

RENDCOMBIAN

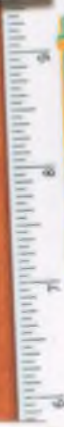


The magazine of Rendcomb College and Junior School
2004

Phil & Sarah



EXCLUSIVE



RENDCOMBIAN

No. 22

September 2004

FRONT COVER

Carra Williams and members of the lacrosse team

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Senior School Events

INSIDE BACK COVER

Junior School Events

BACK COVER

The Otters



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Editorial & Reports

EDITORIAL

Welcome to The Rendcombian 2004. The clarion call last year was for more creativity in this year's magazine. I hope we have achieved this. Not only is there more original work in the form of art, creative writing and photographs but I hope that you will notice that there are very many more articles written by students. And not just straight forward reports either! There are some marvellous flights of fancy in here as well and I have been very impressed with the originality my team has displayed. The editorial group changed somewhat from last year and Alex and Matthew didn't quite know what had hit them as the whirlwinds from 6B spilled out at top volume into the multi-media room! I've never seen the castors on those computing chairs move so quickly to deliver high octane gossip to anyone who would listen! Matt and Alex looked on with quizzical gazes and perhaps wondered what the world was coming to and how did we ever manage to hold onto an empire for so long!

I must extend my thanks to all those who have contributed articles, pictures or original work. A special thanks to those who helped proof read the magazine (blame them for any mistakes) but a special thanks to my team who took on the challenge to produce articles that had a little bit of sparkle.



Fourth Form:

*Matt Hook
Alex Staines*

Sixth Form:

*Heather Roper
Jess Weston
Matt Nichols
Claire Taylor
Caroline Wells*

Next year I think we will go innovative! Not quite sure what that means but I've got the summer to think about it.

If you have any comments or thoughts about the magazine please contact me through school or by e-mail at paulcjennings@hotmail.com

STAFF LEAVERS

> DAVID WHITE

David White retired this summer after 15 years of dedicated service to the College. The college was so lucky to attract David White to the post of Director of Music from John Bentley School in Calne, where he had accumulated a wealth of experience in teaching and in organising choirs and large musical events. He told the editors of The Rendcombian at the time that he wished to be thought of as gently eccentric. Rendcomb had experienced eccentric directors of music in the

past so no surprises were anticipated, however no-one had expected a human whirlwind! He also stated that he wanted to encourage students to enjoy music and he felt that his role would be that of a guide. Well there is no doubt that he has done this par excellence.

He arrived with his wife Judy, his two children, one of whom attended the school and an interesting car. The mini was painted with flowers and the words "Love is all you need" on the doors. Was it a reference to the Beatles or was it one of David's guidelines for life? David quickly made his mark at Rendcomb by involving as many pupils as possible in music and by providing a great variety of music for the school community to hear.

Thom Gilbert (who was at Rendcomb from 1992-1999) wrote in the Old Rendcombian newsletter about this small man of enormous presence, unstoppable energy and commitment as follows:

"Most of my fondest memories of Rendcomb involve the extraordinarily eccentric musical life of a wonderful place which holds enormous significance to everyone who is fortunate enough to be part of it. David embodies this unique musical culture, which has shaped an overwhelming enthusiasm for music in me and countless others." This view was reinforced when many Old Rendcombian musicians attended a party organised for David by his dedicated group of instrumental teachers. At this event Colin Shiner, who also retired this year, spoke of the music staffs enormous respect for David's aims and for his musical talent as a performer.

There is not room here to list all of the musical highlights of David's career at Rendcomb but they would have to include the school choir singing in Bristol and in Gloucester Cathedral, Fauré's Requiem, the Nelson Mass, Handel's Messiah, two versions of "Oliver", "Bugsy Malone", formal recitals and informal concerts, which sometimes included every member of a selected year group. David has always been able to see the potential in people and make the seemingly impossible happen. Thankfully for so many Rendcombians, he has done this throughout his time at Rendcomb. Second generation Old Rendcombian, Paul Sumsion hit the nail on the head with this summary. "Music



The Editorial Crew 2003-2004

flows in David's veins where the rest of us have to make do with blood." In addition to his school commitments, David was the conductor of Cirencester Choral Society for several years.

In 1995 Chris and Penny Wood handed over the keys of the Old Rectory to David and Judy, pleased that the helm was being taken over by a couple who believe in the original Rendcomb values of kindness, absence of class, individuality of thought and high standards in work. David and Judy realised the importance of this housemastership and set about encouraging the young pupils in their care to develop into hard working and responsible boys. Despite Judy's sudden disability in 1996, they both continued to work so very hard at the Old Rectory until their retirement. David would always strive to maintain standards in the music department and to ensure that the Old Rectory ran smoothly. Even after a hard day in the department, he would be seen outside the Old Rectory with a big smile on his face, exuding levels of energy that most people can only do at the start of the day. Many pupils, parents and staff are extremely grateful to David and Judy for what they have achieved during their nine years there. They now hand over to Alex and Amanda Brealy, the Old Rectory's fourth set of houseparents, since its inception in 1966.

The college has been extremely fortunate to have benefited from David's talents, enthusiasm and dedication for so long. He has been referred to as the personification of "Quo Lux Ducit". Well the light now leads to Wales and he will be missed! David and Judy moved to Builth Wells in July and the Rendcomb community wishes them both a long and happy retirement.

CW

> NAOMI GIBBONS

Naomi Gibbons came to Rendcomb College two years ago fresh from her specialist training in Oboe at the Birmingham Conservatoire and a short spell of teaching in an inner Birmingham School. As an Old Rendcombian her appointment was particularly poignant and she soon fitted into the school earning the affection of all the children and older students with whom she came in contact. Hers was a shoulder to cry on, as many grateful girls in

Godman House will testify. Often there was the picture of Naomi walking around the campus with girls hanging onto her like limpets. As a member of the Music Staff, she in particular took charge of the technology side of things and many are the students who have benefited from her expertise and the unlimited time she gave to helping and advising in the use of technology. She was the kind of teacher who preferred to show as much as was necessary and then allow students their head. A lot of composition work happened because she switched on and the students, fired up, finished the race. Recordings of events were often in the hands of budding engineers. It was like that with the Rock Concerts she masterminded - pupil input was the hall mark - composing, setting up groups, engineering though at the same time making sure the best facilities were on hand, bringing in outside expertise when necessary.

Naomi was responsible for the setting up and pioneering of curriculum music in the Junior School and for playing a large role there as an active music teacher. One of the reasons why Naomi was so much wanted at Rendcomb was her multi-faceted talent. She was not only a musician, but a dancer and a drama enthusiast. She was given her head at the end of her first year to produce, virtually single handed 'The Little Shop of Horrors', the summer musical of 2003, a spectacular affair which brought out the talents of unsuspecting thespians.

She will be greatly missed both as a lively teacher but primarily as a lovely person who earned all our affections. She leaves to gain further qualification and teaching at Farmor's School.

Other Leavers include:

Naomi Gibbons
Mary Plint
Jo Hadley
Jacqui O'Sullivan



NEW STAFF

Andrew Gunning
Hugh and Rosalind Marsden
Penny Clements
Melania Clements
Nicky Welfare



Andrew Gunning & Penny Clements



Hugh and Rosalind Marsden

FOUNDER'S DAY

"What, a Bedouin tent in the gym? Awww....that's no fun! Part of the Founder's Day tradition is counting the number of tennis balls in the cricket netting above the speaker's head!"

Not, I'm glad to say, a typical response to the all-new improved Founder's Day. There has been a feeling for a while that our Founder's Day has lacked a focus. Parents were unsure how to fill their



time between dropping students off and the start of speeches, students were at a bit of a loose end and staff just wanted the holidays to begin! So, a committee was formed to look into how we might re-vamp Founder's Day a little and create a more meaningful and enjoyable day for students and parents alike. I think that all those who attended really enjoyed the changes that we have introduced. The treats on offer were many and varied: departmental displays and play rehearsals to peep in on; an enormously well supported auction, a thriving parents' association stand and a bijou French cafe selling hot coffee and tasty croissants. Over a hundred students were occupied by a mixed seven-a-side soccer tournament which flourished despite the weather and other sporting activities were taking place around the campus. Finally, the more formal part of the proceedings; the speeches in that



the local pub:

"Three weeks ago, one lovely summer's evening, Liese and I popped into our local pub after a particularly idyllic walk across the fields. We quickly found ourselves in conversation with a delightful old gentleman who was propping up the bar of 'The Bathurst Arms.' We had been chatting for fifteen minutes or so, when suddenly, and without any warning he asked:

"So tell me, where do you teach?"

Somewhat taken aback by this question I eventually replied:



Chairman of Governors, Sir Crispin Tickell & the Headmaster

Bedouin tent. A shame about the tennis balls but on the whole something of an improvement on previous years I think! If you would like to feed-back any views you may have about Founder's Day, please contact Mrs Dodd through the school. Here's to next year which we hope to make a still grander affair!

Below are highlights of some of the speeches from Founder's day, beginning with the Headmaster's address:

PJ

The Headmaster began his address with an observation about a visit to

"At Rendcomb College."

"Ah yes," said the elderly gentleman, "my son used to go there many years ago, before your time I suspect."

"Probably," I muttered. "And tell me," I added. "What did he learn during his time at Rendcomb College?"

There was a long pause.

"Learn? Oh, it's far too early to tell," the gentleman replied, "He's only fifty-two."

What a wonderful observation and a poignant reminder to us and one which our founder, Noel Wills,

certainly recognized all those years ago: that a Rendcomb education is a process, not an outcome."

The Headmaster then went on to outline the college's academic performance last year, which was excellent (95% pass rate at A level, 92% A-C at GCSE level.)

However, the Headmaster was at pains to stress that league tables and examination statistics do not give the complete picture and that success should be measured in a much broader way. He went on to emphasise some of the other successes of the previous year: the introduction of lacrosse and pop lacrosse, an unbeaten U14 rugby team and a silverware winning soccer side. County honours in hockey and international honours in rounders. Drama was as strong as ever, 'Bouncers and Shakers' being recognized as one of the best productions in recent memory. GCSE and A level drama performances mentioned elsewhere in this magazine were excellent and the year ended with the mammoth production of 'Oliver' which spanned both junior and senior schools. In music everyone marvelled at the fantastically atmospheric 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' and the Lent term concert in Cirencester Parish church was a triumph. Shooters and riders were once again very successful and mathematicians performed well in national competitions. There were trips to Germany and Spain, adventure weekends and cultural visits.

The headmaster went on to emphasize the ever increasing links between the junior and the senior school and illustrated his point with an anecdote concerning the visit to a junior school maths class by the senior school Director of Studies, Mr Dodd:

"Some four year olds had just been introduced to the concept of money and they were busy using fake money to add up totals. As always, the ever-helpful Mr Dodd, keen to gauge the quality of learning in the class, tried to check that one little four year old girl had grasped the point. Mr Dodd asked her:

"If I have ten pence in one hand and five pence in the other hand, what do have?"

The four year old paused for a second or two and then replied: "Big

hands!”

The Headmaster went on to talk about the new Houseparents who will be starting next term and he also referred to the ever-increasing significance of our twinning with Lord Meade School in Uganda. James Stutchbury has written about his visit to Uganda elsewhere in this magazine. We will be welcoming our first teacher from Lord Meade School in September and the headmaster hoped that links through G.A.P. projects would develop over the years. The Headmaster praised the international outlook of the college referring to our Russian dancer, Hong Kong fencer, German tennis players and Japanese 1st XI cricketer!

The headmaster ended his address with the following observations:

“What do we want for our children as they go through our schools? Of course we want them to be good: good at history, good at maths, “bien” at French, good at games, good at music; but surely as we look to our children’s future, what we really want for them is that we want them to arrive at being morally good: good people, good workers, good wives, good husbands, good citizens and good company. I am sure that as our leavers reflect on their time with us, whether they have been at Rendcomb two years, five years or seven years, they will see their Rendcomb experience as the first stage of their educational journey, rather than their last port of call.

As I said, education is a process, not an outcome.”

GH



Our visiting speaker, Sir Crispin Tickell GCMG KCVO, spoke to us about the global challenges facing the next generation of school leavers. In his stimulating address Sir Crispin told us about a time capsule he and others planted at Kew in 1994. He speculated about what those who opened it in 2044 would make of how we had fared in the intervening years. Sir Crispin thought the prospects rather gloomy. However, he outlined the areas where the next generation should turn their eye and pointed out that in his view all the problems were solvable. Sir Crispin ended with the following words:

“For the moment there are six main things for us to think about: human population increase; degradation of land and accumulation of wastes; water pollution and supply; climate change; energy production and use, and destruction of biodiversity. Of these factors population issues are often ignored as somehow too embarrassing or mixed up with religion and the ideology of development; most people are broadly aware of land and waste problems, although far from accepting the remedies necessary; water issues have had a lot of publicity, and already affect most people on this planet; climate

change is also broadly understood, apart from by those who do not want to hear about it: how we generate energy while fossil fuel resources diminish and demand increases is another conundrum; but damage to the diversity of life of which our species is a small but immodest part has somehow escaped most public attention. All these issues are interlinked, and all concern the future of humanity.

Then there is the way in which we treat each other. There is a widening gap between the world’s rich and the world’s poor, and disproportionate consumption of the Earth’s resources. At present about 20% of the world’s people consume between 70% and 80% of its resources. That 20% enjoy about 45% of its meat and fish, and use 68% of electricity (most generated from fossil fuels), 84% of paper, and 87% of cars. The dividing line between rich and poor is not only between countries but also within them. There are the globalized rich and the localized poor, and according to the latest report from the United Nations Development Programme, the gap between them is ever widening.

What should we do? When our capsule is opened in 2044, will people think we got things wrong? Will there be any need for an apology? Were the problems as alarming as we thought in 1994? By nature I am an optimist. All the problems are solvable. But if I am an optimist of the intellect, I am a pessimist of the will. People tend not to do anything until the last moment, and the last moment can



sometimes be too late. They need a friendly catastrophe. Not too big, but not too small, and preferably not affecting anyone in this room.

So what should, our, your, priorities be? Here are mine:

- First recognize the problems and grasp the linkages between them;
- Next feel some responsibility for doing something about them at all levels: individual, family, community, national and even global;
- Next, and perhaps most important, get our values right. Wealth is less good than well-being. As the ruler of Bhutan once said, let us aim less for GDP (Gross Domestic Product) than for GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness). That means measuring things differently with a view to the long term.

In a phrase, my message to you today is: Think Differently. Don't swallow the conventional wisdom. It is for you to make your own wisdom instead."

The College was then addressed by the Head Boy, Nick Evans.



Head boy Nick Evans &
Head Girl Sarah Rudderham

He began in this way:

"Standing here today reminds me of the first Founder's day I went to four years ago. I remember listening to the Head boy's speech and thinking to myself...

'Thank goodness I won't ever have to do anything like that!'

How wrong I was!"

Nick went onto to mention the recent visit by Old Rendcombians who were at the college 60 years ago and how, though conditions may have changed, the essential nature of the school remained the



same. Nick suggested that this essential nature centered on friendship. Nick recollected how he had enjoyed this friendship from the first day when he arrived from a large school in Southampton where, in his words, "at times there, it was sink or swim and I was drowning". Though, in Nick's words, a 'townie' from Southampton, he was accepted into the Rendcomb family. Nick then talked about how Rendcomb's size is part of what gives it its

unique character and allows different year groups to interact with each other. He ended with the following words:

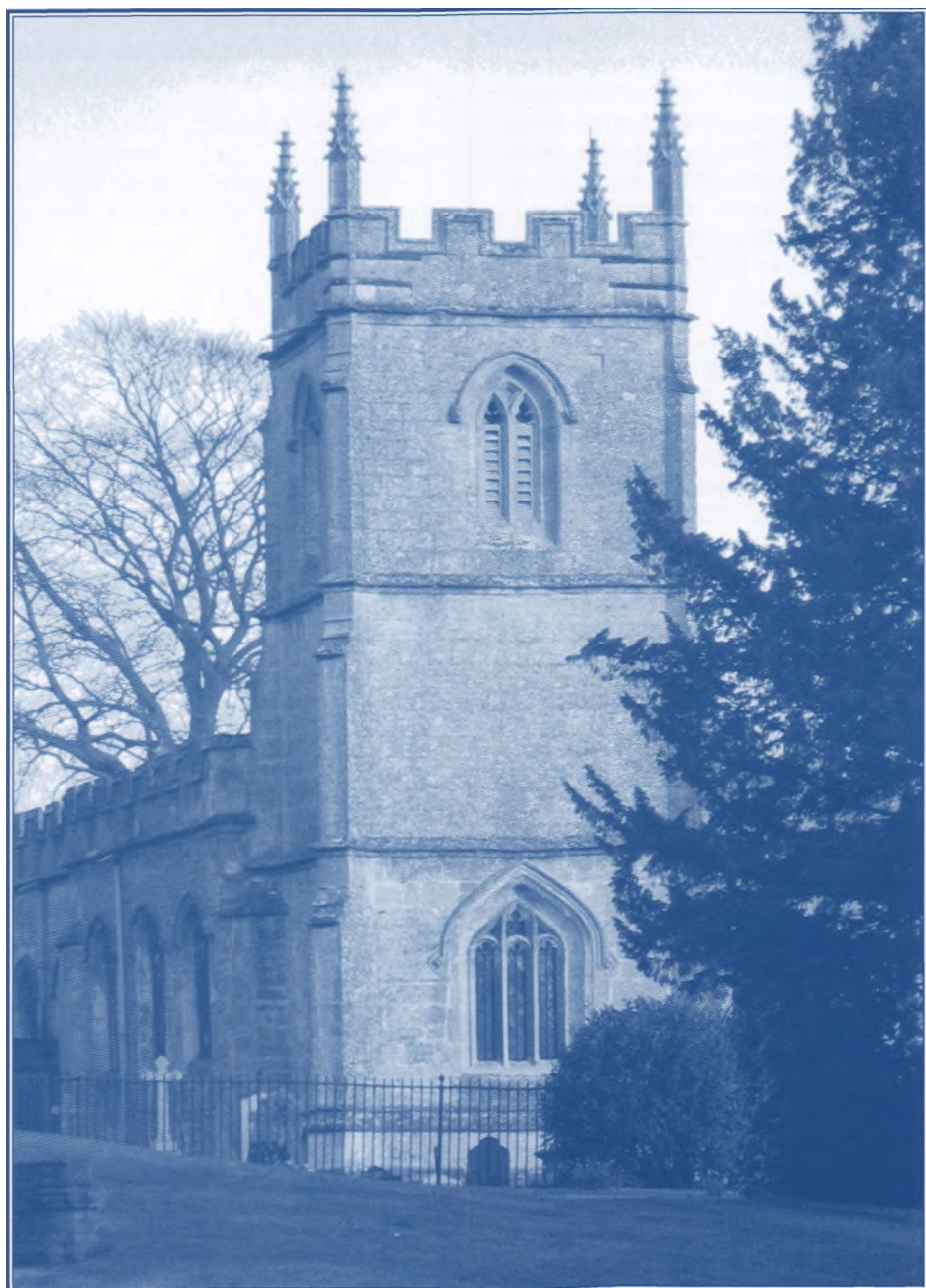
"When Mr Holden interviewed me, before coming here, he asked me this question:

'If I were to give you £1,000 pounds now, how would you spend it?'

I can't remember my answer but typically, he still hasn't given me the money!

But I have received a lot of other things from Rendcomb and I will take away memories, friendships and increased self-confidence.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the leavers, to thank all who have supported us through our time at the college and to wish the school and the leavers best wishes for the future."



Sarah Rudderham, the Head Girl offered the vote of thanks and she too talked warmly about the friendships she has developed since arriving at the school.

CHAPEL REFLECTIONS

What price a good education? It's a good question, especially today. What should we, as parents, expect from our schools? One answer comes from John Gay, the Church of England spokesperson on Religious Education who recently wrote, "Religion is a universal dimension of human life and without an understanding and appreciation of it a child's education is short-changed."

This academic year in our Chapel assembly we have considered in the Senior School the following themes: valuing ourselves and others; stories Jesus told; and living responsibly in a community. Members of the 6th Form and seven members of staff have contributed and we also welcomed a visit from the Gideons. But by far the most memorable assembly was when Dominic Mulcahy entered church playing the bagpipes to illustrate the fact that in God's eyes each one of us is special.

In the Junior School the infants have enjoyed readings from 'The Lion Storyteller Bible' and OHP illustrations of 'The Christmas Tree's Tale'; stories from the video 'Luke Street' and a series on God as 'A Special Friend.' The Juniors have actively participated in a series called, 'Telling Tales' and we have explored the events surrounding Easter and the life of Saint Paul.

At the service for boarders on Sundays we have welcomed guest speakers from Dean Close School, ROPE (Relief for Oppressed People Everywhere), the Cheltenham Ladies College and the YMCA and supported the following charities - ROPE, Lord Meade's School in Uganda, The British Legion and Cirencester Housing for Young People. Our themes have included Old Testament characters; people Jesus met and signs Jesus performed from St. John's Gospel; and a series of meditations based around the events of Easter and Pentecost. There have also been three special services for Remembrance Sunday, the Advent Carol Service and the Carol Service at St. John Baptist, Cirencester, for which I particularly



thank Mr David White.

However, there are some who might question whether children should be exposed to any form of worship. To them I offer these words as food for thought, written by Bishop Michael Marshall: "Real education must include an appreciation, as well as an experience, of the transcendent, spiritual values and an inner life; of reflection and meditation which point beyond the superficial to the foundations of morality and culture. Any educational system worthy of the name will give space and time to develop this as being an integral part of holistic education.

A world without wonder and worship is too horrific to contemplate, since what we worship determines our whole value system, which is but one reason why our children need, through art, music, faith and worship to be 'schooled' and trained in this most human of all qualities, namely, worship as the foundation of an enriched life."

I hope we as parents will continue to want Rendcomb to develop the opportunities for worship and spiritual reflection so that our children can enter the adult world enriched with a broad appreciation of what it means to be human and to be created in the image of God.

CJ

BURSAR'S REPORT 2004

> BUILDING AND GROUND STAFF

Ben Drew and Terry Batemen have joined the team and I would like to pay tribute to them both for all their hard work. Some of the projects that have been undertaken were the Junior School Art Room, the reorganisation of the Art Department, refurbishment of rooms in the Stable Block, the Swimming Pool surround and the myriad tasks required to keep the Campus in good order. Many people have commented on the grounds this year, and although all the team play their part, the leading light with the flowers and gardening on the site is

Harry Evans - a big thank you to him for all his hard work.

> MEDICAL CENTRE

Our thanks to our two RGN's, Sister Julie Pritchard and Sister Judy Hunt whose quiet professionalism, makes a world of difference to the health and well being of the Colleges' pupils and staff. We are also all especially grateful to Sister Julie Pritchard for her tremendous work behind the scenes for our productions; she sewed and altered over 300 costumes for "Oliver".

> CATERING, DOMESTICS, LAUNDRY, HOSPITALITY

Mop and Bucket, Shirts and Socks, Pots and Pans.

Another year is over for the Catering, Domestic and Laundry Staff, but as they say "there is no peace for the wicked" as the academic staff say "Have a nice summer" with a smile on their faces.

What have the "Little Seen" been up to during 2003-2004? Well not only have we been cleaning the corridors, hunting out the owners of unmarked clothes and keeping hungry mouths fed, we have been looking after Opera Singers, helping to raise £12,500 for the local Cancer Cobalt Unit fighting Breast Cancer, hosting the National Snowdrop Conference, Supporting the Chedworth Singers, The Red Cross, Save the Children and fund raising with Discoveries Travel. We have also been the support system for Weddings, Christenings, and Birthday Parties. "No" we have not had a Wake yet, but there is time. Oh yes, then there is the multitude of College Hospitality.

We have seen some comings and goings of staff during the year from the Domestic Staff. Jeannie Puffit from Lawn House has departed and been replaced by Mary Telling, Kay Smith from Stable House has departed and been replaced by Janice Watton and Sandra Carter has, after 15 years, left to work with the Social Services caring for the less able in the local community. The Sports Laundry, based in Godman House has a new Chief with the departure of Jenny Davies and the arrival of Margaret Sharpe in a new Multi-Tasking Role. Mary Cairns has added to her duties by taking on the role of House Master's Assistant in Stable House. Clive Waldron has come back for a third time to join his sister Dawn and

mother Anne in the Catering Department, Mark the Head Chef says "It's his magnetic personality" but I just think he likes the food!

It has been a busy time and all the staff have "taken the bull by the horns" and risen to the challenges: to cap the year off, Cotswold District Council have just awarded the Catering Department the Platinum Food Wise Award and only five other Catering outlets in the whole area achieved this highest possible standard for this award.

I must close now as another wedding approaches, followed by 10 days of the Royal International Air Tattoo Management Team, another wedding, for an ex student and four weeks of Scripture Union Holidays for children from inner cities so my ramblings must finish and a little planning commence!!!!

MN

> ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

When Kay Collins told me that she was emigrating to Spain with her husband and 97 year old mother, I thought she was joking; sadly she wasn't. Kay and her family will be departing from the UK at the beginning of September to live their new life in Spain.

My predecessor, Commander Edward Thring, said two things to me as he left in September 1994:

- One was unrepeatable!
- The other was to make sure that I looked after Kay - she knows everything about Rendcomb and its finances.

Kay has become an institution at Rendcomb. She told me the other day that she has been here 24 years, eleven months and three weeks, which is a long time to be anywhere. She first arrived at Rendcomb in September 1979 as the Assistant to the Domestic Bursar. She then went on to become the Salaries and Accounts Clerk in 1984 and with her excellent attention to detail and her hard work, she had soon made a name for herself. She became the College Accounts Manager on the 13th January 1998, after doing the job for a considerable period before the title was agreed.

Throughout the time that Kay has been here, her kindness, integrity and willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done, have been a shining example to many employed



at Rendcomb. The expansion of the College to include a Junior School with many new parents to look after, let alone the salaries of the new teaching staff, was handled by Kay and her part-time assistant, Sue Thomson, without a murmur. Even the Inland Revenue at Cheltenham have a good relationship with us, which is a great tribute to her professional approach. Her decision to emigrate to Spain with her husband Geoff and her mother is a sad day for Rendcomb College.

We welcome her replacement, Susie Watkins and we wish Kay and her family the best of good fortune in her new life and a happy and rewarding time for Susie at Rendcomb. We are very pleased that Sue Thomson will be here to help Susie Watkins and we would like to thank Sue for all the tremendous support that she has given Rendcomb in the past year.

> SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

The team now consists of: Christine Johnson, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant, Carol Endersby, the Bursar's Secretary, Ann Slark, the Admissions Registrar. Dawn Freegard is Secretary to the Headmaster of the Junior School, and Diana Whyatt and Pam Ruthenbury share the job of Receptionist. Sadly, Pam has decided to leave Rendcomb to help her daughter with a new grandchild. We thank her for all she has done for Rendcomb. We welcome Maureen Dancer on a part-time basis to take her place.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team who provide the secretarial support at Rendcomb and we would like to thank them for all that they have contributed for the College, both Senior and Junior Schools throughout this year.

> LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

We welcome back Rachel Hall from maternity leave and we would like to thank all the laboratory technicians, for all their dedicated hard work to support the Science Department in the Senior School at

Rendcomb College.

> INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Shani Hawkins has taken over as the ICT Technician at Rendcomb and has done a superb job of supporting both the Junior and Senior Schools. I would like to thank her for her hard work during the period when Darrell Hayward was ill, as she rose to the occasion with great aplomb!

We are all pleased to see Darrell back and his skills as a Network Manager mean that we have a system that has very few faults - well done the team!

Summary: I have been at Rendcomb for ten years in September 2004 and it seems like ten minutes! The huge progress that has been made in supporting the teaching staff, and the fabric and buildings of the College is because the non-teaching staff are hugely dedicated and professional. I would like to give them all, in my tenth year, my personal thanks for their support to me and their sense of humour and dedication to Rendcomb College.

JG

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council met every calendar month this year and was chaired by a different prefect each time. We were extremely good at eating the Headmaster's biscuits as well as thinking of new and interesting ideas for living together as a community. Katya Edwards was a particularly vocal councillor with many interesting suggestions, especially the talking rubbish bins, while Leo Wong could always be relied upon to be late!

However, we did formulate some useful initiatives:

The Talent Quest
The new school scarf
Alton Towers Trip
Repair of various items around the College
Sixth Form ID card
Food Committee restarted
Security lighting
Form 5/6 Social
Assembly by Prefects on Bullying

We also enjoyed an Open Forum with the Headmaster when he answered questions about a wide range of topics and we also had a tour of The Tower which is normally out of bounds to students.

out of bounds to students.

So, next year why not be a School Councillor? Be part of the decision making process!

DD

LIFE IN OLD REC & GODMAN

Charles Daly and Jasmine Barks talk to J6 about joining The Senior School.

These two students spoke to the assembled parents of J6 and were certainly the highlight of the evening. Below are some excerpts from what they said:

“Hi! My name is Charles Daly and



is where we build our dens and hideaways. At break-time we play ‘British Bulldog’ which involves a lot of boys running around and falling over.

In the evening as a full boarder we have some quiet time, do our prep and then supper of burnt toast.

it is so friendly and welcoming. As well as being able to be myself, I’ve really enjoyed the challenge of learning in small classes with teachers who know me very well. I’ve also been able to pursue my hobbies, particularly the trips to The Talland riding school. We have great fun in Godman House, whether it’s our mad singing and dancing, watching DVD’s, or being ever so slightly naughty, but I won’t go into that here! We have ‘in-House’ parties and sketches at Christmas which are great fun as are the trips out to places such as the Chocolate factory and Longleat.

There is a House committee in Godman and we discuss nitty-gritty issues such as chocolate spread and the purchase of DVDs’. On a more serious note, we also have a ‘mentor’ system to help new first formers to settle in. There are sometimes problems to do with friendship groups and homesickness but with the help of sensitive teachers we try to find our way through.

As I came through the Junior school, I was familiar with the hectic Rendcomb day and I knew some of the more senior students. This is a particularly unique feature of the school: Older students know and get along very well with the younger ones.

To sum up: I’d say that life at Rendcomb is very busy but with a little help from your friends, the support of the staff and the fun times at Godman House, you learn to take everything in your stride.”

Jasmine Barks

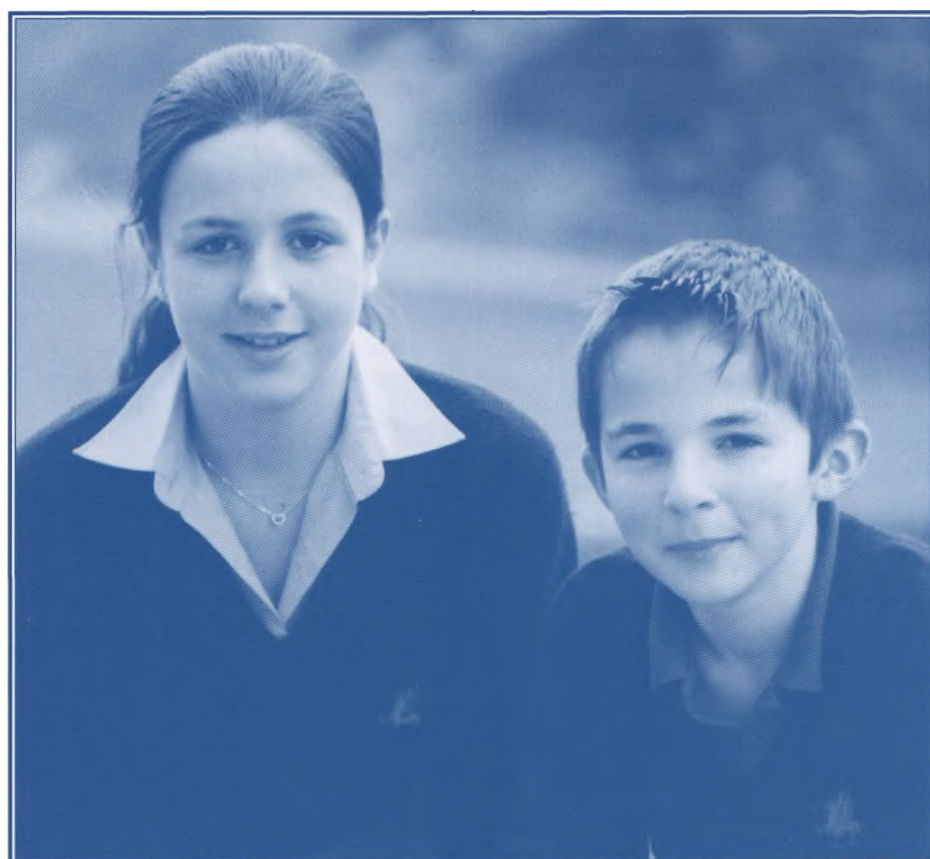
GAP STUDENTS

> GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:
THE HEADMASTER’S
REFLECTIONS ON THE GAP
STUDENTS OF 2003/4.

The Headmaster wrote an article early in the year that appeared in the ‘Times Educational Supplement’. In it he explored the different experiences of some GAP students with whom he was very familiar; his godson, Nigel Riley and the two students we had at Rendcomb last year, Bonnie Stanway and Kirsty McIntosh. Below are some extracts from the article:

The Headmaster began his article in the following way:

“Separated by thousands of miles,



Jasmine Barks & Charles Daly

I’m the unlucky one who has been picked to talk to you about life in ‘The Old Rec’ or ‘The Old Wreck’ as we call it... The house is where first and second form boys live and it is very much like its own community. We have Mr White, Mr Brealy, Mr Morgan and Mrs Lees, who is like a big mum to us. We have a games room, television but most importantly; food! We have our own kitchen where we can eat, drink and talk... Nearby is The Wilderness where we’re not supposed to go but we do anyway and you can see badgers and squirrels up there. This

Lights out at 9.15 p.m. My dorm gets on really well so we lie in bed and talk for a while, then drift off to sleep. Next year I go up to the older boys’ house so I wish the new boys coming in to this one luck. Good luck also to Mr and Mrs Brealy as they take over from Mr and Mrs White!”

Charles Daly

“Good evening. My name is Jasmine Barks and I’ve been at Rendcomb College since September 2001 with my younger sister and older brother. What I like about Rendcomb is that

three very different 18 year olds have finished their gap years. Bonnie Stanway from New Zealand and Kirsty McIntosh from Australia spent a year at Rendcomb. After finishing his A-levels, my godson, Nigel Riley, former head boy at Bristol Cathedral school, spent six months teaching at St. James school in Jinja, Uganda."

The Headmaster went on to outline the experiences of the different students and they all highlighted some of their more memorable moments. The Head's godson commented about his experiences of teaching in Uganda:

"The rooms that serve as laboratories during the day double as dormitories for girls at night... But the pupils' enjoyment of learning something new and their sheer enthusiasm is, at times, overwhelming."

He went on to add:

"My six months in Uganda have helped me to appreciate that learning is a privilege, not a God ordained right."

Kirsty, the Aussie 'gappie' at Rendcomb talked about playing sport and coaching in her new home:

"It wasn't easy being an Australian at a rugby-mad school, but I was able to teach the students the finer points of netball and hockey."

