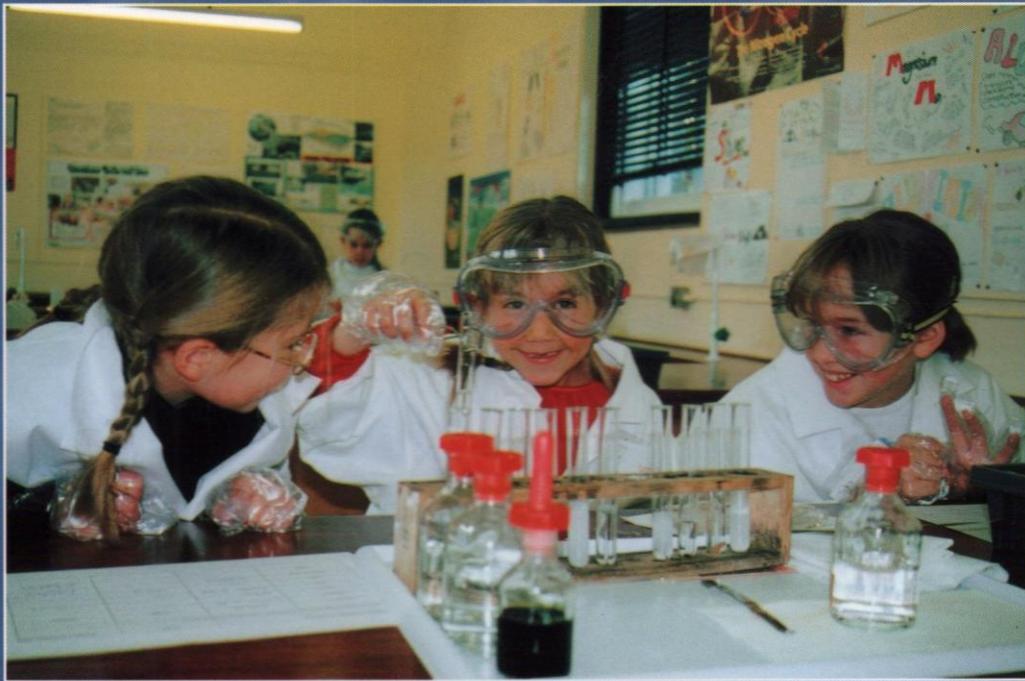


# Rendcombian



*The Magazine of Rendcomb College*  
**2000**

# Hands On Science Day *for Primary School Pupils*



# Rendcombian

No. 18

September 2000



*Rendcomb College and Village*

Front Cover

*Head Girl and Head Boy at Leavers' Weekend*

Inside Front

*Hands On Science Day*

Inside Back

*The Kenyan Connection*

Back Cover

*Saul decorated for the Summer Ball 2000*

*(photo: Abbey Studios)*

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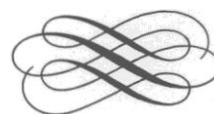
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# Contents

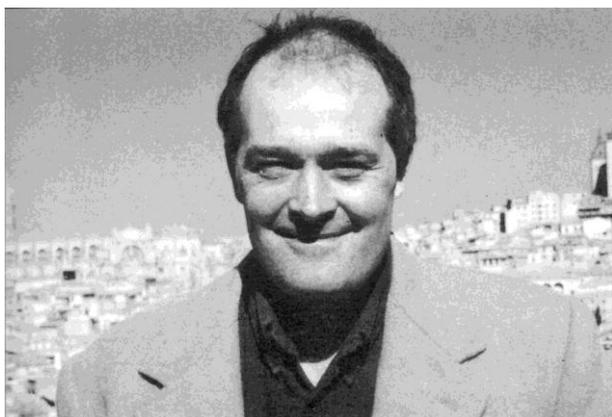
	Page		Page
<b>Staff Changes</b>		<b>The Record</b>	
Staff Leavers .....	3	College Officers .....	60
Obituary .....	6	Valete.....	60
Deaths .....	8	Salvete .....	60
<b>Reports</b>		The Friends of Rendcomb .....	61
Diary of Gerry Holden.....	9	Old Rendcombian Society .....	61
New Junior School.....	11	News of Recent Leavers .....	63
Church Notes .....	11	<b>Academic</b>	
Bursar's Notes .....	13	Scholarships.....	64
Parents' Association .....	15	A' Level Results .....	64
The Library .....	16	GCSE Results .....	65
Godman House .....	16	<b>Excursions</b>	
Goodbye Sophie.....	18	Annecy French Exchange .....	66
School House .....	18	German Trip .....	66
Stable House .....	18	First Year to Cheddar Gorge .....	67
Old Rectory.....	19	Slimbridge .....	67
<b>Founder's Day</b>		Wimbledon .....	68
Headmaster's Report .....	20	Good Food Show .....	68
Head Girl's Speech .....	24	History: Imperial War Museum.....	68
Head Boy's Speech.....	25	Biology Trips.....	68
Special Achievements .....	26	Geography Fieldwork.....	69
<b>Performing and Creative Arts</b>		GCHQ .....	69
Drama.....	28	Chemists to Aston University.....	70
Music .....	32	<b>Sport</b>	
Fashion Show.....	36	Rugby Football .....	71
Art and Design .....	36	Girls' Hockey .....	76
Japanese Views of Rendcomb.....	44	Boys' Hockey .....	78
<b>Science at Rendcomb</b>		Netball .....	82
Science Study Tour .....	45	Cricket .....	84
National Science Week .....	46	Boys' Tennis.....	89
<b>Food and Nutrition</b> .....	48	Girls' Tennis.....	89
<b>Activities and Events</b>		Rounders.....	90
Diocesan Cycle Ride.....	53	Sailing.....	91
Careers .....	53	Golf.....	91
Cotswold Clear Up.....	53		
Activities for the Active.....	54		
Clay Shooting .....	54		
Lawn Bowls .....	55		
A Midsummer Night's Ball .....	55		
Photography .....	56		
Duke of Edinburgh Award .....	56		
Saturday Night Entertainments.....	57		
Hands On Days .....	58		



# Staff Leavers

## TOM DENNY

Tom Denny has been teaching Art at Rendcomb, on a part-time basis, since 1982 and his contribution during the last eighteen years has been a vital ingredient in the Department's growth and success. Now firmly settled in Dorset, Tom is leaving Rendcomb to concentrate solely on his painting and stained glass commissions for which he is developing a reputation of national importance. When Tom first



arrived at Rendcomb in early 1982 he immediately set about changing a Department characterised by powder paint and pencils into one where Art was a subject to be taken seriously by all and where the range of materials available was extensive and sophisticated. The immediate effect was seen amongst the senior students who responded with notable enthusiasm to the new situation and the surprisingly young looking new art teachers who seemed determined to give art a high profile within the school. Despite massive student interest it took several frustrating years for the school to adapt to the new circumstances and during this time it was Tom's absolute resolution and determination which eventually turned the tide and, by the late 1980's, cemented these changes throughout the whole school. Tom played the crucial role in developing the Department's excellent reputation for painting and his teaching and guidance also saw growing numbers successfully apply for Art College. His teaching has been vital in maintaining a 100% pass rate at 'A' level and generations of art students have benefited from his input. Hundreds of Junior artists have been encouraged to mix cool warms! Hosts of GCSE students have loosened their approach to drawing while many an 'A' level student, having been treated to one of Tom's imitation Scottish growls and fierce glares, have found themselves having to think and respond with depth and maturity. Tom's teaching style always appeared to be gentle and relaxed but this hid a steely determination, an unshakeable demand

for high standards and a belief in the need to work hard if improvements were to be made. With Tom a merely bland, slick approach was just not acceptable! Tom's input has been felt well beyond the studios; he has been influential in a whole series of excellent written projects where his breadth of historical and cultural knowledge has encouraged students to explore a broad range of subjects from medieval tapestries to abstract expressionism. Several students have enjoyed the double benefit of having written projects on elements of French Art which could be cleverly re-modelled for use within their French coursework. Additionally, Tom has been on twelve consecutive art trips abroad where his involvement was appreciated by all those who have had the pleasure of his company. In Galleries his intellect and range of knowledge has consistently been of enormous help while he also proved to be a trusted and valued ally during the midnight round-ups! Visits to Amsterdam, Paris and Madrid have been hugely enriched by his presence; he has a great talent for finding excellent places to eat and it is hard to imagine a trip without Tom and his famous yellow jacket!

For all Tom's enormous and valued influence within the department, what everyone will really miss is Tom himself. His friendship, support and generosity of spirit are what have characterised so much of his time here and whilst we all wish him well with the further development of his own work we also recognise the huge gaps he will inevitably leave. I'm sure Tom will take with him many happy memories from his time at Rendcomb.

**MSG**

## "TAFF"

"Head Chef? No my name is Taff." Well that's how Geraint Owen will be remembered. He arrived in June 1998 and has now departed from Rendcomb to take up a position as Head Chef in charge of

the Sergeants Mess at Royal Air Force Brize Norton a move, having been made redundant from The Royal Air Force in 1997, that does appear a little strange on the surface but he returns as a civilian so



perhaps the Motto should be “If you don’t achieve your ambition by one route maybe there is another?”

Through Taff’s time at Rendcomb there have been some interesting changes most notably the change in July 1999 from Contract Catering to a total In-House operation, a challenge of change that he rose to “taking the bull by the horns”. Embracing the opportunity to negotiate with local suppliers to achieve the best possible prices, he was able to meet the ever changing requests and food fads of the customer. I use the word ‘Customer’ as he would: Taff would always rightly refer to the students as Customers.

His humour, helpful manner and ability to get on with the job will be missed and having to say farewell has not been easy; we all wish him every success in his new position and trust it will help to fulfil his ambitions. Maybe as he has returned to Brize Norton so maybe one day he will return to Rendcomb as others have.

**MN**

### **HAMISH AULD**

Fifteen years ago, Hamish Alexander Gunn Auld, (I always knew he would be a natural at shooting), came to Rendcomb from Ferndale Prep school. They



described him as “an interesting candidate, a seven year old with the physical structure of an eleven year old, yet the maturity of a five year old.”

This is just one of the many qualities that we all have come to love about Hamish - his youthful optimism, and enthusiasm for everything he touches, whether here as a schoolboy or later on as a schoolmaster, in the truest sense.

Bobby Morgan once described him as, “A gentle giant: his amiable and sincere nature, smartness, good manners and general willingness to take a full and active part in school life make him a real asset.” In the relatively short time that I have known Hamish, I really believe this to be so.

Hamish is always at the front of the queue when volunteers are required. He leaves his mark: be it on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions; with stage crews, as tutor in Junior House, on the sports field; on overseas trips; Paris, Milan, Berlin, London, Weston-Super-Mare.

Hamish really does epitomise the ‘can do’ mentality that we all look for in our colleagues.

He has come a long way from when he wrote on his profiles in 1986 under the heading ‘responsibilities’: “I help Mrs Wood with candles and Mr Burden with the timber.” Little did we know that Hamish would inherit that empire!

Hamish, having responded to that phone call from Martin Griffiths whilst in Australia nearly three years ago, came back to Rendcomb, and now wishes to follow the call to study for a PGCE at Nottingham, in Design and Technology. We can only summarise the vastness of our loss, Hamish you really will leave a big hole here at Rendcomb. Our loss is Nottingham’s gain.

We wish him every success next year and hope that it won’t be too long before he pays us a visit in the future.

**JHS**



### **JUDI STOCKS**

Judi Stocks joined Rendcomb six years ago as an assistant in the Bursar’s office. Her personal charm and warm personality were quickly recognised by John Tolputt who relocated her along the corridor to combine roles as Headmaster’s secretary and Admissions Registrar. She carried out this dual post with great skill and many of us who are newcomers to Rendcomb are very appreciative of the way she settled us down with encouraging words.

Judy’s greatest attribute is that she actually likes children: she has been able to share in their many

successes during her time with us and also provide support to pupils (and parents) who are going through difficult times. Although many will remember Judi for her cameo performance as the ferocious Miss Hannigan in Grease, I prefer to look back on my all-too-short acquaintance with her as the smiling face of Rendcomb. We wish Rick, her husband, and Judi all the best as they embark upon new adventures in Belgium.

GH

### NICOLETTA TUTERI



Nicoletta Tuteri returned to her native Italy after a year as Marketing Assistant in November 1999. She will be remembered for her charm, her helpfulness and her considerable knowledge of database systems.

Nicoletta is now the Marketing Manager for a prestigious range of Italian, cashmere designer-wear based near Rome. We wish her well with her career and hope that she will visit us again soon.

PVS

### All Change At The Laundry

Following 30 years service to Rendcomb College both June Kampe and Sue Pitt are retiring at the end of the Summer Term, although with their never ending loyalty to Rendcomb they have both decided to work through the Summer Lets.

It is right to mention June and Sue together as they can always be found together sharing a cup of tea during their break.



There is a wealth of knowledge about both the College and the students that will be a loss, both know every nook and cranny, what every cupboard contains and where and what they were used for over the last 30 years! Two weeks ago a large curtain was needed, so to the font of all knowledge June the question was asked "is there a suitable curtain anywhere to cover an entrance that is 18ft wide and has a 9ft drop?" Within seconds June was on her way to a hidden cupboard to unearth a curtain that was of the correct size and highly suitable for their requirements. June then went on to recall a potted history of this curtain, where and when it had hung and who had decided it should be moved.

Sue I know is looking forward to a long and successful National Hunt Racing Season as an avid follower of the Sport of Kings. We wish her well in her endeavours to find what is for her, not the so elusive winner. June will still be seen around Rendcomb as a resident of the village with her husband Paul, so hopefully we will be able to call on her knowledge when required.

The College wish them both every success and well earned happiness in their retirement.

MN

## New Staff

### Sarah Bell

Sarah Bell joined the Physical Education department in January to assist with the coaching of girls games. She is a former pupil of the Kings School, Gloucester and since leaving has become a qualified coach of tennis, netball and hockey. Last season she successfully coached the County Hockey U15 'B' team to win the West of England tournament. In September she is to join the staff of Godman House as a tutor to form 2.



Sara Bell (left) coaching Imogen Eaton

When not coaching, Sarah enjoys playing hockey and netball for local clubs.

**SMW**

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL**

We welcome the following staff to the new Junior School:

Mr Adrian Palmer -  
*Headmaster*  
Mrs Claire Audritt  
Mrs Kathrine Hume

Ms Belinda Mayoh  
Mrs Kate Carden  
Mrs Julie Palmer



*The Palmer Family*

## **Obituary**

*The following obituaries are printed with kind permission of the Old Rendcombian Society*

### **SIR DAVID WILLS CBE TD**

Apart from his father Noel Wills, Rendcomb's founder, there can be no member of the Wills family who has made a bigger contribution to the survival and development of Rendcomb College than David Wills. A key contribution was also made by David's uncle, the first Lord Dulverton and his son the second Lord Dulverton.

It was during the first World War that the idea of Rendcomb took root and gradually grew in Noel Wills' mind. But the second World War brought such radical changes in British finance and education that it was impossible for Rendcomb to survive on its pre-1939 basis. The first task that faced David Wills when he became Chairman of Trustees was to put the school on a sound financial basis. Before 1939 the main source of the income for the school was the generous gifts of the Founder and his family but because of the rapid inflation during the war the

investments into which these gifts had been placed produced by 1945 far less real income. In this task he managed to secure two key allies: his modesty, his education and his charm made it difficult to say no to David. He persuaded his uncle, Lord Dulverton, to make further generous donations and Colonel Godman, Chairman of the County Council and Chairman of the Governors, managed to negotiate a deal by which the County Council paid a fee for the Gloucestershire Foundationers entering from Primary Schools. Previously their entire cost had been met by the Foundation. When I arrived as Headmaster in 1961 the Governors had already, under David's prompting, made the second key decision in Rendcomb's post-war history that the school, previously limited to about 90, must be expanded. It was clear to David that the post-war expansion of state education made it essential for Rendcomb to have a larger sixth form with a fuller range of subjects if it were to continue to offer a good education.

During these years David Wills was the key figure in the Governing Body. He worked very closely with Colonel Godman but the initiatives came from David. His financial acumen was perhaps not surprising as he came from a very successful Bristol business family. He was quick to diversify Rendcomb's investments when wider powers were granted to Trustees. But he was enormously interested in the wider horizons of the twentieth century world in which he saw education and international co-operation as two of the most vital ingredients, and knew many of the leading figures of the day, some of whom were induced to give the address on Founders Day.

He rarely missed a meeting and took a detailed and active interest in the expansion of the school and the design of the buildings, particularly of the Arts Block and the extension of the Old Rectory which owe much to his suggestions. He was also a keen supporter of the idea of single study bedrooms which at that time were very rare in public schools, as he felt that it gave the opportunity of greater development to the individual. These were incorporated in the new wing of the College.

His third key decision was to seek the further expansion of the sixth form by the admission of girls. This was suggested to him by the founding of Britain's Atlantic College, an international co-educational Sixth form College in South Wales, in which he was closely involved. He arranged for me to spend a day there and then to go to Gordonstoun, the only reputable school at the time with a purpose built coeducational boarding house. This in some ways formed the basis for the design of Park House. He was the most unassuming of men. He was a

frequent visitor to Rendcomb particularly when building was in progress. He used to come in comfortable country clothes often accompanied by two black Labradors, who were impeccably behaved, trained even to sit through a Governor's meeting without making a sound. Slightly shy in manner, never forward to speak, he usually made the decisive contribution in a quiet but persuasive way. So he continued his father's work and the College is still fortunate today as Tom Wills, David Wills' nephew, has maintained the family commitment to Rendcomb.

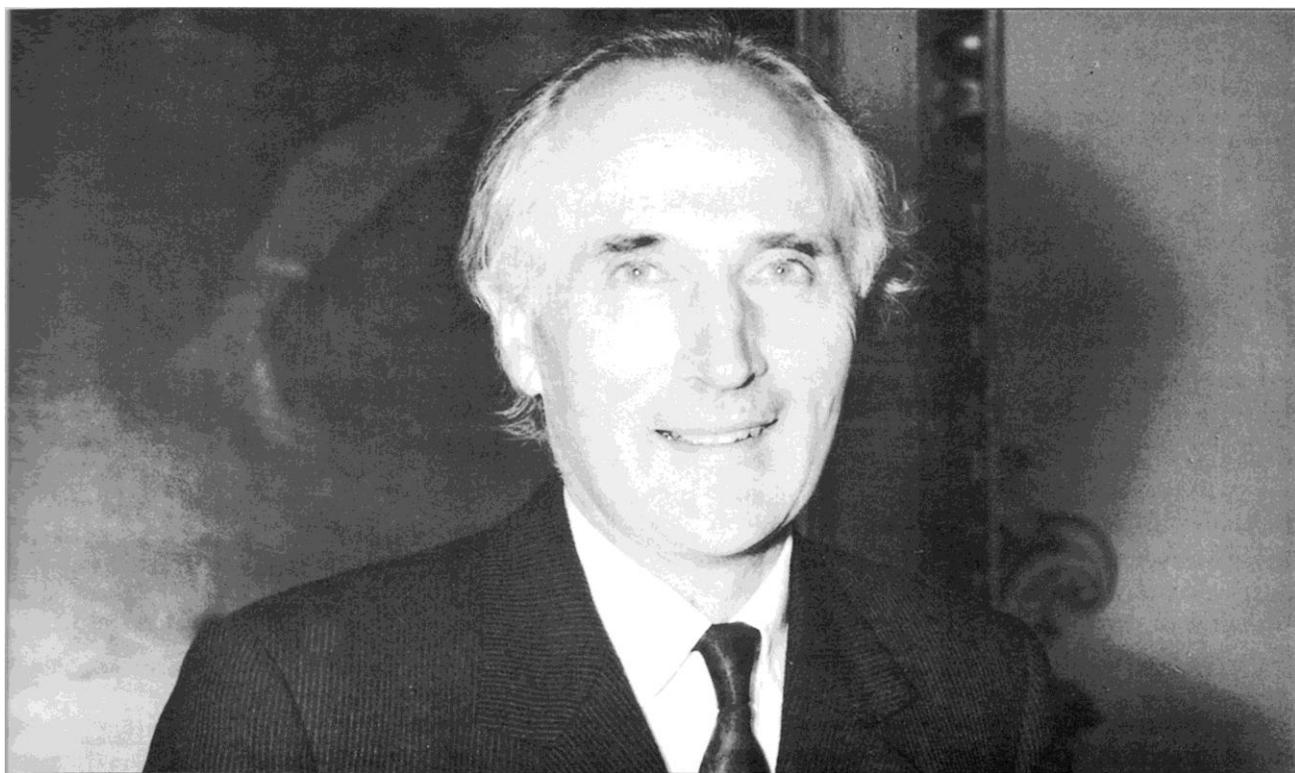
**A. O. H. Quick  
Former Headmaster of Rendcomb College**

Sir David Wills, the younger son of the Founder, Noel Wills, died on December 10th 1999 aged 82. He was Chairman of the Trustees from 1947 to 1983 and a Governor from 1951 to his retirement in 1985.

The development and success of Rendcomb College has depended, to a great degree, on the support and generosity of members of the Founder's family of

Chairman ensured for Rendcomb financial support to a degree unknown to most small independent schools. Secondly, as a result of his connections with Atlantic College, a co-educational international boarding school, Sir David was a prime mover in urging the Governors to admit girls into the Sixth Form in 1972. By taking this decision, the Governors retained (or resurrected) Rendcomb's reputation as a "progressive" school for which it acquired some standing after its foundation in 1920. Very few independent boarding schools had made this move at such an early date. This venture was an immediate and resounding success, due to the astute selection of candidates by the Headmaster, Roger Medill, and the sensitive pastoral care given by Denis and Mary Price in Park House, the new co-educational Sixth Form boarding house. From this beginning, it was in time, a natural progression for Rendcomb to become the fully co-educational school of today.

Sir David appeared to be essentially a modest man, and I doubt that he would have wanted much mention to be made of his generous personal gifts to



*Sir David Wills*

which Sir David's long service as a Trustee and Governor is an outstanding example. Indeed it could be said that his belief in the Founder's ideals and his vision for the future are largely responsible for Rendcomb as we know it today.

There were perhaps two particular spheres of which this is especially true. Firstly his skilful management of the Trustees' investments during his long term as

the College, but it seems inappropriate not to mention a few because they indicate how his influence was felt in the every day life of the school. In 1951, Mrs Sinclair, the Founder's widow, and Sir David financed the purchase of a 10 acre extension to the games field; in 1953 gifts from Sir David and Lord Dulverton provided for the redecoration of the main College building, removing the last traces of the decoration of the Victorian Mansion. In the same

year, Sir David provided 10 new rugby posts to allow the College to change from playing football to Rugby - the XV defeated Sir Thomas Rich's 2nd XV 16-0. In 1960 the Dulverton Trust and David Wills provided the new swimming pool. In 1963 Sir David donated the hard tennis courts in front of the Old Rectory and also those beyond Park House in 1980. In conjunction with Sir Louis Le Bailly, Chairman of the Governors, in 1981 Sir David inaugurated the Michael Wills Lecture in memory of his brother killed in action in 1943 to promote the study of science and engineering.

In Sir David's death the College has lost a great friend and benefactor to whom we all owe a very real debt of gratitude.

**W. J. D. White**  
**Former senior Master of Rendcomb College**

### **DAVID SELLS**

David Sells (Staff 1955-83) died on February 12th in a Bristol Hospital. He had suffered from increasingly poor health over the past two years and this had worsened considerably after a series of mini-strokes last September. He moved from Rendcomb to Bristol. A Memorial Service, taken by the Chaplain, was held at Rendcomb on March 4th at which Lawrence Wragg (O.R. 1956-63) and Professor The Reverend Gordon Dunstan (a former Governor) spoke movingly about David and his memorable contribution to Rendcomb. The service was well attended by Old Rendcombians, many with their wives, by former staff and by all four headmasters since 1961. A collection was made for the Friends of Rendcomb Scholarship fund to mark David's long service as secretary to the Friends of Rendcomb. John Wilson, a former Director of Music, and David White played the organ.

### **MAJOR PETER BIRCHALL**

Major Birchall became a Governor in 1947 and gave outstanding service in this capacity to the College. As Chairman of Gloucestershire Education Committee, his advice and interest in the College was always greatly valued. He took over as Chairman of the Governors on the death of Colonel Godman in 1978 and continued until 1980 when he decided to resign, regretting "that he had not the gift of eternal youth." He agreed however to continue to serve as a governor until 1985. David Sells wrote in the College History: "Major Birchall had served Rendcomb in countless ways since 1947 and would be hard to replace. His quiet, kindly, cultured and cerebral presence would be greatly missed. One of his last acts at Rendcomb was the splendid gift off £1,000 to the Library."

### **NEIL HARRIS**

We are sad to receive the news of the recent death of Neil Harris. Neil joined the teaching staff at Rendcomb in September 1994 to look after the Lower First Form, a class hastily arranged to accommodate ten year old boys and girls following the closure of Oakley Hall Preparatory School in Cirencester. Neil had been Deputy Head at Oakley Hall and was widely admired for his distinguished years of service there. He was a traditional schoolmaster in the very best of ways. He had the difficult task of settling both pupils and staff in the upheaval of the school's closure and he came to Rendcomb not only to see to the needs of an age group at that time unique in Rendcomb's experience but also to aid the transition of older pupils who joined us from Oakley Hall. He took over Room L from Bill White and soon became as well-liked and respected as he had been at Oakley Hall. It was obvious that Neil enjoyed his time here.

After the Lower First had moved up into the Main School Neil retired to Malvern where he had already established his home. He loved the Malvern Hills and it is a sadness that ill-health deprived him of a long enjoyment of retirement. He died at the beginning of June this year. To his widow, Pam, and his family we send our deepest sympathy.

**DHM**

### **Deaths**

- Sir David Wills CBE TD  
(Governor 1951-1985) - *10th Dec 1999*
- David Sells  
(Staff 1955-1983) - *12th Feb 2000*
- Maj. Peter Birchall  
(Governor 1947-1980) - *28th Feb 2000*
- Nicholas Walter (O.R. ) - *Feb 2000*
- Neil Harris (staff 1994-95)

# Reports

## *The Diary of Gerry Holden aged 43 and one third, Headmaster*

It has become fashionable both in political and educational circles to write diaries. Mrs. Thatcher, Edith Holden [one of my Edwardian ancestors] Alan Bennett and more recently, Eva Braun, Hitler's ultra-loyal mistress have managed to find time to break away from their punishing schedules to set pen to paper, or voice to Dictaphone and reflect on the salient highlights of the day just gone. My "diary" has nothing in common with these great literary offerings: it is offered more in the spirit of Adrian Mole than Adrian IV [check with your local medievalist for historical significance] and should be read as such. Those readers who are looking for a more serious review of my first year in office, should refer to the summary of my Founder's Day address which appears on page 20.

THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 1999

A level results at Rendcomb. I appear in Clock Hall about 10.00. Very nervous I see Chryssa Talpin, who hugs me and says enigmatically, "Well done". [Perhaps she has mistaken me for a recently departed upper sixth former?] I then bump into Bobby Morgan, who says "they're very good - 93% pass-rate". I now realise why Chryssa has hugged me. But why "well done?" I've only been at the College three days and these results are absolutely nothing to do with me! Selflessly, I phone John Tolputt to let him know the news and relate to him the account of the hilarious photoshoot with Theo, Nick, Philippa and Paul Sykes alongside the pseudo-mathematical photograph. Opportunistically, I spend some time that afternoon preparing "Blairite" sound-bites for the local press: "Rendcomb as a centre of academic excellence" has a certain cache. Paul Sykes agrees with me: he's being very polite; I think he's afraid that I'll send the alternative photograph taken by the local papers to the Nationals!

TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 1999

Mark Naylor, the new Commercial Operations Manager [ex Catering Manager and "good egg" par excellence] asks me if I will make a brief appearance at the external function this evening. Apparently, the Women's Institute of Gloucestershire are holding their annual regional dinner at the College and would like me to say a few words. Had I known now what our beloved leader of the Government was about to experience at the slow hands of this wonderful organization, I'm not sure that I would have accepted the invitation. Anyway, I speak to them for two to three minutes about how wonderful Rendcomb is.

"How long have you been Headmaster of Rendcomb?" a delightful lady enquires. I look at my watch and reply "about twenty hours". I leave them happy discussing educational issues of our time and reading copies of our mini-prospectus over coffee. It's so easy, I now think; how could Mr. Blair have got it so wrong! Experience: a comb that life gives you, after you've lost your hair!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1999

Term is almost a month old and pupils are starting to stop calling me the new Headmaster. I don't know whether this is a good thing or not. I certainly feel that I am getting to know them very quickly. I enjoy teaching all of 6A, and 1A History, Boys' Rugby and Girls' Hockey on Saturday afternoons are infinitely more enjoyable than trips to Sainsbury's in Farnham. An amusing incident this morning with "prospective parents" [their parenthood isn't in prospect but our tutelage is] The schedule suddenly became incredibly confused and I realised that ten minutes into the interview, the pupil sitting in front of me was not the same person I had pre-interview notes on. I wondered why he found my questions so odd and why a glazed expression came over his face when I asked him if he intended to take violin playing to its limits? It could happen to any Headmaster, new or old, I reflect stoically... well at least we got his gender right, so-to-speak and if you're reading this, welcome to our first form!

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14TH

The last morning of the Social Services Inspection; my predecessor's parting present to me. All seems to be going well: the pupils have been superb, as you would expect, and the staff are starting to look relieved. "Bad boy books" have been renamed incident books; Old Rec boilers have been deemed unsuitable areas for Junior Discos and security pin locks with instantly forgettable codes will become a feature of New Rendcomb. Security is very much the keynote of the morning. The inspector has called and would like to see our office files. Mrs. Stocks, in a moment of ultra-security, took home the key to the filing cabinet yesterday evening and has now set off on a 20 mile round trip to obtain it, while I wax lyrical to the inspector about The Children Act, Health and Safety Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, School Improvement Plans. Thankfully, he decides after half an hour to reschedule his morning. As he leaves my office, the recently returned Mrs. Stocks asks if he would like to see any of our policies in the filing cabinet. The Inspector declines. It's important to have a good "security policy", I reflect.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH, 1999

The Parents' Association Bonfire Night includes a spectacular fireworks display organised by Paul Cairns and his team. I ask them if they will make an appearance at Headmaster's assembly on the following Monday so that I can congratulate them in front of the school. Eventually and unassumingly, they accept. The College's response is sincere and overwhelming: this is what value added is all about. The 60s disco at The Bonfire Night is also a great success: parents and staff dancing to Abba Music carefully chosen by Martin Griffiths, while their offspring look on in disbelief at their seventies "coolness": this is what partnership with parents is all about, I reflect amusingly.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9TH, 1999

As the congregation begins to grow in Cirencester Parish Church, Sophie Sprawson asks me before the Carol Service "Are you nervous reading The Gospel in front of so many people?" I tell a white lie (quite a black lie really as I am in a holy place) and reply "No, not really". I can see that she is not convinced and add quickly, "I would be more concerned about reading in front of so few people". Sophie laughs. As we drive home in the car, Liese asks me "Are you nervous reading in front of so many people?" I reply, "I suggest you ask Sophie."

THURSDAY JANUARY 20TH, 2000

When T. S. Eliot wrote, April is the cruellest month, he couldn't have anticipated Britain in the aftermath of Millennium celebrations. I enjoyed the week between Christmas and The Millennium, not so much because the entire nation was suffering from PMT [Pre-Millennium Tension] but because the National Newspapers provided those of us with a passion for history with some superb reviews of the century about to end. Winter holidays are a wonderful time for literary regeneration and systematically, I plough my way back through unread copies of the Sunday Reviews and The Times Educational Supplement [and not just to check that my job has been advertised]. A new millennium, a new century, a new decade, a new year and a new junior school. Time, of course is relative. And one man's change is another man's preserve. I meet with Maggi, Head Girl and Nick, Head Boy and we discuss the imminent changes at Rendcomb. Both of them articulate pupils' views on change and that wonderful balance between moving forward positively, with both your feet placed firmly on the ground. I wish that I had been so confident and articulate at seventeen as Maggi and Nick and I realise how privileged I am to be surrounded by such talented young people. I tell Liese this over dinner that evening and she reminds me [again] that enjoying the company of children is an occupational prerequisite. I must write and tell the Secretary of State for Education about this radical insight.



*Liese and Gerry Holden*

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15TH, 2000

I phone my parents early on their Wedding anniversary; they are pleased that their middle son has [a] remembered and [b] phoned so early. They have been married 53 years and this thought it very much in my mind, as I listen to the Chaplain's outstanding sermon on the theme of love, most appropriate the day after the feast of St Valentine. I realise once again that we are so lucky to have such a brilliant chaplain, who can deliver quality sermon after quality sermon. I was recently asked at a Headmasters' conference "What is the essential quality of being a good headmaster?" I thought long and hard and replied "Surrounding yourself with quality people".

FRIDAY MARCH 10TH, 2000.

Listen to Bobby Morgan and Adrian Palmer having the most bizarre discussion about junior school girls' uniform and whether they should wear kilts. I'm very anti-kilts, as it reminds me of addressing the History Society at Fettes College in Edinburgh [Tony Blair's old school] and being confronted by a sea of shortbread-box-kilted-girls in the front row, which was enough to induce a migraine during question time. I articulate this view to my colleagues somewhat illogically; they are not convinced but thankfully other arguments prevail. Attend our wonderful fashion show after this discussion. Fortunately, the whole event is kilt-free.

THURSDAY APRIL 10TH, 2000

The wag who observed, there are two good things about teaching - July and August - was numerically challenged there are in fact three: April.

SATURDAY MAY 27TH, 2000

It is the morning of my first Founder's Day at Rendcomb and tension is in the air. We have a voice rehearsal with David Whitehead in the Sports Hall only to be thwarted by torrential rain on the Sports Hall roof. By 1pm the formal proceedings are over and I watch the ceremony of the chairs carried out under the direction of Mrs. Botham and our press-ganged fourth form. The Founder's phrase, "aristocracy of brains and character" is such a wonderful soundbite, but soundbite doesn't do justice to the Founder's vision of setting up such a

unique school as Rendcomb. Later that afternoon, we go on a family walk to Woodmancote and I reflect on what I've read about Rendcomb and its distinguished eighty year history. I hope that the Founder would be pleased with what he heard today from "the other side." I certainly was proud of our pupils.

THURSDAY JUNE 22ND, 2000

June can be a disjointed month in the annual cycle of a school: fifth formers and 6A are on study leave and as a Headmaster, you can lose touch with them if you are not careful. Returning to Headmaster's House from a Governors' farewell dinner to Anthony Quick [Headmaster Rendcomb 1961-1971] and a governor for over ten years, Anthony and myself are met by three members of the departing 6A, who are "baby-sitting" for Liese and myself. Anthony establishes swiftly the identity of the girls and realises that one of them has a father who was Anthony's first Head Boy. Anthony entertains the girls about Rendcomb during his time, and the following morning over breakfast I realise, not for the first time this year, that I am the most recent incumbent of a post which has been held by some very distinguished gentlemen: Messrs Quick, Medill and Tolputt to name but three. In a memorial service for David Sells earlier in the year, where all three of the aforementioned gentlemen and myself are present, John Tolputt and myself attempt to come up with a collective noun for a group of four Rendcomb Headmasters: after much merriment, I plump for quaternity and am pleased to find that John confirms that such a word exists.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH, 2000.

I have just left the Dulverton, after my final Headmaster's Assembly of the year. We've heard excerpts from our recent musical *Annie*, waved goodbye to Mr Auld and wished everybody bon vacances. End of academic years [aren't teachers odd in terms of seasons?] bring mixed emotions and a different set of three Rs: relief that you have survived yet another year; recovery in the forthcoming summer holiday and, paradoxically, reflection. As Liese and I reflect on our first year at Rendcomb, we both realise that we are very grateful to all of you who have made us feel so welcome and supported us throughout the year: pupils, especially the sixth form; staff, parents and governors. A prep school headmaster told me a joke recently. "Why is a Headmaster like a tea-bag?" "You don't know how strong he is until you drop him in hot water!" I have had my moments of "coming to the boil" once or twice this year but, as I reflect on the last twelve months, I can honestly say that they have been the happiest days of my professional career...  
**G. H.**

## NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL

Rendcomb College is entering a new era in

September 2000, with the opening of a Junior School. Since the appointment of the headmaster, Adrian Palmer, in February, over fifty pupils have been recruited and are all excitedly looking forward to 4th September.

We are starting with pupils in Year 3 to 6 inclusive, with a view to opening a pre-prep department in September 2001.

As well as a full and varied academic programme, the pupils will be able to play on the new adventure playground and the large outdoor play area. There is a varied extra-curricular programme, including horse riding, fencing, judo and hopefully archery and clay pigeon shooting.

During the Christmas term, there is already a concert planned which will involve every one of the children, as well as an end of term carol service

There will be a number of sporting fixtures against other schools. There will be a grand opening ceremony on Friday 15th September when we welcome Richard Dunwoody to perform the traditional cutting of the ribbon.

The philosophy of the

Junior School will be that of Rendcomb College educating the whole person.

Adrian Palmer and his wife Julie, believe children must be happy to come to school and once there, should give of their best, both inside and outside the classroom.

**PVS**

## CHURCH NOTES

In an increasingly secular, post-modern society the Christian Faith continues to proclaim truth in the



*Junior School Uniform*



person of Jesus Christ and the positive moral values of the Christian lifestyle. This mission lies at the heart of all that happens in St. Peter's, both as a Parish Church and as the Chapel of Rendcomb College.

