her.

D. S. J. P.



C. J. Wood

Interviews 1

Headmaster

When we eventually caught up with our Headmaster in one of his rare free moments, we were glad to find a relaxed and affable man to interview. Mr John Tolputt was born in India and raised in Surrey by his mother, is keenly interested in drama and is now the energetic Headmaster of a small school in Gloucestershire.

With obvious fondness, Mr Tolputt recalls the various people who have been strong influences in his life: a very characterful great-aunt who had no children of her own and gave to the young Master Tolputt a deep sense of religion on a personal level, a charismatic English teacher who would sit in the waste-paper basket reciting poetry and wander from the prescribed syllabus. When asked by one boy to return to the set books, as his parents were paying for his education, this teacher opened the window and threw out the money he had in his pockets, saying 'That's what I think of money!' However, Mr Tolputt confesses to participating in the scramble to find the money outside the window at break-time! Then the Headmaster remembers *his* old headmaster, Christopher Bulteel, from whom we were lucky enough to receive a visitor's sermon one Sunday - a wizened, monkish figure who would always answer questions in a simple and truthful way.

Mr Tolputt chose teaching as his career while he was still at school, but the fantasy of a dramatic or theatrical vocation has always existed, despite his knowing the reality of work in the theatre to be unattractive. He always enjoys seeing any actor working well and skilfully, and he has already been keenly involved in the production of the junior play.

Of his role as headmaster at Rendcomb, he freely says that he already feels at home here, humorously likening the place to an amoeba: it easily absorbs foreign bodies! However, he confesses to feeling not quite comfortably on top of his job after only a term and a half.

The most demanding aspect of it is the need to keep numerous things in his head at the same time. Nevertheless, he appears actually to enjoy all the challenges and the variety of events which occur each and every day - probably one of the reasons why he was given the job.

The public relations aspect of his job is both testing and interesting, involving visiting other schools or receiving guests from the outside world. He feels lucky to have inherited the invaluable secretarial team of Anne Purdon and Pam Heaton, dedicated professionals who are invariably successful in keeping hassle at bay, while retaining a sense of humour. By trying to deal quickly with things which can be dealt with directly, he finds it just about possible to perform all the necessary mental juggling of 'think-issues', such as the change in house structure, which are too easily put to the back of the mind.

The Headmaster modestly claims his role to be no more exhausting than that of teaching 30 or so lessons per week, continually exposed to different age-groups in the classroom. At Rendcomb he has found it relatively easy to maintain contact with the whole school, partly because of the small size and naturally friendly atmosphere of the place and partly because of the location of his office in the main building, the nucleus of the school. He can feel comfortable doing his tasks, in the knowledge that elsewhere in the school the teaching standards and level of teacher commitment are remarkably high.

In comparison with his own learning experiences (remote, he claims) - sitting in symmetrically arranged rows of desks, with no sign of a computer, an intensive

intake of knowledge to be regurgitated under exam conditions - Mr Tolputt sees the modern changes in education as a step forward. In particular he welcomes the GCSE and closer links between teacher and taught. He does insist, though, that occasional drudgery is essential in learning, in order to develop a complete understanding.

He regards private education as fully justifiable, since we live in a society where the individual is free to spend his money as he chooses; to spend money on one's children's education is more altruistic than to spend it on accumulating material possessions. Of course, he would like to see the issue become irrelevant with the advent of a successful state system; he believes it unlikely, because society appears to undervalue education, and this has regrettably led to a concentration of resources in the private sector. However, he feels that independent schools provide a challenge to state education and have helped to prompt governmental ideas for improving the national system, such as 'opting out'.

What does concern him is that not enough bright pupils appear interested in becoming teachers, which could lead to a lack of younger, energetic teachers in some years' time. Also, he would like to smarten the dress worn during working hours, creating an interest in self-presentation

and a brisk, business-like feeling in the classroom. Among other future changes at Rendcomb, he sees the development of a new pastoral housing system as essential if the school is not to stand still. He has also been actively involved in the emergence of a new and more streamlined General Meeting - basically the pupils' opinion body - with a system of form representatives, an improvement on the old, stagnating version of the Meeting from years past.

Mr Tolputt would like to see Rendcomb as a place where the individual can develop academic talent to the full, a caring place where people are known and appreciated for what they are, without feeling pressed into playing a role behind a tough outer shell or mask.

For Patta Tolputt, his energetic and cheerful wife, the role of Headmaster stays outside the house when possible; the Headmaster's suit must come off and the Headmaster becomes a family man, father of two children. However, should the telephone or doorbell ring, the Headmaster always resurfaces to deal with the matter if necessary. Under the guidance of a man of deep-rooted commitment, Rendcomb can only continue to flourish in the years to come...

ROLAND MARTIN
AUBREY POWELL



C. J. Wood

From Rendcomb to Hong Kong

An interview with Richard Tudor

Richard Tudor, Head Prefect at Rendcomb in 1980, recently visited the College to give a fascinating account of his memories of his time here and of how radically his life has changed since then.

After leaving Rendcomb, he took a degree in German, which he speaks with near-fluency, and Russian at Bath University. For the past three and a half years he has been living in Hong Kong as a member of the colonial police force.

He recalled with relish his days here, confessing how much he missed our 'idyllic countryside', our picturesque Cotswold setting. A keen sportsman as well as a capable student, he outlined the qualities developed here which have helped him so much during his police career: Rendcomb gave him the power to respect and take an order and enhanced his ability to evaluate a situation and to take the appropriate action.

When he left university, the opportunity arose to join the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. This move was primarily a short-term career step, taken because he was able to start at the rank of Inspector, impossible in the police force in this country.

As one might expect, a certain degree of objectivity and patience is required in dealing with the people of a nation so alien to our own. The predominant problems facing the policeman in Hong Kong are vice, drug-abuse and those associated with gambling. Prostitution is widespread, but the drug traffic is the major concern. Hong Kong is used as a transport crossroads for drugs coming from the 'Golden Triangle', Burma, Thailand and Laos. Heroin is in common use, and opium was not made illegal until some

time before World War Two. The inhabitants gamble fervently and may even *sell their souls* to pay off a gambling debt: they borrow from the boss of the gambling house or from a loan shark, perhaps being made to sell a female relative into prostitution or to take to a life of crime. Frequently it ends in suicide.

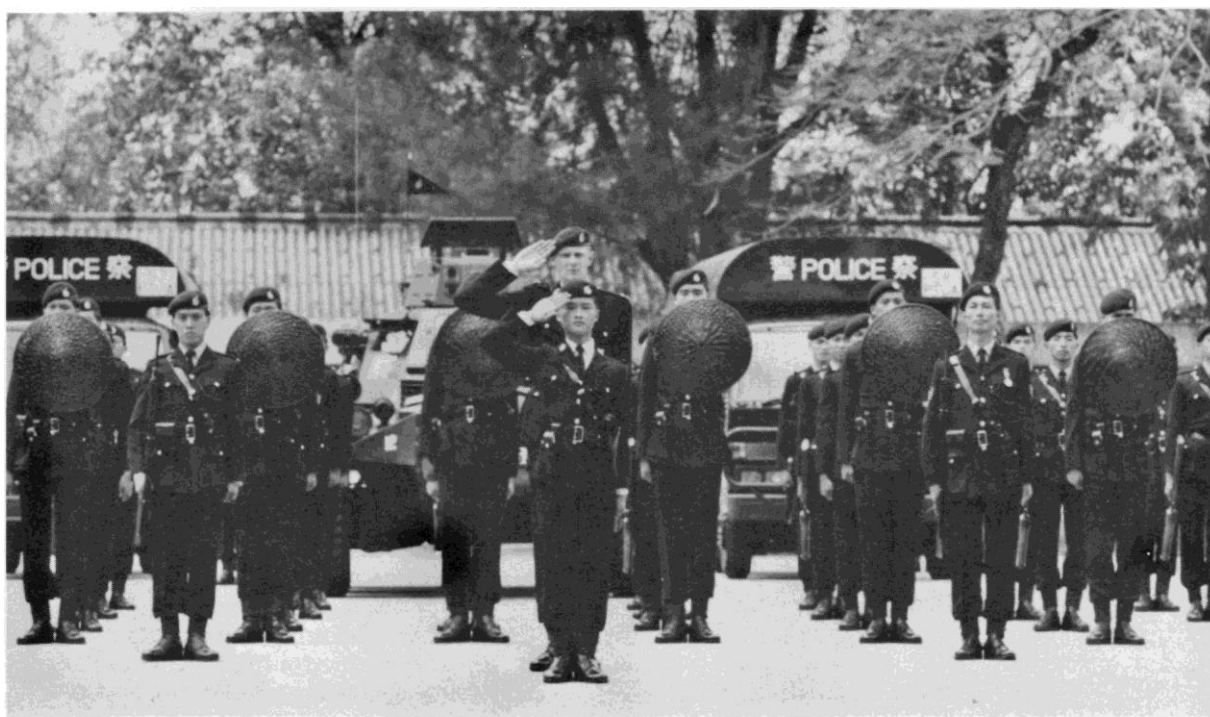
Unlike the British police, the Hong Kong force is armed, giving them the oriental notion of 'face', so important in gaining respect. Indeed, at six foot four, Mr Tudor must certainly stand out from the crowd! He expressed at times a real dislike of what he termed 'a thoroughly anti-social job', because of long hours coupled with a comparatively unattractive salary. He relaxes from the rigours of duty by playing squash and socialising with colleagues.

His political views showed clearly through his answers to questions topical here: as many policemen are, he is a right-winger. He believes, for example, in large-scale nuclear deterrents, greater government involvement in soccer violence, including the use of tear gas, and also in the justness of the controversial community charge.

In 1997, when Hong Kong is handed over to the Chinese, Richard says he will leave his job rather than be controlled by their government. It is not yet clear, however, whether all colonial officers will be dispensed with anyway. He does say that he will miss greatly the mystique of Hong Kong and its fascinating way of life. He does not yet know in which profession his future will lie when the time comes for his departure.

His recommendation to any one at Rendcomb thinking of joining the colonial police is to consider it as a three-year period of general education, not as a career. We would like to thank Richard for the interview and for providing such stimulating view of a world in such strong contrast to our own.

WILLIAM SHERWOOD



C. J. Wood

John Willson

Mr Willson has seen many changes during his time here, the advent of girls and the splitting-off of the Third and Sixth Forms being the most significant. He has played a major role in almost all the changes that have occurred, and he feels that one more is needed: the restructuring of the present house system. The College has been fortunate in that over the last 30 years there has always been a bachelor housemaster available for the Main Building: Mr Sells, Mr White and Mr Willson himself. This supervision just may not be available in the future, so the system needs alteration.

Also, the lack of continuity in pastoral care has become a matter of serious concern, some pupils, perhaps owing to staff's leaving or just by chance, having frequent changes of tutor. This may not adversely affect some, but others do need a tutor who gets to know them.

He feels that the future for Rendcomb is bright. The College has always managed to maintain an informal, almost unspoken tradition of friendliness, self-help and interdependence. The upholding of this, coupled with the changes currently taking place to improve the school, certainly make prospects appear very good.

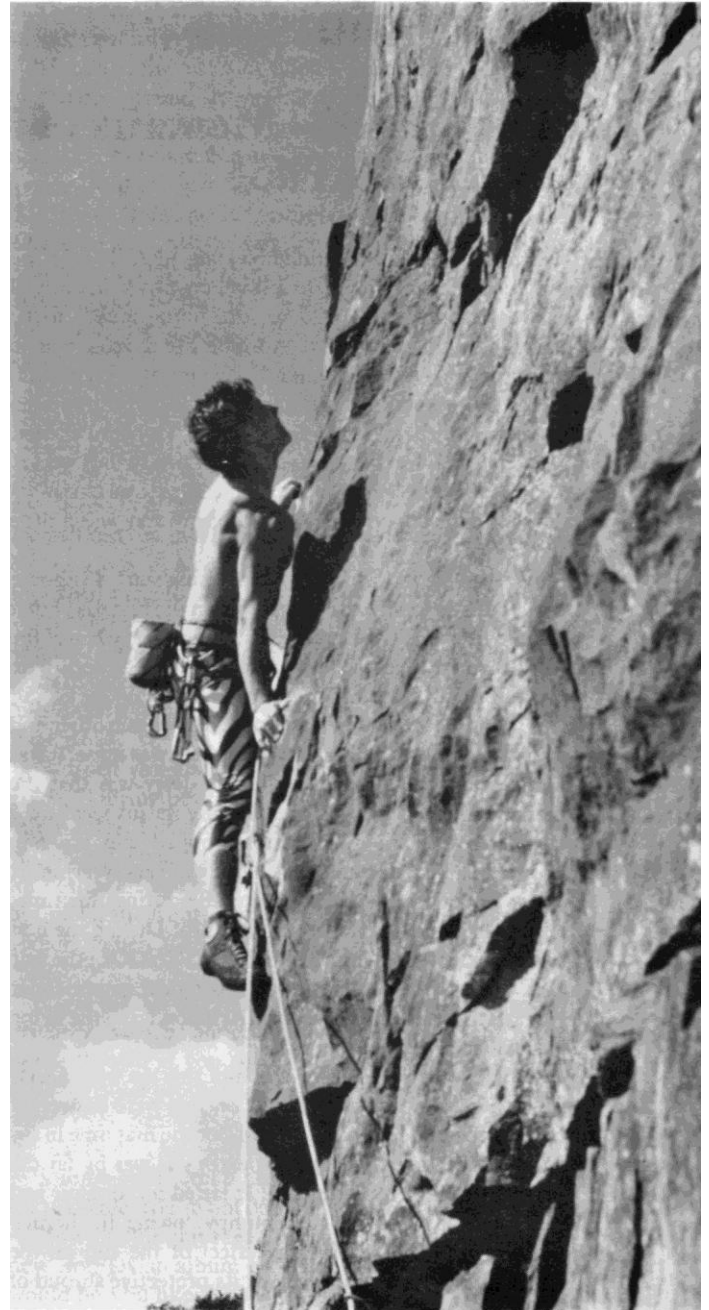
Mr Sells and Mr White have been a great influence and help to him; many aspects of the job of Senior Housemaster would have been extremely difficult without their assistance. Rendcomb has always avoided any ill-feeling in relationships between new staff, or staff taking on a new position, and their predecessors, a notable quality of the school.

The highlight of his time here was being able to conduct the *Eroica* Symphony earlier this summer. It was set up to be the best concert; many of the best OR musicians as well as the current school orchestra were used, and it worked extremely well.

Being able to climb for the last three years with someone as talented as John Shaw has been very memorable. For their last climb at Rendcomb they went to North Wales to do one they had always wanted to do - 'Left Wall'; both the weather and the climbing were excellent, and it was a very proud day for both of them.

In his retirement, paradoxically, Mr Willson will be very busy. He has a lot of climbing planned for the coming months, including a trek through the Himalayas this November, passing very close to Mount Everest. He also plans to sort out the garden at his new house and to start work on a couple of books he is interested in writing. One is about map-reading, a subject in which he is well qualified after several years of Duke of Edinburgh Award instruction; the other will aim to provide technical and practical help for pianists playing musical scales.

Originally he wanted to be a composer and conductor, and so began training as a musician. However, it soon became apparent that he did not quite have the ability to succeed and make a career in this way, so he 'drifted' into teaching. He is glad that he did, for it has allowed him to do his own music and to help other people. His career at Rendcomb has been threefold: a balance of music, pastoral care as a tutor, and climbing. For him all three have been necessary, in equal proportions, for a full life.



J. W. R. Willson

He is looking forward to his retirement; he has not yet had time to consider whether he will miss Rendcomb; this will probably not hit him until the last day of term, 10th July, but when pressed he admits that his life here has been a great source of satisfaction to him; he probably will end up missing the school.

We should like to thank Mr Willson for giving us a highly interesting interview and to wish him the very best for the future.

JON LUTWYCHE
VAUGHAN TREDWEL.

Viewpoints

‘Solo Flight’ - Memoirs of an Aspiring Pilot

During the 1987 summer holidays I was sent, through the RAF scholarship scheme, to a small civilian flying school near Stratford-upon-Avon to do some initial flying training. Right up until the morning the training was to begin the prospect of learning to fly seemed very distant and somehow unreal. Never having flown before, not even in a commercial airliner, I had no idea of what to expect. The course was intended to last about three to four weeks, and the idea of learning to fly such complex machines on my own for ten hours by the end of my stay was a little frightening.

The course got off to a very depressing start. I suppose we were a little foolish to expect to fly on the first day, but it seemed fair to do so within the first three days; when at the end of the first week we had still not become airborne, we were all getting fairly frustrated.

By this time we had at least got to know each other and most of the staff, so whilst the atmosphere was tense, it was at least friendly. The reason for the delay was that the weather had been overcast, not by any means ideal for a first flight, but when the wind dropped and the rain stopped and we still weren't flying, it was very wearing.

That is not to say that we were idle during this time; nothing could be further from the truth! During the first week and a half we studied *GROUND SCHOOL*, the title given to studies in the various theoretical essentials of flying, such as navigation and the Aviation Law, the flying equivalent to the Highway Code.

At the end of a week and a half of this we were nearly ‘going spare’, but fortunately our prayers were answered: a break appeared in the clouds and, for the first time in my life, I broke ‘the surly bonds of earth’. It was by far the worst flight I had to undertake! It lasted for an hour and twenty minutes; the air was bumpy, owing to thermal activity caused by the heating effect of the sun on the ground, which had suddenly lost its protective shroud of cloud.

About fifty minutes into the flight I began to feel the first dread pangs of airsickness. Although by the time we landed I had not actually *been* sick, I had come very close, and the experience had a fairly disturbing effect on me. However, over the course of the next few flights my inner ear became more accustomed to being thrown about, until I reached a point where it didn't matter what the conditions were like, and I never felt even slightly airsick again.

The flying part of the course consisted of several stages. First we were given a short briefing on the exercise we were about to attempt to perform. Next we were taken up to a safe height by an instructor and asked to ‘fly the controls’ that is to say find out what they did when they were pushed or pulled! Once we had learnt what each control did, we learned how to ascend and descend properly and make slow and medium turns to left and right.

The next few exercises concentrated on preparing us for our first solo flights. Our first landings (touch and goes) were attempted with slowly increasing degrees of success, surviving the bad ones with the help of the occupant of the right-hand seat!

Next we had to learn the correct action to take if faced with an engine failure immediately or shortly after take-off. Fortunately Wellesbourne is surrounded by a large expanse of fields into which one could make a forced landing; *unfortunately*, the one I chose had a combine harvester, complete with driver, sitting in the middle of it. I can't help thinking it would have been nice to have a photograph of the driver's face as I lined the nose of the aircraft up with the cab of his combine!

After only eight hours and ten minutes of supervised flying, I went solo for the first time. The first solo flight consisted of a single take-off and one circuit of the airfield, followed by a single and, it was to be hoped, successful landing at the end.

This flight can be made only after you have proved your basic proficiency to the instructor. I remember finding myself in control of a £30,000 aeroplane with the engine running and with no good excuses for not getting on with the flight. I felt a mixture of elation, anticipation and apprehension as I lined up the aeroplane on the runway and advanced the throttle. The aircraft accelerated just a little faster than usual and even seemed to float a little longer before touching down, but the biggest difference was the lack of a human body obscuring the view through the right-hand door!

With the first solo completed, the road was open for various longer, cross-country flights, both dual and solo, leading to proficiency examinations. Some of these flights went without any trouble; others were, amusingly, slightly less than complete successes. But that is another story...

MIKE BEWS



C. J. Wood

'The Secret Life of Matthew Mitty'

with acknowledgements to James Thurber

It was another ordinary day in Mitty's life. As with most ordinary days, it was raining, and so Mitty was staying inside listening to his music collection, filled up mostly with already-dead rock stars like Jimi Hendrix. As the rain pattered on the window, the beat seemed to get louder, until he was engulfed...

The audience was screaming. The music press had labelled him 'The New Eric Clapton'. His records sold by the shop-full. Yet here he was, on stage in Croydon with his back-up band 'The Backstreet Crawlers'. Matt Springsteen was really going now, his head slumped over his electric guitar, playing each guitar riff with amazing clarity; the guitar and he were one. The audience would never forget this concert. The amplifiers were so loud that they almost overloaded, yet even they could not dampen the audience's cries. Teenage girls swooned by the armful, and he'd only finished tuning his guitar...

The tape-recorder clicked to a stop at the end of the tape. 'Hurry up and do the washing-up!' was yelled up the stairs by his mother. 'There'll be no watching television until you've done it!' Mitty dragged his weary frame up from the armchair he'd collapsed in and went down to a kitchen brimming over with dirty crockery. He got into a rhythm after a bit, taking each dish as it came...

The heat from the desert was getting to Convict Double-Two-O-Seven, otherwise known as Mean Matt, as he lifted his pick-axe, bringing it down on yet another rock on what would soon be Highway 'N'. Men all around him were collapsing from the heat, but not he. Matt had been working on the chain-gangs for a good five years now, taking each day as it came. Today was the day, he was sure, when he would break free. He would get his revenge on those who had put him there.

A guard stood nearby. Matt swung the pick-axe into him, taking the guard off his feet. Matt climbed inside the prison truck, which by some great chance had keys inside, and he was away. Nothing could stop him now...

'Look what you've done now', said his mother, 'you've broken the dishes. You won't be getting any pocket-money until all this is paid for. I'd better finish it, before you break any more'.

'That was an unusually quick scolding', thought Matt. He walked into the living-room. On all newspapers Mrs Thatcher's face was plastered.

'She's the cause of this country's problems', thought Matt. 'She's the one who makes me revise for useless GCSE exams. She's the one who charges massive taxes to pay for her face-lifts, so that my dad can't afford to get me a new £500 guitar'. He began to wonder what life would be like if she won the next election...

Matthew Smith, dressed in his Tory-Blue party overalls, wheezed his way up the stairs. On the top of the landing he saw a poster. 'Big Maggy is watching you' it said. He made furtive glances around him to see if anyone was watching and went into his bedroom to look at the *Guardian* cartoons.

'Doonesbury is funny today', he thought, 'though they should put an age-limit on those who read the *If* cartoons'.

'Hands in the air!' screamed a voice from behind him. He turned around. It was his sister, already a spy for the Young Conservatives, rounding-up all non-*Telegraph* readers. His reputation as a Tory-ite had been blown. No longer would he get the Free Chocolate Bars for writing 'Maggy is Great' in English essays. Instead, his friends would be ashamed of him, and his name would join the lists of subversives trying to bring down the oppressive dictatorship of True-Blue Toryism. It was only a matter of time before he would hear the knock on the door from the local councillor...

'Your tea's ready, Matt', said Mum. 'Hurry up and drink it before it gets cold'.

He mumbled a faint 'thank you' and turned to the travel pages of the newspaper. 'Welcome to Sunny Ireland, where not only the ground wears green, where the roads are painted red in anticipation, and where people actually live in a bog in a city. For special discounts, try getting shot with a friend...'

As Matt stepped off the ferry, he could see the signs of organised British rule everywhere: the 'Brits Go Home' signs in cafes, the sound of happy rifle fire coming from the hills and a 'bring-your-own-petrol-bomb' party in the Falls Road.

'Warned you about coming in the off-season', said the guide. 'During peak time we provide guided tours of IRA safe-houses, but the guides are usually dead by now. See you soon!' Then he added, 'We also provide special rates for coffins, if you need one...'. Matt left all this happy optimism and went into a cafe. 'Are you British?' asked the owner, 'Then take one of these'. It was a blood-donor card.

It was his last day in Belfast, and he was climbing on to his ferry, when he noticed that happiness exists in a broken bottle thrown at you. How could he explain that he was their spiritual brother and that all men are equals (except when they attack Matt), without risking damage to his tanned face? This was too much...

'Dinner-time, Matt', bawled his sister. 'You forgot to lay the table, so I'm not doing the washing-up'. He sighed, sat down to his chips, egg and sausage and thought of the new Bob Dylan album he wanted to buy. Still, buying it would be a bit like 'Knocking on Heaven's Door... '.

MATTHEW VENTRELLA

'Masks'

Or Epitaph to a Dead Clown

Why do we need a mask to hide behind,
When natural selves are acceptable?
Are we afraid of what others might find
Behind the showy spectacle?

Surely these masks we should discard,
For they are unnatural, false and fake.
Although to show reality is hard,
Others should, in truth, reality take.

ROLAND MARTIN

‘Jobs’

My first job came when I was twelve. My sister had for some time been delivering papers for a small newsagent near us, and I was deeply envious of the £8 a month it brought her; it was only natural that I should follow her into journalism! As I went to boarding school, the best I could do was fill in for other paper boys and girls when they went on holiday. When the first day came I rode with my sister in great trepidation to collect the papers. Suitably burdened, briefed by my sister and the newsagent, I began my work.

I had been told that it took about 15 minutes to do a round, which didn't seem an awful long time. What I didn't know was that it took that long when you were used to the route. I wasn't, and I was new to delivering. An hour and a quarter later I was approaching the last few houses, tired, disgruntled and thoroughly fed up with the whole lark. Even today I'm not sure what happened next. The gathering dusk, an insane estate planner and my general attitude combined to cast me to new depths of disillusionment: I managed to post four papers through the wrong doors - calamity! I didn't know what to do, so I rode home and luckily I ran into Lucy, a paper-girl and a friend of my sister's. She lent me the money to buy four new papers - from a different newsagent, I might add. This event roused great derision in my sister, who told me that I should have posted the papers half in and half out of the letter-boxes.

Apart from that, the only other unfortunate incident happened on Thursday, the day when *The Citizen*, the local paper, published its bumper edition. I had naively agreed to swop rounds with my sister, who wanted to find out what my route was like. As her route had more papers than mine, she offered to pay me 20p. How could I refuse that sort of money?

The papers felt as though they were printed on lead. I staggered round delivering, only to be met by some miserable septuagenarian standing in the middle of the road saying, 'You're late! I like my paper on time. I'll complain to the newsagent, I will'.

Any job-satisfaction I had previously felt withered to nothing, and the next time the newspaper shop rang requiring a part-time worker I refused. Upon being told that they wouldn't ask me again, I had trouble restraining a cheer as I put the phone down.

After I had avoided work for three years, money and boredom got the better of me; I worked as a casual labourer, joining the masses of the proletariat for five days. It was at a small engineering firm of which my dad is managing director - of about eight people. The work involved watching a saw carving up an aluminium tube, and later operating a lathe. I worked there for five days and was utterly bored by Tuesday. I must admit that the work had a marginally interesting potential, as experience allowed you to use more complicated equipment, but I thought that I would be tired even of that after a week or so. In fact, of the three boys of my age working there, two experienced dissatisfaction with the job; the third was the owner's son.

This experience has radically altered my view of life. I realise that if I become bored by working over a few

isolated days in a half-term, even with the lure of substantial payment, there is small likelihood of my coping with a permanent job. Twenty-five years in one job would probably leave me a nervous wreck, or worse, reduce me to a thoroughly dead suburban commuter with no brain to speak of. So I have been led to a serious re-evaluation of my career plans; I couldn't work with machines or do paperwork, and even working with people, as a teacher or social worker does, would probably expose me to such dregs of civilisation as to reduce me to the state mentioned above. So I must take the only career left to me. What 'O' levels do you need to troubleshoot for the Palestine Liberation Organisation?

MARK NICHOLLS



Form I Runners (Julian Wilkie centre)

C. J. Wood

‘How the Other Half Lives’

I live in comfort: I seem to have it all: I have freedom as an individual; I belong to a democratic society; nothing stops me from speaking my mind, conveying my views, being myself. Those that live on the other side do not. They are merely members of a population living their lives within the communist system; venturing outside this system is strictly forbidden, so dangerous that the individual dares not be *too* individual for fear of the consequences. Some do stand up to speak for themselves, fed up with the party’s speaking for them, but they are briskly ‘taken away’, their crime telling the truth. This truth cannot be listened to; it must be condemned if the one-party state is to survive, for it can survive only whilst there is no free opposition.

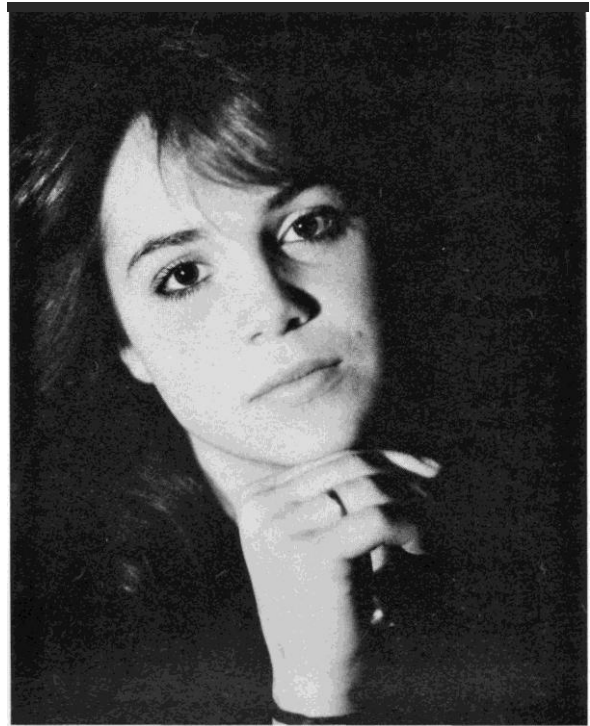
I have cousins in East Germany and visited them as a child and then three years ago, when I was more of an age to see the contrast between East and West as it really is. The first time we travelled by car across the border, I was seven, my sister four. I couldn’t understand why the men at the border didn’t smile; certainly not many officials of this kind do smile, but this wasn’t the same: they were cold, their eyes staring hard from under their caps at you, as if you were some sort of criminal. I was very excited; it was like entering the world of Russian spies. But I was also frightened. These new, austere surroundings impressed me, the Westerner. Even as a child, I could tell everything was different. One saw cars being taken to pieces, mirrors put underneath them, suitcases carelessly flung open and searched by guards. The guards had no respect for these people; it was just a job, a job they thought gave them some special authority, by which they could confiscate anything they found offensive to them personally or to the CPSU.

On my second trip I felt no excitement. I only cringed and felt a deep roll in my stomach; I hated the way one nation was so starkly divided between freedom and oppression.

My mother, being very close to her cousin, feels this much more than I. She is a West German and knows only too well the differences, perhaps feeling a little guilt. She was lucky enough to be on the right side in 1961, unlike her cousin Waltraut, who stayed behind to nurse her sick mother instead of getting out in the short time there was to escape from the communist claws of Russia.

Waltraut and her family live in a small village outside the city of Erfurt, very near to a Russian army base. They lead uncomplicated lives. They enjoy all they have, as they must, so any extras can be seen as a bonus. One such ‘bonus’ is chocolate bars from Britain; they love our chocolate, with a special preference for Crunchie bars. The children, two boys and a girl, go to school in the village, where no doubt they are forced to learn the origins of Marxist-communism, but they don’t complain; they can’t!

The elder boy is at present a conscript in the Russian army, as every boy in his late teens has to be. He speaks excellent English and always enjoys trying it out when we visit. It’s amazing to think that someone who will never - or hardly ever - be able to leave East Germany nevertheless has such an interest in languages from outside. Of course, he also has to learn Russian...



Portrait of a Girl

M. Bews

The soldiers in the Russian army base are forbidden to fraternise with the Germans, and vice versa. No questions may be asked about the goings-on there, and any obvious interest in the base is pounced upon and results in punishment. No doubt our movements around the village were surveyed and noted, although I must add that East Germany is one of the less strictly ruled of the Russian satellite states.

Although most things appear grey and drab, buildings remain unfinished and people rarely smile, I always remember the birds; they sing and fly about freely, the only creatures seemingly unaffected by the regime, a colourful relief in a bleak country.

I hope to visit this country again in 1989 and discover more about the feelings of my relatives, their attitude to the West and the way they live, in an effort to broaden my understanding of such a depressing, frustrating, yet vastly interesting, subject.

JESSICA NAISH



S. Hurwitz

Founder's Day Chairman's Speech

The Chairman of Governors, Mr Torquil Norman, paid tribute to Mr Tolputt in his first year as Headmaster, remarking how easily and successfully he and his wife Patta had adapted to their new roles and how much energy and enthusiasm they had already injected into the life of the school.

He commented on the rapid progress being made with the two new boarding houses and invited parents to a short ceremony after the speeches, when the foundation stone of Lawn House would be laid by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Colonel M. St J. V. Gibbs.

He went on to apologise to parents, pupils and staff for the inconvenience caused by the building work, but recalled his remarks made last year on the desirability, and indeed necessity, of the development. The short-term inconvenience was more than acceptable, given the long-term benefits to Rendcomb's physical environment and pastoral care.

Finally Mr Norman asked pupils to support the new structure of the General Meeting. He had attended a meeting himself and had been impressed by the commitment of the representatives and the purposefulness of the debate. He asked for even more enthusiastic pupil participation and support; this would ensure the success and continuity of an important forum of discussion and a unique feature of Rendcomb life.

Address by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, GCB

Sir Henry's highly distinguished naval career included a major part in the Falkland Islands campaign. Indeed it was Sir Henry who convinced Mrs Thatcher on the evening of 31st March 1982, as the Argentinean Fleet moved to capture the islands, that Britain could and should respond to the invasion by despatching a Task Force.

In an address spiced with humour in anecdote and a genial modesty in personal reminiscence, Sir Henry drew on the lessons of the Falklands war. He spoke of the courage, initiative and enterprise, both private and public, of that time, pointing out that the world was a better and safer place because of the tough, principled stand Britain had taken then. He drew attention, therefore, to the resourcefulness and courage displayed by human beings in those difficult days.

Speech of Thanks

by the Head Prefect, Edward Webb

Thanking Sir Henry for his entertaining speech, Ed Webb developed one of the themes it had included, our individual responsibility for our own future. Whereas previous Head Prefects, he said, had spoken of the Rendcomb Experience, he wished to break with tradition and consider the future, in particular the responsibility that comes with privilege.

As beneficiaries of the Founder's vision and generosity, Rendcomb pupils received a privileged education which must not be taken for granted. They had a duty to themselves to make the most of all opportunities offered here; beyond that, they were likely to play important roles in society and must never forget those less privileged; all those leaving the school had a duty to society as well as to themselves.

He asked those still at Rendcomb to continue to work as a community to preserve the essential character of the school. It would continue to evolve, as the present building programme showed, but it was the people who made the school what it was.

Judo Demonstration

S. Hurwitz



The Headmaster's Report

Making his first Founder's Day Report, the Headmaster stressed that this year he could make no comparisons; he could only give first impressions.

He started by saying that he was glad to have had round him during the year a number of people who knew what Rendcomb was, and he referred to J. H. Simpson's first Founder's Day speech, when he had spoken of trust, of freedom and self-discipline and of kindness, describing a school where everyone knew everyone and each could find a *niche*, find something he was good at. He had spoken also of demands, responsibilities, of excellence and exploiting individual talents to the full.

Simpson had had plans for development in those days, and now this Founder's Day was to be marked with a special ceremony, the laying of the foundation stone of one of the two new boarding houses by Colonel Gibbs, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

He had been struck during the year by the strong affection senior pupils had for Rendcomb, an intelligent affection which had enabled the boys and girls of 6A to take on the job of initiating a new Headmaster with great energy, courtesy and sense of mission, for which he was grateful.

He appreciated too the academic leadership offered by the staff, the latter marked by a 95% 'A' level pass rate in 1987, with four firm and two conditional Oxbridge places and one further place won by a pupil from last year's 6A. This year the staff had faced the enormous bureaucratic and administrative demands of the GCSE; GCSE had not gone as badly as the media would have had us believe.

He then referred to the wide range of other activities in which the staff of a boarding school is involved. It had been a superb year for sport in all major games, and Rendcomb had at last reached the pages of *Wisden*. The creative arts, dear to the Founder's heart, had flourished, a wide range of musical performance reaching its peak perhaps in John Willson's final concert, with an orchestra of nearly 50 players performing Beethoven's *Eroica*. Drama had included *The Pirates of Penzance* and a junior play, and there was a Sixth Form play still to come. Some fine art and craft work had been produced, a selection of it to be seen in the Founder's Day exhibition, a tribute to the passion, humour and attention to detail to be found in the art school.

After thanking his colleagues on the staff for their welcome, inspiration, encouragement and support during the year, he went on to say how much he valued the involvement of the Parents' Association with the school, its staunch efforts in fund-raising and its varied social functions, also the advice and encouragement he had received from parents. The Association's committee had been a channel for suggestions to him and a sounding-board for his own thoughts and proposals. He found the sense of community among parents an important part of the special atmosphere of Rendcomb.

He outlined the forthcoming changes in dress: formal dress for church and interviews, working dress for everyday and, at present only for the Sixth Form, casual dress for evenings and weekends. He asked for parents' support in implementing these changes.

The Headmaster went on to describe the changes to be achieved by the development plan. The building of the two new boys' boarding houses and the modification of the main building to create a third would mean continuity for all boys after their third year, and all fifth- and sixth-formers would have single study bedrooms; Park House would be used for girls only. The present pressure within the main building would be relieved, more classrooms created and a fine central sixth form common room provided.

But Rendcomb was to remain a small school, its principles unchanged. It was a great tribute to the vision of the Trustees and of Rendcomb's benefactors that the development had become feasible. This was the greatest possible statement of faith in the future of the school into the next century.

Bricks and mortar were not everything, however, and he took pleasure in announcing the names of the three housemasters who would start the new houses in 1989: Dr Lindsay Haslett in School House, in the main building, Mr Christopher King in Stable House and Mr Mike Newby in Lawn House. He had already announced that Mrs Charlotte Holdaway would take over Park House next September, and Mr Paul Sykes would take over Godman House from Mr Newby.

Mentioning those who would be leaving the staff this year, he paid especially warm tribute to Tony Partridge, Clerk of Works for the past 15 years, to Charlie and Jane Hannaford who were leaving Park House, and to John Willson, who had been Housemaster of the Senior House for 13 years.

Finally, he thanked the Governors for their encouragement, trust and support. He and his family felt very lucky to be at Rendcomb and very grateful for the welcome they had received.



Self-portrait - Scott Vernon

C. J. Wood



Demolition begins

C. J. Wood

Reports

Bursar's Notes

After two really long and cold winters it has been a pleasure to have had a rather more normal one this year. No freeze-ups, not much snow and even an early Spring: I wish it could be the same every year!

Tony Partridge, whose photograph appeared in last year's magazine alongside one of our boilers, was 65 on 1st June, and although he certainly does not look his age the boiler does, and I am glad to say that we are going to be able to replace all the Main Building central heating boilers this summer and the hot-water boiler at Christmas, with substantial fuel savings.

Paul Kampe, who has been Tony Partridge's number two for the last ten years, will take over as Clerk of Works from 1st September, when Tony retires to part-time work.

The new buildings are proceeding apace, and even at the time of writing their shape is distinguishable and they are up to first floor level. The exterior finish of reconstituted stone looks attractive. All at Rendcomb have been extremely patient with this very large project proceeding in their midst, and I am most grateful. Relationships with the construction firm are excellent; how could they be otherwise as the Bursar and the Foreman in charge are both keen golfers? The Second Master, Mr Burden, the Housemasters and I are now planning the furniture and furnishings. The houses will be complete in early summer next year, and we hope to get them properly furnished in good time for occupation in early September.