Bonnie, our Kiwi 'gappie' helped out in sport and drama and choreographed a memorable 'Theatre Sports' night. She summed up her time at Rendcomb in the following way:

"This year has given me unprecedented opportunities, including the chance to co-direct the senior school play. If someone had told me last January that this would have been possible, I would have laughed at them."

All three students gained a huge amount from their gap year and the Head ended his article with this observation:

"What do I think? These people embarked upon their year abroad as sixth-formers. By the end of their year, they had become adults."

GH & PJ

> BONNIE STANWAY: FAREWELL

The 'Gappy' from New Zealand for 2003, thought she was a poet: we'll



let you all make up your own minds!

FAREWELL: AN ODE

I've grown in mind,
I've grown in size,

Because of my experiences
and all the kitchen pies!

Neither of which
I'd dream to regret,

For these are the things
I don't want to forget.

Moments of anger,
moments of glee,

When you've made me cry
and tee, hee, hee!

Rendcomb, Thank you,
Good luck and Goodbye,

It's now time for this Bee to fly...

Bonnie Stanway

Bonnie, Bon Voyage and good luck for the future!

The editor

> KIRSTY MCINTOSH FAREWELL
Kirsty McIntosh, Our Aussie 'gappy'.
We were very privileged to have
Kirsty McIntosh join us in the

Junior School as gap student for the year 2003-2004. She soon became an invaluable member of the team and was always ready to help out and 'muck in', wherever and whenever required. Her cheerful disposition and unfailing patience made her very popular with the pupils and cries of 'Miss Mackie' were often to be heard in the playground, classrooms and corridors of the Junior School. Kirsty proved her worth as an able assistant both on the sporting field and in the classroom. She listened to readers, helped with Art and DT, was an extra pair of hands on outings and was responsible for a wide variety of administrative tasks in the office. We were very sad to bid her farewell and we wish her well with her studies in Australia.

AH

> GAP STUDENTS 2004/2005

In January, we welcomed two new GAP tutors from 'Down Under' to assist in our Junior and Senior schools. Miss Chloe Marshall came from Miss Stanway's old school St Peters, Cambridge and brought with her a cheery smile, a love of children and a keen delight in the soothing qualities of a good afternoon tea!

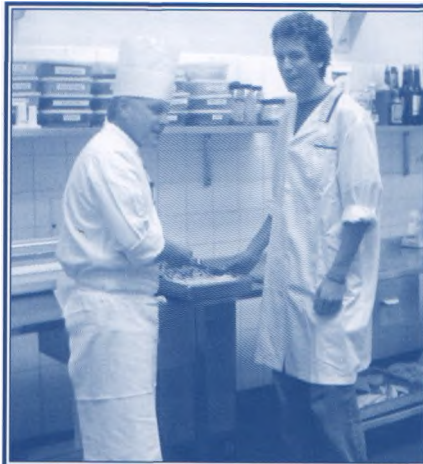
Miss Alice McClymont, from Orange, New South Wales has been a valuable asset to the Drama, Art and Games departments with her no-nonsense, 'can-do' approach. She has directed "The Crucible" and been a key figure in the production team for "Oliver!"



6B Students having "notices"

Fortunately, her escapades with the fire engine on the Drama Tour to London have been captured on film!! (See Drama Tour report).

DD



Mark Robbins showing Joe Drysdale the ropes in the kitchen

WALKING THE MILE TOGETHER - THE SIXTH FORM SHADOW DAY

One of the innovations this year in the Sixth Form Programme after their return from modules was to 'walk the mile together'. Alongside the start of A2 courses, visits to Bristol and Oxford Universities, a life skills day, careers talks, repainting of the Green Room and a visit to London, there was a need to offer an interesting and stimulating programme. We hope we achieved this. In fact the job shadow idea originated in a late night conversation in the Bar, few realised that it would become reality.

Students were given the opportunity to approach members of the teaching, administrative, catering and maintenance staff to ask whether they could shadow them and experience the realities of running the College. The tasks undertaken varied considerably: teaching various classes, to spending money on inset courses, clearing out the Art Room, unblocking sinks, attending Departmental meetings, painting the set for 'Oliver', preparing School lunch and accompanying music lessons. Pupils attended Chapel with their staff member, a set of Staff Notices were delivered at morning tea in the Conference Room and lunch was enjoyed together.

In the afternoon the Shadow Senior



Management team were called together; Jessica Wells, Claire Taylor, Heather Roper, Matt Nichols, Sarah Zheng, Jonas Roos and Rachel Hardy were summoned to the Conference Room to deal with a major School Emergency. A major disaster had occurred, a coach crash on a motorway with fatalities and the Headmaster was away at a conference. For three hours the team dealt with the press, parents and pupils in a continually changing situation before the solutions were reached. This was an exhausting experience! In the evening appraisal took place in studies, local restaurants and houses. Much was learnt and the students appeared to enjoy the work experience, certainly it was an interesting insight for both parties and it could well be come an annual event.

PD

House News

STABLE

With seventy one boys in the House this year and closer to eighty for September 2004, Stable continues to be the largest house in the school.

As difficult and dangerous as it is to indulge in generalisations, it is safe to say that with rare exceptions, boys work hard and enjoy considerable academic success.

On the games field there have been major contributions and the vast majority of boys has represented the College at some time, many over all three terms. In the fifth form five boys played 1st XV rugby, four played 1st XI hockey, and three played 1st XI cricket.

The U14 rugby team won every match, a remarkable achievement.

Boys have also been to the fore in Rendcomb music, Mark Gunner, James Bladon and Edward Cumberpatch in particular, and the house also boasts at least two rock bands. We shall miss the musical

contributions from Joss Acock, George Lawson and Ed Hutchison, but Seb Goffe remains to keep up the beat.

Louis Leung has competed in National Schools' fencing competitions, and on the stage we had major contributions from Tom Ruddy, Joss Acock and James Tarleton in "Bouncers" and a large number of 3rd form boys took part in "Oliver", in particular Ed Cumberpatch as The Artful Dodger, Mark Gunner as Mr Sowerberry and a splendid James Hill as Mr Bumble, with James Bladon providing piano accompaniment.

There are several initiatives for the coming year, not least a campaign to save energy, led by fifth form, and the possible creation of more space for recreation.

It remains for me, on behalf of all the boys in the House to thank all those very special people who work so hard to look after us, and as I enjoy my holiday I can look forward to continued progress in September.

BLN

LAWN

Well, here we are again at the end of another year - and what a good year it's been too, with so much going on. We came back in September to a freshly-painted House (no more dark green!); and also a big thank-you must go to the



Lawn House "Pink Party"

RCPA for the great new VCR, DVD player and huge TV they bought for the main common-room: now we can see Orlando Bloom, Johnny Depp et al even nearer to life-size!

We echoed the theme of the House's new, more feminine colours, with a Pink Party in the dark days of the middle of the year - I think it brightened things up considerably. Not only was all our food and drink varying shades of pink (food additives and E-numbers? what are they?), everyone wore pink too. And each year group had to dress two of their number up to look like Barbie and Ken, with some fantastic results. What excellent sports our Barbies and Kens all were, and who can ever forget Holly Taylor in her fairytale pink ballgown, and Kirki Matthew in her wonderfully tongue-in-cheek outfit (Kirki, don't ever go more than a few shades lighter with your hair, will you!)? I am sure that the real Barbie dolls that were given out as prizes for best-pink-dressed, and best Barbie, will be treasured for years to come...

On a more musical note, we have enjoyed all sorts of entertainments, including a trip to London to see the musical "We Will Rock You." Other Lawn entertainments have included take-away meals and big-screen film-showings in the common-room at weekends, and still on the theme of junk food, we mustn't forget the McDonalds breakfasts - always a popular outing in a teenage girls'



House.

On the sports field we have had a really good year, too. Established games such as hockey and rounders have had some excellent results; and we have all thoroughly enjoyed learning lacrosse and taking part in Rendcomb's first lacrosse matches. It's a very fast and exciting game, and the boys are quite jealous!

And finally to the thank-you's. First of all, a heartfelt thank-you to the Lawn team, and an extra special thank-you and goodbye to Mrs Breally who has been Deputy here in Lawn for nearly two years - she is of course moving on to help run The Old Rectory. Another big thank-you goes to all the outgoing Lawn House Fifth-Form Prefects: A Collins, Chloe Slater, Sammie Malik; and of course Hannah Kay, Deputy and Hana Lawrence, Head of House. You have all done a wonderful job. Lastly, congratulations to the incoming Lawn House Fifth-Form Prefects: Head of House Carra Williams, Deputy Amanda Graham, and Prefect Jade Harrison. I very much look forward to working alongside you.

VH

OLD RECTORY

The Old Rectory this year has been very enjoyable and fun. I thought it was a good year to be starting at Rendcomb. It is a good place to be spending most of our free time during the day. You have enough room and your own private space both in the Prep Room and in the changing room so you never feel you have to be around people all the time. The Old Rectory has been good this year for second years too. Some of us were very excited to be going up to the second year, there have been good times, playing at the rock concert for the first time, playing at the talent contest. When it snowed everybody had a huge snow ball fight - it was great. No-one could get up the hill in their cars so people had to board. I was snowed in at school! Boarding is an

amazing experience that everybody should enjoy. On the Lawn outside the House we usually play British Bulldog with lots of other years which toughens us up for the rugby season. When the Third Form join in Mr Mann gets scared. We play football on the playground next to the squash courts. The new X-box has been very popular in the living room. Life in the Old Rec is fun. There are all sorts of things to do. We have been to Lyneham Airfield where we were shown around by Chris Cooke's dad who flies Herculeses. Skateboarding this year has been very popular with Mr Breally bugging us about helmets: before we were banned, we used to fly down the hill incredibly fast and it was great fun! We went through a craze when everybody brought in remote control cars for "The Big Race" (which never happened) The Old Rec has been around for many years like Mr White has. I will miss the Old Rec because it has been like a second home to me. Goodbye Old Rec and Goodbye Mr White.

*Will P. Harley,
Alex H-Gaskin,
Max, Guy, Henry*

Social Events

1 - 3RD FORM DISCO

On Saturday 21st September there was a whole-school disco, held in the Dulverton Hall. Mr Hayward was in charge of the turntables. Everyone was looking forward to having a good old dance. There was a really good variety of music to suit everyone there (including the staff!) and groovy lighting/visual effects as well. There was an excellent turn-out, and everyone got into the disco mood really quickly. Mr Hayward took a lot of time preparing everything, and everyone truly enjoyed themselves - it was a real success. Thank-you Mr Hayward!

Hazel Kay.

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Witches, Ghosts, Ghouls and Mummies were seen wandering through Rendcomb village on Halloween. They were heading to a disco in the village hall organised by Mrs Fielding for years 1-3. The evening was universally acclaimed as a "howling" success.

Matt Hook





The Halloween Disco

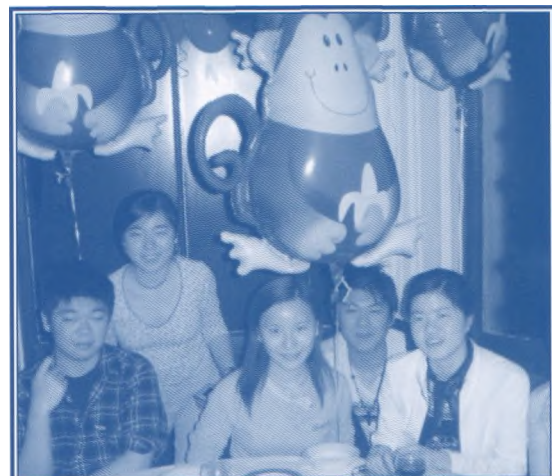


Our KEIO students get in the spirit of the Halloween Disco

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Chinese food is very popular in the world. Also more people celebrate Chinese New Year as it is getting more popular now. Chinese New Year is different from normal New Year in the world. Every year's date is different. It is based on the Chinese old calendar to calculate it.

Chinese New Year is really different for English people; also it's



Chinese New Year celebration

completely different from England's New Year; that's why so many people celebrate it. Therefore our school had a party especially for Chinese New Year on Wednesday 28th January. All the Chinese students including our two Korean students were very busy celebrating! Cindy Cheung organized the event. We cooked Chinese food. Everyone was so diligent and tried to cook delicious food for the guests we invited. At this party we could invite our friends and anyone else including Japanese, German and English students. We also had some staff join us and of course the Headmaster and his wife came as well. Because this year is the year of the Monkey, our dining hall had a Monkey balloon on each table. They were very cute. During that time we talked to each other and listened to Chinese music that made us feel like we were in China. We enjoyed it and were very pleased to have this kind of party. If our International students were homesick we could have a party like this to let us forget about it. This party was fabulous, successful and fantastic; I have no words to describe how it was. This party scene still stays in my mind now.

Finally I have to say thank-you to everyone who helped us organize this party and who teaches us in EFL as well. Our great teacher, Mrs Stutchbury, took a lot of time and care for this party.

We'd love to have this party again.

Christine Xu

3-5TH FORM CHRISTMAS THEATRE TRIP

On Wednesday 10th December a group of 3rd, 4th and 5th form boys and girls 'rocked' down to London to see the Queen "We Will Rock You" musical at the Dominion theatre in the West



End. We arrived in the nick of time, taking our seats just as the curtain went up to reveal a stage set for a night to remember. The show blew everyone away with the music, choreography and somewhat 'original' storyline. After an amazing first half of dancing, Rendcomb had to return to their seats for a sit-down and a rest during the interval; in the second half the whole audience was up and dancing with us by the end of the first song! I don't think our rendition of "We Are The Champions" will get us into the charts, not even with the help of the special glow-sticks we had bought for the occasion - but at least we weren't lacking in effort. Huge thanks to Mr North for organising the trip and the members of staff who took us and helped make the whole evening such a success.

Alexandra Collins

HOCKEY CLUB DINNER

'The Green Dragon', this year's venue for the renowned girls' hockey club dinner, the place to be (if you are a girl...who plays hockey). Dressed up, ready to paint the town red, and the enthusiasm brimming over, especially after Lechlade (Laura Burley) had smuggled in a few skittles and was well and truly hyper.



Hockey Club Dinner

After a delightful, traditional Christmas feast followed by a not so traditional chocolate torte, the girls, especially Lechie, felt ready for a few speeches Luckily Harri Kingsford, Alice Barefoot and Charlie Cumberpatch had anticipated this need and even luckier for us Lechlade hadn't managed to get a speech together. The Barefoot-Kingsford combo delivered a masterful round of speeches, not only incorporating the

renowned nicknames of the hockey team, but also some stolen Christmas paraphernalia. A few tears were shared when the reality of the near departure of most of the hockey team dawned on us. However, the discovery of Christmas cracker treats cheered up everyone, even the staff table. Mr Morgan spoke in true Mr Morgan fashion,



Harriet Kingsford in party mood

with “constructive criticism” for most of the team! But gave a few heart wrenching words, and of course a thank-you for his truly unique present: yellow socks and gloves. Charlie spoke on the Seconds hockey team with real vigour, aided by a particularly fetching plastic moustache (yet another Christmas cracker treat.)

It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all and thanks must go to all the team coaches, especially those brave enough to endure the mini-bus cabaret on the way home, I think Lechlade had saved a few skittles specifically for that journey. Another year gone, another great dinner and many high hopes for next season.

Heather Roper

STITCH

The four members of the essentially Rendcomb based band, ‘Stitch’; Joss Acock, Seb Goffe, George Lawson and Ben Humphreys (from Farmor’s School), have had an excellent few months, culminating in an awesome victory at the battle of the bands competition at Marling School. Ten bands played in the competition for a first prize of four hours in a professional recording studio, DB studios. Stitch emerged as clear winners and walked away with the great first prize. Stitch distinguished themselves by playing their own



music with a professional flair and a passion that set them apart from the other bands to catch the attention of the judges. The judges made comments such as: “Musically strong and stirring stuff...really serious and professional” and they added, “I want to see Stitch again - to see a band really rocking together is quite special”.

Soon after the inspiration of the victory carried them forward to do a fantastic gig at Corn Hall in Cirencester. “Stitch”, as well as two other Rendcomb bands NFU and Tragic Slab gave a two-hundred strong crowd a remarkable performance. The band is going from strength to strength and the performances will go towards their GCSE’s.

PJ

6TH FORM CHRISTMAS DINNER

The annual Christmas Dinner for Park House had previously been the event of the century/term (apparently), and this year was no exception. With a black tie do on the cards, the girls were suffering from the usual rigmarole and near depression of having to find the perfect outfit! The lads had no such dilemma. A few bebies in the common room lifted everyone’s spirits, spirits being the operative word. Then we headed over to main college to an immense curry delight, accompanied by more bebies. Mr Slark spoke some touching words, with a main focus on the Barefeet clan and of course Jade’s parallel parking expertise. The bar was opened and the party was in full swing, Rachel Hardy having taken prime position....behind the bar. Jess Weston rounded up the guests with her “lucky” balloon (her date for the evening) and we really got our groove on. The masterful DJ-ing of Mr Kiggins rekindled some truly momentous times, even Mr Gunner had let the rhythm take over his soul...so to speak! The teachers were seen “bopping” in the corner, so

basically a fun time was had by all, then at 11 they announced that the party was over! Well, that’s what they thought! The mass of hooligans that we had become, retreated to Park common room for an extended party with the masterful DJ-ing, this time from the Sky music channels! One unnamed yobbo decided to bring in the tricycle which had been foolishly left outside Park and the rioting began!

The Christmas dinner had truly lived up to its reputation and a fantastic time was had by all, and thanks must go to everyone who made this night the great success that it was.

Heather Roper

THE GATSBY EVENING

Thursday 29th January 2004-for most of the world a day like any other, but for the English students at Rendcomb something bizarre was about to happen. While the unsuspecting human race continued with their 21st Century lives, a small area centred around the house of chez Dodd was transported back through time and space to 1925 New York - right in the middle of the Roaring Twenties: the era of flappers, jazz and most importantly F. Scott Fitzgerald’s famous novel, “The Great Gatsby.”



Charlie Cumberpath as a twenties “flapper”

Well it may seem more suited to a Hollywood blockbuster than a Rendcomb theme night, but the spirit certainly wasn’t lacking. And the reason for this strange occurrence? Well it’s possible that Mr Dodd was joking when he said we could come to his house dressed as flappers (the girls that is...) for a champagne party, but once the idea was out, there was no going back.

After a period of champagne-fuelled

socialising, the time came for our presentations. Each member of the 6B English set had to present something relevant to "The Great Gatsby" and explain its significance - just look at the photos and you'll get the idea! My personal favourite was Charlie Cumberpatch's disturbingly convincing impersonation of a slapper, I MEAN flapper. (Perhaps our editor Mr Jennings has another candidate?)

Next was the evening's feature film which was...you guessed it..."The Great Gatsby." At this point another incredible transformation took place - the room full of 1920's Americans suddenly became expert film critics, able to spot even the slightest discrepancy between film and book.

A great time was had by all, even Mr Dodd.

"And so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

Matthew Nichols

FIREWORKS

The fireworks are the high point of the Parents' Association' year but it's a juggling act to get things right for so many people! We are only allowed a thousand in the audience, due to fire regulations but we know how many people think this is the best display in the area. You get food, a bar (for parents), a chance to meet friends and a breath-taking torrent of pyrotechnics!

In 2003, the Cairns team again synchronized their magical minutes, and Mark Naylor co-ordinated the festive food and drink. The happy



band of Parents' Association helpers did sterling work behind the stalls and following the Bursar's master plan, as marshals in the car parks. We are indebted to everyone who worked so hard to make it run smoothly.

Our prayers for good weather were answered. Parents relaxed and chatted while pupils enjoyed themselves. A great success; it certainly made some of the other displays around look a bit tame! Now let's start preparing for next November...

*Richard Gunner
(Parents' Association)*

TALENT QUEST NIGHT

The Dulverton Hall was booming with Saturday night fever when Rendcomb College put on their first ever Talent Quest, on the 8th of May. The calibre of entertainment would have blown the likes of Pop Idol out of the water! Simon Cowell, eat your heart out! Talent scouts were definitely needed! The night began with Mr Jennings' charismatic jokes that kept the audience rolling (their eyes!) in laughter. Setting a very high standard as the opening act was the band 'Lucky Thirteen', with a very rock'n'roll number. The night also

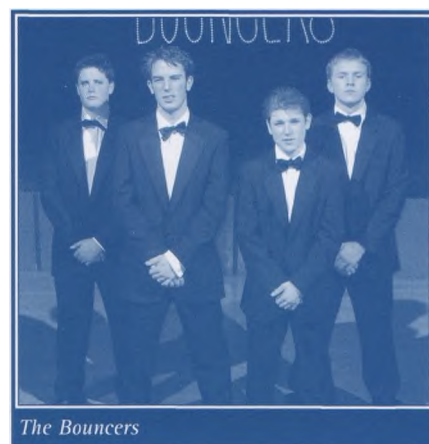
entailed some cultural flavour with Christine and Cathy's song for China. Sam Slater had the audience gagging for more with his unusual talent of drumming with spoons- a clear winner of the night. Taking out the dancing category, was the very saucy 'Spice up Your Life' where Tanya and Nicki Wells, Holly Taylor, Samya Malik, and Emma Couch gave spicy impersonations of the Spice Girls. While the Prefects had the tough job of deciding winners for each category, Mr Mann gave a brilliant performance of U2's 'One'. Other highlights of the evening were Luke Lester-Powell's dare devil skateboard tricks off the stage that Mr Holden could not compete with even when the crowd was cheering him on with the famous Jerry Springer chant, 'Ger-rry! Ger-rry!' A fantastic night that was enjoyed by all- we look forward to the next wave of talent in 2005!

A Mc

Performing and Creative Arts

"BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS"

In the Michaelmas term, the drama department focused on their double bill play, "Bouncers and Shakers". After the period piece of



The Bouncers

"Dangerous Liasons", it was felt by most of the 'luvvies' that it was important to contrast historical periods and acting styles. This was most definitely achieved.

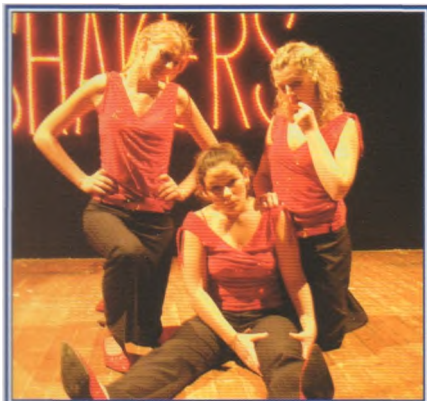
The play relied on simple staging: an illuminated sign, furniture for "Shakers", four handbags for "Bouncers" (yes the boys) and eight actors with the ability to bring the scene alive and to present a range of different characters. The



The Spice Girls

scenarios and language were both hard-hitting and bluntly contemporary.

The playwright John Godber observed that 'the greatest challenge for actors in these plays is not the laughter but the pathos beneath the surface'. He added that the actors must be able to reveal and portray the deep sadness and emptiness of the characters whilst also acting these people in a realistic manner. Certainly a challenge for the Rendcomb acting troupe.



The Shakers

"Shakers" showed us four young women all rather disappointed in life. Judith Schmidt played the determined and educated Carol with sensitivity, clearly showing her role to be as peacemaker between the girls.

Nicki Wells played her namesake with bubbly enthusiasm, especially when the legendary Andy King was involved!

Caroline Wells was the hard-bitten Mel with the secret she could only share with the audience and she showed her confident stage presence throughout this play.

Lauren Lees portrayed the fragile young mother Adele, with sensitivity and managed crying on cue on Saturday evening-twice, a rare talent.

"Bouncers", although written with a similar structure was a far more obviously comic creation. Meeting and seeing a professional cast at the Everyman Theatre undoubtedly helped the development of this play.

Joss Acock played the judo expert Ralph with confused belligerence and the delightful Sexy Susie with excellent comic timing.

Tom Ruddy played Les with a



compact aggression which contrasted wonderfully with Rosie and her heartbroken disco experiences.

James Tarleton was a very believable Judd whose basic violence was offset by Plain Elaine with one GCSE in metalwork. His Tamper Feat dancing was always an experience. Edd Kiggins was from the beginning of term, in full control of Eric, probably the only Bouncer with a brain and Maureen, the chain-smoking, fun-loving girl. Eric's monologues revealed his essential sadness at the drunken exploits his team were compelled to observe. Edd managed to convey the aggression, humour and sadness of all his roles.

Congratulations should also go to the production team; makeup from Mrs Brealy and her team, Hana Lawrence and Jo Scott providing us with disco lighting, Guy Tatham-Losh and Chris Scott recording an energetic sound track which was often a commentary on the previous scene's themes. Laura Evans and Emma Couch calmly stage managed from the beginning of term and worked very well in keeping the cast (especially the girls) from going hysterical with worry.

Miss Stanway, who left at the end of the Michaelmas Term co-directed and contributed her wisdom to both casts and Mrs Dodd who every now and again began to worry on the progress of the piece. It is impossible to praise her enough for her input.

Some may have seen the choice of this play as controversial. However, what is the point of always presenting a 'parent proof play'? 'Bouncers and Shakers' allowed us to present a piece illustrating some more contemporary issues.

As a regular luvvie and keen Rendcomb theatre 'thesp' said soon after the show, "it was one of the best productions I've ever seen". There you go, 'Bouncers and Shakers' in a nutshell.

Caroline Wells/DD

"OLIVER!"

"Is it worth the waiting for Till we get to eighty four" and so "Food, Glorious Food" begins and we did wait for ages for the ominous evening when after ten weeks of rehearsal we would finally get onto the stage, (all 108 of us) and perform for an audience.

"Oliver!" started as a modest project in Mrs Haas and Mrs Dodds' minds and then, like the cast size, GREW! Not content with lots of people we decided to have Brad the pony, Rosie, the most determined sheep in England and Polly the bull terrier who was so convincing as Bill Sykes' dog, Bullseye. There were also 350 costumes from Sister Pritchard and buckets of mud from our makeup mothers to make us all look uncared for. That was the best part for some of our younger ones!! How our stage managers, Alex,



"Can I have some more?"

Carra and Amanda managed to get us on and off the stage all at once we'll never know but excellent organisation was the key. They were ably assisted by Max Webb-Dickin, Ryan Watson, Lucas Bliss and Anna Steffen.

On stage, Finn Brennan was a convincing Oliver who sung with sensitivity and could look suitably lost until angered by Noah's taunts. He was particularly touching in the final moments of the play when he kissed the dead Nancy good-bye. Sarah Lockyer brought a gentleness to the wonderful role of Nancy and sang "As Long as He Needs Me" with real maturity. Tom Restorick was delightfully quirky as Fagin complete with beard and mittens and received a well-deserved ovation from Saturday evening's audience after his masterful rendition of "Reviewing the



The

GATSIB

Night



Situation". Sarah Tarleton is a real find for Rendcomb musical theatre as she has a lovely young voice and showed us glimpses of it as Bet, Nancy's young sidekick. Edd Cumberpatch used his wry smile to good effect in the comic role of Dodger. Sinead Brennan and James Hill had great fun as Widow Corney and Mr Bumble. James showed his stage confidence from "Little Shop of Horrors" and Sinead grew with each performance. Henry Pullen was a wonderfully menacing presence as Bill Sykes always delivering his lines with clarity and precision. Mark Gunner and Sophie Arkle eventually had great fun as the macabre Sowerberries taunting Mr Bumble with their off-beat views about funeral directing!

Other characters also showed promise: Catherine Sharpe was a suitably harsh Charlotte. Richard Pass looked distinguished as Mr Brownlow, Rebecca Hutchison sang beautifully as the motherly Mrs Bedwin, Charlotte Stedman was superb as the lead soloist in "Who Will Buy?" Richard Collins was a fine Dr. Grimwig and Tom North enjoyed the roles of Noah, Mr Percy Snodgrass and chief sheep handler!

Fagin's Gang had a great sense of fun throughout rehearsals and eventually got "Be Back Soon" right



the sympathetic accompanying piano playing of James Bladon who showed enormous maturity and self restraint as we mangled some of the tunes! No matter what we sang James would pick up on it and play something to help us. What a star! Miss Gibbons and Mr White shared the musical direction and with desperate last minute advice we eventually could sing most of the songs right! Mrs Dodd was her usual determined self as she devised complicated rehearsal schedules and asked everyone for that last little bit of effort. We knew we had done well if we saw her clap and clap she did on the final night. Whew!!

So, thanks to all who performed in, or helped with, this huge project. It was such a worthwhile team effort as Lower and Junior Schools worked as one and learnt so much about each other.

DD & PJ

"Equues" Coco was particularly commended for her innovative and threatening set design. The horses were played by GCSE students and they were very disciplined in their choreography.

PJ

"THE CRUCIBLE"

On Friday, 14th May, Fourth Form GCSE Drama performed extracts from their set text "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller. This dramatic play examines the mass hysteria which occurred in Salem during the witch trials.

Miss McClymont directed the rehearsals which at times were frustrating and sometimes hilarious. The key feature of any play is the necessity to learn lines early enough but this challenge was not met by everyone. Ultimately, this affected the performances of some characters but it was a valuable lesson to learn in your first year of GCSE Drama.

On the night, fine performances were given by several students but the top marks were gained by Amanda Graham as the noble, long-suffering Elizabeth Proctor, Carra Williams as the conniving minx



A Scene from Equus

- what a relief! Both Junior and Lower school choruses practiced with good spirit and tried hard to perfect their scenes. "Who Will Buy?" and "Food, Glorious Food" stand out as favourites for many in the audience.

All the performers were guided by

'EQUUES'

Drama students studying for A levels performed an excerpt from this very challenging play. Edd Kiggins, Caroline Lay and Coco Cheung performed a harrowing scene from Peter Schaffer's

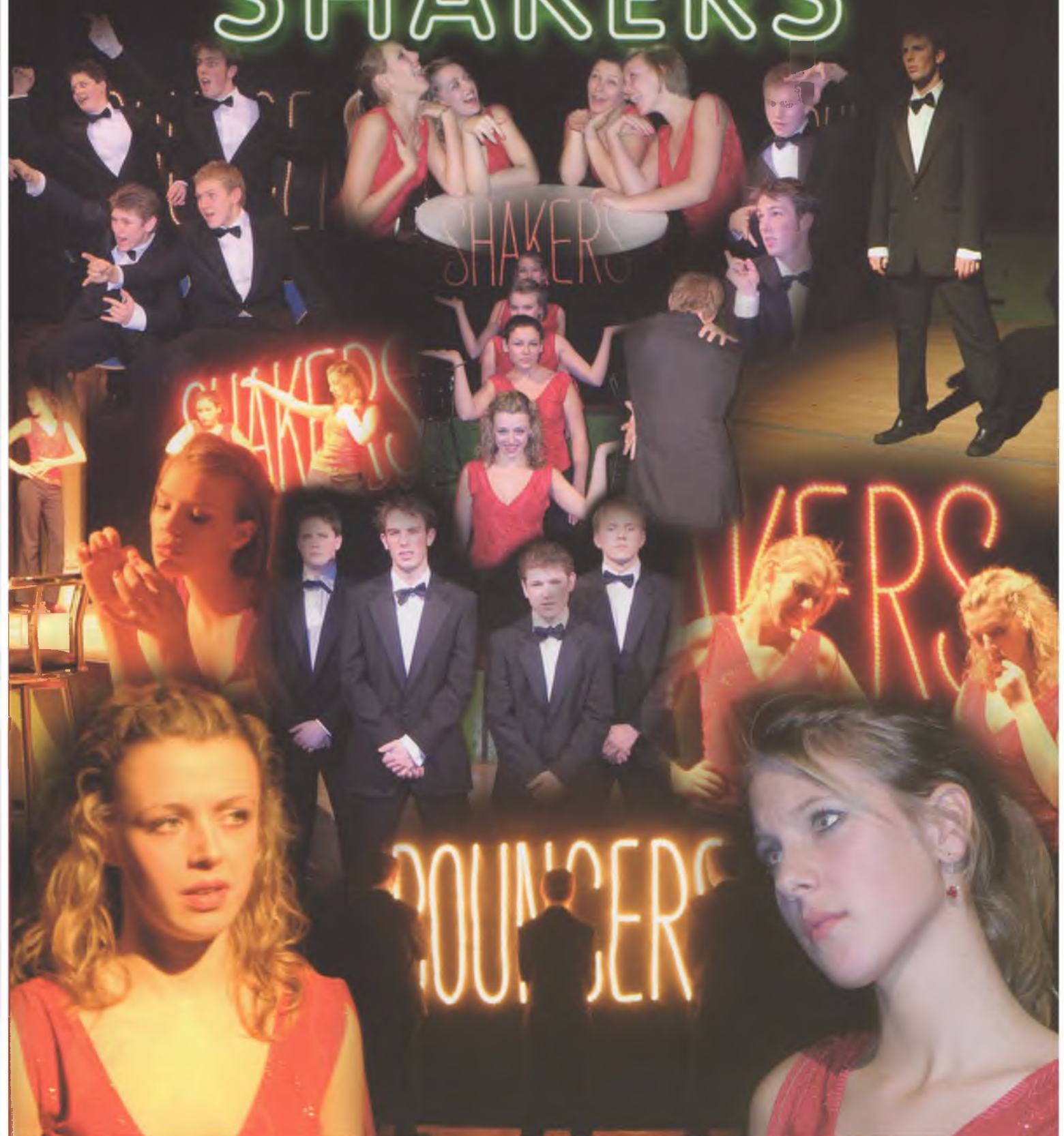


The cast of "The Crucible"



Amanda Graham & Alex Holden in "The Crucible"

BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS



Abigail and Alex Holden as the flawed but determined John Proctor. Harry Frost was an impressive prosecutor and Maya Chester-Master was a convincing victim of Abigail's murderous tyranny.

Overall, a useful project which taught us some much about rehearsal and performance techniques.

DD

MUSIC TEACHERS AND PARENTS CONSULTATION MEETING CONCERTS.

It became something of a record - first there were two concerts a night, then there were three but this year for the first time ever there were four simultaneous concerts as part of an evening devoted to parents and music teachers getting to know each other. Everyone went home rather pleased with themselves and some parents were quite surprised how well their offspring were doing. One family had a lion's share of one of the concerts - Amanda and Katie McCourt managed several combinations of their various talents. Some



musicians were quite surprised to see themselves as performers especially the guitarists, while seasoned performers put in some startling turns - Alex Holden managed a Baroque aria a little bit of jazz piano and even a bit of singing at the piano, one item after another. There was a coda as well when Laura Holmes, Rupert Uzzell, Nick Clements and Matt Nichols finished the whole evening off with some very polished singing. And this was basically just a business meeting....

DW

Music IN THE MICHAELMAS TERM

There has been another full programme of music events this term. On Tuesday October 21st we were treated to a brilliant concert by the music scholars. Notable performances came from James Bladon, who opened the musical event with a spirited rendition of 'Fanfare for the Common Man', Rupert Uzzell, Charlotte Cumberpatch, Laura Holmes, Edward Cumberpatch, Mark Gunner, Amy Bladon and Simon Wong. Amanda Graham and Rebecca Hutchison also sang a radiant rendition of "We're a couple of swells." But the highlight of the evening was Peter Liang's virtuoso performance on the violin. In the previous week there had been a riveting concert by the first and second form musicians. Another busy and successful term.