There have been ten visiting preachers during the School year. The Diocese of Gloucester was represented by the Ven. Hedley Ringrose, Archdeacon of Cheltenham and Mr. Justin Groves, the Diocesan Youth Officer. Both preachers urged their congregations to greater faith and Christian commitment. Dr. Chris Wise of the N.F.U. appropriately delivered a challenging and thought-provoking address during the Harvest Festival Service. The H. M. C. was represented in April by Mr. Kevin Riley, Headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School and on two occasions by Rendcomb College's Headmaster, Mr. Gerry Holden. Mr. Holden's gifts as a public speaker were much in evidence, especially during his poignant and powerful address on Remembrance Sunday. One of the highlights of the year was the return of recent leaver, Laura Donovan OR, who described her experience of working with 'The Big Issue' in the north.

Once again the Choir deserves special mention for the way in which it has enhanced and enriched the quality of the worship in St. Peter's Church. The Advent and Christmas Carol Services were memorable and inspirational occasions, and once again the Choir performed magnificently in Choral Evensong in Bristol Cathedral on 3rd. February: For many, the highlight of the Choir year was the performance of Duruflé's "Requiem" on the evening of Remembrance Sunday. I am grateful to all of the Choir members and, of course, to Mr. David White and his assistant Mr. David Whitehead, who have often inspired, usually enthused, sometimes cajoled and always delivered!

The Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt. Rev'd. John Went, confirmed six members of the College on 21st May in St. Peter's Church. The candidates received encouraging support from their families, godparents and friends. The Bishop wore a specially-commissioned mitre which doubled as a useful visual aid to advertise the P2K event due to take place at Cheltenham Racecourse on 10th June. On that day, two minibuses and a small convoy of cars left Rendcomb to attend the evening concerts of this huge Christian festival. The rock bands 'Delirious' and 'The World Wide Message Tribe' provided an enjoyable and energetic excursion into alternative Christian youth culture.

Pupils and staff continue to gather on two mornings each week for Chapel. These occasions are designed to provide opportunities to explore spiritual issues which are common to all, regardless of personal faith perspectives. Along with the Christian theological

reflection often explicit in Chapel, the consideration of contemporary moral issues contributes to the School's programme of Personal, Social and Moral Education. The Chaplain, six members of staff, visiting speakers and some students have been involved in presenting a range of challenging and sometimes amusing addresses. The weekly, voluntary Holy Communion Service continues on Wednesdays during term time.

During the course of the year, the College has supported a wide range of local, national and international charities from collections taken during the term-time Sunday services. A total of £1,945.01 has generously been donated during the 1999/2000 academic year. Some of those receiving Rendcomb support have been:

**Cirencester Housing for Young People**  
**The National Star Centre**  
**Winston's Wish**  
**Cotswold Victim Support**  
**Emmaus, Gloucestershire**  
**NCH Action for Children**  
**Rural Stress Information Service**  
**Macmillan Cancer Relief**  
**The Big Issue (in the North) Trust**  
**Christian Aid**  
**The Children's Society**  
**Open Doors**

Finally, I would like to thank Churchwardens Bobby Morgan and Pam Farnsworth for their friendship, support and for keeping me on the 'ecclesiastical straight and narrow' throughout the year! I must also thank Gerry and Liese Holden, John and Sandra Williams and Hamish Auld for their kind affirmation of our ministry, and Ed Hogarth and his team of ushers for their faithful and efficient work.

#### **PZK (A CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL)**

After hearing about PZK I decided I would go along, I thought it would be just a small stage and quite poor music, but it was a chance to go somewhere different. When we arrived there was music playing very loudly and we came in sight of the stage. It was massive, a slightly smaller version of Glastonbury! We went into the grounds and straight into the crowd where the bands were. We stood with thousands of people around us, (I felt like a needle in a haystack!) The first band we heard were the 'Tribe' who were very good. Following after were 'Delirious', everyone went mad, I could not see why, their main vocalist looked like Shania Twain, well, he had the same coat. When they started singing, I understood, their music was very good. However I felt a bit left out as everyone was singing along and I didn't know the words!

Despite this, it was a great evening.

**A Barefoot**

## BURSAR'S NOTES

It hardly seems yesterday that we said goodbye to John and Patta Tolputt, as they left for pastures new. A great deal has happened since the last Rendcombian was published and I will give you a flavour of some of the events and changes.

### DOMESTIC STAFF

The Domestic Staff are the unsung heroines of Rendcomb. Working quietly (sometimes) and efficiently behind the scenes, they ensure that the School is kept clean and tidy. Their work in the holidays to support the functions and Summer lets is appreciated by everyone, and it is good to hear positive feedback from staff, pupils and parents about their helpfulness and their dedication to their work.

### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS STAFF

This year has seen the departure of David Mead, who was the Groundsman, and the arrival of Ralph Proverbs. Keeping the playing fields in good condition is a time consuming job, and our search for the person with the necessary skills has been a long one. Ralph, whose background was in green keeping, has decided to seek his fortune elsewhere. We have selected a Head Groundsman from Loughborough, Mathew Hodgson, who will start on 21 August and live in the Village. Eddie Clarke has left Rendcomb on reaching retirement age, and we welcome Adam Davis in his place.

A few of the tasks completed since I wrote these notes last year include:

- The move of the Bursar's offices to make way for the Junior School
- Continued improvements of the fire precautions throughout the school
- The setting up of the Junior School with 5 classrooms and an adventure playground
- A Multi Media Learning Facility in the Stable Block
- New Maths classrooms in the Stable Block
- Refurbishment of parts of Park, Lawn and Stable Houses
- New prep room furniture in the Old Rectory
- Refurbishment of areas of Godman and School Houses
- Improvements to staff housing
- Millennium Lake project - work starts this winter



- Work to the Main School and Stable Block stone



*Refurbished Dining Room ceiling*

### THE SISTERS

The name of the Sick Bay has been changed to the Medical Centre, although the work that goes on in there remains the same. Both Sister Julie Pritchard and Sister Judy Hunt continue to dispense medicine, help with School productions, and look after the welfare of all the pupils, in their kind and professional manner.

### LAUNDRY

This year marks the retirement of two of our senior laundry ladies who have been towers of strength over the years. More has been said about June Kampe and Sue Pitt under Staff Changes. They have both contributed to the welfare and "cleanliness" of our pupils over many years, and we owe them a great debt of thanks. Both ladies take with them into retirement our affectionate best wishes, and we hope that they will come and see us whenever they want to come back.

### 'CATERING AT RENDCOMB INTO THE MILLENNIUM'

The last twelve months have been nothing if not eventful with the departure of Contract Catering and a return, some 12 years later, to "In House" Catering. In House! No, it is not a new version of Changing Rooms but at times it might have been good to have a Handy Andy; we now have all the Catering Staff directly employed by the College with one goal and one goal only: to achieve the best possible standards. What benefits are there to "In House?" Staff have a clear direction, a single master, one objective and the ability to respond to change quickly.

So what has happened in 2000? Hot drinks vending machines in the dining room dispensing Espresso, Cappuccino, Decaffeinated and the standard cup of coffee along with fresh whipped hot chocolate. Chilled water machines, the now ever popular Pasta and Pizza days and a very active and progressive Catering Committee that are meeting every term to

determine and discuss changes that can be made. The improvements will continue into the new year with the introduction of quality china, selected by the students for the Senior School and a new Head Chef who shares the same desires as the College to keep moving forward and where improvements can be made they will be.

Staff training is important if they are to achieve the goals and aspirations that are held for them and so in 2000 all the Catering Staff have again successfully completed a Food Hygiene Course and indeed some achieved 100% in the exam. The College also arranged for a Manual Handling of Loads Course, which is of benefit both at home and in the workplace, no strained backs so far. The year ended with the award of a Foodwise Gold Award the highest accolade that is awarded in the South Cotswolds by the District Council for food standards, hygiene, training and healthy eating. This award was only gained by 20 Catering establishments in the whole of the South Cotswolds from Top Restaurants to small Tea Rooms and Staff Canteens. The challenge is to repeat this achievement in 2001

The Catering department has supported local charity events and also been active in the Wedding, Conference and Formal Dinners market all held in the Dulverton Hall. These activities have managed to raise additional income for the College which has been reinvested. For the second year of Music at Rendcomb a residential adult singing training course attracted twice last year's students and continues to go from strength to strength. This year we hosted a concert from the Covent Garden singer Anne Dawson, a joy to behold. These activities are not only good financially but raise the awareness of the College within the community and make for an enjoyable change from the normal for the Catering Staff.

In true report fashion - it is time to assess; a good start - can always improve - willing to learn and *will* be successful!

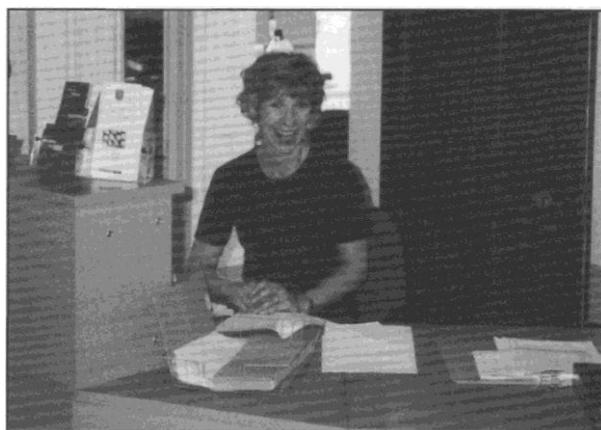


I would like to single out Mark Naylor for the tremendous way he has tackled the job of Commercial Operations Manager, and for his tireless work to make Rendcomb a better place for us all.

#### ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Our computer software system is beginning to settle down now, mainly due to the perseverance of Mrs Kay Collins and Mrs Sue Thomson. The introduction of a Junior School has raised the work load, and the accounts office has taken on the extra work in a cheerful and professional manner. With the annual audit nearly upon us, their busiest period is to come, but all the signs are that we will be given a good report. Whoever said that computers reduce work?

#### SECRETARIAL SUPPORT



We welcome Mrs Carol Endersby as the Assistant Administrator on the front desk, and hope she has a long and happy stay with us. Mrs Sarah Crosby goes on Maternity Leave on 20th October, and her job as Admissions Registrar will be covered by Ms Jemima Pratt. Mrs Sue Downie goes to the job of Headmaster's PA, and we welcome Anne Wegner as the Bursar's new Personal Assistant. Since I wrote the last notes, Mrs Judi Stocks has accompanied her husband Lieutenant Colonel Rick Stocks to his posting at SHAPE, in Brussels, and we wish her the best of good fortune in her new job.

#### MARKETING

Dr Penrose Shackel continues to keep Rendcomb's name in the public eye, and she crams a tremendous amount into her part-time appointment. We owe her a great debt of thanks for all the hard work that she has put into the Junior School, and her tireless approach has enabled so much to be achieved quickly.

#### GARDENS

We have sadly said "Au Revoir" to Bill White and Tony Partridge, who have done so much to keep Rendcomb looking attractive. It is hard to quantify the amount of work these two senior Rendcomb personalities put into the gardens and grounds, but we owe them a huge amount of thanks. I would

particularly like to say how much support both of them have given me. I have learnt a huge amount from their tales of “derring do” at Rendcomb and they will be sorely missed.

#### LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes in the Chemistry, Physics, and Biology laboratories that should not go unnoticed. Joan Essenhig, Margaret Coombes, and her husband Derek, do a tremendous job supporting the teaching staff in the Stable Block. Nothing is too much trouble for them, and the School is the richer for their respective contributions.

#### EPILOGUE

A big personal thank you to all the non-teaching staff at Rendcomb for their support and hard work throughout the year. Rendcomb is very much a vocation rather than just a job, and all of you can be justifiably proud of your contribution to the support you give the Teaching Staff

I would like to conclude by welcoming our new Headmaster, Gerry Holden, and his wife Liese, and son Alex to Rendcomb, and I hope that they have had a happy and stimulating year with us, and look forward to many more.

### THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Does anything go on behind closed doors? Well, yes it does. Although the P. A. social calendar was not the fullest we have ever had (largely due to giving a focus to the 2000 Ball), the committee has put in a lot of time and effort on behalf of parents over the last year.

Uniform changes proved an especially lively topic. After an exceptional amount of discussion and viewing of samples, we felt that some ‘give and take’ was achieved and that the new uniform still reflects Rendcomb’s uniqueness.

There were some happy social events and good results achieved during the year, especially for the charities supported by us, namely Irigithathi School and the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. Separate reports on some of these functions can be found elsewhere in the *Rendcombian*.

May I thank the committee for its hard work and the support of the parents. As always we look forward to meeting new parents in September and to their support for our endeavours, starting off with the Annual Bonfire night.

**P. Stanfield (Chairman)**

### BONFIRE NIGHT

An explosive display of pyrotechnic wizardry lit up the Churn Valley on Saturday 6th November. Luckily

the weather was fine after a torrential downpour the previous day; and so Paul Cairns and his intrepid workforce spent the entire afternoon building an enormous bonfire - what became of the guy, I ask myself? There were coloured rockets, Roman candles etc. Hot dogs and delicious quiches were available, along with mulled wine; while there was a strictly “Adults only” bar in the staff room.

In the reading room we were treated to a variety of music performances including the wonderful jazz played by Paul Bongiovanni and Shirley Day.

We strutted our stuff to a sixties rock concert - puzzling enough no one could remember the music from the first time around!!! (Or at least that’s what we kept telling ourselves). Strangely enough, even the DJ pleaded ignorance of anything older than eighties rock!!!

### AN EX-PARENT WRITES...

Speaking as a weed who truly detests fireworks, even I have to admit that the 1999 bonfire night was not only great fun but the best ever! I’m not sure why but everything seemed to come together to create a memorable and exciting atmosphere. The food was just right and easy to get (no feeling of having to rush or you might miss out!) the fireworks, as usual, were brilliant (at least when I dared to look!), the disco attracted weird and wonderful dancing (?) from all ages. The bar in the staff-room was very professionally run and it was good to have a place to sit, sip, and mull over the events of the evening. Best of all was the opportunity for staff, parents, pupils and especially recent leavers to have the chance to mix in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Hope I can wangle an invitation next year even though, sadly, I’ll be an ex-parent!

**Sarah Mais**

### ITALIAN EVENING - BELLISSIMO!!

A number of shady characters turned up at the front door (well two to be exact)! wielding sub-machine guns and rather fetching fedoras. You’ve got to have some Mafiosi at an Italian theme night - along with



*Martin Griffiths and Phil Dunn*

Ferrari mechanics and Inter Milan and Fiorentina football fans. The rest of us were rather more fashionably and sartorially dressed, especially unearthing our Gucci shades for the occasion.

This was the latest night hosted by the Parents' Association. We were treated to an awesome range of Italian wines, a sumptuous menu provided by Mark Naylor and his catering team. Highlight of the evening though was the singing and music by Diana Dodd and Julia Morris and a horrendously difficult quiz set by Nicoletta Tutteri. Even though the winning table was disqualified for having visited Italy so often - we didn't mind as the prize was a glass of Grappa!!!

**MSG**



## **THE LIBRARY**

Visitors to the Library often remark what a peaceful place it is, and that it resembles a country house library more than a school one. Behind this comment lies, perhaps, the comforting feeling that, in it, nothing changes and that its traditional look is both reassuring - a fixed point of quietness in an ever changing and ever more noisy world - and a "good thing". In many ways, of course, they are right. The wooden book cases and quiet atmosphere, the big windows and ornate ceiling, the stunning view across the Churn, all these are indeed good things, and we treasure them for what they are. But appearance should not be mistaken for reality. On closer inspection, there is change, and even traditional things are finite.

One change is that of the book stock itself. This year even more of the older books have gone to the rest home on the top floor, and some 300 new books have been added in their place. Very few of the original leather-bound books remain in the main Library now, for example, though they have not been discarded: they enjoy an honourable retirement upstairs, and are still available for consultation if required. The new books coming in are designed to keep the Library up to date with the needs of its readership: more fiction for the younger forms has been a key aim this year,

and of course the advent of the Junior School will mean further development in this area. On top of that, the usual requests for books on subjects as diverse as chemistry and capitalism, oak leases and angels, have all continued (I hope!) to be met. Change can also be detected in the re-cataloguing which has been an ongoing priority this year, both to make the books easier to locate quickly, and to bring the Library into line with modern classification systems. This summer it was the turn of archaeology, classics, world history and regional geography.

One aspect of change which deserves particular mention is the donation of new books by staff, parents, former pupils and well-wishers, and this year has been no exception. I would like to place on record my thanks to Kate Chisnall, Karen Ewing, the Hon. Maurice Howard, Mitja Lapis, Elizabeth Ramsey, Sandy Westhead, Elizabeth Wheeler, and Chris Wood for their kind donations and benefactions over the course of the year.

So change is occurring in the Library despite the appearance of continuity overall. Equally, even traditional things can be finite, and need to be renewed. The Library is no exception to this. The curtains and carpet, which do much to give the room its unique atmosphere, are now almost at the end of their useful life and will need replacing shortly. Similarly, the lighting is beginning to show its age, and plans are afoot to improve the visibility on dark winter afternoons, whilst at the same time trying to preserve the 'feel' of the room.

And that is an important consideration. Change takes place, and traditional things fade away, but the aim is that the essence of the Library, the spirit of the place, will remain intact for the generations yet to come. Books, carpets and curtains may come and go, but the aim of providing resources for scholarship in a pleasant environment remains undimmed, and as strong as ever.

**MHG**

## **HOUSE REPORTS**

### **GODMAN HOUSE**

We are coming to the end of the year and it has been just as busy as last year. It's been just as tiring and eventful. Here are a few of the highlights:

This term we sadly have to say goodbye to the three Japanese girls that have been in the 3rd form in Godman; Ami Matsunami, Chie Ogawa, Natsumi Yaegashi. We also sadly say good-bye to Rebecca Preston who is moving to Singapore in the summer. We wish you all good luck in the future and please come and visit us.



*Godman girls' grief - farewell to Kate Chisnall*

Miss V Hatton has been in Godman for one year as a second form tutor. She leaves Godman to join Park House in September. The second years would like to thank Miss Hatton for being a helpful and friendly tutor and we wish her the best of luck in Park House.

Miss Stephenson and Miss Chisnall are both gap tutors from New Zealand. Miss Chisnall was here from Christmas 1998 to Christmas 1999. She was a very chatty, sociable 17 year old! She seemed to enjoy talking to us and finding out the years' gossip. She

also helped out when teachers were away. She often writes to us and some of us reply.

We were all very sad to see her go but were all delighted to meet the new kiwi,

Miss Stephenson, who has brought a lot of liveliness to Godman with all her music and knowl-



*Bess Stephenson*

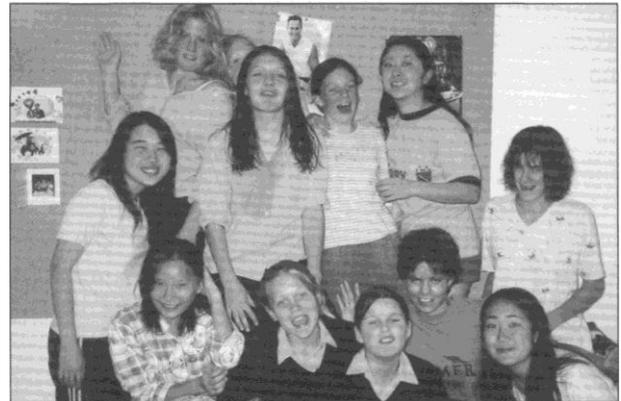
edge of sport. She has coached the first form netball in the Lent term and made many accessories for the house. We are all going to be very sad when she leaves and hopefully we shall get another gap tutor next year.

Miss Houghton gave the first and second form a chance to go to Germany for a week and most of Godman went. They would like to say a special thank you to Miss Houghton for organising it because we had a really good time.

Well done to first, second and third forms who were in the teams for hockey, rounders and netball. They won nearly all of their matches and we would like to say thank you to Mrs Dodd, Miss Stephenson, Miss Bell, Mrs Westhead and Mrs Mead for coaching us. Amanda Lomax and Alice Barefoot have been head and deputy head of house all year. The whole of Godman would like to say well done and thank you. On the morning of Founders' Day Godman held a

coffee morning for all parents and visitors. We had masses of Danish Pastries, our own version of the Chelsea Flower show in the common room and were all raring to go. All the second form tried out their serving skills and even tried to be sociable! However, forceful as we were, there was still a mountain of Danish Pastries left over, but it didn't take long to solve that problem. Everyone worked hard and agreed it was a very successful day.

The junior school's summer play this year was 'Annie'.



*Third year girls*

We would like to congratulate all those girls taking part in this play; especially Samaya Malik who took the lead role as Annie.

Godman House has had some generous donations such as a music system which was kindly given to us by Hannah Kay's family. Everyone in the house is very happy about this except for Mrs Dodd who gets a headache whenever it is on! We have also have had a dishwasher kindly donated by Sophie Boyd's family and to educate the house even more, Sophie is going to give us a self demonstration on how to use it!

As well as making us all get along, the house staff managed to pass their life-guarding exam, so now we can all go splashing in the swimming pool at any hour of the day!

At the end of the term we held a House Supper, as we did last year. There was lots of running around, screaming and hysteria and that's even before we got going! There was dancing, eating and even speeches. We had some sad good-byes, but also some happy memories that will last a fife time and we be look forward to meeting new members of staff and pupils in Godman, including Miss Bell as a second form teacher and Natsuko who is becoming our sixth form prefect.

Overall, our two years at Godman have been fantastic: we have learnt a lot about friendship, trust and respect for others. Thank you to all those people who have made our time here fantastic.

**Safia Malik, Heather Roper, Faith Roberts, Jessie Wells, Jessie Weston, Eddie Wickham**

## GOODBYE SOPHIE

The corridors of Park House echo with sadness in the knowledge that Sophie Blackwell is leaving us at the end of the summer term. Many would consider that Sophie has 'served her time' admirably and that she has stayed with us far longer than humanely possible. Through the inevitable emotional crisis in the daily life of Park House she has been there for us all both as a friend and a mentor. Invaluable and irreplaceable are perhaps two of the most fitting words to describe our housemistress. The homely atmosphere Sophie created in Park was enhanced by the little things, such as continually losing her keys and cluttering the place up with 'arty' bits and bobs. Many hours of pleasure and entertainment were provided by the regular visits of her attractive sons and her somewhat abstract humour. Closely watching us and having occasional 'Quiet words' to ensure we behaved ourselves is an aspect that we are prepared to overlook since it is balanced out by all her positive activities! However, it is not this that we thank Sophie for; we thank her for providing someone to moan at, confide in and trust and for enabling school to feel like home.

**Jo Hindley**

## SCHOOL HOUSE

It seems a lifetime ago but in fact it was only in 1996 that Mr Tolputt invited my wife and I to move into the main building and take on the awesome responsibility of running School House. The situation was made more complicated with School House having been designated as the boys boarding house which would firstly need to become a partial day house for boys and ultimately a fully co-educational day house. The last four years have therefore seen countless changes to both the physical and social structure of the place but as we leave house-mastering we are able to look back with satisfaction at the many challenges we have had to deal with and feel we have successfully completed the job which Mr Tolputt asked us to do.

Certainly Rendcomb can now boast a truly co-educational system which exists right within the heart of the school. It offers our senior day students excellent facilities in an environment which is serious about work while respecting individuals different needs and qualities. The house has had a friendly and warm atmosphere and whilst of course, there have been the occasional moments of frustration, the periods of reward have far outweighed the best forgotten incidents, which make you think that civilised behaviour and discretion have been totally ignored!



*Martin and Pam Griffiths with Alex Breal*



*Ex School House 6A*

The memorable transformation of School House could not have taken place without the good-will and co-operation of many people, especially the students. In particular I would like to thank my Head of Houses; the remarkable William Brittain-Jones, without whom the initial change of mood could not have worked; Chris Scarth for keeping such good order in difficult times; Tom Gilbert for ensuring that the new co-educational scheme worked so fairly and Sophie Sprawson who ran her prefect team with such dedication. To this list I would have to add Rebekah Taplin who made an invaluable contribution as our first girl prefect and much of what she did set the tone for the successful and happy co-educational nature of the house.

We will certainly miss the students next year, especially the Ghetto girls! The changes within School House included a considerable amount of building work carried out mainly by the Cairns brothers, their skilled wielding of sledgehammers was awesome to behold and they, at times were magic. They could certainly make pink slips disappear as if by magic! My assistants within the house have also been invaluable to the process and without Mr Breal's consistent integrity and Mrs Botham's coolness and intelligent contributions the whole job would have been so much more difficult.

Although I am happily returning to art teaching, a wiser sadder and greyer haired man, I will always cherish my memories of converting School House into a co-educational house and wish all those involved the best of good fortunes in the future.

**MSG**

## STABLE HOUSE

This year has been a very tiring and yet equally enjoyable one for all involved. Of course, it has not been without fault; the new Third years have given a new dimension to the house, especially in recent months and have always kept the

staff on their toes. The vast sporting potential of the Fourth year is clear for all to see, a good sign for the future of Rendcomb sport - in fact, so keen are they that 'corridor Cricket' has become a permanent fixture of prep time. This of course begs the question 'do they do any work?' - the summer exams will surely tell us! Fifth year characters such as Richard Demczak and Lucian Tarnowski have done the house a great service, keeping call-over just shy of boring, mostly by being themselves.

Visiting the top floor of Stable of an evening often proves fascinating; you can enjoy wrestling matches, Rocky screaming along to a CD (which you'll never want to listen to again!) - you may even find Chris Sykes in his study, which would be a first! Our thanks must go to the housestaff, who are still here! They all do a great job; Mr. Williams' sense of humour, Mr. Essenhigh's 'wit' and Mr Vuolo's, 'I'll pretend I didn't see you' policy are all very popular! I must congratulate Rich Walder on his success as Head of House and who knows, when they toss the coin after Exeat, we may have a Stable Head Boy once again, after our three year gap.

I hope that Stable House will continue to be a friendly, fair and relaxed environment which it has proved to be time and time again during my thoroughly enjoyable five-year stay. Thanks very much to all, and goodbye!

**Matt Williams**

#### THE OLD RECTORY

*The following extracts have been taken from the Christmas House Newsletter.*

#### **A poet's view:**

I started a new school this year  
Way back in September,  
It's called Rendcomb College, near Cirencester.  
It's been fun since then I've discoed  
Footballled  
Rugbyed  
and all other sports too  
I started a new school this year  
I've been on trips  
I've done bowling and Techniquest  
and Pizza Hut oh and  
the Mop Fair too  
I started a new school this year  
Way back in September,  
It's called Rendcomb College, near Cirencester  
It's been fun.

**Jonathan Williams**

On the last Friday of term there was a trip to a Pizza Hut. As the boys wrote their memories of the term this was very fresh in their minds. This is a conflation of accounts given by Ashley

Hermitage and Luke Baghdadi. Their concepts of time are a little exaggerated!

All the boarders and a few Day Boys went to Pizza Hut. We arrived at about 7 o'clock and stayed outside for about thirty minutes waiting for seats and watching Baggy master the art of leap-frogging the bollards. After this we went into the restaurant and started to feel our fingers again. Adam and I tried to chat up the waitress but in the end we failed and ended up having to wait twenty minutes for a cola. Once our meal came we started eating eagerly until the pizza was finished. We felt sick after eating four pieces of pizza.

Then came the ice cream. We all ordered ice cream. The machine couldn't cope and was giving out cream without the ice. I had a bowl of sweets and felt sick again. We all felt very happy.

All went to the minibus. Adam, Ash, James and I went in Mr. White's car which was not a good idea. It went ten times faster than any roller coaster and turned sharper than any fighter jet. I felt the same feeling as I usually get just before I go on one of the scary rides at the Mop Fair. Mr. White overtook two cars (one actually, Ed) and drove far too fast over the speed bumps. It was quite fun really.

Got back to the Old Rec. after lots of jokes. All of us asked Mr. White for a joke but nothing came so we wouldn't get out of his car. 9:15 came - getting bored. 9:30 - falling asleep. 9:45 - Mr. White put his face up to the window. He came out with the worst joke in the world! Thanks for a lovely evening.

Our prefects: Ed and BJ, have found their responsibilities quite overwhelming. They write:  
This term has been unlike any other we have had in our time at Rendcomb. We did not know quite what to expect. The greater responsibility and freedom have been highlights of this very, very long term. It has been quite testing at times when trying to get an early night before an A level Module and having to be a spoil sport stopping a notorious second year pillow fight. However, it has been very rewarding watching new characters emerge and old faces making their mark in the Second Year.



# Founder's Day

## THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT

A Headmaster of a local school was invited by his governors to a shooting weekend. Since he had no gun dog of his own, he rang an agency who sent him a dog called Teacher. This dog proved to be absolutely first class, did a fantastic job, so much so that the next time he booked the same dog, who once again behaved superbly. However, on the third occasion the same dog is absolutely useless. The Headmaster rings the agency to complain and asks what has happened to his beloved dog. The agency tells him that the dog was hired out for another weekend where the handler

was so pleased with him that he told the dog he should no longer be called Teacher but Head Teacher.

Since then all the dog has been able to do is to sit on its backside and bark at people all day.

I hope that our pupils do not share a similar view of this new Headmaster and what I hope to

give you this morning is brief review of what I have enjoyed about my first year at Rendcomb, why I find this College so special and what my vision is for the future development of the College.

Most notable amongst our successes last summer were our excellent examination results. Our pupils' pass-rate at A level was 95% with over half the papers graded A or B; at GCSE over 96% of our pupils obtained more than five A\* - C. Headmasters are normally dismissive of League tables; except of course when they show their own school in a favourable light and these results do just that. From a national perspective they place Rendcomb in the top 14% of independent schools in the country and for a small school of 250 pupils this constitutes an incredible achievement. Not only are they a retrospective testament to the industry of my predecessor John Tolputt, they also confirm Rendcomb's place as a centre of academic excellence.

But global examination statistics may seem rather bland, more at home in the Department of Education

than a College which rejoices in individual achievement; anybody who doubts the remarkable personal satisfaction exam success brings, should join Mr. Bobby Morgan and myself when results are given out to delighted pupils in late August. Academic achievement, relative to our pupils' ability; will remain high on the agenda at Rendcomb; it is why we have spent so much time this year working alongside pupils on study skills days; holding academic review meetings; carrying out mini-inspections on departments; acting on the advice of Rachel Houghton's working party' on sharing good classroom practice.

There is no intention of making our pupils, or our teachers, robotic; in fact what I find wonderful about Rendcomb staff and pupils are their diversity. What I intend to do is to encourage staff to share openly and positively inspirational ideas and moments that they have enjoyed in the classroom and beyond; this



approach strikes me as being central to the ideals of the Rendcomb community. Similarly, last term's introduction of a new reporting system with pupil self-reviews and parental reply slips confirmed my educational philosophy in the pupil-teacher-parental triangle and our pledge to work closely together. I was delighted with the mature response we received from pupils in their reviews, including a first year pupil who wrote "Thank you Mrs. Ewing for allowing me to play the role of a witch in 'The Crucible'". These innovations constitute a more rigorous approach to what we offer, promoting the importance of ownership and partnership in the education of our children. Initiatives designed to promote our goal of academic excellence would not have been possible without the critical guidance and advice of my Director of Studies, Paul Sykes, whose affectionate nickname, "Ice-Man" betrays a burning desire to enhance the quality of learning at Rendcomb.

To move on. It is no coincidence that rigour in the classroom also produces a committed attitude on the

games field. One of the great pleasures of being a Headmaster is being able to share in the extra-curricular activities of our pupils. Next year at Founder's Day, we intend to offer a wider programme of pupil participation so that you can experience first-hand what you will only hear about in our speeches this morning. Saturday afternoons at Rendcomb give me a golden chance to see the school in action, spectating from the touchline even if weather conditions are more reminiscent of Northern Scotland than South Gloucestershire.

Our rugby sides had another successful season, with the 1st XV recording 8 victories and notching up a sixth successive winning season. Our under 15 team, under the captaincy of Tommy Lait, set an incredible pace with seven victories and over 250 points scored, while the future looks equally promising for our U 14 side who scored over 40 points in both their victories against King's Gloucester and Cheltenham College.

Similarly both girls' and boys' hockey enjoyed good seasons. Our 2nd XI and U16 girls won five matches collectively and two of our 2nd Form girls, **Jessica Weston and Charlotte Phillips were invited to play at the U14 Centre of Performance** at county level. Our 1st XI Boys' side had a very successful season, with particularly good wins against Colston's,



King's Gloucester and Hereford Cathedral. However, the Manchester United of our hockey sides was once again our U15 boys' side, winning nine out of their ten matches and scoring 49 goals.

But perhaps the most important statistic of all is the realisation that on one cold Saturday afternoon in February, ten boys' teams took to the field with their sticks: this fact supports the view often widely

expressed at Rendcomb that we have a "can do approach". Incidentally, we won most of our games that particular afternoon.

My introduction to Rendcomb Cricket was quite literally a baptism (this time by water rather than by fire). As part of my new keep fit campaign I decided to walk up "on top" through the Wilderness to watch the 1st XI fixture against Bredon School. Without my wellingtons, appropriated by Liese along with the car, I arrived fifteen minutes later, with mud all over my trousers in a state of some exhaustion to discover the



*Recipients of Headmaster's Commendations*

first eleven team mopping the wicket with towels [J-cloth style] in preparation for the game. We won this game convincingly and this launched what has been a good season to date for the 1st XI with honourable draws against Bristol Cathedral School; Sir Thomas Rich's and Pate's Grammar School. Their victory against The Gloucestershire Gypsies provided an exciting finish with the school coming out the overall victors. I received a letter after the match from the captain of the Gypsies side, one of our current parents, expressing regret that he had not batted on for a couple of overs rather than declaring. It is, however, my suspicion that nomadic wanderings are much more in order than staying at the stumps for a team with the name of Gypsies. Our junior sides are also enjoying some success under the careful guidance of Rendcomb's Holy Trinity, Messrs Essenhigh, Dodd and Taplin.

Girls' Tennis has witnessed a revival this term with the appointment of Miss Sarah Bell who has certainly enhanced the quality of coaching. Boys' tennis goes from strength to strength and our captain of boys' tennis is so modest that he forgot to mention in last week's assembly the team's recent 5-4 victory against Dean Close.

But Rendcomb does not only excel in major team games, we have also enjoyed individual success in other sports. Our golfers recently took part in a charity sponsored competition with an excellent individual performance from James Spackman in the fifth form; this tournament also raised £250 for The British Heart Foundation. Hannah Ewing, in the

fourth form, has also represented Wiltshire in Swimming. Three weeks ago, 20 Rendcombians including fathers and staff, represented our shooting team in the National Clay Pigeon Competition in Staffordshire. With further enhancement of shooting and trap facilities on site at Rendcomb, Mr. Stutchbury reliably informs me that this increasingly popular sport will go from strength to strength. I have also taken up his very generous offer of a private lesson in the Wilderness over half-term: I mention this not in connection with the projected success of this sport but more as a safety warning to those who use this area for exercising their dogs. The Performing Arts continue to flourish in the College. Music has often been called “the new team sport” and those pupils who heard David White’s review of the work of his department in the Lent term could easily have mistaken him for Kevin Keegan. David is, however, a much more successful manager than Mr. Keegan and his sharp eye for talent resulted in last summer’s new signing: David Whitehead. Such similarity of names has amazingly caused no confusion whatsoever in the department partially because our dynamic duo work so superbly together: they have been instrumental [please forgive that rather contrived pun] in directing quality performance after quality performance. It is difficult to know what to leave out in this brief review, so I hope you will not be offended if I cite a few personal highlights.

The Choir’s rendition of Maurice Durufle’s ‘Requiem’ performed on Remembrance Sunday in Chapel was first class. I felt very moved by this very challenging piece. By stark contrast, the choir took to the streets [actually the venue was Tesco Supermarket car park] towards the end of Autumn term and sang carols for the good townsfolk of Cirencester at the opening of their Christmas Tree Lights. Equally spectacular was the concert towards the end of the Lent Term, when in unison with professional musicians from Gloucestershire, we witnessed an evening of top quality performances which I have rarely experienced in twenty years of education. Accomplished performances were given by our senior pupils including Sophie Sprawson, Carlos Garcia and Ludger Frese and the talent of our younger pupils was also much in evidence. We are, we know, very lucky to have such a distinguished Music Department who also display an enormous sense of fun My favourite report on a pupil this year was produced in David White’s own distinctive handwriting and I quote “There are only so many times that I can teach him to draw a crochet”. To the two Davids, I extend my enormous appreciation of the way you and your peripatetic staff achieve so much with our pupils. If David White has not enjoyed much success in teaching drawing this year, the Art Department has certainly excelled in its delivery. The work of Martin Griffiths and his team have been much in evidence.

This morning we have been treated to an exhibition of the work of our A level Artists who have just completed their exams. Almost before the paint is dry, the staff have the work mounted and on display and I am sure those of you who have visited the work already will have been enormously impressed by what you have seen. This exhibition is the culmination of months of hard work on both the part of staff and pupils including a five day residential trip to Madrid. As with our music department, we are enormously lucky to have such a talented dream-team who have given us an equally spectacular Fashion Show. Unfortunately, this dream team is about to disperse and we are sad to say farewell to Mr. Hamish Auld and Mr. Tom Denny. I shall deal with Hamish first.

I know that Hamish will not mind my choice of words if I summed up his contribution to Rendcomb as that of an all-rounder. What he has achieved at Rendcomb has been substantial: who will forget his recent Chapel Service on Travelling? His performance as Hockey Goalkeeper in a recent Old Rendcombian fixture? His outstanding support as assistant housemaster in the Old Rectory and the wonderful bell ringing which we heard this morning? What takes Hamish away from us is that he has now decided to gain a formal qualification as a teacher; as one of first year wrote of Hamish, “I really like Mr. Auld. He is my favourite teacher, because he makes CDT lessons such fun”.