The third leg of this development project is to alter the use of the Main Building to provide a boarding house for 52 pupils, more classrooms and additional changing-room facilities. The work for this will take place during the summer holidays of 1989 which, thank goodness, will last ten weeks instead of the usual eight, as there is a large quantity of work to be undertaken and quite a lot of it is structural. If the Bursar is seen tearing what remains of his hair out towards the end of August, it will be clear that there are problems!

I would like, without being pompous I hope, to commend the Parents' Association in their fund-raising efforts. There is every chance that they will hit their target of £7,000 for half the cost of converting the two grass courts to a maintenance-free surface by the Autumn, and the Governors' Finance Committee has agreed to meet the other half of the cost - not to be taken as a precedent! The Parents still have a way to go to find their half, and so any contributions will be gratefully received, and I will be happy to pass them on to their Treasurer, Mr Peter Gee.

E. T. T.

The Parents' Association

We print below the report made to the Association by this year's Chairman, Mr John Warren.

This year has seen the Association move up a gear.

Following our very successful sponsored walk and barbecue last September when, with your tremendous support, we actually raised £4,000 for the Cheltenham Cobalt Appeal, your Committee proposed to the AGM that the Parents' Association should raise £7,000 towards the cost of resurfacing grass tennis courts at the College. This proposal, having been passed by you, is now being actively pursued in several ways by your Committee.

It was decided that two major fund-raising events per term were the most we could physically handle and expect you to support. Our first and only event this Lent Term was our Grand Auction, held on Saturday 12th March. This provided considerable fellowship in organising and preparation, culminating with a most enjoyable and successful day when £2,500 was raised towards our target. My thanks to Alan Ramsden-Hare for his splendid organisation. Our prize lottery tickets have been circulated and many have already been returned; the prizes for this will be drawn at the Summer Ball on 27th August. Counting on a cricket match/fête on 3rd July we are confident of achieving our target. Who knows, we may even have a little to spare!

From a Chairman's point of view I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my Committee, who have more than pulled their weight, and their respective 'other halves' who have been co-opted on more than one occasion and given so freely and willingly of their time and support.

Besides our fund raising activities we have maintained good relationships with parents and staff, with Mr John Tolputt sitting in and participating at many of our meetings, and I believe the interchange of ideas which has taken place will be of future benefit to the pupils and parents of Rendcomb.

I would like to point out that at least one member of the Parents' Association is in attendance at the various parents' meetings held during the school year. They are available for advice, encouragement and can always act as your mouthpiece with staff or headmaster, should you so wish it.

Following several requests from parents of students who have recently left or are about to leave the College, to find some way in which all contact with it need not be

severed, we are currently exploring ways and means in which this could be provided. The Parents' Association from time to time needs assistance with functions and events, and it would be helpful if the Association could call on this group of 'old' parents, as well as from parents of existing students. In this way it would be possible to spread the requests for support over a larger number of parents, both past and present, to the ultimate benefit of the College.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all my Committee for their various efforts and for your benefit I detail their names below:

Vice-Chairman Alan Ramsden-Hare

Treasurer Peter Gee

Secretary June Satterwaite

David Barnett, Susan Nicholls, Michael Paine and, representing the staff, Tim Lane.

Finally, can I say how much I have enjoyed my year as Chairman; I shall be leaving the Committee as my daughter leaves Rendcomb this summer. I hand the Parents' Association over with some regret, but assured that it will go from strength to strength.

JOHN WARREN



Parents' cricket match rained off

C. J. Wood

The Parents' Association Auction

Saturday, 12th March 1988 saw another first for the school, the first-ever auction organised by the Parents' Association, mainly to raise money towards the cost of converting two grass tennis courts into hard ones.

The doors of the Dulverton Hall were opened at eleven o'clock for viewing, and by two o'clock, the time appointed for bidding to start, the hall was filled. On offer was a whole range of objects, over a thousand items, ranging from paperbacks and tennis rackets to a chest of drawers which eventually fetched over £1,000.

We were fortunate to have an Old Rendcombian, Frazer Glennie, a qualified auctioneer, to conduct the proceedings.

One of the surprises of the day was an elderly cupboard, in need of extensive repair and expected to sell for a nominal sum, which went for over £200!

People enjoyed themselves, and the total profit made was in excess of £2,500, so it is fair to say that this event was definitely a success on all fronts.

JONATHAN LUTWYCHE

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Once again it has been a busy year for the scheme, with 21 Fourth Form candidates for the Bronze Award and five 6B candidates for the Gold. Also, the Third Form has embarked on the First Aid course, which can be counted towards their award if they enter the scheme next term.

We are fortunate that Julie Rogers, our new Matron, is a fully qualified St John's Ambulance Brigade Instructor, and thus we no longer have to rely on outside instructors for our First Aid course. Only the assessment of the practical examination now has to be done externally.

On the skill side of the scheme, the usual menu of activities, from photography to trumpet-playing, has continued, but the highlight from a consumer's point of view has once again been Mrs Newby's cookery group. At least one member of the staff found it difficult to keep awake in afternoon lessons after attending one of the excellent 'D of E teas' on a warm summer's afternoon!

A report on the expeditions appears elsewhere in this issue, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to all the hard work that Mr Willson has done over the years, organising, leading and assessing the 'outward bound' parts of the scheme. It is through his efforts that the scheme has become such a valuable feature of Rendcomb life, and we wish him well in his retirement. Mr King and Mr O'Connor will be taking over this part of the scheme from next September.

M. H. G.



Prospective Buyers

C. J. Wood

The Junior House

The school year began with a visit to the Royal Forest of Dean. The boys were given an excellent guided tour of Clearwell Caves, in which iron ore has been mined for nearly 3,000 years, forming a complex system of underground caverns. The ghost story about the old miner who frightened a TV crew certainly had some of us looking over our shoulders! The next stop was the Dean Heritage Centre which offers a museum, mill-wheel, farmyard, woodland walks and the ever-popular adventure playground.

A week later everyone was walking for charity: 12 boys in the House completed 20 miles, and our contribution was just over £800.

The swimming and skating trips on Sundays were continued and, following on from last year's visit to see *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, we took advantage of a performance of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* which was dynamic, colourful and well acted.

Once again there was an extremely high standard of modelling in the Christmas Term, and Patrick Morgan took first prize with his M16 half-track and German anti-tank gun. Fortunately, thanks to the help of parents and Mr Graham, many boys were able to attend the Swindon Model and Hobbies Expo 88 in February and, although they were not allowed to compete in the one-tenth scale radio-controlled buggy races, they could see a wide range of static and working models. Both forms studied flight, and in particular helicopters and, in addition to seeing the models flying in Swindon, they were privileged to scramble over the real thing, thanks to Christopher Lawton's father, who is stationed at Middle Wallop, headquarters of the Army Air Corps. This trip was combined with a visit to the Museum of Army Flying, which has some very imaginative displays, as well as many of the early helicopters.

Both year groups were extremely keen on sporting activities, and the team reports are available later in this issue, but a more unusual sport started one Sunday afternoon in the Summer Term, after the kitchen staff had dumped several oil drums near the House. This 'rafting' inspired many interesting designs and much cunning construction; sadly, few rafts floated, but who cares when everyone is having fun, except perhaps Mrs Wood, who was presented with the dirty games kit!

Also in the Summer Term the annual Walkabout took place, and Mr Graham came to the rescue by transporting nearly a hundred walkers to their starting points. One group ended up in Cheltenham - could this have been a map-reading error - and another had to ask a policeman how to get to Rendcomb! The weather was kind, and all walkers enjoyed themselves, which of course is the object of the exercise.

As well as good walkers, we found we had some good runners in Form I, Julian Wilkie (see p18), who represented Gloucestershire in an inter-county competition, and Andrew Branson from the same club in Bourton. Also from Form I, Barrie Davis represented Cheltenham Swimming Club in several inter-club galas.

Finally, there was one major break with tradition this year, when the four duty group system changed to three, named after the nearby villages of Chedworth, Colesbourne and Withington; these were run by William Hunter-Smart, Nigel Fischer and Alastair Graham respectively.

C. J. W.

C. J. Wood





Form I at Middle Wallop

C. J. Wood

Careers

The year followed the usual general pattern, with the perennial problem of trying to fit activities in with the school teaching timetable. Even so, there were two significant additions to the programme, namely a visit by most of the Fifth Form to RAF Cosford for the Joint Services Open Day and a visit to Oxford by members of 6A for lunch in two of the colleges and meetings with tutors and undergraduates.

In connection with the former visit, this has been a particularly active year, with over a dozen visits by personnel of the three armed services. Students should note that representatives from each service visit at least once a term, and there is usually also at least one large-scale display or presentation each year. This year a record number of interviews were arranged, reflecting the continued interest in careers in the services. Indeed, the Royal Marines Schools' Liaison Officer is an OR, Tim Daniels, and we are pleased to welcome him back.

It was also a pleasure to welcome a retired headmaster, Mr G. Sturgess from ISCO, and our own Headmaster to the meeting with parents of fifth form boys immediately after the Spring examinations. I know that parents find this a valuable meeting, and I too value the opportunity to discuss our plans and aspirations.

Later in the Spring Term we had the annual Careers Convention, which was very well attended by both students and parents. Parents seem to find the bookstall and the student grants section particularly helpful.

Apart from the examinations, the main careers activity in the Summer Term was the post-examination Work Experience Week for fifth-formers. There was a significant shift this year to financial services, and such was the pressure that it was only a few days before the start of Reports of some of the experiences gained by fifth-formers appear below, and I would again like to record my thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the year, including the teaching staff who have co-operated so fully in the arrangements for interviews during lesson-times.

R. K.

Work Experience

Anthony Hunt Associates, (Structural Engineers)

Structural Engineering involves the building of houses, and especially complexes; it is limited to the main structure, or shell, of the building concerned, dealing with the plans of the building drawn by architects.

On the first day I found myself in a large office, surrounded by six permanent workers. I was given the job of arranging in order about 320 sheets of plans, removing those superseded. One of the plans showed an extension of Heathrow Airport's Terminal Three, presently being built over a period of three years. I carried on with this on the second day and on Wednesday morning, until I had completed a comprehensive list of all the plans, removed those superseded and stamped them, then arranged them in order from No. 1 to No. 320.

On Wednesday afternoon I was set to work as a draughtsman, tracing the plans of the White Hart Hotel/Pub at Fairford, which is to be converted into about seven units. I was then taken to a different office, where they were using a computer to do 'Computer-aided Drafting' or CAD. On Thursday I finished my work on the White Hart, copied it seven times on a very large photo-copier in the basement and sent off four copies to the contractors, builders and architects. The plan showed where five trial pits should be dug, so that one could see how deep foundations should be and what materials should be used.

The week was altogether very good, with enjoyable work and people who were kind and accepted me as one of their own, even allowing me into their darts league!

JAMES DOWSON

Monahan and Co. (Accountants)

Day One

All the staff were very friendly and helpful. I was put under the direct supervision of Mr Stephen Ayres, who showed me the ropes and then left me with a calculator and a large ledger sheet to sort out some accounts! It was a bit daunting at first, but I soon worked out what I was to do and precisely how I was to do it. My duties also included making morning and afternoon coffee for everyone; one of the hardest jobs of the day was giving each person the right drink!

Day Two

Another good day, in which I continued with my accounts for this week. Steve was helpful and friendly and made the job easier, although adding numbers up on a calculator was never too hard! I also learnt the mysteries of using the photocopier and had an insight into losing myself in the files!

Day Three

Today I was introduced to some much more complicated accounting techniques but, with the very helpful supervision I received, I got along fine. The staff take a real interest in helping me, and all are very friendly and chatty. Only three days into the week I am feeling like a regular member of the team.

Day Four

In the morning I continued with the more difficult accounts and received some very comprehensive and useful tuition. The people here have been very willing to teach me and very friendly in the process. I have been most impressed by the treatment I have received, and I would recommend this company to future fifth-formers.

JAMES PRINCE

Astam (Architects)

Day One

Having arrived early, so as to make a good impression, I got to work immediately. We went out to Ampney Crucis to survey and measure two plots of land subject to an exchange contract to improve access to a hotel undergoing major extensions designed by Astam.

Day Two

Drew up scale drawings and plans of the two studied sites on A1 paper, first in pencil, then traced over in ink of varying thicknesses, from 0.18mm to 0.5mm. The drawing was done on a large easel-type drawing board.

Day Three

I finished my drawings from the previous day, and we then went out to Cirencester and assessed numerous problems encountered in the building of a substantial extension to Lester Mackinnon's veterinary surgery. After digging down two metres, a solid foundation had still not been found, so literally tonnes of concrete had to be used to fill and strengthen the trench. I also went to Pacebrook printing office, to have prints of my drawings produced for the client concerned.

Day Four

Today I was promoted to doing far more complex drawings, now involving the plans of whole mansions, first, second and third floors! Although fairly difficult, it was extremely rewarding when I had completed certain stages. I was also trusted to draw labelled elevations, using stencils for lettering, these being outside views of the building showing all its external physical features from different perspectives. This was great fun to do.

Essentially, the week was very interesting, showing a number of aspects of such a job. The staff were very friendly, especially my workmate, Ian, who was a good laugh and helpful in showing me the ropes. Thank you, Mr Kelsey, for arranging such a worthwhile venture.

JOSEPH NICHOLLS



Portrait - Duke of Edinburgh Photo Group

The General Meeting

To say that the Meeting had simply been 'active' this year would be a major understatement. Since its radical reconstruction last September, the work of the new Meeting Reform Committee, the Meeting has been able to find a purpose and to gain respect from pupils and staff alike. Thanks must be given for the work of John Barnett and for the enthusiasm of the Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors in helping to achieve this year's success.

The representative system has worked very satisfactorily, with form representatives tackling such issues as getting the showers redecorated, installing better telephones in the Main Building, and school uniform. With regard to the last, the Meeting has fulfilled one of its constitutional aims, namely to be the body representing pupil opinion and to liaise between the pupils and the authorities.

The various committees also managed to function ably: the Food Committee passed on to the Catering Manager and the Bursar complaints and suggestions made in meetings; the Entertainments Committee, under the auspices of John Delaney and Vaughan Tredwell, successfully organised two end-of-term Sixth Form dances, a 6B barbecue and the 6A leavers' party, and also found time to arrange, through Mr Wood, a new system of entertainment for Saturday evenings, using video recorders rather than the very expensive and unpopular cine-films.

The Snooker Committee was kept busy as usual maintaining the two tables, and bought a new Fourth Form table. Meanwhile the Debating Society organised two well-attended debates, one on the use of animals for experiment, the other on the abolition of public schools. The Arts Society continued to flourish, running two creative writing competitions and showing several interesting videos.

It has been particularly pleasing to see more involvement of the junior members, who managed to acquire several board games for the Junior House through the Entertainments Committee. However, it remains to be said that in places the Meeting work has still needed tightening up, for example the organisation of the school and staff newspapers during the first two terms.

All that is necessary for the continued success of the Meeting is a little energy, time, enthusiasm and commitment from those involved. With this in mind, it should be able to develop with the school during the forthcoming period of change; indeed it is hoped that next term a meeting will take place with the prospective Housemasters of the new houses, a follow-up to the useful meeting with the Second Master and the Bursar.

Finally I should like to give my personal thanks to all those who have worked over the past year to inject vigour into the Meeting and who have given it what was an urgently needed resuscitation.

AUBREY POWELL
CHAIRMAN, SUMMER TERM

Public Work

This year, owing to the difficulty of finding sufficient suitable activities for all members of the college, public work has been carried out only by members of the Fourth, Fifth and 6B years. The wide range of activities included community service, gardening, newspaper salvage and estate management. In addition it was possible to allow some pupils to carry out work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards during the PW period.

G. J. S.



Alex and J. J. on the canals

M. R. A. Giggs

The Friends of Rendcomb

During the past year we have added a number of Friends to our roll, most of them choosing to covenant, and have received a number of generous gifts.

Plans are being made to allow the Friends to work more closely with the Parents' Association, and I am grateful to this year's Chairman, John Warren, for inviting me to attend a Committee Meeting to discuss the subject. As both bodies have the interests of the College at heart, their co-operation can only be profitable.

To provide more scholarships we shall need to widen the circle of Friends. All this year's 'ex-parents' have been invited to join, and in 1989 we shall invite all ORs who left in 1979 to do the same.

DAVID SELLS
TRUSTEE

Chaplain's Notes

This year has seen a major change in the College's approach to Religious Studies. No longer are pupils prepared for public examinations in the Fourth Form, but cover instead a broader and, I hope, more interesting syllabus than was possible under the old system. In addition to traditional Old and New Testament Studies, we now cover The Development of the Church, The Church Today and also take a look at the other Major World Religions. This combination leads nicely into our Sixth Form work, where our small group discussions seek to encourage the pupils to look at the problems of contemporary society from a Christian standpoint.

It has been an interesting year from the Chapel point of view as well, and a number of memorable sermons and addresses have been given. Worthy of particular mention were those preached by the Reverend David Barlow, Chaplain of Cheltenham Ladies' College, and Dr Stephen Winkley, Second Master at Winchester College, who in very different ways, challenged us to be ourselves, despite all the risks it involved, despite the mistakes that might be made. 'The man who never made a mistake, never made anything!' Something for both pupils and staff to ponder on! Canon Roger Grey, the Diocesan Director of Education and a Governor of the College, spoke movingly about the problems of the severely handicapped, and challenged us to try and put ourselves in their position. He related his sermon to 'Under the Eye of the Clock' the prize-winning autobiography of Christopher Nolan, a young man so totally incapacitated that he can move only his head and can communicate with the world around him only by the use of a 'unicorn-stick' attached to his forehead, with which he is able to type one letter at a time.

On Remembrance Sunday we were delighted to be able to welcome the local branch of the Royal British Legion to our Church. The Service followed the traditional pattern and included the Choir's rendering of the anthem, 'And they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth' and a stirring 'Sunset' by the College Brass Ensemble. The many letters we received from visiting members of the British Legion indicated how meaningful they had found the Service and how much they had appreciated it.

The Confirmation Service on 20th March, Passion Sunday, was conducted by the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Right Reverend Jeremy Walsh. Twenty-one candidates were presented, including the following pupils: Esther McNeile, Samantha Perkins, Ashley Clark, Henry Le Fleming, Anthony Miles, Michael Moody, Richard Parsons, Martin Smith, Nicholas S. Smith, Leigh Thompson, Simon Williams, Hamish Auld, Gareth Davies, James Grafton, Paul Irving, Andrew Pollard, Nicholas J. Smith and Paul Sumsion. In his address the Bishop related the theme of Confirmation to that of Passion Sunday and reminded the candidates that the Confirmation of their Baptism into the Christian Church, required from them a real and sacrificial commitment - 'Among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be the willing slave of all.' It is encouraging that so many young people are prepared to commit themselves to Christianity, and I am sure that the increasing number of pupils attending the

Sunday Celebration of The Holy Communion is further evidence of this growing dedication.

This year we have been very fortunate in having an outstanding group of Chapel Ushers. Under the able direction of Mr White, Sophia Michaelides, Christina Rowe, Paul Griffiths, Christopher Hoare and David Kenney showed themselves to be a cheerful, punctual and efficient team. They deserve our thanks and our very best wishes for the future. It was appropriate that they should officiate for the last time at the Leavers' Service, held on Saturday, 25th June, for those leaving and for their parents. It was a memorable occasion - The hymns were chosen by the Leavers; Mr Willson and Mr Hannaford, Leavers themselves, played the organ and read the Lesson respectively, and Mr White gave what I am sure will be an unforgettable address, in which he invited the Leavers to make a 'Photograph Album' of their memories of Rendcomb, through which they could 'flick back', to remind themselves of all the benefits they had enjoyed through being here.

The Choir this year has been somewhat smaller than hitherto, but what it has lacked in quantity has been more than compensated for by its quality and its enthusiasm. We owe them our thanks for leading us in our worship and also Mr Lane and Mr Willson who have accompanied us on the organ and Mr Graham who has helped Mr Lane with the training of the Choir. Sadly, Mr Willson leaves us at the end of the Summer Term, after twenty-one years at Rendcomb, and I know that everybody associated with the Church, from Village and College, would like me, on their behalf, to thank him for all that he has done for the Church during that time and to wish him all the best for the future.

During the year the Church has been kept beautifully decorated by our Flower Guild, and I am most grateful for all the time and trouble they take to help us, 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.' This year, for the first time, the First Form have taken on the responsibility for giving the Church a weekly clean and for helping Mr Frank Fry, who works so hard to keep the Churchyard cut and tidy. The many favourable comments we receive from our visitors about the state of the Church and Churchyard reflect their enthusiastic industry, for which we are all grateful.

Our thanks are also due to all those who have helped in Church Services or Assemblies during the year, The Churchwardens, Officers and Members of the Parochial Church Council, those who have read, preached or given an address, those who have helped with collection, and especially to Mr White for his expert management 'Front of House' and Mr Hawkswell and Dr Smith for regularly assisting with the chalice at the Sunday Celebrations of the Holy Communion.

During the coming year we hope to finalise some important developments for the Church, and I hope to be able to give details of the plans in the next edition. In the meantime may I wish Godspeed to those of you who are leaving. I hope you will come back and see us from time to time. To those who will be returning: I look forward to working with you in the year ahead. You are always most welcome to call at the Rectory - you don't need to have a particular reason!

P. J. S.

Talks

'The Paradox of Prague'

For those of us possessed with *Perestroika*, galvanised by *Glasnost* and agog with Gorbachov, Mr Price's lecture on 11th February came as a sobering and timely reminder that the Soviet Union still has a long way to go in its democratisation process. The lecture consisted of a series of slides showing the sights of Prague old and new, each with a little story attached to it contrasting the Western facade of Prague with the repressive eastern reality. Tales that will stick in my mind are of the old lady questioned by the secret police for patting on the head the young daughter of a British Embassy official, of the queues which form for anything and everything, and of the desire for plastic carrier bags bearing the names of western chain stores.

The architectural bleakness of modern Prague, with row after row of grey tower blocks, was also startling. Perhaps the most telling point was the way in which Prague seemed so like our own country to look at, with houses, castles, shops and other buildings that would normally be associated with a western town, but that under the surface it was so repressive and subdued, a reminder that we shouldn't take our freedom for granted. I'm sure that all the Sixth Form would like to thank Mr Price for such an enjoyable lecture.

JOHN BARNETT

'Smoking Out'

D. D. Bowerman

'Weather on Other Worlds'

On 19th November Dr I. N. James, from the University of Reading, came to give the fifth Michael Wills Memorial Lecture, on 'Weather on Other Worlds'.

Introducing Dr James, Mr Kelsey reminded us that this was the 'year of the environment', saying that perhaps we should think also about the greater environment.

Dr James began his lecture with a few slides of our neighbouring planets and a brief history of space exploration, going on to define the term 'comparative meteorology'.

He then told us how clouds and weather systems are formed on the earth, comparing the process to that in a steam engine.

He then related these ideas to the other planets in our solar system: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and so on. Coming to Venus, Dr James told us of the principle of super rotation, whereby the clouds rotate around a planet at a faster rate than the planet rotates about its axis. He also spent some time describing the earth-like atmosphere on Mars and its global dust storms, which occur in Spring.

Returning to earth, he explained why our atmosphere was suitable for life, referring to its violent chemical nature in comparison with those on other planets. He mentioned the 'Gaia Hypothesis', which suggests that the earth's atmosphere adjusts itself to create the best growth medium.

Dr James concluded his talk with a warning, echoed by many of the audience, against pollution and the gradual destruction of the earth's atmosphere.

It was a very interesting lecture, and the photographs shown were of high quality and very beautiful. Dr James kept his audience attentive with his quiet confidence and authority, and we are all very grateful to him for coming and speaking to us.

CHRISTOPHER HAUTON



The RAF Presentation Team

On 28th January a Royal Air Force Presentation Team visited Rendcomb. We give below the views of two members of the audience.

The Presentation Team visited Rendcomb to give a talk, with slides and a short film, to the Fifth and Sixth Forms on the British Defence Policy. The talk was largely concerned with the justification, the 'necessity' from a military point of view of a strong nuclear and conventional defence capacity. It was pointed out that, whatever the political climate in the Soviet Union, military planes had to deal with capabilities. Intentions can change with political fashion, from day to day or even from moment to moment, but capabilities cannot; military logic must be dictated by the latter. It was also recalled that the Soviet Union had often in the past imposed its ideology on other states, of which Afghanistan was the latest example.

As a whole, the talk gave the audience an interesting insight into the reasons for considering defence spending such a priority in the West. At the end, the success of the lecture could be gauged by the many questions it provoked. A number of the audience spoke about the futility and waste of nuclear weapons, especially at a time when much-needed social services were being cut back in Britain. Personally, I think many would be happier if the deterrent argument took into account the fact that we have the absurd situation in which the combined 'deterrents' of the world are enough to destroy every man, woman and child at least ten times over. I also felt that the emphasis on the Soviet Union's intentions was rather one-sided, considering the United States' behaviour in Vietnam and Nicaragua. However, we at least have the right to exercise such opinions, and this is something we should not take for granted or lightly dismiss.

MATTHEW VENTRELLA

The RAF Presentation Team came to give a lecture on the role of the RAF as a peace keeping force in Britain. The lecture was well composed, consisting of slides and film punctuated by informative comments. The three members of the team, a pilot, a navigator and a female officer, all gave an account of their roles in the Air Force.

It is obviously easy for me to say how brilliant it all was, as I intend to join the RAF, but I did genuinely think that the message was put across well. The films were designed to show how the RAF was used as an instrument to help secure peace, as a defensive force. I believe that this is the role of the Air Force, which is why I am prepared to join it.

The films also showed how the RAF trains in peacetime and how it uses its capabilities in peaceful activities, for example in grain-dropping by Hercules in Ethiopia and in search and rescue operations all round the coast of Britain. The films were mainly factual and lapsed into propaganda only occasionally, but the RAF has as large a need as any other employer to sell itself to our age and, for that matter, to our educational group.

After the talk the audience was invited to ask questions about the RAF and its activities. Unfortunately a few individuals chose this moment to interrogate the lecturers on government nuclear arms policy which, to be fair, has very little to do with the RAF, as most of Britain's nuclear weapons are missiles not launched from aircraft. However, one or two members of the school relentlessly questioned the nuclear arms race which, although a defence issue, is hardly one over which a pilot in the RAF has much control; it was quite apparent from the tone of some of the questions that the lecturer was bearing the brunt of accusations which would be better written down and sent to No. 10! The lecturer, however, thought of a good answer to nearly every question, even the unfairest of them, a considerable feat deserving mention in its own right.

MICHAEL BEWS



Model Expo

C. J. Wood

‘Comets and the Origin of Life’

On 23rd October Rendcomb was honoured by the visit of such a distinguished guest as Professor Wickramasinghe. He is an expert in his field, a most learned and travelled gentleman, having studied mathematics, astrophysics and biology at Cambridge and the Californian Institute of Technology, among other places. He returned to Cambridge a few years ago to lecture there.

He started his lecture by giving us an idea of the scale of events in the history of the earth. 4,600 million years ago the earth was formed as a dry mass of cosmic dust, water being brought in from outer space by comets. Unicelled bacteria appeared on the earth about 3,000 million years ago, these being the first living organisms. The Professor then gave us an interesting analogy: if the earth's history were compacted into one century, then *homo sapiens*, intelligent man, would have been on its surface for a mere eight hours!

He then went on to present the theory that viruses come from outer space. Cosmic clouds of vast size in space appear to be made up of freeze-dried viruses, according to evidence from spectroscopes. In 1918-1930 million deaths occurred as the result of simultaneous influenza pandemics in Bombay and Boston. However, this same infectious outbreak took three weeks to travel to New York, much closer to Boston than Bombay is. He believes that the reason for influenza's being more common in winter than in summer is not because of the cold, as one might think, but because of turbulent atmospheric conditions which allow more cosmic particles carrying viruses to reach the earth's surface.

Professor Wickramasinghe then went on to present another theory: that life could not have evolved without viruses, as DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), the building block of life, is made up from the genes of many different viruses. That is why evolution cannot protect us from viruses - viruses are evolution; without cosmic viruses, evolution would not have gone further than simple bacteria.

We listened attentively, intrigued by what the Professor had to teach us, and the response at the end of the lecture was tremendous, both in applause and questions.

Many thanks to the Professor Wickramasinghe for such an interesting and educational lecture. I now look forward to the next instalment of the Michael Wills Memorial lectures.

JONATHAN SLATTERY

How to Start a Business

On 4th May Mr T. P. A. Norman, Chairman of the Governors, gave an informal but persuasive lecture on the subject of starting a business. It was attended by members 6B, who were greeted with a display of some of the toys manufactured by Bluebird Toys, Mr Norman's company.

The most striking aspect of the lecture was the emphasis put on the importance to the success of any business of motivation and enthusiasm, and how an element of enjoyment is a prerequisite. Money also is a useful commodity, for a businessman without capital is comparable to a gagged politician.

Clearly speaking from experience, Mr Norman managed to convey an understanding of some of the problems facing any potential entrepreneur: for instance, not being the beneficiary of a generous relative, he was forced constantly to pester financial institutions for a loan, until they submitted, if only to be rid of a nuisance. Even after this there was no patent recipe for success, which depends on a very fine balance between foresight, advanced planning and snatch decisions.

Any established business may be regarded as a complex system of systems, in which the money produced by sales must, one hopes, exceed the total production costs, and within which there is satisfaction. The workforce must satisfy the management and vice versa, disputes being a result of mismanagement, while the product must satisfy the consumer, as well as the ubiquitous British Safety Standards, which we often take for granted.

The accomplishments of Bluebird are due primarily to Mr Norman's intuitive approach. To satisfy a child's eye for detail a great deal of attention is paid to the design of the toys, and this, along with advertising, has been the key to success in the domestic market. Despite the competitiveness of the European market, Bluebird does export designs, if not finished products. Behind the success lie the determination, dedication and perseverance of one man. It is these three properties which are responsible for the high levels of sales for apparently simple designs, such as the Big Yellow Teapot, the Aerobic, the à la Carte Kitchen and, of course, Manta Force.

This provides an important lesson for us all: stubborn perseverance and dedication in particular figure prominently in the success of an individual in any situation in life. For Mr Norman success is not merely an expected £19 million turnover for 1988, but also a sense of achievement and fulfilment of ambitions. His affluence has not made money his god, and we should remember this in our aspirations: if success means enjoyment, then we must make the most out of life and enjoy to the full what we already have.

AUBREY POWELL

Media Questionnaire

Many of our ideas are shaped by the television we watch and the newspapers we read. Following the interest aroused by the political questionnaire published in last year's Rendcombian, the pupil editors this year decided to canvas opinion on the media, responsible for influencing so many aspects of life from politics to fashion. Again, about one third of the Sixth Form were 'sampled' with the aim not of producing a series of yes or no answers, or a batch of statistics, but to establish the kinds and variety of opinion in the school. The editors devised a series of fairly open, general questions designed to provoke a wide discussion of issues to do with the media. The survey took place in the Easter Term, and the responses inevitably reflect the interviewees' relatively limited access to certain aspects of the media at a busy boarding school.

1. What kind of television programmes do you enjoy, and how much television do you watch a day?

The general areas of preference were clear and perhaps predictable here. Most of those questioned clearly saw television as principally a form of entertainment and relaxation, and hence comedy and sport programmes proved the most popular choices. Similarly, films and programmes to do with popular music were clear preferences, whilst current affairs magazines, documentaries, and educational features were rarely mentioned in responses. With the important exception of *Neighbours*, which is clearly one of the most popular programmes at Rendcomb (perhaps partly because of its scheduling), there seemed to be little interest in soaps or the prestigious classic serials that channels invest so much money in. With the exception of two people questioned, every family polled owned and made much use of a video. Most interviewees claimed to watch at least an hour of television a day at Rendcomb. *Neighbours* seemed to make up a good portion of that time, and seemed to enjoy a cult following here.

2. Which newspapers do you read, and why?

Although the responses to this question indicated that a wide selection of papers were read at Rendcomb, the way in which they were read was perhaps the more informative reaction. *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* were the most popular papers amongst those sampled, though only by a very narrow margin. Slightly less interest was shown in papers such as *Today*, *The Mirror*, *The Sun*, *The Independent* and *The Guardian*. From the responses to the questions there emerged the sense that those interviewed understood clearly and correctly the political weighting of the various papers, as well as having a sense of their intellectual weight and quality. However, little discrimination seemed to be shown in determining which papers were finally read, because the whole activity seems to be regarded as a very ephemeral interest. Most people interviewed read newspapers for sports coverage, gossip or out of a vague and passing interest, rather than for hard news or opinion. The concept of taking a paper, of following it regularly, seems to be a minority one at Rendcomb. What interest there is usually consists in

reading occasional major news stories, looking at sports coverage, and even following share portfolios. No-one seems to read papers in depth, from cover to cover.

3. Do you think advertising on television and in newspapers affects you?

A clear majority felt that advertising did affect them, though the quality of the advertisement was seen as a crucial factor. Many advertisements were dismissed as too patronising or crude to have any effect, though there seemed to be a telling divergence of opinion as to what makes an effective advertisement. Perhaps this suggests that the advertisers target advertisements more effectively than is often supposed. Most kinds clearly worked on some level for at least a few of those we polled.

Television advertisements were considered to be more successful than those appearing in newspapers; the visual image was thought to have much more impact than the written word. One interviewee thought that advertisements involving famous personalities made the most impression on him, because of the attendant associations of glamour and success. Several, however, thought that television advertisements in particular were either patronising or simply incredible, and whilst most believed in the power, indirect or direct, of the image-makers to condition our responses, there was a good deal of healthy scepticism and amusement directed at some of the more ludicrous efforts of the advertisers. It was notable that many of the interviewees felt that the advertisers often held the public in contempt, evident in their frequently gauche attempts to cajole and flatter a public whom they seemed to believe lacked the intelligence to see when they were being manipulated.

4. Do you think there is too much violence on television?

Most felt that violence on television was not a problem in itself; nor was there too much violence on television. Several made the point that we lived in a violent world, and violence on television or in drama or the news did not exacerbate a situation so much as reflect an already existing state of affairs that it was irresponsible to ignore. There was a great deal of concern, however, at the timing of certain kinds of programme. It was generally felt desirable to avoid exposing children to violent scenes, and there was a lot of criticism directed at programmes shown before 9p.m. which contained unsuitable material for children in spite of the fact that the BBC and the IBA tried to avoid scheduling that dealt with certain subjects when children were likely to be watching.

5. Do you think we take soap operas too seriously?

Opinion seemed to be divided on this subject. Many spoke dismissively of soaps, saying that they couldn't really take them seriously at all. Just as many, however, made the point that the plots and characters of soaps were a major topic of conversation. Whatever their critical reaction might be to them, many interviewees clearly followed them with a great deal of interest. Indeed this interest seemed to isolate them from the kinds of criticism that those interviewed brought to bear on other programmes.



Harvest Supper

W. J. D. White

There seemed to be a reluctance, and indeed a refusal to criticise soaps, which some people identified with as strongly as if they were real life.

Several people did criticise the romantic, glamorous, escapist nature of some soaps which presented views of reality that ultimately cheated the viewer of the truth. Other soaps, notably *EastEnders*, and *Neighbours* were praised for their realism, the way they reflected ordinary life and ordinary people's concerns. There was some resistance, however, to the proselytising nature of some of the story-lines and special interests these soaps espouse.

6. Do you think that the press and television can be too intrusive into people's private lives?

An overwhelming majority thought that journalists were far too intrusive into people's private lives. Ordinary members of the public who became involved in some tragic news event were subjected to intolerable exposure and pressure at a time of real suffering to them. The media were also condemned for ruthless disregard of privacy for the sake of sensational news items or scandal-mongering. Some drew a distinction between private individuals who deserved more protection from marauding media, and the lives of public figures who, they felt, necessarily incurred close scrutiny. Politicians who preached one thing and practised another deserved, it was felt, exposure. It was generally agreed, though, that intrusiveness mostly did not serve the public good or the national interest, merely the pockets of journalists and the lamentable desire of some sections of the public for gossip and scandal. Innuendo, distortion, straightforward deception and lying were seen as tools used by the media to try people by

television or newsprint, or simply to make money out of people's misery.

7. Do you think the government exerts much influence on the media?

Nearly everyone polled thought that the government had very little, or indeed no influence on the media. There seemed to be little evidence of anxiety about either overt pressure by government or the more insidious ways in which the establishment can influence the content of reporting. Several compared the freedom available in this country with the repressive policies of East Bloc regimes.

8. Do you think that television programmes are sufficiently varied, and that they cover a wide enough range of interests?

Many complained that there were too many programmes of the same sort: chat shows, endless inane quiz games, and far too many programmes were felt by some to be devoted to sport. At the same time a number complained that the kinds of interest represented on television were too narrow. For example, sports programmes devoted themselves almost exclusively to a small number of popular games. More variety and minority interest sports were called for. One or two made the thoughtful point that variety wasn't the real problem, but, obviously, the standard of the programmes, and the thoroughness with which they dealt with their chosen subject. Quite a few expressed the opinion that television actually represented a large variety of interests, but it failed to tackle many subjects in an appropriate manner.

Conclusions

In 1984, George Orwell imagined a world in which people could be watched by the State through telescreens. Not only do the television sets of his world emit a ceaseless flow of propaganda, but they survey and control the activities of the citizens of his world every minute of the day. We must be thankful that in our world television has a far less intrusive and powerful role but we do not need to take Orwell's allegory literally to see what he was getting at. Consciously and unconsciously the media shapes our thoughts and ideas, and hence the urgent need for us to watch it critically and stop it from watching and television use.

Our questionnaire showed varying degrees of criticism and complacency about the media. Whilst the most disturbing aspects of the responses was an element of complacency or indifference to the issues raised, such as those of covert censorship, violence, the truthfulness of soaps, the fear that a lot of television is just escapist entertainment, there were many reassuring responses. Considerable scepticism was directed at the advertisers' ability to manipulate the consumer unawares, and anger was voiced at the sensationalism and distortions of cheap journalism. Most pleasing of all, perhaps, was the clear impression that television and newspapers are not addictive habits at Rendcomb. Whilst it is regrettable that more attention is not paid to serious newspapers, it is good to see that television has not got its stranglehold on the time or the imagination of the pupils interviewed.