STARS FROM THE EAST

This was a very distinguished evening of musical performances. There was an extensive range of standards from the very modest but exquisite piano playing of Leo Wong to the accomplished performance of a Mozart horn concerto movement by Madori Usami. The music itself swung from Clapton to Finzi, from Disney and



back to Handel but whatever the source the end results were always sheer delight and thrilled a packed audience of supporters and host families in the Reading Room. Performers showed how they had



made huge progress in their studies, whether they had been absolute beginners on a new instrument like Malcolm Ikawa or seasoned players like Yuki Minezaki on saxophone. Cindy Cheung gave a hint of the pleasures to come when she played some Schumann to be included in her own solo recital later in the year. The evening was rounded off most appropriately by a group of the Japanese students joining together to sing a couple of songs together, looking quite delightful in their traditional Japanese costumes. Food at the end of the evening was what some members of the audience were really looking forward to and were keen to explore traditional Japanese flavours.

DW

"AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS"

It was Christmas magic. Clock Hall was turned into an otherworldly scene. In the darkness of a wintery

A large, vibrant collage of numerous children, likely the cast and crew of a school production of the musical 'Oliver!'. The children are dressed in various 19th-century period costumes, including top hats, frock coats, bonnets, and simple dresses. They are arranged in a dense, overlapping fashion, with some children in the foreground looking directly at the camera, while others are in the background. The central focus is the title 'OLIVER!' in a large, stylized, yellow-orange font with a black outline. The overall tone is festive and celebratory, capturing the spirit of a theatrical performance.

OLIVER!



"Amahl & the Night Visitors"

Rendcomb night, dreamy drapes and dusky colours conjured up by Mrs Blackwell suggested a Biblical hovel somewhere in the Middle East. The stairs were a Jacob's Ladder down which came the three Kings on their way to Bethlehem. Their entry from far away was unforgettable.

Somewhere from among the stars came this disembodied sound and then slowly they processed down the stairs and came to a halt outside



the stable. The Kings - Rupert Uzzell, Matt Nichols and Alex Holden - were clearly differentiated, with Alex having the plum comic part of the deaf king. Mat Nichols pointed the moral of the tale with his resonant aria just before the end, while Rupert remained magisterial and aloof throughout. Laura's Mother was mature and sweet toned in a most demanding musical and dramatic role.

Stephen's Amahl shone throughout, his performance elevated by his pure and strong treble. Sam Slater was a wonderfully over the top slave who had the daunting task of



The cast of "Amahl & the Night Visitors"

the house where Amahl (sung by Stephen Lockhart) and his Mother (Laura Holmes) made their abode. Up in the window shone the guiding star. An opera on the stairs!

Rendcomb's architecture had hardly ever been put to such a wonderful and romantic use.

The opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" told the story of the stop over of the three kings on their journey to visit the Christ child. Amahl - a disabled boy - was miraculously cured and unscripturally joined the party to

singing and saying nothing at all until ten minutes before the end. Maria Odintsova not only entertained the Kings but the audience as well with a thoroughly folk-like dance and the Junior School produced lots of gossiping and tumbling shepherds.

Christmas began early this year!

MUSIC IN THE SUMMER TERM

Composite recital by Cindy Cheung and Madori Usami

It was a case of tying up ends. Cindy has had a brilliant musical

career at Rendcomb and it was felt that it would be a good idea to repeat her fifth form glory and play a piano recital at the end of May, which coincided neatly with the founder's Day weekend. This she did with huge success. It is hard to imagine how such a slender and delicate flower can produce such a big sound at the piano. She played a hugely demanding programme, first of all it was Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata - three big movements which makes very great demands on the pianist both physically and mentally. She finished the recital



Cindy Cheung

with Ravel's delicious Sonatine which is anything but a little piece as its title might suggest - it has a real virtuoso finale which left us, in the audience, all gasping. Around these big pieces Cindy played little sonatas by Scarlatti, some Brahms and Schumann, all of which completed a picture of tremendous pianistic and musical range.

In the middle of the piano playing Midori Usami rounded off her year at Rendcomb with a performance of the whole of Mozart's 3rd Horn Concerto. Again it was extraordinary to see such a wisp of a lass managing the physically demanding business of playing a whole concerto on that most intractable of all instruments, the French Horn. The fact that she played the whole of the concerto at one standing was an object lesson in musical industry and the audience - which was a large and friendly one - was duly impressed. It also marked in another way the ending of her teacher's career at Rendcomb. Mr Shiner received his appreciative round of applause as well

DW

MR WHITE'S LAST CONCERT.

It was a very grand do. All the performers were dressed up in dinner jackets and standing in serried ranks on the platforms in the Parish Church.

The audience filled the church nicely, too many to pack into a home patch. Anyone who was anyone was there - a clutch of governors, a collar full of chaplains, a fistful of headmasters - Mr and Mrs Tolputt included - and friends of Rendcomb music stretching back



melodies sang from the keyboard. The poignant second movement was gently dealt with and the gaiety of the finale dispatched with panache.

Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto - an



Peter Liang, David White & James Bladon

well over a decade. Old Boys and Girls came back to sing and brought their families with them. Nostalgia ruled supreme.

Meanwhile the music....? The concert was a White special with one of his beloved Mozart Concertos to start with. James Bladon, a very serious and controlled pianist, took command of Mozart's 23rd. Scales rippled from his fingers and

unheard of Rendcombian student experience - was launched with passion and brilliance in equal measure by Peter Liang who had been commissioned to give the performance well over twelve months before.

He did not disappoint and his virtuosity and fervour will go down in the annals as one of the greatest of Rendcomb moments

Finally a full circle was completed with Haydn's Nelson Mass sung by the College Choir joined by staff, and previous singing students. Why a circle? It was the work with which Mr White began his Rendcomb career some fifteen years before, with, believe it or not, Mrs Morris in the same brilliant coloratura soprano role. Another neat conclusion was a bass soloist who reached even further back into Mr White's past along with some members of the orchestra.

The choir sang with relish, hardly believing they were part of something quite so special "Are you giving your all?" was hollered at the choir in rehearsal and in the evening they did just that - glorious Papa Haydn singing joyfully and positively of divine things and giving praise - exactly what the whole evening was all about.

DW

CREATIVE WRITING

This year we have a selection of creative writing extracts in the magazine.

Astrid Elsen of the fourth form described coming to the end of a train journey. She evokes a past age very well;

"I leaned my head closer to the window, resting my hand on its cold surface, breathing a patch of condensation on the rattling pane. The beauty of the countryside flashing past the window always takes my breath away.

The noise of the conductor calling down the train "Dollar Station", brought me back to my senses. I adjusted my hat in the reflection on the window and gathered together my luggage as the train pulled up into the quaint little station. I slid the door to my compartment shut behind me and stepped out of the train onto the platform."

Harry Frost of the fourth form wrote an epic saga for his coursework. There is too much to include here but perhaps just the song his thief sings 'that kept time with his pounding feet':

*Strong as twenty oxen,
Tall as any tree
As cunning as a fox am I
Nay, there's none so lithe as me.
Dance ye merry watchmen,*

*Feel the beating of our feet
Arrest ye not our hastened flight
Stay ye out of every street.
Tonight we rule the rooftops,
Beware our darting knives
Remember us but not our deeds
Or we shall claim your lives.
Tonight we have a message
Harken those who can
Edmund Black and Francis Waters
Require the Heart of Man."*

Now, to decipher what all that's about; ask Harry if you can read his novel! And it's an acrostic! "Stand Fast Brother".

Aimée Schofield from the third form was given the task of describing a room. Most students described a stereotypical haunted house type room, Aimée went for something much more frightening:

"I got home from school to find that my newly decorated room wasn't quite as I had expected.

I opened the door slowly at first and then I threw it open. I was blinded by rays of colour. I recovered my eyesight and what I saw was so horrible, so terrifying that I almost fainted. PINK!! It was everywhere: pink walls, pink carpet, pink chest of drawers, pink desk and even a pink television...You couldn't tell where the wall ended and the floor began. PINK! I couldn't breathe. The colour was like a disease: pinkitis."

2ND FORM POEM

The Stormy Night

*The trees were bent like a giant
archer's bow,*

A flag flew away like an eagle and

*The sky was bleached and
marbled like spilt paint.*

*The wind screamed as if someone
was being throttled, Lightning
flashed like a London air-raid.*

*And the house roared like an
angry lion.*

*The wind whistled like a
lonesome freight train,*

*The rain drizzled down like
a dripping tap.*

*And the thunder boomed like
cannons at war.*

*The house was shaking like
a terrified boy at sea,*

The wind screeched like car wheels.



*And the clouds wept like mourners
at a funeral.*

*The rain hit her face like needles
from the sky,*

*The boulders braved the ranting
wind like warriors.*

*And the leaves waved like pages in
a book.*

It was a stormy night.

Each student offered a simile to add to the poem.

Richard Whittles of the fourth form wrote very convincingly about a scene from the First World War:

"Frontline"

"With the crack of a rifle I awoke, covered in an oily sheen of sweat and with mired vision. A sudden grapple with sleep to retrieve my gun, my stick, my composure. Blearily I look at the men stumbling down the steps carrying the sentry, who, even when viewed in a sleep addled state, is quite definitely dead. He lies there unmoving, unbreathing. The red stain on his grubby uniform has ceased to spread. Somewhere in the distance, a fanfare of deep booming barks heralds the awakening of the enemy. In the next section there is a damp thump. Then, in the trench, outside, a rendering of earth and the vision outside the door is screened by a cloud of dust and smoke that billows down the steps, to settle over the occupants of the dug-out."

Oliver Richards of the third form wrote about being persuaded to do something that you don't want to do. This is the opening to his story:

"As Peter and Freddy walked briskly down the pavement, it was just beginning to get dark. It was Halloween night and Peter, though fifteen, was as frightened as any young child might be. Peter didn't like the idea of the 'surprise visit' he

and Freddy were going to pay to the empty house.

Peter and Freddy both had their hoods pulled up high over their heads. As Peter's eyes fidgeted nervously around, he could see the breath coming out of Freddy's nose and mouth. It was going to be a cold and unforgiving night. Peter could hear and feel his heart pounding faster and faster as they approached the house."

Alex Staines of the Fourth form wrote a very original piece entitled 'Journey's End'. It was futuristic, it was philosophical and frankly it had me flummoxed. There were some lovely cameo moments and this is one of them:

A character is roaming, searching for their 'Journey's End'. This extract comes from the end of Alex's piece when the main character meets the Reverend Panglass:

"And then I look up and towering over me is the Reverend Panglass; holding a bible and reciting something softly with his eyes closed. He is a tall and stick-like man, who walks with a slight imbalance due to a stroke he had years previously. His hair is always dishevelled, his jacket always creased and his shoes always unpolished. He has a round face completely out of proportion to his body and his grey eyes are dreary, yet always trying to look jolly."

Tanya Wells (fifth form) wrote beautifully about her earliest memories of growing up in India. The extracts are from the start of the writing and the end:

At The Foot of the Himalayas

"The air was hot and the sun beat down on me as if determined to melt my bones. The occasional breeze swept through my hair and caused my body a warm, comfortable sensation, allowing me to happily close my eyes. The wind pulled me back and made me feel like it could carry me along with it as if I were a speck of dust.

I ran my fingers through the dry, red coloured soil; why is it red? I questioned myself. I gathered a small hill of it and cupped it in my hand, gently allowing it to slip

A2 Works of Art in various sizes, all reliant on plenty of observation but lit up by imagination and skill.



Charlotte Ellis - *Pastels*



Nicholas Clements - *Watercolour and Pastels*



Sarah Rudderham - *Watercolour*



Sarah Colson - *Oil Paint*

Works of Art using multimedia and a designer's approach



Jessica Weston - Block printed graphics



Sarah Zheng - Printed and collaged fashion design



Ryosuke Murahashi - Watercolour, pen & ink illustration



Luke Gunner - Silk screen printed self portrait

GCSE. Four takes on 'Self Portrait' having looked
at the work of other artists.



Ianya Wells - studied Edvard Munch



Joss Acock - studied Pop Art and Roy Lichtenstein



Polly Rudderham - studied African Body Decoration



Yui Pang just did her thing



away through my fingers and I watched it follow the movement of the wind. I could hear laughing children from somewhere I could not see, which re-assured me that I wasn't alone. I felt calm, peaceful and empty of thought: I felt happy.

I sat alone on my rock. This was a place where I could go to be on my own. It was slightly beyond the school boundaries but I didn't care. Only I knew about this place: keeping it secret from my friends and my sisters made me feel like I was different and almost special. My 'getaway' was a giant, granite rock which was slightly hidden behind a short, slender tree. The branches were so strong and solid in place yet from a distance it looked so weak, leaning to one side, supported by my rock. On a hot day the branches would reach out as if protecting me from the burning sun. The place was my sanctuary. I would go there whenever I could, bringing my favourite toy; sitting in peace, gazing as life went by at the foot of the Himalayas."

Tanya ended her reminiscence in the following way:

"I sat again on my rock and gathered a hill of the red sand, cupped it into both of my hands, took a deep breath and like a fountain of magic dust, I blew it away and watched it follow the movement of the wind. I fixed my eyes; watching it until it ended its journey. It spread out in different directions until it landed, painting a bush of deep green leaves a dark, dusty red. I looked out at the rolls of hills, where sheep were white dots moving slowly together. Behind the hills were the crisp peaks of ice. The sun gave the everlasting snow a golden shimmer making it look magical. I sat comfortably in peace, gazing; as life went by at the foot of the Himalayas."

Chloe Slater of the fifth form wrote very movingly about visiting her grandparent's house. It is phrased as an imaginary letter to her grandfather. Here are a couple of extracts from her GCSE piece of writing, which scored full marks:

"...It was all so comforting. The other night, I was lying alone in the dark encased in my thoughts, when suddenly I was back there. Standing in the huge, looming porch; waiting. Out of the corner of my



eye, I can see the doorbell. My brother and I always used to race and argue over who would ring it first. The big old door opens, the warmth, a wall of hot air rushes towards me and encircles me. I step inside. Granny is standing there. She is robust and determined as she always was. Her frail looking exterior was always deceiving, wasn't it?"

"...Past the long hall that leads to the garden. Down there is a little room full of string and secateurs and things to do with gardening. On the shelves was one of those lines of little paper men all attached. Blenkinsops they're called. I can still remember Granny teaching me how to make them. When you became immobile, you used to sleep down in that room, do you remember?"

I hope you've enjoyed reading some of the students' creative work.



Harriet Kingsford at work

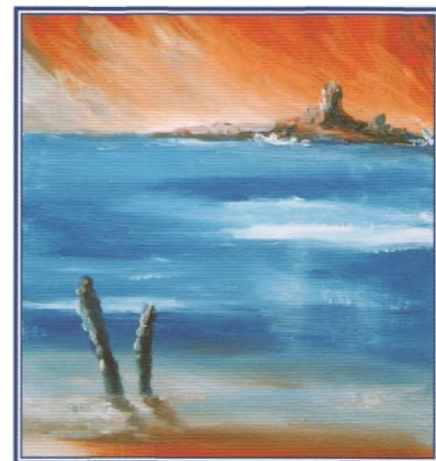


4th form artists

ART REPORT

> ART DEPARTMENT 2003-2004 IN SEARCH OF INSPIRATION

What a rollercoaster of a year in the



Art and Design Department. Big changes - moving on - old doors closing and new ones opening - a microcosm of life.



I could write a lot about the enthusiastic and determined individual artists whose talent shone this year but instead I want to concentrate on INSPIRATION. Everyone needs little extras to get





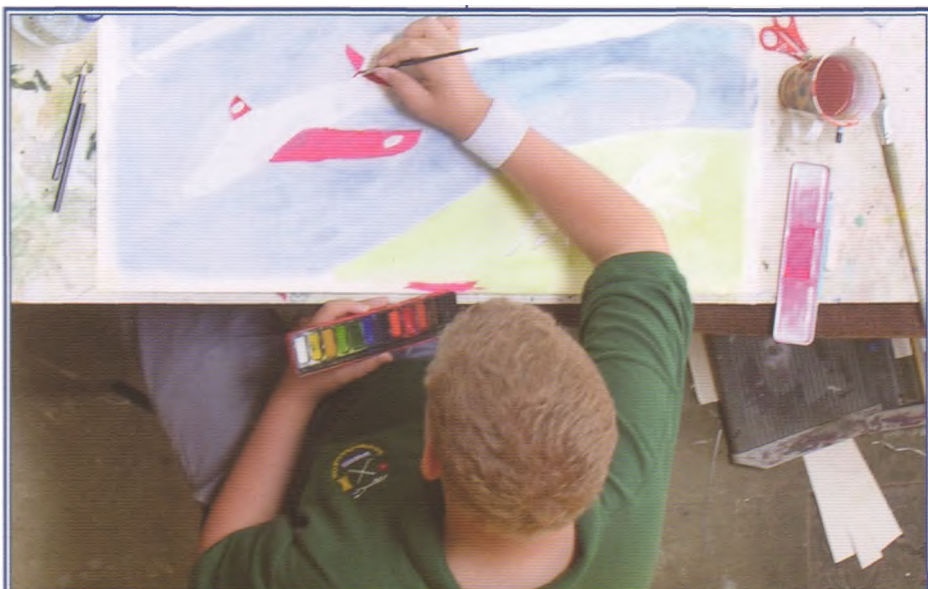
their creative juices flowing.... so..... for those taking Art exams, either GCSE or AS and A2 we planned to



Joe Scott

broaden their experience, expand their horizons and challenge their thinking.

Drawing, the all-important core skill, is how the students began the year.



Andrew Thomas



Then 6A started by visiting a local gallery in Stroud, Dyers Mill, to see an exhibition of prints by Julian Trevelyan, John Piper, Mary Fedden and Graham Sutherland, among others.

The following week, well-known local artist, Anthony Hodge came to Rendcomb to give 6A an inspiring "hands-on" session with oil paint and colour.

The next week we took 6A to visit Anthony Hodge's studio in Nailsworth where he showed them his own expressive and colourful paintings and the exhibition of flower paintings in the gallery below.

6A had sessions of life drawing with our professional life model, Gilda Naumann. Drawing figures from life is the ultimate challenge and an essential part of any student's portfolio if they are considering applying to Art College.

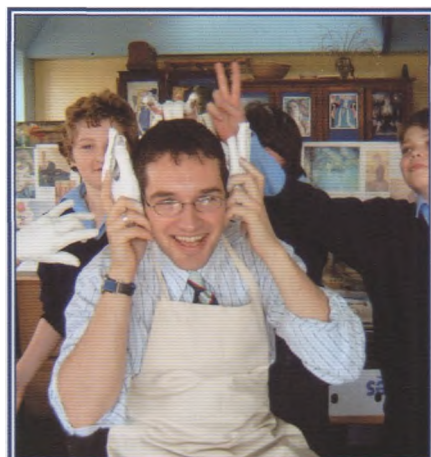
In October we took 6A, 6B and the 5th Form to London to see the Earth from the Air exhibition outside the Natural History Museum - a supreme collection of photographs taken all over the world by Yann Arthus Bertrand.

The 5th form also visited the

National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery to look at differing styles of portraits for their own self portrait project.

Meanwhile 6B visited the impressive collection of the Courtauld Gallery at Somerset House and 6A went off on their individual quests to such places as the Imperial War Museum, Tate Modern etc.

Half term arrived and Ms Hockley was inspired to enter a competition in St. Ives which she won in her costume "Maid to Measure" which she then wore and paraded through the town.



Mr. Mann's cars

At the end of this busy Christmas Term 6A made presentations of their work so far to each other, Mr Dodd's English class and the art staff - a useful exercise in reflection on what they had achieved so far and where to go from there.

At this point I flew off in search of inspiration to Laos and Southern Thailand.

In January we kept up the momentum with more life drawing sessions, 6B now joined in to take up the challenge.

We took 6B to Brewery Arts in Cirencester to visit Ms Hockley in her own textile workshop and to see the work of textile designer Jill Blackwood, whose vivid, cutting edge digital techniques were inspirational.

Then I flew off to India in search of more inspiration.

It was cold coming back in February but off we went to Cardiff to visit the National Gallery of Wales to see their excellent collection which is particularly strong on very beautiful Impressionist and Welsh

paintings

At this stage both Mrs Blackwell and Mr Mann went off on courses themselves - always a good idea to go and be students for a day.

Then, in the springtime, Mr Mann went off in search of inspiration to Paris and the Musées D'Orsay, Rodin, Marmottan and Cluny, and Ms Hockley flew off for her inspiration to Sri Lanka. I went off to St. Ives and Newlyn who have a "school of painting" of their own mostly exhibited in Tate St. Ives.

Then there was a long gap while exams were prepared for, exams were taken, exams were exhibited and exams were marked.

Summer half term came and went - Mr Mann sought his inspiration up north in York Minster, Fountains Abbey and Durham Cathedral.

Meanwhile the up and coming 4th form were bussed down the hill to see the beautiful garden belonging to Sir Michael Angus (our Chairman of Governors) at Cerney House, where they were welcomed by Sir Michael and then allowed to roam and draw among the lush borders and intricate pathways of this classic English Garden, thus inspiring their Summer Term project: Painted Gardens

We also mini-bussed 6B over to Gloucester Cathedral to gaze on it's exceptional Norman, Early English and Perpendicular architecture and to look at Tom Denny's stunning stained glass windows, inspired by the idea of Creation. They are the only 20th century glass in the cathedral and are the original versions of the designs he gave to the school which are at the top of the main staircase. The fan vaulted cloisters at the cathedral have featured much in the corridors of Hogwarts.

As I write this we have just returned from another trip to London in search of more inspiration for 6B and the 4th form. First we went to the Victoria and Albert Museum, for the 4th form to draw David's hand in the sculpture hall, and for 6B to see, firstly, the Vivienne Westwood exhibition, she being arguably the greatest British fashion designer, anarchic, with roots in the Punk era but still at the forefront of fashion today, and secondly The "Other Flower Show," an exhibition of sheds adorned by 10 contemporary artists including Tracey Emin. Then



6B went off to be inspired by St. Paul's cathedral, the Millennium Bridge, Tate Modern and the Tate to Tate river boat decorated by Damien Hirst, while the 4th form got themselves across London, (I am glad to report they stylishly took themselves off to Harrods for lunch rather than sink to McDonalds), to see the "Art of the Garden" exhibition at Tate Britain to round off their year's work.

As this busy year ends I hope all our pupils will have their own inspiring experiences during the summer holidays which they will be able to, literally, draw upon in the coming year. The art staff, meanwhile, will carry on searching for their inspiration, Mr Mann up mountains in the Alps and on an ocean going yacht, Ms Hockley in the decoration of her new, very old, house, and me off painting in the south west of France and tending the flowers in my garden.

OED Inspiration - A breathing or infusion into the mind or soul.

SB

Academic Trips, Events & Visits

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING AT REDCOMB COLLEGE

This year Public Speaking and Debating took off for the first time at Rendcomb. We fielded three teams into national and local competitions. Locally, Sam Slater, Maya Chester-Master and Laura Evans represented the school at the debate sponsored by the local health authority that took place at the stunning new University of Gloucestershire campus in Gloucester. We were up against much older and more experienced teams and though we didn't win our heat, we did make a very good account of ourselves with Sam at least raising a smile from the very earnest audience.

We then moved onto the national Mace Public Speaking competition. Matthew Hook, Alex Staines and Louise Bowen took to the floor at Winchcombe School, Matthew presenting a speech with the controversial heading: 'Why we love to hate the French'. Alex then questioned another team about their speech and Louise chaired another talk. The combined performances were then added up and a winner emerged. And...in only our second outing into debating and public speaking, it was us!! This meant



Some of the Public Speaking team

that we were then through to the county finals to be held in Cheltenham in February.

In the final we performed exceptionally well in the rather intimidating surroundings of the Council Chamber. Louise had gained in confidence and her opening and closing remarks were far more assured. Matthew's speech was the last one of the night and lifted the rather serious atmosphere of the evening. It was humorous, ironic and very well received. One judge said that he couldn't give the prize to us because we had just entertained him! I didn't quite understand the logic of that remark! Alex questioned the speaker from Balcarras School about the arming of the police and we later discovered that Alex was the second placed questioner on the night, which was a very creditable performance.

Overall, it was a very stimulating and rewarding journey and at least two of the team are keen to have another go next year. Well done to them all.

In between this we also turned out a Team to participate in the national Mace Debating Competition, again held at Winchcombe School. Our team this time was Stanley Marshall and Harry Frost. They were up against very stiff competition of year 12 and 13 debaters and though it was quite a daunting experience, I think that both Stanley and Harry learnt a lot.

Well done to all those who have had



a go at this most challenging of exercises. My intention is to develop debating and public speaking at the college so we can be challenging in all the national competitions.

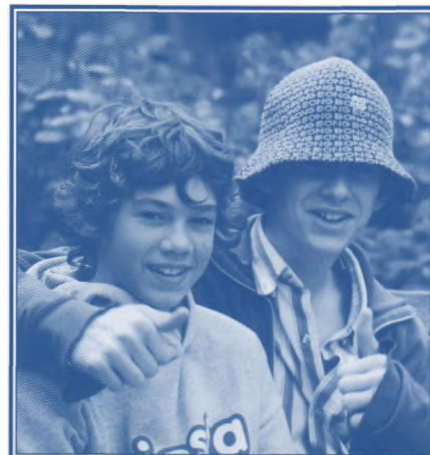
PJ

3RD FORM TRIP TO STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

On Wednesday 5th May, the 3rd form gathered in El for a briefing and costume check. Armed with umbrellas, and our handy dandy notebooks, we boarded the bus and plugged ourselves into our CD players.

The journey was long and the sandwiches soggy, but after a little traffic trouble and a persistent low murmuring, we'd arrived.

We made our way past the other slightly 'different' schools, and into the Shakespeare Trust. After a long period of note taking and lectures in the birthplace and then at New Place, we were given an hour for lunch. We paraded up the sidewalk en masse to McDonald's and Pizza Hut, or, for the shallower pockets, the fish and chip shop. With full



Neil Parker & Randal Pakeman

stomachs we were almost ready to go.

After five hours of sitting, standing, walking and listening, Our note taking that had begun so



Jack, John & Richard

thoroughly, was now degenerating.

It was actually quite fun, and we all learned more than a textbook would tell us, including what the medical tools of torture upstairs at Hall's Croft were used for!

Thank-you's must go to Mr Dodd, Mr Jennings, Miss McClymont and Ted, the bus driver! Now all we have to do is make the pages of notes into a project!

Rebecca Hutchinson

WORLD BOOK DAY

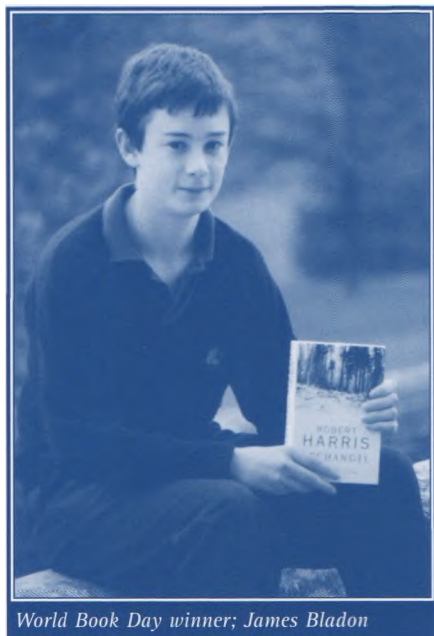
This year the celebration occurred on Thursday march 4th. In previous years we have done fairly straightforward events; last year was autobiography. Fortunately, this year we had some new blood and our big summer signing from The Cotswold School, Miss Gallon, played a blinder (apologies for the appalling football analogies): a literary quiz. Quotations started to appear in the most unlikely of



Mr. Dodd in charge of the 3rd form in Stratford.

places; "Harry Potter" on Saul, "1984" in the dining hall and "Rebecca" over in The Stable Block. You had to match the opening line to the novel in which it appeared...

And lots of people did! We shamelessly resorted to bribery and corruption to get people involved by offering a substantial first prize (we also had runners-up prizes as well; we were able to extend the prizes on offer thanks to the kind



World Book Day winner; James Bladon

support of Mr Graham and library funds).

Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to the overall winner who was James Bladon of the third form.

This year we had about 30 completed sheets, let's have a few more next year folks. Have a go!

My thanks to Miss Gallon for organising the event.

PJ

CHELtenham LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2003

This year several groups of students visited the Cheltenham Literature festival. The first form saw Gillian Cross talking about the inspiration for her writing whilst the second form were thoroughly entertained by performance poets John Agard and Brian Moses. This session was a real treat. A select group of the third form went to an intellectually challenging evening about teenage fiction entitled "Too Much too



Young". There we heard the likes of Melvin Burgess and Kate Cann discussing what subject matter is suitable for young adults to read about. The highlights of the week were, perhaps, the visits made by the Sixth Form. They heard speakers talking about Evelyn Waugh (they are studying "A Handful of Dust"), they heard Sebastian Faulks talking about "Birdsong" and on the Sunday they heard letters from the first world war being read out by actors. Included below are a couple of articles from the students who went on the trips, including a very moving and heart-felt address given by Alexandra Andersson of the Upper Sixth which she read out to the whole school at Headmaster's assembly.

First Form trip to see Gillian Cross:

On Monday 13th October the first form set out to Cheltenham to hear Gillian Cross talk about her books. She started by saying that she couldn't tell us how to write a novel, (I think some of us were a bit disappointed!). Gillian Cross continued her talk by explaining how she researches her novels. For "Wolf," her research took her right into the heart of a pack of wolves! It was courageous, even though it was at the local zoo!

Finally, we got to ask Gillian Cross some questions. The trip was really inspiring, educational and fun. Thank-you to Mr Jennings, Mr Dodd and Miss Stanway for taking us.

Emma Foley and Hannah Richards.

> 6TH FORM

TRIPS TO THE FESTIVAL

Alex Andersson read this report out in Headmaster's assembly:

"In October, the 6A English crew attended various talks and discussions at the Cheltenham Literature Festival. After preparing ourselves for a weekend of boredom and concentration problems, we were greatly surprised to find that our three lectures were not only informative but profoundly

memorable as well.

In the first lecture about Evelyn Waugh, we met Waugh's very own grandson and Lord F.W. Deedes, a close personal friend of Waugh's. Both people offered us a sense of Waugh's character and personality. We gained a greater understanding of the humorous side to Waugh's nature.

In the second lecture, Sebastian Faulks talked about "Birdsong" and his other novels. As you can imagine, actually hearing a novelist describe the themes, ideas and emotions in his book was incredibly helpful and interesting.

The third lecture, although the least directly relevant to our studies, was truly an experience which will never be forgotten by any of us. This is because...and if you haven't listened to anything I have said so far, you must listen to this. O.K? Are you listening?...This was because, after hearing a selection of very emotional and heart-wrenching letters from the soldiers who had fought in the First World War, something very special happened: a very elderly man sitting in the front row was pointed out to the audience. He was 105 and a First World War veteran. Our relatively inexperienced class of 17 year olds had the absolute privilege of hearing him describe, with astonishing clarity, his memories of battle. When his 105 year old legs struggled to the stage; the very same legs which strode through the trenches 90 odd years ago, there was a standing ovation and tears were shed. Thank-you, Mr Jennings, for taking us to hear him."

Alexandra Andersson.

"JOURNEY'S END"

In March there was an additional theatre visit added to the very busy programme: the fourth form went up to London to see the highly acclaimed production of 'Journey's End' which is currently enjoying huge success in The West End. The fourth form are studying this play for their GCSE English Literature course.

We set off in plenty of time because of recent experiences of going into London and being caught in horrendous traffic. Of course there is a certain law that applies here and yes, we arrived with over an

hour and a half to spare as every single car in the South East had somehow magically been towed away and put in a secret car-park in Stepney. Anyway, an hour and a half to kill in central London with 40 Gloucestershire students.

Inspiration: we went to Trafalgar Square and 'people-watched' for an hour. Lots of climbing on lions and watching the world go by. Very pleasant despite Maya constantly asking if she could go on a shopping spree!

Onto the theatre and wow! What a production. It was perfectly realized, totally convincing and very moving. They saved the best for last and the final tableaux was simply chilling: the actors stood on stage not bowing but frozen, almost like wax-works and projected behind them in bright white light was the roll of the dead. It was stunning.

I think that the students found it a very moving experience and they behaved impeccably, as ever. I hope they gained an extra insight into Sherriff's powerful play.

PJ

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"

On the 24th February 2004, 6B English scholars went to Bath to see a very enjoyable production of Wilde's classic comedy, 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. The version we saw was very true to the original text, so it was helpful for the students who are studying the play for 'AS' level. There was a strong cast led by Wendy Craig as Lady Bracknell (some of us older folk will remember 'Butterflies') and there were great supporting performances as well. The humour was sharp and crackling and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

Thanks to Mr Jennings and Mr Dodd for taking us.

Claire Taylor

"OTHELLOPHOBIA"

"Othellophobia", the advertisement said, is where:

"Shakespeare meets 'The Matrix'"

Yesss....

I had my doubts but, 'in for a penny, in for a pound' and off we went to



the Theatre Royal in Bath for an unusual theatrical evening. The performance was not in the main theatre but in the Ustinov studio theatre round the back. It was intimate and very intense. The company had edited the play and

'Poetry Live!' readings at the Colston Hall. Mr Jennings had told us all how good it was, so naturally we were worried it would be boring. However, with the likes of John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy and John Cooper Clarke reading their diverse forms of poetry, we were quite surprised at the excitement generated by 6 hours of poetry.

The venue was absolutely packed and it was sometimes difficult to hear but it was a rewarding visit and helpful for our GCSE poetry work.

Alex Staines



Ed, Ben & friend

did it at a fair old lick. It was tremendous. There was dance and threatening martial arts and the actors were working their socks off. I think the students got a lot from the experience, no minor success was for them to see how Shakespeare can be interpreted in challenging and stimulating new ways.

In the following term we went back to Bath and had a more traditional 'spin' on Shakespeare's domestic tragedy: four relentless university style lectures at the Bath pavilion. Not as much kung-fu but impressive in their own way! Thanks must go to Caroline Wells and Heather Roper for making my ears bleed on the return journey as they took the front seats of the mini-bus and gossiped for England!

PJ

4TH FORM 'POETRY LIVE!'

On Wednesday 21st of January, the 4th form departed for Bristol, to see

4TH FORM VISIT TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The fourth form made their annual pilgrimage in the name of Biology up to London to the Natural History Museum. Below are some musings from the students about the day:



Louis Leung & Ben Morris

"I really enjoyed the human biology section and I think that that's where I learnt the most. There were so many different things to see and to touch and lots of interesting facts about how our bodies work. I also thought that the mammal exhibition was amazing, from the huge blue whale in the ceiling to the tiny ferrets. The dinosaurs were clever, moving when you went near and the video was very informative. I think that the highlight had to be the ecology exhibit with its jungle, barn and amazing facts about the environment.

Cheers, Mr Stutchbury for taking us!"

Ben Morris

"It was a great trip to the Natural History Museum; we first saw the ecology exhibition and then the mammals. I feel that I learnt a lot."

Ivan Ho

"I enjoyed the Natural History Museum a lot particularly because I learnt a lot about ecology and the human body. My favourite section was seeing the T. Rex skeleton and appreciating how huge this dinosaur was. I was pleased that I wasn't living with the dinosaurs and possibly ending up as lunch! Overall I had a great time at the museum and I would like to go again."