If Hamish’s second stay at Rendcomb has been a short one, the longevity of Tom Denny’s time with us stretches to eighteen years. There are many artists amongst both our current pupils and Old Rendcombians who owe Tom a great debt. Tom is very much a living artist, whose work is in much demand locally. Martin Griffiths openly admits that the outstanding work of the Art Department over the years has been heavily dependent on the Denny magic. Tom is, by nature, self-effacing, but the Denny legacy is safe in so many wonderful paintings, including the design panels for Gloucester Cathedral, which grace the main College building and will act as fitting reminder to the wonderful contribution you have made to Rendcomb. I know that you will visit us from your beloved Dorset; the door is always open should you wish to grace it again with your artistic talent.

Such is the nature of a small school, that departures from the Art Department have had domino effects elsewhere, so much so that both Martin Griffiths and Sophia Blackwell have decided to stand down from School House and Park House respectively to focus predominately on matters artistic. When Martin and Pamela Griffiths took over School House in 1996, it was exclusively a senior boys’ boarding house with all the atmosphere of a boys’ boarding house. Four years

later the house is unrecognisable both in terms of fabric and ambience. As Martin and Pamela reflect on their challenging work over the last four years, they should be well satisfied with the transformation they have affected to a co-educational day house, with girls enjoying parity of esteem in the house. Such a metamorphosis required skill, patience, tolerance and diplomacy and I am sure that Martin will be pleased to hand over the reins to a colleague with similar skills, Mr Lindsey North.

Hugh and Sophie Blackwell have been equally successful in the quality of the pastoral care which they have given the girls in Park House. Sophie's style with its emphasis on dc - tender, love and care is much appreciated by both pupils and parents alike. Sophie will be equally pleased to hand over the reins to her fellow house-mistress Mrs. Nicola Gill who will continue to maintain this special family atmosphere. This family will now be extended however as Mr. Elliott Gill will become residential, as will young William their son who has received special dispensation to be the only unmarried male to take up residence in Park House.



*Harry Evans, Bill White and Tony Partridge*

Keeping with the theme of moving, it is with great sadness that we also say goodbye to Mr. Bill White and Mr. Tony Partridge. In one sense we said goodbye to Bill White as Senior Master in 1996 but Bill White is so quintessentially Rendcomb [when I first typed this by the way, I typed quite essential] that he came back after his first retirement to offer us his gardening expertise. Since then he has worked very closely with Tony Partridge: in fact only last week, I caught both of them looking over my garden wall, surveying the vegetable patch and advising us on what we needed to do if we were to have any chance of some cucumbers this summer. Tony first joined Rendcomb in 1973, when he was appointed clerk of works. Like Bill White, this is his second retirement

as he officially retired from full time work in 1988. In many ways, these two grand signori of Rendcomb symbolise the love with which staff both past and present approach their work; Rendcomb is not so much a place of work but a way of life.

Before I pass over to our guest speaker, Professor Michael Prestwich, I would just wish to say a few words about our future. In keeping with the wishes of our Founder, Noel Wills, Rendcomb has paradoxically always had a tradition of looking forward. In the words of Rendcomb's first Headmaster, James Simpson "we must go forward, humbly but confidently, in the work of making the Founder's vision a reality." In 1920 Rendcomb was a visionary school in liberal education, providing for boys from humble backgrounds in Gloucestershire. Eighty years on we intend to remain at the cutting edge of educational development, continuing that pioneering voyage of educational discovery. It was fitting therefore, that in this, the year of its eightieth birthday, we should decide to open a junior school. You have heard from my review, how confident the College is in terms of what it offers in educating the whole person: our confidence is so strong that it seemed logical that we should extend our educational experience to children below the age of eleven. Consequently, this September Rendcomb College will open its junior school with 40 children and four staff under the direction of Mr. Adrian Palmer, assisted by his wife Julie. We are convinced that our junior school, which is after all, a gateway to the senior College, will like all newcomers quickly become part of the Rendcomb family. (May I take this opportunity to thank the Bursar, Jeremy Grey and his team for their hard work in preparing the buildings for this exciting project).

Other curricular changes from September will include the extension of our provision of ICT across the whole of the Lower School to incorporate an early GCSE in this subject by the end of the third form. To satisfy this requirement, we will be extending our computer facilities to include a multi-media learning centre, including modern language facilities. We believe that this innovation will equip our pupils with the necessary computing and linguistic skills to enhance the quality of their own directed learning and research as they approach other GCSEs in the fourth and fifth form, and provide them with an important key skill for sixth form and beyond.

In educating the whole person, we are also extending our provision of PSME [Personal Social and Moral Education]. This currently comes under the auspices of the chaplain and the RE department. All of you who know the Rev'd Taplin would admit that he is a man of great wisdom, industry and sensitivity but even his shoulders are not broad enough to carry the whole moral education of the college. This important

side of the hidden curriculum will include more staff, in educating our pupils for the important challenges which all young people face as they progress through adolescent to adult life. Similarly on the theme of pupil ownership and personal responsibility, we hope that the recently established school council, with its properly elected pupil officers, will play an important part in maintaining the values special to Rendcomb as we enter an era of change and development. An agenda for one of their recent meetings included - a request for additional activities at Rendcomb (this by the way was in contrast to our Social Services report which said that we offered too many activities!) care for the environment and the need for a more consistent approach to standards. This attitude from our young people is so refreshing that they are genuinely a joy to be with and a privilege to educate.

At a time when educationalists are obsessed with measuring and quantifying assessment, I feel that as I approach the end of my first year, I cannot fail to be anything but enormously proud of the achievements of all our pupils. So many of them are multi-talented - Renaissance men and women who in their approach fulfil our Founder's dream of creating an aristocracy of brains and character. With such quality pupils in the school, Rendcomb can continue to look forward to its next eighty years with overwhelming confidence.

### **HEAD GIRL'S SPEECH**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Professor Prestwich, Governors and Headmaster.

I feel sure that today, our Founder's day, you are fully

anticipating a series of highly entertaining and stimulating speeches that will leave you astonished and impressed. This, I leave to the others. But, please allow me a moment to relate just a brief story to you. Five years ago, in another European country, there was a young girl, just thirteen years old and despite being bright, she was having little success at school. Her marks were continually low and her school regarded her as a failure. Her marks became worse and her confidence in herself had hit rock bottom". She did not know where to turn. Her family were becoming desperate.

However, due to the closer dovetailing of the education system in Europe, British "A" Levels were now being accepted by German Universities. The parents recognized a possible chance of salvation. Using a family friend, the girl's family were recommended Rendcomb, a well-regarded small friendly school with the reputation for getting the best out of its students. The girl, in trepidation, with little hope of redemption, was sent here as a last resort.

The first three months were a nightmare. Different, stricter rules, a uniform and homesickness to contend with. Quickly she was made to feel welcome, her English improved rapidly. She became more confident, more self-assured, finally her grades improved and she passed enough G.C.S.E.'s to study "A" Levels and now she plans to go to a British University. And now, as this girl is standing before you — I hope I may give inspiration to others.



*Chairman of Governors, Mrs Phelps, Prof. Prestwich, Mrs Holden, Headmaster, Head Girl, Head Boy*

How I felt, many others have felt before coming here and perhaps feel at other schools today. I am grateful for this opportunity to stand here and thank the founder of this outstanding school Mr. Noel Wills, for his amazing idea, his generous foundation which has given me, and all of us, a wonderful chance in life.

I am equally grateful to all of those people who maintain the school today, from the Trustees and governors through to every member of the staff.

May I say thank-you on behalf of my entire year group who are leaving you this summer.

Thank you!

**Maggi Schumacher**

### HEAD BOY'S SPEECH

Thank you Professor Prestwich. Many of this year's leavers, if not all of us, hope to go on to further education and so your words have been an interesting and helpful insight into the next large step in our lives. Thank you!

Standing here before you, I feel an overwhelming sense of nostalgia as all my memories flash before me; however, through all those memories there is one person whom I'd like briefly to remember. Four years ago today, here in this hall, Mr Tolputt announced that the Reverend Peter Sudbury had died. He was the most caring, happy, gentle giant I've ever met. I remember one particular sermon he gave when he dressed up in his arctic warfare clothing and told us how one of the gloves he had put on was for wiping away the snot and the other was for rubbing the nose so you still knew it was there, in the harsh conditions of Arctic Norway. From the church he would then become a Biology teacher and I remember vividly writing one of his typical essays - Describe what happens to a ham sandwich as it travels down the alimentary canal. I also remember how we used to sneak the television controller under our shirts and when we were bored with watching what happened to the ham sandwich in real life, we would change the channel over and in his state of confusion, tell him how he really ought to get a new T.V. set as this one is not working properly.

I only wish he could have watched us all grow up, but sadly he can't be here today, and it wasn't until I sat down and wrote this speech that I realised, quite how much that special man meant to me. Thinking about him, he stood for and symbolised everything that Rendcomb was and still is. He inspired and carried with him everywhere, the very essence of this College, and among the many wonderful things that Rendcomb has to offer, there are two which I feel this

place cannot help but bathe people in, Friendship and Beauty.

The most important people in my life, especially over the past two years have been my friends. In the tours we give to visiting parents we all go on about the "Great community that Rendcomb is" and the "Friendly atmosphere that it has" and sometimes I've stopped and thought, is that true or have I just said that to try and sell the School. It *is* true and I'm sure of that now, I only have to look at photographs of us all or think of the things we've done together and I'm reminded of so many different and fantastic memories.



*Mathew Ewing playing on Founder's Day*

Looking at us as a group of friends or even looking at the school as a whole, one sees diversity. There is no "typical Rendcomb pupil", the mini evolution of humans that is going on here allows the growth of individuals. So as we leave this environment, this little haven, although many of our questions have been answered, those answers have merely enticed a thousand different questions for the future.

Secondly, Beauty. Mr. Tolputt so perfectly summed up Rendcomb's mystical and stunning landscape by quoting Caliban's lines from Shakespeare's *Tempest*, that I feel there is no need to try and explain it myself, it is impossible to put its beauty into words. The only way you can ever understand how the wonders of this "isle" have inspired me, you, us, people who visit, is by experiencing it yourselves.

However, the time has come when we shall be leaving and moving on to new lives and new experiences and new people. Time for reflection subtly entices thoughts for the future and I know many of us eagerly await the future. I'd like, therefore, to end by reading you some words of the Dalai Lama; they are his "Instructions for Life".

1. Take in to account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

3. Follow the three R's; Respect for self, Respect for others and Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realise you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone every day.
9. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
10. Live a good, honourable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
11. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
12. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
13. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
14. Be gentle with the earth.
15. Once a year, go some place you've never been before.
16. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
17. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
18. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.
19. And finally, Open your arms to change, but never let go of your values.

**Nicholas Hall**

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

### Ashley Hermitage

Ashley is the youngest person ever to get an A\* at GCSE at Rendcomb, he took his German GCSE last summer.

Aimeé Le Feuvre interviewing Ashley Hermitage:

**Q: How did you get into speaking and writing German?**

*A: I live in Germany and began to pick up the language from general conversation and from going to a German Kindergarten.*

**Q: When did you move to Germany?**

*A: In July 1992*

**Q: Why did you move there?**

*A: As my Dad works there.*

**Q: How long were you speaking German before your GCSE's?**

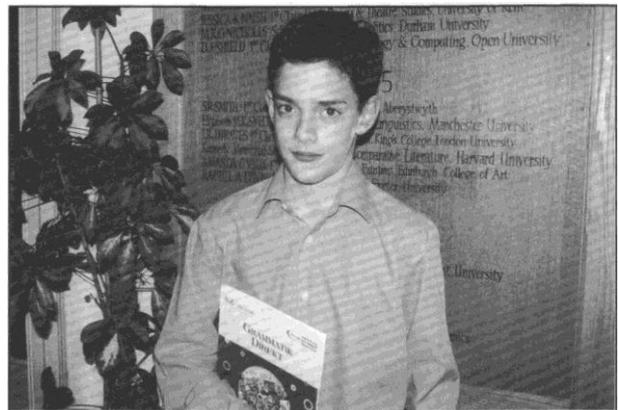
*A: 7 years*

**Q: What was the hardest part of your GCSE?**

*A: Listening*

**Q: Do you intend to take 'A' level. If so when?**

*A: I don't know if I will be taking 'A' level but I might do in the 5th or 6th form.*



### Charles Crisp

Charles (Third Form) won through to the National Finals of the Nestlé Tennis Ladder Rounds at Welwyn Garden City on the 25th September. Charles, representing the South Western quarter of the country, became U14 County Champion one year early. Also, he is the County Champion at under U16 level both in the doubles and singles tides, and has been invited to train in the U18 junior squad from October! He has also improved his national ranking regaining his



place in the top twenty in the country.

### Hannah Ewing

Hannah (Fourth Form) has competed at County and National Open Meet levels throughout the year. In January she took part in the British Speedo Grand Prix at Swansea. Swimmers from Great Britain, Ireland and the Olympic Team (back from training in Australia) were competing. Hannah reached three finals including her first time in the women's final for 200m Backstroke, securing sixth place. She won the 100m Freestyle in her age group.

Hannah is coached by Terry Davies - father of Olympic Silver medallist Sharron Davies - and trains

a minimum of 10 hours per week. Her schedule this year included a week's intensive training camp in Spain, the climax of which was a swim of 100 x 100m (6 miles) inside three hours! Hannah has represented Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; she holds three County Championship titles for 100m Freestyle,



Individual Medley and 50m Butterfly. Recently she was selected for the Western Counties Elite Squad competing throughout the UK. She continues her quest to reach the National qualifying times for Great Britain.

**James Spackman**

James (Fifth Form) became U15 County Golf



Champion at the end of the season, after competing at the Landsdown Golf Club. A committed and enthusiastic player, James practises at every opportunity to improve his game.

**Paul Bongiovanni**

Paul (Sixth Form) won an RAF Flying Scholarship which involves twenty hours of free flying time, four and a half of which is solo time. The eighteen day course took place in Teeside during the summer holiday. Whilst Paul does not have to give a commitment to join the RAF he says that he wants to pilot fast jets.

**Anna de Lisle Wells**

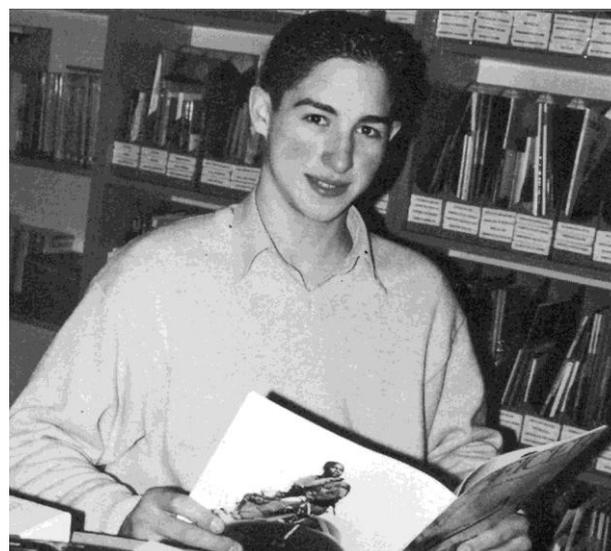
For Anna (Sixth Form) 1999 was the first season as a point-to-point jockey. She has been gaining riding



experience by working for local trainer, David Nicholson, as well as helping her mother to train the horse that she rides, appropriately called "Boarding School".

In her first race she finished third in a very competitive Mixed Open. The next time Anna was second to Champion Jockey, Julian Pritchard. She won the Berkeley Ladies' Open race in a tight finish; then she went on to win the Bicester Ladies' Open at the end of the season.

She won the prestigious Novice Rider Award by accumulating points within the West Midlands area. The trophy was presented during the West Midland Point-to-Point Annual Dinner at Cheltenham racecourse on 24th September. Following these successes Anna is hoping to be offered outside rides from other owners and eventually some rides under National Hunt rules.



### Rebecca-Claire Demczak (Year 3)

A former Wells Cathedral Chorister who joined Rendcomb this year, Rebecca has auditioned and been accepted by the National Youth Training Choir.



## HONOURS BOARD

1999

G. E. BARTON

1st Class Hons.  
Biological Sciences  
and Philosophy,  
Sheffield

F. G. E. BARTON

Peter H. Nidditz  
Prize in Philosophy,  
Sheffield

C. P. E. BARTON

Hilbert Scholarship  
in Logic, Manchester

2000

R. F. BARDSLEY

1st Class Hons.  
Electronic  
Engineering, Exeter

## Performing and Creative Arts

### DRAMA

Drama has enjoyed a high profile at Rendcomb this year both on the timetable and in an extra-curricular capacity. Following the outstanding 'A' level results of Kate Nicholas and Rebekah Taplin last summer, (Rebekah is currently studying Drama at Royal Holloway in London). Theatre Studies is becoming popular in the 6th form as well as with our juniors and newcomers to the school. Our programme this year has included Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" performed in the round; an ambitious workshop production of the complex "Top Girls" by Caryl Churchill and the 'all singing, all dancing' production of Annie' on the main stage.

I consider it a compliment and privilege that Rendcomb students should have been so taken with 'The Crucible' and deemed it worthy of affectionate parody in the 6th form sketches during the end of term Christmas celebrations. The concept of dance as Mrs. Bates knows it, I fear, will never be the same again. Anyone opting for dance next term - you have been warned!

Thank you for allowing us to laugh at ourselves especially after two and a half months of very serious and taxing rehearsals. These were not nearly so jovial; in fact frequently the opposite. By 9pm on Sunday 21st November we, the cast and crew, were most certainly not laughing. We had nothing to laugh about. Sacrificing an exeat seemed punishment enough. Witnessing a dress rehearsal where lines had not been learned; exits and cues were missed

and interruptions, (we won't mention the mobile phone!!) were manifold, was something else.

In Salem's open court room there was no escape. Every member of the cast came under scrutiny, each reliant upon the other. Every member of the company came to realise the true meaning of individual responsibility and committed team-work at this point.

A collective decision was made to forfeit the Wednesday evening before the show traditionally a 'rest' night. For those of you familiar with 'Animal Farm', Boxer's maxim "I must work harder" had never been so much in evidence as during the six hours of extra rehearsal time.

I thank the seniors for their support and encouragement, particularly of those less experienced pupils, and their utter determination that the show would go on; it would be a triumph. I thank the juniors and newcomers to Rendcomb for volunteering their services; for their patience throughout seemingly endless rehearsals, and their electric energy during three performances at the end of a hectic week in school. You would be amazed how long it took to perfect those blood curdling screams!

Throughout the year, I thank those staff who have helped behind the scenes, especially the Art Department and Sister Pritchard who made such a fantastic array of costumes.

Since the production may people have pointed out to me what a challenging and difficult play 'The Crucible' is to perform.

My reply is simple. Should any of us - sports people, musicians, artists - stop to consider the real difficulties of achieving a goal, we would attempt nothing. Drama is about taking risks. About believing in yourself; about believing in others. There will be other John Proctors, Abigail Williams, Marlenes and Annies at Rendcomb - some of them are already in our midst waiting to make their debut.

**KME**

#### THE CRUCIBLE BY ARTHUR MILLER

"Aaaghh!!! It's spreading its wings, it's coming to get us!" In "The Crucible", one of the most dramatic



*The Crucible*

plays I have ever been in, there are so many different characters, plots, twists and ideas. It's full of magic, mystery, witchcraft and devils. It keeps you on the edge of your seat at most times and the other times you are at the back shouting "No, no, he isn't guilty" This play is also full of terror, wonder emotion and fear. The most important moment for me was when I had to act the part of Mary Warren, the servant of John Proctor who was wrongly accused. It wasn't just the buzz of adrenalin that I felt whilst doing this play but I also experienced panic as two or three nights beforehand, I didn't even know my lines!

The rehearsals were also a lot of fun; to watch others act and to do it brilliantly was a large part of the enjoyment for me. I have learnt a lot about dramatic presentation and also about the concept "It will be alright on the night!" Most will agree it was! If you have not watched it, I suggest you borrow a copy of our video, settle back and prepare to be bewitched.

#### **F. Levy-Bull**

*More photographs of The Crucible may be found in the colour section which includes the Fashion Show.*

#### TOP GIRLS

It is always a mark of the strength of drama within a school that there is a body of pupils capable of and willing to perform a play of their choice. For this reason, and many others, "Top Girls" was most welcome on the Rendcomb stage. Inspired and performed by the pupils, particularly the "A" level



*Top Girls*

Theatre Studies group and with the expert guidance of Mrs Diana Dodd, this was exciting, funny yet serious and challenging drama of the highest order

As a play, it is extremely demanding in terms of both structure and contents. From the surreal opening scene, a celebratory dinner hosted by the central character, Marlene (Marguerita Schumacher), the guests at which are female characters throughout history and from different cultures, all of whom were victims of a male dominated society, to the final tragic scene, where the emptiness of the career woman is matched against the hopelessness of trapped female domesticity, the audience is confronted with a series of scenes exploring the realities of the emancipated woman and the spleen of motherhood, rendered all the more bitter and cruel, because the mother, Joyce, (Olivia du Monceau) is surrogate, bringing up Marlene's child.

The cast handled this highly charged, complex material with considerable maturity. The dinner party, setting the historical and cultural dimensions for the issues in the play, was a difficult scene, but performances were strong. Marguerita Schumacher (Marlene) took the lead with confidence and had excellent support from Alice Osborne (Isabella Bird), Felicity Levy-Bull (Lady Nijo), Nellie Abbott (Dull Gret), Lorraine Jack (Patient Griselda), and an outstanding Olivia du Monceau (Pope Joan).



The play then moves between the opposite poles of the career woman and the simple mother. Olivia du Monceau in her second of three roles, was again totally convincing as Joyce and Caroline Lay and Chloe Slater as Angie, the daughter and Kit, her friend, displayed a confidence and competence beyond their years. Caroline, in particular, caught the dark humour of her character so well, as a child suspecting that Joyce is perhaps not her mother, and expressing her thoughts on killing her. The scenes with the career women pose many questions about values. These women have not really imposed womanhood upon the work area, but rather usurped the shallow sexist attitudes traditionally held by men. These scenes of role-reversal are cause for self-examination. A sad, honest moment is when Nell (again Nellie Abbott) tells us that Friday and Saturday nights are spent seducing and sleeping with different men, but that her favourite night is Sunday, when she stays home with a mug of Ovaltine. The two interviewees, Shona (a brilliantly funny Lorraine Jack) and Jeannine (Holly Earl, again very funny) took the stage by sudden storm, delightful comic caricatures of the ambitious, mindless new woman, or perhaps they are more human than that, and thus win our sympathy and affection. A wonderful moment is when the “bimbo” Jeannine is incapable of contemplating any career plan, not even for the next ten years, and tells us that she might be dead in ten years. There is here more existential truth than poor Jeaninne could ever imagine.



Annie

And so the play ends with the encounter between Marlene and Joyce, the audience left in no doubt about Angie being Marlene’s daughter. We have again the opposites of the loneliness and martyrdom of Joyce, running a home and bringing up a child and Marlene, professionally successful and yet totally empty of any purpose whatsoever. What are we to think? How are we to judge? How will Angie cope with the truth, if she ever finds out? Cleverly, these are strings left untied for the audience at the end.

This was not simply a play performed, but also produced, by pupils. They discussed issues as a group throughout rehearsals and pooled ideas constantly. It was also a production that allowed younger talent to perform. Holly Earl, Lorraine Jack, Felicity Levy-Bull, Alice Hughes, Caroline Lay and Chloe Slater are all in Lower School and will have gained enormous experience and confidence from their excellent contributions. The leadership of the Sixth Form pupils was exemplary, Alice Osborne, Nellie Abbott and Olivia du Monceau giving strong, mature

performances and of course Marguerita Schumacher leading the cast with such presence. It is all the more remarkable when one remembers that she is acting in English, her second language; no-one would have known.

Thanks must also go, as with every successful production, to those who worked on costumes, lighting, make-up, props, stage management and prompting. Without these people nothing would ever happen on stage.

Congratulations then, to everyone involved in this excellent production of a brilliantly challenging and disturbing play.

## BLN

### ANNIE

Having made the bold decision in his first year to stage a version of the Broadway classic, “Annie”, Mr David Whitehead, when asked tentatively how the rehearsals were progressing, rather disconcertingly

gave a manic laugh bordering on hysteria. Thus, it was not without some degree of trepidation that I sat on the back row to watch ‘Annie’ on its’ opening night.

The moment the curtain rose any anxieties were instantly dispelled. The audience was immediately assaulted by a spectacle of colours and vibrancy. The stage was amok with hoards of bright-eyed orphans armed with mops, brooms and buckets of enthusiasm. Annie, deftly played by Samya Malik, at once appealed to our senses, both visually and emotionally. Her opening song,

‘Maybe’ was performed with great maturity and assurance. Samya’s performance was pivotal and a great challenge to one so young, yet, Annie conjured up an empathy which quickly had the audience at her feet. The orphans were choreographed expertly with ‘Hard Knock Life’; their vitality was positively infectious.

The key relationship was between Oliver Warbucks and Annie; this was sensitively and heart-warmingly drawn. Warbucks, a central role, was played by Mr Lindsey North, a fine choice for the part of ‘Learn to love him billionaire Oliver Daddy Warbucks’. Impressive, he lent an air of authority and structure to those around him and cultivated a surprisingly convincing, singing voice! Caroline Lay played Grace, Warbuck’s secretary. She supported Mr. Lindsey North’s role to perfection, lending it just the right degree of efficiency, warmth and professionalism. High praise must be given to Sam Reid, who took the part of Miss Hannigan. Sam’s portrayal of the man-

hungry, gin-guzzling owner of the orphanage was very, very funny and wonderfully over the top! She left the audience in stitches as Miss Hannigan reeled across the stage, clasping her bottle. A vivid memory of Miss Hannigan, slumped in a chair, kissing the radio as she listened to her favourite soap opera was an inspirational touch.

Excellent performances came from the duo Rooster Hannigan (Barney Vick) and his dim-witted girl friend, Lily St. Regis, played by Jessica Weston. These two were utterly believable; their performances were delivered with much applause as they concocted a divinely devious plan to collect the reward money offered by Warbuck.

There were some fabulous minor performances, including Rupert Uzzell who gave a first rate rendition whilst tap dancing on the radio - a commendation to special effects here!

He was enthusiastically accompanied by the glamorous Boylan sisters (Ellie Wells, Heather Roper and Verity Symcox). A particularly lovely solo 'N.Y.C.' was sung by Rebecca Preston who held the audience spellbound, whilst the youngest orphan, Hannah Kay as Molly, gave a convincing, self assured performance and much humour in her mimicking of the wicked Miss Hannigan.

Mr. Gerry Holden, the Headmaster, sportingly agreed to take on a cameo role and gave a well judged performance as president Franklin Roosevelt, whilst Hamish Auld gave a fine performance as Bundles the laundry man.

One cannot progress further without mentioning a hitherto, little known rising star playing the faithful dog, Sandy a.k.a, 'Worcester of the Rectory' who was in danger of scene stealing, but not without the aid of a few furtively hidden sausages!

As befits the original 1930's comic strip which started life in 'The Tribune' Annie's finale had glitz, tension and all round star quality. The climax, the adoption of Annie by Warbuck and Grace, had in attendance the President, the orphans, Miss Hannigan and her accomplices and to cap it all, it was 4th of July. It all ended on a justifiably high note in terms of emotion as well as quality.

I cannot finish without congratulating the wonderful ensemble, brilliantly conducted by Mr. David White, who inspired the feeling of 'Broadway' in its greatest sense. Whilst the 'snappy' songs and lyrics by Martin Charmin evoked a feeling of nostalgia for 1930's America, the fabulous costumes by Sister Julie Pritchard echoed this period exactly. Throughout the production, the impressive attention to detail in the

sets gave the audience a strong sense of life in the depression, whether it be at the orphanage, in the streets or in Warbuck's mansion. 'Annie' is a story which both warmed and delighted the audience and it proved to be a veritable triumph of talent and teamwork. A big 'Bravo!' to the director, Mr David Whitehead, ably assisted by Diana Dodd, whose vision became such a successful reality.

**JDS**



*Mr White directs a rehearsal*

#### **'OTHELLO' TRIP TO STRATFORD**

Going to an RSC production is always special. 'Othello' at Stratford was no different, and the whole Shakespeare 'experience' that one takes from this kind of trip was memorable for us all, pupils and staff alike. We knew the plot inside out; the twists the turns, and yet the action held our breath and attention from the first curtain until the final scene. Ray Feardon's Othello was much how we had hoped and expected, not least for Maggi who maintained that 'if Othello is not good-looking, I'm going home' - Rendcomb boasts the most discerning of thespians! In contrast, Richard McCabe's Iago was far more subtle and disturbing than anything we had previously seen or expected. Sometimes the performance lacked credibility in its interpretation due to the occasionally inappropriate over-use of humour at the expense of realism and some empathy from the audience. Nonetheless, we all took a great deal from the performance in both its strengths and its weaknesses, which made it a thoroughly thought-provoking and worthwhile experience. Our thanks to Mrs. Ewing and Mrs. Dodd for a special and memorable trip.

**Matt Williams**

#### **THEATRE STUDIES HIT THE GLUMS**

No, not morning assembly, but the annual Theatre Studies pilgrimage to see one of our set text performances "Les Miserables!"

After a few minor transportation problems, we arrived in London's theatre-land, the West End. After a "Slap-up meal" at Pizza Hut, we then practised our groupie skills, by bullying cast members arriving

at the stage door, especially Tim, to sign our programmes and take part in cheesy photos (see photo). We were surprised at how many stopped and took the time to talk to us, for instance, the lovely Tim!



We then entered the theatre and bought assorted souvenirs, (Thanks for the cups, Mrs D). Unfortunately, we had to do a large assignment on all aspects of this production, so as soon as we sat in our seats, we brought out our trusty note books and started noting... when Tim would arrive!

Beforehand we had learnt many of the songs and seen two documentaries on the making of the show, but this was nothing compared to seeing our new best friend "Tim" entering as "Third soldier on the left."

From the darkened streets of Paris to the palatial mansions of the wealthy, "Les Misérables" shows us the full spectrum of post-revolutionary French life. What struck us about this production, was the importance of the revolving stage and the reliance on computer technology which many scene changes now seem to require and the strength of the acting ensemble.

After three hours of exhausting, emotional turbulence, we emerged from the Palace Theatre, happier but wiser about the production qualities of this world famous musical.

*P.S. Tim has asked us not to phone him any more-(sigh!)*

**N. Abbott, M. Schmacher, O du Monceau,  
A. Osborne (6th form Theatre Studies group)**

## Music

Q. P. CONCERTS

JACQUELINE WILSON AND RICHARD DAVIES

The Reading Room of Rendcomb College is an ideal place for a recital of songs and piano duets for it was once the drawing room during the Victorian era. Some of the music in the recital given by Jacqueline Wilson and Richard Davies was in fact contemporary with the House in its heyday.



The programme was a delightfully crafted one where duets led onto songs, and provided respite and a contrast of texture and colour. The hot house songs from Spain, some with flamboyant guitar figuration and haunting melody gave way to the cooler songs by Ravel. The seriousness of the first part of the programme contrasted with the later increasingly witty songs with English texts. Even the final Cod Piece duets by Warlock kept up the deft humour right to the very end.

And the whole recital was presented with exactly the right degree of warmth and drama that those who follow this duo have come to expect. Jacqueline Wilson is a master of the raised eyebrow, the flamboyant gesture, the smile, the scowl. One is referring here to the singing, of course, but she acts as well as she sings! She plays on the audience as if it were a musical instrument, so that those listening are drawn into the total experience of performing, listening, even curiously creating the music. Richard Davies is a self-effacing accompanist who does not need to apologise. "Am I too loud?" one can almost hear him saying! Of course not, since he listened and supported and responded as a true accompanist should.

The audience went away with a song in their heart and the self-righteous gratification that, while they may have been enjoying themselves, they were also helping to Save the Children.

**DW**

## RICHARD POWELL AND DAVID WHITEHEAD

As the audience settled into their seats, Richard Powell started to warm up out of sight of the audience. Everybody fell quiet listening to the amazing range and quality of sound produced by the trumpeter. He had already caught our attention and he hadn't even started.

The concert began with the well known Rondeau by Charpentier combined with Purcell's trumpet tune, an opening statement which had class and elegance written all over it.

They continued with the traditional church hymn "Ave Maria" by Goumond, beautifully played with amazing accuracy and grace.

The next piece, a Sonata in D by Loeillet, showed off Mr Powell's incredible range of notes and the amazing breath control needed to play the trumpet to such a high standard.

This completed the first third of the concert and what better way to start the second than with a performance of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor by Mr Whitehead on the organ. The opening passage, so well known but so very difficult, was played with such power and apparent ease that the whole audience was captivated at once. Mr Whitehead's fantastic ability and skill on the organ was shown off to the full during this piece and the applause of the audience was well deserved.

The duo continued with "Pie Jesu" from Fauré's Requiem followed by Sonata in F major by Handel. Both pieces had hauntingly beautiful soaring high notes by Mr Powell as well as intricate and amazingly fast passages by Mr Whitehead.

The finale to the concert was Bach's Rondeau and Badinerie. An average trumpet player would not have attempted this piece after playing for forty five minutes already, but Mr Powell played it as if he was just starting a concert rather than finishing one. It was played with panache and power and was finished with a confidence that left the audience with a lasting impression of the fantastic ability of Mr Powell.

Thanks must go to both Mr Powell and Mr Whitehead for a wonderful concert and to Mr White for organizing the event.

**Matt Carrington**

## CONCERTO CONCERT

It was a very neat piece of programming. Vivaldi wrote a concerto for four violins first and then Bach came along and rewrote the same concerto for four harpsichords. We found we had the personnel for the violin concerto with Mr. Rogers taking the rather difficult first violin part and Sophie Sprawson,

Rebecca and Richard Demczak and Tom Soanes taking some of the other solo parts. Add in a couple of rather good cello players, (Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Sabourin) another viola player (Ms Christine Riley) and import a double Bass player from Cheltenham College (Mr. Simon Cox) and we had a splendid solo line up for this extraordinary work. So the big concerto concert that came at the end of the Lent term started in great style. The Vivaldi was a very tricky piece of ensemble playing as well as providing plenty of opportunities for solo display. Having scoured the countryside for a complement of four harpsichords, it was not a difficult task to assign parts to Mr. Lester, Mr. Whitehead, Mrs. Gill Day and Mr. White, and the concert ended with the same music all over again but in the different and exotic arrangement.

These two pieces were sandwiched in an array of other concertos for Rendcomb soloists. Carlos Garcia made a rare solo appearance as an oboe player in the Marcello Oboe Concerto. It rounded off his playing career at Rendcomb in fine style. Ludger Frese played the Stamitz Clarinet Concerto in B flat with rock solid dependability. Sophie Sprawson shared Vivaldi's Spring Concerto with her teacher, Mr. Rogers, who gave way to her for the second and third movements. Sophie played with her customary grace and sensitivity and won over the hearts of the capacity audience. But perhaps most startling of all was Anna Marlowe's performance of the Sammartini Recorder Concerto in which Anna showed total control over a fiendishly difficult and awe inspiring solo part. The concert raised to new heights what Rendcomb has achieved in the world of instrumental performance. The concert was first class.

## INFORMAL CONCERTS

There were a number of Informal Concerts over the year starting with a concert very early in the season in October for an impressive array of soloists, many of whom were making their first appearance at Rendcomb. Rebekah Demczak showed straight away how versatile she was starring with her violin playing and singing. Matthew Carrington demonstrated an alluring command of his trumpet with a very nicely controlled performance of the slow movement of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto. Andrea Gear joined Carlos Garcia and Amy Roberts to make up a splendid trio of oboe players. Stalwarts Anna Marlowe, Sam Reid, Zuki Turner, Holly Earl and Tom Soanes made sure that the continuing tradition of established musical excellence was well represented.

Always in January, when parents have a chance to meet with the music teachers there is an excuse for a concert to sweeten the pill of an otherwise rather formal occasion. As usual there were enough performers to fill two simultaneous concerts.

Far more nerve wracking than any of the other concerts was the traditional end of season GCSE students' Recital. A lot hangs on these performances and the soloists know that only too well. There were plenty of people in the audience, however, to cheer friends along. Always these concerts bring forward some astounding performances, and the musicians who never think they could cope with a public airing do remarkably well. Winnie Cheung was coaxed through her pieces for solo guitar and achieved a performance that she would never have thought possible. Richard Demczak proved he could be reliably depended upon to start the whole proceedings with quite a fiery Brahms Hungarian Dance. Charlie Cowper gave a very sensitive performance on his acoustic guitar and then went on to change guitars and feature in a group with Richard, Phil Gordon Jones and Mathew Ewing. Perhaps two items stood out - first of all a truly virtuoso rendering of Rachmaninov's C sharp minor prelude by Patrick Bodenham, with a middle section that left us all breathless with admiration, then James Sabourin with Mrs. Day brought the house down with some very impressive jazz. A good time was had by all.

#### OCCASIONAL MUSIC

We started the year providing some light entertainment for the Village Harvest Supper. For some this was a first go at performing at Rendcomb and there were lots of nerves. At the very end of the Christmas Term, we were

then asked that the choir should sing at the Cotswold Care Hospice Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Tesco Car Park in Cirencester. Rendcomb College not only produced the choir to sing a couple of seasonal items but also the band to provide the accompaniment for the audience carols. We must have performed in front of our biggest ever audience.

"Have Band-Will Travel", so if a fanfare is needed for a Millennium event in Swindon we jump at the opportunity. In fact the Rendcomb Brass Ensemble gave a first performance of a specially composed - and rather good - fanfare in front of the worthy citizens of Blunsden right at the end of the Summer Term. There was nice food afterwards and we all came away with a commemoration mug.