Rob LaFollette, Mercersburg Academy, discusses musical accompaniment with Esther McNeile

S. Hurwitz



Academic Results

Honours

We congratulate the following:

Malcolm Dalrymple-Hay	1st Class Honours in Pathology, London University
Edward Roberts	1st Class Honours in Chemical Engineering, Robinson College, Cambridge
Sara Payne (Convent of Our Lady of Providence, Hants)	Shared Girls' Scholarship
Justine Platt (Stroud High School)	Shared Girls' Scholarship
Karen Swan (Kirkwall Grammar School)	Shared Girls' Scholarship
Francis Barton (St John's Primary School, Cheltenham)	Noel Wills Scholarship
Timothy Gaskill (Querns School, Cirencester)	Open Scholarship
Nicholas Nettleton (Elstree School, Woolhampton)	Scholarship
Benjamin Herbert (Ferndale School, Faringdon)	Minor Scholarship
Roger Gorman (Aymestrey School, Worcestershire)	Exhibition
George Agnew (Emscote Lawn School, Warwick)	Art Scholarship
Ian Timbers (Powell's School, Cirencester)	HM Forces Bursary
Jonathan Underwood (Pinewood School, Swindon)	HM Forces Bursary
Mark Valentine (Rendcomb College)	HM Forces Bursary
Paul Allan (Aymestrey School, Worcestershire)	HM Forces Bursary
Daniel Morris (Marsh Court School)	HM Forces Bursary
Alastair Christie (Charlton Kings Junior School)	Rendcomb Foundation Place

‘A’ Level

The following results were obtained in the G. C. E. examination at Advanced Level this summer:

Alexander Andreis - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
 Michael Attwood - German
 John Barnett - History, Mathematics*, Public Affairs*, Music
 Michael Bews - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
 Giles Carter - Geography
 Jonathan Chappelle - Chemistry, Mathematics
 John Delaney - Chemistry, Mathematics
 Katherine Ellis - English, German, Music
 Claire Flanagan - Biology, Chemistry
 Alexandra Fletcher - English, French, History
 Amanda Fry - Biology*, Chemistry (M), Physics
 Stephen Green - English*, French, German
 Paul Griffiths - Biology, Chemistry, Geography*
 Warren Hammond - History, Mathematics*, Public Affairs*
 Karen Harmon - English* (D), French*, History*
 Mark Hastings - History, Mathematics
 David Hauton - Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics
 Finale Hicks - English, Geography, History
 Christopher Hoare - Chemistry (M), Mathematics*, Physics*
 Jane Kelly - English*, Geography, History
 David Kenney - Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics*
 Richard Kolb - English*, Geography, History
 Mark Larroucau - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
 Julian Leigh - Biology, Chemistry, Geography
 Robert Matson - Chemistry* (M), Mathematics*, Physics* (D)
 Sophia Michaelides - Chemistry, Mathematics*, Physics
 Esther McNeile - English, French, History
 Samantha Perkins - English
 Marcus Rann - English, French, History
 Benjamin Rees - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
 Christina Rowe - English, French, German
 Colin Sainsbury - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
 Andrew Satterthwaite - History, Mathematics
 John Shaw - Geography
 Emma Smith - English, French, History
 Ann Speakman - English, French, Mathematics
 Lucy Stringer - English, French, German
 Hari Swami-Nathan - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
 Anne Waddington - Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics
 Emma Warren - English, French, German
 Edward Webb - French* (M), German* (D), History*
 James Williamson - English, History, Public Affairs

‘AO’ Level

Colin Bannister - French for Business Studies
 Angus Cochrane - Additional Mathematics
 Guy Cowie - French for Business Studies
 Matthew Faircloth - French for Business Studies
 Christopher Hauton - Additional Mathematics, French for Business Studies
 Anne-Marie Hobart - French for Business Studies
 Jonathan Lutwyche - French for Business Studies*
 Robert Mitchell - French for Business Studies
 Julian Norbury - French for Business Studies
 William Sherwood - Additional Mathematics, French for Business Studies*
 Nicholas Suffolk - French for Business Studies
 Jason Vernon - French for Business Studies

Key: * - Grade ‘A’
 (D) - Distinction in Special Paper
 (M) - Merit in Special Paper

G. C. S. E.

The following results were obtained in the G. C. S. E. examinations:

Stephen Banks - C, E (2), el, F*, G, GN, h, M, p
 Alexander Bell - B, C, E* (1), EL, F*, G, H*, M*, P
 Oliver Boatfield - C, E (2), EL, G, GN*, H, M, P
 John Carroll - c, E (2), EL, F*, GN*, H, l, M, p
 Ashley Clark - C, e (2), EL, F, G, GN, H, M, p
 Christopher Daniels - c, E (1), EL, F, G*, GN, H, M, P
 James Dowson - C, E (2), EL, F*, GN*, H, L, M, p
 Benjamin Gallagher - B, C, E (1), EL, F, G, H, M, P
 James Gregory - B, C, E (2), EL, F, G, H, M, p
 Peter Grimsdale - B, C*, E (1), EL*, F, G*, H, M*, P
 Nicholas Hall - C, E (2), EL, F, G* GN, H, M* p
 Jolyon Hammond - c, E (1), EL, F, G, GN, H, M, p
 Julian Head - B, C, E (2), EL, F, G, H, M, P
 Kevin Holmes - C*, E (2), EL, F*, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P*
 Jeremy Jehan - B, dc, E (1), el, f, G, H, M, p
 Arwyn Jones - b, c, e (2), el, f, G, H, m, p
 Alexander Lainé - C, E* (2), EL, F*, GN*, H*, L*, M*, P
 Francis Lee - B* C* E (1), EL* F, G* H* M* P*
 Henry Le Fleming - B, C*, E (2), EL, F*, G*, H, M*, P
 Andrew MacKinnon - B*, C*, E (2) EL, F*, H*, L*, M*, P
 Benjamin Maslen - B, C, E (1), EL*, F*, G*, H*, M*, P
 Anthony Miles - B, C*, E (2), EL*, F*, H*, L* M*, P
 Joseph Nicholls - B, C, E (1), EL* F* G, H* M* P
 Mark Nicholls - B* C* E (1), EL* F* H* L* M* P
 Thomas Nicholls - C*, E (1), EL*, F*, G, GN*, H*, M*, P
 Charles Paine - B, C, E (2), EL, f, G, H, M, p
 David Pearce - B, C, E (2), EL, F, H*, L, M, P
 Shridhar Phalke - B, C, E* (2), EL, F* H* L* M, p
 James Prince - C, E (1), EL, F*, GN*, H, L, M*, P
 Kingsley Raffael - b, c, e (3), el, f, g, h, m, p
 Carl Reens - C* e (2), EL, F* GN, H* L, M* P
 Andrew Roney - C*, E (2), EL, F*, G*, GN*, H*, M*, P*
 Robert Tate - B, c, e (2), el, F, H, L, M, p
 James Thraves - B*, C*, E* (2), EL, F*, G*, H*, M*, P

Christian Vallence - C, E (2), el, F, G, GN, H, M, P
 Matthew Ventrella - C* E(2), EL, F* GN* H* L* M* P
 Mathew Waddington - B, C, e (2), el, F, G, H, M*, P
 Guy Waller - C, E (2), EL, F* G* GN* H* M* P
 Steven Whiting - B, c, E (2), EL, F, G, H, M, p
 Colin Bannister - CC
 Anthony Bedford - CC
 Ann-Marie Chapman - m
 Matthew Faircloth - CC
 Anne-Marie Hobart - CC
 Louisa Johnston - m
 Gemma Noyce - M
 Jason Vernon- CC
 Nigel Bayliss - MU
 Piers Gorman - MU
 Simon Hett - MU
 Matthew Rogers - MU
 Nicholas Smith - MU
 Ian Spencer - MU

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

B - Biology
 C - Chemistry
 CC - Classical Civilisation
 DC - Design and Communication
 E - English
 EL - English Literature
 F - French
 G - Geography
 GN - German
 H - History
 L - Latin
 M - Mathematics
 MU- Music
 P - Physics

The figure after the letter E denotes grade in English Oral.

We are grateful to the Editor of *Cotswold Town and Country Magazine* for permission to publish the following photograph and caption from the March issue.

THE SUPER SIX FROM RENDCOMB COLLEGE

Six of the Rendcomb pupils who have been offered places to study at either Oxford or Cambridge. From left to right, Karen Harman, Chris Hoare, Sophia Michaelides, Rob Matson, Ed Webb and John Barnett. Amanda Moore, also offered a place at Oxford, has already left the school. They are all 17 years of age except Sophia, who is 18.

S. Hurwitz



Activities

Art and Design

This has been an interesting year, sometimes exciting, sometimes frustrating, sometimes rewarding and almost always - much to some people's surprise - very tiring.

What is it that can make working in Art and Design hard work? Well, obviously the physical side doesn't, except for a few bags of clay, seem very much for students and staff, so it must be mental energy that gets used, and this is the key to what happens. It's the thinking, the probing, the concentration and the demands caused by asking 'Well, what do you think and how do you react, and why?' One can explain how other people do things, and why, but when the question becomes more personal the answers can be hard work, as they can also be fun, funny and occasionally a disaster of one type or another. The most successful results, not only in terms of success but in terms of the understanding that goes with them, often combine all these factors.

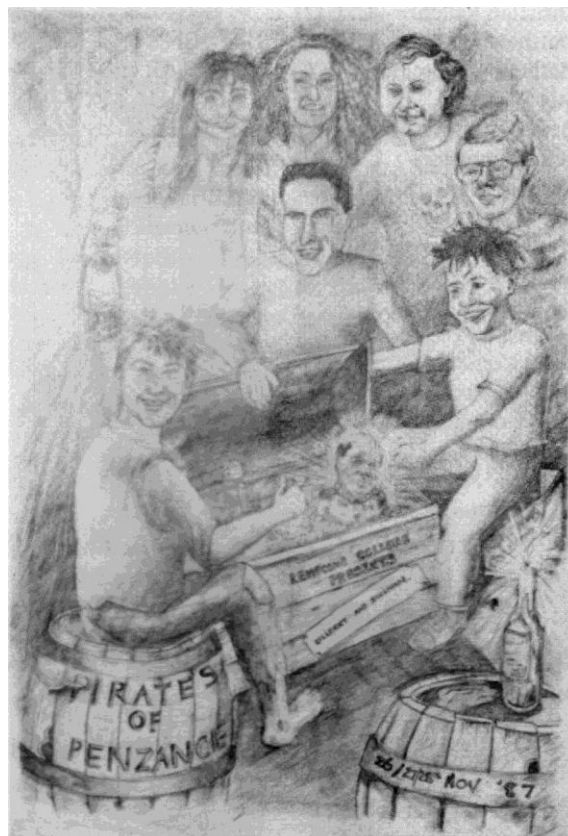
The sixth form artists, not only the 'A' level students, but all those who have been willing to try things, have been, most of the time, great value. There have been some excellent things produced, and I shall treasure Paul Griffith's approach to painting and pottery - quite superb. Among many from 6A whose presence and input will be missed are Anne Waddington (painting), Steve Green and Mark Larroucau (illustration), Bruce Leigh (body casting), Marcus Rann (lots of everything) and especially Mike Attwood (for admitting to supporting Wolverhampton Wanderers).

In 6B not only have the 'A' level students developed into the best group we have had in terms of willingness to try different things, but they have also excelled personally in certain areas. Christopher Huck (painting), Nick Hett (drawing), Daniel Houseman (watercolour and pastels), Jason Carter (coloured pencil), Clare Mallindine (illustration/drawing), Louisa Johnston (drawing) and Steve Gammage (sculpture). There are other particularly successful, non-'A' level students in 6B, who include Sue Waddington (organic pottery forms), Sara Deacon (painting) and Jessica Naish (pottery modelling).

Lower in the school, from a highly successful and talented Fifth Form should come some excellent future 'A' level students, while the Fourth Form are making intrepid progress as the first GCSE set. In the lower three years there is considerable talent and a positive attitude, resulting partly from their seeing Art and Design as a realistic choice higher in the school and seeing the school take it seriously. Indeed, seeing is largely what the department is about, and Tom Denny and I hope and expect to see much fine work produced during the next 12 months.

Finally, a brief but important 'thank you' to our cleaners; the department's open policy has many positive advantages and some disadvantages, one of which is that, as soon as the place gets cleaned up, some bright spark, often a second-former in pottery, wants to make something and 'forgets' to clear up. Thank you, ladies.

M. S. G.

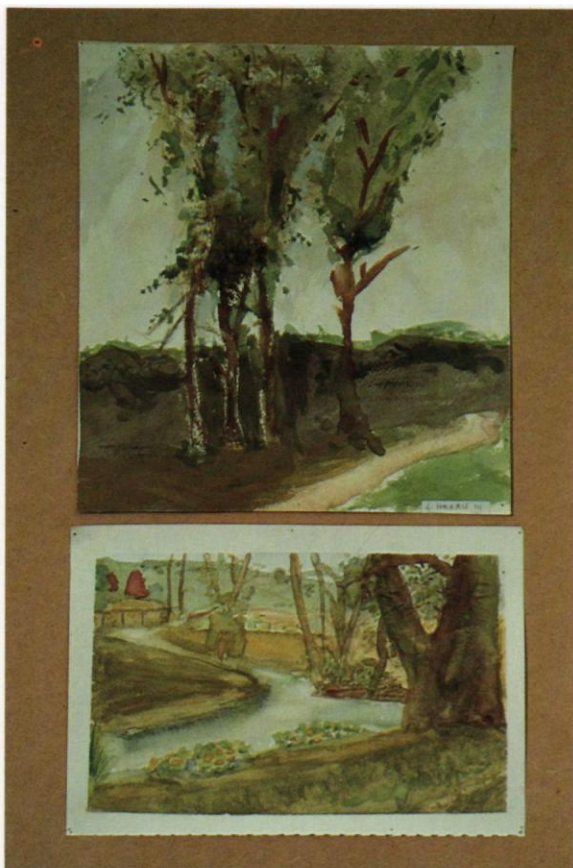


Pirates Programme - Clare Mallindine

C. J. Wood

There follow some examples of work shown in the Founder's Day Exhibition. To help readers to assess it, each artist's year is given in brackets:

a	'Landscape'	Glen Harris (3)
	'Landscape'	Julian Madeley (3)
b	'Still Life'	Daniel Maslen (4)
c	'Head'	Christopher Huck (6)
d	'Churchyard Scene'	Julian Wilkie (1)
e	'Self Portrait'	Dominic Egré(2)
f	'Shoes'	Louisa Johnston (6)
g	'Baseball Boot'	Jason Carter (6)
h	'Thumb Pot Creatures'	(2 and 3)
i	'Duck'	Jessica Naish (6)
	'Frog'	Susan Waddington (6)
j	'Fish'	James Dowbiggin (3)
k	'Bird Sculpture'	Paul Griffiths (7)
	'Organic Forms'	Susan Waddington (6)
l	'Landscape'	Stephen Green (7)
m	'Figure Drawing'	Nicholas Hett (6)
n	'Pupped'	Jason Carter (6)



a



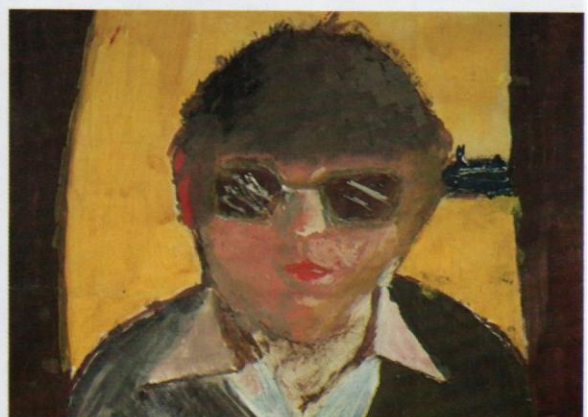
b



c



d



e



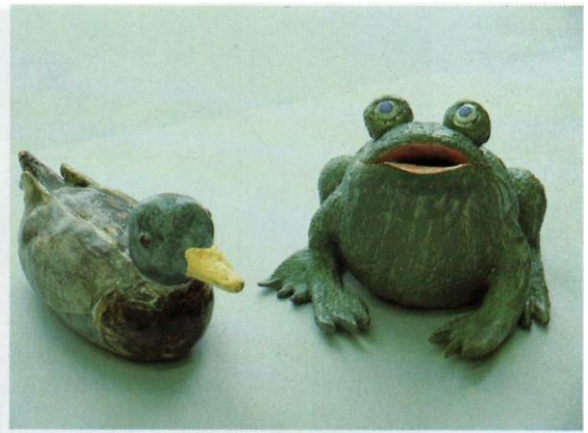
f and Mark Larroucau (illustration), Bruce Leigh



g and 'Loren' is clear up. Thank you, ladies.



h reproduction

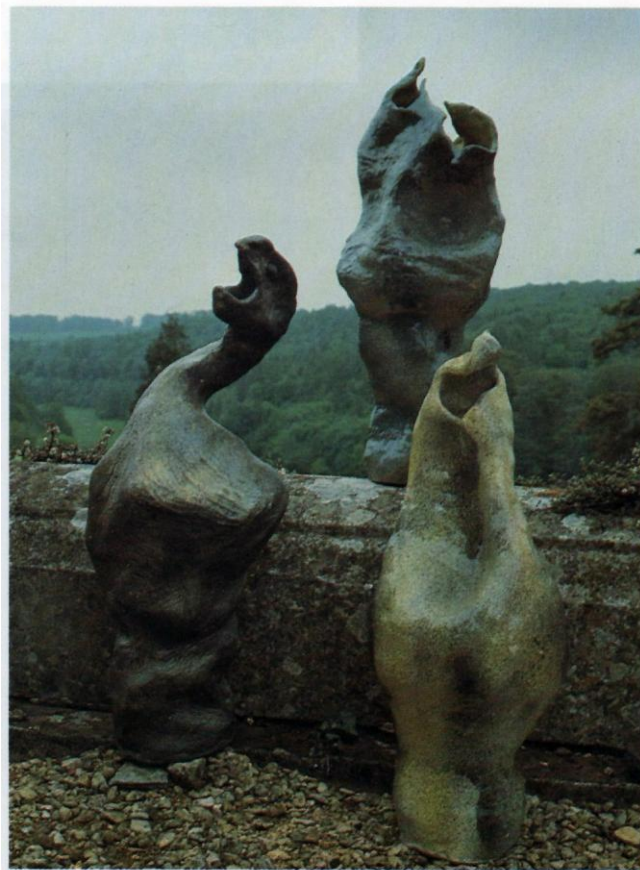


i



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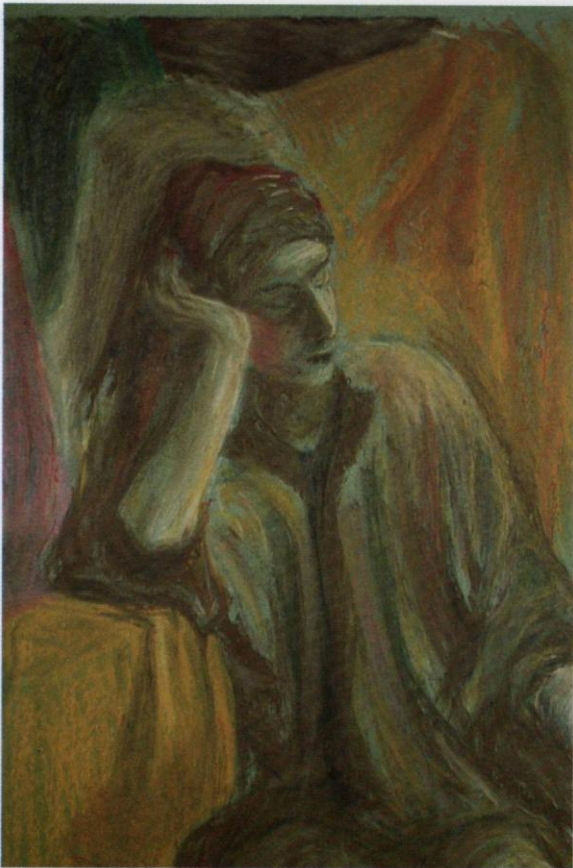
C.G.B. Table in English walnut - John



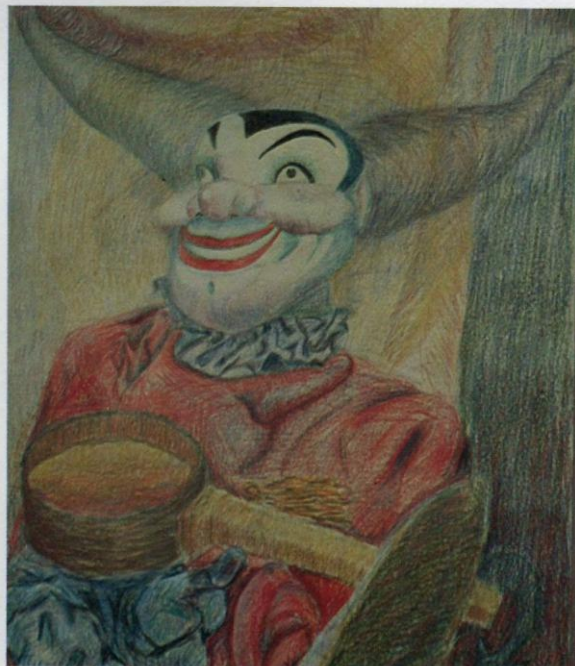
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m



n

The Workshop

The workshop has been well used. The juniors always appear frequently, but this year a small nucleus of people from the Fifth and Sixth Forms, mainly girls, have been regular visitors in their free time.

The drawing office, refurbished for the GCSE Design and Realisation course, has enabled some juniors to make more detailed drawings of their jobs. It has also provided a haven for Fourth Formers seeking a quiet place to work.

Quality timbers, such as English walnut, figured English oak, laburnum and olive ash still feature in our wide range held in stock. From these Colin Sainsbury has made a farmhouse kitchen table in figured oak, John Shaw a reproduction wine table with birdcage movement in walnut, and many fine bowls and platters, some as large as 15 inches in diameter, have been turned in olive ash.

This year, for the first time, we have acknowledged the existence of a relatively new manufactured board, medium density fibreboard. It has been specially designed for furniture manufacture and is far superior to chipboard and block-board. The material has great hardness and strength, takes glue and screws very well and can be lacquered in its natural state. We stock a limited range of thicknesses. In the construction of a pedestal desk it was used successfully in its veneered form in conjunction with solid timber.

We are still fortunate to have the help of Mr Roger Attwood with school furniture repairs. Some of his experience and expertise have rubbed off on the boys.

C. C. B.



Table in English walnut - John Shaw



Bowl in olive ash - Timothy Underwood

‘The Pirates of Penzance’

For three nights in November capacity crowds were able to forget the dismal autumn weather and abandon themselves to something more light-hearted. Yes, Rendcomb College had once more taken the plunge and presented a second Gilbert and Sullivan production. This year we were under siege to the infamous Pirates of Penzance.

Called ‘a parody of ludicrous operatic and theatrical conventions’ in the programme, the plot of the ‘opera’ is understandably thin, events following improbable circumstances. We chart the progress of Frederic, his character somewhat dampened by his obsession with a sense of duty, who was apprenticed to a pirate gang by his nurse, Ruth. Unfortunately, owing to a quirk of fate, his apprenticeship cannot end until his twenty-first birthday, and he was born on the 29th February; in his twenty-first year, therefore, he has had only five birthdays. This fact threatens to ruin both his future happiness with Mabel, whom he loves, and his plan to exterminate the Pirates. Of course, everything ends happily, as all such parodies do. The performance laced with Rendcomb humour, what mattered most was the comedy and the singing; the improbability only added to the humorous confusion.

Frederic must have been an awkward part, not very charismatic or attractive, but John Carroll performed it with little apparent difficulty; his anguished expressions when faced with the horde of (Park House) beauties were

particularly memorable. His voice, too, was always distinct and rarely far off the required note. Kate Ellis played the role of Mabel with her usual poise, and her beautiful voice flattered the music. Roland Martin sang and acted the part of the Pirate King with the exuberance and humour we have come to expect of him, and Ruth (Jane Kelly) pleaded her case for marriage to Frederic with conviction. The soloists from among the chorus, Esther McNeile, Alexandra Fletcher and Warren Hammond, were clear and confident, and it was on the choruses that much of the success of the comedy depended. The disreputable-looking troop of police was marched about amusingly by the rather smaller Chief of Police, Mike Bews. The Pirates were surprisingly tuneful and, less surprisingly, lively and enthusiastic. General Stanley (Denis Price) did his best to command his army of daughters and bounded about the stage with energy and comic style. The girls flirted shamelessly, giggled, screamed and looked incredibly *sweet* - stereotyping perhaps?

The orchestra played well, except for a few hiccoughs when they and the actors were not in complete agreement. Stage management was impressive, and if mistakes were made, nobody really cared; all carried on professionally. Few people expected perfection, but we got something better - pure entertainment. The performance revealed a heartening degree of talent and commitment, and thanks go to everyone involved for such successful hard work.

KAREN HARMAN



C. J. Wood

In Praise of *Pirates*

I don't think that many of us can honestly say that our participation in the school's 1987 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* began with great enthusiasm. For most of us the allure of the stage was severely tempered by inexperience, self-consciousness in our new surroundings and an absolute horror of making fools of ourselves. Indeed, as the rehearsals which we reluctantly attended proceeded, we discovered that Gilbert and Sullivan is all about just that - making yourself look silly in front of lots of people.

Nothing daunted by our timidity, our tireless producers, Mr Craddock and Mr Lane, pressed on with often chaotic but always entertaining rehearsals in which we were made to sing, flirt, dance and even sometimes act, with increasing degrees of confidence and success. Sometimes we even had a fair idea of what we were supposed to do! As time went by, the fun of it all overcame our inhibitions and fears, especially when we saw what fools our schoolmasters had to make of themselves. Indeed, soon all one could hear from the corridors of Park House were great bursts of our signature tune, *Climbing over Rocky Mountains*, contested by the bellowing voices of the boys booming out with *With Cat-like Tread* from the other side (apologies to the Hannafords!) Our confidence was further boosted by the surprising amount of talent, which no one would have guessed existed, that our rehearsals drew from both sixth and fifth forms.

However, with a couple of weeks to go, panic returned: nothing we seemed to do on stage was ever quite right for the producer; Act Two was still a musical novelty to us; in the midst of the seemingly inevitable last-minute scramble to get it together, someone remembered that our costumes were not ready. Having been presented earlier in the term with masses of suitably tasteful material, rather similar to the curtains in Park House, and a set of instructions about as intelligible as Egyptian hieroglyphics, we suddenly realised that these had to be turned into period costumes. Eventually, much to everyone's surprise, minor masterpieces resulted from our frenzied efforts, although querulous voices were heard to mutter that we resembled nothing so much as a herd of pregnant whales (at least that kept vaguely to the nautical atmosphere!)

All too soon the first night arrived, but now we were ready (just), and marvellously everything (well, almost!) worked like clockwork. Our excitement was a little dampened by a rather unresponsive first-night audience; we later discovered that there had been a large number of Japanese in the hall. No doubt they all thought they were witnessing some ancient British tragic drama of the utmost gravity! However, the next two nights more than made up for this, with audiences who really seemed to enjoy all we did. At the end of the run we all felt proud to have given our very best to something which gave us all a tremendous lift and which, we believe, warmed the hearts of our audience, dispelling the gloom of those long, dark November nights. Some of the cast were even heard to wish for more performances!

Some time later we saw the video of *Pirates*, which brought back many memories, but little of the exuberant atmosphere that makes taking part in a play such a unique

and treasured experience. After watching it all again, one small, unworldly voice was heard to remark, 'So that's why they kept on shouting at us to GET IT RIGHT!'

JESSICA NAISH
MANDY CARTER
ESTHER MCNEILE



C. J. Wood

The Show of Strength Theatre Company

In order to make the point that it is not solely the large national theatre companies which are skilful and entertaining, on 2nd May Rendcomb had a visit from the 'Show of Strength' Theatre Company. Comparatively recently formed, this small group boasted a great deal of experience in different spheres of the profession and showed us an enthusiasm for their work which is sometimes missed in larger, more commercial organisations. This group was of special interest to us because Nick Thomas, actor and writer to the company, was educated here.

The title of the play *Sail or Return* was beguiling, but we were soon to find that the story was about John Cabot, a fifteenth-century mapmaker-turned-explorer determined to find Cathay (China). On learning this, I must admit that I was highly sceptical as to how any group, let alone a very small one, could make such a topic remotely entertaining; I was to be surprised. Cleverly written, with much humour, and brilliantly acted - three actors playing six major roles - the evening was to prove highly entertaining. The actors took our imaginations, using them to their advantage as tools to make the magic of the stage and the contents of file plot come alive.

The play was a very free, fictional adaptation, based loosely on the lives of real characters, but this did not damage the entertaining credibility of the performance, although some aspects did seem a little improbable and far-fetched! On the strictly informative plane, I found the play indistinguishable from fiction; but entertaining it certainly was and, after all, isn't that what the theatre should be all about?

ROLAND MARTIN

The Stony Batter Company hits Rendcomb

On 12th March the Mercersburg Academy's 'Stony Batter' drama company arrived at Rendcomb at the Headmaster's invitation. The company consisted of 19 students and three masters. Their journey here from Cranleigh had been something of a disaster, one of their minibuses getting stuck in reverse gear. This meant that they arrived late, leaving four of their number behind. This shaky start was soon forgotten, however, in what proved to be five very interesting and amusing days.

They started with a visit to the Bristol 'Old Vic' to see the play/musical *Totterdown Tanzy*. The coach journey to Bristol removed any inhibitions and reserve. Rendcombians and those from Mercersburg soon got on well, and the two different cultures mixed with surprising ease. It was perhaps the humour of the Americans that was mainly responsible for this. I shall never forget Lee McFarlain, one of the students, standing astride the aisle of the coach, with a pair of socks down his trousers, singing the Elvis Presley hit, *Let me be your Teddy Bear*.

Totterdown Tanzy itself was not quite what any of us had expected. It was a very modern, feminist play, following the fortunes of a female wrestler through life. However, the humour in the play and its sometimes bitter comments and grim ironies, showing an affinity with *Spoon River Anthology* which our guests were to perform, were not entirely lost on us.

The first evening then saw our guests introduced to their 'shadows', who were to look after them, and this provided us all with a friendly and informal base to work from during the rest of their visit.

The American students had a hectic schedule but found time to join us, as well as the juniors, in several lessons, History, English, Drama and Art as well as Public Affairs, where Mr Price raised a few eyebrows by talking on the Watergate scandal. Mr Kelsey gave them a full tour of the science block.

They managed to see some more of England while they were with us. They had a trip around the Cotswolds and visited Bath, Oxford and Cirencester. While at Cranleigh, they had been to London to see the sights and a performance of *Kiss me, Kate*.

The Company gave performances of their production *Spoon River Anthology* at Cranleigh, Hatherop Castle and Rendcomb. There was a very good turnout for the Rendcomb performances, mostly from the upper school and masters.

Spoon River, by Edgar Lee Masters and in the style of *Under Milk Wood*, recounted the past lives of some of the inhabitants of a typical American small town. Each character spoke a self-epitaph, a monologue often concluded with an ironic twist, suggesting that life had not meant what he thought it had. The play contained humour and farce, along with horror and total disillusionment, all very convincingly portrayed by the actors and actresses. The acting itself was basic, as it was meant to be, in order not to divert attention from the powerful and harrowing messages the play thrust at the audience.

Spoon River fostered three principle notions about American small towns: appearing bucolically idyllic, they twist, thwart and stunt people's lives and ambitions and they harbour an incredible amount of sexual dalliance behind their drawn curtains! The play was not 'fun' to watch, because it had so much to say; it was excellent and very interesting.

I think all of us at Rendcomb enjoyed having the Mercersburg students here; they were good fun and provided us with a first-hand experience of America and Americans. Our only complaint was that they didn't stay long enough. A return visit to Mercersburg would amply solve the problem!

It remains only to thank those on both sides of the Atlantic who made the visit possible and to wish the Stony Batter Company the best of luck in the One-Act Competition back in America, for which they have entered *Spoon River Anthology*.

VAUGHAN TREDWELL



Toni Szadek, from Mercersburg, with Finale Hicks

S. Hurwitz



C. J. Wood

'The Real Inspector Hound'

The play, first read at an Arts Society meeting, was always going to be a difficult enterprise to stage. It took a certain naivety among the members of 6B to start it, a large amount of stubbornness to keep it going and a good deal of ability to realise it so successfully.

The play is immediately attractive, a spoof murder-thriller with characters that can be found in all the best, or worst, plays of its type. However, the added complications of dual roles for some of the actors, 'audience' participation, the re-running of certain areas of the script, with its inherent sense of *déjà vu* and the ambiguous role of the participating critics mean that the play is designed to work on various levels and make it more challenging than maybe is at first realised.

However, 6B took the challenge and dealt not only with the difficulties of the play, but also with the possibly more difficult task of producing it in the summer term at Rendcomb. Help and moral support came from various sources along the way, but the play was clearly and absolutely produced and staged by the cast.

The production gave us a mixture of smiles, laughs, entertaining paradoxes and occasional moments of quietness which were very pleasing and which worked, with some well-handled moments of farce. Indeed, this went well beyond the expectations of a school production, not only in careful handling of characterisation, but also in slickness and theatricality of direction. There were some faults here; some of the blocking meant that important areas of action were partly obscured from the audience; some of the quickness of pace was fumbled, and the important times when nothing needed to happen or be said were ended too quickly. However, the play held together well; moments of weakness were soon covered by flashes of excellence or humour and, in the setting of the Dulverton Hall, the staging was effectively understated, the costumes thoroughly well suited and the lighting almost perfect.

It obviously adds to the entertainment to see people you know playing the parts, but 6B lost themselves in their characters as the evening progressed, and I believed in all of them. The critics, played by Roland Martin and Aubrey Powell, were splendidly greasy and pettily competitive; their double-act, with Hilary Sumsion and others as a backdrop, gave the audience much to enjoy, and when they entered the real stage and became immersed in the action, they revealed a subtler edge to their acting.

Jason Carter was so effective as the lounge lizard that I was glad when he was shot; his brilliantly played death scene meant that he died on a high note. In contrast, Vaughan Tredwell survived it all, to walk off with the girl (typecast!); his portrayal of the wheelchair-bound, mad Major Magnus, shrunk in his resplendent suit and with his nervously twitching moustache, had the cast and audience, including me, fooled - it was not what one would expect from the man who turned out to be the real Inspector Hound.

Guy Cowie lived up to his potential, and Julian Norbury obviously revelled in his part, forming an effective foil to the elegance and grace of the girls. Indeed, Ann-Marie Chapman, delicate and fragile, so easily led and hurt by the cad, at times extracted waves of sympathy from parts of the audience, as did Anne-Marie Hobart who, playing the slightly more experienced of the two, managed with skill and subtlety to imply a slightly harder edge to her character.

Then there was Jessica Naish, the lovable housemaid, the baggy, stockinged fairy with the feather duster. Jessica injected pace and timing into the affairs of the play with her acting, and to her goes the major credit of the production.

To my own congratulations for the success, including one for Louisa Johnston's programme cover, were added many from the staff, notably this from a senior member: 'Yes, the young people did it splendidly; I sat at the back, and even I heard every word'.

M. S. G.

‘Unman, Wittering and Zigo’

It might easily have been said that the choice of this year’s junior play was far too ambitious; the success which greeted its performances only emphasised the hard work and enthusiasm which were put into it.

The play deals with a sinister group of pupils who have murdered their tutor, and their manipulation of the dead master’s ambitious young replacement. Although this sounds ridiculously macabre, behind the plot lies a moral: that authority can often have an influence on rebellion.

John Ebony, the new master, was played with much skill by Graham Lawton. Despite having to learn a tremendous amount of lines, Graham gave three excellent performances, showing great promise for future productions, not to mention a future as a schoolmaster should he wish it! His frustrated wife, tired of the monotony of her life, was played with great conviction by Anna Tolputt; her argumentative tones were at times even frightening! In spite of having a difficult part to perform - a theatrical and defeatist Art Master - Simon Williams did exceptionally well, never letting the audience know how nervous he really was!

Hugh Costelloe and Andrew Pollard led the classroom rabble, and some have said that their parts were rather true to life! They gave highly amusing performances, although many of the laughs were gained by the class buffoon, Bungabine, played by Paul Sumsion. Others in the classroom also gave notable performances and showed potential for future productions. Chris Carmichael, Alex Beales, Jeremy Jenkin and Mark Sansome in particular made a lot of their small parts.

Julian Madeley played the Headmaster with convincing pomposity, and James Grafton played the reactionary Maths master well. A guest appearance was made by a sixth-former, Jessica Naish, who played the part of the ageing and pompous Mrs Winstanley very naturally! Despite its complexity, the play gained much credibility, and it was obviously enjoyed by those who took part as well as by those who watched, which is, after all, the main aim. Our thanks go to all involved.

ROLAND MARTIN



C. J. Wood



C. J. Wood

Gardening

This year has been notable because the new building programme has brought about the end of our Victorian greenhouse. Although the solid fuel heating system had been replaced by a gas heater and the roof overlaid with corrugated plastic sheeting to make it waterproof, the greenhouse remained a splendid example of 19th Century horticultural architecture. It was excellently sited on a south-facing wall, sheltered by a walled enclosure and shaded by a yew tree. Rainwater from the roof was channelled into a slate tank, which we have preserved, and then taken by a pipe into an internal reservoir. Adjacent was a primitive potting-shed. When the building has been completed, we have been promised a replacement, but it will lack the character of its predecessor! In the meantime, we have been grateful for the use of the Headmaster's greenhouse.

The Library beds were colourful in May with a mixture of wallflowers, pink nepeta and tulips. There has been a fine collection of pelargoniums in the outer hall which has been complemented by attractive flower arrangements done by the Bursar's Secretary. The planting up of the terrace urns and beds has been rather more extensive than usual in an attempt to ensure a good display for the summer and early autumn. We have used petunias, geraniums, lobelia, African marigolds, tagetes, phlox drummondii, verbena and cineraria maritima - and we await results! Some instant colour, however, has been provided in new urns and tubs outside Park House and the cricket pavilion.

I am grateful to the following members of the PW group for their help and expertise, without which the College grounds would look very drab: Neil Walmsley, Simon Williams, James Thraves, Richard Herbert, Nigel Utting and Jonathan Tomsett.

W. J. D. W.

Bell Ringing

This has been a successful year for the group, with many new members learning the ropes and experience gained by all who participate. During the winter term the older members rang for the wedding of Captain Goddard's son, which was a new venture.

On 14th June a trip to Cirencester Church was organised, and a few of us had the thrill of being able to ring rounds on 12 bells.

Many thanks go to our visiting ringers, without whom we should be unable to take on so many beginners or ring so regularly with such enthusiasm.

CHRIS BROWN

W. J. D. White



Organ Recital by John Willson

On 15th November Mr Willson gave his last organ recital in the Parish Church. The recital included a varied and interesting programme and also supported the worthwhile cause of the Leprosy Mission. The evening was introduced by the Chaplain, who included the Leprosy Mission Prayer in his address and thanked the Parents' Association for providing a buffet before the recital.

The programme opened with 'Prelude in B minor' by J. S. Bach. This was an aggressive and energetic piece, without the flamboyant musical technicalities of many of Bach's other organ works, but still in the distinctive style of the composer. It was followed by a slower, mellower piece by Bach, which created a pensive atmosphere in the Church. Then came the Chorale Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo*, a loosely-based variation on the popular Christmas carol, the ornamentation prevalent over the tune, the style comparable to that of Bach's toccatas.

The pace slowed with the 'Larghetto in F minor' by T. A. Walmsley, its tempo in contrast with those of the previous work and of the 'Prelude on Croft's 136th' by C. H. H. Parry, which followed. This last was a jubilant piece of church music based on the fine hymn-tune by William Croft.

Next came 'Adagio in E' by Frank Bridge, a steady interlude which gradually accumulated with a great *crescendo* and then subsided to reveal the original melody.

The final work was 'An Easter Alleluia' by Gordon Slater. The programme's statement that the inclusion of this piece was a 'personal homage' to Slater, his former teacher, was illustrated by the emotion and energy John Willson put into the triumphant and technically complex piece.