Stephen Lockhart

2ND FROM SCIENCE TRIP TO @BRISTOL

On July 5th the 2nd Form went on a trip to a science museum called "@Bristol". This was a lot better than an average museum because it is a "hands on" museum with some interesting attractions.

My favourite thing was the IMAX Theatre because it was in 3D and it was interesting watching the movie 'Bugs Alive'.

Rhys Thomas

1ST FORM SCIENCE TRIP

On a very hot day in June the 1st Form went to the Cheltenham Festival of Science. First we sat in a very hot black tent and listened to a interesting speech on Science in sport. The speaker's name was Geoff Parsons and he was an Olympic high jumper. He showed us lots of video clips of famous sportsmen and talked to us about new



inventions and a new material that is now used for making Olympic swimmers' outfits. Then after that, we went into the main building to do some "hands-on" science. There were things like finger print machines and quizzes. There was also a robot who asked you questions!

Emma Foley and Lucy Heyman.

6B GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK, PEMBROKESHIRE

During the Easter Half term the 6B Geography group set off for a voyage of discovery in the delights of Pembrokeshire. Mrs Gill led the team which was brimming with excitement and hysteria-the group consisting of Me, Joe and that was it! When we arrived at the centre we were both disgusted and disheartened as we heard that there would be a lesson that evening until 9pm. Although this was clearly past our bedtimes we soon joined in with the other schools, and were taken over by the wide-spread geographical spirit.

Our first day was spent looking at sand dunes where we collected data and analysed the zonation of plant species across a dune. When we got back to the centre we then used statistical techniques to interpret the data, which was very useful for me because I was doing my coursework on this topic.

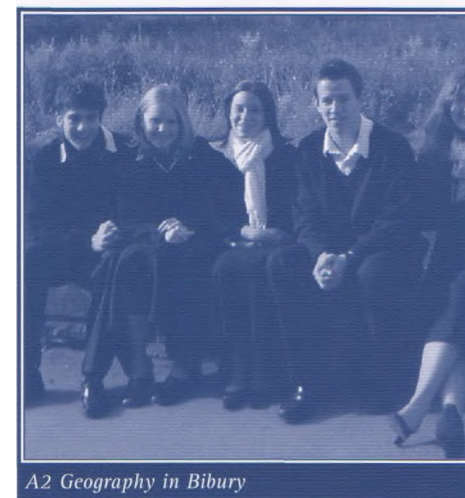
The second day was spent at salt marshes, which was Joe's topic for his coursework. This day basically consisted of sitting in mud, again analysing the zonation of plant species. A highlight of the day was when a man walked past us with a gun, but this excitement did not deter us from the job in hand as we were assured that this was a regular occurrence in this part of the world! We also managed to lose Mrs Gill who wandered off and became very excited, going crazy with her digital camera. Then came a tragic event that would affect the lives of the geographers for a long time: Joe left

to go skiing and "Two became one". We deposited Joe at Pembroke station, a jolly affair consisting of just a track and a platform, only to find him wandering down to the local chippie 2 minutes before his train was due!!

On the third day I battled on, doing a river survey with the other schools. A highlight of this day was an in depth look at the sewers of the centre, a truly memorable event, and being told that there was a possible risk of catching rat syphilis. We then saw where the apparently "treated" water was pumped back into the river. (From that moment on, the marigold gloves were kept tightly on).

On the last day we went to a beach and analysed groynes..... (Of the geographical sort of course!!). We looked at coastal management, erosion and analysed the 'roundness' of pebbles - truly mind boggling stuff! The trip then drew to a close as the geographers said their farewells and returned home for the well-deserved rest of half term. A big thank-you must go to Mrs Gill for managing such a large and boisterous group, and for enabling us to learn such a large amount of geography in such a short space of time. Also, a big thank-you to the pupils who attended the trip - ho!! ho!!

*Jess and Joe
("The dynamic duo")*



A2 Geography in Bibury

A2 GEOGRAPHY TOUR OF THE CENTRAL COTSWOLDS

The morning involved the study of the socio-economic changes occurring in the 'rural' society of the Cotswolds. The group witnessed the manifestation of the social and

economic changes to the area at Bibury, Northleach and Bourton-on-the-Water. The case study will prove very useful in illustrating their essays on this topic (the changing resource base of rural areas).

ASB

3RD FORM VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On Wednesday 14th June forty-two pupils and four members of staff set off on the long coach journey to London to visit The Imperial War Museum. The traffic was heavy and the video didn't work but spirits were high and all enjoyed the sights of London along the Embankment, across Lambeth Bridge and finally to the museum. After refreshments and the bureaucratic procedures necessary to gain entry, the pupils were divided up into four groups to visit different displays. All tackled with enthusiasm the task of filling in the complicated set of questions on their clipboards. Especially memorable were the stunning pictures painted by first world war artists, including the giant canvas of "Gassed" by John Singer Sargent. The huge artillery pieces and the First World War tank drew similar attention and the highlight for many was the first world war display, including the very smelly recreation of a front-line trench.

After lunch all groups went through



the special D-Day landings exhibition which was linked to the sixtieth anniversary commemoration services which many had seen on television a few days earlier. There were even a few war veterans strolling around the museum who had obviously just returned from



their last visit to France. Finally, our groups had an opportunity to visit other parts of the museum.

The coach journey back was enlivened by the video - now working - showing 'Master and Commander' which at least represented naval warfare from another era. We stopped to refuel at at Reading Services before finally making it back to Rendcomb. All seemed to have had a splendid day and the group are to be congratulated on their impeccable behaviour throughout, especially in full gaze of the general public at the museum. They were a pleasure to take on such a trip.

DHM

6TH FORM ART TRIP TO CARDIFF

On the 29th of February the 6th form artists set off to the Cardiff Art Museum, joined by Mr Mann, Mrs Blackwell, Miss Hockley and the 'gappies'. The journey down was occupied by a very complex boys' video, which no one understood, not even the 5 boys on the bus. The museum itself boasted a whole variety of famous artists' work, including Rodin's "The Kiss," Monet's Venice masterpieces, Cezanne's still lives, as well as a whole bunch of 'Art Mundi' (modernist art).

Each pupil has been working on a personal project all term so everyone had a particular painting to look at, which would aid their work. We then had some free time where we were bombarded by some 80,000 football fans who were celebrating Middlesbrough's League Cup final victory by deafening us with hooters and whistles. Their presence meant that many armed police officers were - monitoring the area. Mrs Blackwell, who had just bought a large copy of one of Monet's masterpieces, was thought by the police to have stolen the original (we are still waiting for the date of her court appearance).

The next excitement was that the spectre of football hooliganism had caused the restaurant we had planned to eat at to be closed under police guidance. After a stressed and slightly emotional Mrs Blackwell pulled some strings (her criminal contacts), we settled for a 'slug and lettuce.' Yum! Yum! (the restaurant!!). The delicious meal rounded off a very successful and memorable trip, especially if it goes on Mrs Blackwell's record.

Although the date meant that it was our opportunity to propose to the males on the trip, we regret to inform you that neither Ryosuke nor Mr Mann will be wed this year.

*Jessica Weston and Claire Taylor
(and a hint of Heather with a touch of lime).*

ART TRIP TO THE BREWERY ARTS CENTRE

On the 22nd of January the 6B artists set off for a trip of a life time; to Cirencester Brewery Arts! Firstly we went to see Miss Hockley, a textile designer who teaches at Rendcomb; we were feeling very adventurous! Her studio was full of fabulous fabrics and imaginative designs. Our favourite was of an outfit she had designed for a fashion show in Cornwall, which was made out of clothes patterns, papier-mâché on to an old clothes dummy. Continuing her textile theme she then made a wig from tape measures, which was truly inspirational (groovy). Next we went to an exhibition by a designer called Jill Blackwood. She had designed ceramics, furniture and clothes and we were told about some of the techniques she had applied. The most interesting technique was the use of digital printing where she had designed a small piece of fabric and then scanned it onto a computer, the design was then enlarged and printed on a larger scale. The resulting fabric looked as though it had a lot of texture but when felt it was very smooth. All very mind boggling for us globe-trotters! We also bumped into Mrs Boyd, an old but youthful face of Rendcomb, a real treat for those of us who remembered her. After a brief visit to the cafe, stuffing ourselves with cake and burning our mouths with hot chocolate, we returned to Rendcomb full of inspiration and creativity (and only slightly late to

English - sorry Mr Dodd!).

*Jessica Weston
with a teeny-weeny bit of help
from Claire Taylor*

PSYCHOLOGY: FROM TOP TO BOTTOM A LINK BETWEEN 6B AND J1

In early November 2003, the 6th form psychology set descended on J1 of the Junior School. We had been studying the development of children's internal mental worlds.

The thinking of children aged from 2-7 is still primarily dominated by the external world and by the appearance of everything. Children in this age range therefore show 'egocentrism' - the difficulty of understanding what others think, see and feel.

Psychologists over the years have developed many ways of testing the egocentrism of very young children. An example of this was a man called Jean Piaget, who used a mountain scene to test children about how they could describe the scene from different viewpoints. This was part of what our psychology set was exploring.

A scene of three mountains (thank-you, Art Department!), was arranged on a table and a child was selected from J1 to look round the scene and then to sit at a certain point facing the scene. A doll was placed opposite the seated child, who then had to choose from a selection of five views, which was the view the doll had of the scene.

Results were interesting, finding that only 20% of the children tested chose the correct view. This was strong support for Piaget's experiment and shows that children aged between 5 and 6 have difficulty understanding another's point of view.

Another experiment was also carried out on other children of the same class. This experiment was first carried out by Hughes. Hughes demonstrated that children aged 3½ to 5 years old could overcome their egocentrism if the task they were being asked to do made 'human sense'.

We asked children to hide a little boy doll, in a specific layout of walls, from a policeman and fireman dolls as the boy doll had been 'naughty'.



As the task made 'human sense' to the children, 75% could carry out the task successfully, as opposed to 20% in the previous task.

Overall our results proved strong evidence for the theories we have been studying for the past term. Our time in the Junior School was thoroughly enjoyed and provided us with a clear insight into the cognitive developmental approach of psychology.

Thank you to Mrs Harford and to Mrs Brealy for arranging the time for us to do the experiments and their time for helping us carry it out.

Hannah Bishop

DRUG AWARENESS DAY

On Friday 17th October, Mrs Westhead invited in two guest speakers to talk to the whole school

in different year groups about drugs. Below is a summary of her thoughts about the day.

The fifth and Sixth formers sat in the reading room bright eyed with anticipation about what our visiting speaker Tony France would have to say. He began with an attitude test which revealed views about drugs ranging from the very liberal to the very conservative. A consensus of opinion had to be found and then three groups had to argue in favour of legalising certain drugs and three groups had to argue against legalisation. The final three groups represented government agencies who had to ask questions of the speakers.

A lively debate ensued, with Edd Kiggins arguing a strong case in favour of legalisation. Astute and articulate questions came from a number of students but Heather Roper and Caroline Wells were particularly strong.

Later in the day the younger students were involved in group activities to explode myths and offer accurate information about the issues surrounding drugs.

The third and fourth forms were involved in the afternoon and after discussing their attitudes towards



Chris Scott and Jamie Burley in training

drugs, they went onto reaching consensus on attitudes towards the issue. Later they discussed in groups the advantages and disadvantages of changing current legislation on drugs. This was an excellent conclusion to a very challenging but informative day.

SW/PJ

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

On Friday 19th Sept, the 5th form GCSE P.E. group went climbing at the Warehouse, followed by a trip to the new Gloucestershire University campus at Oxstalls in Gloucester.

We were given the full guided tour of all the new sports science facilities, including the hydrostatic weighing tank and the environmental chamber, used by athletes to prepare for competition in different climates.

We were also lucky (!) enough to have the opportunity to try two major sports science experiments;

The V02 max test, performed on a treadmill with gradual increments of speed - to MAX! This test analyses oxygen intake and the results indicate the performer's level of cardiovascular endurance.

Chris Scott finished the test at a staggering speed of 17k.p.h. - marathon pace - with an oxygen uptake of 62 ml. of oxygen per kg. body weight per minute. This means that his heart and lungs can take on board an enormous amount of oxygen to create energy. Well done Chris!

We all, (including me, after much cajoling!), did the Wingate Test - another 'max' test that involves pedalling 'all-out' against a resistance for 30 seconds-doesn't sound like long but it's the longest 30 seconds I've ever known! The test measures leg power in watts. James Tarleton and Jamie Burley both managed to hit 1,000 watts of power before collapsing off the bike! Again - phenomenal achievements. Well Done!

We would all like to extend our thanks to the staff at the University for making us feel so welcome. Now the students know what I had to go through to graduate - hopefully we have some future sports science graduates in our midst!

Many thanks to all pupils who rose to the challenge! Well done.



BS

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT DAY

The 6th form business management day on the 12th March was seemingly unproblematic until of course the freak blizzard hit Rendcomb.

After fighting through the snow we were amazed at the turnout and we began the day with a survival exercise which revealed some interesting things about the importance of a cosmetic mirror, if ever stuck on a desert island (more likely a snow storm!)

The next exercise was based on an office scenario where team work and organisation were essential. Each team was then given certain specifications and materials, paper clips and paper, with which to

construct a tower which could support a mobile. Most felt that Cindy Cheung's origami skills gave her team a clear unfair advantage!

The final task was to be a PR company and produce a promotional presentation for either a new band or a cafe which provided us with an interesting insight into advertising.

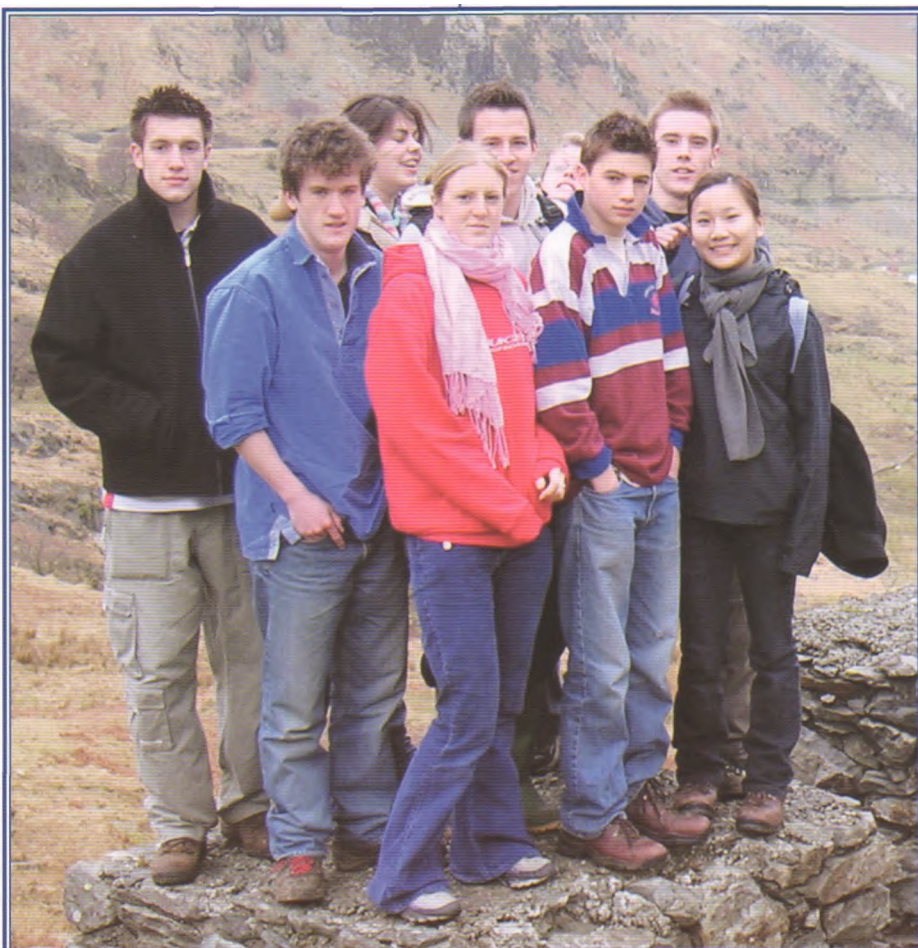
Thanks must go to all the guest business professionals who fought through challenging weather conditions and to Mr Slark for organising the event for us.

Heather Roper

6A BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

> BETWS-Y-COED, SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

The hardest decision we had to face on our journey to the field centre in Snowdonia was to decide who had what seat in the minibus. We all packed ourselves in next to the vital supplies from the Rendcomb kitchens. Our 'home' for the next week was to be a cottage, with ensuite facilities, on the edge of an ancient woodland, complete with stream and waterfall; all very cosy.



6A Biologists



Richard Burden "nets" a Charlotte Ellis

The theme of the trip was to collect the data and to start the write up of the Unit 6 investigation. Pete, our tutor, complete with tight leggings, was superb; clearly very knowledgeable about the topic and on very good form in the lecture room.

Our first full day was spent with millions of different types of moss in the woodland by the centre: star moss, tree moss and kate moss to name but a phew! This was turning out to be much more fern than we had expected. Lunch was spent lying under the trees on the bilberry patches wondering if it might snow that day.

The second day was spent in a river that two weeks previously had been in flood more than five metres above our heads. We kept a sharp eye out for flash floods! Richard B caught a 'tiddler' in the 'kick' net. In fact it turned out to be James G! Now we were on our own to get on with the project. The hand-outs from Mr S. made the project quite 'do-able' and each student devised a separate and different title to investigate. We then set off to the pub in the woods: Ralph 'King-of-the-pool-table' Aspin showed he was capable of multi-tasking by drinking and potting the blue at the same time. Now it felt like we were really well into the field-trip experience.

Time slipped by and before we knew it, it was the last day. We sorted all the statistical information and then went back to the pub and ended the day by jumping on our beds before packing our kit for the return journey. Before we finally left Betws-Y-Coed, Mr S. took us into the real mountains to see the glacial valleys and the view to Anglesey. We couldn't leave the car-park



before having the best bacon butties ever; Tom, Ralph, Mike, Amanda, Meg, Charlotte and Cindy packed them in as fast as any spaniel would!

Tired and in need of a shower, we arrived back at Rendcomb after a most enjoyable trip.

Thanks to Mr S. and Lily for taking us on such a well organised and fun field-trip, we know the projects will be good.

Well done to all the 6A Biologists of 2004; the clan of 2004 are one of the best.

*Compiled by: JS, Richard Burden,
Ralph Aspin, Meg Barne,
Cindy Cheung, Charlotte Ellis,
James Groombridge, Michael Arkle,
Tom Davies and Amanda Lomax.*

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE 2004 (INTERNATIONAL ROUND)

Alex Staines performed well in this invitation only round and missed a Merit award by only three marks. Next year, he will have the experience to do even better.

Junior Mathematics Challenge:

On Tuesday 27th April this year, pupils from forms one and two took part in this challenge. Most were awarded certificates as follows:

Bronze:	Rebecca Cooke Alex Dawkins Katya Edwards Thomas Hopes Hannah Richards Rachel Watson
Silver:	Emma Foley Eleanor Whittles
Gold:	Megan Dally

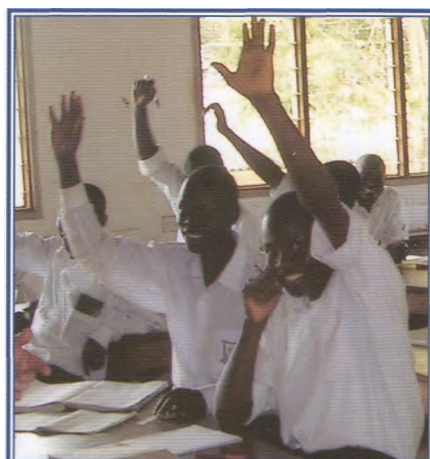
My thanks to Mrs Forshaw and Mr Brealy for preparing the pupils and of course, to all those pupils who participated.

JW

Beyond the College

THE LAUNCH OF THE LINK BETWEEN RENDCOMB COLLEGE AND LORD MEADES VOCATIONAL COLLEGE, JINJA, UGANDA 2004

As I reflect on my two weeks in Uganda, I feel I can only really describe the tapestry of experiences as a wonderful, magic carpet ride; taking me to many inspiring highs in contrast to some soul shattering lows. I still wonder how such a beautiful, lush and hospitable nation can have such levels of



Pupils at Lord Meades school

poverty that almost go beyond comprehension: I would not have believed it unless I had witnessed it for myself.

The key objective of this 'linking trip' was to forge the connection between the two schools and to encourage a symbiotic relationship which will benefit both institutions. It is hoped that in the future there will be staff exchanges, GAP projects and eventually cultural tours between the two schools.

The driving force behind Lord Meades Vocational College is the inspirational headmaster, Godfrey Kigana, a highly personable and charismatic man with a mission in his soul: he wants to help his pupils develop in a world where they have seen or experienced sights and events that no human should have to cope with. 80% of his pupils are orphans; either because of AIDS or because of wars in Northern Uganda.

Godfrey enabled me to see Uganda

not as a tourist but as a most welcome guest of his school and his friends. This allowed me to experience many aspects of Uganda that allowed me to appreciate both the beauty and yet the genuine poverty of this third world country.

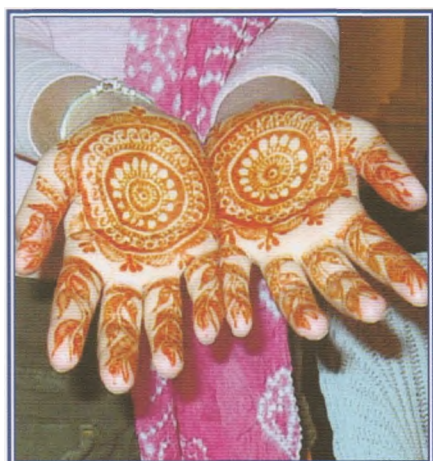
My experiences included a trip to see the source of the Nile at Jinja, white water rafting, teaching classes of up to 70 pupils and red dust rides to visit local villages. I particularly remember picking exotic fruits as we rolled along. Most important of all the trip allowed me to appreciate the 'bigger picture' and made me reflect on the cosseted lives most of us lead here in England.

I look forward to maintaining and developing the links between the two schools in the future and I urge students at Rendcomb to think about GAP projects to Lord Meades: it would be an experience that they would never forget.

JS

WOOD BLOCK PRINTING AND OTHER ADVENTURES IN RAJASTHAN, LAND OF THE KINGS, NORTHERN INDIA.

Back in the dark days of February I flew off to the East with a small band of excited teenagers and adults, including an old friend from our wild designing days of Fashion and Textiles at St. Martin's School



Maya Chester-Master's mehendi hands

of Art in London. Our group leader was Will Chester-Master, a long time India hand, who runs, among other things, their firmly established import business in Cirencester with his wife Hilary, and children Becky, Tom and Maya. Our wish was to experience India through their well-travelled eyes and, in particular, to



visit the dyers and block printers who decorate all the cloth that is then made into the clothes and soft furnishings for sale in their shop, Cargo.

Wood block printing is the oldest and most traditional method of getting pattern onto cloth. Many coarse medieval linens, 18th century silks and early Liberty prints were block printed. William Morris, post industrial revolution, revived the art of carving wood blocks and using them to print his complex, flowing, naturalistic designs for furnishing fabrics still popular today. Block

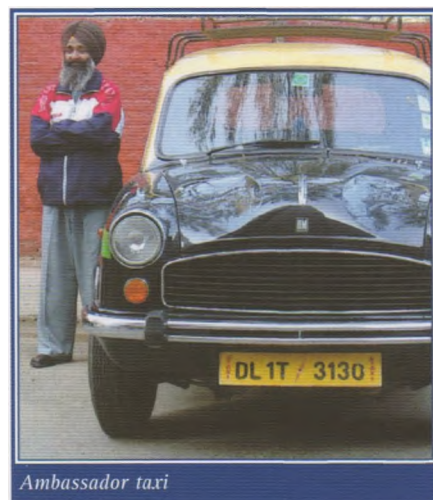


Maya & rickshaw

printing by hand is very labour intensive and, in the western world is, sadly, fast becoming a dying art. Fortunately in India, where there are many hands, this form of skilled craftsmanship is still highly valued and cloth continues to be produced using traditional methods. One wonders for how long, though. Modern silk screen production and digital technology are there already and block printing may soon follow the same decline as in the West. So - go and see it now.

India is a fabulous country. I had been before and longed to go again. The only down side for me is that in this land of small, beautiful and delicately boned women I feel like the Great White Woman of Cirencester! No matter! We were off to soak up some of the sights,

sounds, smells and tastes that colour life in Rajasthan. We travelled.....by bicycle, bicycle rickshaw, auto rickshaw, 50's Ambassador taxi, minibus, jeep, air-con coach, camel, cart, elephant, overnight sleeper, Shatabdi Express



Ambassador taxi

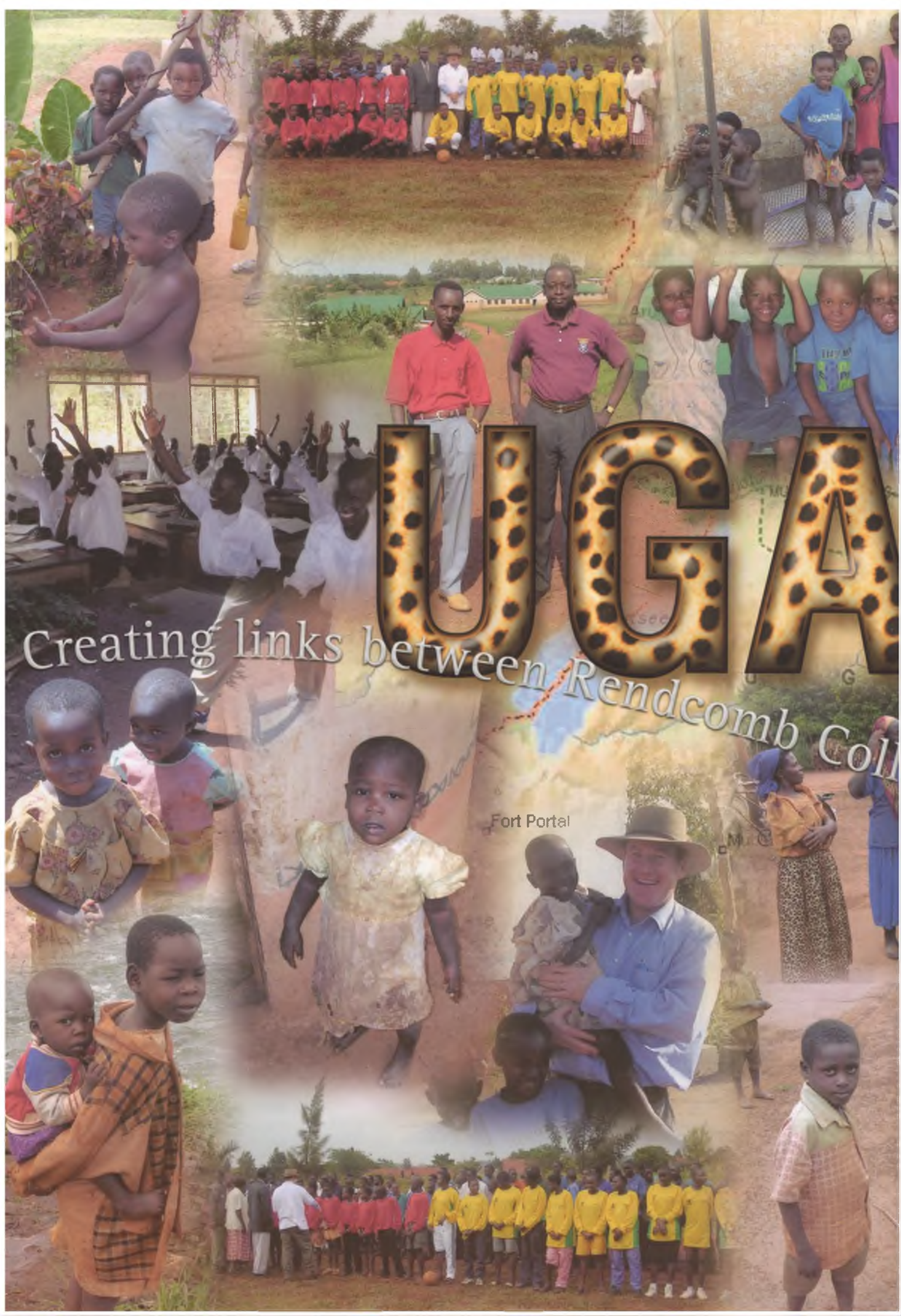
and our legs. We gazed at soaring Rajput and Mughal architecture in the form of palaces, castles and forts. We ate and drank: lots of rice and dal with fresh lime sodas, Thumsup lemonade, Kingfisher beer, sweet chai and big pots of coffee. We wandered in teeming bazaars and winding alleyways among crowds, not only of men women and children, but also seemingly itinerant dogs, pigs, goats, chickens, cows and monkeys, who all had babies.

Our "Oi-Tin-E-Rari," as Will put it, was Delhi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Agra and back to Delhi.

In the PINK city of Jaipur we tried hard to bump into the Maharajah, whose father had died on the Polo Ground in Cirencester but unfortunately he was busy showing an important Minister around his ancestral palace at the time but we had a delicious lunch there serenaded by a handsome musician and his dancing boy.

In the BLUE city of Jodhpur I revisited old haunts of a previous visit 7 years ago. Not a lot had changed, just as dusty and polluted, but still fabulously full of colour, craftsmanship and amazing buildings.

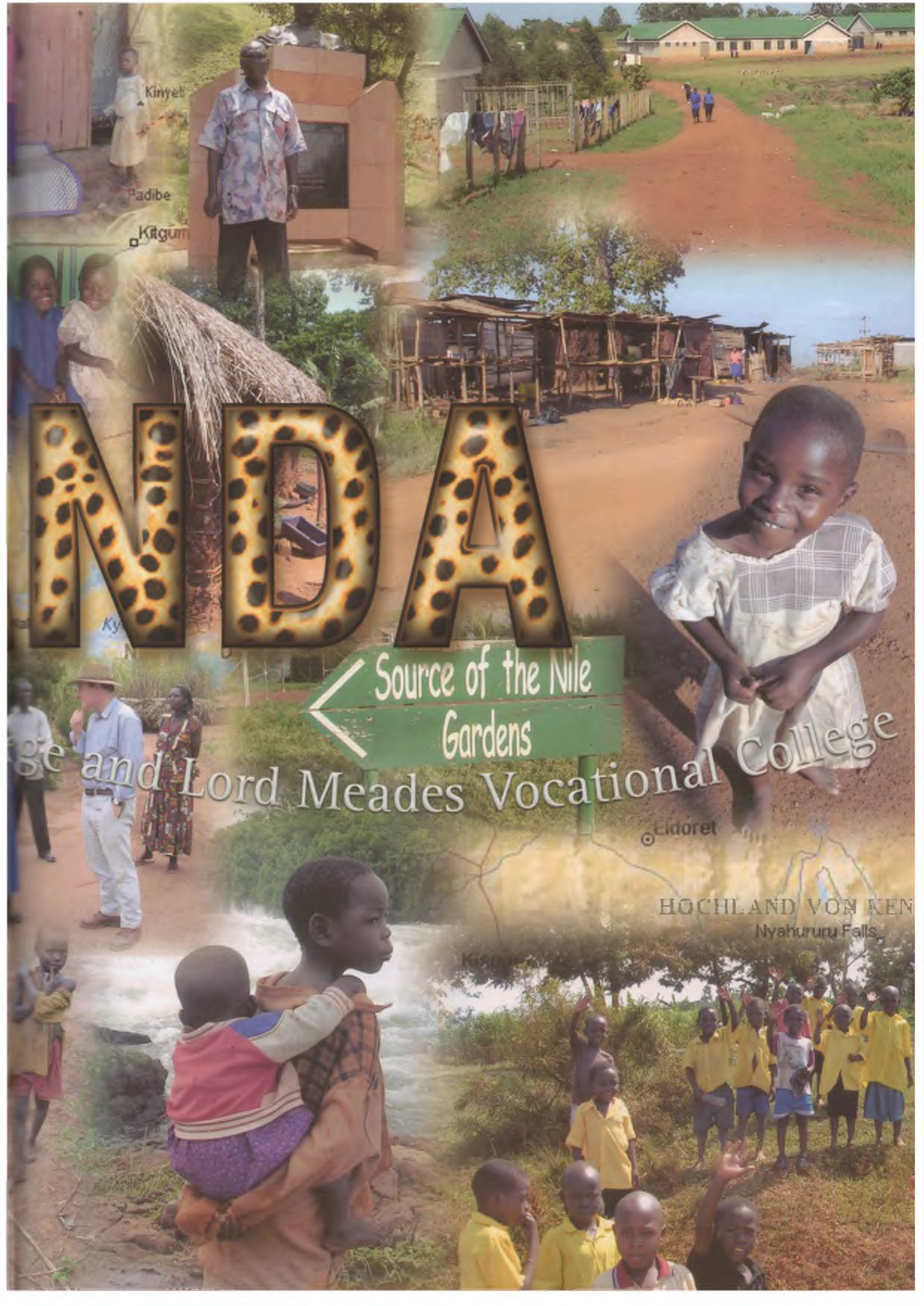
In the sprawling industrial city of Agra is concealed the Taj Mahal, built in the 17th century by Shah Jahan in memory of the wife he loved. It stands on the banks of the



UGANDA

Creating links between Rendcomb Coll

Fort Portal



Kinyet

Radibe

Kitgum

Ky

Source of the Nile
Gardens

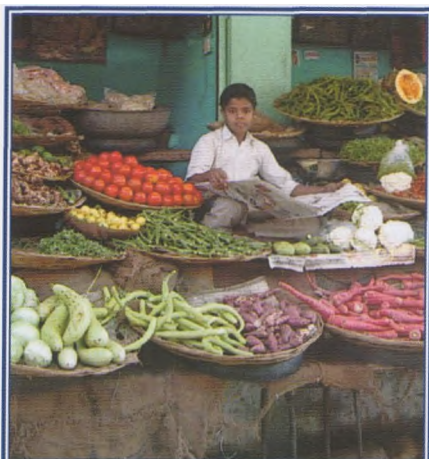
ge and Lord Meades Vocational College

Eldoret

HOCHLAND VON KEN
Nyahururu Falls

River Yamuna and it is as stunning as everyone tells you it is. The most striking thing is its great white marble domed shape against a pure blue sky. In the gardens we saw Indian kingfishers and crested hoopoes, both a treat to an artist's eye.

In Delhi we shopped till we dropped (G & Ts in the hugely grand Imperial Hotel), and Maya had her hands decorated with mehndi. We whizzed about through the leafy broad streets of the Lutyens designed area of New Delhi and through the ancient bustling Chandni Chowk bazaars of Old Delhi. On our last morning Will took us for a fascinating walk to visit a Jain temple, a Sikh gurdwara, a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Shiva and the great Muslim mosque



Herbs & Spices

of Old Delhi called the Jama Masjid. These crowded places of worship for thousands daily all had the smells, bells, offerings, singing, chanting, prayers, readings, flowers, signs and symbols that are common to so many religions. One establishment housed a hospital for wounded birds, another offered round the clock chapatis, dal and shelter for the hungry and homeless. It was a humbling experience to witness such faith and good works woven into the everyday life of a city where millions of people don't have much of anything.