**DBW**

#### THE VERY BIG BAND DAY

It seemed a mad idea at the time to play our instruments all day and give a concert at the end.

Would we have the stamina to cope? Would we be able to concentrate that long? Would we get too bored? Well, not a bit of it. We started at 9 o'clock in the morning, getting ourselves into our places, finding our music, tuning up. Then players from other schools began to arrive. Some from Deer Park School in Cirencester, others from Pinewood School, more from Arnold Lodge School in Warwick making us a total of about seventy players. From the moment Mr. Whitehead started the whole ball rolling we knew it was going to be some achievement. For a start, some of our instruments had not been in the fresh air for such a long period of time! We played all



together, and then we split up into smaller groups. Some of us who found the music very hard had a chance to get to grips with some of the notes which we found hard when we were all together. Quite apart from our own top players, some of the visitors were excellent which meant that we were able at the end to put up quite a good show. For those of us who were

only beginners, it did not matter too much if we just sat and soaked up the whole event and played bits here and there. It was quite inspiring to sit next to people who were in fact very good. Everybody seemed to have a good time and we retired exhausted at the end, but with a grand sense of achievement.

**DBW**

#### ROCK AT RENDCOMB

The recent growth of 'Girl/Boy Bands' has tended to devalue the place of Rock at Rendcomb over the last few years. However, during my two 6th Form years, our band and several others have attempted to rectify what was once a great Saturday night Rendcomb tradition.

With a handful of gigs over the last two years, we have seen some great talent on show, from both staff and pupils alike, especially last November's Charity Concert.

This was the Fifth Year band's debut appearance and their tidy performance was upstaged only by their dapper image. The new 6B band showed considerable talent as well as potential for the future - hopefully Helen Pearce and others will be able to pull the rest of the school along with them next year. The staff's retro vibes kept the upbeat mood intact and was an almost flawless, if rather showy, performance. Finally, 6A stole the show - Chris Sykes' dynamic rhythms, Yuki's punchy guitars and Laurie Barton's searching vocals wooed the crowd - apparently, the bass player wasn't bad either!

On the whole, the 'rock' experience at Rendcomb was great fun and something I will never forget - my thanks to Mr. White, Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Griffiths for their support, as well as the Lawn House Boys who took 'Angels' and 'Twist & Shout' to strange new places. I hope people will remember our performances and that events of this kind will continue long after I have left. Concluding, I wish to express the pleasure I take from the fact that the best guitarist to have left Rendcomb in the last few years was a Williams (regrettably not myself) and often impressed with his numerous guest performances.

**Matt Williams**

#### THE CHOIR

Chapel Choir have worked extremely hard this year. Not only did we sing regularly at services every Sunday throughout the year but we also put on some memorable extra performances as well. Perhaps most memorable was the Requiem by Duruflé on Remembrance Sunday Evening. This occasion is fast becoming an annual event and it was hard to follow the previous year's Fauré Requiem, but follow it and supercede it we did. The Duruflé Requiem is a work of much greater demands than the Fauré Requiem not only in proportions of the piece itself but also of the complexity of the musical language. With a little help from our friends and some extremely gifted solo singing from Rupert Uzzell, Rebecca Demczak and old boy baritone, Tom Gilbert, the work came off brilliantly. The audience and even members of the choir were very moved.

Going to Bristol Cathedral once a year is always special and most enjoyable. It is a way of extending our horizons and providing us with a real challenge to sing a major service in one of our great Cathedrals. The Director of Music ensures there are no compromises and we have to sing our very best. John Ireland's wonderful anthem "Greater Love hath no Man" is a goodly sing and in the Cathedral the sound rolls round the building and makes us sound amazing. Especially enjoyable are the bits that lead up to the great climax just before the end: "ye are washed - ye are sanctified - ye are justified..." followed by the lovely unison tune "that ye should show forth the

praises..." while the actual climax with top A's for sopranos on "marvellous light..." never fails to send shivers down our spines. The two carol services at the end of the Christmas Term - Advent Carol Service and the main Carol service are always very demanding in terms of preparing enough repertoire at a time when we are all very tired at the end of a long and event packed term but we managed as always. It is a thrill to sing at our main carol service before such a big College congregation at the very end of term. Sending people away with the "Nunc Dimittis" with solo trumpet at the end of the service was very symbolic and magical. It is nice too that some friends and teachers join in at Christmas and we think we saw Mr. Breally in the tenor line. Was he wearing short trousers? We'll look more carefully next year.

#### VISIT OF RUSSIAN BOYS' CHOIR

On Wednesday 29 September, the Boys' Choir of the Belarussian Republic Music College of Minsk in Russia gave a concert in the Reading Room. The conductor, Vladimir Glushahov, who comes from a family of famous opera singers, gave an exceptional performance. The boys, whose ages ranged from 10 to 18, sang to a standard of artistry and refinement rarely heard in singers so young.

The Minsk Boys' Choir started with just 12 singers in 1968. Now the College has three choirs performing regularly. The repertoire included pieces by Rachmaninov, V G Inshakov and the well-known singer Sir Paul McCartney. The boys sang four part works, mainly classical Russian and European music, including English and American works. The choir has toured Russia, the Ukraine, Germany, the Netherlands and France. This was their first visit to England, with other venues being St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London School.

The younger boys brought fun and amusement to the second half when they dressed in traditional outfits of the Belarussian seasons. Their movement on stage relating to Harvest Time brought smiles and laughter to all in the audience. Their final piece "Michelle" by Sir Paul McCartney ended the evening perfectly. The concert gave great pleasure to both choir and audience and we wish them every success for the future.

**Sophie Sprawson**

#### SCHOOL CHOIR DINNER

On Thursday 18th May the school choir held their annual evensong and dinner. During the evensong which was held in the church, the choir sang a number of pieces including: "Greater love hath no man" as well as other memorable hymns. The service was enjoyed by our families and some teachers were present. The first half of the evening had gone well and we moved on to the Reading Room where a

wonderful meal, prepared by Mark Naylor and his team, awaited us.

Mr White gave a speech summing us up as a choir of exceptional choristers and gave a few details of those leaving. Helen Mizon and Sophie Sprawson replied to Mr White and Mr Whitehead by presenting them with gifts to thank them for “Not giving up on us and always pulling us through the hard bits!” It was another event for the choir and a successful end to a successful year. Well done to all concerned.

**H Mizon, S Sprawson**

#### FASHION SHOW

This year the underlying theme was Italian life and culture and certainly everybody involved thought the whole thing to be “Fantastico!” The audience seemed to love everything that was done and Dulverton Hall rocked to the great rounds of applause that followed every section. As each group of students descended the huge and dynamic ramp to their own specially selected music and individual lighting programme, the audience really marvelled at the breadth of their creations and creativity.

The evening opened in spectacular style with a collection of Mafia inspired ties produced by the 6A artists and their piece concluded with one of the audience being shot and dying a truly theatrical death!

The show then moved into a sumptuous collection of outfits known as the “Godman Collection.” These stunning outfits had been designed and made by the Godman girls, under the guidance of Miss Houghton, and besides the superb evening wear, fantasies in fur and sequin madness we also had a section inspired by the Italian flag which was entitled ‘Godman Wow!’ The whole section was brilliantly presented by the models who had obviously spent hours developing some really slick choreography. Adding to the fun were the interviews with some alleged journalists who had apparently flown in from Italy just to see the show!

We were then treated to a wild and whacky collection of hats, some exceptionally slick and chic pieces by the fourth year and some really groovy bucket bags.

The 5th Year GCSE students had been working incredibly hard and their collections of block- printed waistcoats and trousers looked really diverse and individual. The presentation was highly entertaining and this was also true when the 4th Year had their turn with their terrific collection of individually designed and painted T shirts.

Taking its inspiration from a Venetian carnival, everybody in years 1-3 then took part in the masks

section and we were treated to a fantastic range of ideas but also a really beautiful presentation and there were gasps of appreciation from the audience as the mirror ball reflected light onto the huge muslin drapes which were dramatically “floating” above the heads of the spectators. Bird and animal masks were followed by stars and moons and these paved the way for a stunning collection designed and made by the 6B artists to the theme of Madame Butterfly. These really beautiful pieces had taken their inspiration from Puccini’s tragic opera and it was to this opera’s final coda that our last piece was performed. Three magnificent costumes, made under the guidance of Mrs Ann Slark, were dramatically presented and several tears were shed before the omnipresent black flags were drawn dynamically across the sublime butterfly outfit which was so beautifully worn by Natsumi Yaegashi.

The end was wonderfully spellbinding, several seconds ensued before the darkened Dulverton Hall absolutely exploded into applause and a night of huge variety and wonderful colour and design had been given a sensational conclusion which will live in people’s minds for years to come.

The evening would obviously not have been possible without the 150 students who actually performed on stage but also all these people backstage who did so much work behind the scenes and here Miss Houghton, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Blackwell, Mr Whitehead and Mr Auld deserve special praise. However, not only was it a huge success as a dramatic evening but we also raised a thousand pounds for the Macmillan cancer relief charity. (*See colour section for photographs.*)

**MSG**

#### ART COLOUR SECTION

1. William Witchell 6a  
‘Food Preparation’ (*Oil Paint*)
- 2 1st Yr ‘Bird Mask’ (*Mixed media*)
- 3 1st Yr ‘Bird Mask’ (*Mixed media*)
4. Olivia Evans 5th Yr Still Life with Oranges’  
(*Watercolour and soft pastel*)
5. Ed McHenry 5th Yr  
‘Self Portrait of Dreaming Girl’  
(*Mixed Media*)
6. Rosy Warrington 5th Yr ‘Head Study’ (*Oil Paint*)
7. Amber Williams 5th Yr *Peacock Dress*’
8. Pat Chawatanarsirikul 6A  
‘Spanish Still Life’ (*Oil Painting*)
9. Noni Wolf 6A ‘Garden of Dreams’  
(*Watercolour and Soft Pastel*)
10. Rocky Fung 6A ‘Living Rock’  
(*Crayon and Oil Paint*)
11. Maggi Schumacher 6A ‘Mage’  
(*Acrylic and Collage*)

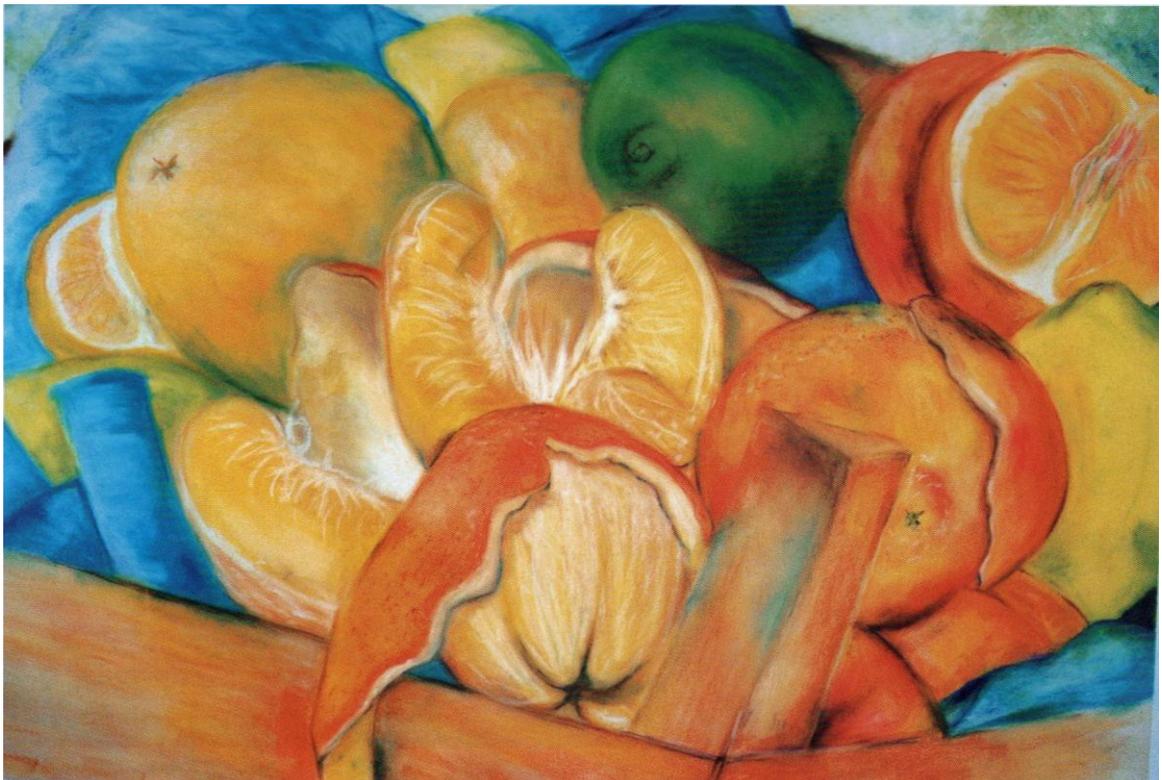




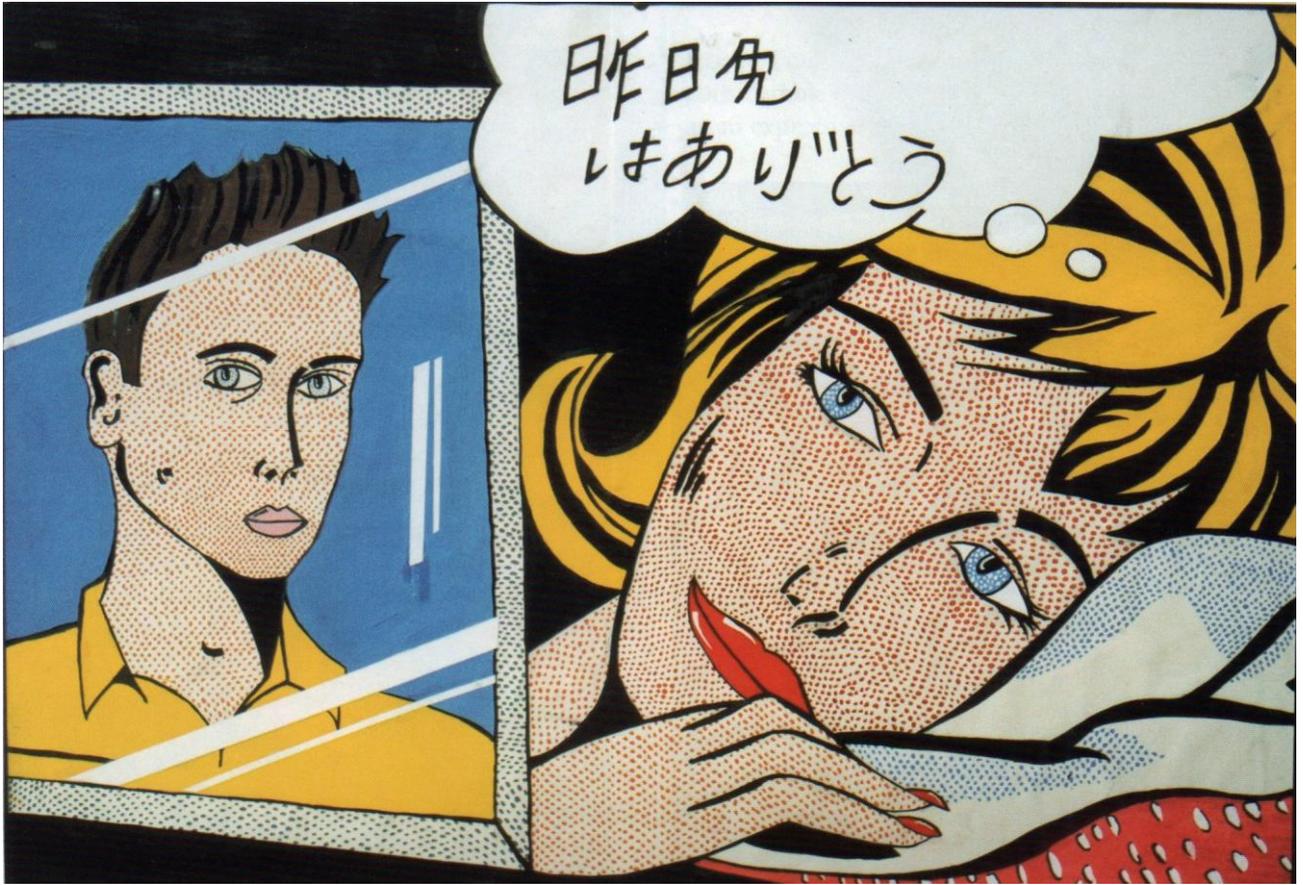
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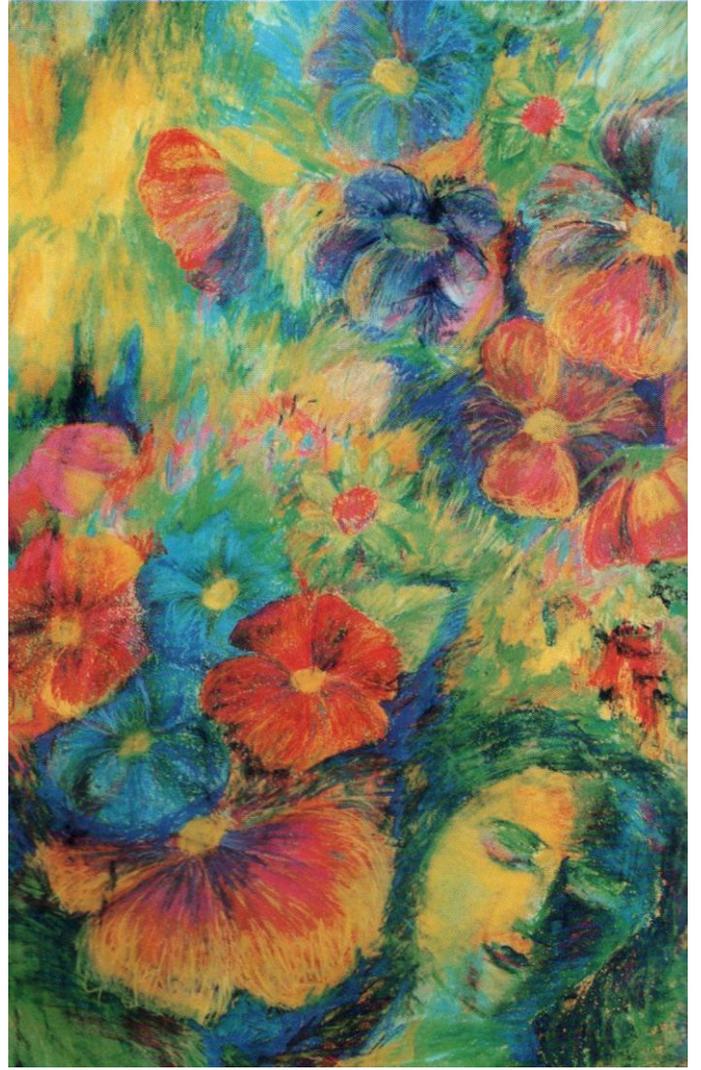
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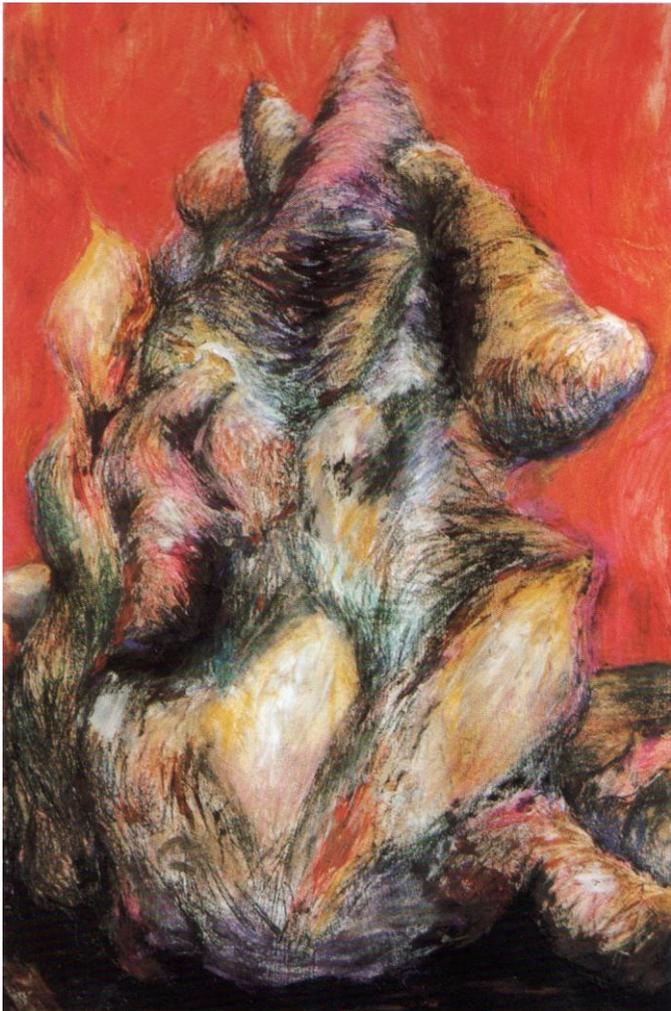
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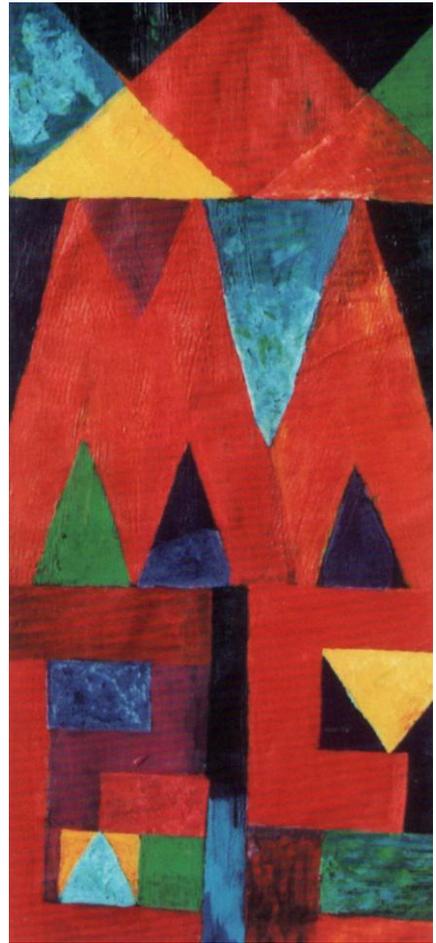
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## ART AND DESIGN

### ART DEPARTMENT

What has often appeared to be a long and tricky year, ultimately came to a very successful conclusion when the exhibitions of 'A' level and GCSE art and design work were shown towards the end of the summer term. Clock Hall was the setting for a magnificent display of work produced by a remarkably inspired group of fifth year students and the diversity within the show was not only rewarding, from a teacher's point of view, but it also convinced many of the artists themselves of how much they had achieved during the two year course. The variety of work was extensive and ranged from Rupert McKelvie's splendid printed coat to Olivia Evans's sophisticated watercolour and pastel still-life piece. Much of the final work owed its success to some excellent preparation and research, and most certainly Ed McHenry, William Turvill and Robyn McDonald can be especially pleased with their superb sketchbooks.

This year's 'A' level set once again produced a stunning range of work for the Founder's Day exhibition in Dulverton Hall and a 6A group, which had for so long appeared to lack technical skill, really developed exceptionally well, during their last few months.

The final examination pieces, which they exhibited with special pride, were certainly a fitting tribute to their labours displaying not only great energy and personal commitment but an awesome range of approaches to the painting process. The work of Maggi Schumacher was quite startling for its use of contemporary city life and much of her colour choice was highly personal. This work contrasted superbly with Billy Witchell's gory impasto Romantic oil paintings and Richard Collinson's vibrant Romantic landscape studies while elsewhere in the room Yuki Takanashi brought all his observational skills together in his "Momento Mori" Sarah Donovan was on top form right through the examination period and her subtle tonal modelling and delicate use of colour created a very sophisticated impression. Also dealing with the same language were Helen Mizon and Pat Chaiwatanaarsirikul whose delicate handling and mature drawing styles were brilliantly combined.

Rocky Fung and Sonia Forster also displayed their considerable drawing ability' and both used landscape as an expressive motif.

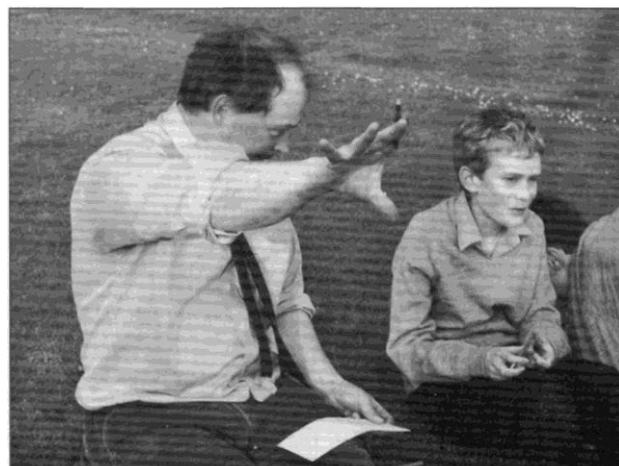


Alex Kaub and Noni Wolf mounted splendid exhibitions: Alex handled a monumental theme including boulders and rocks with extraordinary sensitivity and had clearly learnt enormously from her project; Noni revelled in the chance to use colour as a pure

form of expression. Ultimately they all achieved highly impressive and remarkably personal exhibitions which were a tribute to the hard work which had been put in over the previous years. This was all the more satisfying as they were an excellent group to work with, particularly on various trips and outings abroad.



Within the rest of the school Art and Design would seem to be flourishing and there is an enormous well of talent and creativity set to develop in future years. Certainly' the school Fashion Show absorbs a great deal of this energy and the wonderful carnival of masks made by all the years 1-3 created a dynamic



exhibition which was a riot of colour and invention. Mrs Boyd and Mrs Blackwell helped inspire this awesome collection of animals, birds and celestial bodies and I suspect the students had lots of fun with this creative process.

The end of the year also created a moment of sadness (see staff leavers) for not only is Hamish Auld leaving to do a P.G.C.E. following a memorable stay as teacher of Design Technology, but also Tom Denny is leaving the department after eighteen years superb and dedicated teaching. His contribution has been immense and while we wish him continued success with his stained glass commissions, we are all very saddened by his departure.

**MSG**

#### ART STAFF EXHIBITION

The Rendcomb art staff held their exhibition on the 19th - 22nd November in the Reading Room and it proved a great success with students, parents and guests. There were a broad range of approaches on display from Tom Denny's ghostly cool coloured oil paintings to Emma Boyd's vibrant glowing colours produced with stencils and acrylics. Martin Griffiths offered us a series of views painted around the Malvern Hills which had wild skies and were full of movement. Sophie Blackwell displayed her poetic cushions and Rothco inspired scarves. Hamish Auld had crafted a range of beautifully turned wooden bowls which allowed the woods integral beauty to shine through and these also complemented the large pottery bowls made by Martin Griffiths. The whole show was full of variety and was a real inspiration.

**W Witchell/S Donovan**

#### OTHER STUDENT COMMENTS INCLUDED:

*"I liked the bowl by Mr Auld because of the way the light was reflected off the rim, the texture complemented the shape and the curved lines of the bowl emphasised the curves of the grain".*

**D Starr**

*Mrs Boyd's "Gerberas" picture seemed to become more detailed the further away you went."*

**S. Gunner**

*"I liked the printed pillow by Mrs Blackwell because of the smooth fabric and because the colours were joyful."*

**J Baalham**

*"I think the "Lilies" painting by Mrs Boyd is fantastic as it is so full of life with lots of different shades and a real explosion of colour mixed up with all the blues."*

**C Cowper**

*"Mr Denny's watercolour was very beautiful and although he had used only green it looked like lots of different colours had been used."*

**C Ogawa**

*"I liked the big pot with all the blue dots just thrown into*

*it"*

**S Boyd**

*"Mrs Blackwell's 'Bliss' pillow because it was so smooth and cuddly"*

**S Goffe**

*"Mrs Boyd's "Lilies" are great, I have to like it as my parents bought it!"*

**E Hutchison**

#### 'A' LEVEL ARTISTS IN MADRID



The major A' level art trip this year was to Madrid and early one March morning, 25 students and 4 staff set out to Heathrow airport and from here left behind cold, grey England and after a spectacular flight over the mountains of Northern Spain arrived in the heat of Madrid airport.

The sky was a glorious sparkling hue as we set out for the ancient city of Toledo and our trip allowed us some wonderful views over the rocky ravines which surround this medieval gem. We spent the rest of the day there, explored the narrow streets, toured the huge Cathedral and finally visited Santa Torne, which is a small fifteenth century chapel containing El Greco's magnificent masterpiece, "The Burial of Count Orgaz". A highly satisfactory first day was conducted back in Madrid, when, after checking into our hotel, we enjoyed an excellent meal together in a small restaurant overlooking the Plaza Major.

The glorious weather stayed with us throughout the trip and even at midnight the temperature was often 20°C so the second day of our visit was also extremely pleasant. After meeting in Plaza Major we spent most of the afternoon taking in the wonderful collection of paintings in the Prado museum. The whole group worked hard and lots of useful research towards the 'A' level art projects was accomplished. Goya and Velazquez were perhaps the most appreciated but in a museum which contains so much it is impossible to cover everything. However, the students spent a long time exploring rooms away from the set ones and consequently made lots of especially interesting discoveries which they recorded in their sketchbooks. The evening meal was eaten at a rather late hour as it was important for everybody to gain some extra rest

early on a Saturday evening. Certainly Madrid seems to stay awake right through the night so we always ate late and then allow the students an hour to take in some of the city's special atmosphere. After an excellent paella in a cave-like restaurant everyone enjoyed experiencing the buzz of the streets, but were jolly tired when we did our past midnight round up! Sunday morning included a visit to the huge street market and many bargains were to be found amongst the busy stalls and jam packed streets. In the afternoon we went back to looking at art and visited the Thyssen-Bornemisza gallery. This has a stunning collection of paintings which seem to include great works from all the major artists. The Impressionists are always popular but this year's group of students was a diverse set and they also enjoyed works by Erich Heckel, Franz Marc and Caspar David Friedrich. The evening meal was at a superb Moroccan restaurant and they treated us to a wonderful selection of different types of food and the authentic flavour was a delightful way to finish the night. Everyone, (except the tour leader), headed back for a relatively early night while he headed back to the Central Cafe Jazz Club to do some invaluable research for a future trip. (What dedication)!

Monday saw us visiting the Queen Sophia Museum and taking in the collection of 20th century artwork. Everybody was impressed by Picasso and as ever he caused much debate amongst the students. Not only does the building contain a thought-provoking body of work but it also has some of the most dramatic lifts I have experienced! They seem to be just made of glass and zoom up and down the outside of the building by magic. By now there was just a little time left to do some shopping before the coach arrived to whisk us back to the airport. The usual flight delays caused us mild chaos as connections and collection times needed to be changed, but eventually we arrived back in Heathrow and were greeted by Pete Cairns and his big "Welcome back, but where have you been?" smile!

Once again the annual 'A' level art trip abroad proved to be a great success, combining education, culture and fun. Many thanks to all those who made this trip so memorable, especially Mrs Blackwell and Mr Denny whose yellow jacket was, once again, the ultimate fashion statement.

**MSG**

#### ART TRIP TO LONDON

On the 27th June at 8.45am, the Rendcomb Form 4 and 6B artists left for an art trip to the National Gallery and the Tate in London. We arrived at 11.00am after a tiring journey and made our way to the National. With the guidance of a worksheet supplied by Mrs Blackwell, we were taken around an array of paintings. It was quite an experience standing

in front of these original masterpieces. I especially remember paintings such as 'Sun Flowers' by Van Gough and 'Water Lilies' by Monet.

At the end of that and after Mr Griffiths strict instructions not to set foot in a McDonalds - we were released for lunch until 3.30pm when we met up at the Tate.

At the Tate we were allowed a little more freedom and could admire the huge range of art, modern and traditional. My favourite was 'The Lady of Shallot' by Waterhouse.

It was a good way of finishing an educational and enjoyable day. Thank you to the Art Department for a memorable day.

**C Taplin**

#### ARTISTS IN OXFORD

One cool Sunday lunchtime in late October a group of keen 6A artists set out for Oxford to visit the Ashmolean museum. Here the students were able to see first-hand a diverse range of paintings, some of which not only helped their written projects but were also to act as inspiration back in the studios. There are some superb figure studies on show by Michelangelo and Rafael as well as some gems by Turner, Rubens and Palmer. All of these can be studied close up and it's possible not only to appreciate the exquisite technique and use of paint but also see the links which one artist has with another.

Another great painting 'The Shooting of the Stag' is also on exhibition and the more that the students studied the artist's brilliant control of tone the more they learnt and understood about how picture making could be controlled. In the room dedicated mainly to the nineteenth century, everybody responded with enthusiasm to some unusual pieces by Monet, Cezanne and Courbet, whilst an early painting by Picasso revealed an interesting link with Van Gogh. The exhibition of prints was less universally popular but Sophie Spawson did find a delightful piece by Elizabeth Blackadder and this was to prove a key discovery when she returned to the Rendcomb studios.

**MSG**

## JAPANESE VIEWS OF RENDCOMB

“I LOVE TO PARTY!”

Rendcomb College has many interesting parties, for example ‘Saturday Night Discos’, which always have a theme. Each time I was excited and of all those I can remember vividly was the Halloween disco which was so much fun. We had to wear funny costumes, so



*Natsumi and Chie*

when I heard about it, I was perplexed wondering what to wear. I had to think about the costume, so went with friends to a textile shop to find some black cloth, which could be made into a skirt. Then I hunted around for the rest of my costume.

I was excited because I had never been to a Halloween Party before, as we don’t have Halloween in Japan, so fortunately I could experience it here; I was glad for that opportunity.

On the day I wore a tight black top, a long black skirt, (which was made by me) and also it had a long slit in it, an afro wig and a red horn. My excitement rose as the party approached, then somebody rang the bell and it was call-over. We gathered in the Godman common room; we were surprised as everyone wore gorgeous costumes. Then we went to the village hall which was decorated with pumpkins that had faces in them, which was a bit spooky! There were witches, mummies, demons, fairies and an angel, we were all transformed, including the teachers! I thought Miss Hatton looked the best. We danced and laughed and took some pictures of everyone.

At the end there was a competition, that I didn’t know about. We went back to Godman feeling very tired. At call over I received a packet of Rolos, I was surprised as I’d won third prize! I really enjoyed that night.

I love parties!

**C. Ogawa**

JAPANESE TO FRENCH!

I have learned French at Rendcomb College with Mr North who is my French teacher; he started teaching me in February 2000 and I’ve continued studying it. I was put into the first form French lesson because I

hadn’t learnt it before. I was learning English in Japan, which is quite different from the English way of teaching a foreign language. In Japan they teach the basics of grammar. Of course the English also teach it, but include a lot of conversation which is useful such as: “How can I get to?” “Where is?” etc.

Actually, I was interested in French before I came to England and was studying a little bit myself at home but taught by Mr. North it is so much easier to understand. I hope to carry on learning French after I leave this school and hope that I will be able to speak French as well as English.

**A. Nomura**

“THE GREAT EVENT OF RENDCOMB”

Rendcomb College is the school that I wanted to go to for a long time. My life there has been filled with lots of fantastic surprises and experiences. The things that really surprised me were the number of events that took place. The fashion show; ‘Design on Italy’ was a great experience for me, being used to only two or three events in the whole school year. I took part in the finale which was entitled ‘Madame Butterfly.’

I enjoyed making my costume, hat and mask and loved the lively atmosphere of the school when the show was getting ready. All of the students and even the teachers, seemed to enjoy it. I couldn’t imagine how big and amazing it was until I saw the show directly and will never forget the experience. It has given me a great passion for creating things.

**A. Matsunami**

“ANOTHER WORD”

A blue shirt, dark blue jumper and a long blue skirt... that’s it! The Rendcomb uniform for girls.

I came to Rendcomb on the 5th September 1999 and have since been wearing this uniform and listening to English (but didn’t understand it at all, but thought it was cool!). I wanted to learn English and decided to go abroad to study. When I was eight I had a big chance to come to England to study English but I couldn’t leave my parents and friends. My parents didn’t say anything about this, but I regretted missing it as I grew up.

Expectation and anxiety overwhelmed me but my heart was full of joy; my first day at Rendcomb College was a warm sunny day, I shall never forget it.

To start with I could not understand the lessons. I had everything in readiness but my preparations were incomplete, because although I had lots of coloured pens and pencils I did not have a fountain pen. I didn’t know you have to use a pen in lessons, we use pencils in Japan. If you use a pen on an exam paper in Japan, you will not get any marks! In each exercise book, my first comment from the teachers was, “Write with ink.” I had never used a fountain pen before and broke the first nib!

Secondly, I was beaten in Biology, because part of the Biology lessons were sometimes dictated and to my surprise it was a test. I tried to answer the questions, but it was an impossibility because I couldn't catch the questions! I grappled in all lessons with my dictionary, I didn't want people behind the scenes to say I couldn't speak English. Maybe I was too proud, so I didn't talk to my English friends too much, but the intention wore off without my knowledge. My English is still maturing, but I think it has improved a lot.

I have enjoyed this year because of my friends, staff and my parents who helped me, whether it was directly or indirectly. I would like to say thank you to everyone especially my parents for they gave me a big present - this year at Rendcomb!

**N. Yaegashi**

#### “SCHOOL LIFE AT RENDCOMB”

My school life at Rendcomb College is very full and I have had many experiences. When I first came to this school, last September, I knew little about English school life. Although I was a little nervous I was looking forward to school at Rendcomb and always thinking about English students and what they were like.