Mr Willson had shown us his musical talent in depth; at the end of the year he will be sadly missed by the school. Many thanks must go to him for his many years' service to music in the Church, and once more for this final recital.

CLAIR MALLINDINE

'A Musical Pot-pourri'

Many of those not normally tempted by musical events at Rendcomb were among a large audience at the informal *Pot-pourri* concert held on 20th March.

A great deal of organisation must have been put in by Mr Lane to rehearse and perform such a variety of pieces. These varied in style from comedy sketches and popular songs to a more traditional repertoire. Particularly well received was Rossini's unusual 'Duet for Two Cats' performed by Kate Ellis and Esther McNeile with much imagination and confidence and obvious enjoyment.

A complete change of style followed from the Brass Ensemble, who played four medieval tunes with their teacher, Steve Green. The Sax Quartet closed the first half with a series of calypsos and other entertaining rhythms. Ed Webb entertained and amused the audience as he played three saxophone solos, two of them composed by Steve Green.

After the interval a much refreshed audience took its seats to hear the second half opened by 'Stormy Weather' and 'Love is the Sweetest Thing', an unusual combination and a striking choice for a church choir. Two greatly differing solo performances followed: a couple of beautiful melodies from Kate and an animated 'I've Only Got Eyes For You' from Esther.

Next was a rare performance of 'Danse Macabre' for eight hands on two pianos, by Chopin, excellently played by Mr Lane, John Barnett, Mr Craddock and Mr O'Connor - a surprise to those of us who didn't realise that the last two even played the piano!

The *Pot-pourri* closed with Rendcomb's up-and-coming 'Three Juvenile Delinquents' performing by courtesy of Noel Coward, climbing up pillars and generally causing trouble. This ended an evening which appealed to everyone, a refreshing conclusion to a long term.

ANNE-MARIE HOBART



The Churn in Flood

J. P. Carter

John Willson's Farewell Concert

The concert given by the school orchestra on 15th May was a superb *finale* to John Willson's 21 years' work for Rendcomb music, 15 of them as Director. It was indeed a most memorable occasion, the last upon which the creator of the Rendcomb Orchestra performed with it. In the programme he explained how his choice of music was 'a personal indulgence' and made clear his deep and long-standing admiration for Wilhelm Furtwängler as a conductor of Beethoven's works. Describing Furtwängler's interpretation of the *Eroica* he wrote of *the flexible yet loving care with which each note fitted into its phrase, each phrase into the structural whole. Each note, each phrase, as well as the structural whole, had to communicate something, however indefinable. And there was always the impression of once-for-all total dedication.* His programme notes contained a personal and most interesting analysis of the last movement, bearing upon the account which follows, for which we are grateful to Dominic O'Connor.

Less than 60 years separate the three works that made up John Willson's last concert, yet an enormous gulf stands between the musical idioms of Mozart, Beethoven and Wagner. However, listening to John's conducting the orchestra on this evening, one was made aware that all three had two things in common: a consummate mastery of orchestral writing allied to a profound humanity.

The prelude to *Lohengrin* made a splendid start to the evening, with the orchestra, comparatively small though it was, overcoming the extremely difficult tasks that Wagner set. The music was carefully phrased, and the colours of the orchestra were brought to the fore. The work is founded on one exacting melody, which John conducted at a suitably spacious tempo and brought to a moving climax.

Mozart's final piano concerto, finished in the last year of his tragically short life, was the main work in the first half, with John conducting from the keyboard. He set the tone for the performance from the very opening bars of string accompaniment, so similar in many ways to the opening of Mozart's great G minor symphony. This is not a concerto in which the piano and orchestra are opposed forces; it is very much a dialogue of equals. This was made especially clear by the beautiful playing of the orchestra in the relationship between strings and wind as the first movement developed. John played with style and finesse, carefully bringing forward the thematic material with great clarity, although at times the momentum of the piece suffered. Overall it was a well-rounded performance, and great credit must be given to soloist and orchestra for tackling a work apparently straightforward, but containing enormous problems of ensemble.

With the advent of performances of Beethoven symphonies on period instruments, the modern symphony orchestra has been forced to review its performance of these works. Listening to the first movement of the *Eroica*, one could not but marvel at John's approach to the problem. From the mighty E flat chords that open the work, the energy of this performance

was simply staggering, a veritable *tour de force*. Taken accurately to the original markings, the movement unfolded with great strength and commitment. The cello's phrasing of the main theme underlined both its simplicity and its dignity. Numerous other examples of the quality of the orchestral playing could be mentioned: the reprise of the main theme and the mighty coda are just two. Odd entries were missed, but that is nothing in comparison with the careful unfurling of Beethoven's musical argument.

The slow movement was taken at a truly *Furtwänglerian* tempo, and one remembered that this was intended as the funeral march of a hero. The glorious change from C minor to C major in the central section was beautifully played. In the Scherzo, particular praise must go to the horns for their masterly playing of the trio theme.

A performance of the *Eroica* can easily come to grief in the Finale: the opening too often seems disjointed and obtuse. Here John kept a careful control of the rhythm, at the same time bringing out the underlying humour of the passage. Again, as in the first movement, the difficult passages were admirably played, especially the fugal writing. However, any performance stands or falls by the *poco andante* section. The most beautiful oboe theme was played superbly by Graeme Adams, and the no less beautiful instrumentation accompanying it was lovingly stressed. The *presto* ending simply took one's breath away. All in all, this was a great performance, and it provided an experience for the school players that they will, I am sure, never forget.

Thank you, John, for executing a brave choice of pieces so admirably.

Guitar Recital

On 28th February Mr Dunn and his guitar pupils entertained us with a programme of music in the Dulverton Hall. A warm reception welcomed the variety of style and choice in the pieces performed, ranging from *Greensleeves* to *Boogie in G* and several Spanish compositions.

The concert opened with an ensemble playing *Walking in the air*, the theme from *The Snowman*, contrasting with the lively *Boogie in G*, both well played by four juniors: Alasdair Baker, James Grafton, Theo Ramsden-Hare and Christopher Walsh. Theo also bravely played an inspiring solo, *Arietta*.

Hari Nathan contributed tremendously to the enjoyment of the evening, playing a demanding Bach *Prelude in E major* with dexterity, and four duets, two with Paul Griffiths and two with Piers Gorman. Paul also played two solo pieces admirably and joined an ensemble with Hari and Piers to play a renaissance piece, *Pavana*, and *Trio in D minor* by Bach. Piers also played the well-known traditional song, *Greensleeves*, with much feeling.

Mr Dunn concluded the concert, playing several Spanish and South American compositions with *panache*. It had proved a delightfully entertaining evening.

ANN-MARIE CHAPMAN

Kate Ellis - Song Recital

On 22nd May, a warm summer's evening, a large audience gathered to hear Kate Ellis give her last major concert at Rendcomb.

Kate, accompanied by Mr Lane, presented a varied programme to an audience filled with expectation. The pieces ranged in time from the sixteenth century to the present day and were sung, as was expected, with great technical skill and emotional feeling. Kate bravely gave an introduction to each song - probably a more nerve-racking experience than the maze of notes she had to interpret - which helped the audience to focus on the distinctive words and style of each piece.

She showed not only her mastery of vocal tone and musical style, but also her ability to sing in different languages, French, Italian and German. She built up a *rapport* with the audience as she conveyed the feeling of the music, rather than merely singing the notes.

The programme started with two love songs, one by Dowland, the other by Purcell, both of them emotional, fairly brisk and ornate in places. In contrast, the next piece, by Bach, was slow and sustained, a German song expressing the composer's faith in God and fearlessness toward death. One of the best received songs was to follow, *Il mio bel fuoco* by Marcello. It tells of love and passion, quite distinctive in tone. Two more mellow pieces followed and then three contrasting songs by Mozart, the last of which was one of Kate's favourites, *Alleluia*, an energetic and fitting finale to the first half of the concert.

After refreshments kindly provided by the Parents' Association, Kate resumed with eight more songs, again in deliberate contrast to each other for the greatest effect: brisk, light pieces by Schubert, a quiet, calm piece by Schumann, three songs by the French 'impressionist' composer, Fauré, all creating images in the mind with their varied range and tempo. In the later songs the piano accompaniment was more prominent, but Kate's voice still carried through beautifully. A more fight-hearted piece followed, *Sweet Polly Oliver*, and the programme concluded with two very different songs by Warlock, one a moving tune with overtones of pathos, the other more joyous in tone.

When the applause finally died down, Kate sang as an encore a song in a totally different style, *You've got a friend*, proving that she is as confident singing in contemporary style as in more traditional forms of music.

It was a most enjoyable evening, and the school will surely miss Kate's music in the years to come. Let us hope that her remarkable voice will give pleasure to others in the future. Thank you, Kate, for sharing your musical talent with us.

ROLAND MARTIN

Bridge Club

This was a year of change, with the experienced pairs from last year's 6A leaving and creating a large gap in the club. Their places were filled by Fifth Formers Kevin Holmes, Carl Reens, Henry Le Fleming and Alexander Bell, who made up the team of four which represented the school in the *Daily Mail* Bridge Competition in Cheltenham during the Lent Term. Of the seven teams Rendcomb finished sixth, which was quite good, this being their first major competition. Another change was that, for the first time in many years, the Sunday evening sessions were graced with the presence of girls.

Once again bridge was taken by many Fourth Formers as part of their assessment for the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and it was these people who made up most of the 20 players gathering on Sunday evenings.

Finally, I must thank Mr White for his coaching, organisation and sense of humour, which always helped when things went wrong.

COLIN BANNISTER

The Photographic Society

This has been another sound year for the Society; a great deal of interest has been shown at all levels, and a lot of work of good quality has been produced.

This became evident when the entries for the school competition were judged; all were of a high standard, and the final decision proved very difficult.

Early this summer term the Society went on its now annual trip to the National Exhibition Centre to see 'Photo 88', the report from which was very encouraging.

It is hoped that more trips will be arranged for the future, with more emphasis placed on taking pictures. Expansion is planned for the darkroom, and the possibility of buying a water bath for producing colour slides is being investigated.

With the departure of the present 6A at the end of this term the Society has lost one or two long-term members who have provided a great deal of support. However, we hope that present and future members of the Society will make up for this loss.

CHRIS HAUTON

The Arts Society

Largely under the enthusiastic supervision of Mr Martin Griffiths and Mr Michael Craddock, the Arts Society has enjoyed a highly successful year, organising a variety of events, including trips, videos and play readings.

During the year Martin Griffiths, with distinct encouragement from Ed Webb, took several parties to jazz concerts at the Niccol Centre in Cirencester, where different groups of students were able to enjoy the mixture of superb playing and gentle repartee as supplied by the Pete Allen Jazz Band. Later in the year a minibus full of enthusiasts were taken to the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, to listen to the dynamic playing of Red Rodney, who, having played in the Charlie Parker Band, now finds himself featured in part of Clint Eastwood's new film about the legendary jazz star. The interest in and enjoyment of jazz music in Rendcomb also meant that many pupils turned up to see the video *Jazz on a Summer's Day*. This film was shot in 1958 at an American jazz festival which included Louis Armstrong and a young Chuck Berry in concert.

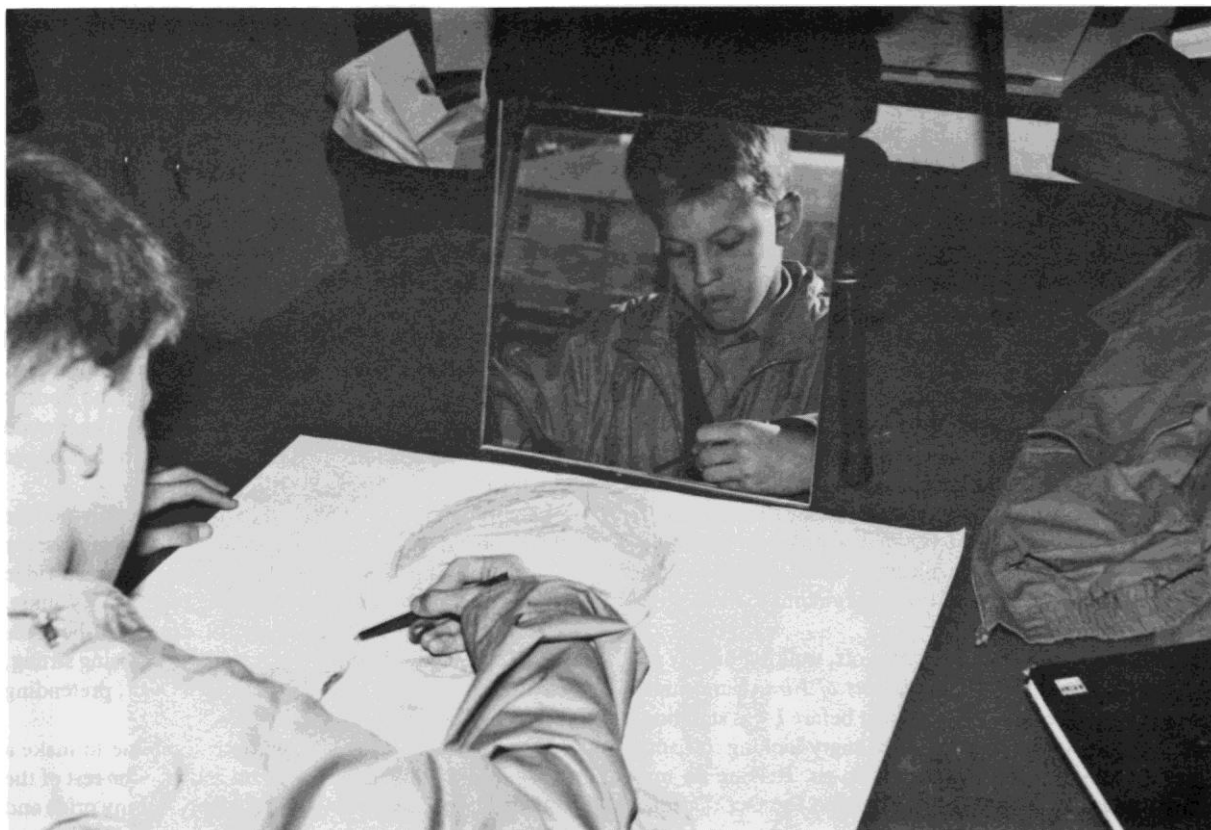
In October Martin Griffiths used the Arts Society 'umbrella' to take a group of sixth-formers to see the New Compass Theatre perform *Romeo and Juliet* at the Niccol Centre. This small group of actors produced a spell-binding performance, combining a fairly literal interpretation with modern acting techniques. The closeness of the audience to the actors, far from inhibiting involvement, meant that one was very close to the drama and intimacy of the production. This was seen through the

highly charged duel, the tasteful balcony scene and the desperately tragic deaths of the star-crossed lovers; it was an evening of theatre not easily to be forgotten, in particular Helen Schlesinger's stunning portrayal of Juliet.

The programme was not confined to external events, however; a great deal was done within the school. A selection of videos were shown, among them *Children of a Lesser God* and *Being There* (Peter Sellers's last film). These shows were well supported and stimulated our minds to an awareness of social problems beyond the grounds of Rendcomb. A creative writing competition and a mini-saga competition were also organised. One or two play-reading sessions led to the performance of Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*, such was its impact when read in the Library on a cold February evening. Many who would not otherwise get on stage enjoyed these evenings.

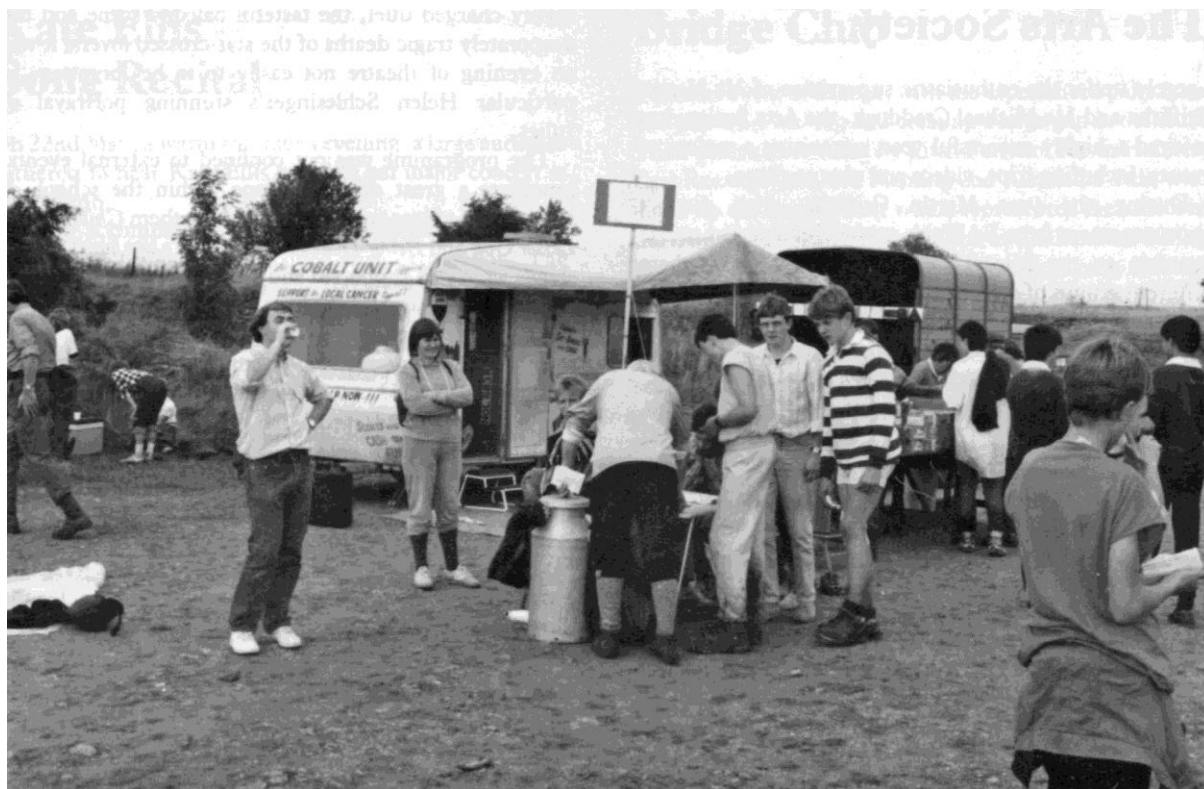
Mr O'Connor organised a trip to Bristol to see the Welsh National Opera production of *Don Giovanni*, a lengthy but entertaining opera. We hope that such an active programme of events can be continued next year, for the Arts Society provides a much-needed branch into the world of the arts and often shows a view of less popular, yet no less interesting, areas of the arts scene. Thanks must go to Mr Griffiths, Mr Craddock and Mr O'Connor, and to all those who supported the Society over the past year, especially those in 6A, who will not be with us next September.

MARTIN GRIFFITHS
ROLAND MARTIN



Self-Portrait - Gareth Jenkins

S. Hurwitz



Lunch Stop on Leckhampton Hill

C. J. Wood

The Sponsored Walk or The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Walker!

On 20th September Rendcomb went for a sponsored walk, aiming to raise money for the Cheltenham General Hospital Cobalt Appeal, to help fight cancer.

This is a story of endurance and pain, determination and will-power. For me it began at seven o'clock in the morning when I awoke from my peaceful slumber to face the long, hard day ahead; at this point I was ignorant of all the excitement that faced me.

Whilst I was peacefully eating my way through endless rounds of toast, a man dressed in several cameras approached my table. He said that he was from the local newspaper and wanted to take a photograph of one of the walkers before he set out; I seemed to be the chosen one. 'Oh no!', I thought, groaning inwardly. To be photographed first thing in the morning, with my hair all over the place, just wasn't fair play - what would people think of me? However, I received some satisfaction in seeing that there were other innocent victims to the prying camera.

At about twenty past eight, I set off, walking briskly in the fresh morning air, the *Chariots of Fire* theme-tune playing in my head. It was not long before I was standing in the middle of a field, faced by an angry-looking cow and not sure which way I was meant to go. Relying on my sense, or lack of sense, of direction and the fact that the cow looked ready for a fight, I took a right turn, with crossed fingers.

My luck was obviously in, because the mid-morning refreshment stop was soon in sight, and it was a great relief to see it! However, I resolved not to rest for very long, knowing that my legs might refuse to move if I did not get going, so it was back on to the wet and muddy trail.

About an hour later I met somebody who cheerfully pointed at a hill on the horizon and informed me that the lunch stop was at the top of it. As my feet had sunk into the mud, so did my heart sink now. I had been promising myself for miles that it would be just around the corner, and now I was faced with another hour of walking. There was nothing to do but continue.

The hike up the hill was a further trial for us poor walkers. The temptation of a delicious-looking black-berry bush perched precariously on the side of the hill proved too much for me to resist; I made the fatal move towards it. This may have been a small step for mankind, but it proved larger than I had expected for myself. The ground beneath my left foot decided to fall away down the slope of which I was on the edge.

I soon followed the pieces of earth, but luckily not the whole way down. Grasping frantically for tufts of grass, or stone, or anything, I finally came to rest on a small ridge not too far from the path I should have been on. My ankle, however, felt as though somebody had driven red-hot nails into it, sprained somewhere in my fall. Still, being strong, or stupid, enough, I kept on the beaten track, pretending nothing had happened.

When I reached the lunch stop it was time to make a decision: did I stop there, or go on and face the rest of the course? My body said that I should stop, but my pride and determination, and probably my foolishness, told me to keep going; half an hour later I was on my way once more.

The first thing to happen that afternoon was my taking a three-mile detour off the proper walking path. I had left on the wrong road after lunch and so had to find my way back to the path, which I did eventually in a small village, about an hour later. I could already hear the laughter of my friends when I told them what had happened!

The most memorable event of the day was my first sight of the school building. Never before have I been so glad to see it, the usual dread of arriving there was replaced by relief, and I was spurred onwards.

The climb up the hill to Rendcomb was the last straw. When I finally arrived at the front door, I was practically on my hands and knees. All I could think of was a warm bath and a good snooze; these brought me a renewed enthusiasm.

Blisters aside, it must be said that there were two big rewards for all who took part. First there was the magnificent pig-roast in the evening, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone and provided a splendid end to a very busy day.

Secondly, and much more importantly, was the marvellous amount raised by the day's activities. At a presentation held in the Dulverton Hall, we proudly gave the Cobalt Appeal the sum of £4,500. This was more than any of us could have hoped for, and it is pleasing to be able to help such a worthy cause with our efforts.

Finally, I would like to express the thanks of all those who took part to Mr Lane and all his team, who behind the scenes helped to make this a very enjoyable and memorable occasion.

JAMES PRINCE

Community Service

Everyone in this year's group looked forward to Tuesday afternoons, when we visited the residents of Paternoster House and the patients of the Querns hospital.

It was encouraging to know that the elderly looked forward to the visits of Rendcomb Sixth Formers. They would enjoy telling us about their lives and the things

they used to do when they were young. They showed us a great many photographs, as well as the latest books they were reading.

After chatting to them for about an hour we felt exhausted but pleased that they had enjoyed our company; it was nice to have a short break from school and to feel that we had brightened their afternoon.

Special thanks must go to Mr Sudbury, who organised our trips and drove us to Cirencester and back.

KATE WOODWARD

Computing

The increased use of the room and the network have brought problems, but it is hoped that new network software will result in less irritation and wasted printer paper next year. Improved Videotex software and new Database software should also improve the situation.

The Modular Technology course is now well established, and next year will see pupils gaining the overall Certificate in Information Technology for gaining five modules. There is a growing interest in both this work and the use of the facilities for project work.

The timetabled use of the room for Technology lessons will increase to 28 periods each week; combined with its use outside lesson time this means that the room is in almost continuous use.

Major items of new equipment have been the A3 Plotter and the Ink Jet Colour Printer. Although the main use of these has been to produce output for assignment work, the quality of many notices around the College has improved, and multi-coloured Coke cans adorn many common room notice boards!

It is interesting to note that some of our equipment is now seven years old and the network has been running for nearly three years. In about two years it is likely that much of this equipment will be replaced, and it will be instructive to compare the capabilities of the new system with the present one.

D. A. H.

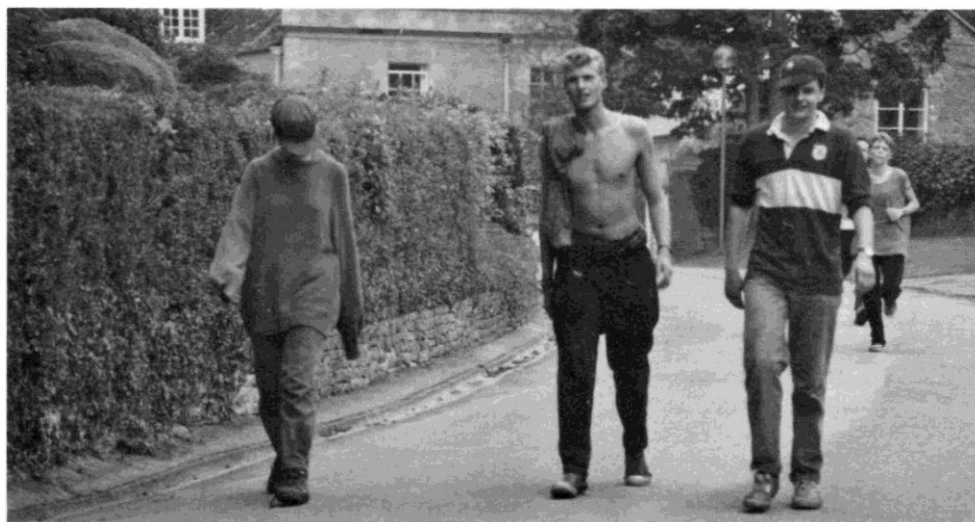


Photo Finish

C. J. Wood

Debates

This House deplores the use of animals in any circumstances for the testing of new products.

The first debate of the year, held on 14th October, proved both thought-provoking and informative. On a personal level it was also difficult and nerve-wracking, as I had agreed to second a motion which in my mind I initially opposed.

The proposer was Mr Steve Beddard from Animal Aid, an organisation which promotes animal rights. Against the motion were Dr Bill Brown, a practising pharmacist and former lecturer in pharmaceuticals, and the seconder Julian Norbury.

The opposers failed to produce conclusive evidence that tests on animals gave results valid for the most complex living creature, man. On the other hand, Mr Beddard had an apparently endless list of results giving animal response to a variety of drugs which was significantly different from the human response. Indeed, had animal testing been used on drugs discovered further back in time, the misleading nature of the results would have prevented the marketing of those drugs. Human sentiment also was a major factor in gaining support for the motion, especially when it was revealed that this country has only 17 inspectors allowed to visit test centres; thus the suffering of animals under test in poor conditions might easily go undetected.

After more than an hour and a half of lively debate, the motion was carried by 44 votes to 21. But perhaps the most important aspect of any debate is that it forces the individual to think constructively about the issue in question. In my case, having to find cogent arguments in support of the motion led me to change my opinion.

Thanks must go to Mr Sudbury for chairing and organising the debate, to both the guest speakers for their invaluable contribution and, of course, to those who attended, making the debate successful and enjoyable with their bright and diverse response.

AUBREY POWELL

This House believes that Independent Education should be abolished.

The second debate of the year, on 2nd March, was eagerly awaited, as it dealt with an issue which directly affects us here at Rendcomb.

The first speaker for the motion was Mr Craddock, who argued that the education system should provide equal opportunity for all; he appealed to the house to put aside its educational privilege and to consider the issue in a disinterested light. He also suggested that paying for education, which should be a right, was in itself a suspect principle.

Mr Tolputt led the opposition with dramatic eloquence and convincing arguments. He spoke from the point of view that freedom of choice in education was an absolute human right which should not be jeopardised by a state monopoly. He also claimed that private schools maintained high standards which benefited the whole educational community.

John Barnett rehearsed some of Mr Craddock's points and added some interesting ones of his own; he outlined an alternative state system which would embody the excellence of the private system's standards without prejudicing the opportunities of children from less fortunate backgrounds. The house directed many questions to the proposers, clearly not convinced by their arguments.

Perhaps predictably, given the nature of the audience, Mr Tolputt, with the lively support of Warren Hammond as his seconder, won the evening. With the skilful chairmanship of Emma Smith, the obvious interest from the floor, the spirited and varied contributions of the speakers, the evening was very successful, and we hope it will encourage others to contribute to debates in the future.

LOUISA JOHNSTONE

Arts Society-'Don Quijote'

As many know, Mr Craddock is well qualified to give a talk on Cervantes's novel, having researched the book for a number of years at university. Despite his intimate knowledge, on 16th September Mr Craddock managed to give us a down-to-earth and entertaining talk, without labouring uninteresting academic theories.

We were told of the interesting, somewhat enigmatic, quality of the book, critics being unsure whether the central character is hero or fool. Alonso Quijano has one interest in life - reading. He devours romances, tales of fantasy and valour. In a way he is a kind of escapist, but with the crucial difference that he puts into practice what he reads about. He decides to turn knight-errant himself under the name of Don Quijote and, with his loyal squire Sancho Panza acting as a comic contrast to his master, sets out to champion the causes of truth and justice. Here our hero seems like a fool, standing for a series of ideals that society is not willing to accept. Cervantes gives him Utopian values as a comment on the society of the day, to show that ideology and reality are two different things.

With selected extracts, Mr Craddock delved below the superficial to the meaning of the book. Cervantes questions what human reality is, how much 'realism' do we control in our minds? Perhaps the world is not so much what we see as the way in which we see it.

We were left to think over these points, no clear-cut answers being offered, and to ponder the meanings behind not just this book, but every novel we read. Many thanks go to Mr Craddock for stimulating us into a sense of literary awareness.

ROLAND MARTIN

Interviews 2

Tim Daniels - Rendcomb's first Green Beret

After a period in the Scots Guards, Tim Daniels (OR 1975-82) transferred into one of the world's most famous and prestigious regiments, the Royal Marines. We had the opportunity of asking him about his career and about his time at Rendcomb.

Tim enjoyed being at Rendcomb and remembers his school life fondly. He was sent here to give him a change in outlook from his services background. In the recruiting work he does now he sees many unhappy school pupils; this strikes him as particularly sad because his life at Rendcomb gave him so much. He recalls how he enjoyed injecting his own enthusiasm back into the school as he progressed upwards. He remembers the school as being much the same as it is now: friendly pupils and staff, with its distinctive family atmosphere. Tim believes that, in spite of its informality, Rendcomb prepares its pupils very well for the outside world.

The Marines are a vocation, a way of life for all that serve in the regiment; Tim enjoys this aspect of his career and finds life in the Marines a day-to-day challenge. It has not yet become in any way routine, because jobs are so varied and of short duration. If anything, being in the Marines broadens your outlook on life, as well as extending your personal capabilities and self confidence.

Women play an important role in today's armed forces, but Tim feels that certain tasks are more suited to men, especially in the front line, where he feels that men would be too concerned with the protection of women to carry out their job effectively.

He went on to outline his thoughts on the controversial and painful topic of Northern Ireland. This conflict, based on religious hatred and zeal, has no foreseeable solution. The British soldiers have no desire to be there and are trying to do a difficult job in an atmosphere of almost constant hostility. A soldier is trained for direct aggressive action, and it is difficult and frustrating to be given a job requiring restraint. That is not to say that he glorifies the violent aspects of army life; far from it, he believes that the main requirement in the army is efficient man-management. The fact that you may be required to kill is something that you must reconcile with yourself before joining the forces, but the idea that a soldier is made to be a 'killing-machine' is false.

Tim then went on to discuss discipline and intimidation within the army. The discipline in the Marines is not overpowering; an officer has to exercise control and require deference, as a business-man would expect to. Leadership qualities and motivation are definitely needed by soldiers exercising command. He did not deny that bullying existed in the army, especially in those regiments with a long tradition of discipline. Regiments varied, some building up the individual through stiff discipline; others, such as the Marines, concentrated on the soldier's being part of a team, and in such regiments intimidation is negligible.

Asked about Prince Edward's leaving the Marines, Tim emphasised that, had he been an ordinary person, he would probably have passed straight through training. However, the pressure from the press made it impossible for him to relax with his colleagues, which in turn made integration more difficult.

We are grateful to Tim for giving us his insights into life in the Marines and his thoughts on Rendcomb and other topical issues.

ANN-MARIE CHAPMAN
VAUGHAN TREDWELL



Tim Daniels (right)

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP

To get an interview with any politician, considering the workload under which they labour, is quite an achievement; to secure an interview with a cabinet minister, particularly one in high public profile, must be considered a minor coup. On 22nd May Ed Webb, Roland Martin and Michael Craddock were lucky to meet the Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ridley, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, at his home in Naunton, and to chat to him for three-quarters of an hour about a range of topical political issues. In retrospect the privilege of such an opportunity seemed even greater than at the time, because the following Monday saw Mr Ridley facing an exacting test in the House of Lords over the government's flagship legislation, the Community Charge Bill, which he is piloting through Parliament.

Naturally enough, the Community Charge was amongst the first topics we broached with him. Mr Ridley staunchly defended the government's abolition of the rates, which he considered a patently unjust form of taxation. He countered the accusation that the Community Charge was unfair by stating that the poorest in the community would have to pay nothing at all, and that around five million people would be able to claim varying degrees of rebate. He brusquely dismissed the idea of a graduated local income tax as being impractical and expensive to administer. He pointed out that local income tax would encourage those who could afford it to move from high to low tax areas, exacerbating problems of collection and administration. Moreover, he pointed out, the rich paid more in national taxes, which contributed to the central government Rate Support Grant. The Community Charge would ensure greater efficiency, he said, and he dismissed the media-hype about the new system as coming largely from a misplaced feeling of guilt among the well-off.

Although Mr Ridley is at the moment in the spotlight of public attention over the Community Charge, he has been in politics for a long time, capturing the seat he now holds (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) in 1959. His first experience of government came in the 1970 Heath administration. Interestingly, he resigned from Mr Heath's government in 1972 because of disagreements over the Prime Minister's economic policies; he objected to the expansionary monetary policy of that administration and to its attempts to control the inflationary consequences by a prices and incomes policy. In the 1975 leadership contest he was, therefore, a natural supporter of Mrs Thatcher and her economic philosophy, and after the 1979 election he joined her team as a junior minister in the Foreign Office. Here one of his responsibilities, long before the outbreak of hostilities in the South Atlantic, was to seek a political settlement over the Falkland Islands. His subsequent career took him to the Department of Transport and then to his present position as custodian of one of Mrs Thatcher's more controversial pieces of legislation.

Mr Ridley was asked whether he sympathised with the view that the government was unfair and divisive. He pointed to the recently discussed rebates available for

Community Charge payers, to the new Social Security Act and to the substantial reductions in income tax for everyone; the most important point of all, he said, was that the country's renewed prosperity was benefiting all sections of the community. As for the National Health Service, he declared that it was better funded than ever before; the question should not be 'Does it need more money?' but 'Is it well run?' He stated that the desire for higher taxation was 'the manifestation of a purely negative envy factor', a sort of perverse, and now fading, socialist idea that governments should punish the enterprising citizen for his success. Even with the recent budget, he observed, Britain was still one of the most highly taxed nations in the world.

Mr Ridley was then asked about public schools: was it fair that some pupils enjoyed a privileged education? Typically, he refused to give the expected and conventional answer. Ideally, he said, he would like everyone to go to a public school, exercising and enjoying freedom of choice. He pointed out that the current government policies were giving parents more control over standards and curriculum, and that was a step towards improving an often poor state system. In general he felt that all education, and particularly the universities, should direct themselves more to serving the country's future needs. He criticised some of the more fanciful and esoteric studies of university departments paid for by the public, such as 'Peace Studies'. He also dismissed the popular notion that the universities were short of money. Overall, he felt that education would be all the better for the influence of market forces.



With all the confidence of a government now elected for a third term behind him, Mr Ridley dismissed the opposition parties because of their lack of convincing and dynamic alternatives. He felt that the Labour Party had a long way to go to convince the electorate that it could offer something better than could the Conservatives, particularly in the economic sphere. He illustrated this by remarking how effective the government's low taxation policies had been. His personal satisfaction came from the fact that people were tangibly better off, and that included the poor. People realised this, and the opposition had a lot to do to change this overwhelming fact.

Asked if Mrs Thatcher was as formidable to deal with in private as she was portrayed to the public, he remarked that he got on with her extremely well. She was 'absolutely charming' and dead straight, courteous and firm, but not inflexible. She was quite prepared to change her mind and rethink a position in the light of consultation. On the other hand, she certainly would not 'let herself be pushed around'.

Mr Ridley declared that he had no prime-ministerial ambitions for himself. He had come into politics to fight the inefficiency and the disastrous effects of socialism; he showed throughout the interview his unswerving dedication to the vitality of the market philosophy. Whatever the popular reputation of politicians for evading questions, Mr Ridley met our challenges head-on, with a candour and vigour that revealed his faith in the Prime Minister's economic policy. His replies were always refreshingly free of predictability and conformity with consensus views. His answers showed the 'Thatcherite' courage and dynamic in challenging all political 'sacred cows' and the clichés of liberal opinion.

Amongst the most interesting insights Mr Ridley offered us was into the particular conflicts besetting him as both cabinet minister and constituency MP. Although he did not view his cabinet post as inhibiting his role in his constituency, there were times when the two positions caused friction, a typical example of this being the proposed boundary changes within the constituency. Many of his constituents affected by the changes would like him, as their MP, to speak out against them; owing to his cabinet position he could not do this, having to be an unbiased judge on the issue. He had to decide in a legal manner and could not lobby on behalf of his constituents; he could hardly dissuade himself from making a decision!

When not immersed in his highly time-consuming job, Mr Ridley enjoys life as a countryman. He loves his garden and occasionally fishes, shoots, paints and takes walks in the lovely Cotswold countryside surrounding his home; unfortunately the demands of his job mean that he cannot spend as much time in such pursuits as he would like.

We thank Mr Ridley greatly for giving up his time and for providing such an interesting and much-appreciated experience.

MICHAEL CRADDOCK
ROLAND MARTIN

'The World of The Paint and The Motley'

On 10th May we were very privileged to have the opportunity of interviewing three actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Macbeth*, Miles Anderson, playing the title role, Amanda Root, playing Lady Macbeth, and Vivienne Rochester, playing one of the three witches. In the chaotic atmosphere of backstage Stratford 90 minutes before a performance, we asked them all about their reactions to the critics, how they interpreted the characters they played and some more general questions about life 'walking the boards'. Although at first we felt a little nervous and tense, Miles set the whole tone of the interview with his relaxed honesty and frankness, and we soon felt at ease.

Having read adverse criticism in the tabloid press about the production, and Miles's portrayal in particular, we were both anxious to know whether this type of comment affected him and his performance. He told us that, if he had not been so naturally tough-skinned, he would not have lasted so long in the profession. Many good actors could easily have given up early in their careers because of the demoralising effect of criticism, but most persevere and learn to accept the opinions of others. When we saw the performance, we rapidly discovered how unfounded such criticism was anyway.

We then asked Miles and Vivienne how they coped with nerves, if they suffered from them at all. Miles said that his only periods of nervousness came in the mornings before the preview and the first night; by the time he was in the middle of a 'run' it did not affect him at all. The younger Vivienne, however, said that she got nervous just before going on stage, especially on the first night.