In the middle of all this adventuring we also visited the printing workshop outside Jaipur set up by Hilary Chester-Master where the 3 or 4 printers and their families live in a small compound beside the workshop. We were welcomed with cups of chai and then were given the run of the print tables to try our



hands at printing using all the blocks that create the Cargo prints. We spent a great day pattern-making and as we left we were each given a beautifully carved block to keep. We then visited a village called Bagru where traditionally all the families make their living dyeing and printing cloth using vegetable dyes, such as Indigo and Madder. The colours are of a much lower key than the chemical dyes now used universally, they are subtle and harmonious. By chance I just happened to be wearing a waistcoat I had bought in Anokhi years ago and hadn't worn for a long time and as I walked into the printers' house he looked at it and said "I printed that cloth" and sure enough there were the blocks to prove it. Serendipity. We had a lovely day: lunch up on the rooftop looking down on great swathes of blue dyed cloth stretched out on the ground to dry in the sun, lengths of yellow cloth draped over the wall of the next door house. There was always a shopping opportunity too.

We all had a lot of fun, the Chester-Masters made our time in India so memorable. Through them we were introduced to people and things well outside the usual tourist experience and, for that, very many thanks to them.

To get back to the beginning. Hilary Chester-Master has a l w a y s

harboured a plan to bring her printers over to England. Her burgeoning "other" business; The Organic Farm Shop on the family farm outside Cirencester, has provided her with the space, her

new Green Room, to set up a temporary print workshop there. Mr Holden very generously allowed me a few days off school to enable me to go to India and since then I have done lots of talking and Hilary has done lots of planning and the printers ARE coming, visas permitting, at the end of September. In fact by the time this magazine is published they will be nearly here. AND the big plan is that various groups from this school, and one or two others, will be able to go over to the farm and have their own "hands-on" day, with the Indian printers, drinking chai, listening to Rajasthani music and generally getting a tiny taste of another world. Of course all of this will be well worked into their coursework! the Art Department will be full of Indian textiles and who knows what else will be up our sleeves by then!

SB

INTERVIEW WITH COMMANDER HODKINSON

On the 15th January 2004 Commander Hodkinson of the Royal Navy left Rendcomb for the second time. On this occasion he was literally flying! Last time he was here, in an era of bad hair do's and even worse music, Rendcomb was a very different place but has anything really changed? According to the Commander, "not Mr Wood!"



Commander Hodkinson, Chris Wood & crew

Although the 80's may be long gone, his nostalgia was very real.

Commander Hodkinson had flown to the school aboard a Lynx helicopter from HMS Southampton,

the ship he now commands. He pretended he had come to talk to the school about life in the navy and to describe some of the challenges of the job, when in reality he had come back to have a nosey around and see how the old place was surviving! He admitted to some nervousness as he flew over the college but he was very keen to



atmosphere was something that he sees now in his navy life as part of HMS Southampton.

The final and perhaps most significant memory he had was of a colour: battleship grey. Perhaps of the rooms or the food, he wouldn't specify and so neither will we! Perhaps here lies the deep psychological clue to explain his future career... or maybe not!

Thank-you very much to the Commander and all his crew for a wonderful experience for all, even those Junior school pupils floored by the blast as the helicopter took off!

Matt Nichols, Heather Roper & PJ

60 YEARS RE-UNION.

Nineteen Old Rendcombians, who attended the college between the years 1941 to 1946 returned to school to celebrate their 60 year re-union in October.

Following a special service in the Church, where they were addressed by the Headmaster, they were taken on a tour of the school by the head boy and prefects, who were mildly surprised to hear of a few unusual things that went on in the 1940's! The Old Boys then retired to 'The Bathurst Arms' for lunch as a finale to an enjoyable day of reminiscence, memories and anecdotes.

Subsequently, I received a lovely letter from one of our illustrious visitors. Michael Petter who now lives in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire wrote to ask for a photograph of the day. I would like to quote a section of the letter he sent:

"I was one of the 1940's vintage old boys who visited the college on



Commander Hodkinson's Lynx helicopter arrives

have a tour around.

We interviewed the commander about what life had been like here all those years ago. Commander Hodkinson had particularly strong memories of the dreaded corridor in Old Rec and waiting there to be seen by Mr Knapp (the eighties equivalent of Mr Dodd) for some misdemeanour or other. Indeed it turned out that the future commander of one of her majesty's warships was anything but a model student! He had clear memories of detentions and extra work.

Commander Hodkinson went on to talk about the changes he had noticed most notable of which was the development of several new buildings and the introduction of new subjects. In fact when he talked to the assembled 1-3rd form in a

very stimulating Q. & A. session, he made specific reference to the atmosphere of the college and its unique blend of camaraderie and family values. He felt that this



60 Years On

October 12th 2003. May I thank you, and through you, the headmaster and sixth formers for a most enjoyable visit. The programme you provided was excellent and it was very good to see the College evidently flourishing fifty years on."

Michael also filled me in on some of the 'daring-do's' of his day. Apparently one of the initiation rites was to climb to the top of the cedar tree in front of the Art Block. Obviously, it wasn't quite as tall as it is now! The other 'rite of passage' was too scary to relate but I was delighted that all the madmen of 1940 lived to tell the tale!

T.P. Denehy also wrote to us to express his thanks and enjoyment in the day. He made one apology:

"I'm sorry I took my slippers off as I shuffled along with your prefects!!"

He went on to complement the sixth-form students that he met:

"Would you, [headmaster], please thank all the prefects for the way that they handled the 'geriatrics'; amusing, interested, sophisticated and well balanced."

(I think he meant the prefects, not the visitors!)

It was a memorable day for those of us who have been connected to the college for many decades or for two minutes; and, a sucker for history, I enjoyed the reminiscences enormously.

PJ

CHRIS JEFFREYS' TRAVELS

Every year students in the sixth form are offered travel bursaries to go off and explore the world. All we ask in return is that they tell us about their experiences. We then print their accounts in the magazine and show the pictures...or not in Chris Jeffreys' case because he had his camera and film stolen. All we have are the words he wrote. I taught Chris English for two years and I am proud of the way in which he expresses himself in the report that follows. What an experience! The report is an edited version; if you wish to see the full version there is a copy lodged in the school library.

Chris' story begins like this:

"Being woken up by some fairly



substantial rustling in the bushes close to my tent is something I shall never forget. These noises were not being made by a dog or a rodent or even a human. As I got out of bed and peered through my mosquito net into the moonlit African bush, I noticed what I thought was a silhouette of a very large, very solid looking animal. It was an elephant no more than 20 feet away. It was grazing on some palm scrub".

Chris had gone to do research on lions in Botswana and had found himself in a small town called Maun, on the edge of the Okavango delta, one of Africa's few remaining wilderness areas. Chris was staying with some family friends who had gone out to Africa to start a new life in 1995. Somehow they had ended up studying wild lions. In his report, Chris went on to describe the camp where he stayed:

"There were 2 large tents with space for a kitchen, sink, dining room and even a TV which could play videos. There were tents for each person to sleep in and a shower with hot running water. Through the curtains of your tent you could see impala and kudu munching on vegetation".

Chris went on to describe his experience of tracking lions:

"Every day we went out using what looked like a handheld TV aerial attached to a radio that could be tuned to the individual frequency of the radio collars that the lions wore. We were studying three particular prides of lions named after varieties of wine! They had become very accustomed to our vehicle and we were often close to running them over. However, I was reminded by Kate Kat not to be complacent when she told me to wind my window up because if the lions wanted to they could be through my window before I knew it."

Chris went on to describe his experiences with elephants, crocodiles, impala, ("the carnivores' favourite fast food snack") and leopards. He also had to contend

with black-snouted cobras, boomslangs, puff adders, scorpions, spiders and wasps.

In his report Chris went on to explain the terrible decimation of Africa's lions: in 1980 there were 230,000 lions recorded in Africa and the number has now reduced to approximately 15,000. In his article, Chris explained that there are three main reasons for this reduction:

- Loss of habitat
- Trophy hunting
- FIV: a feline version of HIV.

Since the project that Chris worked on began, only 10 out of 104 cubs have survived to maturity. Chris concluded his report with the following paragraphs:

"I experienced a way of life in Africa that is just so different to anything over here. The people are very 'chilled out' but every now and again something happens that could only occur in Africa:

Road-kill: African Bush Style:

"Not far from the lion camp, there's a wild dog camp where there is a light aircraft. One day we got a radio call from their camp saying they had had an accident. When we got there we saw the wreckage of the plane and dozens of vultures: we feared the worst. As we neared the plane, we could see that the vultures were sitting on a semi-decapitated carcass of a giraffe. Unfortunately, it had bolted in front of the plane as it was taking off from the dusty run way. The skill of the pilot meant that the crew survived but the giraffe was less fortunate".

Edited highlights of Chris Jeffreys' travel report. He ended his article by thanking the O.R's for the bursary that had helped his travel plans.

Chris Jeffreys /PJ

MUSIC COURSES AT RENDCOMB

Every year visiting groups of people use Rendcomb College for holiday lets. This April it was a musical week and Talaylin Zeppa from London applied to the headmaster for a special bursary to participate in the week of music at the College. She was successful and subsequently wrote an article for the magazine about her experiences on her music course in April.

Talaylin began with the following words:

"When I was first asked to write about my time on the music course at Rendcomb, I confess that I was a little apprehensive! I had just spent the last two weeks simply gushing to anyone and everyone about the most amazing and rewarding week of my musical life. However, when it came to relaying my experiences on paper, I found it rather difficult to present them successfully without them seeming like the ramblings of an over enthusiastic child."

Talaylin went on to describe what she felt when she first arrived at Rendcomb:

"...as I stood in awe of the picturesque scenery, I instinctively knew that my week at Rendcomb would be magical."

Talaylin explained how the week was divided into music lessons, group sessions, seminar work and technical preparation. The students also did yoga, breathing exercises and discussion classes about stage-work.

Talaylin ended the article with the following words:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful directors and tutors involved with music at Rendcomb for creating the most enjoyable and inspiring week of music, education, fun and friendship and for constantly renewing my enthusiasm for my vocal studies and musical aspirations.

And whilst my final thought is neither profound nor unique, it has to be said that my time at Rendcomb was truly one of the best weeks of my life."

Talaylin Zeppa

ULTIMATE SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS 2003

The Cobalt Appeal Fund (Crack Cancer Campaign) held their Shopping for Christmas Event at Rendcomb College on the Evening of Thursday 30th October and all day Friday 31st. Those who came had their cars parked by Lord Apsley and then were welcomed with a champagne and canapé Reception. The evening was opened by the local novelist Joanna Trollope.



There were 50 stalls with a variety of tasty, delicate and beautiful gifts from succulent olives and fruit and savoury pies to chic hats, jewellery and pashmina scarves. I was informed that the scarves are made from the belly hair of Nepalese capra hircus goats. How one manages to get a goat from Nepal to part with his or her belly hair I really do not know!!!

Rendcomb College gave the facilities and support services to aid the Cobalt Appeal, which they have done now for the past eight years. This charity fundraising event has become very much a regular slot in the Michaelmas half term calendar and indeed for 2004 it will be held on 28th and 29th October a date for your diary and a shopping opportunity not to be missed!

The Fair raised £10,569.35 for the charity and is targeted at the new breast scanner and facilities that are to be installed at Linton House in Cheltenham. Your support for this local and important charity is very much appreciated.

MN

GALANTHUS (OR SNOWDROPS AT REDCOMB)

"Galanthus?" What's he on about?

Galanthus gala, 2004. Alright, snowdrops to the uninitiated; a gala of snowdrops in fact. This is what Rendcomb hosted on February 14th, 2004. A conference, lunch and plant sale for 240 enthusiastic Galanthus guests. Snowdrop collectors and plantsmen and women from all corners of the world; we had Russians, Americans and Turks and a whole coach from Holland.

The day began with the arrival of a selection of specialist nurserymen who set up shop in The Reading Room complete with thermometers and humidity testing equipment. There was much procrastination as the room warmed up and the sun came out.; 'open the window!' cried one, 'Too much draught' cried another'.

The other delegates arrived for morning coffee and the conference took place in the Dulverton Hall. Later there were plant sales and a visit to Rodmarton.



Galanthus

Well what have I learnt during this exercise? Don't mess with the Galanthus girls and guys when it comes to Snowdrop shopping! We are lucky to live in an area so rich in Galanthus and much of this is down to the great pioneering plant hunter, Mr Elwes from Colesbourne.

Must finish now, go home and take a second look at those shy little white flowers growing in large clumps in my garden and give them a little more T.L.C. Perhaps one of the clumps is the £80.00 variety.....I wish!

MN



James Stutchbury with a young shooter

'HANDS-ON' RURAL DAY AT RENDCOMB COLLEGE

On a cold but sunny Sunday afternoon in March, local families were invited to take part in a 'Hands-On' Rural Day at Rendcomb College. Nearly fifty children and their parents attended and enjoyed the opportunity to take part in a variety of outdoor activities including clay pigeon shooting, golf and a treasure hunt. All these activities took place in the beautiful College grounds under the guidance of staff and pupils.

Everybody had a very enjoyable afternoon followed by a traditional cream tea in the Reading Room.

LH

Social, Cultural & Sports Trips

THEATRE CLUB

Once again, the key word for Theatre Club this year was "variety". A good mix of tragedy, comedy and musicals meant that regular clubbers saw a wide range of theatrical performances and talents.

The Michaelmas term began with a visit to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham to see "Bouncers" which was particularly valuable for Edd, Tom, James and Joss as they met the cast members before curtain up and could glean ideas for their own performance later in the term. "Instant Wit" has become a regular feature for Theatre Club and once again they did not disappoint with their finely tuned improvisation skills on display. Their wonderful off-beat songs were a particular favourite. "Creaking Shadows" at the Sundial Theatre helped introduce Fourth Form Drama to the potential of working with masks and it had its scary moments with a haunted house being its central tenet. We finished the term with a good old tear-jerker "Whistle Down the Wind" at the Bristol Hippodrome. We enjoyed singing "No Matter What" along with the well drilled children's chorus!

The Lent Term began with the utterly terrifying "The Woman in Black". Even the more macho of clubbers (Jamie Burley and Tom Ruddy), found themselves screaming along with the girls as the evil ghost worked her way around the



Everyman. Some of us refused to watch the heart-stopping conclusion but all thought that "it was just the best". The next outing was a far more cerebral experience for our Sixth Form Theatre Studies students as we saw Sophocles' Ancient Greek tragedy "Antigone". As one of our set texts, it was very valuable to see it performed on stage with the bare minimum of set and props. An Everyman Youth Theatre production of "The Crucible" also helped our Fourth Form Drama class see the potential for their set text on stage.

The Summer Term saw us travelling to The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford to see "Macbeth". Buckets of blood, stunning laser lighting effects and intriguing



Lauren & Caroline

performances by three very quirky witches showed us the potential of this famous tragedy.

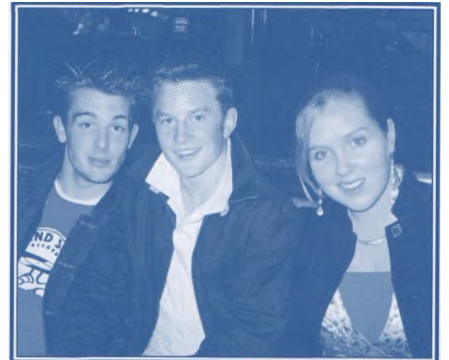
Next term we look forward to the World Premiere of "Mary Poppins" in Bristol and "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare", (Abridged) in Cheltenham.

DD

DRAMA TOUR TO LONDON

On the 21st March 2004, 5th and Sixth Form drama queens (and Kings), set off for London and the second annual Rendcomb Drama Tour.

Wearing our jet black polo shirts and slicked back hair (at least Ruddy's was), we climbed aboard



Edd, Jamie & Miss McClymont

the oldest National Express bus ever to see paying customers. Two hours later we were in the bustling metropolis of London trying not to lose each other on the tube.

Our performance for this first evening was The Reduced Shakespeare's performance of "The Complete Works, (Abridged)". Lots of audience participation and the lead took a particular shine to Hana Lawrence, not difficult as Rendcomb had the first two rows. This feast of fun was a comical experience like no other and even the most embittered anti-Shakespeare lobby would have to admit that it was tremendous.

Dinner in Planet Hollywood, followed by an impromptu Karaoke session rounded off our first tiring day. Bed beckoned as breakfast was between 8 and 9.00 a.m.

Day two was the day the more sophisticated and mature boys were looking forward to; our workshop with one of the lead female actors from Les Misérables. As we walked into the famous pineapple studios, several jaws dropped but the ever chivalrous James Tarleton managed to outdo himself when he exclaimed, "well, she's not that fit." The class was instructive, energetic and fun.

After lunch we headed off like maniacs on The Drama Tour theatre hunt, a treasure hunt of fiendish complexity dreamed up and copyrighted by Mrs. Dodd. Lauren

and Jess' team won ('Only because they ran'; sore loser Mr E. Kiggins).

Later that day we went back-stage at Les Misérables and were fascinated to see what a tight squeeze it was back there. In the evening we watched this stirring epic which was made a bit special because we had met Epinine earlier. A brilliant performance by the whole cast and by Tanya Wells who rounded off the show by exclaiming very loudly, "HE'S DEFINITELY LOOKING AT ME!!!!!" when ex S-Club 7 hunk, Jon Lee took his bow.

We hung about the stage door like groupies and congratulated our instructor. But all eyes were on Jon Lee and Emma Couch just couldn't control herself when he appeared telling him in no uncertain terms: "Oh my God!! I love you!!!!" Back to the hotel and so to bed for a good night's sleep.

Or not.....

You see there was the small matter of four fire alarms that went off in the middle of both nights! Good training in the boarding houses at school meant we were out on the pavement outside Burger King in no time at all. Apart that is for Jamie and Edd who arrived some time later fully clothed and with the hair gel on. Unfortunately, there was some rather foolish behaviour when



Joss in make-up

the strapping firemen arrived most notably from Mrs. Brealy and Miss McClymont who seemed to go a little feint and managed to disport themselves on the front bumpers of the huge red engine. Someone was heard to utter those immortal



words: "I love a man with a big axe" but it would be churlish of me to reveal the identity of the speaker. [I have the name in a sealed vault and am willing to let people see it for a small financial consideration (The



Keeping warm outside Burger King

editor)].

When Tuesday appeared we were tired but ready for the exciting events ahead. We went to the theatre museum and had a class on make-up and then a costume class from a psychotic Danish woman whose lack of knowledge or meaningful preparation was more than outweighed by her mad use of the non-sequitur.



"Food glorious food!"

("I have directed four...NO!! three...NO!!...NO!!...two...NO!!...one!! play, mostly things with young people, pantomime, I didn't know what that was but it was fun!!")

or:

Question: "Did you go to drama

school?"

Answer: "Nahhh!!!! There are no real drama schools in Denmark and they only take eight students a year."

And my particular favourite:

"I know, children...let's do that song, you know, the one; how does it start?

'Soft detty... dumm... dee., errr... errr... errr'

Does anyone know how it goes?

I am doing a dissertation on musical theatre so I know everything-go on! Just ask me a question!!!!")

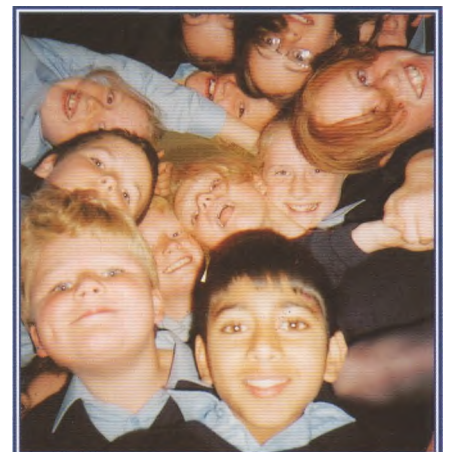
In the afternoon it was off to "The Phantom of the Opera" and some ritual blubbing from Mrs. Dodd. It was one of the most fantastically staged plays that we had ever seen. After the performance it was a serious yomp across town to the coach and three hours later we were back in the rural idyll of Cirencester. We were all exhausted, apart that is from Nicki who managed to tell her life story to an unfortunate Indian couple who had sat next to her on the coach! She even sang them some traditional Indian songs to while away the hours.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Brealy, Miss McClymont, and Mr Jennings but especially to Mrs. Dodd who organized the whole extravaganza! Thank-you and here's to Drama Tour 2005!

*Lauren Lees,
Caroline Wells,
Edd Kiggins & PCJ*

1ST FORM ADVENTURE WEEKEND 2003

The First Form took to the Forest of



Assorted first formers



Sern

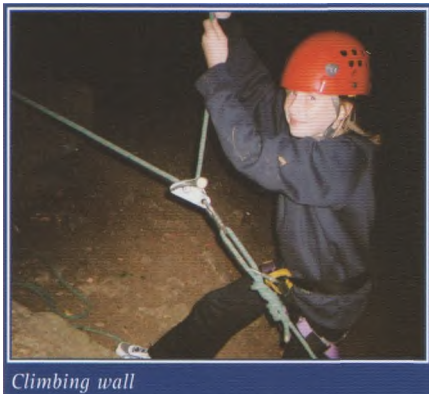


tan 2



Dean and found themselves! It took all the challenges of the weekend to get them to gel and explore their emotions and to enjoy the exhilaration, apprehension and joy of achievement.

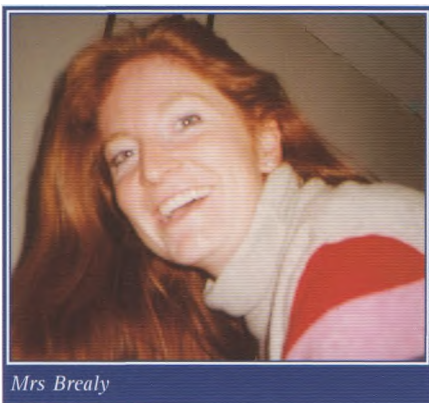
Each adventurer undertook to explore the bedrock of Symond's



Climbing wall

Yat by caving as well as climbing; this was complemented by battling with both the currents of the River Wye and their kayak! Finally, it was time to head above the ground and seek the lofty heights of the tree tops of the Forest of Dean zip wires to take you from place to place.

If that was not enough, the Saturday evening saw the pupils' more creative side; Mrs Brealy and



Mrs Brealy



Keeping warm



Mr. Mann at lunch

Miss Stanway primed them for acting out some skits; the roof was certainly raised by the laughter of seeing each other do their thespian thing.

My thanks go to the Centre staff of



Mr. Brealy takes the strain

Holly Barn/Wydean, Mrs Brealy, Miss Gibbons, Johnny, Mr Mann, Miss Stanway, Mr Holden, Mr White, Meg Barne, Sarah Colson and Edward and Eleanor Brealy for getting stuck in; but most of all to the First Form for their endeavours over this physically and emotionally demanding weekend. Hopefully, the staff will just about recover in time for next year!

AB

WIMBLEDON 2004

On the 2nd of July 2004, the



The first form

Rendcomb tennis team went to Wimbledon. Other tickets scattered throughout the courts were taken up by people not involved in the "Oliver" production under the supervision of their parents. With a two hour journey ahead of us it was very exciting. Expert driving from Mr Stutchbury meant that the journey went very quickly.

With pairs of tickets given out at "Henman Hill" we all went our separate ways. I stuck with my mum and a few friends. As play didn't start till 1.00pm we took a look around shops, restaurants and of course indulged in a breakfast of strawberries and cream. Soon we had to make our way to our seats on Court One. I first saw a doubles match; Jonas Bjorkman and Todd Woodbridge v Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley. We enjoyed three games before the covers were pulled over the court to protect it from the rain! After a while the game nearly recommenced with the players warming up, but then it rained again! We explored Wimbledon and stood looking at the practice courts when to our delight (especially to Harley Phelps' delight) Maria Sharapova came out to warm up for her singles final the next day. What a bonus!

Soon we left the court to wander around celebrity spotting in the rain. Then Mr Schofield spotted Ross Kemp from "EastEnders!" So I ran over to have a picture with him (Ross Kemp that is). He was so friendly and patient as it took my mum three attempts before the picture was just right. Very exciting! Then it was our turn to swap our tickets for the one pair of centre court tickets we had between us. It was so exciting to be in that famous place I have seen so many times before on the television - even if we were just looking at the rain covers! But then the covers were removed, out marched the ball boys and girls followed by the umpires in military style. Out came Federer and Grosjean to warm up for the semi-final. It was so exciting. We couldn't believe the power they use to hit the ball. Then, of course, the referee came out to check the conditions and signalled for the covers to be pulled on again. With amazing efficiency the court was covered up in an instant. Why they took so long to remove them when the sun came out though remains a mystery. Soon we had to meet up at



Henman Hill to decide if we were going to stay or leave. Due to the bad weather some people from Rendcomb decided to leave. My mum and I were luckily offered a lift with some friends so we stayed on. Play did resume at about 6pm. We watched Federer take two sets from Grosjean and reach 4:3 in the third set before play was rained off for the day. Luckily the second men's semi, Roddick v Ancic, was transferred to court one in order to progress the Championship in spite of the rain so our friends got to see that too.

A wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone in spite of the rain. Thank you Miss Bell for giving us this opportunity.

Sian Clift

GERMAN TRIP

On Thursday the 25th of March, 30 of the First and Second Years set off very early to Germany. Very excited we made ourselves at home on the coach for our long trip ahead. Watching one video after another we finally got to Dover where we caught the ferry. The ferry journey went quite quickly. When we got off, it was back onto the coach again with our coach driver, Trevor. More and more videos led us to our youth hostel, where we arrived just after 8pm. Then, when we had found our rooms, we sat down to a cold buffet.

> FRIDAY 26TH

Well, the next day we visited Linz am Rhein on a ferry, which was great fun. Then at 1 o'clock we went to Nürburgring, which is an amazing Formula 1 theme park. We also went go-karting. After that we went back to the youth hostel to have a hot buffet.

> SATURDAY 27TH

This day we went to the 'Sommerrodelbahn' in Altenahr. This place is where we went tobogganing! With some quick speeding down the track, we kids really enjoyed ourselves! We had

lovely weather there. There was a story, though, of an evil goose, who patrolled the track. The story was right, but luckily it didn't peck us! I think Mr Holden scared it away!!! After the excitement of tobogganing we all went to Bonn to visit the city and do some shopping! In the evening we played skittles. I think it was a great experience with some good team and KLUB participation!

> SUNDAY 28TH

On this day we spent some time at the 'Drachenfels' in Knigswinter. We walked down the side of the hill and admired the view of the Rhine. The best was coming up though, as we were taken up on this little train! At Aqualand, with its rapids and giant rubber rings, we had great fun in the afternoon. There were a few more slides, but not as intense as the rapids!

> MONDAY 29TH

It was Mark's Birthday!! So when we woke up in the morning we decided to send him back to school. The German school that we went to was in Bad Neuenahr Ahrweiler and it was also a boarding school. The English teacher, Frau Fishbach, welcomed us and she was really nice. She led us into the school that looked like Hogwarts! First of all we had a 'zweites Frühstück' (second breakfast). We enjoyed our meal with some of the school's third years. Then we went to break, where we watched England vs Germany. Germany won with quite a bit of help, by letting their 5th years join in, we suspect! Then we went for a walk down one of the German children's favourite paths 'The Lovers' Path'! After the walk we were shown around some of the school's facilities e.g. indoor swimming pool! Afterwards we had to say a sad goodbye. Then we went to a local park for a picnic lunch and guess who was there? THE SCHOOLKIDS!!!! So we swung on the swings and just played. Then we really had to leave but it wasn't so bad as we were off to the brewery. The brewery was good, especially the tasting at the end (coke and ice cream, of course!) We got a big free bottle of beer each. Unfortunately it was for our parents! When we went back to the youth hostel we had a surprise for Mark. A big birthday party. We had a huge cake and all of our presents, which we had spent a massive 1 Euro each on, were put on a table for him. Mark put all our presents into categories, and there

was a winner for each category. We had a great time!

> TUESDAY 30TH

The day before we had to leave, so we made it a good day. First of all we visited Cologne at around 10:00 and went across the river on a cable car to admire the view. Then we went to a huge cathedral, seeing who could climb to the top! Mrs Fielding didn't make it and blamed her bump! On the way up there was some singing from Harry, Louis, Guy, Jeremy and myself and many more people sang on the way down from the top of the cathedral; it was much more fun than counting steps!

By 12:00 we were having lunch by the river. Then we went on a boat trip down the river Rhine! This was a fun experience! Then after that we did what every girl and maybe some boys wanted to do, SHOPPING!!!! We all had a search in a huge department store and also we had a browse and a buy in a few shops in the town too. People like April had huge suitcases with them, so shopping bags just added to the luggage. Then came the highlight of the trip, the chocolate factory! It had great information on the history of chocolate but I think many of us students preferred the chocolate fountain! Yummy melted chocolate on a wafer and we could have as many as we liked! Then after our adventure in the chocolate



museum we went to its shop. Chocolate as far as the eye can see led us to buying nearly the whole contents of the shop. We had a great time! Back at the youth hostel we had pizza for tea. Now, for the last couple of days the teachers had been playing April fool jokes on us. I must admit they were very good, but throughout the week what we had to plan for was not a joke. We had to create a sketch of anything, with anything we had! Well, people came up with some very good ideas. So tonight was the performance night! Jokes, kissing contests, plays and bottle blowing made for a great night. It was a competition and the bottle blowing song won with myself, Alex Dawkins, Ava Carpenter and Sinead Brennan. Amazing, as we only practised for 5 minutes. Then we went to our rooms and reminisced on what a great time we'd had in Germany.

> WEDNESDAY 31ST

We had an early departure at 8am but we all got up O.K. After we were

all ready and packed we set off. On the way home we stopped at Cite Europe in Calais for a break. Into another big department store and we were shopping again, which wasn't a bad thing! There were plenty of clothes shops and there was a Disney store, a "Toys-R-Us" and many more places to buy things. Mr Holden studied the wine in the supermarket and some other unusual buys! Then we set off again. On our way back we ate at Wimpy, then by 9pm we were at Reading. Some friends hopped off and said their goodbyes and before we knew it we were off again. By 9:45pm we were at Swindon where some more people got off. Last stop Rendcomb. This is where the last of the troops got off. We said our goodbyes and thanked the teachers for an unforgettable trip!

I would like to say on behalf of every pupil that went thank you Mr Holden, Mrs White, and of course Mrs Fielding, who organised the trip. Thanks again!!!!

Sian Clift

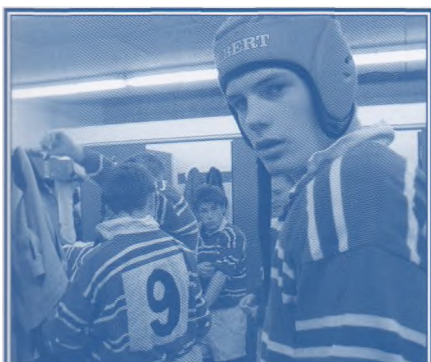
RUGBY TOUR: BARCELONA 2004

The tour started with an early bus at 8:30 am on Sunday the 15th February. After a delayed flight from Gatwick we arrived in the different atmosphere of warm



The Rugby team in Barcelona

weather and palm trees in Barcelona. A quick trip into Barcelona and then the drive to Lorret de Mar for a drink before



George Lawson in Barcelona

going to our hotel/Log cabins at Club Aire Libre.

Our first full day started with a training session early Monday morning which established the pattern for the whole week. That afternoon a walk into the local town of 'Tossa de Mar' where we relaxed at the only open cafe by the beach on a wet and windy day. After a casual drink at the hotel bar, off to bed.

On Tuesday we went into Barcelona for some cultural sights and sounds at MacDonald's and some quality shopping. The match we would have had that evening was cancelled due to the pitch being waterlogged. We returned to our log cabins at around midnight.

Wednesday was the hottest day and after training we went to the beach. Here we had the shock of seeing our front row on a pedal boat in a bay on a deserted beach in the middle of the Mediterranean. That evening we played our first match. It was under floodlights which was the first for some. It was also on artificial grass which suited our fast attacking game, but unfortunately there's as well. It was a fast flowing, even game but they just got ahead towards the end, winning 24 points to 15. After the game, a long drive to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

Thursday was a tour round the Nou-Camp 'socca' stadium in central Barcelona followed by some real sights and sounds like Gaudi's Gothic vision of a Cathedral. A bit more souvenir shopping and then to our second match.

A long walk from the changing room to the pitch again at 8:30 in



the evening gave some of us time to think that this was our last match in Rendcomb colours! We were playing one of the best teams in Spain and they played a very physical forward orientated style. Rendcomb were awesome in defence but wave after wave of their attack meant that something had to give. Our time on the ball was limited and we had few attacking opportunities. A few attacks went through but were held up over the line, and the final score was 28 nil to the Spanish champions. We played with desire and pride with everyone putting in 110% which is all that I could have asked for.

Friday we returned to a sunny England for a change; after enjoying a very successful rugby tour to Barcelona.

A big thank you goes to Mr Slark and Mr Dodd for arranging and



The Line-out

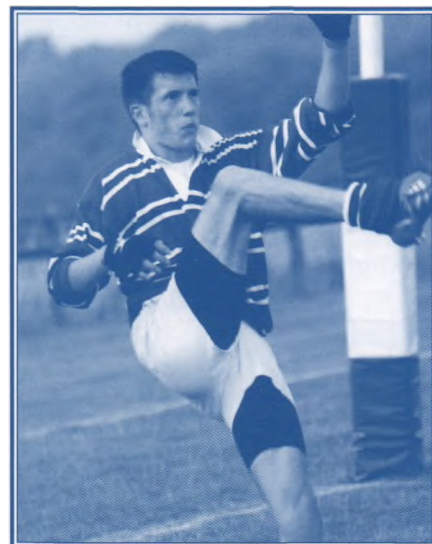
taking us on the tour.

Ralph Aspin

SPORTS - Rugby

OVERVIEW

2003 will go down as a momentous year for the sport of Rugby Union. To be crowned as World Champions was a momentous achievement for the national side and it showed that with thorough preparation, dedication and a will to succeed anything is possible. What is the relevance of the above I hear you



Ralph Aspin kicks for touch

say! Well, in the wilds of the Gloucestershire countryside similar levels of preparation and dedication are being shown. Over one hundred boys represented the College in the Michaelmas term. A game of fifteen players means that a school the size of Rendcomb does not find it easy to compete and some of our sides struggled this year, but they never gave up and that dedication will eventually bear fruit.

We ventured into a more challenging fixture list this year, playing on equal terms with Monkton Combe and moving into fixtures with Marlborough College and King's, Worcester. I would like to thank my fellow coaches Messrs: Brealy, Graham, Essenhig, Williams, Ford, Jefferson and Slark, we were shorter on numbers this year and this put the pressure on the Rugby Club, but we survived and I would particularly like to thank Mr Tim Lawson for his excellent refereeing and support throughout the term.