My first impression of English students were good and friendly. When the Christmas term came, every day was so busy, I found it hard as it was not easy to understand English, to remember words, to study English grammar and to have conversations, but I was not going to give up! I had a lot of friends, including other foreign students and one of the reasons that I didn't give up studying was that the 6A students in the same boarding house as me were like

brothers to me. In addition I am grateful to the English teachers for helping me, especially Mrs Stutchbury - thank you for everything.

Finally, my English is not perfect, even when I am in Japan I will not stop studying English. My school life at Rendcomb College has been such a great treasure in my life and I will never forget it; I love English people.

I am sure that I have changed throughout school life in England and think it has been a good thing for me. In future I want to spend my school life in Japan the same as I remember school life in England!

**M. Isoda**

#### “SPORTS IN ENGLAND”

At Rendcomb I played rugby for the first time; Rugby is not very popular in Japan, as most people play either soccer or basket ball. These two sports are very popular because I think Japan has a cleaner relationship with America than Japan does with England. Although football is an English sport, we call it soccer as the Americans do.

I found out that many sports were invented in England for example: America made American football (imitating rugby), netball is similar to basketball, cricket is similar to basketball, even the English language is imitated by Americans!

Last term we played hockey and I was selected to play in the 14A's. I think this was because I used to play baseball in Japan and am used to hitting balls.

Rendcomb has very good quality teachers and I am looking forward to seeing them again.

**H. Yuseke**

# Science at Rendcomb

## SCIENCE STUDY TOUR TO FUTUROSCOPE, FRANCE

A selection of sixth form scientists left Rendcomb on Tuesday 8th February at 7pm and picked up two groups from Isleworth in London. It seemed an odd time to leave, travelling through the Channel Tunnel at midnight, however the benefits were soon to be realised when we toured a quiet Paris at 6am and marvelled at the beautifully lit buildings. After fresh croissants and coffee, it was ever onward to Poitiers via the crowded Périphérique and the quieter A10. The rooms at the Hotel du Parc were very comfortable but unfortunately the food was not what one expects of French cuisine! It was difficult to stay awake during the lectures on the first night, partly because we were so tired and partly because of the

cerebral nature of the topics. Although the Royal Institution had selected some eminent lecturers it was a pity that they were not able to talk about the Science behind the exhibits at Futuroscope.

Dr. Hefin Jones described his work with the Ecotron, a series of controlled biological environments suitable for simulating conditions such as global warming. Professor Michael Green talked about atomic and sub-atomic particles. We learned how gamma radiation can produce matter and anti-matter and vice versa. The lack of anti-matter in the Universe still presents a real challenge to Physicists.

The disco and games at “Le Roller” helped the evening to pass and were popular with the students. On the Thursday we enjoyed a whole day in

Futuroscope which is a feast of unusual, yet tasteful, architecture, housing a variety of cinemas. The Park is dedicated to the moving image and the iMAX cinemas range from flat to 360° screens. 3D dinosaurs were experienced in "Solido" and everyone enjoyed the "Pavilion de la Vienne" in which the audience were taken for an exciting ride in a variety of transports, achieved by the seating being moved by hydraulic jacks in synchronisation with the film.

There were two further lectures on the second evening. Professor Andrew Prentice spoke with authority and clarity on the most recent research into the causes of increased obesity in British men and women. We learned that only twenty or so individuals lack leptin which produces the signal to stop eating. In addition experiments using double heavy water (at £1,200 per litre) have shown that obese people always have a higher metabolic rate despite what they may say. He concluded that fat content of diet and reduced activity are to blame in many cases.

Dr. Bryson Gore gave a potted history of the discovery of the chemical elements, punctuating his talk with some noisy demonstrations. He suggested that we should consider Sherlock Holmes as the epitome of the nineteenth century analytical chemist but just to remind us that Holmes is a fictional character, Gore carried out the fictional analysis of blood and types of cigar and pipe ash mentioned in the books. Despite this there were some useful chemical reminders for the Rendcomb chemists.

Was such a short visit to Futuroscope worth all the travelling? The answer is most certainly "yes", but more time to explore the region would have been appreciated.

CJW

## GENETIC DEVELOPMENTS



*Andrew Sage, Dr. Stephen Hill,  
James Stutchbury and Rebecca Whatman*

On Friday 12th November 1999, Dr Steven Hill came to talk to Sixth Form Biologists about the principles of genetic modification. Dr Hill, who is

from the Department of Plant Sciences - St. Hugh's College Oxford, spoke specifically about high-energy potatoes, reduced fat chips and rice with vitamin A. He then involved the Sixth Formers in a debate, for and against Genetic Modification.

It was a fascinating discussion, taking the example of the synthesis of the blue dye used in the manufacture of jeans. A wonderful thought provoking idea - Blue genes for Blue genes!

PVS

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Dr Neil Leadbitter, Rev Taplin's brother -in -law, gave an excellent talk in Prayers about population and food production, providing the school with a suitable lead up to Science Week. Dr Leadbitter is Head of Research Biology Disease Control for Novartis in Switzerland.

Unfortunately the Chemical Engineering event which the fourth year were to attend was cancelled. However the third year were able to benefit from the Energy Game held at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education in conjunction with Energy Matters and British Energy. The pupils had to analyse a great deal of material and data in preparation for a presentation in support of the building of a certain type of power station. (See separate account).

6A Biologists visited Marks and Spencer in Cheltenham and learned about food safety.

The Junior Treasure Hunt was dogged by bad weather but the juniors threw themselves into the tasks set them and came back with some interesting samples. The greatest initiative was shown by the group who asked CJW for a fossil from his teaching room. The winner was group 15 made up of Rupert Uzzell, Tariq Hyatt Khan, James Ko.

Dr Christopher Wise gave an interesting talk to the sixth form entitled Saving the World with Pesticides and Biotechnology and this was followed by an in depth session with the Biologists over a relaxed supper.

CJW

## TRIP TO THE MILLENNIUM DOME

During February the first three year groups had the opportunity to visit the Dome at Greenwich. There is no doubt that the approach to the Dome is an awe-inspiring experience. The scale of the structure can only be appreciated by being there. Once inside, the structure comes alive: the colour, the activity, the expectation. In all there are fifteen zones around a main arena, many of which have been publicised,



*Junior visit to the Millennium Dome*

others much less so. This is not a theme park but a celebration of the Third Millennium and as such fits the title well and it made for a stimulating visit.

### **THE ENERGY GAME**

For Science Week the whole of the third year (less Ralph Aspin who unfortunately had gone for some jobs) visited Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education for a day of exploring Energy.



Form 3 looked round different sets of apparatus including ones about solar, wind and water power followed by a question and answer session with the staff from

British Energy. Meanwhile 3A played the Energy Game. Later the two forms swapped over.

I was in a group with Alice, Meg and Jade and we were given the topic of Nuclear Power. We had



to find a suitable site to build our power station and we had to decide why we were going to put it there. We then had to give a presentation. (This was the hardest part of the whole experience.)

We had to look at the Geography of the possible sites, the closeness of villages and towns and whether the people would appreciate having a huge power station in front of their houses. We also had to consider the source of our workforce and the safety aspects of building and running a power station. We had to calculate the cost of everything and were given a budget of 2 billion pounds. After we had pushed nearly every button on the calculator we discovered that we were over budget, but this was not too bad!

We then gave the presentation and listened to the other groups. All of the talks were excellent but unfortunately none of them would have been the right choice for our future.

I would like to thank Mrs. Botham, Mr Wood, Mr Stutchbury and Miss Stephenson for a day out that was both enjoyable and educational.

**Laura Burley**

### **FOURTH YEAR EARTH SCIENCE FIELD TRIP**

In the summer term Year 4, Chemistry sets learn about rocks, minerals and fossils to complement what they have learned in Geography. This was supported by a field trip to Soudley in the Forest of Dean where the pupils had to work out the origin of the dipping rocks and reasons for past quarrying. After a well



earned break at Gloucester Docks, the group moved on to Salterley' Grange quarry to look at the Jurassic Limestones and to hunt for fossils. The outing ended with a walk along the Cotswold Way, along the escarpment and down into Cheltenham. The fourth year worked hard, as well as enjoying the sunshine, and the day will have helped them with their future studies.

## The Wilson Sundial

When Mrs. Wilson contacted the school to say that her late husband, Alastair had left the Science Department a considerable sum of money in his will we were naturally delighted. Alastair Wilson was at Rendcomb from 1929 to 1936. He gained an Open



Demyship to Magdalen College, Oxford and qualified with a BA with Honours in Animal Physiology and later BM, BCh at Oxford in 1942. In the Second World War he served as a doctor with Bomber Command and afterwards as a senior lecturer in Pathology in Uganda. In 1962 he was appointed to the Chair of Bacteriology at the University of Ibadan,

Nigeria and in 1966 was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists. He held various visiting professorship abroad and ended his career as consultant microbiologist and director of the City Hospital in Edinburgh.

When we heard that there would be no memorial to him in Edinburgh, it was suggested that a sundial be erected outside the school library. The sundial was made by David Brown, former Head of Physics at Kingswood School, and the pillar was carved from Bath



stone to match that used in the nearby balustrades. The dial itself is made from Welsh slate and depicts the life and interests of this distinguished Old Rendcombian.

CJW

# Food and Nutrition

## Food and Nutrition

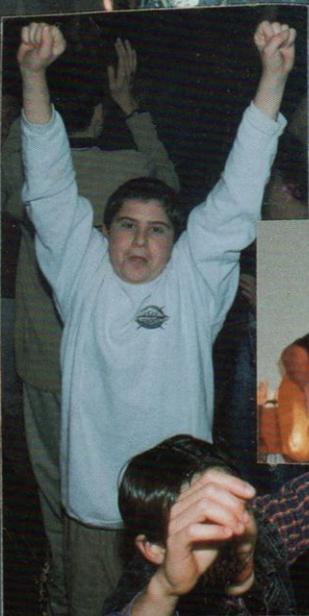
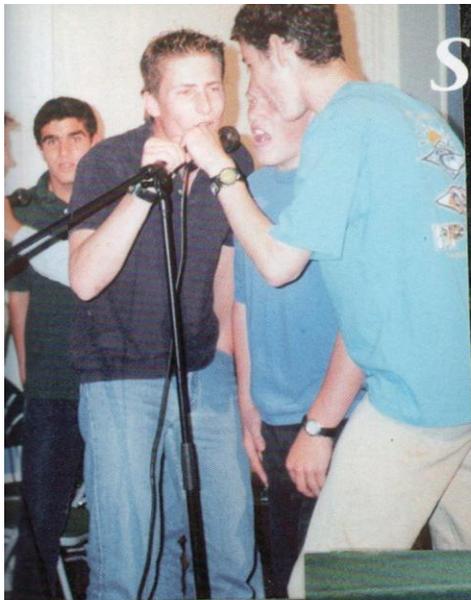
Fifteen pupils studied GCSE Food and Nutrition this year and five sixth form pupils the City and Guilds Certificate in Professional Cookery.

The certificate is a recognised vocational qualification which curtails three by three hour practical tests and a multiple choice paper. In the photograph, notice the elegant “Boiled egg and soldiers”, which in fact is a dessert using a clean egg shell filled with vanilla cream and topped with puréed mangoes and served with shortbread fingers prepared by Ben Stanfield. Good luck to all leavers.

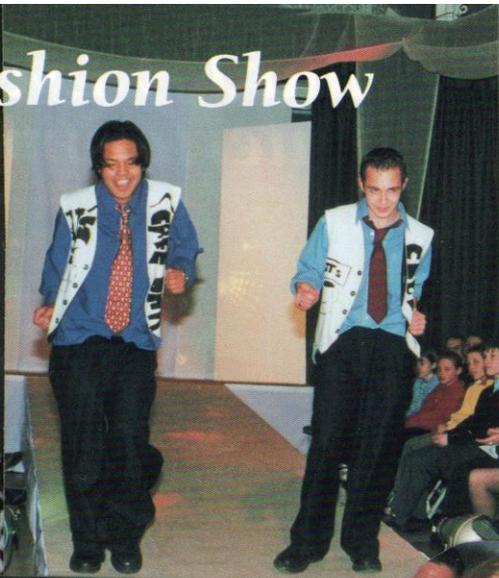
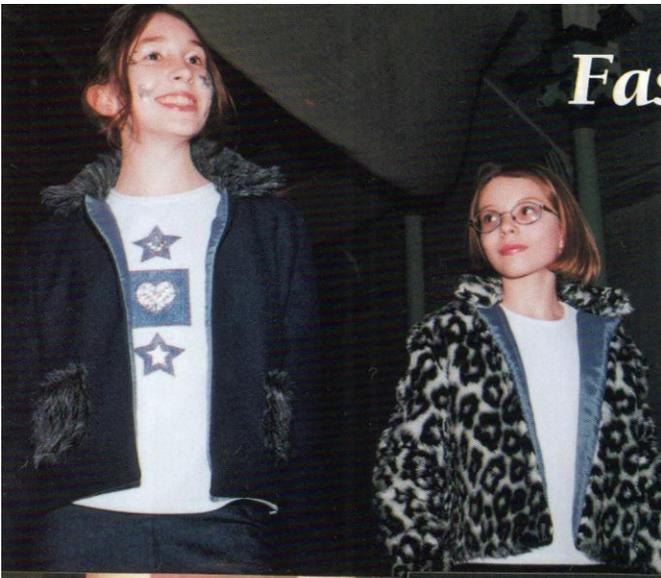


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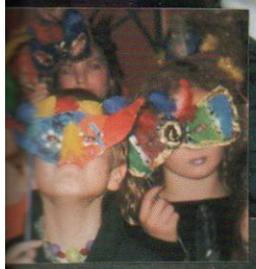
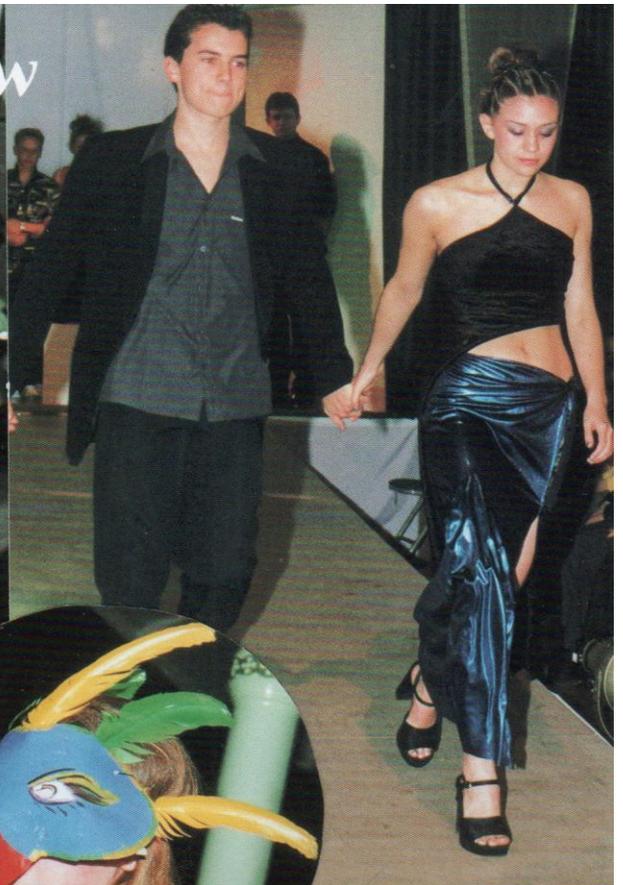
# Saturday Evening Entertainment



# Fashion Show



# Fashion Show

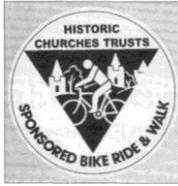




*The Crucible*



# Activities and Events



## Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride

On the first Saturday of the school year, pupils, parents and staff cycled around a selection of Cotswold churches to raise money for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb. It provided an opportunity for new pupils and their parents to experience the beauty of our locality and to make new friends. The route included the following churches: Bagendon, Ampney Crucis, Harnhill, Ampney St. Mary, Barnsley, Winson, Coin Rogers and Rendcomb. £685 was raised and I would like to thank all those who cycled, supported or sponsored the event.

CJW

## CAREERS

There have been two major careers events for the sixth form this year.

In September, sixth form students participated in a careers conference at Rendcomb that consisted of fifteen seminars covering a wide variety of career areas. Each session was led by a visiting specialist and the College was able to draw on a network of contacts that included former pupils, parents, governors and members of the local and national business community. Each student attended four seminars and was able to gain real insight into a world of work that had previously been largely theoretical.

In January, the sixth form took part in a 'management challenge day' based on the theme of the environment. This event was organized in collaboration with the Cheltenham and Cotswolds Education Business Partnership and was run by a team of local business people led by representatives of the Cotswold District Council.

The students worked in small groups for most of the day and, together with their designated 'facilitator', explored the types of management skills that might be required by employers within the framework of environmental issues.

The event culminated in a plenary session at which each group gave a presentation offering a solution to a business problem based on a fishing company seeking to secure the right to catch a quota of fish from a committee made up of ministers of the European Union. This constituted an impressive end to a very successful event, and it was generally agreed that all participants had derived considerable benefit from the day.

MS

## COTSWOLD CLEAR UP

One hot sunny day we all jumped in the mini-bus to set off on our way to do the delightful job of clearing up the Cotswolds. We were ready, but reluctant, to help our countryside until we were given these lovely blue gloves to wear! We started off by the hedge and



*The Cyclists*



worked our way up the main road at Stratton, stopping every few centimetres to pick up a crisp packet or two and every kind of chocolate bar

wrapper you could think of. On our way we also picked up a BMW hub-cap and a few pieces of string, later made into a necklace and a bracelet. We were also stopped a few times and thanked for the wonderful work that Rendcomb college was doing. So, overall, we were very successful and did a good deed for the week, helping Cotswold District Council to improve the environment.

**Felicity Levy-Bull, Lorraine Jack, Zuki Turner, Georgina Webb-Dickens**

## Activities for the Active

Every afternoon at Rendcomb College there has been a bewildering choice of activities for our pupils to



choose from. For example on Tuesdays there were 14 activities from Clay Pigeon Shooting and Bowls to Photography and Cookery. Second most popular on that night was football with 20 pupils participating, but in the lead with 46 first to fourth formers was the chance to rehearse for the College's Junior Musical, 'Annie'.

Smaller classes are available every night for the academic, the technical, the athletic, artistic and the caring. For the academics, there are revision classes in many subjects or a Latin Club for those who have a love of language. The technicians can try their hand at Scientific Design (a version of robot wars) or work with wood, metal or plastic.

The sports' enthusiasts can go riding, weight training, cross-country running or play a variety of sports from basketball to squash. They can even go fly fishing or work for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The artistic can create their own fashion with textiles or help

make the costumes for the many plays put on at the College or play, sing, or do both in the Music Department. Besides all this, some pupils find time for Community Service and share their good fortune with those who perhaps are less fortunate.

Such a programme is of course, only possible with a dedicated band of teachers who, having taught all day, find the energy and enthusiasm to motivate and encourage Rendcombians to be more rounded and confident individuals.

Our thanks go to Paul Dodd who, having recently joined Rendcomb teaching staff, has monitored and worked tirelessly to improve and extend the activities programme for next year.

**PVS**

## CLAY SHOOTING

For any sport to hold the loyalty of over thirty pupils for three terms a year has to be rather special. Shooting is rather special, very special.

Once again the college has been able to field a most competitive shooting squad at the National Schools Clay Shooting Championships, although not in the 'trophy' places this year (as the last 3), we confirmed our place as the top shooting school in the county.

Any team is totally reliant on its 'key players' and this season I have relished the contribution of the 'old guard', William Witchell as captain and club member for all his College career and James Brittain as vice captain, also a long standing member. Both led the path of their elder brothers of three years ago. I just wish they both had younger brothers to maintain the dynasty! To them both I offer my thanks and expect they will be back in the OR teams next summer.

Also leaving this year is Nick Hall, Head Boy and fine marksman; he, along with Edward Farnsworth, will be sorely missed. Yet, as we have five senior pupils the young saplings start to flourish, typified by William Drewett of the first form, one of the most promising new members I have seen in a while. I feel he will be



teaching us all a thing or two next season! The core of the club now focuses on the likes of: Messers Roper, Hutchins, Bagdadi, Hicks and Le Feuvre - with these fine young men, I feel the future is very secure.

As the autumn rolls in, these shooters will brave rain, snow, cold and wet, yet above all this, the joy of shooting will draw them out, week after week and for me it is a testament to their commitment and a joy to be part of.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who have played a part this season, the parents who have joined us for a shoot (and funded their offspring!) and also the College for the continued and wonderful support as we enter the next level of this increasingly competitive sport. For those of you who still are not quite sure what we do on a Tuesday afternoon, come and find out, but beware - you too could be hooked!

JHS

### BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Rendcomb College was represented by 26 people, both competitors and supporters at the British Schools Clay Shooting Championship on Lord Litchfield's Estate in Staffordshire.

The 'A' six, strongly captained by William Witchell and James Brittain-Jones, produced a very solid score of 177 on a particularly challenging course. A five team high score of 34 was awarded to Nick Hall.

The 'B' six led by Edward Farnsworth secured a very creditable 7th place overall, with Henry Whale turning in a magnificent score of 38, this being just squeezed out of the prizes.

Rendcomb College has marked its' position in the top 10 in the County and is the leading school for shooting in Gloucestershire.

JHS

### LAWN BOWLS

Now in its second year, this sport is definitely growing in popularity within Rendcomb and during the summer term a dedicated group of bowlers enjoyed many thrilling matches on the converted



grass tennis court next to the Art Block. Under the guidance of Mr Griffiths they learned all about: taking the right bias, touchers, drawing, firing and getting close to the jack. Students played various formats of the game and performed creditably in numerous positions. Ben Stanfield

and John Raby became highly skilled at the dead draw while Freddie Lait and Paul Sybiack looked natural skips with their imaginative shot making and expressive body language, being a highly entertaining part of their game! Giles Drew greatly improved his unique delivery technique to become a very dependable performer while James Brittain-Jones and Ed Farnsworth also joined in on occasions and played some amazing shots.

Next summer we hope to expand our numbers even further and no doubt the world tour we are planning for the winter will convert even more sportsmen and women to the delights of this exciting game!

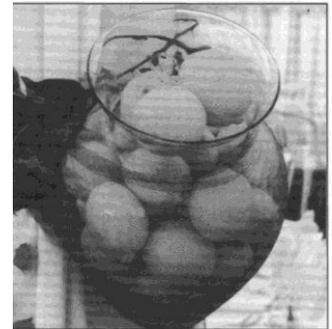
My thanks to all those students who gave me so much help and advice during the summer, I would no doubt have failed to regain my county place without your help!

MSG

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S BALL

*I know a Bank where the wild Thyme blows,  
Where Oxlips and the nodding Violet grows,  
Quite overcanopi'd with luscious Woodbine,  
With sweet Musk-roses and with Eglantine.*

*A Midsummer Night's  
Dream Act II, Scene I*



This was the quote that greeted guests as they entered Saul's Hall, hardly visible through the throng of black suited gentlemen and gaily attired ladies as they made their way to clock hall for pre-dinner drinks. Saul himself was suitably festooned as he sat thoughtfully amidst a cascade of flowers, corn and ivy stunningly arranged, courtesy of the amazingly skilful Suzie Grey. And this was just the beginning... The marquee continued the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' theme and while swathes of ivy and fairy lights bedecked the entrances and chandeliers, sugar plum shades of pastel net adorned the flower arrangements on every table,



twinkling with tiny lights - a solitary balloon indicating the important matter of the table number. The scene was set and the evening began. Suitably buoyant from the Bucks Fizz and Champagne, the guests were seated and the dinner commenced. This was, of course, of the high standard that we all expect from Mark Naylor and his team.

Once full of delicious morsels, the guests were able to choose between dancing the calories away with Martin Griffiths' unusually themed 'men at work' disco, complete with scaffolding, traffic cones and yellow hats, or the more sedate and extremely polished Phoenix Big Band who provided the setting for a touch of the light fantastic, sorting the men from the boys when a 'quick step' or a 'fox trot' was required.

The immense amount of hard work from the committee (our thanks to you all) was rewarded by a very successful evening, despite the howling wind and rain outside, and in spite of the rather disappointing turn out from the Rendcomb fraternity - still, their loss and not ours.

**AS**

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

The emphasis has been on use of cameras this year and there have been two distinct groups of photographers. Those wanting to learn how to take better photographs and make their own prints and those offering photography as their skill for Duke of Edinburgh Award. A panorama project was carried out by Natsumi Yaegashi and Chie Ogawa, in which they attempted to produce a 180° view of the school. Their final attempt was very successful and was exhibited in Clock Hall.

The Duke of Edinburgh groups carried out a photographic study of the Churn from Colesbourne to

Cirencester and this will be completed next year. The Annual Competition has suffered from a low entry for some years now and it was decided to move this event from the summer term to November. It is hoped that this will attract holiday photographs from the summer.

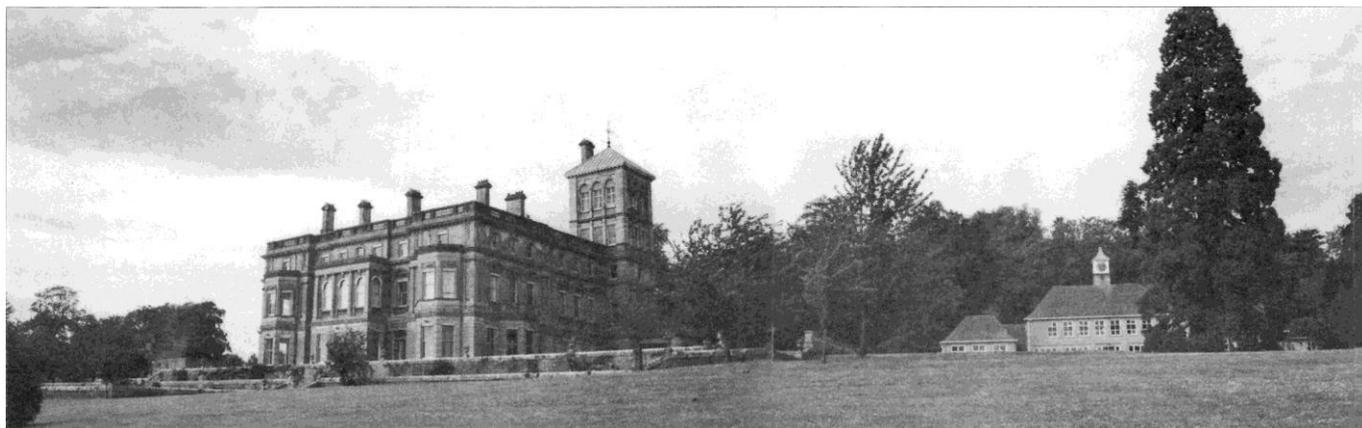
**CJW**

### **THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME**

As usual, the year began with the assessment expeditions for the Bronze and Gold groups, in the Forest of Dean and the Black Mountains respectively. In true Rendcomb tradition these were completed in fine style and all the candidates passed with flying colours.

The successful fifth year pupils attended a presentation ceremony at Farmor's School to receive their Bronze Awards. The thirteen Gold candidates have worked hard to complete the remaining sections of the award, engaging in activities ranging from languages, music and clay pigeon shooting in the skills section to sports leader awards and working with the Cotswold Wardens in the Service section. Several have also attended residential courses and are ready to submit their record books for accreditation.

The award continues to be very popular in the school, and there are currently thirty-five pupils working towards the Bronze Award and they will be undertaking





*Bronze practice expedition in the Cotswolds*

their assessment expedition in the Forest of Dean at the beginning of the Christmas term. The Gold Award group is more select with just seven candidates entered, five girls and two boys. The expeditions have proved very challenging for some and the Peak District in April produced several 'casualties', who found the combination of the terrain and weight of the ruc-sacs too difficult. However, to their enormous credit, all seven candidates were



*Gold practice expedition in Mid Wales*

undeterred by this experience and through excellent teamwork went on to complete the next two practice expeditions in the Brecon Beacons and Mid-Wales almost faultlessly. I have no concerns about their ability to tackle the assessment expedition in the Black Mountains in October and I am sure that they will impress the assessor, as many Rendcomb groups have done over the years.

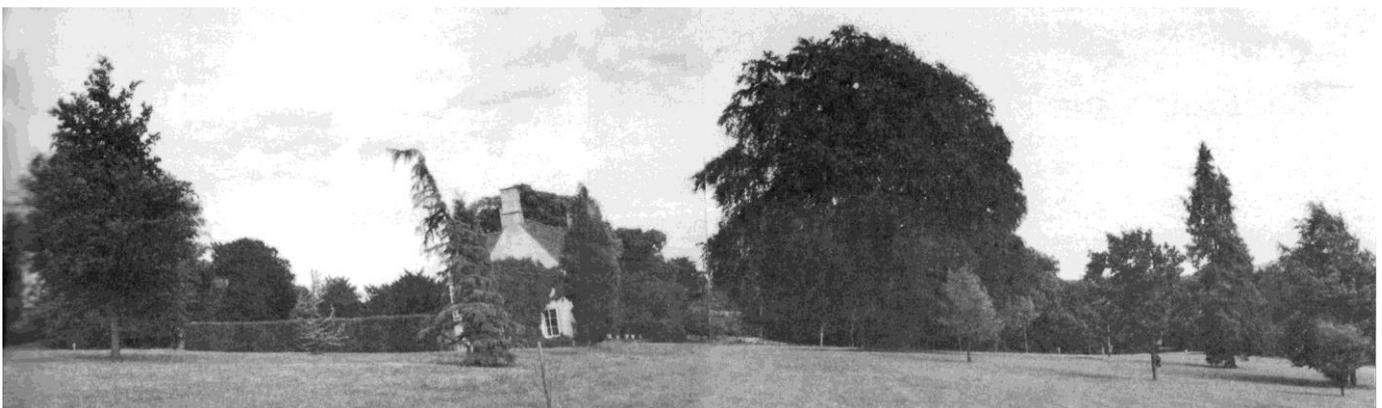
Organization and administration of the Duke of Edinburgh Award take a great deal of time and I am eternally grateful for the support received from members of staff who help not only in running the expeditions but also in the delivery of the other sections of the award. Chris Wood, Hamish Auld, Nicola Gill, Ian Patterson and Bess Stephenson have given up their time to supervise the various expeditions. Sisters Pritchard and Hunt have run First Aid courses for both Bronze and Gold candidates and many other staff have taken candidates through the Skills and Physical Recreation sections of the award. Without such enthusiasm and commitment it would not be possible for Rendcomb College to run such a successful Award Unit. Many thanks to them all.

**CV**

### **SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT**

The Saturday night social committee has been determined to put on some sort of social function every Saturday evening in the period between tea and the sixth form bar. This year there have been the usual diverse range of events to go to and these started on the very first Saturday which was warm and sunny and allowed us to run an outside BBQ in the Green Room Courtyard, sizzling burgers and bangers were gently charred by Messers Griffiths and Slark. The new headmaster and his family were given a highly social welcome to Saturday night Rendcomb.

The whole school disco the following week brought everybody together in Dulverton Hall and a wide range of age groups were to be seen dancing away to the 60's section! An event entitled 'Musical Magical' took place the next week-end in which various senior students came along to the Reading Room



to play a range of styles and instruments. Chris Henson performed with extraordinary dexterity on the drums, Andrea Gear played some haunting oboe music and Mr Whitehead joined in the fun by playing his bagpipes! Other highlights from a very full term of events, included a trip to ten pin bowling, an excellent meal out at the Mayflower restaurant in Cheltenham, the Bonfire night disco and of course the Games night on the week-end before Christmas where remarkable things were done with balloons and microphones! This event was followed, a few nights later, by the sixth form sketches and this year an exceptionally well written (and occasionally rehearsed) series of mini plays were presented. The favourites were perhaps the gentle teasing rewrite piece performed by Ed Farnsworth called 'Bobby Bond'!

The Spring term started with a showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and this was to inspire a sensational fancy dress bar later in the term! Charlie Cowper was also to run an excellent mini rave for the whole school in Dulverton Hall and there was another trip to ten pin bowling. This was followed by a quiz night in which the students joined forces with the parents in a battle of brains, wit and memory.

The school Fashion Show seemed to involve just about every student in some way and the term ended with a highly successful 'Masked Ball'. Many of the masks which appeared in the fashion show were recycled for this event and after a pleasant buffet meal and an extensive session of really rather good ballroom dancing, the disco started playing Rendcomb's very own top twenty dance hits. The excitement mounted during the night until the



number one favourite was played and its long term appeal was proven - YMCA by Village People!!!

The summer term featured the highly popular sixth form wine tasting evening, a teasing treasure hunt and an exceptionally well supported fancy dress Hawaiian Disco. Lots of wonderfully bright summer clothes were on show and several of the boys revealed previously unknown qualities about themselves. Nat Maylott certainly came out of the evening with his reputation enhanced! A football match was shown on the big screen for one evening under the deluded notion that this might be called entertainment, but at least England won this time and the whole term was finally concluded when a group of students enjoyed an excellent meal and a thoroughly social evening at a local curry house. During recent years Rendcomb has made a massive investment of time and energy in running Saturday night events and from a personal perspective I think they have worked exceptionally well in not only reducing frustration and boredom but they have helped form part of the package we call whole education. I have enjoyed being closely involved with running many of the events and would like to thank all the staff and students who have helped me during recent years.

**MSG**

## HANDS ON DAYS

### HANDS ON SCIENCE DAY

Ever thought about what happens to your food on its journey through your stomach, how bats see in the dark or why the sky is blue? Well these and many more interesting scientific phenomena were explained at Rendcomb College's Hands On Science day on Sunday 17 October 1999.



*The Rendcomb Team*

Using the Planetarium from the now closed Bristol Exploratory, Science teachers at Rendcomb College and Explorer Dome staff brought Science to life for over 100 children. There were shows in Light Energy, The Science of Sound and an Exploration through the

Body. Not surprisingly for this age of children, the most popular show was the workings of the stomach!

All the children, who were between the ages of 8 and 11 years old, are hoping one day to go to Rendcomb College; some are already preparing for this year's entrance Examinations on 22nd November. But the younger ones were there just to have fun and enjoy the enthusiastic atmosphere for this fascinating subject.

The piece de resistance? Well, my vote went to Head of Science, Chris Wood's demonstration, dissolving a two penny piece in concentrated nitric acid in a fume cupboard. The awe-stricken little faces were a real picture!

**PVS**

#### THE PREP SCHOOL CHALLENGE

On the 28th June the College was host to The Prep School Challenge. Designed to test young scientists' problem-solving skills and their ability to work under pressure as part of a team, the Challenge Trophy was finally won, in a close finish, by Warminster Preparatory School. During the morning the teams undertook a challenge to keep a table tennis ball in

motion for the longest time. With the aid of some drinking straws and a few other pieces of household equipment, the young scientists were ingenious with their designs. The team from Warminster won this challenge with their pendulum design and managed to hold on to their lead to the end by presenting an excellent project on whether human strength is related to shoe size. St Margaret's Preparatory School, Calne came a close second with an examination of the intelligence of their pets beating Rendcomb College by just one point, into third place, with their assessment of water habitats. Independent judge, Ali Stevens from the Folio Magazine, herself a graduate in Science, said that the teams had shown great imagination in their project work and had clearly got a great deal out of their day at Rendcomb College.

**PVS**



*Warminster - The Winning Team*

# The Record

## COLLEGE OFFICERS

### PREFECTS:

Nicholas Hall	Head Boy and Head of Lawn House
Marguerita Schumacher	Head Girl and Head of Park House
Richard Walder	Head of Stable House
Edward Farnsworth	Prefect in Old Rectory
James Brittain-Jones	Prefect in Old Rectory
Nellie Abbott	
Edward Hogarth	
Thomas Mais	
Helen Mizon	
Matthew Williams	
Laurence Barton	
Sarah Donovan	
Rafe Smallman	
Sophie Sprawson	
Christopher Sykes	
Charlotte Webb	

### CHURCH USHERS

Edward Hogarth  
Laurence Barton  
Anna de Lisle Wells  
Sarah Donovan  
Rocky Fung  
Carlos Garcia  
Sophie Sprawson  
Christopher Sykes  
Yuki Takanashi  
Charlotte Webb  
Patrick van Welij

## VALETE

We say good-bye to the following and wish them every success and happiness in the future:

### SEVENTH YEAR

Nellie Abbott, Laurence Barton, James Brittain-Jones, Patama Chaiwatanasirikul, Richard Collinson, Christopher Davies, Anna De Lisle Wells, Sarah Donovan, Edward Farnsworth, Sonja Forster, Rocky Fung, Carlos Garcia, Nicholas Hall, Edward Hogarth, Oliver Jeffcott, Alexandra Kaub, Thomas Mais, Helen Mizon, Andrew Sage, Marguerita Schumacher, Rafe Smallman, Sophie Sprawson, Christopher Sykes, Yuki Takanashi, Richard Walder, Oliver Wallis, Charlotte Webb, Matthew Williams, William Witchell, Meilan Wolf, Patrick van Weij

### FIFTH YEAR

Jenny Arnold, Richard Birkbeck, Patrick Bodenham, Alexander Bowers, Charles Cowper, Jo Crisp, Giles Drew, Alina Fridman, Simon King, Robyn McDonald, Rupert McKelvie, Thomas Moss, James

Sabourin, Lucian Tarnowski, Rosie Warrington, Katie Webb, Amber Williams, Edward Wadsworth, Richard Wilkins, Henry Whale

### FOURTH YEAR

Kevin Chan, Yu Hon, John Thomson

### THIRD YEAR

Henry Adams, Matthew Day, Laura Cambridge, Yueske Hiratsuka, Masaki Isoda, Ami Matsunami, Atsushi Nomura, Chie Ogawa, Justin Reid, Natsuma Yaegashi

### SECOND YEAR

James Ko, Rebecca Preston, Tarik Hyatt-Khan

### FIRST YEAR

Jason Baalham

## SALVETE

We welcome the following in September 2000:

### FORM 6B:

Yuen Kwan Law, Akira Matsukawa, Friedrich Prinz Zu Ysenburg, Marlen Riemer, Christopher Quinn, Nico Trost, Laurie Wallis, Hilary Crews

### FOURTH YEAR:

Alexandra Andersson, Sabine Armbrecht, Charlotte Ellis, Nick Evans, Hollie Mathias

### THIRD YEAR

Sophie Barltrop, Charlotte Cumberpatch, Sally Geake, Laura Holmes, Geoffrey Hulbert, Graham Hulbert, Wing Fung Lee, Peter Liang, Claire McAllister, Joanna Segesser, Daniel Willis, Willemijn Wuthrich, Madora Fukutomi, Shoko Hatana, Kaori Muta, Yuko Nozaki, Kenta Shiki

### SECOND YEAR:

Andrew Pyo

### FIRST YEAR:

Lucas Bliss, Naomi Boyd, Maya Chester-Master, Charlotte Cox, Benjamin Crane, Christopher Davis, Amy Dobson, George Finlay, Harry Frost, Amanda Graham, Alexander Holden, Matthew Hook, Stanley Marshall, Kirki Matthew, Joanne Maxted, Benjamin Morris, Christopher Paul, Rebekah Soanes, Alexander Staines, Benjamin Symcox, Joseph Tapsell, Paul Taylor, John Thistlewaite, Ryan Watson

## THE FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB

The Friends of Rendcomb Trust was established in 1984 by the then Chairman of Governors, Vice-Admiral Sir Louis le Bailly. Its main purpose is to provide scholarships for children from Gloucestershire Primary Schools, thus helping to preserve the character of the school and fulfil the Founder's intentions for it.