This led us to the development of the characters they were playing. Amanda found that Lady Macbeth was developing as a character with each new performance, and Miles felt the same about Macbeth; he was continuously searching to get the part right. The audience were the 'teachers' for these actors, expressing boredom or enthusiasm at the performance, to be taken into account for future shows. Vivienne added that it was sometimes difficult to judge a performance from your own enjoyment of it; the fact that you enjoyed performing on a certain night did not necessarily mean that your performance was a good one. They all agreed that the enjoyment found in a part was proportional to the number of times you played it; after an unusually long ten-week stint of rehearsal for *Macbeth*, they were obviously enjoying their parts enormously.

These rehearsals had been a close collaboration between actors and director. The latter produced most of the initial ideas, and these were discussed with the actors and then changed, left intact or adapted according to the outcome. Amanda said that, as she researched her part, some ideas came to her immediately, and others needed rehearsals to bring them out and develop them. She was in sympathy with her part, because Lady Macbeth showed very human characteristics as well as expressing the Jacobean Renaissance spirit. Such a role explored what you could and could not achieve when your personal views and goals

contradicted those of society in general. Lady Macbeth's ambitions went too far and finally destroyed her, but *Macbeth* is more than a moral play and, because of this, you were bound to sympathise to a certain extent with the characters, their ambitions and their spirit.

The play showed that a human being could not become unreal and unnatural; murdering for power proved ultimately self-destructive. Vivienne's view was that many people tended to judge Lady Macbeth too harshly; the play was really concerned with Macbeth's weakness; his wife acted as she did out of weakness, out of a desire to please her childless husband, not from sheer evil.

Amanda's portrayal of Lady Macbeth might be seen as the peak of an actress's achievement, but this ambitious 25-year-old denied that it was the most challenging part she had taken. Amanda viewed all her roles as interesting in different ways, but she mentioned the part of Juliet with special preference.

It was inevitable that the question of embarrassing moments be asked, especially by someone who has fallen off a stage in front of a Rendcomb audience! Vivienne denied falling *off* but said that she had fallen *over* a stage. Miles's most embarrassing moments came almost inevitably from playing Peter Pan. He said that his flying rate had been only about 65% in the production, owing to mechanical problems, and at times he had been stuck in mid-air with no obvious place to land!

This was a most entertaining interview, and we are all grateful to Jenny Thurston of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre's press office for making it possible. We thank Amanda, Vivienne and Miles for their time and for their relaxed approach, and we wish them every success in the future. For anyone thinking about a career on stage, we recall Amanda's words: 'Just go for it!'

ROLAND MARTIN
JESSICA NAISH

Lock Crew

C. J. Wood



Outings

The Fourth Form Visit London

On 7th December the Fourth Form visited the Trocadero Centre, the Planetarium and the Science Museum in London. We struggled out of bed and had a quick breakfast, to leave in the coach at 7.30. A two-and-a-half-hour journey, helped by a video on the way, took us to the Trocadero Centre in Piccadilly Circus. Our original plan had been to visit the *London Experience* exhibition there, but the coach journey had taken longer than expected, so we were able only to spend a quarter of an hour or so looking round the interesting variety of shops there.

We went on by coach to the Planetarium to see an exhibition in the gallery telling us the different views and theories of past astronomers, from Copernicus's theory that the earth revolved round the sun to Einstein's mass-theory equation. There was also a show in the auditorium explaining details of the stars and zodiacal signs as well as quasars and pulsars.

After a traditional packed lunch we visited the Science Museum. Every aspect of science that springs to mind was there, from nuclear physics to space exploration, from plastics to street fighting. The Science Museum is both interesting and informative.

The outing gave us both food for thought and a lot of fun, and we would like especially to thank Mr Sykes for making such a trip possible.

SIMON WILLIAMS

VIB To Longleat

On 27th September a rowdy mob of VIB clambered into the coach, cramming the back seat to capacity plus a bit more; walkmen appeared and we were off towards Wiltshire and the now traditional visit to the Longleat Safari Park.

We arrived and began our safari through the enclosures. Budding biologists managed to spot giraffes and camels, but only the English students were knowledgeable enough to spot Siberian tigers and North American timber wolves.

To our great disappointment we had to miss the monkey jungle, to prevent the removal of every accessible piece of coach. However the lions made up for our missed meeting with our distant, or not so distant, relatives.

After the animals, we left the coach and headed straight for the maze. After only 15 minutes I surreptitiously cheated by looking at the *Lift if Lost* sign; we all made a hasty exit, rather sick of the green hedges. Some of us then visited the House, excellently preserved, with beautiful paintings and furniture.

Other attractions included boat trips chased by sea-lions, train trips around the grounds and a *Doctor Who* exhibition.

The whole day was great fun and interesting; we all thank Mrs Holdaway for such a good trip, a lively start to the year.

JESSICA NAISH

Macbeth at Stratford

On 10th May a group of Sixth Form English students went to Stratford to see Shakespeare's great tragedy, *Macbeth*, hoping that the evening's performance would be more convincing than our last encounter with the play, at Bristol. I am glad to say that the production surpassed in every way our highest expectations.

We had been somewhat daunted by the thought that there would be no interval. In the event, so good were the performances that the evening flew by. As well as allowing us to see into the calculating and ruthless mind of a murderer, Mr Anderson did what is surely more difficult but absolutely fundamental to Shakespeare's creation: he made us pity the man who, by pursuing evil, empties his life of all meaning and value. Here was a portrayal which made us all feel as if we were in his shoes, caught in an agonising dilemma of worldly ambition and moral suicide.

His performance was admirably supported by Amanda Root, playing Lady Macbeth (an interview with them appears elsewhere in this issue). She gave a vital, highly-charged account of one of Shakespeare's most interesting creations. For her, 'good' clearly meant success for her husband, and 'evil' anything that stood in the way of attaining it. In the famous sleep-walking scene, however, Amanda gave the most poignant insight into Lady Macbeth's inner self, defences down and all driving ambition gone, as her subconscious paced the wasteland she and her husband had created for themselves.

The standard of acting in all the major roles was admirably high, matched by the accomplishment of the production. Light and darkness were used not just to create atmosphere, but also to accompany the theme of illusion and reality in the play, as Lady Macbeth and her husband enter a world of deception and self-deception, in which right and wrong become obscured, confused.

There must be mention of the light relief of the porter's scene with its audience participation, the convincing portrayal of the witches and the dedicated way in which the minor roles were brought off. It was a resounding success, a memorable, thought-provoking and exhausting evening, which kept us on the edge of our seats from start to finish.

JESSICA NAISH

Macbeth

On 10th November our destination was the Theatre Royal, Bristol, to see one of Shakespeare's most poetic and vivid plays, *Macbeth*.

On the whole the performance was disappointing and seems to confirm the view that, over the past 18 months, the Old Vic and Theatre Royal have been slipping from their rank among the top theatres in the country; let's hope that this downward trend does not continue.

The audience waited eagerly for the play to begin with dramatic entrance by the three witches. Immediately things began to go wrong though, as the sergeant forgot his lines and had to be prompted by a resourceful Malcolm to explain 'What of the Norwegian King?' The following scenes rambled on without making much impression on me, owing to the flatness of the actors' delivery.

The play came alive at last with the entrance of Lady Macbeth, played by Dearbhla Molloy, opening with her breath-taking first soliloquy as she takes it into her mind to fight for 'sovereign sway and masterdom'.

Later she was very impressive as she taunted and teased her husband into murdering Duncan, quietly reasoning and then shouting at the confused Macbeth, revelling in his moments of weakness.

Macbeth's soliloquies did not come across as convincingly and powerfully as they might have. The famous one before the murder seemed so flat and hurriedly performed that the potential tension and suspense were lost. Lady Macbeth restored atmosphere and emotion as she tried desperately to calm her frightened husband.

After the interval the witches returned, but their speeches were ruined by the giggles and echoes of excited children as dripping livers, severed fingers and eye of newt were placed in the smoking cauldron. Indeed the director, Andy Hinds, encouraged the laughter by deciding that one of the witches, after a fit of screaming, should appear to give birth on the stage!

Order was restored in the sleep-walking scene, where we saw Lady Macbeth plagued by madness. She played the part with great enthusiasm, and I'm sure the audience could feel the torment she was going through.

And so we came to the end, with a very embarrassingly unconvincing sword-fight between Macbeth and Macduff. Macbeth's death, however, was well presented, finishing the play on a good note: Macduff lifted his sword high into the air above Macbeth, as he lay helpless on the floor, and swung downwards; just as he was about to chop his head off, the fights went out...

Even though there seemed to be many mistakes, I enjoyed the opportunity of seeing *Macbeth*. I felt that the company had a difficult task, as the audience, including many young school-children, was very noisy and tended to put one off. I wish to thank Mr Craddock and Mr Holt for taking us; we had a very enjoyable evening out, in spite of the defects in the performance.

CLARE MALLINDINE

Going for Gold

The requirements of the expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award are to walk 50 miles over four days in areas designated as 'wild country'. This term describes the wettest, coldest, most mountainous and inhospitable areas of Britain. Most of them are so remote, they haven't even been discovered yet.

This year five boys in 6B have been taking part and, by the time this is published, we may have survived the assessment and be entering 6A!

However, before being let out for four days with only an examiner to watch us from afar and with eagerly awaited daily meetings with Mr Willson, we had to complete three full-scale practice walks to make sure that we were capable of using compass and map, and even both of them at once.

At the end of our fifth year we made an abortive expedition in North Wales. It poured with rain constantly from the first evening, and on the second day one of our party fell into a bog waist-deep, having to lie forward to spread his weight; you may imagine that the sight of his doing this was hilarious. Shortly after this we gave up, because the weather conditions were becoming dangerously bad.

Our first full-length practice took place during the first exeat of the Christmas term 1987, in western mid-Wales. However, we might as well have walked around the swimming pool at College for four days, and would probably have remained drier had we done so.

Our next practice walk was to the Peak District, undertaken at the beginning of May this year. For months we had been looking forward to it, not with eagerness, but with excited trepidation; this time we were not going to wet, cold, dark, miserable, depressing, windy Wales. By now we were slightly biased against Wales.

However, rising at 4.15 at Rendcomb on the first day was no fun, especially considering that it was yet again pouring with rain. By 8.30, when we started the climb up Morn Tor, the weather was reasonable and the view from the top very good, the low cloud being merely wispy.

The mountainous terrain over which we were walking quickly took the energy out of all of us except, of course, the tireless Mr Willson, who always had enough energy to remind us, very subtly and politely of course, if we had erred.

After a sumptuous banquet lunch of biscuits, cheese, life-preserving 'Hobnobs' and an orange, we began again. We were a little uncertain whether to pray to Mr Willson, an omnipotent being, to stop the snow that started to fall, but it stopped of its own accord almost immediately. Our afternoon was spent doggedly plodding along the edge of a plateau, before a very steep descent to the campsite. We pitched camp and positively gorged ourselves on a meal of vegetable and dried beef risotto, probably a little better than school food.

Our second day began in dismal, cloudy weather. We breakfasted on Alpen with warm powdered milk, a feast I would truly recommend, if you are dying of starvation. By lunchtime the sun was out and, of course, we were all wearing 'long johns'; quite a sight we must have been, in shirts open to the waist, trousers slipping down, with our bright red or yellow LJs poking over the top.

Our campsite on the second night was filled with the luxuries of washbasins, lavatories and even hot showers, so we were clean for the first time since setting out.

The third day dawned with radiance; a few light clouds high in the atmosphere veritably glowed pink. It was the walking on this morning up a tributary of the main glaciated valley where we had camped which proved the most taxing part of the expedition. It took us three hours of persistent hard walking to reach the top, and we were helped in this by some excellent navigation (not mine).

At the start of the afternoon we realised to our not inconsiderable concern that the usually ubiquitous Mr Willson was no longer following us. As we were walking along the edge of a steep valley, we decided that it was a realistic possibility that he had slipped and fallen, so forthwith we put into action our emergency procedure. We made a bee-line for the top of the hill we were climbing, so that we would know our position exactly. Upon reaching this point we planned to wait while two of our party back-tracked to look for him. However, these drastic measures proved unnecessary when we discovered that he had been on the other side of the hill, while we had followed a path which was not on our route, for we were to leave it and make for the top of the hill before walking from peak to peak until the end of the afternoon. We were all annoyed by this rather pointless expenditure of energy and thus glided over the difficult, boggy terrain aided by a boost of adrenalin, making up some time before arriving at the campsite.

This was quite the most filthy and off-putting farm I have visited; we shared our washing facilities with sheep-dip mixture and vaccination equipment!

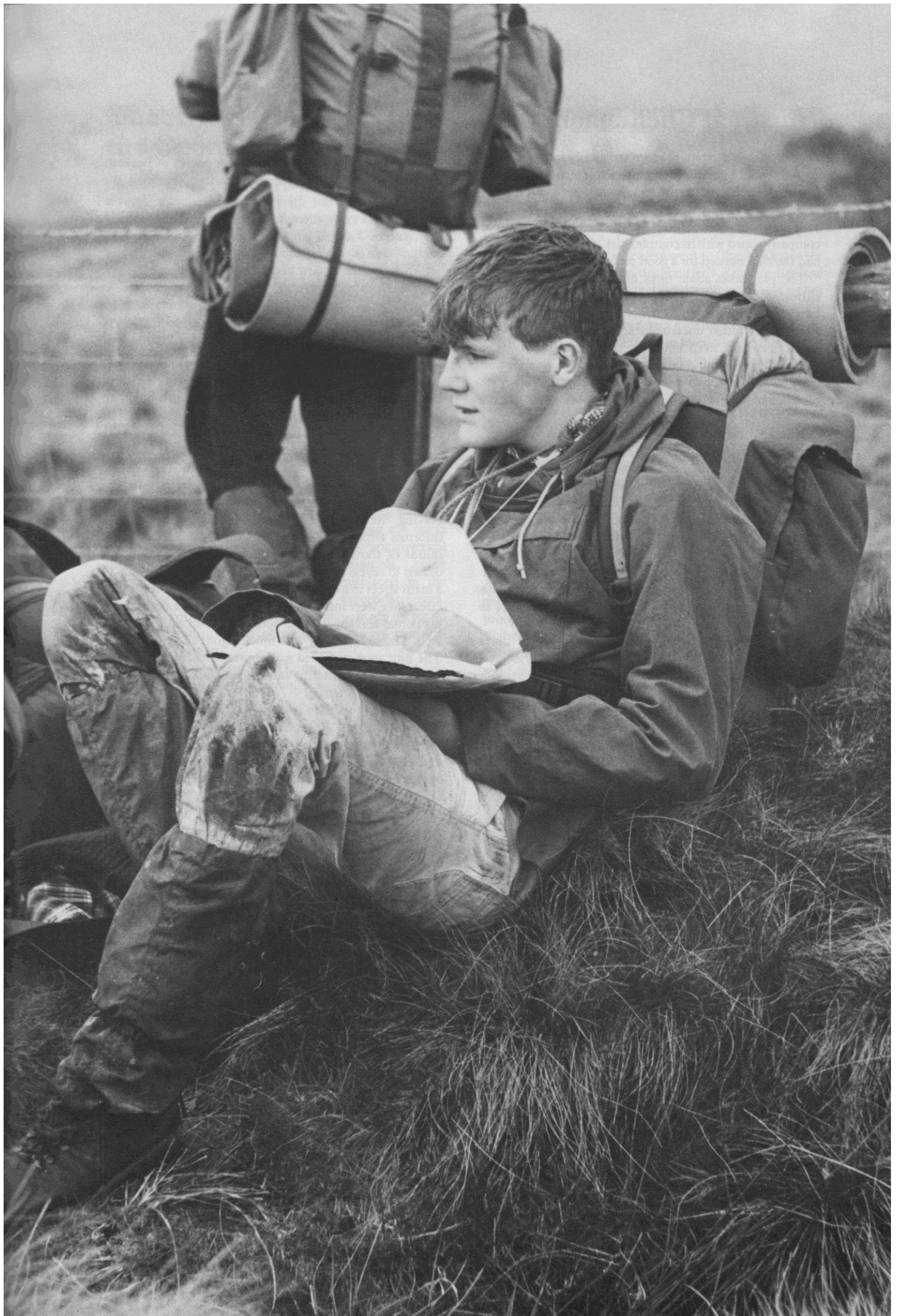
The final day was also hot and sunny. We climbed on to a ridge and followed it to a waterfall, which provided one of the highlights of the walk; we had to climb down the waterfall. This was not as dangerous as it sounds, not quite Mr Willson's idea of a good climb!

The afternoon had one notable high spot, the arrival at the minibus; we raced to it for the last 20 metres, to see which of us was the fastest over the 50 miles.

I would encourage pupils, and any others, who are considering going for the award to do so. The qualities needed are not really great physical strength or power. One must be mentally determined and strong; or do I mean too stupid to realise that the pain will go away if one stops walking?

Seriously, I have enjoyed the walks, if not always while on the moors, at least in retrospect; all of us who have taken part in the scheme this year would like to convey our greatest thanks to Mr Willson, for his willing help and advice, and for his dedication in running the expedition side of the scheme.

MATTHEW FAIRCLOTH



Hamlet at Cheltenham

On 8th March a group of more artistically inclined sixth-formers (with a notable predominance of girls!) went to the Cheltenham Playhouse to see *Hamlet*. As many people know, it is an awesome play to read, let alone to produce, so it was going to be interesting to see how this amateur company coped with its complexities, and whether the cast had the skill needed for a good performance.

The play takes about three hours, and the prospect of sitting still for so long in rather cramped conditions must have been grim for some members of the party! The play soon made a rather uncertain start, as we encountered one major drawback to sitting in the front row - dry ice! The mists billowed around us and almost asphyxiated the first row, while merely disconcerting the second. That inconvenience overcome, we settled back to watch the play.

Hamlet, played by John Beynon, was excellent, carefully interpreting the subtleties of the young prince's nature. He was one of the few actors to deliver a totally word-perfect performance, although others, notably Laertes (Nic Walentowicz) and Polonius (Geoff Bland) performed well. Hamlet, as should be expected, gave the play the cohesion it needed and often held the audience's complete attention. Ophelia's wig-troubles and Fortinbras's decidedly peculiar appearance did nothing to help the credibility of the performance, although perhaps they had the redeeming feature of giving us a chance to laugh in an otherwise overwhelmingly tragic plot.

On the whole, the play was entertaining, at times amusing, and enjoyable; many, well some, of the 'A' level candidates could brush up on their quotations. So, although not quite up to the standard of the Royal Shakespeare Company, by which we have become rather spoilt, it was a pleasant and profitable evening. Our thanks go to Mr Craddock for organising yet another stimulating trip.

EMMA SMITH

Waiting for Godot

In December the Sixth Form French students went to the National Theatre to see their production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

The play has been classed as belonging to the Theatre of the Absurd, and we were not disposed to contradict that opinion. Both scenery and cast were sparse, creating the air of isolation and loneliness, the alternating moods of hope and despair which the play is intended to bring to the audience.

Estragon (John Alderton) and Vladimir (Alec McCowen) were both excellent in creating the overall theme of futility and were well supported by Pozzo (Colin Welland) and Lucky (Peter Wight). The small cast kept up their energy throughout and kept the play, which could easily become monotonous, alive and witty. The key to success in presenting this tragic-comic masterpiece is pace and especially in the second act Alderton and McCowen managed both wit and sadness with a wonderful lightness of touch and an unflagging momentum. Brilliant acting,

coupled with subtle lighting, contributed to a highly enjoyable evening.

The production fully justified the length of the journey and brought out very well the elusive genius of Beckett. We are all grateful to Mr Haslett for organising the evening.

AMANDA CARTER

The Taming of the Shrew

On 29th September the magic aura of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre once again reached out to Sixth Form English students. On this visit we were to be taken on a mystical journey to Italy to see the perils of courtship, the pitfalls of marriage and the desperation brought to those in love. Although *The Taming of the Shrew* cannot be regarded as one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, the customary professionalism evident at Stratford could be clearly seen in this Jonathan Miller production.

As we took our seats we were subtly drawn into 'the Stratford experience' by a group of instrumentalists playing Renaissance music in period costume. An informal atmosphere was excellently created to focus the minds of those watching upon Padua. The curtain was drawn to reveal a spectacular set, giving the impression of a main street in a city, with stage space used to the greatest effect. We were introduced to a well-spoken Lucentio and his comic servant Tranio: both actors carried their parts well, Tranio especially with much vigour and enthusiasm. The plot soon unfolded as Baptista Minola entered with his daughters, Katherine and Bianca, the latter courted by Gremio and Hortensio.

The spectators soon realised why Katherine was called 'a cursed shrew'; Fiona Shaw played the part with true feeling. She was excellent throughout, pondering the light and shade of the part (mostly fight!) with much care, exploiting to the utmost the comedy of the play. Petruchio (Brian Cox) complemented his opposite throughout. His performance started solidly and moved on to peaks of excellence as his character was further revealed to the audience.

Petruchio and Katherine are wed, and the comedy of the play is truly developed as the taming process begins. This is probably as much to do with Petruchio's choice of servants as with anything else! Curtis in particular deserves mention; his 'Scottish' dialect and frantic movement brought much laughter.

Away from the main story we have seen the sub-plot of Bianca's courtiers, Lucentio becoming one of them in the guise of a tutor. With Katherine's marriage, Bianca is free to make her vows, which she does secretly with Lucentio.

The two plots are brought together in the final scene when at Bianca's wedding feast, we see that Kate is tamed indeed. Fiona Shaw delivered a moving speech with genuine feeling, as Katherine told of her loyalty to Petruchio.

The performance was excellent in every way, and all thanks must go to Mr Holt and Mr Craddock for giving us the opportunity to appreciate the skills of fine drama.

ROLAND MARTIN

The Arts Society goes to the Opera

On 20th May a group of lively pupils, mainly from 6B, and several members of the staff left for The Bristol Hippodrome to see Mozart's famous opera *Don Giovanni*, performed by the Welsh National Opera Company. For most of us, going to the opera was a new cultural experience, and we didn't know what to expect.

Seated in the Upper Circle, we breathed an atmosphere of expectancy until the opera began. The first-rate orchestra began by playing a lively overture with feeling and enthusiasm. The stage was lit, the curtain drawn and the actors revealed.

The role of Donna Anna was sung by Sarah Rhodes, and Don Giovanni was impressively played by Mark Holland. Both sang well throughout, and the first half of the opera came to a spectacular visual and musical conclusion. The break was much appreciated; despite the quality of the performance, the length of the opera cannot be denied!

The language barrier notwithstanding, the opera being sung in Italian, the story was surprisingly easy to follow, owing to the emphatic and often highly amusing acting of the cast. To those who knew anything about the opera this seemed a somewhat unusual and controversial interpretation, the lightshow, for example, being spectacular and perhaps somewhat misplaced in the context of the story. However, the superb orchestra, combined with the highly skilful singing, made up for an at times confusingly incoherent, but always thought-provoking, staging.

Many thanks go to Mr O'Connor for organising this much-enjoyed experience, and to Mr Holt and Mr Craddock for accompanying us.

GEMMA NOYCE

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

On 5th October I was particularly looking forward to this Third Form trip to the Apollo Theatre in Oxford, as I had read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis a few years ago and thoroughly enjoyed it. At first glance, you may think that this was a rather immature play for a group of thirteen-year-olds. As it happened, the rather cynical comments made on the coach-ride there were soon absorbed into the electric atmosphere of the theatre.

The four principal parts, the children, were performed with a confidence and gusto which kept the show alive and us spellbound. One of the most difficult things to do when staging a classic book like this is to portray the characters correctly; I was particularly impressed with the way this was done.

The story is symbolic. When Aslan, the lion, is killed on the stone table, it is meant to symbolise Christ's being killed on the cross. Then, just as Christ did, he rises from the dead. He manages to overthrow the Wicked Witch who has been Queen of Narnia for many years, and the children are then crowned as Kings and Queens in her place.

We all enjoyed the evening very much, and I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Newby for taking us to such a felicitous play.

JULIAN MADELEY

Rebecca at the Everyman

On 3rd March the Arts Society went to Cheltenham to see an adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Because this was not a set book, the Rendcomb party was rather more enthusiastic than usual and settled down willingly with bags of peppermints for an evening's entertainment.

The Director had managed to integrate the framework of the novel into the stage version, using a single voice to read the narrator's part at the beginning and the end, adding an element of mystery and timelessness to the performance. I was left with the overwhelming impression that this was a predominantly evil play; characters such as the housekeeper, Mrs Danvers, had been developed until their malevolent influence seemed to corrupt the most innocent of characters. In this respect the play showed itself strongly influenced by the earlier Hitchcock version.

The production was very neat. Costumes were perfect and often raised chuckles of appreciation from the audience, especially in the fancy-dress scene, where the rubicund Englishman, Giles, has to deal with a complex Arab outfit made of horse-hair. The stage set was just fussy enough for the epoch it was meant to evoke, and the play proceeded without a hitch. My only criticism would be of a slight rigidity in the acting: timing was good and they all knew their lines, and yet very few looked as though they were enjoying it, the main character appearing to suffer from severe indigestion.

Despite this, we enjoyed ourselves, and our expectations were fulfilled. Our thanks go to Mr Craddock.

LUCY STRINGER



Parents' Match rained off

C. J. Wood

The Junior House visit the Army Flying Museum

The 22nd May was a perfectly normal Sunday until about eleven-thirty when, as soon as Church finished, the whole of the Junior House rushed back to the Old Rectory, eagerly anticipating the bliss of putting our home clothes on! After changing and collecting a few things, it was down to the main building to get on the coach for our trip to the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop.

When we arrived at the museum Mr Lawton, the father of Chris and Graham, was there to meet us. We all got out of the coach, grabbed a packed lunch and a drink and sat down on the grass to eat. Beside us were some exhibits we could examine while we ate. There were some old machine guns, an old 'Beaver' plane and an Argentinian Bell 512 'Super Huey' helicopter.

After lunch came the interesting part, the museum! First we watched a short film telling us what sort of helicopters the army use and what they use them for. It also explained the advantages of helicopters in general. We were told that the latest and most advanced helicopter the Army uses is the Westland 'Lynx'. Another helicopter, the 'Scout', is used to observe enemy positions and report to the Lynxes, which are then brought in to attack with immense fire-power, their main weapon for 'tank-busting'

being the TOW (tube launched, optically tracked, wire-guided).

After the film we made our way round the rest of the museum, to meet in the souvenir shop afterwards. As I made my way round the museum, I realised how well presented and easy to follow it all was. There were sections showing where the Army Air Corps was in action abroad, and I was especially interested in the sections on Hong Kong and West Germany. I then entered a huge hall filled with old planes, helicopters and other bits of interesting machinery; I climbed in and had a look at all of these.

After buying a few things in the shop, it was back on the coach and down the road to see the real thing, to be shown round the army base where Mr Lawton works and to see the helicopters ready to be flown the next day. As we entered the hangar, the first thing we saw was a Lynx. We were split into two groups, mine with Mr Wood to see the Lynx. After everyone had sat in the Lynx, the groups changed over, and mine had a look at the Scout. When we had all finished, the First Form was photographed outside, in front of a Lynx.

I know everybody enjoyed the day, I especially, and I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Sudbury, Mr and Mrs Wood and, of course, Mr and Mrs Lawton for arranging the trip.

CHRISTOPHER CARMICHAEL



C. J. Wood

Nigel Kennedy at the Wyvern

It's possible that the finest violinist currently before the public is Nigel Kennedy
- New York Daily News.

After seeing reviews like this about the young violinist, the small group which went to see him on 3rd June was unlikely to be disappointed. Kennedy has been playing since he was a very small child; while still young he played with artists of the calibre of Menuhin and Grappelli, and more recently under the direction of Previn and Rattle. Now he is known for his 'outrageous' approach and keen skill in improvisation. Kennedy is not content to perform; he goes out on stage to create music, to transfer its emotion into an audience and to infect them with its enthusiasm. This is certainly what he did.

Accompanied by the Wren Chamber Orchestra from London, he gave an outstanding performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. At times all you could do was just wonder at the display, his technique and agility around the fingerboard seeming physically impossible. At one stage, after a particularly vigorous movement, several hairs from his bow snapped; unbothered by this, Nigel Kennedy continued to make music. The *rapport* he had with his colleagues in the orchestra and the emotion that flowed from the instrument, emphasised by his enthusiasm, were tremendous, exciting everyone's admiration. His exhibitionism and directness were incredible, and he had complete power over those he was entertaining. As applause thundered around the theatre at the close of the first half, Nigel uttered the immortal words: *We'll be back; to do some more damage like what we've done!*

His talent is such that everyone seemed grateful when the interval ended, and a more relaxed orchestra and an even more outrageous Kennedy returned to the stage. The programme of the second half was more contemporary, Nigel demonstrating how the violin could *Sing the Blues* to Miles Davis, *sing* to the Beatles and rawly entertain. Picking up a red electric violin, he played two of his own compositions, one typically entitled *Marilyn Monroe!* He played skilfully, accompanied by bass, drummer and electric guitarist, all of whom had been 'session men' and who had played in various jazz clubs. The result was sheer excitement. Admittedly the electric violin is an acquired taste, but no one could deny Kennedy his talent; he was greeted with sufficient applause to secure two encores, one by, in Kennedy's own words, 'the cool cat' Marvin Gaye, and the other by Duke Ellington.

In short, he was brilliant; what more can be said? He showed enthusiasm, boasted a tremendous personality and improvisational as well as traditional skill; he entertained. If only there were more Nigel Kennedys!

Many thanks go to Mr and Mrs Lane for organising this much-appreciated trip.

ROLAND MARTIN

Stephane Grappelli at the Wyvern

They say that stringed instruments mellow with age and, watching a rather weary-looking Stephane Grappelli take the stage with his violin at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, on 15th June, you could easily have used the same cliché for the instrumentalist. In doing so, however, you would have neglected the love for music which Grappelli so obviously has, a love which he transforms into skill and style. In concert with Martin Taylor (acoustic and electric guitars) and Jack Sewing (electric double bass) Grappelli shone, showing incredible sparkle with his fingers and paradoxically looking so relaxed that one wondered if he were really trying at all!

He played a series of pieces by Gershwin, Cole Porter and Jerome Kern, as well as some of his own compositions. Little communication was made with the audience, owing to the Anglo-French language barrier, but we watched in awe as he sat back and played. Guitar and bass had lengthy solos in several of the pieces, but it was always Grappelli who stole the limelight and who won the duels between the instruments. Taylor would play a technically brilliant solo on guitar, only to be upstaged by a cheeky reply from Grappelli on violin. Notable renditions were *Fascinatin' Rhythm* by Gershwin, *Just One of Those Things* by Cole Porter and *Chattanooga Choo Choo* by Glenn Miller, as well as an excellent solo guitar version of Gershwin's *They Can't Take That Away From Me*.

All three artists played exceptionally well, and the performance showed the obvious enjoyment of music which has kept Grappelli playing at eighty. His only failure was in not giving the audience what they wanted: a second, if not third, encore!

Many thanks go to Mr Lane for organising this trip, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by all who went.

ROLAND MARTIN

Photographers go to the National Exhibition Centre

On 1st May the Duke of Edinburgh photography group, accompanied by a couple of sixth-formers and Mr Wood, paid a visit to the 'Photography 88' exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham. The purpose of the trip was to collect as much information as possible to complete a project on 'various types of film available on the market today'. However, there was much more to distract our attention, such as fast food bars, 'hamburger joints' and models posing for pictures.

The main exhibition hall was packed full with visitors, with the large brand-names and companies, like Kodak, Minolta, Fuji, Olympus, Konica and Canon attracting plenty of visitors to their stands by giving away 'freebies'. The exhibition was very interesting, including the latest in camera technology, such as the futuristic 'Olympus AZ-300' camera, providing a fully automatic system, zoom lens ... the lot!

By the time we had to leave, the majority of us were weighed down by plastic bags crammed full of leaflets, calendars and even more plastic bags. We arrived back at Rendcomb in the early evening, having spent a full, interesting and very tiring day at 'Photography 88', and our thanks go to Mr Wood for taking us.

ANTHONY VON WESTPHALEN-BUNGE

The Annecy Exchange

Having arrived at Annecy after a pleasant journey both by air and road, we were faced by the daunting prospect of having to wait for an hour in the rain, as we had arrived earlier than expected. Waiting obviously didn't help relieve the tense, oppressive atmosphere.

However, after spending a day with my French family, it became evident that my apprehensions were misplaced; I began to relax and speak some hesitant, disjointed French.

Numerous activities had been arranged for my benefit whilst I was in Annecy. They spanned the whole spectrum of outdoor pursuits, from boat trips on the famous lake to braving the pistes at ski resorts along the Chaîne d'Aravis, a spectacular mountain range only 20 kilometres away from Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain. The skiing played a major part during my stay; it was great fun, to say the least, and at times particularly exhilarating, especially when passing through areas notorious for the frequent occurrence of avalanches, some of which I was fortunate enough to see, but at a safe distance!

Apart from skiing, I was privileged to play rugby with the Annecy under-seventeen team on one occasion. As expected, communication tended to pose a small problem! I also visited local places of interest, including numerous *chateaux* and museums, and even saw two films in the Annecy cinema.

During the second half of my visit we went to the Ardèche to stay with my exchange partner Christopher's grandparents in a large villa. By this time my French had improved immeasurably, and communication became much easier as I start to think in French.

Whilst staying in Lyon, in the Ardèche, I went, amongst other places, to the Mediterranean region called the Camargue, an area well known for its natural beauty and abundance of wildlife, ranging from flamingo to the wild black bulls seen in bullfights. This visit made a very pleasant end to a successful exchange.

Altogether I would recommend such a venture to anyone wishing to improve his French and also to have a good time. Finally I should like to thank Dr Haslett for arranging a very enjoyable and educational exchange.

JOE NICHOLLS

6B Biology Field Trip

The excitement of having the chance to stay away at Nettlecombe Court from 20th to 27th April made up for our missing the last four days of our Easter holidays. After meeting at Park House and discussing the events of the holidays, we were keen to get to the coast. However, things began to go wrong at once, as Lara Haine's bag fell off the top of the minibus and bounced down the road; it was finally reclaimed by Julian Norbury, who had to run back about a mile to collect it!

At last we reached the centre, an impressive house surrounded by miles of fields and sheep. We were shown to our rooms and introduced to the other students who were to share the course.

Mr Gothers, our warden, gave us a long speech about the aims and rules for our stay at Nettlecombe. Then it was on to the laboratory, where he introduced us to the idea of Ecology. The excitement and giggles soon wore off as we began to realise how much work there was to do!

The first day was taken up by research at Porlock shore. We collected 1,000 topshells off the rocks at low tide, each of which had to be laboriously dated and measured. Back at the laboratory we studied the structure, population and relationships of common topshells and, even more engrossingly, the strange distribution of mussels along a freshwater stream entering the sea; we later proved that mussels do not like living in fresh water. This was a very mysterious and involving problem which we felt needed further discussion - our excuse for staying awake for many hours that night! Breakfast at 8.30 seemed the only thing powerful enough to coax us out of bed, as we were all very tired, but the food was very good.

An introduction to freshwater invertebrates on Friday made it possible for us to travel to a stream on Exmoor on Saturday in freezing conditions, to discover why flatworms live only upstream in areas of higher calcium deposits.

On Sunday the morning was taken up by an explanation of the Phenomenon of Invertebrate Drift; fortunately we were allowed the rest of the day to do as we wished. Three of our group decided to go swimming in the duck pond, as the swimming pool had not yet been filled, an unwise move, as there seemed to be more mud than water!

On the last day we studied the colonisation of grassland by trees over a period of 16 years. Finally, the last lecture given, we packed up what work we had done and returned our hired clothing, bundling into the minibus the following morning for the long, slow journey home.

Apart from the large amount of work and the small amount of sleep, the group had a brilliant time, and we would all like to thank the Leonard Wills Field Centre in Somerset and Mr Hannaford for putting up with us for a week.

CLARE MALLINDINE

Junior House Canal Trip

Following the success of the 1987 canal trip, the Junior House set off on another brave attempt to navigate the British Waterways.

Our party gathered at the starting point in the third week of the Easter holidays, determined to have the best time we could during the week of our trip. When we arrived at Gayton, a marina on the Northampton arm of the Grand Union Canal, the minibus engine spluttered, coughed and stopped, and the AA had to be called in, a minor mishap, which went almost unnoticed.

When our boats were ready, we took the food aboard and were ready for action. We had two boats, *The Sabine Gull* and *The Tawny Owl*. Mr and Mrs Wood took the smaller Gull class boat, and Mr and Mrs Lane took the *Owl*. Once we had our favourite food packed into the boats, we set off on our week-long journey.

Our route took us through the recently repaired Blisworth Tunnel to Milton Keynes, where we stopped to try the nature trails, using the canal as a base. We also explored the brick kilns, which, though not in use, were very interesting to visit.

Between Milton Keynes and Leighton Buzzard we took the boats over an aqueduct, which had once been a set of locks going down one side of the valley and up the other. At Leighton Buzzard we made a trip to the shops to get food and drink for the crews.

As far as organisation was concerned, we were given duties which we carried out in shifts; there were four duties, covering every job to keep the boats tidy. There were boat tidiers, who had to sweep the floor and tidy up generally, a galley crew, split into washers and table-layers, and there was lock-duty, concerned with the hazardous job of getting the boats through the locks.

From Leighton Buzzard we went on to Bulbourne, where they make the huge lock gates which are a regular sight along the canal. Here again we had a minor mishap: the *Owl's* bilges had filled with water, probably owing to her having been hung up in a lock on her previous journey; some locks are 71 feet long, and the *Owl* is 70 feet long! Bulbourne marked the end of the first half of our journey.

The return journey took us up the tranquil Aylesbury arm of the canal. For this part we all had to go on the *Sabine Gull*, because the locks are narrow and short. It was a pleasant, peaceful stretch, but all too soon we found ourselves on the final leg of our journey.

From Aylesbury we went to Stoke Bruerne, home of the Waterways Museum. There we saw what canals had been like in their prime, during the Industrial Revolution. There was a model of the Anderton boat lift. This carried narrow boats up tall differences in canal levels; after long service it is being refurbished.

Now we headed home to Gayton, refreshed after our week in the open air, grateful to Mr and Mrs Wood and Mr and Mrs Lane for making the trip possible and ready to take on the canals again.

DOMINIC EGRE



Leaving a Lock

C. J. Wood

'Now Get Out of That'

Between 17th and 19th June a Rendcomb team took part in the national 'Now Get Out of That' competition. After the long journey to Arnside in the Lake District we were shown to our accommodation by the chief supervisor and briefed on the following day's events: we were to compete against two teams from British Steel, two from Bloxham School and one local team.

The following morning, after catching a train at Arnside, the teams were dropped off and left alone at different points along the line. The Rendcomb team solved all the clues before the others and covered about 18 kilometres attempting mental and physical tasks, failing on only one section. With six of the seven items retrieved, we believed that we had the best chance of winning; during the evening there was nothing to worry about...

On the Sunday morning our team successfully completed further tests, with only one disaster. All the teams had to raise a flag as far as was possible by constructing a free-standing tower from a limited amount of bamboo cane and string. As you might expect, Rendcomb's ambitious team went over the top; our structure bent back over itself, and by the end our flag was only a foot from the ground!