The overall results were:

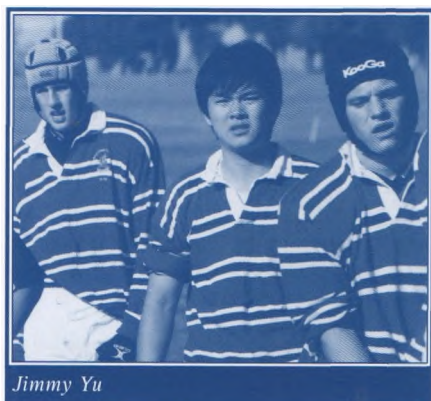
STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
45	20	24	1

Special congratulations should once again to the 1st XV who had a winning season under the expert coaching of Mr Slark and the inspirational captaincy of Ralph Aspin and the Under 14 XV who remained unbeaten throughout their season under Richard Collins' guidance. Yet in the reports that follow there are many other highlights and I'm certain every player will have their special

moment they will cherish for the season.

The excellent season of camaraderie and fellowship was celebrated at the Rugby Club Dinner; one of the unique traditions of Rendcomb where Mr Ford spoke passionately about Welsh Rugby and the highlights of the season were



Jimmy Yu

celebrated by all. Many a referee commented on the level of sportsmanship that was shown by our boys and I hope they enjoyed their seasons.

PD

1ST XV

The 1st XV rugby season was always going to be tough, having to



James Tarleton

follow such a successful previous season.

The front row of John Adler, Matthew Nichols and Peter Liang were superb in scrums as were all the forwards. John so powerful and lifting well in the line-outs, with Matt and Pete holding up the other side of the scrum with great strength were all vital to the team.

The second row consisted of Jimmy Yu and George Lawson. They were both tall and very useful in the line-outs. Jim got stuck in at every



ruck and maul and put his body on the line when it counted. These two had a brilliant season and were improving with every game.

The flankers Michael Arkle and James Tarleton also had great seasons. Mike, despite his size put in big hits and James often broke away from the scrum and annihilated the unsuspecting fly-half.

Nick Evans, my vice-captain has put his all into every game; being so determined to win. He has given so much support and controlled the forwards with absolute authority. He is a great player and I hope he goes on to play at university as his power and height will take him far.

Scrum half is a very difficult position to play; Jamie Burley has performed very successfully in this position. He has done so well, and being only a fifth former, he can build on his already well developed skill in the years to come.

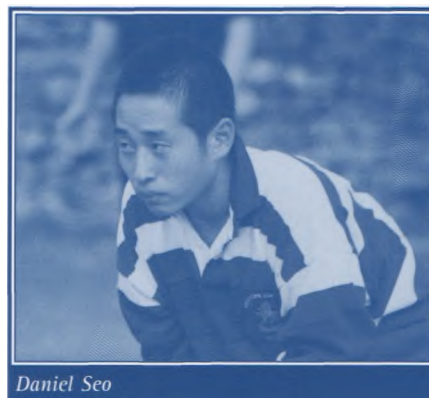
Edd Kiggins has needed to be able tackle, catch kick and run at fly-half and he has done this at a very high standard. He tackled ferociously and kicked with precision with his 'new boots'!

Chris Barefoot and Thomas Davies dominated in the centre putting in crashing tackles; these two were both so solid in defence not letting anything go through. Both of these men gave everything to this season and played a massive part in it being a winning one.

The wingers, Jae San Lee and Geoff Hulbert were again superb in attack and defence; with the pace they have, any form of attack is possible. Many tries have been scored because of these players.

Graham Hulbert has also played on the wing and has played very well, contributing enormously to this team and season.

Mr Slark has been our coach again this season: without him this tenth winning season in a row would not



Daniel Seo

have happened. I'd like to thank him enormously on the team's behalf and congratulations to him on having a decade of consecutive victorious seasons.

Well done to all the players and good luck for next season!

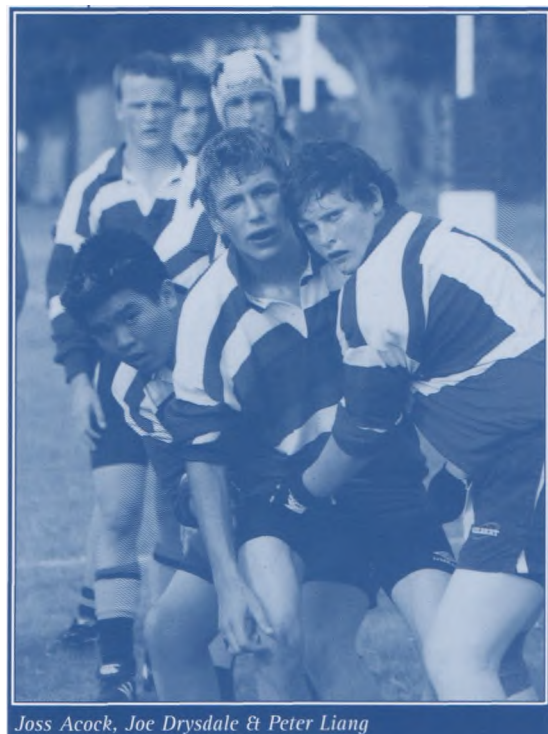
Ralph Aspin

2ND XV

The best team never to have won a game!

What an epitaph for the season 2003! But for the Rendcomb 2nd XV that was true. Often outplayed, occasionally tactically outwitted, always physically challenged, yet never did the players surrender or fail to give 100 per cent.

For the record, the season began



Joss Acock, Joe Drysdale & Peter Liang



Ivan Ho

against a powerful and much larger Abingdon School 3rd XV comprised mainly of sixth formers. Although the result was 33-0 to Abingdon it was an outstanding performance in terms of courage and commitment.

Away to Leighton Park our technical flaws were exposed, but despite losing 25-5 (try: Murahashi) the team were never disheartened.

Losing to St. Edward's, Cheltenham 14-0, however, because of dropped or misplaced passes, was disappointing. And it was slow passing in the backs which prevented us from scoring more



Joe Drysdale in the line-out

than one try against Sibford. Final score 17-5 (try:Aspin).

Away to Monkton Combe we arrived with only 13 players including a totally new front row. Will Thwaites was unlucky not to score with a piece of inspired individualism but sadly, poor positional defending



cost us the match 36-0. However, given the circumstances the team played very well.

On to Sir Thomas Rich's whose No.5 was taller and broader than Mr Dodd who kindly refereed the game! This was undoubtedly the rugby game of our season. Exciting and outstanding performances from the Captain James Groombridge, Chris Scott (narrowly missing with a drop goal), Simon Wong (the fastest hooker all season), Will Thwaites (unlucky not to score again), Ed Hutchison, Will Drewett, Joe Drysdale and especially Rupert Hooper enabled us to produce a series of controlled passing moves which nevertheless couldn't quite make up for conceding 3 breakaway tries. The better team came off the field having lost 19-0 but with their heads held high.

So to our final match against Kingham Hill. Leading 3-0 until the final minute of the first half, Kingham then scored and soon after the break were awarded a penalty try. Thereafter we spent the rest of the match chasing the game and eventually lost 24-3 (penalty: Scott) despite the best efforts of Ben Forshaw and Tom Ruddy.

Seven matches and seven defeats but the team grew immensely in confidence and attacking play as the season progressed, and by the finish were unrecognisable from the one which had taken the field at the beginning of term. Because of this, it has been a pleasure to coach such a committed and courageous team



Lucas Bliss

of rugby players who have been a credit to themselves and to Rendcomb College. Well done!

Team from: J. Groombridge, R. Murahashi, J. Drysdale, J. Roos, S. Kwok, Y. H. Seo, J. Acock, S. Wong, E. Hutchison, W. Drewett, W. Thwaites, B. Forshaw, C. Scott, C. H. Ho, S. Schofer, R. Hooper, T. Ruddy.

CJ

U15 XV

The Under-15 boys' rugby team, A.K.A. "The Entertainers" (for all neutral and opposition supporters), did not have one of the most successful campaigns in Rendcomb's history. The team's first game was against Marlborough, and it was lost by a depressing 65 points to nil. Then, a similar score-line was achieved (if achieved is the right word) against King's Worcester. Nevertheless, the team did improve and in the third match, the team only lost by ten points.

Unsurprisingly, this "success" was short-lived. The following 2 matches both resulted in heavy defeats. At this point in the season, the team's stats were: Played 5 Lost 5. There were 6 games left to turn it around. Before the next game, Mr Ford gave his own version of the uplifting, "Once more unto the breach dear friends," Speech: final score: 54-0 to the opposition. Clearly new tactics were needed.

Five more to go. After a gallant performance in our next match, the referee couldn't really remember the score at the end, but it was something big to nil. I don't want to dwell on the disappointments of the season, but there is nothing else to dwell on. So, to put it bluntly: The next three games consisted of no wins, no draws, and 3 defeats. Rather arduous defeats at that. But never mind. The team was so fired up before the final game that they could've smelted a small barrel of iron ferrite. They wanted to demolish their local rivals King's Gloucester. The match was cancelled.

So, Played 10, Lost 10, Points for: 62, Points against: to the power of!

In other words, it was not a very successful season. No players deserve special mention over any others, as all played with courage and with valour. However, this could not win a game, and the team was left thinking hard about

changes for next season.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr Ford for being such a stoical coach. This season was certainly a steep learning curve!

Alex Staines

U15 XV REPORT, THE ALTERNATIVE VERSION

At the serious risk of annoying any number of parents of boys from this year group I have decided to publish excerpts from Matt Hook's rather scurrilous summary of his year in the U15 rugby team. Please remember it is a creative piece of writing!

The editor

"This year, the U15 boy's netball team, sorry, I mean rugby team embarked on one of the least successful campaigns in the history of Rendcomb. In fact, it turned out to be one of the least successful campaigns in history, since King

them fool you; this team has made as much progress as an asthmatic ant with a large quantity of heavy shopping."

Matt Hook

Matt's address can be supplied if you would like to discuss the finer points of rugby with him.

U14 RUGBY REPORT 2003

What a marvellous season this was! On the final Saturday of the season the scene was set for the final episode; a match against King's Gloucester, the only team to have defeated this talented set of boys



U14 XV celebrate an unbeaten season

Olaf the Hairy, high commander of all the Vikings accidentally ordered 80,000 helmets with the horns on the inside."

Matt went on to summarise the performance of the team which is covered elsewhere. He finished in this rousing fashion:

"No doubt, someone will attempt to brainwash you with the view that this season was a "steep learning curve" for the team. However, do not under any circumstances let

last year. With great courage, determination and sheer guts the team held on to win a famous encounter by the narrowest of margins 10-5. The celebrations and sheer euphoria that followed was equally as memorable as the 1st XV celebrations the year before, on the same ground and on the same Saturday. Parents raced on to the field, boys hugged and even the coach was seen to shed a tear! (I don't believe it!! (*Editor*)).

To remain unbeaten over nine

games was a major achievement, but more than that they won every game making them the most successful team of the term. These are moments the boys will cherish for the rest of their sporting careers



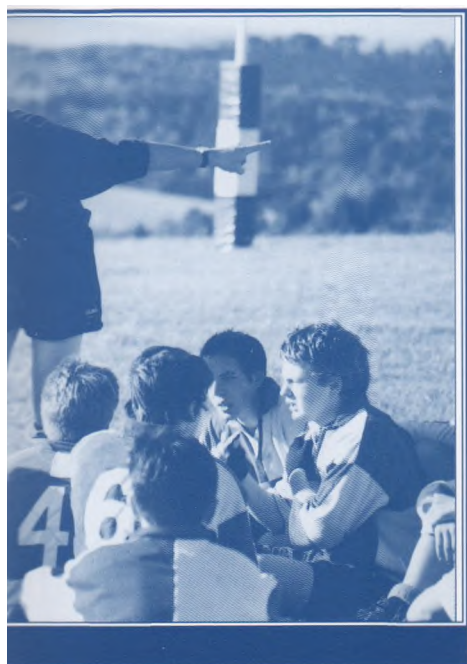
Mr. Dodd rouses the troops

and shows what makes team sports such a vital part of education.

The season however started in less than encouraging circumstances: at half time in the first game of the season at St Edward's, we were losing 19-0, a stern half time talk and the season then started, Philip Ellis' penalty winning the game 27-26, a remarkable comeback showing once again the sheer determination of this team. On our first visit to Marlborough College when the pitches were still hard, we triumphed 14-5; against a physical and tough Leighton Park outfit 22-5 and against a cultured Abingdon team 17-0. Farmors and Sibford were defeated comfortably before the major challenge of Monkton Combe arrived. Here, against their top team, a gigantic tussle ensued; in the gloomy light of a Saturday evening we scraped home 10-7, one of the most encouraging facets of this team was its ability to win close matches. Kingham Hill met the same fate as all our other opponents before the cup final day at King's.

Throughout, this was a team and squad effort, they trained hard, kept fit and realised that to achieve anything in sport one has to work very hard. Richard Collins led the side with great maturity and experience, he was at the centre of

all that was good, he was ably supported in the back-row by the dynamic Henry Pullen who always crossed the gain line and Matthew Richards who was always aggressive. Our front row scared



many an opposition into submission; Sean Edwards was quick on the heel, Max Rushton made several dynamic runs as did James Hill and both were excellent props. The rest of the pack all made valuable contributions, Malcolm Ikawa, Sean Finneron, Oliver Richards in the second row and the bloodied James Bladon in the back row. The lynch pin in this team was



Phil Ellis' precision kicking

the remarkable and diminutive Jonathan Barks at scrum-half whose excellent distribution was so important to this team. Philip Ellis controlled the tempo of the game at fly-half, kicking so many crucial penalties and conversions. In the centres the rugged Luke Lester-Powell destroyed opposition defences and he tackled with



devastating effect, Richard Mason used all his experience to marshal the rest of the backs including Callum Johnson, Joseph Scott and Richard Pass. Charlie Stutchbury developed into an aware and increasingly confident full-back.

What of our wingers? New to the game in September, they were match winners by October and sealed our success in December. Yoshia Mori and Mitsutaka Hattori learned to love the game and some of their tries were heaven to behold!

The signed match ball from King's and a card with the inscription:

"The Great Escape",

summed up the season, but it is the quality teams who win the close encounters. Thank-you to all the parents who supported, Mr Essenhigh for his fitness sessions and to the boys for their loyalty and dedication. My final plea is to stay with this great game, train hard and look beyond: this is a game that can bring great pleasure!

An emotional PD

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
9	9	0	0

Points For 200, Points Against 53.

U13 XV

"It's a game of two halves!" and the team read this as meaning that it had to be a season of two halves. After two rather unimpressive defeats it needed a trip to the enchanting city of Exeter to get them to play exciting and determined rugby. The coaching sessions started to bear fruit as the rucking and mauling became so much more effective - a hint of dogged determination was also seen that day.

It was after the half term break that the wheels were firmly bolted on to the U13 rugby machine. Without a doubt, the match against Monkton Combe brought the best out of the

players: Harley Phelps' captaining style of 'leading by example' was crucial in the encounter - it was necessary for himself and the others to put in some very big tackles to ensure the sweet taste of success.

The pace at which the players got to the breakdowns, put the ball through their hands and rarely missed a tackle was impressive - these were no longer boys, but young men who ran on to the rugby field!

The season was a 'winning' one but it has been equally important for the players to have raised their game to a new level; whoever coaches the U14s next season will have a group with a lot of potential to realize.

As for the seven First formers who were involved in the squad - they all gave a very good account of themselves and this bodes very well for next season.

The coaches would like to give a big thank-you to these fine young men for their commitment to the cause of playing hard, fast and effective rugby.

AB

Girls' Hockey

1ST XI

Expectations of girls' hockey at Rendcomb are now extremely high;



The "gals" of the 2nd XI

we aim for a level of skill and an overall playing standard that would have been out of reach a few years ago. When judged against such criteria the results for this season may seem a little disappointing but we are competing on a strong circuit of fixtures and standards have risen equally quickly elsewhere. We faced numerous county, divisional and even

national schoolgirl players amongst our opponents and our girls did well to contest every match. They won five times, including two victories, home and away, over local rivals at King's School, Gloucester. The best performance probably came in the fixture against Swindon College, who included several experienced first-class club players, and we deserved more than a 3-all draw after such an outstanding display. Unfortunately the defence conceded some weak goals at crucial moments against the stronger sides we played and this made things difficult even when we were scoring freely at the other end, as in the Christ's College, Pate's and St Edward's games. Overall we did score more goals than we conceded through good team play and outstanding finishing, particularly from Charlotte Ellis. Her final short corner against King's was as hard a shot as I have seen in girls' hockey.

The team was selected mainly from the experienced group of girls now



in 6A, ably supported by three from 6B and one fifth-former. Emma Medus kept goal with increasing confidence and made some good saves. In front of her Heather Roper was outstanding at sweeper, making the tackles and getting away the clearances although sometimes caught out of position. Sarah Colson was a very good right back and worked hard to assist the others in the defence while Jade Finn when fully confident was the best marker of an opponent. Laura Burley battled hard with illness and injury yet still produced her customary efficient performances. In midfield Alice Barefoot had her moments, including dashing runs down the



1st XI team talk



Mr. Morgan imparts his wisdom



Laura Burley



Hugs!

right and scoring some fine goals, despite many frustrations when things did not go her way. Harriet Kingsford and Meg Barne tidied up the middle by getting through an immense amount of work, tackling with determination and trying to set up opportunities for the forwards. Hannah Bishop settled down to play increasingly effectively on the left



Samya Malik in contemplative mood

even if she would have preferred to stay up front. Alex Andersson had more opportunities to play for the team this year and showed a real improvement but Sabine Armbrecht was unlucky to have fewer chances and never quite demonstrated the impact of which I think she is capable. Up front Jess Weston relished her new opportunity to go for goal while Charlotte Ellis caused problems for all of our opponents with her pace and skill. We also appreciated the occasional appearance of the talented Carra Williams when we could secure her on loan from the Under 15 XI.

My thanks are due to Miss Shiells and Miss Bell for organizing all the fixtures and assisting with the coaching and especially to Harriet Kingsford and Alice Barefoot, captain and vice-captain, who never stopped giving encouragement and kept the team going even when things were a bit of a struggle. Overall, it was a good season, made especially enjoyable by such a pleasant group of girls who have served Rendcomb's hockey so well over three seasons in the 1st XI.

DM

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
14	5	7	2

Goals For 39, Goals Against 32.

v Bournside School	L 0-2
v Christ's College, Brecon (H)	L 3-5
v The King's School, Gloucester (H)	W 3-0
v Farmor's School (H)	W 4-0
v Cotswold School (H)	W 2-0
v Bloxham School (H)	L 0-3
v Colston's School, Bristol (H)	D 1-1
v St. Edward's School, Cheltenham (A)	L 4-7
v Swindon College	D 3-3
v Westonbirt School (H)	W 11-0
v Wycliffe College (A)	L 0-3
v Pate's Grammar School (H)	L 3-4
v The King's School, Gloucester (A)	W 4-0
v Bloxham School (A)	L 1-4

Team from: H.S. Kingsford (capt.), A.Andersson, S.Armbrecht, A.J.Barefoot, M.E.Barne, H.Bishop, L.J.Burley, S.M.Colson, C.L.Ellis, J.E.Finn, E.Medus, H.L.Roper, J.J.Weston, C.Williams

2ND XI

The 2nd XI proved to be a solid team who worked well together under pressure. By the end of the term many of the players were



promoted to the 1st XI, showing their commitment both technically and tactically. Well done to all the girls and I look forward to their skills developing further next year.

SB

U15 XI

The under 15's have had a vintage and victorious season, playing 9 challenging games and coming out undefeated. Our first match, away at Christ College Brecon, was a success and set the ball rolling with a 7-nil win. After that we played many demanding games and managed to draw against much bigger schools such as Wycliffe and King's Gloucester. In our third match against Bloxham, (who are usually very strong), we won 5 - nil. We had to have a re-match and we were sure that they would come back with a much stronger side. After showing some serious determination and some outstanding skill, we managed to win the match 6-nil!

All the team have put in 100% effort this term and everyone has really improved their hockey. A special mention must go to our excellent



The undefeated U15's

captain, Carra Williams, who has played superbly throughout the season. Also to Katie Ruddy, playing a year above herself and proving her natural aptitude for the game.

Huge thanks to Mr Stutchbury for being such a fabulous coach!

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
9	7	0	2

Goals For 38, Goals Against, 6.

Jade Harrison

U14 XI

In many ways, the under 14's had a great season. With increased strength in all areas compared to last year, the line up looked impressive. Unfortunately, we had to share most of our key players with the U15 team, however our team was still relatively strong and we fought hard until the end of each and every match.

We started on a good note, drawing 0-0 with St. Peter's and we were determined to compose a 'hockey masterpiece' by the end of the season. Well, our season was not exactly a "Mozart" but more of a "Beethoven", with many tight games often involving tumultuous end to end play. St. Edward's and King's Gloucester expected walkovers and we were delighted to disappoint them. We even scored first against a very strong Dean Close A side. The main point is that we pushed the opposition hard and played our best on every occasion.

Our drive came from Mr Wood, our coach, and we worked well as a team, keeping a smile on our faces when times were tough. Well done to the whole squad, which included three talented players from the second form.

Aimée Schofield



The U13 hockey team receives a commendation

A COACH'S PERSPECTIVE

These girls were a delight to coach. They always gave matches their full attention and they never moaned about useful players being taken by the U15 side. In addition all of the



Sophie Arkle



A forceful drive



Sarah Lockyer

girls improved their hockey skills enormously. Aimée Schofield captained the side with tact and efficiency and always led by example. Tessa Couch showed feline reactions to make many impressive saves and this often kept her team in the game. There were countless other outstanding personal performances but sadly there is not enough room here to recount them.

CW

U13 XI

The under 13 XI girls hockey team developed their hockey to a high standard this season. A good combination of talent and commitment resulted in successful matches against Cotswold School and Prior Park, with an evenly matched game against King's Gloucester. Each girl who



represented the school showed promising skills and tactics throughout the season and it would be hard to select anyone for a particular mention. However some superb individual skills were displayed by Rachel Watson, Jess Melia and Jaz Barks; with outstanding levels of improvement in play from Alex Dawkins, Elbe Whittles (GK), Ava Carpenter and top goal scorer Sarah Lockyer. Well done to all the girls.

BS

U12 XI

The Under 12 XI girls hockey team showed a very promising start to their hockey career at Rendcomb College. The team gelled quickly with individual strengths combining well to make some excellent team work. Meeting some tough opposition in, amongst others, St Edwards School Cheltenham and Kings' Gloucestershire, the under 12's rose to the challenge and played with commitment.

Showing some excellent individual skills during the season were Lucy



Nick Evans 1st XI goalkeeper

Heyman, Ellie Lane, Rosy Barks and Emily Turner. I look forward to coaching a team of such potential next season. Well done to all the 1st form who represented the school.

BS

Team from: A.Schofield (capt), T.Couch, M.Odintsova, H.Kay, L.Brown, J.Melia, A.Bridgen-Page,

R.Hutchison, K.Ruddy, A.Turner, R. Watson, S.Arkle, A.Sinclair, S. Hamilton-Rushforth, L.Snow, H.Melvin-Bath.

STATISTICS



Geoff Hulbert

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
6	1	2	3

Goals For 6, Goals Against 10.

Boys' Hockey

1st XI

"Vis unita fortior" (Strength united is the more powerful)

All 18 of the players that have represented the 1st XI have personified this motto. Certainly, there was at least one nadir in the Lent Term but for the most part they have held firm in their belief of not



The 1st XI squad

only their own ability but of the synergy that comes to those that unite. The facts speak for themselves: played 12, won 4, drawn 2, lost 6 - not at first sight a vintage season but dig deeper and 4 of those defeats were by the odd goal. Indeed the 1st's have scored almost as many goals as they have conceded. As I have mentioned there have been 18 players in the squad, which makes it impossible to go into depth about each and every one; so please allow me to deal with the stalwarts of the squad.

Starting with the key position of goalkeeper, Nick Evans has been one of, if not the most agile of masochists as he has relished the opportunities to lay down his body and soul to thwart the zealots of the opposition's attack-there may well be high-density foam involved but the real substance is in the heart of the wearer. The back four have been immense in their courage and fortitude: John Adler on the right has developed into a player who, whilst he would admit to not being the most skilful at stick work, recognises that there is so much more to the game in terms of using the full width of the pitch as well as interlinking with the midfield. Richard Burden at Sweeper has been one of the most improved players of the season, swooping on anything that managed to get through with increasing confidence and speed. Will Thwaites certainly revealed the qualities of a county player as the season progressed and he brought the ball up with growing assurance.



Will Drewett as central defender fitted the role so well, establishing a very strong bond with the midfield to complement his obdurate approach to defence.

In midfield, Jamie Burley was so, so dominant on the left and whilst he continues to set very high standards for himself he will certainly cause a lot of problems for defences. Edd Kiggins personifies 'work rate' - he has been everywhere and nowhere has escaped his spatial awareness and timing of runs. Tom Davies, held back by a viral infection at the start of the season came back against the odds to reveal his very best in the second half of the season - tackling back with a vengeance and teaming up so well with the next player I wish to mention.

James Groombridge took to the right side and flourished. His deft runs both on and off the ball, wrong-footed the opposition before he released the strikers. James Tarleton and Simon Wong should also be mentioned as they have made more than just a few appearances and they have both shown pace, awareness and skill. Up front, Geoffrey Hulbert swept in (with great pace I may add) from the right to penetrate the D with ever-increasing venom, his other role of deflecting set-pieces into the D was also a real asset, producing a couple of spectacular goals.

And so to the captain, indeed the consummate captain of Ralph-without his ability to gee up the players, especially when things were tough, the season will not have been the success it has been. He has certainly brought pace, skill and many Argentinean back-handers to the astro, even scoring from a few! Fortunately he did remind us all of his forehand 'shot' in spectacular fashion to score after only 27 seconds against a bemused Hereford Cathedral School.

Overall, I could not have asked for a better squad to work with in my first season with the 1st XI. Thank you one and all! ASB

2nd XI



The 2nd XI squad

This was a season of 'nearly', 'if only' and on two occasions 'why did we turn up?' A young side of predominantly fifth formers performed heroically against often much larger and older opposition.

The season had started promisingly with a 2-4 defeat by a very strong Cheltenham College side, a good 2-0 win against Deer Park and an underserved 2-1 defeat by King's Gloucester. The game against Bristol Grammar School was definitely, however, a case of men against boys, as the much stronger and faster BGS team rattled in 11 goals without reply. Fortunes fluctuated after this but spirit, as one would expect of a Rendcomb squad, remained as high as ever. Another narrow defeat to Christ College, Brecon; a solid 2-2 draw against Deer Park and defeats by the odd goal to Colston's and Clifton College left the season looking disappointing. Then a major transformation occurred. Michael Arkle made an overlapping run down the left wing, decided that he liked it there and remained in that position for the remainder of the season. This gave the attack much needed width and a regular supply of dangerous crosses. Simon Wong and Jae San Lee thrived on this and the ball hit the back of the net with increasing frequency. Bournside School (2-0) and Marling School (7-1) were powerless to resist the super seconds. Sadly, however, the season ended with a heavy defeat against Abingdon 2nd XI, another very strong and powerful outfit.

The overall playing record, predictably, does not accurately reflect the commitment and effort shown by the squad. This was my first season of senior hockey and



not only did I thoroughly enjoy it but I felt immensely proud of the players for their consistency, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the game throughout the season.

CV

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
12	3	8	1

Goals For 19, Goals Against 37.

3RD XI

This hockey term sees the end of an era. Whilst most sport reports can look forward to the next season, I'm afraid that for the 3rds hockey there will be no season next year. Or at least that's what I'm guessing - if any school in the country is still prepared to take their life in their hands and play against a team with the likes of Tom 'the masher' Ruddy, Chris 'back-of-the-net' Barefoot and the criminally insane Stefan Schoffer, I will eat my proverbial hat. They too would either have to be insane or suicidal (and preferably both).

However: back to this season. Although our results don't reflect it, the 3rd's are without doubt the best team in the school (to be honest they just called us the 3rd's to make the 1st's feel better). With the blistering pace of Andy Thomas, Ed Hutchison and Tim Snow compensating for the slightly more leisurely midfield of Dennis Ho, Stefan Schoffer, Tom Ruddy and 'el capitan' Peter Liang, how could we lose? Well it's been suggested that I could lie and say we didn't, but you'd just look at the statistics anyway, so perhaps let's change the question - why didn't we win? We certainly couldn't complain about the support (to join the Rendcomb 3rd XI fan club please see the 5th form girls), and we can't grumble about Mr Essenhigh, coaching us in his ever-dulcet tones, so having considered the sunshine, the moonlight and the good times, there was just one thing left: to blame it on - the boogie ... no, no, no that's not right: it was luck, that's it.

Even though Joe Drysdale worked his wizardry on the wing, Pete Liang, dubbed as Rendcomb's answer to Ronaldo, performed more step-overs than the average Brazilian on speed (too bad we weren't playing football), and Joss got in plenty of practice for his



rocking stage dives, the title of player of the season has to go to the one and only 'James' from Bristol grammar school. The team just wouldn't have been the same without him.

Statistics never tell the true story so I won't include them here.

A superb season, nonetheless and congratulations to all those who participated.

Matt Nichols

U15 XI

This was a very mixed season from the U15's playing 10 matches in total, and gaining confidence each time. Wins over Dean Close, King's Gloucester, St Edward's, and draws against Bristol Cathedral and Bristol Grammar were some of our excellent results. Great performances from our two strikers Paul Taylor and Will Smith enabled the team to secure good results by slotting the goals away. Established skills and possession play by Edward Jefferson and Ben Crane in the mid-field, really showed a good prospect for 1st VI hockey next year.

The defence led by Max Webb-Dickinson showed great prospects in the closing stages of the season as Alex Purvis and Richard Whittles showed strong aggression to do the job. We had many encounters which could have gone either way, but that was the story of the season. It was a very enjoyable season and our last one with our year group, but very memorable with a coach as good and Mr Stutchbury.

Team from: Sam Slater, Richard Whittles, George Finlay, Alex Purvis, Max Webb-Dickinson, Joe Tapsell, Harry Frost, Ryan Watson, Edward Jefferson, Alex Holden (Capt.), Ben Crane, Will Smith (vice-capt), and Paul Taylor.

Sam Slater & JS

U14 XI

From an early stage it was clear that this group of boys was keen to improve and do well in matches. Detailed analysis of defensive techniques definitely paid off. However the self-discipline to practise other skills thoroughly was not always present. Consequently certain individuals did not progress as much as they should have done during the season. Nevertheless, many made the step up to this level of hockey and this provided the basis of a competitive team. Unfortunately the first two fixtures were both won comfortably, 8-0 each and, although this allowed practice of mid-field build-up and attacking moves, the defence was not really tested. Not surprisingly it came as something of a shock when the defence had to cope with wave after wave of attacks by better teams, such as the skilful Kingswood side.

Luke Lester-Powell was the goalkeeper for most of the season and he soon demonstrated that he has cat-like reflexes and a real desire to be involved as much as possible. The defence, made up of George Tatham-Losh, James Hill, Sean Edwards, Joseph Scott and Richard Collins made an effective screen in many matches but their marking will have to be tighter next year and they need to develop their distribution from set pieces. Collins was the real force in this area and Hill was the most improved player. To their credit they rarely caved in under pressure.

The mid-field always worked hard and gradually became used to what others were doing around them. Randal Pakeman developed well on the right and will continue to be a very useful player in the future. Jonathan Barks, who captained the side well, held the middle together and demonstrated excellent skills in most matches. Richard Mason, the side's utility player was most comfortable in the centre but also played extremely well up front and in defence. There were times when Richard worked so hard in matches that he was exhausted at the final whistle. Charles Stutchbury soon showed a real flair for playing on the left and his stick work improved with every match. He now needs to develop a spurt of speed to complement this.

Henry Pullen grew into the role of

target man at the front and he scored many goals by manoeuvring himself for the timely deflection. Philip Ellis also showed exceptional skill with the stick but was lacking the pace to get out of trouble. With greater speed he will be able to convert his talent into more successful hockey.

This group was a challenge to coach and with fewer matches, might have made greater progress. Despite this it was a pleasure to share in their successes, namely second best record in the school and best goals record. One day they could well become a major force in Rendcomb hockey.

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Drew
14	8	5	1

Goals For 33, Goals Against 19.

Team from: J.Barkes (capt.), J.Bladon, E.Cumberpatch, S.Edwards, P.Ellis, J.Hill, L.Lester-Powell, Y.Mori, G.Tatham-Losh, R.Collins, R.Mason, R.Pakeman, H.Pullen, M.Richards, O.Richards, J.Scott, C.Stutchbury.

CW

U13A XI

The Under 13A have had a very good season, winning 11, drawing 1 and losing 4 of their matches. They have secured some notable wins, beating King's School, Gloucester twice, Bristol Grammar School and playing superbly in their last fixture to defeat Dean Close 4-0. They also won the Rosehill School seven-a-side tournament held in the penultimate week of the Lent term, coming through five matches unbeaten against teams from Beaudesert, Rose Hill and Tockington Manor. They would have been given a trophy to mark their success if the previous winners had brought it back! The strength of the team has been built on a spine of Dominic Stevens in goal, Henry Evans in defence, Will Jefferson, the captain, and Mark Richardson in midfield and Tom North up front. Will played outstandingly in most of the games and Tom began to enjoy scoring goals-lots of them. He was ably assisted by the skills of Andy Forshaw, perhaps the team's most promising player. Overall, a very enjoyable season.

DHM



Team from: W. Jefferson (Capt.), E. Brierley, H. Evans, A. Forshaw, L. Greenaway, H. Homan-Green, C. Kiggins, T. North, H. Phelps, T. Restorick, M. Richardson, D. Stevens.

U13B XI

This was a challenging season and though results were hard to come by, the boys who represented the school always gave their best. We managed one victory and a couple of draws and in one match when we were allowed a bit more time on the ball we looked much better and strung together a convincing set of passing moves.

The most memorable game was against Bristol Cathedral School: we had to abandon the match after 20 minutes because of torrential, horizontal rain!

Most players improved their game and their tactical awareness: Leo Wong shined in goal and was often our man of the match (though not as often as he would have liked!) Rhys Thomas and Jeremy Skelton were solid at the back but needed to be a bit more aware of positional play. Sam Rahman was a solid left back and James Brittain frequently filled-in to great effect on the right. Our midfield centred around Alex Humphrey Gaskin who was tenacious and never stopped running. He was complemented on his stamina by many visiting coaches. Rory Clarke also worked effectively in a number of positions. Down our left ranged James Beck, who was, without a doubt, our most skilful player. He was ably supported by Max Ellis, Charles Daly and Michael Lockhart.

As a team we definitely improved and we scored two or three excellent 'team' goals, where a good build up led to us actually getting a shot in at the opposition goal-keeper.

Credit must go to this team for never giving up, even in games where we were losing quite heavily.

A good learning experience I feel, some good play along the way and I hope the boys enjoyed it.

Under 14's next year, keep practising!

A SCINTILLATING SUMMARY OF THE U13C XI HOCKEY SEASON

The U13C's had an unusual but largely progressive season.

Match history developed as follows:

1st Match: Rained off!

2nd Match: Snowed off!!

3rd Match: prevented by Extreme Winds!!!

4th Match: (away): Deer Park, didn't put together a full team (but still beat us!!!!)

5th Match: Colston's Collegiate, Bristol (away) put up a team a year older than us and of higher ability. Not surprisingly we were beaten by a score which is somewhat painful to recall: 13 nil!!!!!! Two of which were own goals scored by Tom Hopes.

6th Match: played against Bloxham School (away), a team of equal ability.