Further to David Sells' death in February this year, we

named a Scholarship after him, and awarded it to a Gloucestershire Primary School Boy. In addition, we awarded the "Friends of Rendcomb" scholarship to another such boy, both to start in September 2000 (Form 1), joining our "Jack Fell" scholar, who is about to commence his second year.

In May, we accepted the resignation of Sir Louis as a Trustee. We are enormously grateful for his foresight in setting up this Trust, and for all his enthusiasm and hard work, so ably assisted by David Sells (Executive Trustee, 1984-1997). In resigning, Sir Louis thanked the Trustees "for making and so wisely distributing such a magnificent mountain out of a small molehill".

There are 3 ways in which you would be able to assist the Trust and become a "Friend":

- 1 Send a one-off Gift.
- 2 Make regular (monthly or annual) contributions via standing-order (please ask).
- 3 Purchase a copy of "Rendcomb II" for £10 (cover price £20). All cheques payable to: "Friends of Rendcomb", [address removed] and gratefully received/acknowledged!

**John Webb (Executive Trustee)**

### **THE OLD RENDCOMBIAN SOCIETY**

At the Annual General Meeting in March 2000, the following officers were confirmed:

President:	Michael Miles (1943-50)
Chairman:	Neil Lumby (1968-73)
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs Sally Morris (1978-80)
Secretary:	Mrs Jane Gunner (1975-77) Whiteway Farmhouse, The Whiteway Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BA
Newsletter Editor:	Bill White (Staff 1961-97)
Treasurer:	Chris Wood (1965-71; Staff 1976-)
Committee Members:	Douglas Payne (1940-48) Julian Comrie (1946-54) Richard Tudor (1973-80) Hamish Auld (1985-92; Staff 1998-2000)
School rep:	Alex Brealy (1980-87; Staff 94-)
Hon Auditor:	David Williams (1966-71)

Sports fixtures took place in rugby, hockey and cricket this year. Pupils do not play the O.R.s at rugby so an older O.R. took on a younger O.R. side and won 36-21. For the first time the Ladies' hockey was played in the Christmas term and the school won narrowly, 1-0. Three men's hockey, teams played the

school in March before the AGM, making the fixture a very busy occasion. This was followed by two cricket XIs challenging the school in June.

### **TRAVEL BURSARY**

This year's award went to John Shenton who is taking a GAP year to do voluntary teaching in South Africa.

The following is an extract from an account by Alastair Nye (1996-1998) of his GAP year at a school in India.

### **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Whilst I was at Rendcomb, I had decided that I wanted to take a "Gap Year" involving both Music and Christian Service. Unfortunately nothing suitable presented itself and I became resigned to going straight into a degree course. Then in April 1998 the opportunity arose to go and teach music in a Christian School in the South of India. I jumped at the chance, as it was exactly what I wanted to do. Hebron School is an International Christian School situated in the Nilgiris (Blue Hills), in the South of India. They have an International Guest (IG) scheme set up for those (of any ages) who wish to take a year or six months out, and can go to the school, and assist in whatever ways are needed. As they needed someone to teach the Junior School Music, my application arrived just at the right time.

### **GETTING THERE**

On the 3rd August 1998, I flew from Heathrow to Chennai (Madras to the old school). The departure procedure was an experience in itself but was soon outdone by that of an Indian Airport! Arriving in Chennai at 3am. I was about seven hours early for the daily internal flight across the subcontinent to the large town of Coimbatore. To get from the International Terminal to the Domestic Terminal there is a short walk of about 200 metres, only 10 metres of which you are protected from the bustle of Indian life, and there is a surprising amount of it for 3 o'clock in the morning! At the end of this short barrier I was hounded by throngs of people trying to get me a taxi, trying to carry my luggage, and even trying to sell me food and drink. I held on to my luggage as I knew, if they had got it, it could have been the last time that I might have seen it. Also I had not been able to change any money up to then for the inevitable tip. Those must have been the longest 200 metres I have ever walked!

I waited four hours in the terminal waiting area, and then at 7am I was able to check in for the flight and was given a pass for the Business Class waiting lounge. Here I was able to have a drink (from a sealed bottle), and relax. At last, the time came for me to board the plane. All those hours waiting in Chennai Airport, for a 75 minutes flight! A three hour drive

up through the hills, negotiating hairpin bends, brought us to the town of Ootacamund, (Ooty in shortened form), which is the highest Hill Station in South India at an altitude of 2,240 metres. We drove through the town until we came to the Botanical Gardens. Just inside the Gardens are the gates of Hebron School.

#### HEBRON LIFE

Hebron School, like Rendcomb, has about 250 pupils but, unlike Rendcomb, their ages range from Nursery to A level. It has two terms in the school year, early August to Christmas and February to June. This allows the pupils, who come from many parts of Asia to travel home for reasonable length breaks during the holidays. For the next week all new staff and IGs had orientation sessions. Mostly these were talks by present members of staff about the country, culture, history and religion, but visits were also included in the programme. One of these was to the neighbouring town of Coonoor where we visited a tea garden (plantation), the first of many trips I had to different tea gardens and factories.

When the children finally arrived, I was ready to meet them, and had my lessons prepared for the first few weeks. My lessons had been prepared, but had I? When I came to take the classes, they were very small to say the least, but on the whole easy to manage. For the years 1-4, I did some singing and rhythm work. Most of the lessons went very well, but as with all schools - there are those who can play around. It was good experience learning how to treat them in a firm but fair way. It was also strange being on the "other side", i.e. being the one who has to deal with it, not being the one who was dealt with.

I started a project with the years 5 and 6 on basic graphic scores. This involved the recognition of children's songs, nursery rhymes, and well known hymns from their tunes being drawn in blocks representing note pitch and length. I ended the term with a project where the children had to first make a basic instrument out of scrap materials, and then in twos and threes write a simple tune for it.

The second term's project for years 5 and 6 was based on listening to pieces including Mars (from Holst's Planets Suite), and Bydlo (Bullock Cart, from Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition) and recognising important themes, the instruments playing, and some of the techniques used to play the instruments. In this project I also included a brief guide to the Modern Symphony Orchestra. The second term's project with the younger years was a musical version of Sweeney Todd the Barber. At the end of the term, this was performed for the rest of the Junior School.

My other musical involvement during my time at

Hebron included one-to-one teaching of violin and recorders, and also playing the piano for the two Junior School musicals (at Christmas and at the end of the second term). The academic timetable was completed by giving tutorial assistance in Maths and English as a Second Language.

After teaching, my other main duty was as an assistant Dorm-Parent. In the first term I helped in Glenrock House, the Year 9 boys dorm. This was a very active dorm and on most weekends there was a cycle ride or a walk. One weekend in each term there was a camp, and so I went on one to a place called Quiet Corner. It is down the hill from Ooty, on the plateau between the top of the hills and the plains at the bottom. The area of the site is about 5 acres, so as well as including all the basics of a dining room and dorms (or were they really necessary), there was plenty of room for games and the "Photo Tree". A chapel was situated in the grounds which was a nice place for the Sunday morning service. Such camps also had their "down" times. They always came at times when exams were looming close, which meant that, during all the activities and fun, a few hours each day were set aside for quiet study.

#### IG VISITS

During my time in India I had several opportunities to travel. Each half-term the IGs were allowed a long weekend to visit places a little further afield. In the first half-term, we (the IG's) visited Bangalore and Mysore. Bangalore is one of the older cities in India, but is now a centre for shopping as it has many western shops there, as well as having its own traditional market. We stayed in a little self-catering bungalow just outside the centre of the city. The two nights we spent there were rather more uncomfortable than I had hoped. There was a large enough bed, but there was one great problem. The bed belonged to the colony of ants which had overrun it! So I had to spend the two nights cramped on the settee, which was no longer than 4 feet! Cockroaches also swarmed throughout the house which meant that yours sincerely had to clear them up as the girls did not want to touch them.

Mysore is also an old city and still has a lot of the charm. The Palace of the Maharaja still stands proudly in the middle of the town. It was a very interesting palace to see as it holds many paintings of the Maharajas. The Security Guards in the Palace are quite happy to tell you all about these. As soon as the four of us came into the palace we had three or four guides to tell us about the pictures, but of course they wanted paying after they had finished! On the Sunday night the Palace is lit up from 7 o'clock for one hour. This process of lighting up does not mean the odd spotlight, but over 4 million bulbs lighting up all outlines of the buildings and of the surrounding

walls. It is quite spectacular to see.

Another place I managed to visit was Kodaikanal. This is also a Hill Station town but, unlike Ooty which was found by the British, Kodaikanal was founded by the Americans. It is the only American hill station in India. There is another International School here which I managed to visit with the rest of the group. This weekend was spent taking time to observe the geographical and historical aspects of Indian life in Kodaikanal. The best way to this was to take a taxi tour. Six of us piled into a taxi (the same style as a Bedford Rascal) and spent the day being taken from site to site. As Kodaikanal is up in the hills, several of the view points were indeed “point at the view and stay well back”. From one viewpoint we chose, we could see across a small valley to a church (to be visited later), placed very carefully on the edge

of a cliff. When we went to the church, we were then able to see back to where we had stopped for our break - good thing that no-one looked down! Under the ledge where we sat was a 75 foot sheer drop!

#### IN BRIEF

Throughout my time in the school, I helped run the Sunday evening bible study for the 7 to 11 age group called 6-14ers (it started at 6.14p.m.) Just after the Easter half term, my Dorm helped me celebrate my birthday with an absolutely mad party. A month later, the Botanical Gardens were a blaze of colour for the annual festival. End of term was marked by events, some more formal than others. The IGs took the final service of the term for the whole school.

**A. Nye**

### NEWS OF RECENT LEAVERS

Aldrich-Blake, Harry	Stafford University	Geography
Anthony, Oliver	Loughborough University	Art Foundation
Ashby, David	Birmingham University	Electronic Engineering
Berry, Theo	Bristol University	English & Philosophy
Bongiovanni, Louise	Exeter University	German & Italian
Boughton, Frederick	University College, London	Ancient History
Breitfield, Nina	Bournemouth University	Tourism Studies
Brenner, Florian	Oxford Brookes	University Civil Engineering
Butler, Benjamin	Peterhouse College, Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Cheung, Samantha	University of Central England	Architecture
Donovan, Laura	Durham University	Geography
Engelstader, Elizabeth	Munich University	Graphic Design
Forster, Ian	Leicester University	Sociology and Psychology
Gilbert, Thomas	Southampton University	Music
Hogarth, Rebecca	South Bank University	Child Nursing
Hunt, Phillipa	Bristol University	Veterinary Science
Leathart, Gemma	Cheltenham & Glos. College of HE	International Business Management
Mais, Jenny	Loughborough University	Social Psychology
Morris, Dominic	Birmingham University	Geography
Nicholas, Kate	Destination unknown	
Poole, Oliver	Falmouth Art College	Illustration
Schinzler, Johannes	Destination unknown	
Shenton, John	Leicester University	Geography
Sleggs, Tara	Exeter University	Geography
Stanfield, Nicholas	Nottingham University	French & German
Starkey, James	Employment	
Taplin, Rebekah	Royal Holloway, Uni. of London	Drama & Theatre Studies
Unger, Barbara	University of Passau	Business Studies
Von Gleichenstein, Franziska	Anglia Polytechnic University	Criminology & Psychology
Webb, Philip	Loughborough University	History of Art & Design
Werckmeister, Lena	Apprenticeship in Frankfurt	
Worlock, Sophie	Oxford Brookes University	Adult Nursing
Yip, Patricia	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Design

# Academic

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2000

### SIXTH FORM ENTRY

Christopher Quinn	(Kingham Hill School)	Academic Scholarship
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### THIRD YEAR ENTRY

Sophie Barltrop	(Hatherop Castle)	Music Scholarship
Charlotte Cumberpatch	(Hatherop Castle Prep)	Academic & Music Scholarship
Laura Holmes	(Hatherop Castle Prep)	Music Scholarship
Peter Liang	(Kingshill School)	Music Scholarship
Claire McAllister	(Pinewood)	Academic Scholarship
William Willemijn	(Prior Park Prep)	Art Scholarship

### FIRST YEAR ENTRY

George Finlay	St. Andrew's, Chedworth	Friends of Rendcomb Scholarship
Harry Frost	Querns School	David Sells Scholarship
Amanda Graham	St. Andrew's, Chedworth	Choral Scholarship
Alexander Holden	St. Andrew's, Chedworth	Choral Scholarship
Rebekah Soanes	Airthrie School	Music Scholarship
Paul Taylor	Birdlip County Primary	Noel Wills Scholarship

## 'A' LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

Melanie Abbott	Geography, Theatre Studies
Laurence Barton	French*, German*, History, Maths (AS)
James Brittain-Jones	Business Studies, Geography, Maths
Patama Chaiwatanasirikul	Art, Business Studies, Maths
Richard Collinson	Art, Business Studies, English, Biology (AS)
Christopher Davies	Chemistry, Maths, Physics
Anna De Lisle Wells	Business Studies, French, Geography
Sarah Donovan	Art*, Business Studies, Geography
Sonja Forster	Art, French, German*, Geography, Maths
Rocky Fung	Art, Biology, Maths, Chinese
Charles Garcia	Geography, History, Maths
Nicholas Hall	Biology, English, Geography*
Edward Hogarth	Biology Business Studies, Geography
Oliver Jeffcott	Business Studies, English, History
Alexandra Kaub	Art, Business Studies, German*, Geography (AS)
Thomas Mais	Biology, Business Studies, Geography
Helen Mizon	Art, Business Studies
Andrew Sage	Biology, Chemistry*, Maths*
Marguerita Schumacher	Art, English, German*, Theatre Studies
Rafe Smallman	History*, Maths*, Further Maths, Physics*
Sophie Sprawson	Art, English, French, Music (AS)
Christopher Sykes	Business Studies*, History, Maths*
Yuki Takanashi	Art, Maths, Physics
Patrick Van Welij	Geography, History, Maths
Richard Walder	German*, Maths*, Physics, Further Maths (AS)
Oliver Wallis	Biology, Business Studies, Geography
Charlotte Webb	French, Geography German
Matthew Williams	English*, French, History
William Witchell	Art, Biology, Business Studies
Meilan Wolf	Art, German*

Key \* = grade A

# GCSE EXAMINATIONS

THE GCSE RESULTS WERE

## SIXTH FORM ENTRY:

Paul Bongiovanni	PE*
Michael Elsworth	PE*
Sonja Forster	SP*
Rosalind Frazer-Holland	PE**
Alice Osborne	m
Amy Roberts	PE
Nicola Scarth	P*, PE

Christina Schotten	m
Paul Szybiak	PE*
Charlotte Webb	SP**
Rebecca Whatman	PE**
Kate Wilson	m
Patrick van Welij	E
Meilan Wolf	E

## FIFTH FORM ENTRY:

Jennifer Arnold	A*, E, EL**, M, B, C, P, F**, GM**, G*
Richard Birkbeck	E*, EL*, M*, H*, B*, C*, P*, FN*, F, G*
Patrick Bodenham	E*, EL*, H, M, MU*, B, c, P, F**, G
Alexander Bowers	E, EL*, M*, MU, B*, C*, P*, F**, GM, ITS*
Frances Burden	E*, EL, H**, M*, B**, C**, P**, F**, GM**, G**
Korn-Anong Chaiwatanasirikul	A, E, EL, M*, B*, C, P, GM, ** G*, FN
Winnie Cheung	A, e, M*, MU, SS, its, CH**
Charles Cowper	E, EL, H, M, MU*, B, P, ITF
Joanna Crisp	E, EL, b, C, p, F, GM, G, FN
Richard Demczak	A, E, EL, H, m, MU, SS, F, ITF
Giles Drew	A, e, el, H, m, SS, fn, ITS
Mathew Ewing	A, E, EL*, M, MU, SS, GM, G, ITF
Olivia Evans	A*, E*, EL*, M, B, C, P, F*, GM, G*
Alina Fridman	A, e, el, h, ss, M, its
Jennifer Feng	A, e, M*, SD, fn, CH**
Nellie Gilson	A*, E*, EL**, M, B*, C, P, F**, GM**, G*
Philip Gordon-Jones	E, EL, M, MU, b, C, P, F, G, ITF
Simon King	E, EL, H*, m, ss, f, g, fn
Hau Ling Leung	e, M, SS, pc
Robyn MacDonald	A*, E, EL, H, M, B, C, P, ITF
Victoria MacKinnon	E*, EL**, H**, M*, B**, C**, P**, F**, GM**, G**
Nathaniel Maylott	A, E, EL, H*, M, B, c, p, gm, G
Edward McHenry	A**, E, EL*, H**, M, B, C, P, F, G
Rupert McKelvie	A, E, EL, M, B, c, P, f, G, ITF
Thomas Moss	A, e, el, M, B*, C, P, F*, G
Stanislav Odintsov	E, el, H, M, B*, C, P, g, G, ITF, RU**
Sarah Padmore	A, E, EL, M, B, C, P, F, G, FN
Jonathan Pratt	E, EL, m, SD, GM, G, fn, ITF
John Raby	A, E, el, m, SS, F, g, fn, itf
James Sabourin	A, e, el, M, MU, SD, f, ITS
Aimee Smith	A, E, EL, B, c, P, GM, G, FN
James Spackman	A, e, el, M, SS, f, G, fn, itf
Lucian Tarnowski	E, EL, M, B, C, P, F, G*, FN, ITF
Christopher Thomas	E, EL, H*, M*, B, C, P, F*, G*, ITF
William Turvill	A*, E, EL, M, B*, C, P, F*, G, ITF
Stephen Ward	E, EL, M*, B, C, P, F, GM, G, ITF
Rosanna Warrington	A*, E, EL, H*, M*, B*, C, P*, F*, GM**
Catharine Webb	E, EL, M, SS, f, G, FN, ITS
Richard Wilkins	E, EL*, H*, M*, B*, C, P*, F*, G**, ITF
Henry Whale	A, E*, EL, H, M, B*, C, P*, F, G*
Amber Williams	A, E, EL, m, SS, F, G, FN, its
Edward Wadsworth	A, e, el, m, SS, f, g, fn, its

Key: Capital letters show grades A - C, lower case letters grades d - f \* \* grade A\* • \* grade A  
 Subject key: A-Art, B-Biology, C-Chemistry, CH-Chinese, E-English Language, EL - English Literature, FN-Food & Nutrition, F-French, G-Geography, GM-German, H-History, ITF-Information Technology (Full), ITS-Information Technology (Short) M-Mathematics, MU-Music, PE-Physical Education, P-Physics, R-Russian, SD-Science (Double) SS-Science (Single), SP-Spanish.

The following results were omitted from last year's *Rendcombian*.

**L. L. E. Barton SP\***  
**C. T. Garcia SP\*\***  
**N. Stanfield SP\*\***  
**P. van Welij SP\***

# Excursions

## ANNECY FRENCH EXCHANGE

In April, I went on the Annecy French Exchange for two weeks which I really enjoyed. We flew to Geneva and went by bus to Le Parc Sports D'Annecy where we met with our French families.

I stayed with the Chatelain family who lived in a village called Gruffy. The family had two boys, Romain (my exchange pal) aged 14 and Anthony aged 10. They lived in a very nice house and I was given a room of my own. The family were very kind to me and fun to be with, they took me to see lots of different places in the area. I found that eating was a very important part of their family life and I was given lots of different things to eat, including a traditional dish from the region, of potatoes and melted cheese. I found drinking hot chocolate out of a bowl for breakfast rather strange. Lunch and supper consisted of lots of different courses; with a separate salad course to start with, a meat course with potatoes and cheeses before dessert.

The family took me on a boat trip on the lake at Annecy - the scenery was really beautiful, with mountains in the distance. One day we went to Chamonix on a mountain railway up to Mont Blanc to see the glacier at the top. The snow was fantastic - I had not seen snow like it for a very long time. On my

last day we went sledging near the family's home which was such fun and I went walking in the snow with rackets on my feet - bizarre but good fun!

On my first day in France I went to school with Romain. The school was a large white ugly building, with 1,000 pupils (which makes you appreciate how nice Rendcomb is!) The school day was from 8.00am until 4.30pm and each lesson was an hour long, but they had a very long lunch break, about 2 hours. I found the school day very tiring as it was difficult to understand everyone. In their English lesson the whole class asked me questions in English that I had to answer in French - ahh!

I really enjoyed my exchange visit, although I found the first few days rather tricky speaking and understanding French. However, by the end of my stay, I would have happily stayed there for longer. I found living with a French family a really good experience as you get to do all the normal things that families do, such as going to the supermarket, cinema, playing games, watching TV (including a Manchester United match) and going on walks. I would definitely like to go on the French exchange again and would recommend it to anyone else.

**M. Arkle**

## GERMAN TRIP 2000

Thursday morning, day one and we were all raring to go, well we would have been with a few hours more sleep!

Although there was a long journey to Bonn, we managed to entertain ourselves for quite a while with singing and dancing to the chorus from Aladdin' and the 'Lion King' and just to relieve everyone's nerves, they put on Titanic just before we boarded the ferry!

We stayed in a youth hostel in Bad Honnet which was very nice, although we had to make our own beds! Luckily only one terrible incident occurred, not mentioning any names, (Faith Roberts), this ended up with one

ripped bed sheet and one person stuck inside it. Each morning the teachers came to inspect the dormitories, so we mastered the skill of bribery, some people had an unfair advantage by being fluent

in German (Ashley Hermitage), meaning they could do German tours of their dormitory.

On day two, we went to Cologne where we climbed right to the top of the cathedral. Most of us went to the top and down again, but Steve and Lewis somehow managed to go up and down three times without ever

reaching the top! They also managed to get lost, but I don't know how, as there is only one staircase!



On Monday evening we went out for a snazzy meal. Now, you're probably thinking we tried some exotic German cuisine, but we just had pizza! Mr Auld managed to finish the remains of about ten pizzas and still have room for ice-cream!

One morning we went swimming at a large complex, which was good fun. On the slides Mr Auld had a tendency to land on the people in front of him and try to drown them! This happened to Lewis, who is still traumatised by the experience. There were lots of Jacuzzis and hot pools which were used by everyone and after four hours of swimming, we looked like wrinkled grannies! On another day, when the weather wasn't so good, we went to PhantasiaLand; this was enjoyed by all, even those who weren't so adventurous on the rides. Mr Auld and Mr Whitehead



were trying to re-kindle their youth by pretending they loved the rides, but we know deep down they were really scared!

One morning we went to a school in Linz am Rhein, we were all quite shocked at how different it was from our own. Everybody liked the fact there were no uniforms and that they only have two lessons of games per week. We talked to the headmaster who told us all about the school. In the classes, we were all very surprised at how good their English was, compared to our German. Also on the trip we went to Bonn,

where Beethoven lived and on a boat trip down the Rhine to Königswinter and Boppard, which were great fun.

**H. Roper, J. Weston, L Paine**

### 1ST YEAR TRIP TO CHEDDAR GORGE

On Friday 5th November all of the first form went to Cheddar Gorge (except Edward, he had a bad leg). It was a very wet day but we got a lot out of it.

We left school at 8.30am a quarter of an hour before lessons would have started. We turned around and saw water gushing down the hill at a terrific rate.

First we went to Gough's cave. Mr Gough (the man who discovered and 'Dug out' the cave) came across a skeleton of a prehistoric man, who had been killed by a blow to the head which was discovered to be over 9,000 year old. Scientists took a DNA sample from its tooth to see if they could match it up and find his family. Amazingly enough, the DNA sample had been traced to the local *History teacher!*

The skeleton we actually saw is just a copy! The real "Cheddar Man" is in the Natural History Museum in London. We went through the caves and looked at the stalagmites and stalactites. We then walked through Cox's Cave and went through the Crystal Quest, a kind of tunnel with a smoke-breathing dragon at the end.

Last of all we went up Jacob's ladder to the watchtower, 300 steps up. Many thanks to Mrs Botham and Mrs Gibson, we all had a lovely day out.

**J Baalham, L Bowen, E Couch, J Cowper and S Goffe**

### SLIMBRIDGE WETLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

Forms 2 and 2A went to Slimbridge Wetlands Wildlife Park. With the exception of somebody being sick on the coach, it was a great day out and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

When we arrived we went around part of the outdoors area as a class. I fed a goose with my hand which was really exciting, as sometimes I'm nervous of geese. The flamingos were absolutely amazing; I read that they get their colour from their fishy diet.

At about 12.00 noon, one of the workers showed us how to pond dip; this was amusing as my friends and I got water everywhere. We caught water fleas, but not much else! We then had a look around on our own. The place was organized into areas labelled with names of different continents. As well as having birds from that continent they also had its native plants, so you could really get the feel of the place. I saw a lot of ducks and geese, one of them being the rarest goose in the world.

We saw a video about the centre, I had expected it to be boring and badly made but it was brilliant! The photography was amazing and it really made me feel sorry for the rare and almost extinct birds who were fighting to survive.

We learned about the food chain in a pond. This was taught by us by putting on masks and acting out our particular mini-beasts part. This was really amusing and a great laugh as well as a good way of learning much about food chains.

When it was time to go I had already decided that it was a worthwhile experience despite the sickening coach journey on the way. I would recommend it to anyone as a brilliant day out and a fun way of learning about life in the wet-lands.

**A Thistlewaite**

## Wimbledon 2000

After arriving at about 11.30 on a hot sunny day, we walked around the outside of the courts for a while, seeing players such as Wayne Ferraira and Jim Courier.



We then went into Court Number One to see Martina Hingis v Patrick's hero, Anloa Huber. Hingis' power and consistency was too much for Huber, although she was lifted slightly by Patrick's vocal encouragement!

Before watching a very hard fought match between Monica Seles and Arancha Sanchez-Vicari we saw a number of other players including: Dokic, Rosset, and Enquist. The two highlights of the day, for me, were seeing Andre Agassi for the first time and Anna Kournikova close up. Agassi's power, precision and range of shots were awesome and Kournikova, well...

After seeing a mixed doubles match involving Leyton Hewitt, we made our way home listening to Tim Henman losing on the radio... Maybe next year? Many thanks to Miss Bell and Mrs Westhead for making the day possible.

**Matt Carrington**

## The Good Food Show 1999

We set off from Rendcomb on a Sunday last November to the NEC, Birmingham. We were a large party of 53 pupils, staff and friends, all looking forward to seeing Aynsley in a live show, other demonstrations, eating and drinking and all the free samples and most important, spending lots of money on kitchen gadgets! We had a great day although I personally regret buying bottles of real ale, a set of cutlery and a bread-maker which I then had to carry back to the coach!

**ER**

## History

### IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On Wednesday 7th June, the day after the Queen had visited the Imperial War Museum in London, Rendcomb's third formers were there for the annual trip as a part of their history course on the First World War. Their studies will have been visually enhanced by the various exhibits, artwork and original film footage viewed and it was a very successful day.

**DHM**

## Biology

### FIELDTRIP 2000 SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

As with so many aspects of learning, and life in general, if you are prepared to be involved, contribute and adopt a clear 'Hands on' approach the benefits are potentially vast.

It was evident even from the outset this was going to be a 'good trip', especially with Amy's mum's cakes! The class of 2000 (6B) set the scene for what proved to be a most productive field trip (theory and project work) and very jolly ambience throughout. The landscape and Betws-y-Coed in North Wales is a



prime location and this allowed us to cover a significant section of the module two theory in a most efficient and palatable way often without being aware that this was 100% relevant to the teaching syllabus such was the skill of the course tutor.

In my own view there is no better way to bring ecology alive than to see it very much in the flesh, be it with a rocky sea shore ecosystem, sand dune successions or with an ancient mixed woodland.

Our principal aim was to collect data for the individual investigation and this followed a pilot study at the start of the course, the main theme being location and associates of lichens, mosses bryophytes and conifers. Without exception the 'team' strode off into the woods laden down with ecology kit and a real sense of purpose and direction. This, I am glad to say, has already produced some fine projects.

One must admit, it would be quite difficult not to enjoy days on the rocky shore, shouting out numbers from the 'Crapp Scale,' filling your wellies with sea water and then sharing a mini-bus back to the field centre with a smelly wet Spaniel and knowing that the next day is on the sand-dunes at Harlech in the shadow of the magnificent castle.

Out of all this comes a module practical in the biotic and abiotic factors that determine sea shore zonation and the factors involved in producing the stages of succession from Marram grass to Oak trees.

I must congratulate the 'team' on a fine trip from the first to the last moment; the job was very much completed with style, fun and purpose. There are however a few questions that have yet to be answered:

*Why did Andrea, Amy, Kate, Nicola and Rebecca become*

*rabbits on the dunes?*

*Do you really get pixies in the wood?*

*How much is 2.5kg of 'Zoo Pool'?*

*Did Ludger eat all of Mike and Tom's sandwiches?*

If you can answer any of these, please do contact me at BFPO 2100!

To the class of 2000 (6A) well done!

6A biologists: Andrea Gear, Amy Roberts, Nicola Scarth, Kate Wilson, Rebecca Whatman, Tom Drew, Mike Elsworthy, Ludger Frese and Pete the sheep.

**JHS**

#### A LEVEL BIOLOGY VISIT TO BRISTOL ZOO

As part of the 'Organism and the Environment' module 7 Biologists from 6B attended a 'Classification and Conservation' day at Bristol Zoo. After a brief look around we entered a 'Safari Tent' in the education centre for a workshop on conservation



issues. Topics considered ranged from the obvious, elephants, to the not so obvious, honey bees in the Outer Hebrides.

Lunch in the zoo and a chance to see the diversity of life in the flesh, was followed by a 'hands on' approach to classification. A vast array of dead animals, and parts of dead animals, was spread out on the floor. Most were custom's confiscations, a chilling reminder of the problems faced by ex-zoo animals.

After half an hour the creatures had been arranged in neat piles of mammals, reptiles, anthropoids and so on and the rationale behind the method of grouping and Linnaean classification were discussed.

On the whole this was a very productive and informative day and relevant to the 'A' level syllabus.

**JHS**

#### GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Once again the Geography department has had a busy year out in the field. Extensive monitoring of the school grounds has continued apace with more discoveries about the mysterious river Churn, detailed analysis made of the varied soil and investigation of the microclimate.

Local farmers have kindly shared their experiences of agriculture of the Cotswolds whilst both Cirencester and Cheltenham have been studied by both GCSE and A level students. The end result of much of this work has been some outstanding pieces of course work which are a strength for Rendcomb students in their external examinations. The good access to excellent sites and the hard working approach of our pupils, particularly when personal initiative is shown, make this a rewarding part of our work.

The highlight of the year remains the sixth form residential field course in Pembrokeshire, which took place in July. This year the students were enthusiastic, fun to be with and conscientious. Some excellent academic studies were carried out on topics ranging from coasts, the river Synwvy, the impact of coppicing, salt marsh and sand dune ecosystems and local settlement patterns with reference to Christaller. The external moderator was most impressed with the work. The Orierton field centre is an excellent location to further our geographical studies.

We have now achieved our aim of all students taking part in at least one active fieldwork day per year. We are working towards more investigative projects being carried out lower down the school and weekend residential courses for sixth form, particularly for revision work for the new modules. I look forward to another exciting and practical year and would like to thank Alex Brealy for his enthusiasm and hard work on the fieldwork at Rendcomb; from taking the South Wales course single-handedly to his in-depth knowledge of Cheltenham his input into the department is fundamental to our success.

**NG**

#### 6TH FORM SCIENTISTS VISIT TO GCHQ

In November a small group of sixth form scientists ventured into the depths of GCHQ in Cheltenham. Most of us did not know what to expect. After having the minibus inspected for explosives, we were finally able to enter the mysterious Block 18 with our guide. It turned out that a fair had been held for companies to display their latest communications technologies to GCHQ and for GCHQ to explain their future and present needs, and that the companies were prepared to share their expertise with students. The exhibitors included universities such as York, large companies such as Hewlett Packard and small local companies. I enjoyed talking to the representatives about the latest developments in their field of technology. Our thanks go to GCHQ for allowing us this. insight into the technologies used at the highest levels of government security.

## 6B CHEMISTS TO ASTON UNIVERSITY

This conference for sixth form Chemists took the form of revision and general interest lectures in the main hall of Aston University.

The first lecture of the day was given by Dr. David Nicholls on the subject of Transition Metals and their compounds. It related to the A level Foundation module and, despite being heard to say that certain copper compounds turned him on, Dr. Nicholls gave a very colourful and enlightening talk.

**Freddie Lait**

The next lecture on Insect Communication required us to smell various chemicals used in communication (pheromones). Ants, for example, follow each other by using a chemical trail. I also found out that there is evidence that men smell like pigs, something I had already suspected! It also related this specialist area of Chemistry to the organic Chemistry we shall be encountering on our A level course.

**Nicola Scarth**

The lecture on the Protection of Our Environment showed how Gas Chromatographs linked to Mass Spectrometers could detect chemicals to 1 part in 1 billion in the air, by separating, analysing and comparing the various compounds to a data bank of 60,000 substances in a computer. This meant that it could even identify types of furniture polishes which had previously been used in a room. One application of this expertise had been to find out why a family suddenly fell ill every time they used their lounge. It turned out that they had recently insulated their

house with cavity foam. A previous major petrol spillage was producing toxic vapours which had been able to pass through the house via the wall cavity; the insulation had forced the vapours into the lounge, hence making the occupants ill.

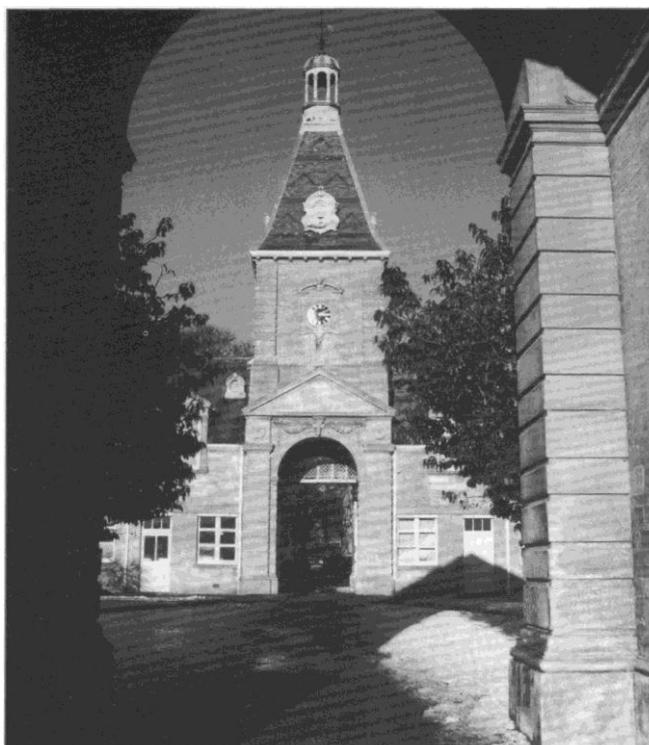
**Michael Elsworthy**

We are always reminded that pharmaceuticals are merely chemicals produced for the benefit of mankind but this lecture showed us how the latest techniques involve computer modelling to design molecules which will imitate natural chemicals in our body to obtain the desired effect. Salbutamol (used in Ventolin inhalers) was used as an example of how a molecule can be gradually changed to obtain the desired effect of dilating the airways without other dangerous side effects.

**CJW**

The last lecture started with a brief history of fireworks but during this a small box situated where the lecturer had been standing suddenly exploded. Hence the title: The Pyromaniacs' Guide to Fireworks. He went on to demonstrate how different metals produce different colours and effects. He then ignited his own design of Catherine wheels and rocket and finished by making extremely loud bangs caused by exploding balloons filled with hydrogen and oxygen gas.

**Martin Good**



*Stable Block*

# Sport

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

This season saw the College fielding five teams on a regular basis, playing a total of 53 games and winning 24 of them. These are the bare statistics but, as ever, they do not tell the whole story.