The final task was the one we needed to win. All we had to do was make a dynamo work, after assembling a bicycle. Could we do it? No chance! It was here that Mr O'Connor, standing aside, might have come in handy, but he was not permitted to help or shout advice. We were the last to light the bulb and, by the time we had, the missing item had been found to give the local team 'the subtle difference' to win. It was all slightly disappointing, because only one clue from Saturday bore any relevance to the final day's work. We believe that we could have arrived on the Sunday and won - if we had lit the bulb with the dynamo!

Despite that, we enjoyed the weekend, and we would like to thank Mr O'Connor for his time and company, and the Headmaster for giving us the opportunity to compete.

JASON VERNON

Geography Field Trip

This Easter the setting was different from last year's; it was an organised and well-equipped field centre in Slapton Ley, between Start Point and Prawle Point. The long distance between Rendcomb and Slapton made the journey down in the school minibus arduous and tiring.

On arrival we were given an entertaining introduction to the Field Centre by the Warden, Keith, and an introduction to the course by our tutor for the week, Nigel. Half an hour later we were plunged into the first of many hours of work, to prepare us for the forthcoming day.

A typical day consisted of an introduction to the work immediately after breakfast, involving a hypothesis and the information needed to arrive at realistic conclusions. This introduction was followed by a data-collecting period in the field from 9.30 a.m. until about 5.30 p.m. What we had not bargained for, however, on our very first day, was having to spend until 9.30 p.m. tabulating the data.

Towards the end of the week our group's enthusiasm would gradually diminish as the day progressed, until 9.30 when we were released and given some leisure time. We were amazed at the end of the week by the amount of work we had done: we had examined two strips of coastline, Slapton Sands, the village of Slapton, the river Harbourne, Slapton Wood and some surrounding villages.

Except for the occasional shower, the weather was on our side during the trip, and this advantage was coupled with the commendably high standard of the food at the Field Centre.

The real value of each day's fieldwork became apparent after supper, when the results were carefully collected and tabulated, and we were able to sit back and try to interpret the data we had gathered.

The consensus of opinion was that the trip to Slapton had been thoroughly enjoyable. We had learned a great deal and enjoyed ourselves at the same time. Our thanks go to the staff at the Field Centre for their time, and to Mr King for his invaluable advice.

ROBERT MITCHELL

6B to London

On 12th June most of 6B set out for their annual trip to London, by courtesy of Mr Lane. After Holy Communion and a hurried breakfast we all piled into the coach; the journey began, the video was switched on, and in no time at all we were in London.

We stopped to have our picnic lunch outside Hampton Court, an impressive palace built for Thomas Wolsey but given by him to Henry VIII in an attempt to keep the King's favour. We were 'let loose' to look around the building. Trying to get our bearings, we stumbled upon the 'Communications Gallery', which linked several rooms for formal occasions, and the Great Hall, where the King dined. As you walk up the King's staircase you cannot fail to notice the painted ceiling, which seemed to impress everyone. After looking round the building, it was hard to see why the gift did not save Wolsey from disgrace! All too soon it was time to meet Mr Lane at the famous, or infamous, Hampton Court Maze. We were given 45 minutes in which to get in and out of it before returning to the coach, and all of us made it in good time.

We then drove on to the Tate Gallery, where we saw a temporary exhibition called 'The 101 Dalmatians'. This was a surrealistic interpretation of the film. We rapidly went round the gallery, and many of us bought postcards of some of the paintings on display. We then went on to Hyde Park, eating our tea among the scrounging pigeons and loose dogs always present in London's major parks.

After tea we drove to the Barbican Centre, where we had an hour to look round before the day's *pièce de résistance*, a concert. The pieces performed were Ravel's Piano Concerto, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and *Escales* by Ibert. Most of us surprisingly enjoyed the less-known piece by Ibert the most.

The concert concluded a most enjoyable day, and we would like to thank Mr Lane for organising the trip for us.

RACHEL DAVIS

Godman House go to London

As the coach wound its way through the streets on 27th September, we reacquainted ourselves with the sights and sounds of London. This whetted our appetites considerably, so when we arrived at our first place of interest, the Trocadero Centre, we sped off quickly and began looking at the exhibition, the Guinness Book of Records 'Hall of Fame'. It contained everything from the smallest woman to the largest cigar, and Guinness have done themselves proud. After working our way through and looking at every display, we had lunch in the grounds of St Paul's Cathedral.

Our next stop had a much more sinister background - the London Dungeons! They weren't much to look at on the outside, but inside they unfolded into a maze of dark passages, with every form of torture realistically on show, dummies displaying the most gruesome of scenes.

Our next visit was much more down to earth, in one sense, the National Science Museum. This ever-growing show had even more exhibits this year, so that almost everyone's taste was catered for.

To sum up, the trip was very interesting indeed, and the novelty of a video on the coach made even the journey fun. Our thanks must go to the staff who made this possible, especially Mr and Mrs Newby.

GRAHAM LAWTON

The Fourth Forms go to the Royal Show

We awoke to a blue-skied morning on 7th July, without a rain-cloud in sight. To say that this was a good sign to me would not be true; I had already made my mind up about the expedition. After driving through well-known Cotswold country settlements like Stow-on-the-Wold, we arrived at the Stoneleigh showground, now swallowed up by Warwickshire buildings and scenery.

However, once inside the massive, almost entirely concrete fair, I began to change my mind; there was so much to see, several rings in which contests were being judged, hundreds of stalls advertising various products, and a multitude of machinery and animals. There were plenty of refreshment caravans and forms of entertainment, such as the clay pigeon shooting range.

Perhaps the best spectacle to be seen was the 'Tractor Pulling Contest'. Involved were 41-litre, 48-cylinder supercharged tractors, decorated in outrageous fashions. The contest was to see which of them could pull an unbelievable weight on an iron sled along a 90-metre track of mud. Many rides in 4 x 4 vehicles were offered to us, and cheap meals could be found anywhere, owing to the acute competition between the vendors.

In short, it was a trip which anyone could enjoy, not just the farmers of the form. We all left very weary and penniless. Everyone was most grateful to Mr Sykes for taking us, and I think we all agree that it was a satisfying form of relaxation at the end of a long term.

PATRICK EVANS

The Fifth Form Visit RAF Cosford

On 24th September the Fifth Forms visited the Royal Air Force Station at Cosford, in Shropshire, where they were holding an Open Day for schools. It was the first time for several years that a party from Rendcomb had been invited, so we, as fifth-formers, felt very privileged.

When we arrived we were delighted to see helicopters ferrying passengers about the vicinity, as many of us held tickets for a ride. There were exhibitions and stalls based round the hangars, each organised by one of the Joint Services, such as the Royal Marines. Several aircraft had been put on display, and we were able to see inside the cockpits. Many of us enjoyed very exhilarating goes on the marine assault course or on one of the abseiling walls.

The climax of the afternoon for most of us was the helicopter ride. It is worth mentioning for the more knowledgeable that there was a Gazelle, a Puma, a Wessex and several Sea Kings. The flight was fascinating, especially for those who had not flown before. There followed a flying display by the Air Force which included the latest Tornado, the Sea Harrier and a parachute drop from a Hercules. There was also an unarmed combat display by the Marines, followed by a demonstration involving tanks. To round off the afternoon, there was a spectacular fly-over by the Red Arrows.

Many thanks go to Mr Kelsey for a very enjoyable day, which expanded and enlightened our views of the opportunities open to us in this field.

JAMES DOWSON



S. Banks

The Record 2

College Officers

<i>Head Prefect:</i>	E. Webb
<i>Head Girl:</i>	A. Speakman
<i>Prefects:</i>	J. Barnett P. Griffiths K. Harman D. Hauton C. Hoare D. Kenney J. Leigh R. Matson S. Michaelides J. Shaw
<i>Church Ushers:</i>	P. Griffiths C. Hoare D. Kenney S. Michaelides C. Rowe
<i>Librarians:</i>	C. Daniels G. Waller R. Parsons H. Stringer
<i>Magazine Editors:</i>	J. Lutwyche C. Mallindine R. Martin J. Naish A. Powell V. Tredwell
<i>Rugby Captain:</i>	R. Matson
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	J. Fellows
<i>Hockey Captain:</i>	G. Carter
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	R. Matson
<i>Cricket Captain:</i>	J. Fellows
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	K. Holmes
<i>Tennis Captain:</i>	M. Attwood
<i>Squash Captain:</i>	R. Mitchell

Meeting Officers

Christmas Term 1987

<i>Chairman:</i>	J. Barnett
<i>Speaker:</i>	W. Hammond
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	A. Andreis
<i>Secretary:</i>	A.-M. Chapman
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	A. Cochrane
<i>Council*:</i>	A. Speakman M. Faircloth J. Head
<i>Entertainment Committee*:</i>	J. Delaney S. Perkins A. Powell R. Tate P. Evans G. Lawton H. Costelloe
<i>Food Committee*:</i>	S. Perkins R. Kolb S. Deacon M. Waddington K. Ellis S. Hardie P. Sumsion A. Beales
<i>Snooker*:</i>	J. Lutwyche J. Slattery S. Whiting R. Milner
<i>Representatives: VIA</i>	J. Delaney A. Speakman J. Leigh D. Kenney M. Carter E. Anderson A. Powell V. Tredwell
	VIB
	V
	IV
	III
	II
	I
<i>Paper Committee:</i>	J. Gregory H. Le Fleming R. Tate S. Hardie C. Brown A. Bunge J. Grafton J. Wheeler W. Hunter-Smart N. Fischer C. Dudbridge A. Branston
<i>Broom Warden:</i>	S. Gammage N. McMurtrie G. Lawton B. Gallagher
<i>Breakages Man:</i>	C. Daniels

Easter Term 1988

<i>Chairman:</i>	J. Barnett
<i>Speaker:</i>	M. Rann
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	A. Andreis
<i>Secretary:</i>	K. Woodward
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	J. Norbury
<i>Representatives: VIA</i>	J. Kelly
	E. Smith
	H. Nathan
	J. McMonigall
VIB	A. Powell
	V. Tredwell
	C. Hauton
	R. Davis
V	J. Gregory
	B. Maslen
	J. Thraves
IV	P. Evans
	S. Hardie
	A. Bunge
III	G. Lawton
	H. Auld
II	N. Fischer
	P. Morgan
I	C. Dudbridge
	A. Branston
<i>Paper Committee:</i>	R. Ogden
	R. Rowlatt
	N. J. Smith
<i>Broom Warden:</i>	S. Banks
<i>Breakages Man:</i>	C. Daniels

Summer Term 1988

<i>Chairman:</i>	A. Powell
<i>Speaker:</i>	J. Carter
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	J. Norbury
<i>Secretary:</i>	B. Maslen
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	R. Tate
<i>Council*:</i>	A.-M. Hobart
	A. Hall
	D. Maslen
<i>Entertainments Committee*:</i>	V. Tredwell
	R. Davis
	A. Bell
	P. Evans
	J. Vernon
	(Second Form post unfilled)
	C. Dudbridge
<i>Food Committee*:</i>	J. Norbury
	R. Davis
	S. Waddington
	M. Waddington
	S. Hardie
	A. Palin
	J. Jenkin
	M. Gee

<i>Snooker*:</i>	S. Whiting
	J. Dowson
	R. Milner
	M. Rogers
<i>Representatives: VIB</i>	V. Tredwell
	S. Deacon
	E. Anderson
	J. Naish
V	J. Hammond
	J. Gregory
	B. Maslen
IV	A. Lainé
	S. Hardie
	C. Brown
	N. McMurtrie
III	C. Walsh
	C. Silchenstedt
	J. Roney
II	N. Fischer
	P. Morgan
I	A. Branston
	J. Bainbridge
<i>Paper Committee:</i>	C. Daniels
	S. Hett
	H. Auld
<i>Breakages Man:</i>	D. Chapman
<i>Broom Warden:</i>	M. Smith

*elected annually

Valete

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

Alexander Andreis, Michael Attwood, John Barnett, Michael Bews, Giles Carter, Jonathan Chappelle, John Delaney, Katherine Ellis, Claire Flanagan, Alexandra Fletcher, Amanda Fry, Stephen Green, Paul Griffiths, Warren Hammond, Karen Harman, Mark Hastings, David Hauton, Finale Hicks, Christopher Hoare, Jane Kelly, David Kenney, Richard Kolb, Mark Larroucau, Julian Leigh, Robert Matson, Sophia Michaelides, James McMonigall, Esther McNeile, Samantha Perkins, Marcus Rann, Benjamin Rees, Christina Rowe, Colin Sainsbury, Andrew Satterthwaite, John Shaw, Emma Smith, Ann Speakman, Lucy Stringer, Hari Swami-Nathan, Anne Waddington, Emma Warren, Edward Webb, James Williamson, Stephan Banks, David Pearce, Kingsley Raffael, Andrew Roney, Jonathan Roney, James Ursell, James Lowe.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1988:

Karen Betts, Lucy Brumitt, Suzanne Denley, Lydia Fellows, Rebecca Hodgkinson, Guy Jeffries, Nicola Kemp, Nicola Malins, Carragh McAree, Sara Payne, Justine Platt, Jonathan Pratten, Phillipa Rome, Charlotte Stephens, Anna Stevens, Karen Swan, Amanda Vaux, Nicholas Cochrane, Emma Fouracres, Emma Hull, Ben Marshall, Anthony Neilson, Alex Faiers, George Agnew, Paul Allan, Roger Gorman, James East, Mathieu Laroche, Christian Millard, Matthew Monteith, Charles Morgan-Harris, Daniel Morris, Stephen Pearce, Nicholas Priscott, Nicholas Rose, John Tate, Nicholas Nettleton, Jeremy Sawtell, Thomas Hughes, Andrew Sylvester, Steven Croft, Francis Barton, Patrick Boydell, Jonathan Underwood, Alastair Christie, Timothy Gaskill, Benjamin Herbert, Martin Adams, Neil Fulton, Daniel Kemp, Ian Thompson, Rupert Wertheimer, James Ellison, Tom Ramsden-Hare, Stephen Jones, Armen Topalian, John Morgan, Ian Timbers, Charles Yardley, Rufus Blackwell.

Old Rendcombian Society

At the Annual General Meeting in July 1987 the following officers were elected:

<i>President:</i>	A. E. A. Brain (1929-37)
<i>Chairman:</i>	M. C. Jones (1956-62)
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	B. L. M. Smith (1965-72)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mrs J. Gunner (1975-77)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	J. D. Williams (1966-71)
<i>Committee Member:</i>	C. J. Wood (1965-71. Staff 1976-)
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	A. Payne (1979-84)
<i>Hockey Secretary:</i>	B. Branston (1982-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary:</i>	J. Healey (1981-86)
<i>Girls' Secretary:</i>	F. Wilkins (1983-85)
<i>School Representative and Newsletter Editor:</i>	W. J. D. White (Staff 1961-)

Marriages

Timothy Mills to **Joanna Brain** (1979-81), May 1987.
Richard Holroyd to **Liz Adams** (1977-79), August 1987.
Keith Winmill (1972-79) to Janet Hammond, July 1987.
James Quick (1975-80) to Kimberly Emmitt, July 1987.
Mark Wilcox (1973-80) to Suzanne Hill, June 1987.
Richard Law (1963-70) to Monique Ratcliffe, 1987.
Joe Watson (1971-78) to Valerie Langford, 1988.

Births

To **Judy** and **Steve Jackson** (Staff 1971-76) a son, Edward,
July 1987, a brother for Richard, Victoria and Oliver.
To **Annabel** (*née Goodenough*) (1973-75) and **Paul Molyneaux**, a daughter, Harriet, September 1986.
To **Sally** (*née Blythe*) (1973-75) and **Mark Patterson**, a daughter, Camilla Lucy, October 1987.

News of Old Rendcombians

Andrew Carter (1972-79) is a Managing Director of Finance with Mitsubishi.

Philip Evans (1972-79) decided to abandon his post at the University of Pennsylvania and has started a post-doctorate course at Bath University.

Nick Miles (1975-80) is Officer in Charge of the Exports Department of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

David Wilson (1980-85) is working for ICI in Macclesfield.

David Maberley (1959-66) has recently seen the publication of his latest work 'The Plantbook. A portable dictionary of the higher plants' (CUP). His other major mill-stone, 'Jupiter botanicus. Robert Brown of the British Museum', was published some time ago. He hopes to resume his fieldwork in two or three years in either Madagascar or New Caledonia.

Guy Healey (1978-83) is beginning to settle into his career in business. After graduating at Oxford in July, he joined the LEK Partnership and spent his first two months commuting between London and Belfast, being introduced to the world of computers, word processors and fax machines. In January he was on a four month stint with the firm in Sydney.

Charles Ekin (1979-83) is in his final year at Reading University. During his practical year-out in France he worked on an organic farm, went to the French Caribbean as well as travelling through the Pyrenees.

Antony Simmins (1974-81) spent three years at Queen Mary College, London University, studying Computer Science. He met **Callum Dick**, **Jeremy French** and **Richard Woof** occasionally. After graduating he stayed on in the department as a demonstrator and programmer with tutorial responsibilities. He is now working for an M. Sc. at Oxford where he met **Mark Burchell** and **Andrew Pitt**, both finishing D. Phil's. Among other things, he spent three weeks on holiday in Zambia in 1986.

Richard Moss (1981-86) completed seven months at Dartmouth Royal Naval College serving on *HMS Fife* before going to Loughborough University. In the course of his time in the Navy, Richard visited Montreal, the Great Lakes and Chicago.

Keith Winmill (1972-79) began working at his father's pub, the 'Greyhound', at Siddington when he left Rendcomb. In 1983 he joined the Stroud Building Society as a cashier. He worked through the ranks from Senior Assistant to Assistant Manager at the Cirencester office and was appointed manager of the Highworth office in October 1986. He was married last July.

Goffrey Smith (1960-67) has been appointed Production Director of Dowty Fuel Systems in Cheltenham. He was Programme Controller with Dowty and Works Superintendent for Dowty Hydraulic Units before moving to Lucas Bryce in 1975 where he was Unit Manager.

Charlotte Kenyon (1980-82) wrote last summer as follows: 'I graduated from Manchester University with a B.A. degree in Geography - a satisfying 2:1. I was a keen member of the Choral Society for two years and represented my university in the Ladies 1st and 2nd XI

hockey teams. In my last year I threw myself once more into community action. I organised with others the 'Magnet Playscheme' for local schoolchildren from Hulme and Moss-side and taught an Asian woman English on a TEFL course. I enjoyed my course and derived great satisfaction from it. Now I am a management consultant with Arthur Andersen & Co., learning all about computer systems. This is another total change! My work involves travel to the States and all over the country... I still see my Rendcomb friends - particularly Isobel, Alicja and Carolyn who live and work very close to me and am enjoying life tremendously... '.

Ian Pengelly (1972-78) wrote as follows last summer: 'I have been in Bristol for a couple of years now and I am very happy with city life. Work-wise, I have changed jobs in the last six months and am now working with young mentally handicapped adults - which is emotionally rather than physically demanding. Basically I am involved with helping a fairly capable group to come to terms with living in the community (some have been in hospitals for years) and to give them the confidence to be as independent as possible'.

Nick Wharmby (1982-87) went to Sandhurst in January. He has been sponsored by the Army Air Corps and will begin Basic Flight Training after Sandhurst. He expects that his first posting will be to Hong Kong on a four to six month detachment to an infantry regiment; this is designed to give the pilot in the air an insight into what the soldier on the ground is thinking.

Christopher Hodkinson (1975-82) spent 'a hedonistic six months' sailing in the Mediterranean after graduating from Portsmouth Polytechnic. Then he returned for the Admiralty Interview Board for a commission in the Royal Navy. At Dartmouth, he achieved a first class overall pass in his professional exams. He passed out in December and joined his first ship, *HMS Andromeda*, in January.

Christopher Moody (1980-87) has won an English-Speaking Union Scholarship and is at Princeton Day School, New Jersey. The school has 870 pupils (small by US standards), and is co-educational.

In their 'year-off' before going on to a University **Alex Brealy** (1980-87) and **Tom Burns** (1980-87) have been on the staff of Warminster School. **Julian Odell** (1982-87) has been working for the UK Atomic Industry.

Ralph Collins (1976-81) is Joint Master of the United Foxhounds on the Welsh borders.

Richard Bendy (1979-84) is now working as a circulation representative with Newsweek International which involves a fair amount of travelling in Britain and abroad. He says he is in regular contact with **Tony Maton** and **Jackie Greenwood** and meets many other ORs in his travels around London.

Simon Johnson (1981-85) has been appointed Head of Drama at Trinity School, Croydon.

William Wilkinson (1974-81) is reading Forestry at Aberdeen University.

Theresa Fox (1985-87) has won an award to read medicine at Charing Cross Hospital.

Paul Curtis-Hayward (1970-77) writes: 'I had always intended to become a stockbroker, and on leaving Oxford I got a job with James Capel as a trainee. In early 1985 I was asked to go to Hong Kong to establish a fixed interest unit

in our office there. I spent two years in Hong Kong liaising closely with **Ian Forrest** (1972-77) who had joined the department in London. In July 1987 I was asked to do the same thing in New York where we are at the moment. I probably saw more ORs in Hong Kong than at any time since leaving Rendcomb! **Sally Paterson, Rory Thomson, Taryn Nixon, David Oughton, Richard Tudor, Nick Price** to name a few. I have not come across so many in New York so far... Edwina has managed to get good jobs both in Hong Kong and New York, so I guess we're a typical yuppie couple!! **Michael (Curtis-Hayward)** (1974-81) has decided that London and the Law were not doing his health any good; so after completing his articles, he went off to Greece to write a book. Finding Greece closed for the winter, he took a boat to Israel and is picking oranges on a kibbutz'.

We are grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for permission to reprint extracts from their 1988 Newsletter.

News of Recent Leavers

Corrin Adshead

HM Forces

Robert Anderson

Manchester Polytechnic - Engineering

Mark Astill

Birmingham University-Chemical Engineering

Daniel Beales

Manchester University - Medical Sciences (1988)

Gillian Bell

Exeter College, Oxford - English

Giles Branch

UCCA 1988 Fine Arts

Barnabas Branston

Christ Church, Oxford - French and Linguistics

Alexander Brealy

St Andrew's University - Geography (1988)

Thomas Burns

PCAS (1988) Civil Engineering

Dominic Clark

Birmingham University - Maths and Computer Science

Pollyanna Cochrane

Southampton University - Psychology and Sociology (1988)

Giles Davies

King's College, London - Biological Sciences

Robert Draper

Lanchester Polytechnic - Law

Ian Ford

University Polytechnic - Law

Theresa Fox

Charing Cross Hospital - Medicine

Juliet Hasler

Exeter University - Environmental Science

Annalisa Heal

Exeter University - Biological Science

Kevin Hewston

Southampton University - Geography

Nicola Newell
Secretarial College, Oxford

Polly Nicholls
Kingston Polytechnic - French and Art

Justin Noyce
Manchester Polytechnic - Architecture (1988)

Julian Odell
Queens' College, Cambridge - Engineering (1988)

James Penneck
Bristol Polytechnic - HND Computer Studies

Christopher Pope
Southampton University - Economics

Timothy Prince
Banking

Matthew Reid
Brunei University - Industrial Design

Angus Rollo
University College, London - Law (1988)

Henrietta Rothman
UCCA 1988 Business Studies

Rachel Waddington
City University - Psychology (1988)

Lisa Wallace
St Mark's and St John's College, Plymouth –
Physical Education and History

Mark Walters
Salford University - Information Technology

Nicholas Wharmby
HM Forces

Iain Whittaker
Birmingham University - Commerce

John Marland
Bristol Polytechnic - Building Engineering

Richard Reichwald
Hotel Training

Geoffrey Broomfield
Technical College

Thomas Eastham
High Wycombe College

Andrew Kinch
Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology

David Norton
Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology

Sean Tate
Farming

Paul Wilson
Forestry

Richard Wooster
City of Bath College - Engineering Technology

Philip Matson
Nursing Training

Simon Scott-White
Worcester Technical College

Duncan McDonald
Royal Holloway College - Biology

David Edwin
Swansea Polytechnic - Marine Biology

Catherine Faircloth
Cardiff Polytechnic - Law

Roderick Hill
Birmingham University - Banking and International
Finance

Tanya Holden
Guy's Hospital - Medicine

Raquel Hughes
Royal Holloway College - History

Simon Kingscote
Plymouth Polytechnic - Business Studies

Kerry Mallindine
Aston University - Physics

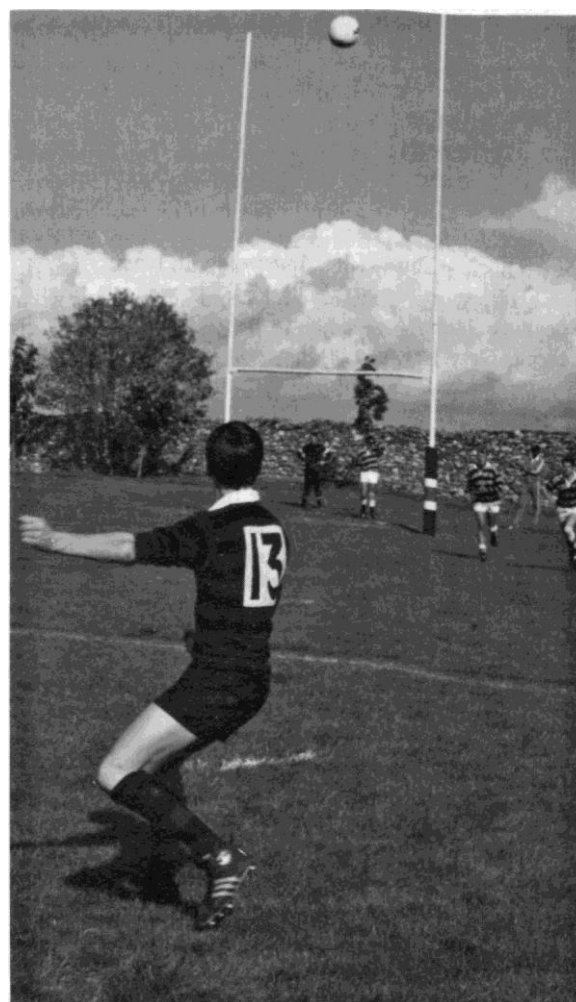
James Mann
Lancaster University - Electrical and
Mechanical Engineering

Susan Maton
Hatfield Polytechnic - Humanities

Christopher Moody
Exeter University - History (1988)

Amanda Moore
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford - PPE

Philip Moore
Police Force



C. J. Wood

Boys' Sport

Rugby Football

The '87 season proved exceptional in many respects. We were again very lucky with the weather, and of the 97 matches scheduled only 6 were cancelled. This year a second-string Colts XV took the field for matches, making an impressive figure of ten teams. The very successful junior sides coached by Messrs Kelsey and Graham suffered only two defeats in their combined 11 matches, whilst giving most boys in the Junior House a chance to represent the school. The U14 group managed several times to field both 'A' and 'B' XV's on the same day, out of a total of only 31 fit players; in the U15 group the talented 'A' team under Mr Burden produced an excellent record with only two defeats, and the enthusiastic 'B' team under Mr O'Connor played some impressive rugger. The U16 'A' team developed well throughout the season, with notable victories over Bloxham and Dean Close, while Mr Haslett's time and energy with the 'B' team helped them perform commendably. The senior squad again suffered with numbers, as several players were medically unfit for the whole of the season, the 2nd XV being hit most by the 'knock-on' effect.

This was an outstanding season for the 1st XV; despite the coaching staff's pre-season apprehension, the XV's performance in their first two matches raised not only a number of eyebrows but a great deal of hope. On paper the side was in for a tough time but, like the England team against France, they were out to prove otherwise. The spirit in the squad was the impressive feature; they worked hard, with purpose in practice, and in all matches they maintained a positive and confident attitude; even when being out-gunned by the monstrous Kingswood and Monkton Combe sides, they kept going to the end. The depth of commitment, team-work and a willingness to run the ball led to some excellent performances, especially after half-term with a series of seven victories in their last seven matches, scoring 181 points for with only 34 against. The most notable 'scalps' were those of Dauntsey's and Dean Close, whose pre-encounter records were most formidable; however, controlled, intelligent play, some impressive team skills, and yet again all-out commitment led the XV to success. The latter match proved to be the final one of the season, the Old Boys' being cancelled owing to frosty pitches - 'luckily for them' many said!

Every member of the squad played his part in this exceptional season, but special mention must be made of Giles Carter, whose often dazzling handling and running with the ball contributed a great deal to the points table in so many matches and who, as Vice-Captain, injected energy and enthusiasm into the backs. The Captain of Rugby, Robert Matson, deserves special commendation, proving first-class both on and off the park with his efficiency, reliability and leadership; his blend of dry humour, his maturity and dedication, along with the high standards he expected from everyone in the XV, helped develop team commitment and the principle of 'Let's enjoy it *and* do the business!'

Highlights of the season included four Colts' playing for the District team and, more notably, Giles Carter and Christopher Huck's being selected for the County U18 Schools Team at centre three-quarter and lock forward respectively. Peter Grimsdale, the talented outside-half 'pinched' from the U16s scored a record 111 points for the 1st XV, whilst Kojo Annan set a new points record for the U15s with 116 points. The senior packs had a hard but very enjoyable and enlightening afternoon being coached by the former England and Lions second-row forward, John Fidler, who also honoured us with an appearance as Guest speaker at the Club Dinner; this again proved a marvellous occasion and a tremendous success. Sadly it was the last Rendcomb Dinner for R. C. Hannaford, who is leaving for pastures new; over the last five years he has passed on his knowledge of the game to all levels throughout the school, whilst continuing his successful role as County Coach. May I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to Charlie and to wish him every success in the future?

Finally, may I thank everyone involved in the rugger this term: the dedicated coaching staff, Mr Essenhigh, the Rugby Committee, especially Julian Fellows as Secretary and chief organiser of the Club Dinner and, of course, the XV; it was a pleasure working with you!

M. J. N.

Overall record:

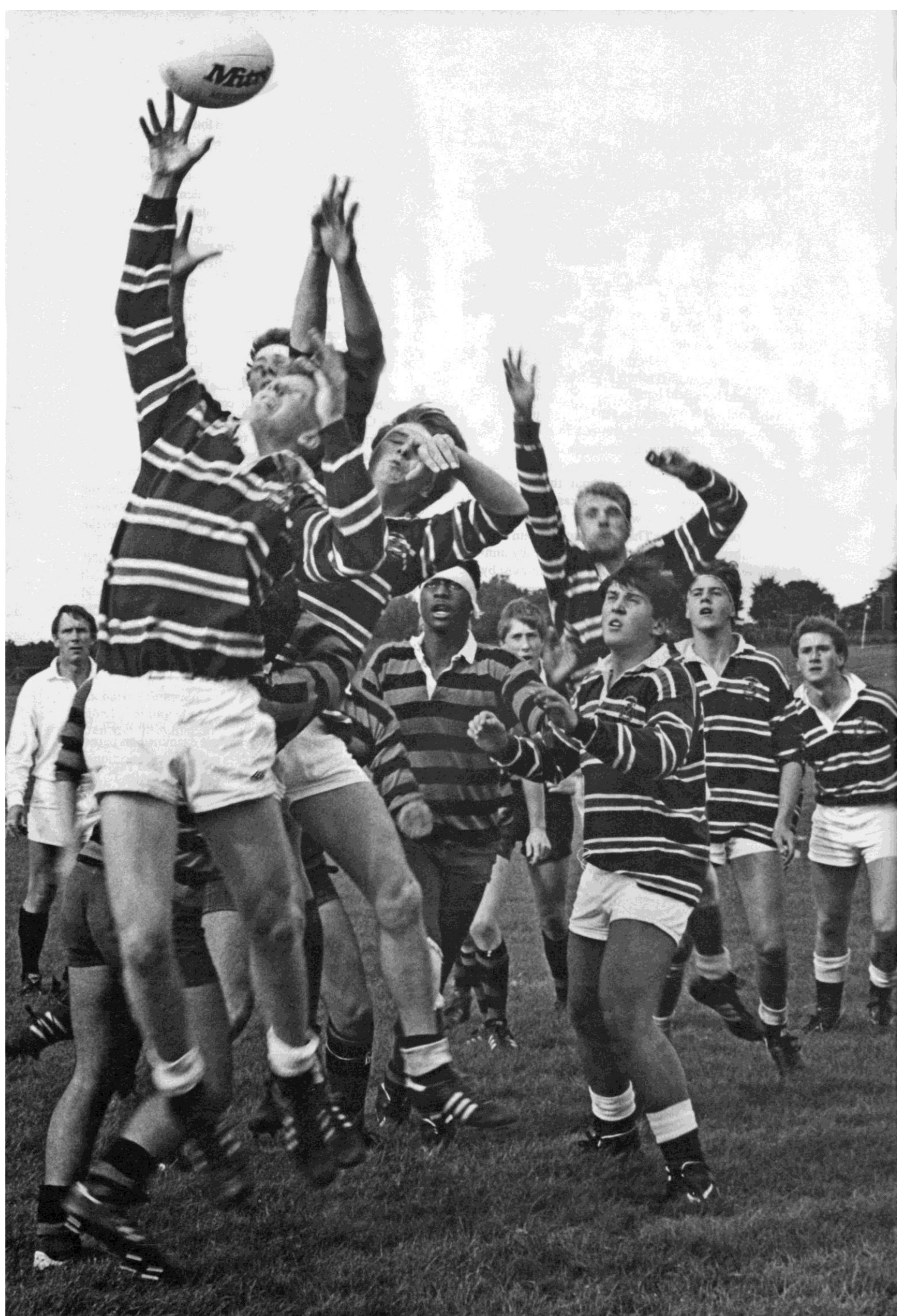
Played 85; Won 47; Drew 1; Lost 37; Points for 1,208; Points against 1,183.

1st XV

The prospects for this season looked very grim when the credentials of the likely players were examined on paper. However, dramatic team changes and a radical injection of youth into the side produced a remarkable effect. The team performances went from strength to strength, culminating in a win over Dean Close and an unended run of seven straight victories.

The back division was the real cutting edge of the team. Their speed and ability to wrong-foot defences meant that they had the upper hand over virtually all opposition. There was much experimentation early on, but the backs were eventually Peter Grimsdale, Giles Carter, Ben Maslen, Jo Hammond, Matt Faircloth and Dave Kenney, with Mark Hastings providing some inspirational counter-attacking from the full-back position. Giles was the real strike weapon, and his skills were immense in every department of the game. Peter scored 113 points, a new club record and a remarkable achievement for an U16 player. Ben and Jo used their great acceleration to good effect, scoring a dozen tries between them. The two wingers were always superb, and Matt's tackling was devastating.

The usual lack of size in Rendcomb forwards looked as though it could take on frightening proportions this year. However, innovative and imaginative positioning of players overcame this. Props who should be locks, number eights better suited to hooking, and interchangeable back and second rows, all combined to produce a steady enough



base from which to distribute the ball to the backs. Jon Chappelle, Alex Andreis and Julian Leigh produced a surprisingly solid front row. Although the scrummaging was never brilliant, the loose play was quite superb, and all the impressive wins were made possible by superiority in this department. Jason Carter harassed well and disrupted most of the opposition ball. Marcus Rann and Julian Leigh were resilient and unyielding in their tackling. Chris Huck showed moments of brilliance and will excel next season; Aubrey Powell and Paul Griffiths were extremely strong at second row.

The success of this season cannot be put down to ability, size or hard practising; it was due simply to the pure love of rugby shown by every member of the team and to the desire to succeed, no matter what the sacrifice. Our warmest thanks must go to Mr Newby for his tremendous work in converting our enthusiasm into technical improvement.

ROBERT MATSON

Played 16; Won 11; Lost 5; Points for 308; Points against 160.

v. Marlborough College 3rd XV (H)	Won	14-4
v. Rednock School (A)	Won	31-6
v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	6-34
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	12-20
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won	13-7
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	3-11
v. Army Junior Leaders' Unit (H)	Won	48-8
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	0-33
v. Burford School (A)	Won	35-4
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	21-7
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	25-0
v. St Edward's School Cheltenham (A)	Won	30-3
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	39-9
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Won	19-4
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	12-7

The match against the Old Rendcombian Society XV was cancelled, owing to frozen pitches.

Team from: R. Matson (Capt.), G. Carter (Vice-Capt.), M. Hastings, J. Chappelle, J. Leigh, A. Andreis, P. Griffiths, A. Powell, C. Huck, J. Fellows, M. Rann, P. Grimsdale, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, D. Kenney, M. Faircloth, J. Carter, J. Vernon, J. McMonigall, S. Green, H. Nathan, G. Cowie, M. Attwood, V. Tredwell, H. Fleming.

2nd XV

A season that might at first glance be best viewed as one to forget should, in retrospect, be seen differently. At the time the problems seemed to compound themselves week by week. The usual story of the 1st XV's taking the better players as injuries occurred, but then not returning anyone, was particularly to affect the team this year.

This did nothing for morale, for players who in other years would have been the backbone of a successful 2nd XV now saw themselves as 'better' than their former team-mates, following even the briefest period of elevation to

the 1st XV. Any subsequent demotion brought the response of a *prima donna*, all mood and petulance. Rugby is a team game, where work-rate, commitment and belief are more important than natural athletic talent.

However, by the time you read this report we shall be poised for a new season. What, retrospectively, are the positive features?

Grant Hughes developed into an aggressive, confident captain, and he should step up a grade in 1988. In a similar fashion a few other individuals worked hard at their game and, although progress was initially slow, they came through as players of real promise. Vaughan Tredwell made considerable advances as a back-row forward. Michael Attwood played almost everywhere, in the interest of the team. Russell Ogden showed considerable courage and skill from the position of scrum-half. Robbed as we were of almost any 6A experience, as a result of promotion to the 1st XV or injury, in the most unfortunate cases of the enthusiastic Colin Sainsbury and the talented James McMonigall, the season can now be seen as a period spent gaining invaluable experience.

The U16 players who also represented the 2nd XV were known to possess considerable skill; their contribution was most welcome and significant in the matches we won. Given this depth of talent available for selection for the senior game, those individuals who decided not to apply themselves when conditions were difficult in 1987 may not find a place in the side one expects to be very successful next season.

C. P. M. K.

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 5; Points for 107; Points against 135.

v. Rednock School (A)	Won	33-0
v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	0-48
v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV (H)	Lost	0-9
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	6-34
v. Burford School (A)	Won	7-0
v. Avonhurst School 1st XV (H)	Lost	15-17
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	10-6
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	30-4
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Lost	6-17

Team from: G. Hughes (Capt.), P. Griffiths, J. McMonigall, G. Cowie, J. Hammond, J. Vernon, R. Mitchell, R. Ogden, J. Carroll, J. Gregory, N. Hall, J. Norbury, V. Tredwell, H. Le Fleming, R. Martin, C. Hauton, C. Daniels, A. Lainé, A. Cochrane, S. Green, T. Nicholls, K. Holmes, C. Bannister, J. Jehan, J. Nicholls, M. Attwood, D. Kenney.