Under the leadership of team captain Oli Tapsell the boys pulled together and put up a good defence. They learnt a lot about using the space on the pitch and making clear passes, with the result that we drew!!!!!!

7th Match: played against King's Gloucester (home) another team of equal ability.

Tom Hopes had obviously been biding his time, reflecting on his previous performance.

Admirably, he scored both the goals against King's, securing our first victory!

8th Match: Our confidence was high as this was our final match and was at home. However, Pinewood had a particularly good centre forward whom we were sadly unable to outwit: we lost but played well; 2:1.

Well done to all the boys for their dogged determination.

Against all odds and particularly the elements they played some very good hockey.

RM

CHELTENHAM HOCKEY ACADEMY

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term three fifth form boys attended trial selection for the U16 Cheltenham Hockey Academy. Jamie Burley, Will Drewett and Will Thwaites all made the final selection into the academy and subsequently trained with Welsh and GB midfielder Simon Organ.

The two hours of training each Friday involved high level skills practice, game situations and small tournaments. The boys have excelled, showing exceptional motivation and determination to develop their individual and team skills. And the boys put all these newly acquired skills to the test for Rendcomb in the Lent term hockey season. Well Done!

BS

Lacrosse

OVERVIEW

At the end of the season, Miss Shiells spoke to the school about the arrival of lacrosse at Rendcomb College. Before the individual reports, here is an outline of what she said;

Miss Shiells began by saying the following:

"I have thought long and hard about



Carra Williams poised

just how I was going to put into words the feeling that I had when I



watched each of the girls' teams play lacrosse for the first time: I don't think I have been quite so proud of a group of girls in my life"

Miss Shiells went on to praise all the year groups; the U12's for their commitment, the U13's for their potential and the U14 team that she described as 'exceptional'



The girls practice lacrosse



Training day

In the older year groups, Miss Shiells praised the U15s for their teamwork and the 2nd team for scoring Rendcomb's first goal!

The first team were complemented on their courage and optimism and especially their tenacity.

Lacrosse is a brand new sport at the college and whilst it was a struggle to get results, Miss Shiells is sure that this will come in time as students become ever more experienced.

PJ

ENGLISH LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Coaching Day, 17th September 2003

Rendcomb College hosted the English Lacrosse Association, Teachers' Training Day in September 2003. Led by two of the top English coaches, Karen Hughes and Mark Coups, the day was packed with skills, drills, new ideas and new rules.

Mrs Hayward, Miss Bell and Mrs Breal joined me to help absorb the vast amounts of information, quite daunting; however we were given full encouragement from the rest of the talented and knowledgeable delegates. Teachers had travelled from as far afield as Scotland to attend the day, somewhat awe inspiring when combined they had some 60 years of experience in playing lacrosse!

We took to the field and with practice and support we became more and more confident both in our own ability and the knowledge that the girls at Rendcomb will thoroughly enjoy playing this fast and furious game. We look forward to starting the season in the Lent Term.

BS

1ST XII

The first ever 1st XII lacrosse team consisted of both 6A and 6B girls and two 5th form goalkeepers. There were tough matches and tests ahead, most notably against Wantage and Stow where our stamina and commitment were really tested. This was all new to us and in every match we were able to develop our tactical and technical skills.

Special mention must go to Charlotte Ellis in attack where pace and skill drove on many end-to-end attacks. The midfield was dominated by Alex Andersson and Harri Kingsford who 'gelled' well together; their persistence and tackling led to some excellent goals.

Jess Weston must of course receive a special mention because she has written herself into Rendcomb folklore by scoring our first ever lacrosse goal! Laura Burley also took to this sport like the proverbial duck to water and she was resolute and strong in defence: she always led by example. Other vital players were Emma Medus, Alexandra Collins, Sabine Armbrrecht, Heather

Roper, Lisa Wuller, Charli Cumberpatch, Amanda Lomax, Meg Barne, Hannah Bishop, Caroline Wells and me, Sarah Colson.

A big thanks should go to Miss Hughes, Miss Shiells and Miss Bell for their coaching, enthusiasm and commitment. Well done girls on a historical term and keep playing!

Good luck to next year's 1st XII

*Sarah Colson
(Captain)*

2ND XII

In the Lent Term, the Rendcomb girls experienced a fast and furious new sport: lacrosse.

It has been a popular and successful change of sporting direction and for rookies our statistics weren't too bad: played 3, won 2, lost 1. The highlight was our match against Tudor Hall which we won 8-1. Emma Couch scored 4 goals, and Carra Williams, Kirki Matthew and Nicki Wells scored the rest.

Though some students may leave at the end of this year and may never experience lacrosse again, for those remaining we look forward to next Lent term with anticipation.

Nicki Wells and Emma Couch

U15 XII

It was a first for Rendcomb: this strange game called lacrosse. At times this year we didn't have enough players so we had to borrow from the year below. Thank-you for all your support in helping us towards a successful first season!

Our season got off to a dramatic start when we were dropped into a tournament at Malvern right at the start of the term. Though we didn't win, we learnt a lot on that day and it helped us to be smarter tactically in our remaining matches. All our games were tough but the team bonded and we feel that we have learnt an awful lot that will help us next year.

Thanks to Miss Shiells and Miss Hughes for inspiring us with their enthusiasm.

*Maya Chester-Master,
Charlotte Cox,
Joanne Maxted,
Carra Williams*

U14 XII

This was the U14's first ever lacrosse season and we were

*Jess Melia
(Captain)*



understandably nervous at starting a completely new sport. Miss Hughes was very good at calming us down and encouraging us, for which we thank her.

We all tried our hardest from the very first whistle but we clearly had a lot to learn and there were many tough games! As the season progressed, we grew in confidence and technique and by the end of term we felt that we were really functioning as a team.

Katie Ruddy & Sam Rushforth

U13 XII

The U13's were quite excited about starting this new game and meeting new schools in a sporting context. It took a while for everyone to learn the new positions and roles in the team but we soon caught on.

Ellie Whittles was outstanding in goal, not the easiest of positions to play when the opposition are hurtling balls at you from all angles and all heights! Charlotte Tapsell and Alex Dawkins were extremely strong in defensive positions of Point and Cover Point as was Ava Carpenter holding the midfield of 3rd Man. On The Circle, April Edwards, Rachel Watson, Sinead Brennan and Amy Bridgen-Page provided constant and reliable midfield support. These are the most exhausting positions because the players have to attack and defend. Jaz Barks and Sarah Lockyer were zealous in attack with support from Fiona Trumper, Emma Parker and Sian Clift.

The team gelled well together and though we often came up against opposition that was a bit too strong, we have all enjoyed learning this new sport. Two highlights stand out from the season; scoring our first goal and our drawn game against Alice Ottley School. Well done to everyone and thanks to the coaches for their enthusiasm and commitment.

U12 XII

The start of the Lent Term meant the start of a new sport for the whole school: lacrosse! We played a number of matches and though we were not successful, we learnt a lot. Miss Shiells, Miss Bell and Miss Hughes coached us and we picked up the rules and the tactics quite quickly. We were playing against much more experienced schools and we hope that next year we will be able to win some more matches.

SB

Netball

NETBALL OVERVIEW

Although lacrosse is now the main sport in the Lent term, there was a 'hard-core' of netballers who carried the flag for this sport. We all enjoyed playing in the matches and we had a winning season. Special mention must go to the U14 team who won all their matches. Thank-you to Miss Shiells and Miss Bell for organizing the coaching and the matches.

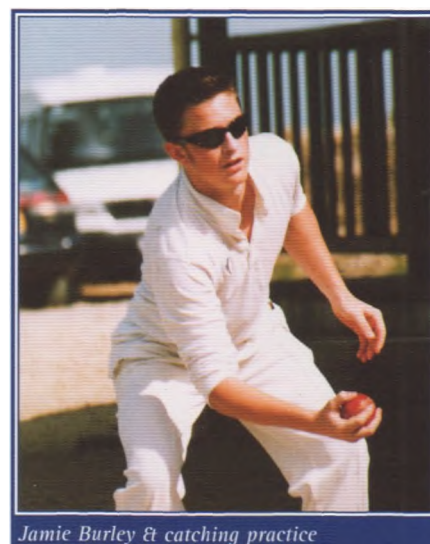
Well done also to all the captains; Jess Melia, Hazel Kay and Charlotte Cox.

Holly Taylor

Cricket

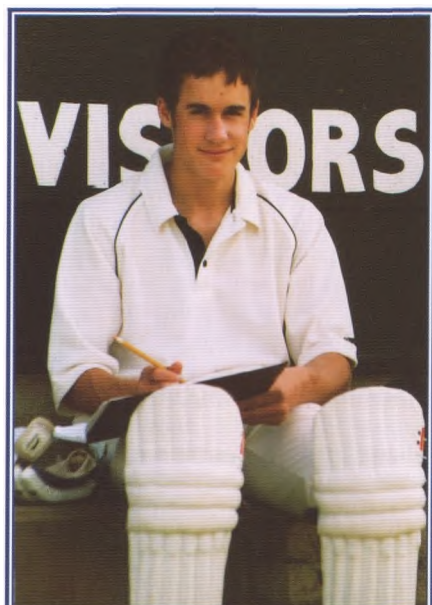
OVERVIEW

Not for the first time I began to



Jamie Burley & catching practice

write this report as I look across Lake Annecy towards the Alps at Tallories, sad at the news that



Chris Scott working out the scores

Yorkshire has been beaten by Gloucestershire, but pleased that England has won a splendid test match.

Senior cricket has prospered, despite the ever shorter season, due to public examinations, and Rendcomb has, unlike so many schools, often much bigger than ourselves, managed to preserve 2nd XI cricket. The decision, this year, to move U15 cricket to the same games days as the senior squad has been an unequivocal success, enabling us to field both 2nd XI and U15 sides as well as a 1st XI by enlarging the pool of players available for selection. It has also made it easier to promote the occasional U15 boy to 1st XI cricket.

Junior teams have also thrived. The U14's have played good cricket, but have found victories elusive on a regular basis. The U13's have had considerable success and will continue to improve as they progress through the school.

In June we once again welcomed Victoria College Jersey U14's for a three day festival and continued our friendship of several years. Hopefully, we shall visit Jersey again in the near future.

My thanks, as ever, go to Matt Hodgson for producing such splendid wickets, to all the catering staff, who provided early lunches, teas and late suppers, to all the parents who give such loyal support, to my colleagues who give their time, skill and enthusiasm over such long hours to coach and umpire and to all the boys who have



enjoyed playing the most sophisticated and most beautiful game ever invented.

BLN

1ST XI

This was a season much disrupted by the unpredictable British weather and the untimely public exams. For much of the side this was their first taste of 1st XI cricket and whilst not being the most talented group of players, they stuck to their task admirably.

The batting was held together chiefly by Ryosuke Murahashi who gave new meaning to the word concentration. This allowed the likes of Edd Kiggins and the free scoring Jamie Burley to build some fine individual innings, particularly memorable were Edd's innings of 50 and 51* against Bristol Cathedral and Tommy Rich's respectively. Jamie Burley played the two best innings of the season. He top scored with 62 against Worcester Gents and bettered that a few days later making 70 against a Lord Vesty XI which included Nick Trainor, a former Gloucestershire batsman who in 1997 scored 121 against the touring Australians. We were therefore somewhat relieved to get him out even though he had



Chris Barefoot in the nets

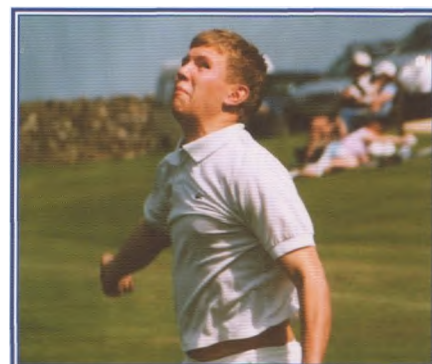
battered our bowling attack in making a quick fire 62.

Ralph Aspin was eventually available to play despite some stem

opposition - though not from Mrs. Aspin (aka Alex) this time! He matured as a cricketer, batting responsibly while improving his technique. This resulted in him being one of our most consistent run scorers and he played some of the best shots of the season.

Geoff Hulbert played a fine innings of 53 against Gloucester Gypsies, eventually fulfilling his potential with the bat. Geoff's bowling could be described as liquorice allsorts at times though his efforts and commitment to the team could not be faulted.

Edd and Jamie were a very reliable opening partnership with the new ball. Edd bowled a steady line and length, always making the batsman



James Tarleton & the pain of bowling!

play. Jamie generated good pace at times and could be a very dangerous bowler if he could find a consistent line outside the off stump.

There was much improvement in the bowling of Nick Evans and Chris Barefoot throughout the season, their moment of glory being when they ripped through the Bredon batting, sharing 7 wickets between them, Nick taking 4 for 6 with Chris taking 3 for 4.

There were also some encouraging performances from the more junior members of the 1st XI. Rupert Hooper is a very promising bowler as he can really swing the ball, while Chris Scott could prove to be a more than useful leg spin bowler.

James Tarleton proved to be a very reliable and agile wicketkeeper taking 2 catches and 4 stumpings while conceding few byes.

The ground fielding was of high standard throughout. Catch of the season goes to Tom Davies for his acrobatic efforts against Swindon Wednesday.



Lucas Bliss playing for the U15's

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Draw
9	2	5	2

This was an enjoyable season although only two of the 9 matches were won. There is a good nucleus of players remaining and this bodes well for next year.

Richard Burden (Captain)

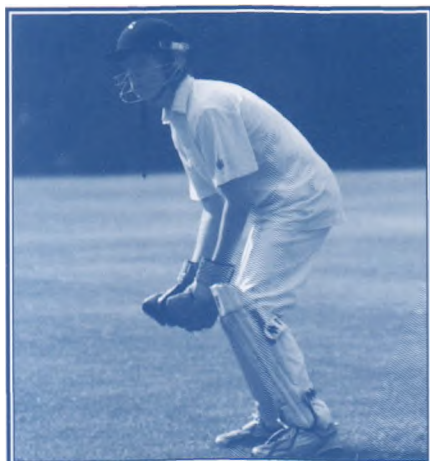
Those who represented the 1st XI in 2004:

R. Burden (Captain), E. Kiggins (Vice-Captain), R. Murahashi, J. Burley, R. Aspin, Ge. Hulbert, J. Tarleton, R. Hooper, J. Groombridge, J. Alder, T. Davies, N. Evans, C. Barefoot, C. Scott. (Also thanks must go to Gr. Hulbert, S. Wong, P. Taylor and A. Holden for being available to play at the last minute.)

2ND XI & U15 XI

Nine fixtures were played in all, several cancelled because of bad weather and two, sadly, because the opposition failed to provide a team.

We were very pleased to have a posse of willing fifth-form boys who provided the main part of the 2nd XI supported by the occasional sixth former and some members of



Ed Jefferson keeping wicket



the U15 squad.

All boys made meaningful contributions, in particular Simon Wong, Ben Forshaw and James Brierly. We look forward to continuing the tradition of 2nd XI cricket on a circuit where opposition is increasingly rare.

The U15 team played seven of the nine fixtures with two wins, three draws and two defeats. There is real potential in this year group and they came together as a team as the season progressed.

William Smith and Alex Purvis bowled with pace and accuracy, Alex Holden and Ben Crane made contributions with bat and ball. Ed Jefferson is an accomplished wicket-keeper who can also bat, and Paul Taylor was outstanding with bat and particularly, as a quick left-arm over the wicket bowler.

All those who represented the team played a positive part and we look forward to their progress in Senior Cricket.

BLN

U14 XI

This has been a challenging season for the boys. We have not managed to win a game this year though we have managed several very creditable draws. Throughout the season Jonathan Barkes has captained well with enthusiasm and sensitivity. He has batted well and achieved one big score of 34. Other batsmen who have come on well are Sean Finneron with a top score of 33, Richard Mason with 38 and Randal Pakeman with a score of 31. Indeed, Randal was, without a doubt, our most improved player this year.

Bowling has been accurate and consistent. Though we lack depth, our first string attack was very accurate and enthusiastic: Mason, Johnson, Barkes, Pakeman, Ellis; names to strike terror into some batting line-ups.

Golden moment of the season?

Two Joe Scott moments:

- 1: In our first game Joe caught an absolutely magnificent catch and as we know; 'catches win matches'.
- 2: In a later game, when really fighting for it, Joe skyed one and before he was caught out he was walking back to the pavilion: catcher dropped it; Joe? Gets run out because he's heading back to the pavilion!!!

Bit sharper next year please!

Overall, results have not quite gone our way but the team has been a pleasure to coach and they have tried very hard to improve their game.

PJ

U13A XI

The U13's had a good season although we only played six matches. This is not enough for this age group who need to play matches to improve their game.

James Beck captained the side well, but is still learning; he also batted well and picked up wickets with his leg breaks. Forshaw batted well and is becoming a good all-round cricketer. Brierley also enjoyed his season with both bat and ball. Jefferson and North are both becoming good all-round cricketers but they need to think more about the game and listen to advice.

Homan-Green and Phelps both had their moments but must work harder. Richardson and Evans both shared the wicket keeping and they did well. Richardson is now at last



The big slog!

working hard at his batting which is showing promise. Brittain and Hook, the two first years, will have learnt a lot this year and will, I hope, use that next season. Kiggins always did what was needed.

Once again we played in the tournament at King's, Gloucester and played well to reach the final, losing to Randall school in the final but well done to all the U13.

I would like to thank all parents who supported us and most of all to John Williams, Stephen Clark and Ralph Mann. Without their help with the whole squad, I could not have achieved these results.

DE

STATISTICS

Played	Won	Lost	Draw
6	4	2	0

U13B XI

On a personal front this has been the most enjoyable term of cricket since 1988. This was made possible by having three pitches available thanks to Mr North and our groundsman, Mr Hodgson. I have been well supported by Mr Clark, Mr Mann and of course Mr Essenhigh. The attitude of the pupils has also been a big factor, so well done to them!

Unfortunately only one match was played vs. King's Gloucester away in a 20 overs match. King's made 119 for 8 in their innings and Rendcomb managed 49 for 6. The squad was as follows:

C.Sinclair(captain),L.Greenaway and R.Thomas(wkt.keepers), R.Clark, W. Rathie,J.Medus,W.Trim,A.Humphrey-Gaskin, JSkelton, D.Stevens, C.Daly, M.Ellis, M.Lockhart, T.Restorick.

JW

Girls' Tennis

1ST TENNIS



Sabine Armbrecht



The 1st Tennis squad had a fantastic season with notable wins against Bloxham and King's Schools. Excellent spirits were maintained at all times with special thanks to the 6A girls who will be sorely missed next season.

SB

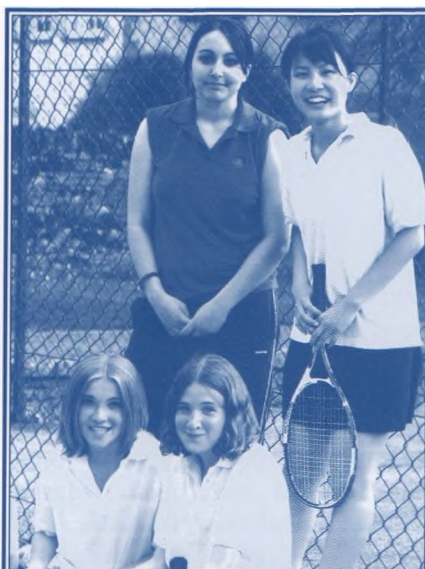
U15

The U15's have had a great season this year, winning 3 out of 5 of their matches. The whole team has improved greatly since the start of the season and we thank Miss Bell for coaching us.

We were very pleased to win against Bloxham, Farmors and St. Edward's, who were all known to be strong at



Sarah Colson & Charlotte Ellis



The U15 squad

tennis. The whole team played well throughout the season and a special mention must go to Chiharu Suzuki who played with Kirki Matthew to make up the third couple. Chiharu, who had come from Japan, played brilliantly, seeing as she had never played tennis before coming to England.

Charlotte Cox
and Joanne Maxted

U14

This season the U14's tennis team, consisted of Sophie Arkle, Aimée



Lina Wuller

Schofield, Katie Ruddy, Amy Sinclair, Jasmine Barks and Rachel Watson. Despite our many practices we played 3 matches and lost 3 matches. As sports women we like to say that we came second. We would like to thank Hazel Kay and Maria Odinstova for jumping in at the last minute as our second couple. Also a big thanks to Miss Bell for her coaching, organisation of matches and her patience for our amusing tennis playing. Well done to everyone in the team.

Aimée Schofield



Jess Weston & Heather Roper

Rounders

1ST

This was an outstanding season for the Senior Squad. The team was made up of talented individuals who have contributed well to the overall team effort.

Their best performances included victories against St. Edward's, Wycliffe and Pates Grammar School.

SB

U15

The U15's have become a solid team with many outstanding performances. With their technical knowledge and accurate skills they have enjoyed victories over Colston's and Bloxham Schools.

SB

U14

This term's rounders matches have been quite successful. We had a fantastic triangle consisting of Hazel Kay as bowler, Aimée Schofield as backstop and Katie Ruddy as 1st base. Our hitting improved as the season progressed with the help of Miss Bell and Miss Hughes and we could not have won any matches without the help of Aimée, Katie, Hazel and Amy. Our final statistics were:

STATISTICS

Played Won Lost Drew

4 13 0

Thank you to all the team for participating and to the teachers for their help and support.

Amy Sinclair

U13

The U13's are an excellent team,



Bannister 4 x 100 relay team

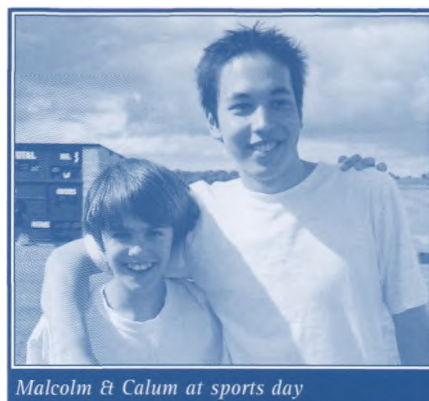


they display advanced and accurate skills when under pressure in the game and this combined with their technical knowledge produces high level of performance, such as those wins against King's, Westonbirt and Bloxham.

U12

This year the U12's Rounders team had a very exciting season. We started off the season well but unfortunately no wins. As the term progressed we worked more as a team and we got a few wins. Overall this term has made us learn from our mistakes and we are looking forward to our next season.

Rosie Barkes



Malcolm & Calum at sports day

Sports Day

Some may be forgiven for mistaking that 2004's Sports Day as a winter event but this didn't hamper the spirits of the participants. The initial parade set the tempo for the rest of the day and captured the enthusiasm of those competing. This year built on last year's success and witnessed twenty-four new records, particularly noteworthy were the 800m and javelin events. The success of those competing must to some extent be accredited to the gusto of those on the sidelines. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those made 2004's Sports Day such a success.

Congratulations to Edwards who were this year's overall winners. In closing, a superb day was had by all involved. Lets build on the success of this year and see if we can break a few more records in 2005.

Congratulations to the following pupils who hold new School records.

NAME	EVENT	GENDER	RECORD
E. Cumberpatch	U14 1500m	M	6:02 mins
S. Rahman	U12 200m	M	33.00 secs
A. Bridgen-Page	U13 200m	F	33.09 secs
K. Ruddy	U14 200m	F	30.70 secs
W. Parker	U12 800m	M	3:04 mins
L. Greenaway	U13 800m	M	2:48 mins
M. Dally	U13 800m	F	3:11 mins
J. Barks	U14 800m	F	2:37 mins
M. Webb-Dickin	U15 800m	M	2:39 mins
C. Williams	U15 800m	F	2:54 mins
D. Malcahy	U12 100m	M	15.03 secs
M. Dally	U13 100m	F	15.54 secs
R. Cooke	U12 High Jump	F	1:06 mtrs
J. Sweeting	U12 Discus	F	12:90 mtrs
M. Ikawa	U14 Discus	M	17:58 mtrs
R. Watson	U15 Discus	F	25:66 mtrs
J. Melia	U13 Javelin	F	13:55 mtrs
R. Pakeman	U14 Javelin	M	26:76 mtrs
C. Williams	U15 Javelin	F	22:38 mtrs

Sporting Achievements

STUDENT	SPORT	ACHIEVEMENT
James Tarleton	Rugby	County, Trialist
Ralph Aspin	Rugby	County, Gloucestershire (U19)
Richard Collins	Rugby	Stroud District
Henry Pullen	Rugby	Stroud District, U14 County
Carra Williams	Hockey	County, Gloucestershire (U15)
Jamie Burley	Hockey	County, Gloucestershire (U17)
Will Thwaites	Hockey	County, Gloucestershire (U17)
Lewis Leung	Fencing	Third in County Junior Championship
Charlotte Ellis	Golf	Winner, Gloucester Girls' Golf Championship
Rachel Watson	Rounders	Selected for U13 England Rounders Development Squad

Activities

THE NATIONAL GAME ARRIVES AT RENDCOMB COLLEGE

On Sunday 8th February, an intrepid group of 'SOCCA' players ventured over to Deer Park School to participate in the inaugural 'Cotswold Youth five-a-side football



birthday party!



The boys done good

tournament'.

We didn't really know what to expect. Our boys think they're pretty skilful, they're certainly pretty fit but they are 'SOCCA' novices. Would they be split apart like the Arsenal defence and would they be lacking the 'savvy' to pit their wits against more experienced 'SOCCA' teams? In short; would they be cruelly exposed as just what they are: a bunch of big rugby blokes who'd want to pick the ball up and push a few other big blokes over?

Well... no actually. I have to say we played as a team, we worked very hard, we looked blessed with great ball skills, we scored 24 goals in the equivalent of 36 minutes of football and we had the cleanest kit. Not bad considering it was the day after Edd Kiggins and Ralph Aspin's 18th

And to top it all: we won! Played 4, won 4.

So, we are currently Cotswold champions of a particular sport. Considering this success, is it perhaps the time for a change at Rendcomb?

Only joking!

Well done to the squad; they were a credit to themselves and the school.



Squad: Edd Kiggins, Nick Evans, John Adler, Jaye San Lee, Ralph Aspin, James Groombridge, James Tarleton and Simon Wong.

v Northleach: (w) 5-1

v Tetbury: (w) 7-1

v Lechlade: (w) 8-3

v Fairford: (w) 4-2

Defending champions next year-always more difficult to retain a title!

(As, hopefully, Arsenal will discover).

PJ



Stonar



Stonar

INTER SCHOOLS MINI ONE DAY EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Held at Stonar School on Sunday 16th May 2004.

Three horseboxes and a Rendcomb mini-bus of supporters set off at 7.00 am on a Sunday morning in May to take part in the Inter Schools One Day Event at Stonar School in Wiltshire. This is the second year running we have entered a team for this event and we were hopeful we would be able to follow the success of last year's team.

The team this year comprised Edward Cumberpatch on Molly,

Sinead Brennan on Bayleaf and Victoria Cannon on Kiltinane Angela. They all performed well in their dressage tests with Sinead achieving a particular impressive score. It was then all change for the show-jumping section which proved



The whole shooting squad

difficult on the slippery ground. Both Edward and Sinead proceeded to the cross-country phase and Edward was very pleased with his clear cross country round.

After all this exertion, a huge picnic lunch was enjoyed in the sunshine by all the pupil and parents who came along to support, including trainer Warren Lampard, a leading Australian event rider based in Chedworth.

Rendcomb will again be entering a team for the Senior Event in September and Sarah Lockyer will be representing the school in the 2nd Schools Dressage Championship in late August on her horse Nicholas Nickelby.

LH

BRITISH NATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

The 2004 'Nationals' were held this year at the Olympic Targets Shooting Ground in Bedfordshire on the 8-9th May.



Romilly Evans fires one off



Rendcomb College once again fielded an extensive selection of teams, Men's A & B VI, a Ladies' III and V and a Father & Son (or Parent and Pupil!) combination.

The 'A' VI, captained by James Groombridge and comprising of Chris Barefoot, William Thwaites, Max Webb-Dickin, George Finlay and Guy Tatham-Losh, shot a most respectable round of 162 on a particularly tricky set-up. High Gun event went to William Thwaites



Charlie & proud dad

with a score of 35/50 followed closely by Chris Barefoot with a magnificent score of 34 in his first competitive shoot.

The 'B' VI shot very well indeed on their first three stands, averaging 80%. Matthew Hook captained the side and the competition between Henry Pullen, Richard Pass, Richard Collins, Charlie Stutchbury and

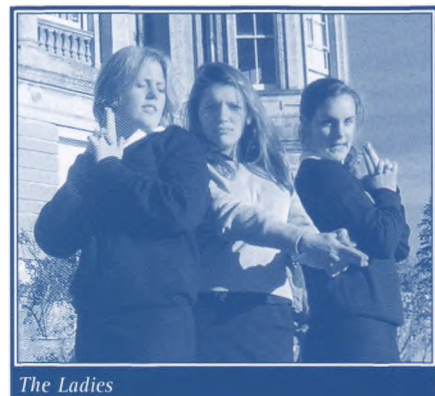


The Rendcomb shooting team

George Tatham-Losh was pushing the team's score ever upwards.

The final two shoots were challenging, being a descending right to left and a 'teal' on report. The team produced a fine total of 182; with Charlie Stutchbury on High Gun with 38/50 on his first outing for the B VI.

The Ladies' Team consisting of Sarah Colson (captain), Harriet Kingsford and Romilly Evans, really



The Ladies

flew the flag for Rendcomb. Sarah shot a magnificent 30/50, well supported by Harriet and Romilly - it's so good to see the girls competing so well and of course they bring an added elegance to shooting.

To round off a fine day's competition, Rendcomb College secured two trophies at the Prize Giving. The Ladies' Team secured 3rd place, a wonderful achievement on their first outing together and Charlie Stutchbury and Mr James Stutchbury won first place in the Father & Son category, their first competition together, with a score of 81/100.

This is the sixth year in succession that Rendcomb College has secured honours at the Nationals. Well done to all the competitors and thank you for all the magnificent parental support, in all there were six Rendcomb parents, some shooting others offering valuable support,



Harriet Kingsford

this made the total group of over twenty, a wonderful confirmation of the exceptional support that the Shooting Club appreciates and enjoys.

In conclusion I would like to offer my congratulations to all the competitors. The 'Shooting Gazette'



Ready to march

published our success in the July issue. We are certainly on the shooting map!

Way back in December, there was also a charity shoot to raise money for Lord Meades and for 'Children with Leukaemia'. This event was very well supported and shooters of all abilities participated.

James Groombridge & JS



Gold Award

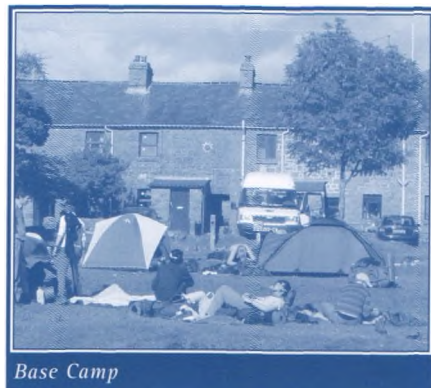
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

As usual the DoE Award scheme has been very busy this year. In March, fourteen Fifth Formers completed a superb assessment expedition in the Forest of Dean and the majority of them have now received their



Bronze awards. The Bronze Award has been temporarily suspended due chiefly to problems in providing a viable Service option. Expeditions will still continue, however, and a group of fourth year pupils have been busy planning a two-day expedition around the Broadway area of the North Cotswolds, which they will execute at the beginning of September. If this is successful an expedition further afield may be carried out in March.

The Gold Award continues to flourish. This year's 6A candidates cruised around the Black Mountains last October, rising to the challenge and coming through their four-day ordeal with honour. The current 6B candidates have so far excelled in their first two practices and may prove to be one of the outstanding groups of recent years. The first practice in Mid-Wales repeated last



Base Camp

and no campsite too basic for this intrepid bunch. They tackled everything with enthusiasm and



Bronze Award

humour and were justly proud of their achievements over the four days. One bonus, which will no doubt make previous candidates envious, was the 'discovery' of a new campsite in the gardens of the South Wales Caving Club. Instead of a cowpat-caked field with no facilities at Pwllcoedlog Farm, this year's groups met up on their third night at the aforementioned Eden. They had access to showers, toilets and even a lounge with comfy chairs, although they assured me that they did not take advantage of this last facility. The girls were particularly interested in the photographs which showed what cavers get up to when they think that no-one is looking! They will surely maintain the Rendcomb tradition of success in their Assessed Expedition in October.

I would like to conclude, as usual, by thanking Chris Wood and our two gap students, Alice and Chloe, for their invaluable help in running the expeditions and to all the College staff who provide the candidates with opportunities to complete the other sections of the award.

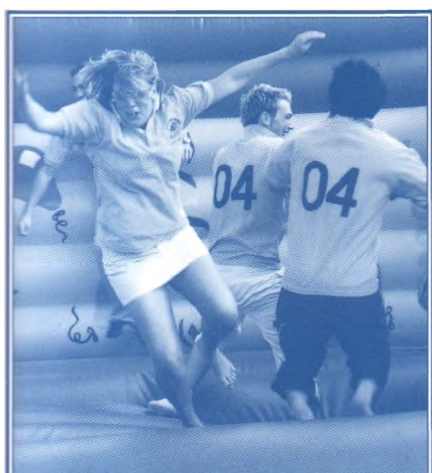
CV

year's format of a navigation training day followed by a two-day expedition, staying at the idyllic Tyllwyd campsite overnight.

Their second practice in the Brecon Beacons, arguably the most demanding and difficult, was an outstanding success. No mountain was too high, no descent too steep



Fat-boy leaver



Bouncy Castle



The Leavers



The Record

THE LEAVERS' WEEKEND

The weekend of 25-27th June was the leavers' weekend. Lots of bouncy castles and swimming and a magnificent meal in the dining hall. Later 'The Bar' and lots of memories and reminiscences. On the Saturday there was the church service and a tremendous address from Mr Morgan. Lunch followed. Good luck to all our leavers; a tremendous year group who have an enormous amount to offer.

PJ

60 YEARS ON

In last year's magazine we began a tradition: looking back fifty years to the Rendcombian of the day and delving into the goings on of the college all those years ago. This year we break with that well established tradition and look back sixty years. That's the thing about tradition; it isn't what it used to be! The reason that we decided to do this is because of the visit to the college of the Old Boys of 1944

which is reported elsewhere in the magazine. So what was happening in wartime Rendcomb College?

I was fascinated by the tone and content of the leader article from Michaelmas Term 1943:

"In war-time it is not easy to get renovations carried out but we came back to a building wonderfully spick and span. During the summer holiday a group of boys stayed behind to do a week of cleaning, and in addition a certain amount of urgent re-decoration was done. Minor repairs were effected in the changing room and the first floor bathroom, and the parquet floors of the Halls seemed to have recovered much of their polish"

I wonder if we would be inundated by offers if we asked for a few students to stay behind in July to do a bit of D.I.Y?

The war was never far away. The Rendcombian magazine appeared termly in those days and the same Michaelmas edition included this notice:

"It is with deep regret that we record the news that Captain Michael Wills, M.C., eldest son of the founder of the college and one of the Governors, was killed in action in North Africa on March 16th 1943."