Most of these fixtures have

been played against schools that have more, sometimes many more, boys than Rendcomb. As a consequence, week in and week out, Rendcomb teams take the field against opponents who are physically larger and have greater strength in depth. Clearly, this can place College teams at a considerable disadvantage, and nowhere is this more acutely felt than at junior level.

Both the U13 and U14 XVs have experienced difficult seasons although the U14s did record some very pleasing wins in the second half of the season. However, rather than dwelling on disappointing playing records, it is more important to be positive about the future. I can think of one or two groups of boys from the recent past who experienced a couple of difficult seasons of junior rugby but they promised themselves that it would be different when they were in the 1st XV and it was; they developed into successful 1st XVs and turned the tables on most of the schools who had beaten them as juniors.

I have been impressed by the attitude of the boys in the face of adversity this season and the contributions of captains Luke Baghdadi and Peter Mason must be recognised in this respect. With continued determination and a willingness to learn, the potential of these year groups will be realised in the future.

For the moment it is important to acknowledge all the hard work and commitment that has gone into junior rugby this season, and in particular the coaches Mr. Graham and Mr. Breal assisted by Mr. Essenhigh, Theo Berry and Mr. Vuolo, and, on occasion, a certain Mr. Holden.

The U15 XV enjoyed vastly different fortunes and, with a playing record of 10 wins in 13 games, were undoubtedly the team of the season. Mr. Sykes and Mr. Dodd put an enormous amount of hard work into the season, and they have taken great pleasure and pride in the performance of the team, and rightly

so. Many congratulations to them and to Tommy Lait and all the boys in the U15 squad.

Once again, the 2nd XV endured a difficult season, and this was not helped by the cancellation of three very winnable fixtures when the opposition failed to raise a side. Nevertheless, a great deal of effort was put in by Mr Griffiths together with captain John Pratt and vice captain Tom Moss, and when the moment came for 2nd XV players to step into the 1st XV they never let the team down and played their part in another successful 1st XV season.

For the sixth successive year, the 1st XV enjoyed a winning season, despite the loss of eleven members of last year's team. Substantial rebuilding was once again required around captain Nick Hall and vice-captain Billy Witchell. Their contributions to the XV were



*1st XV captain consults the Coach*

truly magnificent, and they showed a precise understanding of what it takes to build and lead a successful team and, in doing so, they have been as good a captain/vice captain pairing as I have seen in my time at Rendcomb.

Nevertheless, this was above all a team effort and their playing record of eight wins in thirteen games is an achievement of which to be proud. Even so, as I have already mentioned, statistics do not tell the whole story; what is much more important is that this team played to the limits of their potential and often beyond and, in so doing, earned the right to take their place alongside their illustrious predecessors.

The season was celebrated at the annual club dinner which, as ever, proved to be a memorable and hugely enjoyable occasion. The speeches were uniformly impressive and we were particularly grateful to our guest speaker Paul Sykes who stepped in at short

notice and proved to be as entertaining a speaker as he is a Maths teacher.

In conclusion, my thanks to all those involved in rugby this season. To the club officers, and to Nick and Billy in particular, and to all the players. To the ground staff and the caterers, the medical staff and the faithful parents on the touchline; and, above all, to my coaching colleagues whose dedication and enthusiasm are so vital to the continued well being of Rendcomb rugby.

MS

#### OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

**Club Captain: Nicholas Hall**

**Vice Captain: William Witchell**

**2nd XV Captain: Jonathan Pratt**

#### 1ST XV

Throughout the team's time together we have had our moments of doubt and our moments of, perhaps, not focused enough commitment. However, in games such as the game against King's Gloucester, the team symbolised the determination and commitment of Rendcomb rugby. The match was closely fought

sticks out. A spell of perfectly worked rugby down the right wing of the pitch was finished by an outstanding run from Carlos Garcia. Running past, through and over most of the opposition to score in the left corner of the pitch, he left us, the opposition and spectators gob-smacked.

Despite all the ups and downs of the season Mr. Slark's faith in us remained quietly confident and taught us to dig deep when times were tough. However, when everything is stripped away and just fifteen lads are standing on the pitch, looking at the opposition with that familiar feeling of anxiety that is and always shall be felt before every whistle blow, it is then that Mr. Slark's faith, however confident, does not matter because for seventy minutes it comes down to the commitment and mental motivation of us - the players.

Players such as James Brittain-Jones, who was the centrepiece of our perhaps ornamental pack at times. His return to the pack, once William Witchell had recovered from a dislocated shoulder, was obvious as he consistently won us good ball at scrums and



and saw some of our forwards' best play of the season. However, with dynamic rucking and inspiring movement from the backs, the score, although not to our favour, reflected the typical passion of the side.

Other matches against the likes of St. John's saw the backs have their deserved moments of glory. Rapid and efficient rucking from the forwards provided many opportunities for the backs to finally complete one of their moves, and with powerful and piercing running from all of them the game was confidently won.

One final game that shall always stay with me was against Kingham Hill. Although a game where we dominated for the majority of it, one special moment

renewed our strength in the forwards. Tom Mais proved to be the Trojan Warrior of the team, always putting tackles in when needed. He also took much of the brunt in our penalty moves, which often left him stranded at the opposition scrum half's feet. Matt "Oh! I'm just going on holiday, sir" Thatcher provided some well-needed bulk and together with Tom and B-J formed a ferocious front row. Steadily improving over the season, Matt had some storming runs, with considerably surprising pace and with two justly rewarded tries in our last game



*Off Games!*

he set himself up as a vital member of next year's team.

The two sleepy heads of the second row, Laurie Barton and Rocky Fung, when they actually found the scrum or ruck they were meant to be at, gave strength to scrums and penetration into any defence. Freddie Lait improved further this season, developing himself into a very powerful and effective player,



which has earned him the captaincy for the coming season. Paul Bongiovanni's confidence grew this season, securing some very important lineout ball and he will prove to be a key player in next year's pack.

Fie was lost after just one game, he was the king of Rendcomb rugby, the prince of pace, the apple in any rugby player's eye of accuracy, he is Mr. Billy Armstrong-Witchell. Losing Billy was a devastating blow to the team, proving how he was a vital strength to the cohesion and force of the squad. However, on his return he quickly resumed his role and astonished us all with his newly improved and angelic side-stepping. Carlos Garcia is undoubtedly this season's most improved player. Overcoming his fear of tackling, he became a formidable component in our defence and with his ever improving boot and powerful running a key part of our attack. The baby of the team Paul Szybiak became a giant when tackling; his fearsome dump tackles rendered his opposite man injured and off the pitch in his first three games.

Rendcomb's first rugby scholar, Edward Hogarth possessed dynamic pace, earning us much needed ground on many occasions. He was an invaluable asset to the side. Yuki Takanashi still manages to strike fear into the members of his own side with his lack of knowledge of the game, not quite knowing after three years of rugby whether he was a forward or a back. However, despite Yuki's naivety, he provided great injections of pace into our attack. This season, Edward Farnsworth developed from a timid and apprehensive centre into a gutsy and confident winger. A special mention has to go to his outstanding performance against St. John's where he broke through four or five tackles and just fell short of the

try line - he certainly inspired me on many occasions. Matt Williams, never a doubt under the high ball, never a doubt when kicking for goal, never a doubt when kicking for touch, the Ginger Gem was essential for the team.

An important thank you has to go to Richard Walder, the Super Sub who was always on hand to play in all number of positions. And Stan Odintsov who, after one week of senior rugby, was plunged into a position he had never played before. However, he played with courage and quiet determination and earned himself some valuable experience for the coming season.

I was very lucky to be able to lead this side, being part of something so passionate and determined was an inspiring experience and I shall remember it for many years.

**Nicholas Hall**

#### 1ST XV PLAYING RECORD:

Played 13, Won 8, Lost 5, PF 280, PA 163.

**v Cirencester RFC (H): W 15-3**

**v Rednock School (H): L 15-20**

**v Abingdon (H): W 26-5**

**v Cokethorpe School (H): W 29-0**

**v St Edward's School (A): L 15-31**

**v Bredon School (H): W 13-5**

**v Leighton Park School (A): L 0-39**

**v Rougement School (H): W43-0**

**v King's Sch Glos (H): L 22-27**

**v Cirencester RFC (A): W 21-0**

**v St John's College (H): W 31-5**

**v Bristol Cathedral School(H): L 10-29**

**v Kingham Hill School (H): W40-10**

*Team from:* N. Hall (Capt), W. Witchell (V-Capt), J. Brittain-Jones, T. Mais, L. Barton, R. Fung, R. Walder, C. Garcia, E. Hogarth, Y. Takanashi, E. Farnsworth, M. Williams, F. Lait, M. Thatcher, P. Bongiovanni, P. Szybiak, S. Odintsov.

#### 2ND XV

With a young, rather lightweight looking squad, this was always going to be a difficult season and although there were some very encouraging moments, many of



the players found their first year in senior rugby a big step-up from what they were used to. Excellent team performances were put in against Leighton Park and Bristol Cathedral school and in both these matches, the boys really did perform as a motivated team despite the oppositions greater physical scale and power. This was always the problem, the opposition seemed to be able to field players with much more size and strength and no matter how well we played they would eventually smash their way through for the decisive scores. The same so often applied to our attacks, having won the ball and made the initial break from second and third phase possession we would be beaten back and small handling errors under pressure would be heavily punished.

However, there were many good moments of play and some very brave individual performances during the season and once the team had come to terms with the techniques required to play a fast rucking game, our ability to compete greatly improved. We may have eventually lost the last match of the season but it was a superb effort and the boys can take a great deal of pride from such performances.

Of the many players who made substantial progress there were several who really stand out and these include: Captain Johnathan Pratt. They were consistently courageous in difficult circumstances and when called upon to play for the 1st XV represented the school with notable success. Indeed these two and the likes of: John Raby, Phil Gordon-Jones and Steve Ward will all be in contention for places next year and if they can build on what they have already learnt then they could enjoy some much deserved success. **MSG**

### U15 XV

The U15 team had the most successful season in the school this year, winning 10 out of 13 of our matches. Our first match was against a well-trained Cirencester Rugby Club; their team had been training all holidays and we did well to only lose 5-0.

Our second match was against Rednock in Dursley. They were a very undisciplined team and we exploited this, winning 12-0, which was a good result for our second match as a team.

Next up was Abingdon: this was one of our best performances as a team. We rucked well and there were two full-length pitch runs from Dave Moxham and a long run for the corner from Dave Roper. We won this match 35-0.

We then faced St. Edward's and we were looking for revenge after last year's performance. Jonny McAllister opened his try account with two in this match and Chris Jefferies kicked well.

We were then supposed to play Farmor's but they cancelled so we were looking forward to playing them later on in the season. Bredon may have cancelled due to a heavy defeat last season.

On 21st October, we met Leighton Park "Up Top". Jonny McAllister scored two early tries and was taken off because he got a little bump on the head. Tommy Lait also left the field after scoring three tries. One of Leighton Park's players suffered a broken leg and we had our first ambulance call of the season. The final score was 31-7. The team had had enough and the players were asked to stop the game.

We then had a visit from Rougemont who brought 12 players so good old Ben Baghdadi played for them and this made Ben's true ability shine.

Then came our hardest match of the season, which was not helped by the world's worst referee. This was one of our three losses this season. The final score was 27-17 to them, although I did score my first try of the season. We felt some serious Mr. Dodd training sessions coming on.

For the first time in three years, Cheltenham College turned up. This was our earliest match but we showed our best rugby. Our new boy, James Thatcher, scored three tries; Dave Moxham scored two and Christian van Welij scored two. The final score was 56-0.

We then travelled to Cokethorpe and our worst performance. They had several big athletes and Tim Bates felt the full force of the inside centre's elbow. This left Tim with a very bad black eye. Scores came from Tommy Lait and myself but it was not enough; we lost the match 27-10.

We then had our re-match against Farmor's and the scorers were James Thatcher and Jonny McAllister. We won this match 12-0, which was a comfortable win.

Our travels then led us to Bristol Cathedral School for our closest match of the season. Tommy Lait scored twice and Greg Jones made his first big tackle, which led to another try. The final score was 29-19.

Then came our final match together, against Kingham. Tommy scored twice and I scored twice. Jonny McAllister got one and Thatcher got one; Christian also scored another try.

We would all like to thank Mr. Sykes and Mr. Dodd for their great efforts, and most of us are looking forward to senior rugby.

**T. Lait**

Played 15, Won 10, Lost 3, Drew 0, PF 349, PA 95

*Team from:* T. Lait (Captain), M. Hutchinson (V.Captain), T. Lockyer, J. Coppersmith-Heaven, B. Hopley, D. Grice, J. Thomson, J. Von Rottenhan, D. Roper, C. Jeffreys, G. Jones, J. McAllister, T. Bates, J. Thatcher, S. Hicks, D. Moxham, C. van Welij, B. Baghdadi.

#### U14 XV

The squad worked hard during the practices and this endeavour paid off towards the latter part of the season with the particularly good performances against King's Glos, Cokethorpe and Kingham.



Leighton Park, Cheltenham College B and the first three losses were against better opposition; the team did well to stick at it - their heads never 'dropped'. Some naivety was shown against Bredon and St. Edward's when the matches were lost in the latter stages having been in the lead and can therefore be said to be slightly disappointing.

Peter Mason captained with great leadership and never faltered in his efforts - the quintessential scrum half who was everywhere. The pack worked increasingly well with the front row of Barney Vick, Christian Good and Richard Burden putting in some determined nicking and mauling. Ed Warrington and Jimmy Yu provided stability and plenty of driving power in the second row. Michael Arkle and Mark Ward worked tirelessly on the flanks. Richard Lefeuvre provided a great deal of strength in running from the back of the pack.

Yusuke Hiratsuka was the spearhead of the centres, ably supported by Tom Davies with the pace of Henry Adams and Matt Day on the wings. Very effective tactical kicking was provided by Harry Powell and Ralph Aspin, both of whom played at full back and often made excellent forays from deep in their own half. Charlie Crisp and Adam Hopley both stepped in to the breach when required and served the team admirably.

All this talent bodes very well for next season.

Played 12, Won 5, Lost 7, PF 242, PA 222

*Team from:* B. Vick, C. Good, R. Burden, J. Yu, E. Warrington, M. Arkle, M. Ward, R. Lefeuvre, P. Mason, H. Powell, T. Davies, Y. Hiratsuka, M. Day, H. Adams, R. Aspin, A. Hopley, C. Crisp

**ASB**

#### U13 XV

In many ways, the results below tell their own story. The team simply was not strong enough to compete effectively against their opponents. With only a small number of Second Year to choose from, many First Year players had to be brought into the side right from the start of the season, and inevitably we therefore lacked the size, strength and tactical know-how of the opposition. In addition, as a group, our forwards lacked pace and mobility to the breakdown, and so we were always on the back foot, having to exist on scraps of possession for much of the time and unable to mount effective attacks. Solo efforts were often heroic, but always snuffed out. Moreover, our defence, though often determined, had its weaknesses, and when the opposing teams discovered these, then our chances of keeping them out were not great.

And yet the results do not quite tell the whole story. Firstly, there were good things to report as well. Luke Baghdadi's captaincy was excellent, despite the frustrations of being on the losing side so often, and he set a towering example of how the game should be played. Similarly, Justin Reid's never-say-die attitude was inspirational, as was the strong running of Ben Peter-Bragg and James Ko. What is more, the fact that so many First Year players took part this season means that next year we will already have an experienced nucleus around which a team can be built, something which was lacking this year. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the team never gave up, despite the setbacks. Their spirits did not falter, and every week the feeling was "This week we'll win". Sadly it was not to be, but the very fact that they thought that way speaks volumes for their attitude. Several of the players have said how much they *enjoyed* their rugby, despite the team's record, and in the end that is what matters most.

**MHG/DE**

Played 9; Won 0; Drew 0; Lost 9; PF19; PA 248.

*Team from:* L. Baghdadi (Captain); B. Peter-Bragg, T. Chester-Master, M. Denham, A. Finn, T. Hyatt Khan, J. Ko, J. Reid, A. Saedaldin, T. Soanes, B. Staines, J. Williams, J. Baalham, W. Drewett, E. Hutchison, L. Paine, J. Pidgeon, S. Rich, G. Tatham-Losh, A. Thomas, W. Thwaites.

## Senior Girls' Hockey

### 1st XI

The 1st XI has had a tough season and the results do not seem brilliant. We have won 2, drawn 2 and lost 7 of the 11 fixtures. We have come up against some strong sides of considerable skill and pace, and early in the term we did struggle.

A genuine spirit and determination has emerged, however, and the performances against St. Edward's and Wycliffe in particular were outstanding, with improvement in all areas of the game. Anna de Lisle Wells has shown real class in her midfield role, and as a captain she has been well supported by all who played, perhaps especially by Rebecca Whatman in the heart of the defence, and Sophie Sprawson in attack. Nellie Abbott has had an excellent season in goal - very busy but coping superbly under real pressure.



They have trained hard as a team and made every effort to improve. The results in the end did not do justice to their quality of play - with a little more luck they could have won all of the post half-term games.

CJW

Played 12, Won 2, Drew 2, Lost 8, GF15, GA26

v Cheltenham College (H)	L 0-2
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	D 1-1
v St. Mary's School, Calne (H)	W 5-0
v New College, Swindon VII (H)	L 0-8
v Pate's Grammar School (H)	L 0-5
v Westonbirt School (A)	D 0-0
v St. Peter's School, Gloucester (H)	L 2-4
v St. Edward's, Cheltenham (A)	L 0-1
v Wycliffe College (A)	L 2-3
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	L 0-1
v Cokethorpe School (H)	W 5-0
v Old Rendcombian Society (H)	L 0-1

*Team from:* M. E. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, A. de Lisle Wells (Capt.), S. Donovan, S. U. Forster, H. Mizon, S. Sprawson, C. E. Webb, R. J. Frazer-



Holland, A. J. Gilbert, A. Osborne, H. Pearce, N. Scarth, C. Schotten, R. J. Whatman, F. Burden, J. Crisp, V.E. Mackinnon, R. Warrington.

### 2ND AND U16 XIS

The 2nd and U16 XIs had good seasons, collectively winning five matches, losing four and drawing one. Initially their skills were better suited to grass but big improvements in stickwork and, in particular, marking, made them more exciting to watch and competitive on all surfaces. Sarah Padmore took her chances very well and scored 7 goals, while at the other end Toe Gilbert made many outstanding saves. The team spirit was excellent and certainly contributed to this enjoyable season.



CJW

2nd XI: Played 8, Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 3, GF11, GA11

*Team from:* S. U. Forster (Capt.), H. Mizon (Capt.), A. Gear, A. J. Gilbert, H. Pearce, A. J. Roberts, N. M. Scarth, C. Schotten, K. Wilson, F. Burden, K-A. Chaiwatanasirikul, O. M. H. Evans, H-L. Leung, V.E. Mackinnon, S. L. Padmore.

U16 XI: Played 2, Won 1, Drew 0, Lost 1, GF3, GA3

*Team from:* A. J. Gilbert (Capt.), F. Burden, K. A. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Crisp, O. M. H. Evans, A. Fridman, N. J. Gilson, H-L. Leung, V.E. Mackinnon, S. L. Padmore, A. J. Smith, R. Warrington

## Junior Girls' Hockey

This has been a very successful season for the Junior Girls' Hockey teams. Successful not because they have won all of their matches. Analysis shows that collectively they have won and drawn as many matches as they have lost. Successful because:

This is the first season there have been enough girls in each year to be able to field an U15, U14 and U13 team on the same day. In the past we have had to field a team combining two-year groups. This means the fourth years played as an U15 team for the first time. With a squad of 14 girls, of which just seven had had match experience, each match has been an improvement on the last.

There is success for the hockey coaches when they see an improvement in their players, excellent team spirit and close matches. The U14s have shown all of these qualities to Mrs. Mead in her first year of coaching a

College team. Two girls new to the third year, Rebecca Demczak and Laura Burley, have helped the U14s to some good results, especially a 4-0 win over The King's School, Gloucester.

There has been success for individuals, with Jessica Weston and Charlotte Phillips from the second year being invited to attend the U14 Hockey Centre of Performance for the County. These two players along with the rest of their year have shown a wonderful team spirit and desire to learn. This has resulted in them losing just two of their seven matches. Their best result has to be a 1-0 win over Wycliffe College, when every member of the team played their best hockey of the term.

**SMW**

### **U15 XI**

With a squad of fourteen girls (of which three were beginners at the start of the year) you might think it would be impossible to choose an U15 team and play six matches during the term. Well, the current fourth years have managed it and with no absences at all. After a heavy defeat in their first game of the season against Cheltenham College they realised that they had to work hard to prove they were a match for the rest. They certainly did that. Every girl improved her skills in particular her positioning and tactical play during the matches. The girls even coped with a completely new defensive strategy. Each match was an improvement on the last and the highlights were the 3-0 win against Cotswold School, where Hannah Ewing scored a hat trick after excellent team build-up, and the matches against St. Edward's, Cheltenham and The King's School, Gloucester where the whole team played well. Holly Earl has been a 'brick wall' in goal and I must congratulate Imogen Eaton who ran tirelessly from end to end, never gave up at any time and was a real credit to the team throughout the season. I wish them all well for next year.

**LD**

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5.

*Team from:* H. Earl, I. Eaton, L. Evans, H. Ewing, A. Hughes, L. Jack, F. Levy-Bull, R. McDonald, H. Osborne, H. Pratt, S. Reid, J. Spanier, Z. Turner, G. Webb-Dickin.

### **U14 XI**

In September we joined the third year of Rendcomb College, and soon found that if you knew how to hold a hockey stick, had plenty of enthusiasm and were willing to learn that you would be in the U14 hockey team. This was the team's first year of playing as a year group, although as the team list below shows, when illness and injuries struck there was the need to call upon the second years to fill the gaps created.

It took a while to find a settled team, with the need for a goalkeeper from our year being the most urgent position to be filled. Nicola King from the second year started the season for us, until Romilly Evans took over, going back into goal where she had played in her Junior School days. A forward line of Alice Barefoot, Chloe Clarke and Amanda Lomax was soon decided upon, but the backs and midfield combinations took longer to be settled. Jade Finn and Meg Barne were both a tower of strength and consistence wherever they played, showing intelligent use of the ball and tireless marking.

There have been some excellent performances this season, not always resulting in a win, as in the first match of the season we were losing 2 - 0 at half-time against a very strong team from Cheltenham College, but during the second half scored early to make it 2 - 1, and then missed several chances to make it 2 - 2. We finally succumbed to a late goal from Cheltenham to lose 3 -1, but felt we had been as good if not better than our opposition in the second half. Good wins against The King's School, Gloucester (4-0), Kingshill School (2-1), and Cokethorpe School (1-0) gave the season a boost. In all three of these matches the wins were achieved by good team work with every team member playing well with each other.

Modesty does not allow Laura and Rebecca to mention their contribution to the Under 14 team this season. Laura as a back and Rebecca in midfield have both been an asset to the team.

**Laura Burley and Rebecca Demczak, with SMW**

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 4; GF 10; GA 11.

*Team from:* A. Barefoot, M. Barne, L. Burley, J. Cadbury, C. Clarke, S. Colson, R. Demczak, R. Evans, J. Finn, N. King, A. Lomax, A. Marlowe, C. Phillips, R. Postlethwaite, H. Roper, S. Rudderham, L. Sandover, A. Welch, J. Weston, H. Whitby-Brown

### **U13 XI**

The season started with the excellent news that Jessica Weston and Charlotte Phillips from the second year had been invited to attend the Under 14 Centre of Performance for Gloucestershire. However the excellent results attained by the U13 XI in matches have been due largely to the whole team playing well together, and individually each girl playing and giving of her best.

In practice, the first and second years have worked enthusiastically, which has made it a joy to coach them this season. Inspired by the elite of the football premier-ship, many of the practice sessions were spent on team tactics, with keeping possession of the ball and accurate passing an underlying theme to much of the work. Although by half term a regular

team line-up had been settled upon, five girls from the first year were given the opportunity of playing for the U13 team during the second half of the season. They were Sophie Boyd, Emma Couch, Samya Malik, Chloe Slater and Polly Rudderham. To pick out individuals would be unfair as all the U13 players have worked as a very coherent and happy team. In fact the 1-0 win over Wycliffe College was due to a wonderful team effort, with every player putting in their best performance of the season. The Headmaster's Commendation which they were given was not for the result, but for the manner in which it was achieved.

For the first time in several years, we took a team to the County Mini Hockey tournament during the Spring term. This is always a difficult tournament to compete in, with the variation of the rules and the number of team players, along with it being 'out of season' for our girls. The girls did not win any matches, drawing two, and losing two, but did play some excellent hockey at times especially when they held Cheltenham Ladies' College to a 0-0 draw in the first half of the match which the Ladies' College eventually won 2-0.

There is no captain marked in the team below, as each match saw a different captain. This enabled as many girls as possible to have the opportunity of experiencing the responsibilities of captaincy both on and off the field, and practice in public speak by giving a match report during Monday's assembly.

**SMW**

Played 7; Won 2; Drew 3;  
Lost 2; GF7; GA8.

*Team from:* J. Cadbury,  
N. King, A. Le Feuvre,  
S. Malik, C. Phillips, R.  
Preston, F. Roberts,

H. Roper, H. Stutchbury, V Symcox, E. Wells, J. Wells,  
J. Weston, E. Wickham.

## BOYS' HOCKEY

On Saturday 5th February ten teams took to the fields and astros to play Kingswood, King's and Rose Hill. This involved about 120 boys and represented a considerable feat as we selected from just 140. In fact this was repeated on the last Saturday of the term against Monkton. Such is the continued interest in this sport. Rendcomb is fortunate to have so many staff who are willing and able to coach skills and strategy and we welcomed Mr Debenham, Mr Dodd and Mr Whitehead this season. However, this placed considerable pressure on the maintenance staff because the school was without a groundsman for the

whole of the term. The efforts of Paul Cairns and his team were very much appreciated.

A newcomer to the fixture list was Greendown School in Swindon which was able to offer quality hockey for three age groups. Once again the 1st XI attended the Bath Festival whilst the under 13 boys and girls competed in the Gloucestershire Mini-hockey tournament in Cheltenham.

In the final assembly of term I was inspired to put on the 1st XI goalkeeper's kit to present the term's hockey report. There is no doubt that Rendcomb is very fortunate to have so many skilful and fearless keepers who are able to play a major part in allowing a small school to compete successfully with larger ones.

When I started running the hockey in 1981 there were more boys than now but only 33 matches were played that year and unusually not many were cancelled due to bad weather. (There were very few all weather surfaces then and certainly no astroturf pitches in Gloucestershire!). This term over 90 matches were played and from the statistics below it is clear that Rendcomb did well in 2000.

**CJW**

Overall record: P91, W39, D15, L37, GF191,  
GA191.



## 1st XI

With nine players back from last year team selection at the beginning of term was relatively straightforward and produced a very experienced line-up. The settled nature of the side helped to develop teamwork and understanding and at their best this eleven were capable of sustained

bursts of constructive hockey. They could pass the ball confidently to retain possession before delivering the decisive thrust through the opposition defence and they learnt how to play down the flanks by creating an overlap. They won eight matches and in the process scored some superb goals. However they were not always able to play well enough for long enough in some of the tougher matches and at their worst they could fiddle around to no great effect or throw away possession with poorly-weighted passes.

The season began with an unexpected yet deserved win over Colston's and this was followed by the first of two outstanding performances against King's, Gloucester. Later highlights included comprehensive victories against Christ's College and Hereford Cathedral School and a superb comeback to draw

with the Old Rendcombians. Only two schools, Kingswood and Exeter, were much better than us on the day, playing with a pace and control that we could not match. Term ended with an enjoyable time at the King Edward's School Festival in Bristol and Bath, where we learnt the requirements of the game according to the interpretations of visiting Dutch umpires as well as surviving a hailstorm.

There was much to praise in the performance of every individual in the team. Paul Szybiak was very sound in goal, except for the occasional moments when he lost concentration, and at his best made some spectacular saves to keep us in the closest games. The back four in defence looked secure against all but the sharpest opposition; their marking and tackling reflected considerable progress from last year. Andrew Sage was perhaps the most improved player in the team, while William Witchell's timely interventions and strong hitting were often crucial. Nicholas Hall showed complete coolness and authority except for one or two aberrations and Freddie Lait came into the side to learn and perform the difficult left-back role most effectively. In midfield there was a welcome return for the talented Carlos Garcia, while Rafe Smallman continued to supply the really penetrating pass. Jonathan Pratt showed immense skill and usually made it count although he had to adjust to less time and space at this level. As a unit they had to be cajoled into doing the defensive work but our success or failure usually depended on how well they performed this task. Up front Yuki Takanashi took a little while to get into his stride on the right wing but then proved a real handful for his markers. Patrick van Welij looked a class act on the left when things were going his way and James Brittain-Jones hustled the opposition defences in his inimitable style at centre-forward. All three of them scored their goals; some were spectacular efforts while others were simple tap-ins after a devastating passing movement (unfortunately there were also glaring misses from close range!). Edward Hogarth was unlucky to have to spend a second season as the all-purpose substitute but he never let us down in any position.

The overall record of the team's results is a strong one, much better than last year and a fair reward for the hard work put in by everyone. Much of the credit must go to James Brittain Jones, who captained the side with great enthusiasm. Thanks are also due to Mr. Griffiths, Mr. Wood and all the other coaches for their loyal support. They have invested an enormous amount of time and effort into creating the strength in depth which is now such a feature of Rendcomb's hockey and which is so essential for first eleven success.

**DHM**

Played 16, Won 8, Drew 5, Lost 3. GF: 44, GA: 35.

v Colston's School, Bristol (H)	Won 1-0
v Cheltenham Wednesday H. C. (H)	Drew 1-1
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won 6-1
v Kingswood School (A)	Lost 0-8
v Bristol Grammar School (A)	Drew 3-3
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 2-1
v Royal Grammar School, Worcester (H)	Lost 3-4
v St. Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)	Won 2-0
v Christ's College, Brecon (H)	Won 6-0
v The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Drew 3-3
v Hereford Cathedral School (A)	Won 4-1
v Bournside School (H)	Won 4-1

**King Edward's School, Bath Festival**

v Exeter School	Lost 0-6
v Torquay Grammar School	Won 5-2
v Sedbergh School	Drew 2-2
v Westville High School	Drew 2-2



Team from: J. Brittain-Jones (Capt), C. Garcia, N. Hall, E. Hogarth, F. Lait, J. Pratt, A. Sage, R. Smallman, P. Szybiak, Y. Takanashi, P. van Welij, W. Witchell.

**2nd XI**

The main characteristic of this year's hockey team was teamwork. Excellent organisation and discipline was supplied by the captain, Ed Farnsworth and he led the team brilliantly throughout the season. He also moved position to the right wing and besides making numerous goals, which were often smashed into the net by an almost carnivorous Rupert McKelvie, he also scored several goals of high technical quality himself. Rupert was initially a reluctant centre forward, but he became a scoring machine and plundered all five against a good-looking Old Boys Team! The mid-field was marshalled by Matt Williams and it was often his perspective passing into the space behind defenders which caused so many problems. This, allied to his late bursts into the circle, arriving late to create an extra man, caused much confusion in opposition defences and his tactical awareness makes him an obvious candidate for

England's football manager. He was assisted by the busy Steve Ward and Mr. Coolness personified, Mike Elsworth. Their midfield dynamics were heightened by some scintillating runs out of defence by Laurie Barton who, as an attacking right back, became the springboard from which so many dangerous assaults were launched. Always firm in defence were the highly disciplined unit of Tom and Giles Drew, Chris Henson and the ever dependable Tom Mais whose well timed tackles and goal line clearances saved us on numerous occasions. Ed Wadsworth replaced the brave but injured Charlie Cowper in goal and became an absolute rock in the defence. His courage was worth a medal.

The season was extremely successful and there were outstanding victories over King's School, Gloucester and the O.R. team but maybe the result of the year was the goal-less draw against a superb side from Kingswood School, Bath. Teams which beat us usually did so, because they contained players who possessed an extra yard of pace but no-one took an easy win from us and we played a great deal of fine hockey during the season. This was certainly one of the best and most enjoyable 2nd XI teams I have ever coached and I would like to congratulate all of them on an excellent season.

#### **MSG**

*Team from:* E Farnsworth (Capt.), M Williams, (VC), R McKelvie, P Bougiovanni, J Spackman, S Ward, M Elsworth, L Barton, T Mais, T Drew, G Drew, C Henson, E Wasworth, C Cowper

#### **3rd XI**

After getting over the first two defeats of the season, against Wycliffe and Kingswood respectively, the 3rd XI showed real grit and proved a great success. From this point onwards we were only to lose one more game, which came on the final day of the season.

Our later success stemmed from a solid backline and a great keeper in Charlie Cowper, with the added help of a very able Ludger Frese, who deputised when Charlie was injured. Oily Wallis was a real credit to himself and the side, his determination and skill coming forward really boosted the morale of the side from an early stage. John Raby also deserves a special mention for his relentless efforts never to give in. His efforts cleared at least three balls off the line to save the game for us. Nat Maylott and James Spackman deserve mentions for their skilful contributions in midfield, and most of all Chris Sykes for not only his skill and commitment but also his excellent finishing, which led to a season total of seven goals.

I also thank Mr. Brealy for his patience and skill in dealing with a side that initially needed a push in the right direction. Without his time and effort the season

would not have been such a success. All in all, a very positive season!

**Ben Stanfield**

Played 8, won 2, drew 3, lost 3, GF 12, GA 18

#### **4th XI**

"What..., we have to play against other schools? We can't even play this game." What a wonderfully encouraging sentiment to start the term I thought! However, as the season got under way it quickly became apparent that underneath this surface of a seemingly reluctant motley crew lay a fair slice of talent that was brought to the fore in several excellent matches.

After an initial loss in a scrappy game against Kingswood School, the team came to realise that a positive attitude and real desire to win was all that was needed, and this came to fruition in a 7-0 win against Marling. What this match also made clear was that going anywhere near an astro brought a change of approach from all the players in terms of thinking, positioning, teamwork and skill. It was therefore unfortunate that most fixtures were on grass. However, the finest afternoons were probably to be had playing against the 3rd XI, during which with manic enthusiasm, the 4ths brought the upper team to shame. (Sorry Mr Brealy!)

It is always tricky to mention names, but I could not let the season go without mentioning some individuals. Where would we have been without the solid, fearless, German wall of a goal keeper in the form of Ludger Frese. The lightning left and right-wings respectively of Mathew Ewing and Richard Birkbeck. The sweeping of Alex Bowers, and the scary and skilful Andrea Gear as right-back? Congratulations to all players involved in a well-fought season.

**DCW**

Played 5; Won 2; Drew 0; Lost 3; GF 11 GA 11

#### **U15A XI**

The 2000 season proved to be a vintage year, with a total of 49 goals scored and very nearly an 'all conquering season' having lost just one match yet winning ten others. Without doubt this has to be one of the most effective U15A XT's I have had the fortune of coaching during my time at Rendcomb and I thank the team for this.

Any fine team must have key players and Tommy Lait (Captain) must be included here. He really did lead the side and push the players on. In defence the goal-keeper Chris Jefferies is one of the best at this level and held out many fine shots at goal. In attack and midfield we often dominated the play to create very pretty hockey; this team of U15's XI, 2000, well done indeed.



*The Team Talk*

In conclusion I would like to thank the wonderful team of parental supporters present in all weathers, often with bags of chocolate at the final whistle, we all appreciated the help! Finally to the other coaches, Mr M Debenham and Mr H Auld, a heartfelt thank you in what was a very special U15 hockey team.

**JHS**

Played 11, Won 10, Lost 1, GF 49, GA 8



*The Team*

*Team from:* T Lait (Capt), J McAllister, J Thomson, M Hutchins, S Hicks, J Von Rotenham, J Thatcher, D Roper, C Jefferies, T Lockyer, C Van Welij, J Daborn, T Bates.

### **U15B XI**

In a season where the A' side captured the headlines, let us not forget that hardy bunch of souls who have made up the 'B' team this season. Indeed, they have managed to complete a winning season. From a shaky start against Cheltenham College, to a wonderful 5 goal feast against Monkton Combe, the boys of the B squad did themselves and the school proud in the way they conducted themselves. A solid defence, hard working mid-field, and (eventually) a dangerous forward line pulled together into an effective unit as the team progressed.

As a coach, I would like to take all the credit for the performance of the team this season, but I cannot. It was the boys who went out onto the pitch and performed in each game who deserve all the praise; they were a great bunch to coach.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Auld for his help this season in coaching sessions and for his umpiring when I was unable to do so. Thanks also to those who came and supported us through the season, parents and staff alike; it is much appreciated by us all.

**MD**

Played 6, Won 3, Drew 1 Lost 2, GF 8, GA 4

*Team from:* B Baghdadi, D Bond, K Chan, J Copper-Smith Heaven, C Fothergill, D Grice, S Gunner, M Harbottle, B Hopley, G Jones, D Moxham, D Starr, H Takesue, C Taplain, J Thatcher (GK), J Thomson, H Wilson.

### **U14 XIs**

It was always going to be a tough season with a squad of twenty four providing two teams but we did manage to compete successfully on most occasions and, more importantly, there was a significant improvement in skill, commitment and determination. Although practising of skills was not the most popular activity, there was a real need to have really good stick work to cope with that of larger schools. This group was quite good on strategy and if they had been more disciplined about close marking in the early part of the season they would have prevented the opposition from producing so many scoring chances.

Barney Vick played well in goal, always being prepared to go to ground and often making outstanding saves with quick reflexes. Peter Mason, Tom Davies, Richard Lefeuvre, Richard Burden and Christian Good proved to be the most reliable defenders and should do well in the future. Matthew Day and Michael Arkle took their chances well but the team relied too much on break-aways which could always be possible with the impressive skills of Ralph Aspin.