U16 'A' XV

With the loss of Peter Grimsdale to the 1st XV from last year's highly successful U15 side, the effectiveness of the team, particularly in the backs, was diminished. However, this meant that there was more pressure on the other members of the team to produce a cohesive side. John Carroll played well at full-back, and his line-kicking and defensive work were first-class. He scored over half the points with his place-kicking.

Ben Maslen and Jo Hammond were again an effective strike force, and their tackling improved a great deal as the season progressed. They scored 11 of the 14 tries and both deserved their promotion to the 1st XV. Tom Nicholls was under pressure in many games but used his options well and kept the pack going forward. Oliver Boatfield, Robert Tate and Arwyn Jones played steadily throughout the season, and their firm tackling was just what was needed.

The pack was ably led by Henry Le Fleming, who also did a solid job in the line-out and scrums. Angus Cochrane and Chris Daniels probably were the most improved players; they were prepared to commit themselves physically and with increased mobility. These three players should make their mark next season.

Kevin Holmes and James Gregory were an effective pair of props and learned a great deal during the season. Once again, mobility and fitness are the keys to improving performance, and they need to work hard if they are to make the most of their physique in the senior sides in 1988.

Nick Hall was a technically very sound hooker, and his all-round performance improved significantly throughout the season. Joe Nicholls and Chris Hauton were very mobile, and without them the team would have been in difficulties. Their tackling was first-class and their positional sense sound. They were ably supported by Alex Lainé, whose aggressive mauling play was impressive.

The performances against Bloxham and Dean Close were memorable for the great determination and spirit displayed by all members of the squad. These games were typical of the team as a whole and in no mean measure due to the inspiring leadership of Ben Maslen, who was a credit to the School on and off the field. Well done, and good luck to you all in 1988.

R. C. H.

v. Marlborough College U16 'B' XV	Won	12-0
v. Wycliffe College 4th XV (H)	Won	26-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	14-3
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	13-4
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	4-7
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	16-12
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	3-18
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	9-6

Team from: B. Maslen (Capt.), K. Holmes, N. Hall, J. Gregory, J. Nicholls, H. Le Fleming, C. Daniels, B. Gallacher, A. Jones, A. Lainé, A. Cochrane, C. Hauton, T. Nicholls, P. Grimsdale, J. Hammond, J. Carroll, R. Tate, O. Boatfield, A. Clark, C. Bannister, D. Pearce.

U16 'B' XV

Those who tend to measure sporting success exclusively in terms of results will no doubt fail to be impressed by a side with but one victory in five matches played. With such a blinkered view, however, they run the risk of overlooking the spirit in which the game is played.

Despite their being pitted against opponents bigger than themselves, and despite even having to cancel one fixture because of mechanical breakdown in the College minibus, nothing succeeded in dampening the enthusiasm of this U16 'B' squad for the game. Throughout the season, whether in matches or in practice, they played their rugby with commendable commitment and no little zeal.

So forget the results! The game's the thing! These lads thoroughly enjoyed their rugby this season, and I was proud to be in charge of them. Does anything else really matter?

L. J. H.

Played 5; Won 1; Lost 4; Points for 30; Points against 68.

v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	8-0
v. Wycliffe College 5th XV (H)	Lost	8-12
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	6-16
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	4-24
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	4-16

Team from: B. Gallagher (Capt.), S. Banks, A. Bell, A. Clark, J. Dowson, J. Jehan, F. Lee, A. Miles, C. Paine, D. Pearce, S. Phalke, J. Prince, K. Raffael, A. Roney, C. Reens, M. Waddington, G. Waller, S. Whiting.

U15 'A' XV

This was another excellent season for these boys: they worked with enthusiasm at their game and achieved some notable wins against larger schools. The only disappointing performance was against a particularly strong Wycliffe side.

Although this was a good team effort, there was one particularly outstanding performance, at inside centre, from Kojo Annan. He scored 29 of the 54 tries. His power, speed and elusive running could not be matched by any player from the opposition. He often scored from deep inside his own half, and as a result many matches were won with limited possession.

The forwards gained good possession for the backs in the set pieces and improved steadily during the term. The back row, Matthew Rogers, Christopher Brown and Nigel Bayliss, had an excellent season, and the front row was generally very solid. In the second row Andrew Digney's line-out work, powerful runs and cover tackles were outstanding. He was well supported after half-term by Richard Rowlatt, who had returned from illness. Nicholas Wood was an efficient scrum-half, and Daniel Maslen showed towards the end of the term that he may have a promising future at fly-half. The side was fortunate in having two reliable place-kickers in Richard Hughes and Richard Milner. Hughes's move to outside this season

restricted his play. The wingers did not see much of the ball, although Peter Smithson indicated that he could develop into a promising player. William King did well at full-back, showing many skilful touches.

I must thank Daniel Maslen for his excellent leadership. I am sure the team will remember his 'pep' talks for many years to come. This group should continue to do well in the senior sides.

C. C. B.

Played 13; Won 10; Drew 1; Lost 2; Points for 275; Points against 130.

v. Kingshill School (H)	Won	26-6
v. Rednock School (A)	Won	28-8
v. Kingswood School (A)	Won	16-6
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-48
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	20-0
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	24-8
v. Bloxham School (A)	Drew	16-16
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	18-9
v. Burford School (H)	Won	24-4
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	11-0
v. Farmor's School (H)	Won	42-0
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	32-6
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	18-19

Team from: D. Maslen (Capt.), K. Annan, P. Bartlett, N. Bayliss, C. Brown, A. Digney, S. Hardie, R. Hughes, W. King, R. Milner, M. Moody, M. Rogers, R. Rowlatt, P. Smithson, J. Tomsett, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, N. Wood, A. Mackinnon, A. Miles, C. Paine.

U15 'B' XV

The table of results gives little indication of the actual quality of the team this season. Many of the matches were played against far stronger opposition and much larger schools. However, they played throughout with great determination and managed their only victory away against Wycliffe. Simon Hardie had an outstanding season and always led by example. Mention must be made also of Richard Herbert, who personified the attitude of the team generally: although lacking in physical size, he hardly missed a tackle all season, regardless of the size of his opponent.

Perhaps the best match they played was against Monkton Combe. Although trailing for most of the time against a much larger team, they never ceased trying. With minutes remaining, Martin Digby intercepted a pass and ran in to score from 60 yards. In the last few moments they only narrowly missed scoring again, after completely dominating the play. It was this enthusiasm and unwillingness to give in that made them such an enjoyable team to work with. I feel sure that many of the team will represent the school at a much higher level as they progress.

D. O'C.

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5; Points for 29; Points against 142.

v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	0-52
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	20-4
v. Bredon School 'A' XV (H)	Lost	0-8
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-30
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	9-12
v. Burford School (H)	Lost	0-36

Team from: S. Hardie (Capt.), D. Chapman, M. Digby, P. Evans, P. Gorman, A. Halliwell, R. Herbert, S. Hett, D. Lester, N. McMurtrie, M. Moody, P. Neve, R. Parsons, T. Shillington-Balfour, I. Spencer, L. Thompson, J. Tomsett, N. Utting.



2nd XV

D. Hauton

U14 'A' XV

This year's squad was small both in size and number, yet they produced some pleasing performances, notably at Bloxham, and by the end of the season had made considerable progress. The forwards were often under a lot of pressure in the scrums, but compensated with good, determined play in the loose and in the line-outs. Cass Silchenstedt in particular provided a lot of possession. Hamish Auld, playing his first full season, developed his skills very well, as did Christopher Walsh, while Graham Lawton was outstanding on a number of occasions. In the back division we were unfortunate to have Nicholas Smith and Marcus Head unavailable for quite a few games; when they played they showed a lot of courage in defence and skill and pace when running forward. The group certainly enjoy their rugby and, with more confidence in their own ability and more luck with the injuries, they should produce some good rugby as they progress up the school.

P. S.

Played 13; Won 5; Lost 8; Points for 86; Points against 266.

v. Rednock School (H)	Won	10-8
v. Kingshill School (H)	Won	12-0
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-32
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost	10-12
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	0-34
v. The King's School, Gloucester	Lost	3-22
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	13-22
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	4-3
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-64
v. Avonhurst School (H)	Won	26-16
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	4-0
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	4-33
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-10

Team from: G. Davies (Capt.), H. Pugh, J. Madeley, A. Palin, N. Smith, J. Wheeler, G. Lawton, D. Howard, J. Roney, N. Houseman, C. Walsh, J. Ursell, A. Pollard, C. Silchenstedt, G. Bennett, M. Head, M. Norman, H. Auld, J. Dowbiggin, S. Vernon.

U14 'B' XV

Hampered by the shortage of players, we often had to 'borrow' from the second year, and early in the term the team struggled to compete against other schools. However, the boys available 'bit the bullet' and really competed against a strong Monkton Combe team, keeping the opposition in their own half for most of the second half of the game, with Hugh Costelloe snatching the late try that the team really deserved. Their improvement was definitely evident against Kingham Hill, where we were distinctly unlucky not to win. Matthew Norman, Andrew

Pollard and Glen Harris put in an excellent display and James Grafton kicked the penalty goal. Scott Vernon captained the side with maturity when not being used by the 'A' team, and several of this team could do well further up the school.

M. S. G.

Played 4; Lost 4; Points for 9; Points against 124.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost	0-44
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-40
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	6-26
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	3-14

Team from: S. Vernon and M. Norman (Capts.), A. Baker, J. Grafton, G. Harris, P. Irving, C. Payne, A. Pollard, J. Roney, J. Sleeman, J. Smith, N. J. Smith, P. Sumsion, T. Underwood, J. Ursell, C. Carmichael, H. Costelloe, N. Fischer, M. Valentine.



U13 'B' XV

C. J. Wood

U13 'A' XV

This was without doubt a fine season. With only 26 to choose from, the squad was rather lacking in numbers, but this was more than offset by the quality of those involved. The result was a series of good performances, beginning with a sound win over Farmor's. Although King's Gloucester, proved too strong for us, a stirring second-half fight back showed that the side had determination not to crumple under pressure. This was again demonstrated in the Dauntsey's match, where the lead changed hands several times and the result was in doubt right up to the last minute. The St Hugh's game was played under disappointingly adverse conditions, but this proved to be the prelude to a series of sound wins, culminating in a big points tally against Kingham Hill.

The top scorer was Nigel Fischer, whose strength and speed proved invaluable in the pack. He was ably abetted by Mark Valentine at number eight. In the backs, Chris Carmichael and Stuart Hall built up a sound partnership at scrum-half and stand-off respectively. Stuart Hall's height and speed posed problems for many defences, and his points tally was high. Beyond him, Hugh Costelloe and Alec Beales were strong in the centre, both in attack and defence. Chris Carmichael scored over 30 points with the boot and, as captain, led the team with aplomb.

To highlight certain individuals is, however, rather misleading. Rugby is a team game above all, and *everybody* contributed to the final score, whether in the depths of the scrum or the heights of the line-out, in the back line or the front row. Suffice to say that here is a team which has done well this year, and which I have no doubt will continue to do well in the future.

M. H. G.

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2; Points for 167; Points against 90.

v. Farmor's School (A)	Won	20-8
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	10-24
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	22-20
v. St Hugh's School (A)	Lost	9-24
v. Prior Park School 2nd XV (H)	Won	14-8
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	28-6
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	64-0

Team from: C. Carmichael (Capt.), M. Valentine, S. Barrett, A. Beales, H. Costelloe, P. Croft, N. Fischer, M. Giggs, A. Graham, S. Hall, W. Hunter-Smart, G. Jenkins, P. Morgan, A. Platt, M. Sansome, J. Talbot, Y. Yakutieli.

U13 'B' XV

The beginning of the term looked very unpromising, but by half-term there was great enthusiasm shown by all, as skills developed and improved to produce a close-knit team.

Everyone played his part, but special mention must be made of Barrie Davis and Christopher Lawton at half-back, who between them scored nearly half the points, and of Andrew Branston in the scrum, who became a forceful

runner and came close to scoring on a number of occasions.

Every player should be pleased with his own, as well as the team's, progress, and proud to have represented the College in such a convincing way in his first term here. To have scored 100 points and conceded only four tries in as many games is a record to be proud of and to give a stimulus to next season's games with the U13 'A' XV.

Played 4; Won 4; Points for 100; Points against 18.

v. Prior Park School 3rd 'B' XV (H)	Won	18-4
v. St Hugh's School 2nd XV (H)	Won	8-0
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	36-4
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XV (A)	Won	38-10

Team from: B. Davies (Capt.), C. Lawton (Vice-Capt.), R. Hutson, W. Smalley, R. Sage, J. Wilkie, C. Waters, A. McIndoe, A. Martin, C. Dudbridge, A. Branston, J. Mackinnon, T. Haine, A. Platt, M. Sansome, M. Giggs, A. Graham, G. Jenkins, P. Morgan, J. Talbot, P. Croft, H. Costelloe, A. Beales.



U13 'A' XV

C. J. Wood

Hockey

The small quantity of snow and a low number of frosts resulted in more eleven-a-side hockey's being played than in previous years; however, oddly enough this weather was favourable mainly to matches, and on nearly half of the games days there were no practices on Top Field. The controlling factor was undoubtedly the heavy rainfall, and it highlighted the drainage problem on the under-14 pitch immediately behind the pavilion; we hope that a land drain will be laid before January 1989. Despite all of this, neither boys nor girls were demoralised by the weather and, as ever, they made use of the hard surfaces to practise their skills and set moves. Playing more grass hockey than usual made our teams less able to cope with the different style of play required for opponents' all-weather surfaces, but all teams, from the 1st XI to the U12 XI, which played on the new synthetic surface at Cheltenham College, tried extremely hard when confronted with such a difficult transition.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of certain staff and the enthusiasm and attention to detail given by Max Chase, an ex-RAF player living locally, 'B' teams were fielded at middle school level, and the U14 'B' team played no less than five matches.

At first the overall playing record seems a little disappointing; however, when the many close and enjoyable games are remembered and the potential of so many players is considered, 1988 must be regarded as another successful season.

Played 95; Won 34; Drew 19; Lost 42; Goals for 163; Goals against 183.

There were several changes to be seen on the pitches: backboards had to be painted in a dark colour, and it seemed appropriate to choose dark blue; the 25-yard lines became solid, to help umpires with the new offside rule, and dotted circles five yards outside the shooting circles were adopted for determining the end of a penalty corner. A welcome change in the rules penalised the player who lifted the ball into the circle.

Sadly, Giles Carter was just too old to be considered for the Gloucestershire U18 trial, and no other seniors were selected; however, William King (U16), Andrew Mackinnon (U16/U15) and Nicholas S. Smith (U14) were selected and played several games for the County. Smith was particularly successful, scoring in most matches and gaining a West of England trial.

The 1st XI retained only three boys from last year's team: Giles Carter, who displayed great skill at times, Mark Hastings, who developed his left-side play so that he could penetrate the circle quickly and produce scoring chances, and Julian Fellows, who could dominate the midfield when sufficiently mobile. Consequently it took some time for the new squad to adjust to each other in terms of anticipation, reliability and the playing system. However, by the King Edward's match they began to play as a team, and the moves were promising, although goal-scoring still eluded them. Hastings and G. Carter, the Captain, were responsible for the breakthrough, and very quickly the forwards became incisive and dangerous to the opposition.

Throughout the season the team was beset by problems: Robert Matson, the goalkeeper, contracted glandular fever (as did Hastings towards the end) but he still pulled off some remarkable saves of shots from open play, corners *and* penalty strokes; Fellows was injured twice, and G. Carter was unable to play after second exeat. Despite this, draws were obtained against two formidable opponents before the defeats against the mature sides of the OR Society and Cirencester Hockey Club. It is heartening to have had three fifth-year boys in the side, and Ben Maslen, Jo Hammond and Peter Grimsdale were never out of then- depth. With only four of the XI leaving this summer and with plenty of talent moving up through the school, there should be another good XI next year.

G. Carter, Fellows, Matson and David Hauton, the 2nd XI goalkeeper, must be congratulated for their excellent execution of the mundane day-to-day administration, the team selection and the care of what is now expensive equipment.

This most enjoyable season closed with a successful senior tournament, which included a girls' V and a staff V. It is to be hoped that nine months will be enough time for the latter to recover!

C. J. W.



C. J. Wood

1st XI

The 1st XI, like all the first teams this season, was very young and could muster very little experience at the top level. Although this certainly showed itself at the start, the side made the most of its assets, and the younger members of the team should provide a very talented base for future seasons.

After the initial onslaught of the opening match, the urgent requirement was to shore up the defence. This could, however, be achieved only by weakening the attacking capabilities of the front line. The net result was a drought of goals, which severely reduced our ability to win. This situation was brought to an end in the match against King's School, Worcester, and for a while goals flowed freely. However, the disastrous loss after the exeat of Giles Carter, the captain, was a great handicap, preventing the team from firing on all cylinders.

On the personal front, Mark Hastings did a terrific job, with a haul of nine goals. Giles Carter excelled as captain and dominated many opposition players with his stick-work. Jason Vernon worked very effectively on the left wing, as did Chris Huck at back. Julian Fellows was the architect of many attacks and captained the team admirably in Giles Carter's enforced absence.

All members of the team wish to thank Mr Wood for his considerable coaching ability, for the skills which he imparted to the team and for his perseverance.

ROBERT MATSON

Played 14; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 8; Goals for 19; Goals against 34.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-9
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (H)	Lost	1-2
v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Prior Park College (H)	Lost	0-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	0-1
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	2-0
v. Cheltenham HC Wednesday XI (A)	Lost	2-4
v. Colston's School (A)	Won	4-2
v. Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI (H)	Won	8-2
v. Dean Close School (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Bloxham School (H)	Drew	0-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	1-5
v. Cirencester HC 'A' XI (A)	Lost	0-4

Team from: G. Carter (Capt.), R. Matson (Vice-Capt.), J. Fellows, J. Barnett, M. Hastings, J. Carter, C. Huck, J. Vernon, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, P. Grimsdale, G. Hughes, J. Carroll, N. Suffolk.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI unfortunately suffered from a lack of continuity; in fact, it took until the last match of the term before we could find a team identical to that seen in any other match! But, despite this juggling of players with the 1st XI and calling-up of players from the 3rd XI, a great deal of good hockey was played.

From our early practices on the tennis courts we received a hint that all-weather surfaces were to be avoided as much as possible. Surprisingly, though, two of our best games were on hard surfaces, producing the wins at King Edward's and Marling.

It was nice to see the XI score in every match; it must be added that this was nearly always true of the opposition also, probably owing to the half-line's always consisting of 'converted' forwards, at times reluctant to run back to defend, with the captain often finding himself acting as the third full-back. Despite this, Richard Kolb and Steve Whiting performed admirably at full-back. The half line, David Kenney, Steve Green and alternative appearances of Grant Hughes and John Carroll, worked well together, constantly providing the through-balls and support that the forwards required.

As it happened, the forward line was always the most difficult to choose. With as many as ten experienced forwards to pick from, it was inevitable that some would have to move out of the 'limelight' back into the half-line. Aubrey Powell and Nick Suffolk provided many excellent

cross-balls to the centre from their respective right and left wings. The inside forwards, Jon Lutwyche and Colin Bannister, gave worthy support to the centre-forward, Will Sherwood, who scored five goals for the 1st XI during the season. Lutwyche and Carroll were the top scorers, with eight goals apiece.

In goal, David Hauton played extremely well, saving us on many occasions. Marcus Rann deputised several times when Hauton was unavailable.

Although the 2nd XI as a whole did not perhaps live up to the high reputation produced by last year's team, many thanks go to Mr Lane for his obvious devotion and patience towards the squad, both in victory and defeat! I would also like to thank Mr Essenhigh for providing us with reliable players when the 1st XI 'stole' ours!

DAVID KENNEY

Played 13; Won 7; Drew 1; Lost 5; Goals for 34; Goals against 35.

v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Won	1-0
v. Marlborough College 3rd XI (H)	Lost	1-4
v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (H)	Lost	1-3
v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Won	2-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Drew	3-3
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	5-2
v. Pate's Grammar School 1st XI (A)	Won	4-2
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	2-7
v. Marling School 1st XI (A)	Won	6-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	3-5
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	2-1
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Bournside School 1st XI (H)	Won	3-2

Team from: D. Kenney (Capt.), C. Bannister, J. Carroll, J. Carter, C. Daniels, S. Green, J. Hammond, W. Hammond, D. Hauton, D. Houseman, G. Hughes, R. Kolb, J. Lutwyche, R. Ogden, A. Powell, M. Rann, W. Sherwood, N. Suffolk, S. Whiting.

3rd XI

This was a disappointing season as far as results go. The 3rd XI tends to meet other schools' U16 sides, which means that we come up against superior opposition. However, overall we had a very enjoyable season, and some good hockey was played at times, Julian Leigh improving with every game, Guy Waller always causing problems on the right for opposition defence, Warren Hammond and Tom Nicholls able to score many fine goals. In the middle of the field Arwyn Jones was a tireless worker, well supported by Ashley Clark and Paul Griffiths.

Robert Tate had a great season in goal, while Kevin Holmes and Chris Daniels played well at the back, with Robert Mitchell the find of the year.

D. E.

Played 11; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 5; Goals for 23; Goals against 23.

v. Monkton Combe School U16 XI (A)	Lost	0-6
v. Marlborough College 4th XI (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Cheltenham College 4th XI (H)	Lost	1-2
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	Won	4-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	2-1
v. King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	4-1
v. Colston's School U16 XI (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	2-1
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Bloxham School U16 XI (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Won	5-0

Team from: W. Hammond, P. Griffiths (Caps.), R. Tate, K. Holmes, C. Daniels, A. Jones, A. Clark, G. Waller, T. Nicholls, J. Leigh, R. Mitchell, A. Roney, M. Attwood, D. Houseman, S. Green, R. Ogden, C. Hauton, C. Paine, J. Lutwyche, J. Nicholls, K. Annan, A. Lainé.

4th XI

The 4th XI maintained its excellent record by producing another first-class season's results. Two of the three defeats suffered were against strong schools and whilst playing a team higher up. The highlight of the season, apart from Henry Le Fleming's forthright defensive manoeuvres, was the 4-1 victory away to Dean Close, when we were the only Rendcomb team to win.

Opposition players were often distracted by our direct approach to the game. Even our own 2nd XI was intimidated by our notoriety and declined to play us. The study and use of video coaching material (St Trinian's Away Matches) proved invaluable to the team spirit. The careful development of players from the 2b set has led to a balance between youthful enterprise and maturity. Several of the 'old hands' have regrettably wielded their last stick in this type of hockey.

D. O'C.

Played 10; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 20; Goals against 7.

v. Monkton Combe School 3rd XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v. Marlborough College 5th XI (A)	Lost	1-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	2-0
v. Pate's Grammar School (H)	Won	5-0
v. Colston's School 3rd XI (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Marling School 2nd XI (H)	Drew	0-0
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	4-1
v. Bloxham School 3rd XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	4-0
v. Bournside School 3rd XI (H)	Won	4-0

Team from: M. Attwood (Capt.), A. Andreis, E. Webb, M. Faircloth, A. Roney, J. Gregory, N. Hall, A. Lainé, H. Le Fleming, K. Raffael, J. Nicholls, S. Gammage, V. Tredwell, C. Paine, R. Ogden, C. Hauton, D. Houseman.

Under 15 XI

The facts speak for themselves: last year this group lost seven of their nine matches, while this year they won four and drew two of their nine. These statistics accurately reflect the encouraging improvement in technique and in general thinking about and approach to the game; the success was especially laudable in that six of these games were played away, and several on the hard pitches which invariably put us at a severe disadvantage.

The season opened with a hard-fought, narrow win against a useful Monkton Coombe side, this being followed by another victory on a heavy pitch at Marlborough. Defeat then came on the hard but puddled arena at Cheltenham College, though the team played some of its best hockey in spells here and were on terms at half-time; one felt we deserved at least a draw on the play. We again lost on the hard surface at Prior Park College, though in idiosyncratic fashion: the opposition scored three goals in the first eight minutes, while mentally we seemed to be still slumbering on the coach, and there the score remained for the duration, though certainly the better team won here. Next we travelled to King's School, Worcester, and, contrastingly, played on a heavy grass pitch which had been Severn-flooded to a depth of several feet shortly before. We won the game but not convincingly, the possession and territorial advantage not being translated into goals. The result against Colston's was much more pleasing. Colston's visited us with a playing tally of played 7, won 7, but in a tight, competitive match we took our first-half chances and held on determinedly to win and breach their unbeaten record. Euphoria was deflated against Marling in a lack-lustre display on yet another hard surface at Stroud, and only a fine last-minute goal by William King salvaged a draw. Defeat followed against a good Dean Close side, which combined effectively, and the season ended with a satisfying away draw at Bloxham, where we came back spiritedly from being two goals down.

Richard Hughes was very positive in goal and showed his class against Dean Close with two or three excellent reflex saves; Anthony Bunge was second-choice goalkeeper and also showed ability but lapsed at times in decisiveness and concentration. At full-back, Matthew Rogers and Charles Paine were the regular choices: the former was not very polished or fast but tackled and cleared well in some crises, while Paine was the defensive bulwark, showing much skill and tactical awareness, though his hitting is not yet reliable. Andrew Digney played with determined industry at right-half for most of the term, but his wildness brought a costly plethora of fouls and errors and ultimately he was supplanted by the neater, more controlled Daniel Maslen, a converted right-wing. Andrew Mackinnon, compact and increasingly constructive and dependable, had an excellent season at centre-half, as did Michael Moody at left-half, who grew noticeably in polish, alertness and aggression over the weeks, though he too needs to practise his hitting. The right-wing berth eventually fell to Richard Milner, who progressed as much as anybody, began to beat his man more confidently, and cover-drove his centres into the circle with growing *panache*. Nicholas Smith, a

Gloucestershire squad player, often looked the part at inside-right but was less effective because of slow distribution and a variable work rate; if he can reduce the reverse-stick addiction and learn to play more as part of a forward machine, he may well become a fine player. The centre-forward position proved a problem: Christopher Brown had good moments, but his promising darts through spaces were seldom followed by a fast, accurate push or shot, and his stick was too high, so eventually he gave way to utility-man Peter Smithson, who had less *élan* but was marginally more effective. King made an enormous contribution in both skill and work rate at inside-left, but he also needed to distribute more rapidly and precisely, notably to the right - he tends to tie himself in knots. However, he should become a fine 1st XI representative, especially if he can keep his reverse-stick tackling within the law. Finally Kojo Annan improved vastly at left-wing and began to capitalise more on his speed off the mark; he had a particularly good game at Bloxham.

The season was busy and enjoyable, and the team, well led by Paine, played competitively, keenly, with increasing deftness and intelligence and enlarged tactical vision. The 'B' team, too, should be mentioned: it contained some useful players and these were unlucky that two of their three matches were cancelled, though at least that meant a preserved hundred per-cent record!

J. N. H.

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 3; Goals for 10; Goals against 13.

v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	1-0
v. Marlborough College 'B' XI (A)	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham College 'B' XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Prior Park College (A)	Lost	0-3
v. King's School, Worcester (A)	Won	2-1
v. Colston's School (H)	Won	2-1
v. Marling School (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Bloxham School (A)	Drew	2-2

Team from: C. Paine (Capt.), R. Hughes, M. Rogers, D. Maslen, A. Mackinnon, M. Moody, R. Milner, N. Smith, P. Smithson, W. King, K. Annan, A. Bunge, C. Brown, R. Rowlatt, A. Digney, D. Chapman.



Nicholas Smith with the ball

C. J. Wood

Under 14 XIs

The fact that this group did not win many of the large number of matches played this season in no way reflects the enthusiasm and commitment which they showed, nor indeed the considerable number of keenly and evenly contested games. They started the season with very little experience because of the bad weather in recent years; in fact quite a few of the group had never played the game at all before. In the first half of term most of the training had to be done on the tennis courts, as the pitches were too wet for use - the U14 pitch was used only once in the first five weeks! Inevitably this meant that the only experience of playing as a team came in matches. So it was not until after half-term that there was an opportunity for constructive training, and then both teams began to think about the game and to develop their skills. In the later stages of the term they played some really promising hockey.

The 'A' team's first outing to Marlborough (played on a glorious January day) provided a good 'settling-in' game, to be followed unfortunately by a poor performance against Cheltenham - their first experience of an all-weather pitch. Antony Palin scored two good goals against Prior Park in one of the most evenly contested games of the season, with Jonathan Roney also showing his prowess in goal. The result of the match against Marling, played in a snowstorm, was rather flattering, as the Marling team was not strong, but there was some quite good hockey, with Palin scoring six goals. The poorest performance, without doubt, was against Cheltenham College Junior School, when nothing that the captain, Graham Lawton, could do or say could shake the team out of their half-term lethargy. In an enjoyable game against King's School, Worcester, there were the first signs of more promising hockey, Palin and Lawton both scoring good goals. The defence, Henry Pugh and Scott Vernon at back, with Roney in goal, played their best game against Colston's in a fast, evenly-fought match. The matches against Monkton Combe and Dean Close were disappointing as the team failed to work together or to do themselves justice. The best hockey of the season was against Bloxham, with halves distributing the ball well and some excellent centres from the wings. All those who played in the team improved their game considerably, most notably perhaps Adam Young and Julian Madeley at inside forward; but every match depended on the tireless leadership and considerable skill of Lawton at centre-half.

Members of the 'B' team deserve praise for their determination to overcome their lack of experience and to make themselves into a team. They played all their matches with great verve and enthusiasm and steadily improved their performance. Good defensive work was done by John Wheeler, Alasdair Baker and Christopher Payne, with Hamish Auld becoming increasingly confident in goal. Of the forwards, James Ursell and James Dowbiggin showed promise on the wings and Christopher Walsh played effectively at centre-forward. The team did well against Prior Park, holding them to a draw until the last few minutes; they played their best hockey against Bloxham and thoroughly deserved their win at the Crypt. They developed onto one of the best 'B' teams for many years.

Finally I would like to thank Lawton and Walsh for the excellent way in which they led their teams and carried out their duties as Captain, and the group as a whole for their enthusiasm and co-operation both on and off the field, which made the season enjoyable for me - and I hope for them.

W. J. D. W.

'A' XI

Played 10; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 7; Goals for 18; Goals against 27.

v. Marlborough College U14 'B' XI (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Cheltenham College U14 'B' XI (A)	Lost	0-5
v. Prior Park College (A)	Lost	2-3
v. Marling School (A)	Won	8-0
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 1st XI (H)	Lost	0-5
v. King's School, Worcester (A)	Won	4-0
v. Colston's School (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	0-2

Team from: G. Lawton (Capt.), J. Roney, H. Pugh, S. Vernon, D. Howard, G. Bennett, J. Grafton, G. Davies, A. Palin, A. Young, J. Madeley, J. Wheeler, A. Baker, Payne, M. Head, N. Houseman.

'B' XI

Played 5; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 3; Goals for 4; Goals against 7.

v. Prior Park College (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Bloxham School (H)	Drew	0-0
v. The Crypt School (A)	Won	3-0

Team from: C. Walsh (Capt.), H. Auld, J. Wheeler, N. Houseman, C. Payne, A. Baker, C. Silchenstedt, M. Head, A. Pollard, J. Ursell, J. Dowbiggin, G. Davies, J. Powell, M. Norman, J. Grafton.

Under 13 XI

The exceptionally mild weather meant that most fixtures were played, and consequently the standard of individual and team skills increased dramatically throughout the season, whilst the larger group this year created a greater depth of talent and helped make selection easier.

In virtually all matches the XI played with commitment and produced some impressive hockey, though a dismal performance against King's, Gloucester, gave the opposition a run-away victory. The team seemed more at home on hard surfaces, playing well on the floodlit asphalt of Bredon, the Redgra of Oakley Hall and the Astroturf of Cheltenham College, the latter providing particularly valuable experience.

Every player in the squad performed with enthusiasm and spirit, while special mention must be made of Christopher Carmichael and Nigel Fischer who shared the captaincy and led their sides commendably; I am sure that, as experience is gained by all the players, the '88 U13 squad will become a formidable and successful band.

M. J. N.

Played 7; Won 2; Drew 3; Lost 2; Goals for 13; Goals against 13.

v. Bredon School (A)

(6-a-side tournament. aggregate) Won 8-3
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (A) Won 2-1

v. Cheltenham College Junior School
3rd XI (H) Lost 0-3

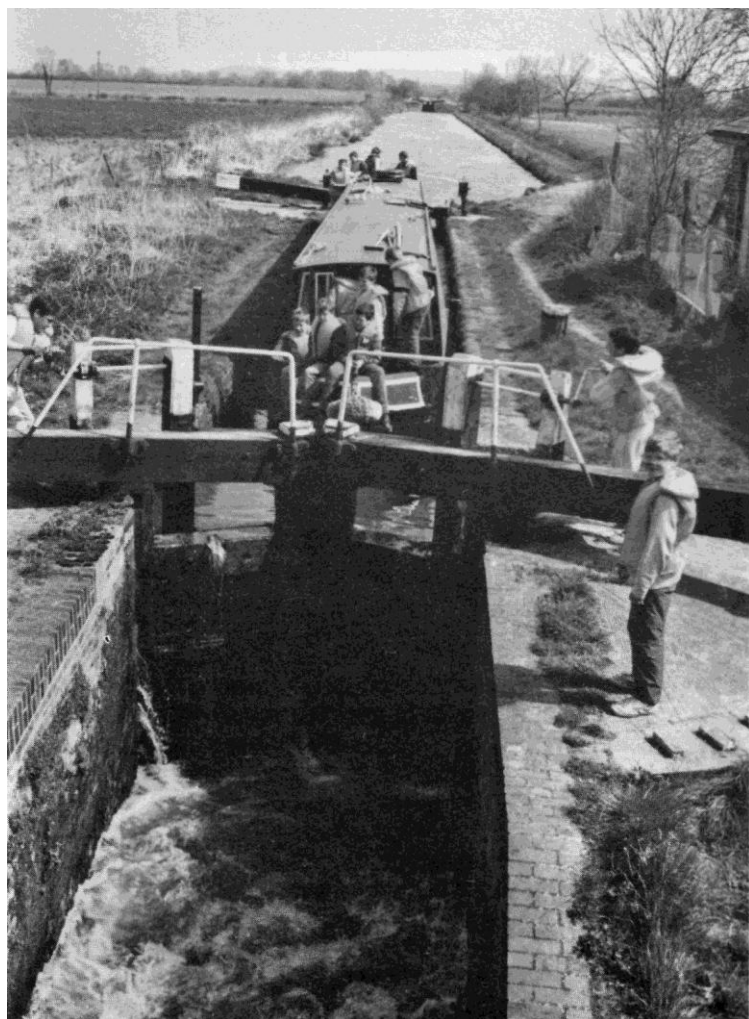
v. Christ's College, Brecon (H) Drew 0-0

v. The Ring's School, Gloucester (A) Lost 0-3

v. Cheltenham College Junior School
3rd XI (A) Drew 1-1

v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (H) Drew 2-2

Team from: C. Carmichael, N. Fischer (Capts.), A. Beales, H. Costelloe, P. Croft, M. Giggs, A. Graham, S. Hall, R. Hutson, G. Jenkins, P. Morgan, A. Platt, M. Sansome, M. Valentine, Y. Yakutiel.



C. J. Wood

Under 12 XI

With only 15 players from whom to choose a team, it looked as though the 1988 season would be a lean one for the U12 side. However, great enthusiasm was displayed by all concerned and this, allied to the real talent shown by some members of the side, led to an enjoyable and really quite successful season.

In the first match, at home to Oakley Hall, the team took full advantage in the first half of the slight slope, and Christopher Lawton, Barrie Davies and Julian Wilkie all scored, although Oakley Hall pulled one back just before half-time. In the second half Oakley Hall attacked strongly, but Andrew Branston was excellent in goal, and a fourth goal by Robert Sage put the result beyond doubt.

The second match was against Cheltenham College Junior School, and we were privileged to be allowed to play on the College Astroturf pitch. It was a new experience, which everyone enjoyed, and though we lost 0-2 it was a fast, exciting and close game. Wilkie was outstanding at centre-half, and Branston played another determined game in goal. In the return match Rendcomb failed to take advantage of the slope and conceded a goal in the first half. Cheltenham scored again shortly after half-time, but then Rendcomb began to play as a team, and a good goal by Lawton raised everyone's hopes. However, though on top for the last quarter of the match, we were unable to level the score.

The final match was against Oakley Hall, played on their shale pitch. It was a very fast and exciting game, and our practice on the asphalt pitch and in the Sports Hall paid dividends. Twice Rendcomb went ahead, with goals by Lawton and Christopher Norman, but on both occasions Oakley Hall came back to score, and the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

P. J. S.

Played 4; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 7; Goals against 7.

v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (H) Won 4-1

v. Cheltenham College Junior School
4th XI (A) Lost 0-2

v. Cheltenham College Junior School
4th XI (H) Lost 1-2

v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A) Drew 2-2

Team from: J. Wilkie (Capt.), J. Bainbridge, A. Branston, A. Davies, C. Dudbridge, C. Lawton, A. Martin, A. McIndoe, C. Norman, M. Pentney, R. Sage, C. Waters.

Cricket

Senior cricket at Rendcomb is in a very healthy position at the moment. The results this year have been of the usual high standard - the 1st and 2nd XIs losing only two matches between them - and in gaining these results some very good performances have been seen. Furthermore, all members of the present 1st XI will be available next year and they show the potential to be one of the more successful sides of recent years. Julian Fellows has matured into a fine skipper and he has had a fair amount of talent at his disposal. More from the 1st XI will follow, along with a report of another successful and enjoyable tour to the Channel Islands.

The U15 XI enjoyed another successful season, and congratulations must go to Richard Milner and William King on their selection for the Gloucestershire Schools squad. Milner probably had the most success in the school, in that he scored the only century, a fine unbeaten knock against the Crypt, and he also had an amazing average of over 100. The U14 XI struggled a little this year, although several players showed a lot of promise for the future, and in this year-group congratulations must go to Marcus Head, who was also selected for the Gloucestershire Schools squad. The junior XIs have shown a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, and indeed a fair amount of skill; a particular mention should go to Christopher Lawton for achieving a hat-trick in the U12 match against Oakley Hall.

One of the more encouraging features of the cricket at Rendcomb over the last few years has been the performance of the 'B' sides; their efforts this year have been impressive, and individual performances - such as Matthew Norman's eight wickets for six runs against Kingham Hill U14 'B' - at this level reflect the strength in depth of cricket at Rendcomb.

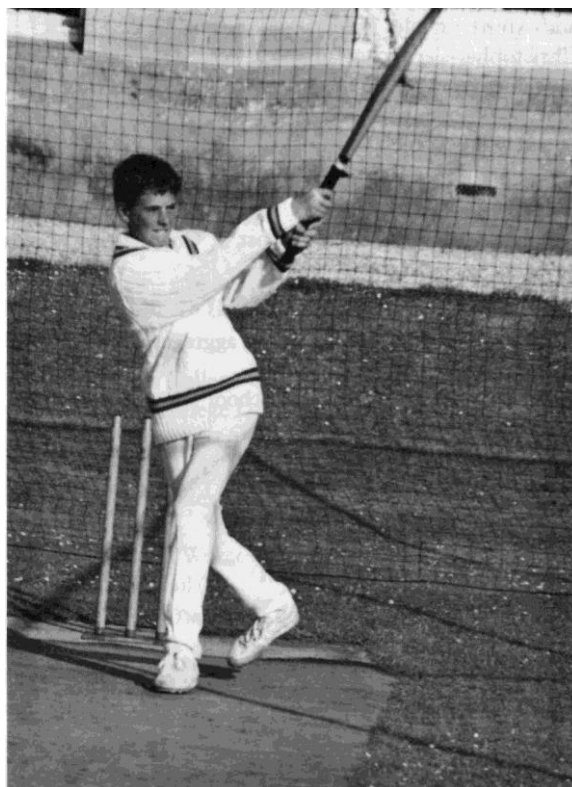
The standard produced is built on a lot of hard work, not only by the boys, but also by a number of the staff. Staff in charge of teams spend many hours coaching and umpiring; the kitchen staff produce excellent teas at all times, and the 6B girls do a tremendous job in preparing the food. I thank them all; their efforts are much appreciated.

P. S.

1st XI

1988 was a very enjoyable season; we played some excellent cricket, with a wonderful spirit in the side. We won six of our thirteen matches, losing just one game.

Julian Fellows was an excellent captain, who always managed to make the right decision and get the most out of his team. It was good to see Chris Huck bowling, at times with great fire and pace, well supported by Colin Bannister and Nick Suffolk. Arwyn Jones bowled his left-arm spinners very well, claiming 33 wickets; he was well supported by Henry Le Fleming bowling his off-breaks, which gave us a well-balanced attack.



Extra Practice

C. J. Wood

John Carroll and William Sherwood were our main batsmen, both scoring over 250 runs. At the start of the season we did not score runs fast enough, but we improved our rate as it progressed.

Peter Grimsdale and Grant Hughes both performed well behind the wickets, and Kevin Homes played a few useful innings in the middle order.

With every member of this year's XI coming back next year, I look forward to another good season. To have a good 1st XI depends on having a good 2nd XI; this year I feel we had one, with many 1st XI players under pressure to keep their places. I must thank Lindsay Haslett for his support and for making cricket so enjoyable for the 2nd XI. Looking at all the talent now in the school, I feel that cricket at Rendcomb has got a good future. Martin Griffiths has made the U13 team into an exciting bunch of young cricketers, with a few more spin bowlers to the fore.

Lastly, I must thank all the 6B girls who helped with the cricket teas and lunches at different times during the season.

D. E.

Throughout the season the team has been made up of young players, all but one of whom will be available for selection next year. With this in mind, it can be said that the team did well and, if they continue to perform as they have, the prospects for next season are very good indeed.

Chris Huck continued to bowl his quick pace and made a valuable contribution as our opening bowler. He was strongly backed up by Cohn Bannister, whose left-arm attack added some variation to the bowling. Nick Suffolk maintained his previous season's form, notably his accurate line and his length. Arwyn Jones, the top wicket-keeper, was an invaluable find for the eleven, his added talent for left-arm slow bowling often being too much for batsmen to handle.

On the batting front, John Carroll must be noted as top scorer and someone able to control the bowling when an early wicket had fallen. The middle order batsmen made an essential contribution and, in the Old Rendcombian match, the lower order batsmen played by far the best cricket.

Our thanks must go to Mr Sykes for his organisation of fixtures and general running of the team, also to Mr Essenhigh, whose good humour always welcomed the players, brightening up even the most boring of practices. Playing conditions were not always ideal, but Mr Essenhigh always managed to manufacture a good wicket to play on. All in the team had a very enjoyable and successful season.

JULIAN FELLOWS

Played 13; Won 6; Lost 1; Drew 5; Abandoned 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday XI (H) - Match drawn
Swindon 155-8 decl.

Rendcomb 111-3 (Carroll 41)

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Match abandoned
Rendcomb 120-5 decl. (Sherwood 49)
Wycliffe 20-1

v. The Crypt School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 136-3 decl. (Fellows 56, Carroll 33,
Sherwood 30*)
Crypt 100-5 (Le Fleming 3-47)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 72 (Jones 24)
Bloxham 74-4 (Suffolk 2-13)

v. Marling School (H) - Match drawn
Marling 113 (Jones 5-19, Bannister 3-22, Huck 2-20)
Rendcomb 105-3 (Tate 34, Fellows 25, Sherwood 25*)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 10 wickets
Cokethorpe 74 (Jones 5-30, Suffolk 4-28)
Rendcomb 77-0 (Fellows 30*, Tate 28*)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Pate's 110 (Le Fleming 4-25, Bannister 2-22)
Rendcomb 112-2 (Carroll 44*, Sherwood 42*)

v. Chedworth Village CC (H) - Won by 77 runs
Rendcomb 140-7 decl. (Fellows 64, Sherwood 35)
Chedworth 63 (Bannister 4-24, Huck 2-7, Le Fleming 2-0)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
Prior Park 108 (Jones 4-16, Huck 3-33)
Rendcomb 72-3 (Carroll 33*)

v. Barton Peveril College (H) - Won by 3 wickets
Barton Peveril 119 (Le Fleming 4-14, Jones 4-49)
Rendcomb 121-7 (Carroll 50*, Milner 46)

v. Old Rendcombian XI (H) - Won by 21 runs
Rendcomb 166 (Hughes 44, Suffolk 38, Sherwood 29)
ORs 145 (Huck 3-35, Bannister 2-18)

Team from: J. Fellows (Capt.), R. Tate, J. Carroll,
W. Sherwood, K. Holmes, A. Jones, P. Grimsdale,
C. Bannister, N. Suffolk, C. Huck, H. Le Fleming,
R. Matson, G. Hughes, R. Milner, W. Hammond.

Jersey 88

The tour took the same form as last year, three matches over a five-day period.

The first match was played on what was a miserable day by any standards, let alone Jersey's. Victoria College batted well, reaching 197 for 7 before declaring. Rendcomb replied well and, with the score at 81 for 1, seemed in a commanding position. However, a middle-order collapse meant that we were left chasing the draw. All the lower order batsmen batted well, in view of the fact that some of them had had only one innings throughout the season. Without the trusty reliability of Henry Le Fleming and Nick Suffolk the match would certainly have gone Victoria College's way. At the close of play Rendcomb were 151 for 9, and the match was drawn.

Owing to a night of heavy rain, which persisted throughout the next day, the second match had to be cancelled.

The last match proved profitable for us, since we gained our first-ever victory in Jersey. Robert Tate batted well, after recovering from illness which had kept him out of the first match, to make an unbeaten 48.

Since this was the second time we had been to Jersey, St Helier seemed somewhat less daunting and, thanks to Mrs Essenhigh's expert advice, the evening meals were most relaxing and enjoyable. Thanks must go also to Mr Essenhigh for his excellent work in shaping a very young side into a unit working exceptionally well as a team.

JULIAN FELLOWS

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v. Victoria College - Match drawn
Victoria College 197-7 decl. (Jones 3-30)
Rendcomb 151-9 (Fellows 40, Carroll 36, Hughes 28,
Holmes 26)

v. Victoriana - Won by 8 wickets
Victoriana 103-8 decl. (Jones 4-20, Suffolk 3-43)
Rendcomb 104-2 (Tate 48*, Fellows 26)

2nd XI

If last year's 2nd XI report read rather puzzlingly like a bulletin from the Meteorological Office, I am happy to reassure readers that, with the sole exception of the fixture against The King's School, Gloucester, abandoned without a ball's being bowled, this season of climatic temperance allowed us to play every match to a conclusion.

Perhaps because of this, the squad enjoyed a successful season which, if it saw a solitary victory, in the opening fixture against Wycliffe College, also saw only one defeat, in the concluding fixture against a strong Diocesan XI, made up of a highly talented assortment of local clerics hell-bent, if that is the term, on avenging last year's defeat.

In between times the team fought to achieve highly creditable draws against Bloxham - our only conquerors last season - and New College, Swindon, whose bogey team we appear to have become. In the remaining fixtures, and most notably against Marling and Pate's, we were set only moderate totals to chase, but a disappointingly short period in which to do so.

Marcus Rann - a veteran of 2nd XI cricket - was appointed captain in the opening week of term and held the job throughout the season. He handled the side sympathetically, good-humouredly and capably and can be justly proud of the team's record under his leadership. Once again we relied on the pacy, penetrative bowling of Stephen Green (18 wickets) and the phlegmatic, frill-free batting of Jonathan Lutwyche (140 runs), each of whom was deservedly selected for the 1st XI on one occasion. Ashley Clark (8 wickets) supported Green as a opening bowler of some promise, and Rann (9 wickets) displayed great strength of character in his slow bowling when one or two batsmen threatened to 'take him apart'. Richard Hughes (a guest from the U15 XI, with 3 wickets) Anthony Miles (2 wickets in his first over for the 2nd XI!), Kingsley Raffael (only 1 wicket, but irrepressible), Alex Andreis (1) and David Pearce (1) also bowled on occasions during the season.

Our batting was much more solid this year than last, with no player failing to make runs at some stage of the season. Aside from Lutwyche, Grant Hughes (74 runs), Steven Whiting (63), Robert Matson (53) and Julian Leigh (52) all made valuable contributions. Robert Tate played only twice before his elevation to the 1st XI and scored a memorably fluent 55 at Prior Park. Peter Grimsdale (46) did not always find himself with a great deal of time to score runs in his three fixtures on loan from the 1st XI, but he let no one down. Of the others, Guy Waller, James Gregory, Matthew Waddington and David Pearce look like highly promising players for next season.

Finally, a special work of thanks to Roland Martin, and others, who kept score for the team during the season. Were it not for their painstaking record-keeping, none of these figures would be recorded. Unlike the 1st XI, some of whose figures now appear in *Wisden*, the 2nd XI players are grateful for any mention they get - even in *Rendcombian*!

L. J. H.

Played 7; Won 1; Drew 5; Lost 1.

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Won by 5 wickets
Wycliffe 113 (Clark 4-33, Rann 3-10, Miles 2-9)
Rendcomb 117 for 5 (Leigh 31, Lutwyche 27*)

v. Marling School (A) - Match drawn
Marling 151-9 decl. (Green 5-41, Rann 4-38)
Rendcomb 67-5

v. Bloxham School (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 138 (Lutwyche 46, Matson 31)
Bloxham 135-7 (Clark 3-40)

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn
Pate's 127-8 decl. (Green 6-52)
Rendcomb 90-2 (Lutwyche 42, Whiting 29*)

v. Prior Park College (A) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 156-9 decl. (Tate 55, Grimsdale 34)
Prior Park 126-4

v. New College, Swindon (H) - Match drawn
New College 162-8 decl. (Green 4-62, R. Hughes 3-40)
Rendcomb 39-5

v. A Diocesan XI (H) - Lost by 116 runs
Diocesan XI 205-5 decl.
Rendcomb 89

Team from: M. Rann (Capt.), A. Andreis, A. Clark, S. Green, J. Gregory, P. Grimsdale, G. Hughes, J. Leigh, J. Lutwyche, R. Martin, R. Matson, A. Miles, D. Pearce, K. Raffael, M. Waddington, G. Waller, S. Whiting.

U15 'A' XI

Excluding the first match, against Wycliffe, this was a good season, and the team performed well in the majority of games.

The principal batsmen were the openers, Richard Milner (404 runs, average 101) and William King (256 runs, average 32). Between them these two scored 70% of the team's runs. Others to get amongst the runs were Andrew Digney (wicket-keeper) and Michael Moody, both of whom showed strong signs of promise for the future.

The bowlers were Richard Hughes, Moody, King, Milner and Charles Paine, the team's only spinner, who turned out the best bowling performance, 7 for 43 against The Crypt.

Memorable moments were a couple of hundred partnerships by Milner and King (158 and 146 against Pate's and Crypt respectively), Paine's seven-wicket haul and the scoring of 190 runs against Pate's - yet we still lost! The team as a whole played with a determined spirit, and a sound standard of catching and fielding was maintained throughout. The enthusiasm shown by certain members was very encouraging.

The season ended well with the news that Milner and King had been selected for the Gloucestershire Schools U15 side. I expect members of this team to do well in next year's senior XIs.

RICHARD MILNER

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 2.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Lost by 9 wickets
Rendcomb 77
Wycliffe 81-1

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 113 runs
Rendcomb 173-2 decl. (Milner 106*, King 61)
Crypt 60 (Paine 7-34)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Match drawn
Bloxham 156-6 decl. (Hughes 5-36)
Rendcomb 69-4 (Milner 32*)

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 40 runs
Rendcomb 115-9 decl. (Digney 29)
Marling 75 (Milner 4-23)

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 61 runs
Pate's 251-1 decl.
Rendcomb 190 (King 87, Milner 80)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 8 wickets
Cokethorpe 70 (Milner 4-17, Hughes 4-30)
Rendcomb 71-2 (King 29)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 148-3 decl. (Milner 87*)
Prior Park 128-5 (Milner 3-32)

v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 9 wickets
Kingham 100-9 decl.
Rendcomb 101-1 (Milner 57*, King 30)

Team from: R. Milner (Capt.), W. King, A. Digney,
N. Utting, R. Hughes, C. Paine, M. Moody, N. Smith,
D. Maslen, P. Bartlett, N. Wood, A. von Westphalen-
Bunge, D. Chapman, P. Smithson.

U15 'B' XI

This was a term in which a very talented 'B' group did not obtain the results which they deserved.

After a strong start against Cokethorpe it looked as if we should be undefeated; however, Prior Park just prevented us from getting enough runs and, in the return against Cokethorpe, the opposition had strengthened their side.

Paul Neve and Matthew Rogers proved consistent batsmen, and Christopher Brown and Adam Halliwell (wicket-keeper) showed great potential at the crease, while the other middle-order batsmen all made good contributions. The bowling was fairly consistent, with Patrick Evans particularly effective and Peter Smithson starting the season well but later losing accuracy.

There was a strong team spirit at all times, and the players' enthusiasm increased; although the results were disappointing, they thoroughly enjoyed the season. Our thanks go to Mr Wood for his patience in coaching us, and to Simon Hett for scoring.

PETER SMITHSON

Played 3; Drew 1; Lost 2.

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 145-8 decl. (Chapman 33, Smithson 29,
Halliwell 19, M. Smith 19)
Cokethorpe 48-9 (Smithson 3-16, Evans 3-11, Neve 2-5)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 3 wickets
Rendcomb 89 (Brown 26, Rogers 18*)
Prior Park 90-7 (Wood 2-10, Lester 2-14)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Lost by 8 wickets
Rendcomb 144-8 decl. (Brown 36, Wood 31, Halliwell 28*)
Cokethorpe 146-2 (Evans 1-23)

Team from: P. Smithson (Capt.), D. Chapman,
T. Shillington, P. Neve, R. Rowlatt, C. Brown,
A. Halliwell, M. Rogers, M. Smith, D. Lester, P. Evans,
N. Wood, O. Ward.

U14 'A' XI

This year the talent was evenly spread amongst the squad, but we had no 'stars' who might win us games in an unexpected fashion. Solidity was the hallmark of the bowling and fielding, but fragility marked our mid-order batsmen. Marcus Head showed much talent as an opening bat and is to be congratulated on being picked for the County. His selection means that for the past five years at least one representative from Rendcomb has played for the County at U14 level. Adam Young developed a sound defence, and John Wheeler will score many runs in the future. Antony Palin showed promise and grit, as did Scott Vernon. Graham Lawton made great progress as a wicket-keeper and never gave up hope, no matter how black the situation. Gareth Davies bowled well and James Grafton and Paul Irving put in useful performances. Participation and enthusiasm were important to the side, and the contributions of James Dowbiggin, Jonathan Powell and Adam Payne illustrated this principle. Jonathan Roney amused us with his action, but it certainly mesmerised the opposition! Finally, the captain and main strike bowler was Henry Pugh. He did very well with limited resources and had the honour of taking the final wicket in our win. I am sure he and the team will go on to great success in the future.

C. P. M. K.

Played 9; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 6.

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 76 runs
Wycliffe 156-3 decl.
Rendcomb 80

v. The Crypt School (H) - Lost by 3 runs
Crypt 46 (Head 5-4)
Rendcomb 43 (Head 22)

v. Archway School (H) - Lost by 78 runs
Archway 149
Rendcomb 71 (Young 21)

v. Bloxham School - Lost by 1 run
Bloxham 83-2 decl.
Rendcomb 82 (Head 27)

v. Marling School (A) - Lost by 6 runs
 Marling 132-8 decl.
 Rendcomb 126

v. Pate's Grammar School (A) - Match drawn
 Pate's 125-7 decl.
 Rendcomb 67-8 (Davies 20)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Won by 2 runs
 Rendcomb 104 (Head 33, Young 34)
 Cokethorpe 102 (Pugh 4-30, Davies 4-35)

v. Prior Park College (A) - Lost by 127 runs
 Prior Park 181-4 decl.
 Rendcomb 54

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Match drawn
 Kingham Hill 178
 Rendcomb 38-4

Team from: H. Pugh (Capt.), G. Davies, J. Dowbiggin, J. Grafton, M. Head, G. Lawton, P. Irving, A. Palin, A. Payne, J. Powell, J. Roney, S. Vernon, J. Wheeler, A. Young.

Under 14 'B' XI

It may not have been a vintage year for the 'A's, but the mighty Godman House 'B' squad did not lose a match throughout the season; the fact that we only played two helped matters of course!

The two most pleasing features about the group this year were first that no single player stood out skill-wise, so success depended on team effort, and secondly they were all out to enjoy their cricket. In the first match against Prior Park (it was their seventh match!) early nerves in the field played an important part; our bowling was erratic and the fielding very weak (twelve catches were dropped!); both particularly vital with a boundary only 10 metres behind each wicket. One of the opposition openers went on to score a century (particularly galling when he was dropped twice having scored only 2 runs and 8 runs, and he also used our bat to score his 103 not out) and we were set a target of 215 to chase. Despite some very quick bowling, tenacious batting by Madeley (20), Norman (15) and captain Payne (9) helped the team snatch a draw.

The second match provided a dramatic, nail-biting finish, undoubtedly inspired by playing on the 1st XI square. We batted first, reaching 76 all out, helped by a very sensible captain's innings by Baker (14) and a well-hit 15 for Harris, 13 for Bennett and 12 for Madeley. The opposition openers duly knocked up 60 runs and looked to have sewn up the match; then Matthew Norman struck, taking a stunning 8 wickets for 6 runs in 25 balls and leaving Kingham 7 runs short of the target; Norman deservedly received the 'Man of the Match' award and the match ball.

All members of the squad played their part in the season's success, but Christopher Payne and Alasdair Baker need special commendation for their roles as captain in each of the matches; they were both very efficient and effective on and off the pitch.

M. J. N.

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v. Prior Park College (A) - Match drawn
 Prior Park 215 for 4 decl.
 Rendcomb 114-9

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 7 runs
 Rendcomb 76
 Kingham 69 (Norman 8-6)

Team from: A. Baker and C. Payne (Capts.), H. Auld, G. Bennett, J. Dowbiggin, G. Harris, N. Houseman, D. Howard, J. Madeley, M. Norman, C. Silchenstedt, M. Smith, J. Ursell.

U13 XI

Oh Cricket! What a frustrating game it can be. I don't mean for the players, the spectators or because of the weather this time, but for the umpire/coach! After all the effort, encouraging, cajoling and sometimes shouting, that goes into building a cricket team out of a bunch of boys, only to see the catalogue of things that can go wrong and get forgotten during a match. It is a desperate situation, standing as umpire, restricted to gestures and frantic whispered messages to the captain, a mere spectator as things go wrong and catches get dropped. On the other side of the coin, of course, are all the good things, when your bowler hits the stumps or a batsman stays in and makes runs, the humour of certain disasters and the relief when a catch is held.

The members of the U13 team have experienced many moments of personal joy, frustration, success and failure, and all of them have at times made significant contribution to the success of the team. Among my own favourite moments are: Alex Beales bowling the opening batsman from Tockington Manor for 0 (he had made 64 in the first match), Jeremy Jenkin shaking the bails off with the highest, slowest delivery of the year, Matthew Giggs (leg-spin) and Chris Carmichael (off-spin) bowling beautifully controlled flight against Marling and Pate's, Stuart Hall eventually holding a catch against Prior Park, the application shown in the batting of Nigel Fischer (46 not out) against Pate's and Mark Valentine (38 not out) against Kingham Hill.

The results do not do the team justice; several losses were almost saved, several draws almost won; there has often been much to admire in their approach and effort. There is much potential for the future, if only they can hold more catches!

M. S. G.

Played 7; Won 1; Drew 2; Lost 4.

v. Tockington Manor School (A) - Lost by 85 runs
 Tockington 107-5 decl. (Graham 3-31)
 Rendcomb 22

v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 69 runs
 Marling 105 (Carmichael 3-1)
 Rendcomb 36

v. Pate's Grammar School (H) - Match drawn
 Pate's 132-7 decl.
 Rendcomb 75-6 (Fischer 46*)

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 64-8 decl.
Cokethorpe 45-1

v. Tockington Manor School (H) - Lost by 26 runs
Tockington 94 (Giggs 4-24)
Rendcomb 68 (Valentine 27)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Lost by 49 runs
Prior Park 96
Rendcomb 47

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Kingham 58 (Carmichael 3-15, Morgan 3-10)
Rendcomb 63-2 (Valentine 38*)

Team from: N. Fischer (Capt.), M. Valentine, C. Carmichael, M. Giggs, A. Beales, P. Morgan, A. Graham, S. Hall, A. Platt, J. Jenkin, G. Jenkins, H. Costelloe, R. Hutson, D. Egge, M. Sansome, P. Croft.

U12 XI

The 1988 season has been both a rewarding and an interesting one, and many boys who at the beginning of the term had little knowledge or experience of the game have developed into enthusiastic and quite competent players.

This year a number of matches were arranged for the team and there was very keen competition to get into the side. The results varied, but there were some excellent performances from individual batsmen and bowlers. Christopher Lawton, Andrew Branston and Julian Wilkie distinguished themselves with the bat and Wilkie, Lawton, Andrew McIndoe and Robert Sage were always among the wickets; Lawton distinguishing himself by taking a 'hat-trick' against Oakley Hall. Branston was a steady wicket-keeper and McIndoe skippered the team with authority and tactical awareness. Provided everyone remembers to move his feet to the line of the ball and to hold all catches, next year's U13 side could be set for a good season.

Throughout we were extremely well supported by parents and friends. This was an enormous morale-booster, and I am most grateful to all who came along, despite the weather, to cheer the team on. I know that they appreciated it.

P. J. S.

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

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Won by 47 runs
Rendcomb 84 (Lawton 50)
King's 37 (Wilkie 4-7, Lawton 3-7)

v. Oakley Hall School (H) - Lost by 10 runs
Oakley Hall 49 (Lawton 4-7)
Rendcomb 39 (Lawton 23)

v. Oakley Hall School (A) - Match drawn; rain stopped play.
Rendcomb 102 (Branston 31, Wilkie 30)
Oakley Hall 48-6 (McIndoe 3-10, Lawton 2-8)

Team from: A. McIndoe (Capt.), J. Bainbridge, A. Branston, B. Davies, C. Dudbridge, D. Irving, C. Lawton, C. Norman, M. Pentney, R. Sage, C. Waters, J. Wilkie, C. Yardley. N. Pollard was scorer.



A. J. R. Graham

Boys' Tennis

We have struggled this year with a keen but weaker than usual squad of team players, and the successes of recent seasons have not been repeated. Neither David Kenney nor Michael Attwood, both 1st VI regulars last year, advanced significantly on 1987 form, and several times in matches built up big leads only to allow sets to slip away through poor concentration and lack of aggression. Richard Kolb improved his game and, like his usual partner Christopher Daniels, began to exploit his height and reach more effectively, but his ground-strokes and volleying are far from reliable. Daniels hit some spectacular shots, though he is erratic and also a little slow about the court as yet; is more sprinting on Hampshire beaches required? Alex Bell and Andrew Mackinnon, who became the established third pair, showed definite promise for the future with their counter-attacking style and relative consistency, though they must avoid getting into unduly deep defensive ruts; certainly they are the kind of pair who will frustrate more fluent prima donnas on occasions.

Despite the disappointing record, the Club's members, with about 25 boys playing thrice weekly, enjoyed some spirited tennis at varying standards and there are enough young players entering the Fifth and Sixth Forms to suggest rosier times in the seasons ahead. Three of the current 1st VI will, for example, be here for the next two summers, and we must hope that they have benefited from some salutary experiences in 1988. Veteran coaches should surely be easy victims before long! Meanwhile the chief lessons were the perennial need to work the rallies patiently rather than always going for the non-percentage screaming winner and, secondly, not to fritter away big leads; in tennis, as Wimbledon always demonstrates, a match's direction and balance can shift with astonishing speed.

Unfortunately the annual Parent-Pupil Doubles Tournament, scheduled for Sunday 19th June (ironically a perfect sunny day), had to be cancelled because of insufficient entries; we hope that there will be greater parental support for this normally popular event next year. In this connection, we are grateful to the Parents' Association for all their recent fund-raising efforts towards the new hard courts, which should, I am reliably informed, be ready for the 1989 Summer Term and thus make more matches possible. I would like, too, to thank Tony Partridge and his crew, who have over many hours laboured to mow and mark the old grass courts which these hard ones will now replace.

J. N. H.

1st VI

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 2½-6½
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (H)	Lost 2½-5½
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost 1-8
v. The Royal Agricultural College (A)	Lost 1½-7½

2nd VI

v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost 3½-5½
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost 4-5

The following were in teams:

1st VI: Michael Attwood (Capt.), David Kenney, Richard Kolb, Christopher Daniels, Alex Bell, Andrew Mackinnon.

2nd VI: Matthew Faircloth (Capt.), Jason Vernon, Kojo Annan, Robert Mitchell, Tom Nicholls, Jeremy Jehan.

Boys' Squash

The relative inexperience of this team - only one member from last year's first team remaining - was compensated by a marked enthusiasm which we hope will continue during next season, as leaving members are replaced by new recruits. Robert Mitchell, Charles Paine and Julian Fellows will, as they did this year, form the core of the team and develop their individual skills to regain Rendcomb's position in the Second Division of the Gloucestershire Under 19 League.

Our thanks go to Mr O'Connor for his contribution, and particularly to Mr Knapp for his organisation and commitment to the team's success.

ROBERT MITCHELL

Played 6; Won 3; Lost 3.

v. East Gloucestershire 'A' Team (A)	Won 3-2
v. The Cotswold Sports Club (A)	Lost 1-4
v. Tewkesbury Park SC (A)	Lost 0-5
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won 3-2
v. Painswick SC (H)	Lost 2-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won 4-1

Team from: R. Mitchell (Capt.), C. Paine, J. Fellows, M. Hastings, H. Nathan, T. Nicholls, A. Andreis.

'Griffins' Basketball

The first match soon after the New Year showed both teams to be lacking practice; the match involved plenty of end-to-end play, but tentative attacking, poor shooting and numerous turnovers of possession by both sides led to a 16-14 half-time lead for the Griffins. In the second half some effective fast breaks and accurate shooting by Julian Fellows (14 points) helped the home side establish and hang on to a four-point lead.

The first ever Old Rendcombian match proved an interesting experience, with the visitors producing a starting-five that included Tom Burns (last year's school captain), Dominic Scarlett and Mark Astill, all 6' 4"-plus players, and ex-St George's College player 6' 7" Mike Uglow. This height intimidated the school team in the early stages, especially when Uglow 'dunked' his second basket, and helped the Old Boys establish a 10-point lead after only seven minutes. Tenacious defensive play and effective fast-breaking by the school pulled the score back to only a 2-point deficit by half-time. In the second half the ORs dominated the boards and stretched their lead to 15 points, but a late rally with some excellent shooting by Fellows (17), Powell (10), Shaw (10) and Kenney (9) helped pull the lead back, though the school finally went down by 9 points.

In the 'friendly' against the Masters' All-Stars team, the post-examination fatigue reduced the effectiveness of the Griffins' shooting, while the solid boards-play of the Staff, and some inspired baskets by Lindsay Haslett and Dominic O'Connor midway through the second half, gave them the lead. The school regained the lead one minute from time but a disputed 3-pointer from Mike Newby in the dying seconds gave the All-Stars the match 31-30.

All in all, the season proved enjoyable for all the players and very successful for some in particular; Dave Kenney and Julian Leigh came through strongly, and the developing confidence and skills of Julian Fellows, Russell Ogden and Aubrey Powell bode well for next year's school team. I would like to thank Mike Newby for his time and effort coaching us and wish everyone success in his future basketball; we hope that some of us will meet in the ORs' match, a fixture certainly worth keeping.

JOHN SHAW

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won 31-27
v. Old Rendcombians (H)	Lost 54-63
v. Masters' All-Stars (H)	Lost 30-31

Team from: J. Shaw (Capt.), A. Andreis, C. Bannister, J. Fellows, P. Griffiths, D. Kenney, R. Kolb, J. Leigh, R. Matson, R. Ogden, A. Powell.

Girls' Sport

Girls' Hockey

The hockey was extremely successful this year, despite our having played only a single-term season. The influx of the new 6B girls provided the team with some promising talent, particularly from Louisa Johnston.

The season saw the establishment of a fairly competent second hockey team, headed by Jessica Naish, but which unfortunately did not have much opportunity to put its skills to the test! Nevertheless, my thanks go to Jessica for all her efforts.

Special thanks go to Mrs Manners for coaching us throughout the season, and for her valuable time and energy. Thanks also to the whole team for their determination and commitment.

EMMA WARREN

Played 12; Won 4; Drew 4; Lost 4; Goals for 15; Goals against 17.

v. Westwood's Grammar School (H)	Lost	1-4
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Westonbirt School (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Marlborough College (H)	Lost	0-1
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	3-1
v. Cirencester School (A)	Lost	2-3
v. Stroud High School (A)	Won	2-1
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	2-1
v. Westwood's Grammar School (H)	Drew	0-0
v. Westonbirt School (A)	Won	2-1
v. St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Drew	1-1
'B' XI v. Dauntseys' School 'B' XI (H)	Drew	1-1

Team from: E. Warren (Capt.), J. Kelly, A. Speakman, A. Waddington, A. Carter, S. Hardy, L. Johnston, S. Deacon, L. Merrett, H. Sumsion, S. Michaelides, A-M. Chapman.

We regret that we have received no reports on Girls' Netball, Tennis or Squash.

Other Sports

Badminton

This being a minor sport, its success was often hampered because players were not available, particularly those from the senior part of the school. Even so, many boys from the lower forms, and the seniors when they could make it, benefited from the weekly evening coaching periods run by Mr Jones and his club mates, who helped and encouraged everyone.

Only one match was played, against a strong Cheltenham College team. The result was a heavy defeat, but there were notable and encouraging performances, particularly from Hari Nathan and Mike Bews. I would like to thank Rich Kolb and Glen Harris for coming into the team as a fourth pair at such short notice.

My thanks go to Mr Jones for his invaluable assistance, and I hope that the juniors who have played this season will carry on to play right through the school.

COLIN BANNISTER

Played 1; Lost 1.

v. Cheltenham College (H)	Lost 3-13
Hari Nathan and Mike Bews	2-2
Julian Fellows and Alex Andreis	0-4
Colin Bannister and Katie Russell-Duff	1-3
Richard Kolb and Glen Harris	0-4

Sailing

Once again sailing has been a popular option for about 20 people from the senior years; it has taken place every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon, weather permitting. Mr Lane has patiently bussed us down to the lakes at South Cerney, the minibus packed to the brim with various sail bags and life jackets. A few of us were new to the sport this term, but we learned quickly from our mistakes, as you do when cold water is concerned. The more experienced sailors amongst us were able to share their knowledge, and we all made rapid progress.

Each sailing afternoon has been completely different from another; one afternoon there would be very little wind, and we would be forced to give in and sunbathe on the dinghies on a flat lake; the next time the wind would be gusting.

Most of all, sailing this term has made our games afternoons varied and eventful, and I am certain that we have all gained much from them.

RACHEL DAVIS



Founder's Day Demonstration

C. J. Wood

Judo Club

We have a new judo mat! The ancient foam mats were beginning to disintegrate, leaving small pieces all over the Sports Hall floor, which blocked the cleaners' Hoover. So before the club entered its third decade 32 'Geemats', 18 green and 14 red, were bought. These mats are similar to those used in major competitions, including the Olympics. We hope to increase the mat area when further funds are available.

The club started the year with over 30 members, mainly from the Junior House and the Sixth Form. By the end of the summer term numbers were down to 18, a usual trend which seems inevitable.

Over the years it has often been impossible to attend the British Judo Association gradings, as they occur on Saturdays, usually on exeats or in the holidays. During the Spring Term senior boys went to a grading at Keynsham and to the Dowty Rotol Club in Cheltenham. In February we organised a 'MON' junior grading. This was well supported by the Cheltenham YMCA and the Winchcombe clubs.

On Founder's Day a demonstration was given on the grass area in front of the Arts Block. This display was much appreciated by parents and friends, and some mums were on hand to administer TLC!

Paul Godsell, the club coach, has continued to bring members of other clubs to our Tuesday training; this improves the standard. Nick Webb, an OR, has also been a regular visitor. The new intake will no doubt swell the numbers again in the Autumn Term, giving the club a new lease of life.

C. C. B.

Gradings

The following promotions were obtained:

17th January, Senior KYU Grading, Keynsham

C. Hauton	8th KYU
A. Bedford	7th KYU
R. Ogden	8th KYU
M. Larroucau	9th KYU
M. Attwood	9th KYU
A. Andreis	7th KYU

7th February, Junior MON Grading, Rendcomb

A. McIndoe	3rd MON
M. Gee	4th MON
J. Bainbridge	4th MON
J. Wilkie	5th MON
A. Branstion	6th MON
C. Lawton	6th MON
D. Egré	6th MON
P. Morgan	6th MON
N. Fischer	7th MON
R. Parsons	7th MON
R. Herbert	7th MON

29th April, Senior KYU Grading, Dowty Rotol

C. Hauton	5th KYU
A. Bedford	6th KYU
M. Ventrella	8th KYU

Trout Fishing

We have had a strong Fishing Club of seven pupils this year, and I have been able to obtain permission for them to fish the lower water meadow as well as the one below the school. We restocked in March with 100 eleven-inch fish and, to add a bit of excitement, 20 large ones. To date, so far as I am aware, none of the larger ones has been caught.

Also I have been delighted to welcome to the Club The Revd. Peter Sudbury who, after a very few casting lessons from me, has become a great enthusiast. I wish I could record that his enthusiasm has been reflected by the number of fish caught, and I still hope to do so by the end of the season!

The highlight of this term's fishing has been the visit by the Thames River Board, which decided to survey the trout in a short length of the stream. The visit fortunately coincided with a PW period, and so the Fishing Club were able to 'assist'. The method the River Board used was to put an inflatable dinghy in the river with a portable generator, clothe themselves in wet-suits and put 2 electrodes in the water with what looked like tennis racquet ends. When a current is passed it stuns the fish, which rise to the surface, are tossed with the electric tennis racquet into a net and revived in a tank with oxygen. They are then weighed and measured, a fish scale is taken from them and they are returned completely unharmed to the river. In a 120-yard stretch of the Chum we found 59 trout of various sizes and two eels. The real surprise was that one of the eels was nearly a metre long and weighed 1½ kilograms. The people from the River Board expressed themselves content with what they found, which is now recorded, and the Fishing Club had an exciting and interesting afternoon.

E. T. T.



P. C. Flanagan

Archery

When I arrived in September, a newcomer to the sport, I was very impressed by the standard of the archers in the school; whilst I was struggling to hit the boss at all, there were two or three people gaining top scores. However, by the end of the year I too found myself scoring a high percentage of golds. I can credit this major improvement only to our excellent coach, Mrs Essenhigh.

As usual we entered two teams for the Winter Indoor Postal League, one on composite bows and one on simple bows, and we did fairly well in both sections.

In the summer term we had a new experience when Mandy Fry did a couple of sessions of wheelchair archery. Although not accustomed to this sort of archery, she shot supremely well, scoring five golds with six consecutive arrows, better than any of her previous scores, even when standing on two feet. I would like to thank especially Mrs Essenhigh for all the help and support she has given us, and also Claire Flanagan, our secretary, for all her work.

HILARY SUMSION

Skiing 1988

Ask any skier and he or she will tell you how 'unbelievably fantastic and brilliant' skiing is, but actually it is nothing like that; it is so much better! What a holiday and what an experience, especially for a novice like me whose only experiences of the *piste* were the four attempts on the Gloucester Dry Ski Slope, which proved far from easy.

This year the school party returned to the French resort of Risoul, perched 1,850 metres in the Hautes Alpes. The resort itself was small but the usual shops, cafes, etc. were packed into its purpose-built frame, and of course the greatest asset of this type of place is the 'doorstep' skiing, literally walking out of the door and dropping one's skis, then at the end of the day skiing virtually into the dining room. We stayed at the Leo Lagrange, a very large centre based on the successful 'Club Med. Holiday' system. The rooms were pleasant and reasonably spacious, though the shower room/toilet was rather like a walk-in dustbin in shape, very functional, very French. The meals were very good, especially the lunches, which were excellent; there was always a hot meal plus a vast salad table containing avocados, globe artichokes and umpteen different salad-cocktails. The teaching staff even had free wine 'on tap', one of the few 'teachers' perks', as Mrs Newby stressed! In-house entertainment involved an assortment of shows, videos and films in French and English and of course the ever-popular disco, while in the resort we witnessed a firework/laser light display and a 'History of Skiing' demonstration by the local French Ski School; why is it that ski instructors are always so brown and handsome?

The weather during the week varied from cold, near blizzard conditions to absolute scorchers with glorious blue skies and intense sunshine and, as a beginner, I certainly preferred the latter, despite the risk of a burnt

nose and 'Panda eyes' caused by the white goggle marks on brown skin. The snow itself was also a complete mixture, from ice and slush to fantastic 'powder'; one morning after heavy overnight snow on the tops, our instructor took us to the Razis summit in time to witness the clearing of the thick mountain mist to reveal a stunning vista of the Alps and vast expanses of virgin powder stretching out below us. 'Follow me!' he announced and headed downwards; skiing thus was so exhilarating but not easy, especially as one's skis, and knees, were seldom visible. Other exciting experiences on *piste* included the two-mile-long blue/green run back to the village where everyone had a chance to *schuss* (I think it is the Austrian word meaning 'tuck and hang on for dear life!') up to enormous speeds, or so it felt, and of course, the unforgettable 'Gun Barrel', a steep-sided, concave gully which allowed one to rocket into it and literally fly out of the other side (eat your heart out, Eddie Edwards!). It was fun like this that made for hours of story-telling over a hot chocolate at the end of the day and made even the weakest of us seem capable of challenging Zurbriggen.

As for incidents/injuries, we were lucky; we had a case of tonsillitis, a cut/stitched hand and a slightly lost first-former at Gatwick airport on the return journey; his excuse was that he could not see over his luggage trolley and ended up walking round in circles.

So we returned to England; healthy-brown, exhausted, but thoroughly satisfied and certainly greatly improved skiers since the early days at Gloucester; I think that even I can boast to be a parallel skier, of a sort! Our thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Newby for organising the trip so well and making it such an enjoyable week; skiing is, as I said earlier, a magnificent sport and, as most of us novices agreed, 'we are hooked!'

ANN SPEAKMAN



Comic Relief Swim

C. J. Wood