Yusuke Hiratsuka started the season with little or no knowledge of the game and climbed a very steep learning curve, demonstrating just what can be achieved with real determination. His commitment on the right wing could not be faulted and his speed was most impressive.

The most exciting game was the return match against King's, Gloucester which was a real battle of wits and skill in continuous rain. The final score was 5-4 to Rendcomb.

The regular parental support was much appreciated by players and coach.

**CJW**

**A XI:** Played 11, Won 4, Drew 2, Lost 5, GF19, GA31

*Team from:* R. Aspin (Capt), P. Mason (Capt), M. Day

(Capt), B. Vick (GK), R. Burden, M. Ward, C. Good, R. Lefeuvre, T. Davies, H. Adams, M. Arkle, J. Yu, E. Warrington, Y. Hiratsuka, C. Crisp, A. Nomura (GK), A. Hopley.

**B XI:** Played 7, Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 5, GF8, GA28

*Team from:* C. Bell, J. Chiu, N. Clements, Y. Hiratsuka, A. Hopley, M. Isoda, A. Nomura (GK), J. Pearce, H. Powell, E. Warrington, S. Whitby-Brown, J. Yu.

### U13A XI

The season began well with a three way tournament with King's Gloucester and Rose Hill, resulting in a 1-0 victory over King's and a 2 -0 defeat by Rose Hill in a game which Rendcomb dominated in all areas except in the opposition 'D'. Many good chances were created but the finishing was not up to the same standard. This was a pattern which was to be repeated throughout the season.

In only one match was the team deservedly beaten, and that was by a very good Dean Close side. In the other matches the results could have gone our way as we played some very good hockey in the first two thirds of the pitch and had a very reliable goalkeeper in Justin Reid. Ben Staines and Tom Soanes worked tirelessly in mid-field to set up good goal scoring opportunities but luck was too often against us and not enough of these chances were converted. Pinewood School were our only victims in a full match, King's Gloucester holding us to a 0-0 draw in another encounter which we should also have won.

There is undoubtedly plenty of talent in this squad and perhaps with a little more confidence and self-belief they will go on to achieve better things next year.

### CV

Played 10, Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 7, GF4, GA24

*Team from:* B. Staines (Capt.) J. Reid, B. Peter-Bragg, A. Finn, J. Williams, T. Soanes, A. Saedaldin, T. Chester-Master, J. Baalham, W.Drewett, T. Khan, L. Baghdadi, M. Denham, G. Wilson, J. Ko, S. Rich.

### U13B XI

The U13 'B' hockey enjoyed a mixed season. One of the major objectives of the term was to teach the basic skills and rules of the game and we used both grass and astro-turf facilities. Two excellent victories were achieved, firstly a stunning win at St. Edward's where three of our four goals were scored from short corners, and secondly against Pinewood where the team showed lots of spirit in defeating a large team by 2-0. Despite defeats in our other three games there were individual highlights in each of these occasions: William Thwaites' goal against Cheltenham College after beating five players; the standard of Ed Hutchinson's goalkeeping against Rosehill and our

defensive display against Dean Close. Every boy in the first year, and several from the second year, had the opportunity to play and their enthusiasm was maintained throughout the season.

### PMD

Played 5, Won 2, Lost 3, GF 7, GA 17

*Team from:* E. Hutchinson, S. Goffe, L. Paine, S. Rich, T. Snow, G. Tatham-Losh, A. Thomas, W.Thwaites, J. Pidgeon, G. Wilson, A. Hermitage, L. Gunner, R. Uzzell, T. Hyatt-Khan.

## Netball

### SENIOR NETBALL REPORT

This was always going to be a challenging season for both the girls and coaches. Last year's excellent results had been due to very little change in the senior teams over three seasons. A consistent line-up is important in netball, and team work is vital if there is to be success. More midweek fixtures has meant players out on University visits and interviews, and unavailable for the first team matches. The knock on effect was that the second team was weakened as players moved up to the first team. However, this does mean that a large number of fifth year girls had the opportunity of playing in the second team, all of this useful experience for the coming seasons.

### 1st VII

With the departure of five first team players, the priority was to find a well balanced first team as well as introducing new players to the second team. The two key positions of Goal Attack and Goal Defence were fortunately those played by Sophie Sprawson and Sarah Donovan, our two players from last year's firsts, and team selection was around these two experienced players. A defence of Ros Frazer-Holland, Sarah Donovan and Nellie Abbott was soon settled upon, and as the season progressed Jo Hindley became our 'supersub', bringing extra height into the defending circle. Jo joined 6B in September and had not played netball for two years, but quickly regained her form, becoming an asset to both the first and second teams. Lottie Webb seemed to instinctively know when a pass was arriving from Sophie, which made her the obvious partner in the shooting circle, with Helen Mizon and Jo Crisp both playing Wing Attack. Rebecca Whatman was selected as centre having the all important role of linking attack and defence.

Results show that Rendcomb girls do not travel well. We have played more matches away this term and the girls did not always do themselves justice, as often they were capable of playing much better. This was especially true against Monkton Combe School, Bath and The King's School, Gloucester, when there was a lethargy about both teams play. The firsts had convincing wins against Kingham Hill and

Cokethorpe, in fact on both occasions we played with weakened teams. Despite losing their first match of the season to Pate's Grammar School, the 1st VII played some excellent netball, competing well against a team with four county players. It was a much closer match than the score line suggests with Rendcomb matching Pate's goal for goal in the third quarter. In the fixture against Westonbirt the 1st VII produced their best netball of the season, with the defence of both teams playing brilliantly as the low score indicates. It was therefore not surprising that Sarah Donovan was named our 'Player of the season', for the tenacity and skill shown in defence throughout the season. My thanks must go to her and Sophie for all their hard work this season, and also to Miss Bell and Miss Stephenson who assisted with the coaching.

Pates Grammar School (A)	lost 13 - 32
Kingham Hill School (H)	won 30 - 11
Monkton Combe School (A)	lost 6 - 31
Cokethorpe School (H)	won 33 - 6
Westonbirt School (A)	lost 8 - 13
The King's School, Gloucester (A)	lost 13 - 18

Played 6; Won 2; Lost 4; GF103; GA111.

*Team from:* N. Abbott, J. Crisp, S. Donovan, R. Frazer-Holland, J. Hindley, H. Mizon, C. Schotten, S. Sprawson (Capt), L. Webb, R. Whatman.

## 2nd VII

Chrissie Schotten and Alice Osborne were selected to lead the second team, but unfortunately we lost Alice after the first match to glandular fever. The first match was against Pate's G. S. which the second VII won 20 - 14. Candice MacDonald was given a brief run in this match, giving her the opportunity of converting her basketball skills in her first game of netball. With Mice's enforced absence Candice had to quickly learn new rules and skills to become the Goal Shooter. Candice was very ably partnered by Sarah Padmore as Goal Attack, with either Jo Crisp or Nellie Gilson on the Wing Attack. Chrissie as Centre, led her team by example, and played some excellent matches. Olivia Evans started as a reserve, but showed such improvement in her play that she ended up as the Wing Defence for the latter half of the season. The circle defence of Rosie Warrington and Jo Hindley proved to be a hard working and a talented pairing, with Hau Ling Leung coming in as Goal Keeper when Jo was on first team duty.

As well as the excellent win against Pate's, the second team should be proud of their 17 - 17 draw at Westonbirt School. A good team performance and some determined play by Chrissie and Sarah, helped to achieve this result.

Played 4; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 2; GF65; GA91

*Team from:* J. Crisp, O. Evans, N. Gilson, J. Hindley, H. Leung, C. MacDonald, A. Osborne, S. Padmore, N. Sasaki, C. Schotten (Capt), R. Warrington.

## U16 VII

Just the one fixture against The Cotswold School, Bourton on the Water, enabled the fifth years to play as a year group for a final time. Alina Fridman and Katie Webb both played their first netball game for College, and helped the team to a convincing 24 -2 win. It was an excellent performance with every member of the team giving a hundred percent and showing great determination and concentration.

**SMW**

Played 1; Won 1; GF24; GA2.

*Team from:* F. Burden, J. Crisp, O. Evans, A. Frindman, N. Gilson, H. Leung, S. Padmore (Captain), R. Warrington, K. Webb, A. Williams.

## U15 VII

This was a term of development and consolidation of skills for the under 15's. The term started well with some excellent practices and being spoilt for choice with potential players. However, I fear we were a little complacent and weren't really prepared for the tension and fast play of a real match. Although our play was good we needed to work on speed, accuracy and really wanting to win. Skills improved as the term progressed under the able tuition of Miss Sarah Bell and I was pleased when the girls opted for extra practices.

During the term excellent play was seen by the shooting 'Dream Team' of Hannah Ewing at GA and Holly Osborne as GS; Zuki Turner and Imogen Eaton were excellent centres. Holly Earl and Felicity Levy-Bull revealed real potential whilst Leanne Evans revealed real leadership potential. Rebecca McDonald and Sam Reid showed real fighting spirit whilst Hayley Pratt had the versatility to play any position. Other girls in the year contributed enthusiastically to practices but didn't represent the school. I hope that Alice Hughes, Lorraine Jack and Georgina Webb-Dickin will strive hard to be on the team next season.

The turning point came in our last matches of the term when skills and determination really came into play. In the penultimate match against Kingham Hill the girls were playing superbly and were disappointed when the match was abandoned early due to torrential rain. The last match was a nail biting one against King's, Gloucester. The girls played magnificently and although the final goal scored in the closing seconds by King's meant that the girls had put up a strong opposition. After the match we all wanted the season to continue so that we could really use our new found skills.

I think that we learned much over the season and have learnt from the mistakes made at the beginning. The girls are determined to start training in the Christmas term next year so that they can achieve a winning season as a strong team of under 16's in 2001. You have considerable potential girls, good luck!

**N Gill**

### **U14 VII**

This was the first season that our year played with A and B teams. This meant that everyone took part in at least one match, and therefore the team spirit was stronger than it has been in recent years. We are sure this contributed to the fact that we won our first ever match for three years! The match was against The King's School, Gloucester and the final result was 20-9. We are now looking forward to winning even more matches next season. Of course, thanks must go to Mrs. Mead, who coached us this term.

**Chloe Clarke. Sarah Rudderham,  
Holly Whitby-Brown.**

Played 6, Won 1, Lost 5

*Team from:* A. Barefoot, C. Clarke, S. Colson  
R. Demczak, R. Evans, J. Finn, H. Whitby-Brown.

### **U13 VII**

The team started a little slowly but, as they put more and more trust in each other, went from strength to strength. After a few disappointing games, a very exciting match against King's, resulting in a 16-16 draw, put fire in their hearts. The following match was a glorious 19-11 victory over the Kingshill team.

**DRB**

### **U12 VII**

The under 12's began the season on a tentative note, but with the help of their coach, Miss Stephenson and a lot of hard work, they formed a competitive and well balanced team.

Their greatest feat was the 10-8 win over Wycliffe

College where they showed tremendous determination and team spirit. The team's skills were hugely improved and all 12 1st year contributed in some way.

Special mention must go to the huge shooting efforts of Holly Taylor and to the excellent defence from Chloe Slater. The season was enjoyed by all.

**BS**



## **Cricket**

Cricket 2000 fell into two very clear halves, the first a feast of cricket at all levels with on match days, up to four visiting teams "up top", the second, a half of rain and particularly disappointing late cancellations by

the opposition. These were most frustrating, especially over the latter period of term when we so desperately need to play matches rather than practice.

If there is one issue that has dominated conversations this season it is helmets. Whether or not it is the correct decision to insist upon wearing helmets will be debated for a long time. Those who faced Trueman, Lillee or Thomson with only a cap on their head and a handkerchief for a high pad against the protective health and safety lobby that the decision was hopelessly ill-timed in giving schools so little advanced notice is incontestable. The "scramble" for helmets was an avoidable and stressful experience for all concerned and I have met no-one involved in running school cricket who would not have preferred the instruction to be introduced from January 2001. Anyway, it is now water under the bridge and the future will most likely see serious cricketers at all levels owning their own helmet, as they do a bat, gloves and pads.

And so to the cricket. The U13's did not show a great deal of promise in the early stages, but with coaching and practice, they have made tremendous progress. The U14's have talent and will eventually convert it into victory, but only when they have acquired greater personal skills and collective discipline. The U15's are the most successful team, unbeaten and yet let down by bad weather, cancellations and the odd strange decision. How good to see three of this year featuring in the 1st XI cricket at the end of the season. The 2nd XI were able to play only two matches, as so few schools are nowadays able to field teams at this level. It is, along with "B" team cricket in general, an area that we must work on over the close season. The 1st XI, thought perhaps not to be very strong, have disproved doubters and critics and had an excellent season. We also say farewell to those in 6A, whose future cricket at Rendcomb will be as OR's and in

particular, to our captain, William Witchell who has set such a fine example in every aspect of sportsmanship and leadership.

In mid-term, we once again welcomed Victoria College, Jersey to Rendcomb on their U14 tour. This is a friendship which goes from strength to strength and we are already looking forward to next June.

As ever my thanks go to all who have worked for the well-being of cricket, to the ground-staff, to Mark Naylor and his staff, so often having to provide teas, early lunches and late suppers, to my Common Room colleagues, who give so much time and effort coaching teams, to those wonderful parents who



*Victoria College v Rendcomb Cricket Academy and School XI*

loyally support us, win, lose or draw, and finally to all the pupils who have given their enthusiasm to a beautiful game.

**BLN**

### **RENDCOMB COLLEGE CRICKET DINNER**

Over one hundred people attended the joint Rendcomb College/Gloucestershire Playing Field Association dinner in the picturesque setting of the



*Lord Neidpath, W. Witchell, Headmaster and Marie Journeaux*

Dulverton Hall on Friday 5th May to raise funds for the college 1st XI cricket tour to Jersey and for the local playing fields. The guest speakers Lord Neidpath and Marie Joumeaux spoke entertainingly and the "Benson and Hedges Super Cup" on show won by Gloucestershire last year caused much interest. The auction conducted by Martin Griffiths with his customary flair and enthusiasm raised over £1,800 with such items as a holiday home in France for a week, pony trekking, an army assault course session and an hour's sewing, causing great enthusiasm amongst the bidders. The kitchens once again provided a sumptuous meal and the ambience led once again to a most entertaining meal for all.

### **1st XI**

As usual the start to this season was very wet and the prospect of playing cricket seemed unlikely. However on the first day of term, the rain held off long enough for us to mop up the water on the wickets, then play against Bredon. We always believed that Bredon would be a weak opposition and this proved to be the case when we bowled them all out for 35 with an excellent performance from Ben Stanfield with the ball securing 5 wickets for only 2 runs. We soon

knocked these runs off with the pitch accounting for 2 of our wickets.

Next we faced Bristol Cathedral and this proved a slightly harder fixture. Bristol cathedral batted for 46 overs and finally declared at 80 for 8, leaving us only 14 overs to get our runs. The match was drawn. Next we were due to play Sit Thomas Rich's and as the weather still looked "touch and go", we elected to bat and with some strong batting, pushed the score to 157 for 7. Unfortunately, at this point the rain intervened and the match was abandoned. Some time later our annual fixture against the Gloucestershire Gypsies came around and we suspected another close game but hopefully a win after many defeats by the gypsies. The gypsies batted and reached a total of 173-5. This seemed a competitive although slightly generous declaration. We then managed to achieve this total for the loss of 6 wickets. This gave an excellent 50 from Paul Szybrak and a slightly lucky 50 from myself which helped cancel out some cheap wickets.

Another close match saw us lose against King's, Gloucester although this match did show the strength of our all rounder, Nick Hall who scored 60 with the bat and then took 5 wickets for 58 runs.

There was a large gap in our season at this point to allow for exams and when we came back we faced an extremely strong OR's side and unfortunately lost by 9 wickets.

One of the best bowling performances of the season was by Chris Henson at Cokethorpe with figures of 5-30. Unfortunately despite a low total to chase we managed to lose this time and the lack of three experienced players showed.

We finished our home season with a close victory against Crypt which saw our fate in the hands of our last wicket past Adam Padmore and Matt Hutchins. Thankfully, 'Paddy' kept his head and managed to steer us through to victory. This game showed strong batting from Sam Hicks who bulked up our middle order with a distinguished 38, it also saw another excellent performance from Chris Henson with the ball.

The team this year was strong but unfortunate not to pull off a few more victories. The opening pair of Rafe Smallman often managed to see off the opening bowlers and put some good totals on the board for the 1st wicket. The middle order of Chris Sykes Andy Sage, Chris Henson and Jean-Paul Raby managed to bulk out our scores and help us along to some defensible totals.

The bowling saw some excellent performances from Chris Henson, Ben Stanfield and Jean-Paul Raby. The

older hands such as Nick Hall often put the ball on the spot to produce some very respectable figures. Our wild card was Rafe Smallman who we used to buy our wickets and I am pleased to say most of the time it worked.

Next year will see a fairly young side although it is not lacking in talent. I wish Ben Stansfield luck in captaining the side and I hope to have taught him one or two things.

Lastly I would like to thank Mr. Sykes and Mr Essenhigh and to say that without their invaluable contributions this side would not have developed into such a strong side.

### W Witchell

P, 12 W, 4, D, 2, L, 5, A, 1

v Bredon (H) won by 8 wickets  
Bredon - 35 (5-2 Stanfield)  
R - 38 for 2

v Bristol Cathedral (H) *Match drawn*  
Bristol Cathedral 80 for 8 (46 overs)  
R - 28 for 3 (14 overs) Bodenham 5 -25

v Thomas Riche *Match abandoned - rain*  
R - 158 for 7 (Witchell 68)  
(Hall 34)

v Gloucestershire Gypsies (H) *Won by 4 wickets*  
GG - 173 for 5 (Smallman 3 - 33)  
R - 177 for 6 (Witchell 59, Szybrak 50)

v Pates (H) *Match drawn*  
Pates 175 for 6 (Bodenham 4-31  
Witchell 2-18)  
R - 52 for 2

OR's (H) *lost by 9 wickets*  
R- 112 (Sage 28)  
OR's 114 for 1 (Stanfield 1-18)

v Cokethorpe (A) *lost by 33 runs*  
Cokethorpe 129 for 7 (Henson 5 - 30,  
Raby 2 - 34)  
R - 95 (Witchell 36)

v Crypt (H) *won by 1 wicket*  
Crypt 114 for 9 (Henson 4 - 18,  
Smallman 2-8)  
R 115 for 9 (Hicks 38)

v Kings, Gloucester *lost by 4 wickets*  
R - 163 for 8 (Hall 60, Witchell 38)  
Kings - 167 for 6 (Hall 5 - 58)

### Tour

v Victoria College (A) *lost by 6 wickets*  
R- 116 for 8 (Hall 36, Witchell 34)  
VC - 119 for 4 (Stansfield 2 - 25)

v Victoria College (A) *lost by 114 runs*  
VC 119 (Henson 5 - 24, Hall 3-8)  
R 105 (Hall 23)

v De la Salle *won by 23 runs*  
R - 160 for 9 decl. (Sykes 69)  
DLS - 137 (Hall 2-1, Raby 2 -17)



1st XI below their winning total against De la Salle

Team from: N Witchell, N Hall, R Smallman, C Sykes, L Barton, A Sage, A Padmore, B Stansfield, P Szybiak, J Raby, M Hutchins, S Hicks, P Bodenham, C Henson

### 1ST XI TOUR TO JERSEY

After what was a very early night's sleep for some of us, we all managed to arrive at Rendcomb poised for what was going to be a very challenging week. However all our strength, stamina and endurance was wholly regurgitated during the ferry crossing which for most of the team, turned out to be one of the worst three and a half hours of their lives. Particular mention must go to Adam Padmore and Ben Stanfield who both had a memorable one and a quarter hours staring into toilets and sick bags, justifying the Ferry's nickname "The vomit comet".

We all managed to rise the following morning from our luxurious accommodation, despite being woken by two ugly cricket generals who sought their amusement by violently disturbing their troops at around 7.30 am. Still, Billy Witchell (Capt.) managed to win the toss and elected to bat first. We were soon 100-2 (Witchell 32, Hall 36) with a very gusty performance from Rafe Smallman as he braved the hard bouncy pitch, putting his body on the line. Unfortunately we tumbled to 117 all out, allowing Victoria College to reach the total at a small cost of 4 wickets.



Our second match was against a weaker Victoria College side. They batted first and with some excellent bowling from all of our bowlers, we skittled them out for 119. There was a very close fight to the end, but we just fell short of the target and lost our final wicket, despite Laurie Barton, with his text book driving and forward defence. He sprang out of character and smashed a huge... four! No... six! Oh dear caught out! Still the performance of the team improved 10 fold and with a day off ahead and our final match we felt confident for a victory.

Our well needed day off was spent meandering around St Helier in the morning, which was really a two hour period for Mr Sykes to choose a present for his ladies back home. The afternoon was spent by the beach playing beach cricket and some of the braver, more courageous members of the side, braved the icy waters of Jersey and plunged into the sea, enjoying the giant waves.

Our last game was against De La Salle School. Batting first we suffered a massive top order batting collapse, but super Sykes C younger came to the rescue. Making an outstanding 69 runs, he rescued the side from possible defeat and justly so after being out so soon last match and saying to me "After all that practice I just go there to get bowled out!" He proved to himself that the practice does pay off. All motivated and ready to bowl, we moved rapidly through their batsmen. However, towards the end of their batting order we found ourselves stuck with two batsmen and unable to break through it looked like the game could end a draw. However, Chris Henson



persevered and managed to take a crucial wicket which gave us the break through to win the game.

On behalf of all the team I would like to thank Mr Sykes and Mr and Mrs Essenhigh for organising and making the tour such a success. Although we lost two and only won one match the team enjoy much more than just winning, moreover, it was a celebration of the season and for the leavers the culmination of their 1st XI cricket careers.

**W. Wittchell**

## 2ND XI

The 2nd XI enjoyed a brief but glorious season with a spectacular victory over Sir Thomas Rich's School and defeat at the hands of King's School Gloucester. The latter fielded eleven genuine cricketers, several of whom would not have been out of place in a 1st XI, and were captained by a very serious young man; hardly in the spirit of 2nd XI cricket!

This season the team was a blend of experience and youthful promise, captained by a stalwart of 2nd XI cricket in his last year, Oliver Wallis, who was well supported by 'senior pros' Richard Walder and Oliver Jeffcott.

Freddie Lait proved once again proved to be a useful all round cricketer despite his inexplicable desire to play tennis. Michael Elsworthy, James Spackman, Rupert McKelvie and Jonathan Pratt all made useful contributions and their combined presence ensured that there was rarely a dull moment on the field. Stephen Ward, Nat Maylott and Mathew Ewing all showed great promise for the future and should be challenging for places in the 1st XI next year.

The team enjoyed their cricket in the best traditions of the 2nd XI and it is a matter of regret that so many of our traditional opponents are apparently reluctant to field a 2nd XI when they clearly have the resources to do so. Let us hope for more competitive cricket next year!

**MS**

*Team from:* O. Wallis, R. Walder, O. Jeffcott, F. Lait, M. Elsworthy, S. Ward, M. Ewing, R. McKelvie, N. Maylott, J. Pratt, J. Spackman.

## U15 XI

This was another excellent reason for the U/15 'A' XI. They remained unbeaten throughout the season and were never in any real danger team spirit was powerful throughout and three of the very good were eventually promoted to the 1st XI.

Of the matches we played, two were won, three were drawn and one was abandoned. The most convincing victory of the season was the defeat at Marling where

the opposition were bowled out for 34 following a fierce onslaught of fast bowling by Sam Hicks, Chris Jeffreys and Matt Hutchins. Bristol Cathedral School and Kingham Hill hung on for a draw. King's Gloucester had the better at another draw when for the only time of the season our bowling and fielding looked



ordinary and Pate's amazingly left the field at play when victory was ours. One of the problems we encountered this season was a series of cancellations from our opponents - this means four weeks without any competitive cricket including two matches washed out, most disappointingly against a Rougemont side who looked a talented opposition.

The batting looked reasonably solid throughout although one or two techniques need to be improved before entry into the senior elevens. Greg Jones has plenty of talent and he scored freely throughout the season including a fifty against Marling, although he looked vulnerable early on. James Daborn was converted into a most effective opening batsman, he was always stubborn and proved difficult to get out at as many of our opponents found out. Sam Hicks looked the most accomplished player, always playing straight and he will surely score lots of runs in the 1st XI. Of the others, Chris Jeffreys scored 42 against Pates with an impressive display of hitting, Tom Lait swung effectively and the tail, when called upon showed talent.

The bowling attack was always hostile and nearly always looked like taking wickets although at times we did not bowl straight enough. Matt Hutchins led by example and took over twenty wickets. Sam Hicks was always dangerous and he enjoyed a five wicket haul against Kingham Hill. Chris Jeffreys extra height and force always troubled the batsman and Greg Jones was a useful utility bowler. Our slow bowlers James Daborn and Henry Wilson bowled carefully when called upon and Johannes Van Rotenhan developed into a useful stock bowler. In the field we held some magnificent catches and Tom Lait's wicket keeping was most effective for has quick reactions and good hands.

I hope many of the squad will progress into the Senior Eleven's for cricket is a marvellous game, full of skill, courage and athleticism. Matt Hutchins was an excellent captain and always led from the front. I thoroughly enjoyed my season and I will look forward to walking the boundary, watching many of

this excellent squad playing for the senior elevens.

Played 6, Won 2, Drawn 3, Abandoned 1  
*Team from:* M. Hutchins (Capt.), G. Jones, J. Daborn, S. Hicks, C. Jeffreys, T. Lait, J. Van Rotenhan, M. Harbottle, D. Roper, H. Wilson, J. Thatcher, J. Thomson.

**PD**

### U14 XI

The third years have experienced a season of promise and frustration. There were some outstanding individual performances with the ball and the bat, but



all too often, when it counted most, the team did not 'fire on all cylinders'.

The most impressive batting came from Peter Mason who scored two 50s and Harry Powell who powered into the 20s and 30s on several occasions. Richard Burden played the classic role of the opening batsman with discipline and determination to stay at the crease. His 36 runs against an aggressive King's, Gloucester bowling attack was one of the highlights of the season.

Our bowlers promised much but often lacked the guile and penetration to unsettle the opposition's top order batsmen. However, there were notable returns for Henry Adams (3 for 21 against Pate's) and Richard Burden (3 for 14 against Victoria College, Jersey). Encouragingly, a further five bowlers picked up wickets during the season - Charles Crisp, Thomas Davies, Matthew Day, Peter Mason and Mark Ward.

Countless runs were saved by a combination of commitment and athleticism from individuals in the field. Especially worthy of note are Barney "the cat" Vick at mid-off and Yusuke Hiratsuka whose ferocious, baseball-style throws from the outfield were frightening to behold! Ralph Aspin kept wicket with courage and skill.



Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to captain Mark Ward and vice-captain Matthew Day for their leadership during a difficult and testing season.

**KT**

Played 8, Won 0, Drew 2, Lost 6.

*Team from:* M. Ward (Capt.), H. Adams, M. Arkle, R. Aspin, R. Burden, C. Crisp, T. Davies, M. Day (V Capt.), C. Good, Y. Hiratsuka, R. Lefeuvre, P. Mason, J. Pearce, H. Powell, B. Vick, E. Warrington.

### U13 XI

The U13 had a reasonable season, we worked hard and I can see a very big improvement in the whole side. During one of our most exciting fixtures, Luke Baghdadi captained the side and kept wicket very well, including: 6 stumping. The batting was disappointing with too many bad shots played and so we lost wickets at the wrong time. Luke "Khan" Baghdadi and Ben Stainess scored most of the runs, with "Khan" batting right through the innings against King's, Gloucester for 36 not out to help save the match for us. Baghdadi was unlucky to get out for 48 on Saturday as he deserved a fifty.

However, we had some wonderful moments with Soanes, Pigdeon, Baalham, Thomas and Reid all batting with wonderful courage to save the match through their batting against the fast bowlers. As Tom Soanes said "This is scary".

We had a very enjoyable season and thanks go to all who supported us including parents, the Headmaster, staff and Mrs Essenhigh.

I would also like to thank David Whitehead for the work that he put in. It is not easy to start the season when some of your players can not catch the ball, let alone play straight and David Whitehead helped very much in this. Also thanks go to John Williams for the wonderful way he encourages the 13B team.

**DE**

Played 7, Won 1, Drew 3, Lost 3

### BOYS' TENNIS

#### 1st VI

In a short but very entertaining term the 1st VI squad achieved a memorable victory over Dean Close and a

hard-earned draw against Wycliffe to compensate for an early season defeat by Cheltenham College. The standard of tennis was consistently high and the long hours of practice put in by the players resulted in a great improvement in technique and tactical play. Sadly five of the squad have now departed and I am grateful to Patrick, Yuki, BJ, Matt and Tom for their dedication to Rendcomb tennis. The nucleus of the team for next year is very strong, with Matthew Carrington and Christian van Welij forming a potentially very effective first pair. Only another four to find! I am sure that the new intake in 6B and the up and coming sporting stars in next year's fifth form will provide the fresh talent needed to keep Boys' tennis alive and well at Rendcomb.

*1st VI Squad:* P. van Welij (Capt.), T. Mais, J. Brittain-Jones, Y. Takanashi, M. Williams, M. Canington, C. van Welij.

**CV**

Played 3, Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 1

### MIXED TENNIS

Two fixtures were played this term with only a 50% success rate compared to last year's clean sweep but as usual the matches were very enjoyable and played in good spirit. An easy victory over Cokethorpe was followed by a narrow defeat by St. Edward's School who took the tie on the final match.

**CV**

Played 2, Won 1, Drew 0, Lost 1

### GIRLS' TENNIS

#### 1st VI

The 1st VI achieved a mixed set of results, but overall it has been a very good season for the team. There have been some notable performances both collectively and individually, and this was reflected in some of the results. These included the resounding win over St. Edward's School, Cheltenham, 6 - 0, and solid wins against The King's School, Gloucester, 6-3, and Cheltenham College, 6-3. The team's defeat by Wycliffe College,

Stonehouse was another good game, with the 1st VI losing 3 - 6 to a side who are traditionally very strong. The final fixture of the term saw the school field a depleted side through exam leave, losing to Dean Close School, Cheltenham with a score line that flattered the opposition. The team has been ably led



by Sophie Sprawson and the 1st VI have all performed brilliantly this year. Congratulations on a good season.

**SCB**

Played 5, Won 3, Lost 2.

*Team from:* S. Sprawson (Capt), P. Chaiwatanasirikul, J. Crisp, A. De Lisle Wells, S. Forster, H. Mizon, A. Osborne, C. Schotten, L. Webb.

## **2nd VI**

Unfortunately the 2nd VI had all but one of their matches cancelled or made into a mixed fixture. However, the one fixture they did play they won, 6-3. This was against College, Stonehouse and the girls are to be congratulated, especially Nellie Abbott on her first appearance in a College tennis team, on such a convincing victory.

**SCB**

Played 1, Won 1.

*Team:* N. Abbott, P. Chaiwatanasirikul, S. Donovan, S. Forster, A. Osborne, M. Schumacher

## **ROUNDERS**

This season the Junior Rounders teams have been coached by Mrs Dodd, Miss Stephenson and myself, and my thanks go to my colleagues for all their hard work, and their input into this report.

Thanks must also go to the girls, who have put a lot of effort into their lessons and matches, and have all shown an enjoyment and an enthusiasm for the game of rounders.

Unfortunately, the weather affected several matches during the season, making the number of matches played disappointing. We have lost most of our matches, but the Under 14 team had a notable victory in their 29-19 win against Wycliffe College at the beginning of the season. At this point I must congratulate the U14 team, at each of their four matches they have shown great sportsmanship which has been commented on by the oppositions' umpires.

I would like to mention a few individuals; Louise Bowen and Hannah Kay who have so rapidly improved because of hard work and determination that they were selected to play for the U12 team.

In the U13 team, Heather Roper for her fielding and batting, and Jessica Weston for some outstanding fielding, with the taking of some memorable catches that even the 1st XI would have been proud of.

And finally the top rounders scorers for the season in the U14 team - Alice Barefoot, Romilly Evans and Rebecca Demczak.

**SMW**

## **U14 IX**

The third form girls have had an excellent season and all have improved their rounders skills considerably. Unfortunately, several matches were lost due to wet weather making the grass unsafe for play. In each match played the team showed good team spirit and sportsmanship. In fact at the end of the match against Colston's Collegiate School the girls were congratulated by their umpire on their excellent attitude and fair play.

Team selection was difficult with so many of them meriting inclusion in the team, and we could have fielded a competent 'B' team at each of the fixtures. The first most important decision was the bowler, backstop and first post combination, and the trio of Rebecca Demczak, Amanda Lomax and Harriet Kingsford were consistent and at times brilliant in these positions. All three of them played with intelligence, not only when fielding but also when batting, being among the top scorers for the team. Alice Barefoot and Romilly Evans were the other two leading scorers with 10½ rounders each for the season. These two players along with Holly Whitby-Brown were our deep fielders, all three of them having the ability to throw over-arm accurately and long. Chloe Clarke at second post and Jade Finn at third post both made some outstanding catches and some quick stumpings, as well as saving many a half rounder with their clever fielding.

For each match a new captain was appointed to give as many girls as possible the responsibilities of captaincy. As well as leading the team in the matches the captain was responsible for team lists, taking the bats to matches and writing a report on the match for Headmaster's assembly. Extracts from the four match reports follow.

**SMW**

### **Wycliffe (H) 6th May**

In the second innings we saw some good hits by Holly, Alice and Romilly. Fortunately their second deep kept making the same mistake over and over again so we got a few rounders from that.

We all felt dead as we began to field for the second time. Alice and Becca produced some good catches and we soon got them all out. We were surprised that we won the match and left the pitch with a 29 - 19 win.

**Romilly Evans**

### **St Edward's (A) 25th May**

We had some fast catches and stumping outs on the posts, especially from Chloe and Jade. In the second innings we improved on our fielding, so they didn't score as many rounders as they could have. When we came round to bat we stayed in a lot longer and played safe. The final score was 14½ - 19½ to them.

**Rebecca Demczak**

### **Colston's Collegiate (A) 15th June**

We fielded first as we won the toss. In the first innings their hits went long and far, but still Alice did a good job at second deep to try and stop them.

Their fielding was brilliant. The overall score was 9-17, 1-2 to them. Oh well, we managed to get a Headmaster's commendation for our good sportsmanship.

**Harriet Kingsford**

### **Dean Close (A) 17th June**

Our hitting had improved and it showed as players were actually getting past second post.

**Alice Barefoot**

P4, W1, L3

*Team from:* A. Barefoot, M. Barne, L. Burley, C. Clarke, S. Colson, R. Demczak, R. Evans, J. Finn, H. Kingsford, A. Lomax, S. Rudderham, H. Whitby-Brown

### **U13 IX**

This term the under 13's Rounders team have had quite a good season. Finding opposition was hard as many of our matches have been cancelled or rained off! We lost our first match against St Edwards, although there was a good team spirit. Our second match was against The Cotswold School. We found it difficult to field due to their powerful hits so we again unfortunately lost. Our third and last match was against Prior Park, although we lost this match, it brought a good team spirit by all members of the team. We would like to say thank you to our coach, Miss Stephenson and congratulations to all the team for their good play.

**J Weston, E Wells**

Played: 3, Lost 3, Won 0

*Team by:* E Wells, N King, V Symox, E Wickham, H Roper, J Weston, F Roberts, H Stuchbury, J Wells, C Phillips, A Le Feuvre, L Cambridge, A Thistlewaite

### **U12 IX**

This term we have played four matches, seven were arranged but three were called off. The matches we have played were St Edwards, the Cotswold School, Prior Park and Kitebrook. Unfortunately though, we lost all of them.

Our first match was against St Edwards on the 25th May. They had a very good team and in the first batting we were all quickly out. By the end of the match we had lost badly. Our second match was against the Cotswold School on the 8th June. This was a very close match with some good catches from our team. The scores were close but sadly we lost. Our third match was against Prior Park, on the 10th June. We had trouble finding our way in the beginning! The actual match went quite well, with some good hits from our team. We lost due to the

other team's batting skills. Our final match was against Kitebrook on the 29th June. Our team played really well here, but again we lost. All in all this Rounder's term has been okay and generally a season to learn from.

**R Macted, E Medus**

### **SAILING**

With such a short Summer Term the number of sailing sessions was rather limited but we made good use of them. We were very lucky with the weather, which ranged from total calm to high winds and this tested many of the skills of our sailors. Indeed I do remember one of the group almost somersaulting his dinghy in one particularly bad / good squall!

I would like to thank the group, both the regulars and those who tried it for the odd occasion, for their good company, humour and taped music!



Well done.

**IGP**

### **GOLF**

#### **BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION GOLF**

Three senior pupils at Rendcomb College, James Spackman, Mike Elsworth and Richard Birkbeck competed on the Brickhampton Golf Course in May raising £250 for the British Heart Foundation. They came fourth, just missing a place in the next round by two points. James Spackman won the longest drive and the nearest the pin competitions at the tournament and was selected to represent Gloucestershire in an inter-county tournament in Dorset.



*Michael Elsworth, James Spackman and Richard Birkbeck*

# The Kenyan Connection



Schoolchildren from Irigithathi Primary School with some of the reading books sent this year by Rendcomb College



Martin Griffiths, Matt Williams and James Stutchbury with some of the microscopes to be sent to Kenya helped by the proceeds of the Rock Concert



I know a bank where the wild thyme blows  
where oxlips and the nodding violet grows  
Quite overcanopied with luscious woodbine  
musk-roses and with eglantine