The magazine regularly recorded the bravery of Old Boys fighting with the allies and the editor of the Lent term 1944 magazine saw what an important role the magazine had in assisting to maintain morale. He wrote:

"The Times' recently, on its leader page, published an article deploring the curtailment, and in some instances the disappearance of certain school magazines. Scarcity of paper, lack of time and labour, conditions arising from evacuation, bring their difficulties and it is inevitable that school journalism should suffer from the like. The writer spoke with obvious regret, for it is clear that a school magazine, in war-time has many useful functions to perform. More than ever news of Old Boys assumes a greater importance. In many cases the magazine is the only link that keeps the Old Boys informed of each other's doings, of their rewards and vicissitudes, and of what is happening at the school that sent them forth."

The editor finished with the following words:

“The magazine does constitute a permanent record-the only readily available one-of the school’s activities, and the future chronicler will be indebted to its files whenever any information about the history of the college may be required. We write for posterity, and we think it well to remind present readers of this fact.”

Indeed; how apposite! It is

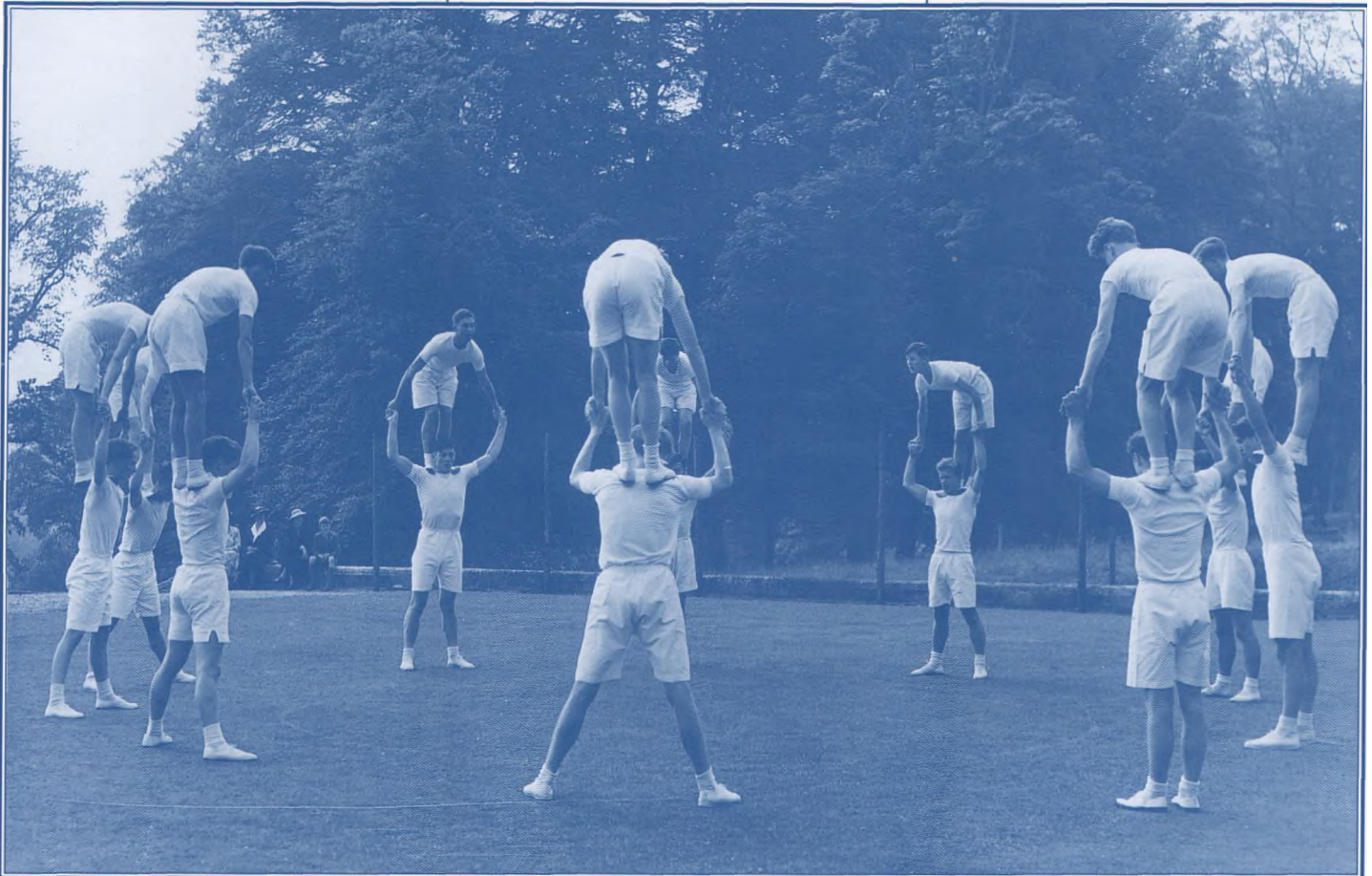


unfolded:

“Potatoes are a delicate subject in College and there are several

which occurred on September 19th and was followed by some strange pagan rite known as ‘Potato Monday’ and we are told that; “the festival lasted until Tuesday”. They certainly knew how to have a good time in those days; a potato festival lasting 24 hours; it doesn’t get more exciting than that! It must be something to do with wartime food production because the editor informs us that more than seven tons of potatoes were dug up.

Some tiny glimpses into the life of



60 Years on...

fascinating looking over the back-copies of The Rendcombian magazine; a different world of rationing and privation.

But it wasn’t all doom and gloom. Oh no!

The Lodge race took place as if full scale world war was a minor inconvenience. For the record it happened on 24th March but the winner was un-named. The Puppet Players performed in November and in December the village came to see the College’s production of ‘The Ghost Train’. Apparently it was a huge hit.

In the Michaelmas term edition of the magazine, this bizarre story

schools of thought”

What on earth was the article about? The writer embellished and having read the article several times, I’m still non the wiser:

“There have even been authoritative statements based on expert investigations: the culinarians are of one opinion, and certain agriculturists, we believe of another. The gourmets have groused, but the potatoes continue to disappear in large amounts. ‘De gustibus,’ it has always been held - “non est disputandum,” and we have no wish to be mashed.”

Apparently all these goings-on occurred after ‘Blackberry Sunday’

the College in the academic year 1943/1944. A fascinating record for which we should all be very grateful.

PJ

Academic Record

GCE EXAMINATIONS

John ADLER
C, M, P, B (AS)

Alexandra ANDERSSON
A, E, H, F (AS)*

Michael ARKLE
BS, B (AS), PE (AS)

Sabine ARMBRECHT

A E F GM*

Ralph ASPIN

G B (AS) BS (AS) PE (AS)

Alice BAREFOOT

A BS E G (AS)

Christopher BAREFOOT

S M P G (AS)

Meg BARNE

A* B* C* M* (AS)

Richard BURDEN

B* C* G* M

Laura BURLEY

F G PE (AS)



James GROOMBRIDGE

B C PE (AS)

Edward KIGGINS

BS* D E PE (AS)

Harriet KINGSFORD

A BS E G (AS)

Simon KWOK

CH M* FM* P C (AS)

Caroline LAY

D E G BS (AS)

Jae-San LEE

CM* FM

Amanda LOMAX

B BS G PE (AS)

Sunny MENG

BS CH M

Sarah RUDDERHAM

A* B* H* F (AS)

Jimmy YU

A BS CH

Key: * grade A

Subject Key: A=Art, B=Biology, BS=Business Studies, C=Chemistry, CH=Chinese, D=Drama & Theatre Studies, EL=English Literature, F= French, G=Geography, GM=German, H=History, M=Maths, FM=Further Maths, MU = Music, P=Physics, PE=Physical Education

GCSE EXAMINATIONS

FIFTH FORM ENTRY

J ACOCK

A* B CD* E* El F M Mu* P

L BOWEN

A D E El G Gm M scda

J BRIERLEY

B* C* D** E* El G* Gm Ict* M* P



A Level Students on Exam results day

Cindy CHEUNG

B C* CH* M*

Coco CHUNG

CH* D M MU

Nicholas CLEMENTS

A* G* H* E (AS)

Sarah COLSON

A G H E (AS)

Thomas DAVIES

B C G* E (AS)

Charlotte ELLIS

A B (AS) F (AS) PE (AS)

Nicholas EVANS

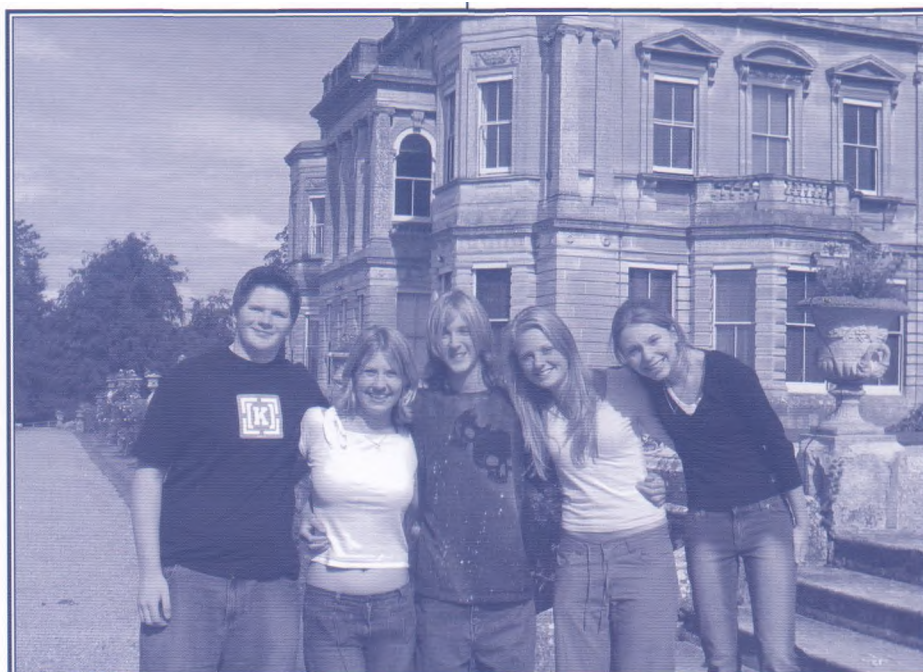
BS E H

Romilly EVANS

A E F GM

Jade FINN

A* E* G* H*



GCSE Students on Exam results day



REND SPORT 20



COMB S DAY

04



J BURLEY*D* E* El F* g M Pe** ScDA***A COLLINS***B* C* E* El F* G* Gm M* Pe* P****E COUCH***B C* D* E El* F G* let* M P***W DREWETT***A E El g let M Pe scda***L EVANS***D E El* Gm H* M Pe ScDA***B FORSHAW***B C* D* E El F H** Ict* M P***S GOFFE***B* C** E* El F** Gm** H** M* Mu* P****D HO***A b C E El Ict M* Pe P***R HOOPER***B* C* E El f G H** Ict* M* P*****E HUTCHISON***B* C** E* El* F** Gm* H** M* Mu* P****H KAY***A B C E* El G Gm Ict M P***H LAWRENCE***B C D E* El* F* G* H** M P***G LAWSON***b C E El f H* M Mu Pe p***S MALIK***D E El F H* M Pe ScDA***R MAXTED***A* B** C** E* El** F** G** H** M* P*****E MEDUS***A B C E El F H** M Pe P***M MURAHASHI***A B C e El J** M P***Y PANG***A** B C* Ch** E El Ict M* Mu* P***P RUDDERHAM***A** B** C** E* El* F** G** H** M P****T RUDDY***B C D** E* El** F G H** M p***S SCHOFER***e El G Gm** Ict M Pe ScDA***C SCOTT***B* C* E El G* Gm let M Pe** P***C SLATER***A** C** D E* El* F* H** M P****T SNOW***B C** D* E* El* Gm H** M* P*;***J TARLETON***b e D E El F Ict M Pe P***G TATHAM-LOSH***E El H* Ict m pe ScDA***H TAYLOR***A** B** C** E* El* F* H** M* Mu** P*****A THOMAS***A e el G ict M ScDA***W THWAITES***A d El f Ict M Pe ScDA***N WELLS***A* D* E* El F* M Mu* ScDA***T WELLS***A* D** E* El F G M ScDA***S WONG***B C E El* F G Ict M Mu* P***FOURTH FORM ENTRY****I HO** Ch****P KU** Ch****L LEUNG** Ch****THIRD FORM ENTRY****L BROWN** F****M IKAWA** J**

Key: Codes beginning with capital letters show grades A* - C, lower case show d - g, ** = grade A*, * = grade A

Subject key: A-Art, B-Biology, C-Chemistry, Ch-Chinese, D-Drama, E-English Language, El-English Literature, F-French, G-Geography, Gm-German, H-History, Ict-Information Communication Technology, J-Japanese, M-Mathematics, Mu-Music, P-Physics, Pe-Physical Education, ScDA-Science (Double Award)

OFFICERS**PREFECTS 2004-05****HEAD BOYS:***Peter Liang**Geoffrey Hulbert***HEAD GIRLS:***Heather Roper**Jessica Weston***PREFECT IN STABLE HOUSE:***Geoffrey Hulbert***PREFECTS IN LAWN HOUSE:***Lotta van Rotenhan**Lauren Lees***PREFECTS IN OLD RECTORY:***Claire Taylor**Caroline Wells***PREFECTS IN GODMAN HOUSE:***Charlotte Cumberpatch**Heather Roper**Jessica Wells**Jessica Weston***"WELFARE" PREFECT:***Rachel Hardy*

Junior School

HEADMASTER'S REPORT & STAFF NEWS

This has been an incredibly busy, exciting and successful year – my first at Rendcomb College Junior School. In some ways it is amazing that a year has passed already and yet so much has happened, on so many fronts, that Lynne and I feel we have been here a lot longer and already we are very settled.

During the year the school's facilities have continued to improve with the opening of new J3 & 4 and the Music/Drama classrooms. There are new and refurbished toilets, the IT suite has been upgraded with an additional 10 new computers, the library is now fully operational and nearing completion is the fabulous new Art and Design room. Also during this summer the Nursery suite of rooms will be completed. I feel for a school of our size the facilities are excellent and obviously essential for our educational provision. But ultimately schools are not about buildings they are about people – pupils and teachers.

Without doubt this year belongs to them. In the classroom all the children have worked very hard and everyone has made some excellent progress. At the top of the school, J6 have attained very high standards. All J6 passed the entrance exams to the Senior School, some achieving academic, cultural and sporting scholarships and awards. Those who also took the Pate's Grammar, Marling and Stroud entrance exams excelled and their success underlines and confirms the high academic standards of the Junior School.

Musically more children than ever are playing instruments or receiving voice training and hopefully this love of music will continue to develop. In the Michaelmas term, about 30 pupils took part in Amahl and the Night Visitors; everyone in J3-J6 contributed to 'Christmas Around the World' while the Otters performed their Nativity Play and the delightful 'Never Count Your Chickens' in the Spring term. Most recently we have enjoyed the excellent production of 'Oliver the Musical' – a massive and challenging project in conjunction with the Senior School, rightly judged by the parent body as outstanding! These major productions, along with pupil and class assemblies

all help to develop the pupils' confidence and skill in public speaking recently reflected in the successful speech and drama exams.

It has been an exciting year for Art and there have been some stunning displays of pupil work throughout the school from Reception to J6, including the Artist of the Month Board. It is lovely to see such high standards being attained and this high level of creativity and variety were reflected also in the superb 'Big Arts Day'. Many congratulations to Holly Phelps, Andrea Haas, Tershie Hayward and Miriam Barks for winning our 'Smile' Artist competition and I hope many of you saw their work on display in Cirencester. Pupils in J6, J5 and J1 also entered the Cotswold art competition and they were chosen as runners - up and their work was on display at the Cotswold Show held at Cirencester Park. Well done everyone for taking part.

Clearly we are excelling in the cultural field but sport has also had an exceptional year. All of the teams enjoyed significant success in their normal fixtures while in tournaments we have had a phenomenal time achieving success in Girl's hockey, rounders, boy's football and of course in the National Lacrosse Championship. Many of these events are recorded elsewhere in this record but it is important to remember that much of this is possible due to the excellent coaching and dedication of the Sports staff. The introduction of the Duathlon, and the Athletics Award Scheme have made sport for all more achievable and standards have already improved as a result. Our success at Area and District Sports confirmed the great strides forward that have been taken.

As the academic year comes to a close it is usual that pupils reflect on their year remembering their successes and best moments. This year there have been so many special days

The helicopter visit, making snowmen, pancake day races, the Easter egg hunt to name but a few! Numerous trips have occurred including Sudeley Castle, Slimbridge and Warwick Castle, while J6 enjoyed the superb residential activity course at Kilve Court. For many the highlight will probably be the unforgettable experience of Drum Crazy.

During 'Fun with Fabrics' recently one girl was heard to say "this is a school of opportunities", there can be no better compliment to the school and the staff. The opportunities are provided and I am very glad that Rendcomb pupils take full advantage and participate in such diverse activities.

I hope that all our leavers take away fond memories of their time at Rendcomb College Junior School and that they will never forget the important life skills, such as the value of effort, learned during their stay.

FAREWELLS



MRS PENNY KELLY

Penny joined us as part-time classroom assistant for J1 and J2 and she made an immediate impact. She has a love of children and an abundance of energy and ability. Penny is also in charge of playground cover! Already Penny has proven to be a real asset to the school.

MRS AMANDA BREALY

Amanda joined us on a part-time basis to teach drama but soon took over as J1 class teacher as cover for Mrs O'Sullivan. Amanda is a very creative and caring teacher and she has done an excellent job. In September she and her husband, Alex, take over the running of the 'Old Rectory' and she will revert to teaching part-time in J3-J6.



MRS JULIA LEE-BROWNE

Julia joined us on a part-time basis to teach art to J4, J5 and J6. She is a most accomplished artist herself and has a wealth of teaching experience in both independent and Maintained schools. The quality and diversity of art in the school is quite exceptional.

MR JON ARNOLD

Jon joined us from the maintained sector to become a J6 tutor. Outside the classroom he has a passion for sport and he has already helped to raise the standard in boys' games. The introduction of the duathlon event and cross country club, both well received, are direct initiatives of his.



MISS DAWN FREEGARD

Dawn was appointed as Rendcomb College Junior School's first full-time secretary. Her dedication and humour coupled with the high quality of her work have made her extremely popular with staff, parents and pupils alike. Already Dawn has made an immense impact on the development and organisation of the Junior School.

MRS JOANNE HADLEY

Jo returned from maternity leave in March as a J6 tutor, teaching English, ICT and P.S.H.E. across the Key Stage Two range. The unforeseen relocation of her husband's work to Exeter resulted in Jo's resignation. Always professional and dedicated she has made a valuable contribution to the school. We wish Jo and her family a very happy future.

MRS JACKIE O'SULLIVAN

Jackie sadly has been absent due to ill-health since October 2003, and she has decided to take early retirement. Jackie was an inspirational and well loved teacher and she will be a great loss to Rendcomb College Junior School and to the teaching profession as a whole. Generations of children, and parents, will be indebted to the excellent foundation she has afforded them in their education. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

MRS MARY PLINT

Mary leaves to take on the challenging role of S.E.N.C.O. at Cheltenham College. Mary is an experienced and very able teacher and she will be missed by her colleagues and pupils. During the past year, apart from teaching J2 and being our Learning Support Co-ordinator, Mary has acted as Head of Otters, in Mrs O'Sullivan's absence, not surprisingly she has led this department superbly. Our thanks and best wishes go with Mary in her new career.

MUSIC AND DRAMA



Junior School pupils joined together with the Senior School for the production of Amahl and the Night Visitors, singing and dancing in the roles of shepherds and villagers. Set in Clock Hall, the pupils enjoyed taking part in this magical and moving opera for Christmas.

It was a magical, inspiring and energetic day. Where I sat the music was great but when I heard it all on tape with all the instruments together it was fabulous. Through the rest of the weekend the beat, rhythm and songs wouldn't go away — but it sounded great. Alex

Thank you for one amazing Friday. My favourite part was sitting on the drums playing Ahooma Mamma. James

Drum Crazy

The children spent the day drumming with drum Crazy. They had the opportunity to experiment with rhythm, various instruments, dance and song. It was a very successful day, which is evident from the children's remarks:

I had a really good time and the day was a blast and the drums were going CRAZY! When I got home I was filled with so much energy I did two laps of my garden. Thank you for a brilliant day. Elliott

It was such an inspiring day which I will remember for a long time. It was just like an explosion of rhythm and beat as we started to drum. The music we created was energetic and lively and it made me feel happy and alive. Holly

The music was breathtaking and made me feel alive inside. Charlotte

When the little boy made the music get louder or softer it sounded like an African explosion. Andrea.





FISHING FOR STARS

"Fishing for stars," the Otters Christmas Nativity Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard was the enormous star that Freddie Baker as "Luke" was trying to catch. We had 5 Little Stars dancing around the stage, a very musical night sky in the form of the J1 boys. The 3 noble kings and 3 good shepherds each with their own, individual facial hair enriched the performance! Grace Brittain and Miles McKeown were well suited to the roles they played as Mary and Joseph. Katie O'Brien and Nicola Clift were wonderful narrators and the Reception "animals" brought a tear to the eye when they sang "Away in a manger."

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Each class from J3 to J6 worked hard to create a play based on the Christmas Celebrations of many countries around the World. We travelled from a warm Australian Noel to advent traditions in colder European countries. We learned a lot more about Father Christmas, Pere Noel and Saint Niklaus. The singing of favourite Christmas carols made a festive end to a busy term.

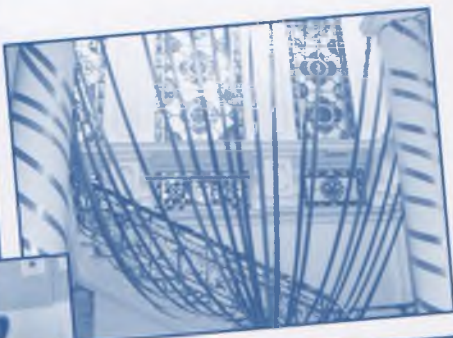


OLIVER

See Senior Section for Oliver Report



Jest



Rendcomb Junior School children have had a full and exciting social calendar this year. The children have "beetled" and "bingo-ed" whilst feasting on hot dogs and other delights. They have "disco-ed" and bought/sold/made - but, mostly, eaten - delicious cakes, whilst their parents, not to be outdone, took time out to dress up in their finery and enjoy an evening of dancing and fine dining at the hugely successful Spring Fling.

The school year kicked off with a cake sale in November, to raise money for the children's Christmas disco. The support was overwhelming and the trestle tables set up in Saul Hall were laden with a stunning array of cakes. Unsurprisingly, not a crumb was left by teatime.

In the Spring term, the children were set the challenge of designing a bug, to be displayed at their Beetle Drive evening and the standard of all the entries was superb. A few weeks later, it was eyes down for a fun night of Bingo in the Reading room. The Spring Fling was a sell-out again and, this year, parents and friends had the added bonus of casino style entertainment with Roulette and Black Jack tables. The evening raised over £600, most of which will be put towards school playground equipment. Plans are already underway for an "Indian Summer" picnic next term and the production of a special Christmas card, which will include designs from every child in the Junior School.

Jest is looking forward to another busy year!



Special Days

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

The last day of the spring term began with a thrill as each class was given the opportunity to parade their uniquely designed Easter bonnets. Competition was stiff and the prize for each class went to the bonnet that was made and designed personally by the child with as little help from an adult as possible. Creative ideas abounded and the standard surpassed all previous years, with homemade chicks, perky rabbits and beautiful flowers 'springing' up in many forms. The parade was followed by a very exciting Easter Egg Hunt that saw the children searching high and low over the extensive grounds of the school for precious 'egg tickets' which could later be exchanged for real chocolate eggs. A very fitting end to the morning was the delightful performance of "Never Count Your Chickens" presented by the Otters, with each child having a special part to play in the production that told the story of a mother hen who lost an egg.

THE DAY THE HELICOPTER CAME...

There was great excitement as we heard and then saw the helicopter approaching.

Commander Hodkinson, an Old Rendcombian, was returning to his old school in his Royal Naval helicopter. He allowed the children to look around it and even let us sit in it. We asked lots of tricky questions. The boys really wanted to know where the bombs were kept! We stood waiting in the rain to wave goodbye. He gave a



very impressive fly-past. We made interesting displays in the entrance hall and corridor with all our paintings and drawings.

WORLD BOOK DAY

The Junior School pupils celebrated World Book Day with tremendous enthusiasm. Each child was asked to dress up as a character from a favourite book and the variety and creativity in the resulting costumes was

superb. From The Cat in the Hat, to Danny the Champion of the World and Anthony Horowitz's Alex Rider, the characters from well-known authors came to life and bustled along the corridors. This inspired a range of commentaries, book reviews, critical reports, letters to agony aunts and character descriptions to be written by our own budding authors. The day concluded with an entertaining performance of an extract from The Wind in the Willows by pupils from the Senior School. All in all, a lot of 'literary fun was had by everyone.



THE DAYS IT SNOWED PART 1 AND PART 2.

Who would have thought that a couple of inches of snow could have caused such chaos?

All the children that did manage to make their way in had a great day of playing in the snow, tobogganing down the slopes and working together to put up a snowy display. The second day it snowed there was even more snow, just perfect for making snowmen and having snowball fights! They are both days which will remain wonderful shared memories.



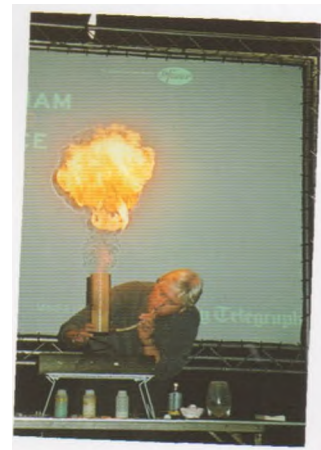
The Cheltenham Festival of Science BLAZING SCIENCE

The Otters trip to the Blazing Science show at the Cheltenham

Festival of Science provided a fascinating insight into the way stuntmen work with fire, as well as an effective presentation of the requirements for combustion. This proved to be an entertaining educational experience.

RETURN OF THE CHEMEDLANS

J3 & J4 enjoyed the Return of the Chemedians at the Cheltenham Festival of Science. They especially enjoyed exploring in the Discovery Zone.



COOL SCIENCE

J5 and J6 went to see Cool Science and were entertained with the effects of liquid nitrogen on different materials and we enjoyed seeing a banana hammer, a squash ball shatter into many pieces and a balloon inflate on its own. After the show we spent an hour in the Discovery Zone, programming robotic machines, making spinners, testing perfumes, giving opinions on camera and much, much more. It was a very enlightening morning and one we will definitely repeat in the future.



Fun in the Reception Class

We have enjoyed many activities...



Amy



Oliver



Honor



Olivia



Alexia



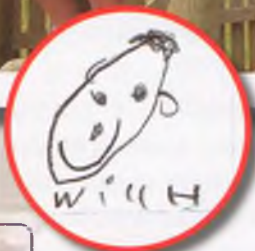
William H



Eleanor



James



Will



Orlagh



Eloise



Jessica

"Playing in the South Pole and doing work."
Alexia

"I like riding the trikes, work and lunch!"
Honor

"I like listening to stories at the listening centre and adding in maths."
Olivia

"Painting with Miss Tait and reading with Miss Hunter."
William H

"I enjoy dressing-up and showing everyone my lambs and quail chicks."
Amy

"I have enjoyed going on the computer and being the special helper."
Oliver

"I have enjoyed making things and playtime outside."
Eloise

"I liked watching the caterpillars change in to butterflies. I enjoyed going on all the trips and making spiders with Miss Tait."
Orlagh

"I like playing with the boys and the sand."
Jessica

"Playing in the Gingerbread Sweet House and surprising Miss Tait on her birthday."
Eleanor

"Playing in the sand is fun and going on the bikes."
James

"Catching bugs and playing with the building blocks."
William G



Animals

During our busy year the Reception class have learnt about many types of animals. As part of our project on pets Olivia brought in her dog, Parsley and William Hwer brought in his dog, Scamp. Eleanor introduced us to Barny the cat and Benjamin Bunny who hopped around our classroom! Amy showed us her quail chicks and the children were able to give Amy's week old lambs, milk from a bottle. In the summer term Pete Cairns took us to see Bluebell the foal.

We have discovered many things about Antarctic animals and painted a lifesize polar bear. The Otters learnt about 'Colour and Camouflage' during our talk at the Cotswold Wildlife Park in the Lent Term.

Minibeasts was our topic for the Summer Term. The children have observed snails and insects in our bug viewer and watched tadpoles change into frogs in our classroom aquarium. We also watched at first hand the lifecycle of painted lady butterflies from five small caterpillars through to the emergence five weeks later of beautiful butterflies. Releasing them into the garden was a momentous occasion! Our visit from ZOOLAB was a particular highlight. The Otters had the opportunity to handle many creatures including a cockroach, tarantula and stick insects!

Role play

Lots of learning has taken place in the role play area during the year. The children enjoyed bandaging and caring for sick toy animals in the 'Vets'; dressing up for an Antarctic expedition in the 'South Pole'; writing menus for the 'Rainbow Café'; acting out fairy tales in the 'Castle' and the 'Gingerbread Sweet House' and booking holidays in the 'Travel Agents'.



GROWING MR GREENHEADS!



WE LOVE OUR MUMMIES!



WE MADE PUPPETS FOR OUR SHADOW THEATRE.



WE MADE SALAD FACES AND THEN WE ATE THEM!



PAINTING FEET

IN THE SUMMER TERM WE HAD FUN PLAYING WITH FRIENDS FROM PATERNOSTER.



Reception say a very big thank you to Miss Tait as she begins her maternity leave. These are just a few of the children's thoughts and comments:

"She's so kind."

"Miss Tait is really good at art and telling you things."

"Miss Tait gives good cuddles."

Pippy

"Fishing for Stars"

The day the helicopter came. I loved getting to sit in Commander Hodgkinson's helicopter.

Armistice Day

J1

"Room with a view"

I have had lots of fun this year in class and here are some of

Spring Flowers

"Poppy" by Chloe
"Lots and lots of Soldiers died in the war. We remember the soldiers who fought for our freedom."
Pippy Ehob-Kohler

Old household objects...

Alex & Guy

The Days it snowed...

Max the Snowman!

Pippy & Chloe on toboggan

Bubbles!

The transit of Venus

"Any old irons?"
Max Parker

We drew faces of famous people

Lighthouse

John Lennon & Yoko Ono

been blessed with a wonderful
amazing memories! (Mrs Brealy)

I love their Mummies and
Daddys very much!

I love ... My house
My toys to play with. I love read
and I love doing spellings and
I love my mummy and Daddy
When I come back from
school, mummy gives me
chocolate I really
Love mummy

Chloe & Pippy

Henry Jones

Guy Beynon

We loved putting on lots of Punch 'n'
Judy Shows by our seaside display.

World Book Day

We all enjoyed dressing up as our favourite
characters from books. Chloe is "Slink
Malinky" and Pippy is "Beauty."

Jonathan & Max
listening to stories

We looked at work by Raol Duffy, who is famed
for his seaside paintings and created our own
inspired pictures using felt and oil pastels.

Sports Day -
The Running Race

Mitchell Sketching
a gateway at
Sudeley Castle

Alex & Oliver

Sudeley Castle -
class photo with Mrs
Brealy & Mrs Kelly

Swimming Gala
We had fun in the pool.
Pippy and Alex have
learnt to swim without
armbands this year.
WELL DONE!



Edward B's Dragon

Daniel Haas
Bird

Nicola Clift - Butterfly

James Tait
World Book day

21 June My weekend.
On Friday I went down Sias with mum. Then I got
down Sias I got clads present. After that penny-dance class
We played on the bumpy. We played crab fish. We played until
lunch. After that I went swimming on the next day.

Oliver Kendall Smith

Oliver Kendall-Smith - My W



21 February
Six Dinner Freddie
First I would go to Little shop
for a hot dog. Second I would go
to Jans house for Margherita pizza.
Third I would go to school for
early save Slips. Fourth I would go to
Mac Donalds for fish and chips.
Fifth I would go to the sweet shop.
Finally I would go for a burger at
Burger King.

Freddie Baker

Freddie Baker - Six Dinner Freddie

100 day party

many activities and
earning tasks associated
with number 100. This 100
day countdown provided a
wonderful means of
building number concepts
such as sequencing and
place value.

The Reception and
J2 classes kept
count of the first
100 days of the
school year. When
day 100 finally
arrived, it was
celebrated with a
cake cut into 100
pieces (and
shared throughout
the school) and,
in the J2 class,



Miles McKeown

Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was rich.
Her Mum and Dad didn't want to be a nurse.
Her Mum and Dad want her to marry.

By Miles McKeown



Grace



Edward Davies

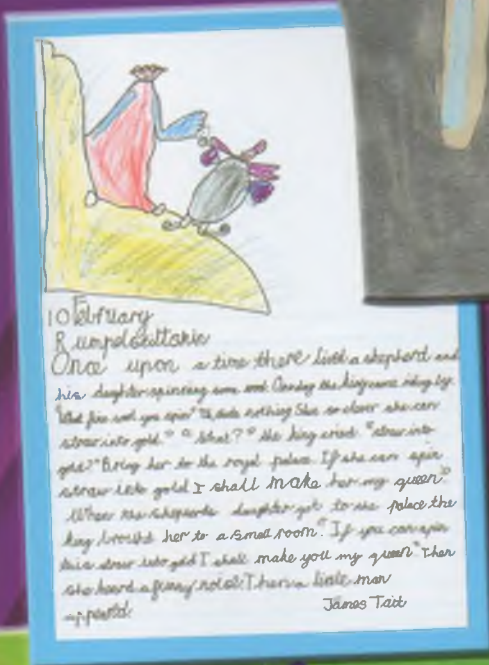
Florence Nightingale

This is the story of Florence Nightingale.
Florence was born in 1820.
One day her parents said "No. You can't go to work."
But she did.
She trained to be a nurse.

By Edward Davies



James Tait
Rumpelstiltskin



Sam Wood - My Half Term

It's so boring.
My half term on Saturday my mum made
pencils for me and then on Sunday
Dad came to my house. Rachel came to
my house to play with Hannah and she
played for me. When Rachel came to
my house we played on the play
station and we played on Prince of
Persia and we played on Harry Potter
and after that we and my dad played football
and he beat me.

Sam Wood

Grace Brittain
Florence Nightingale

Katie O'Brien's
Kettle

Emmeline
Meborn-Hubbard
Cow



Emmeline
Meborn-Hubbard
Bear



Symmetry - Katie O'Brien



Activities

ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME FOR 2004

Rugby	Hockey
Football	Netball
Boys hockey	Cricket nets
Rounders	Cross country
Chess	Cookery
Fitness dance	Table top games
Recorders	Fun with fabric
Field athletics	Track athletics
Warhammer	Spanish culture
Judo	Dance
Golf	Swimming
Tennis	Sporting fun
Summer fun	



Chess Report

As an extra-curriculum activity, the Junior School plays chess. In early 2004, we entered the TCS Chess Challenge. To pick out the school representatives, we had an inter-school tournament. After seven weeks, the winners went to the St Edwards School to play in the regional tournament. This is how we remember it:

Arriving at 9.30am, we were told how the seating system worked and then we played our first game. We all played against the clock and Sam Parker, Timothy Foley, James Preston, Michael Crickmore, Matthew Beck and Joshua Hutton-Potts were beaten by their opponents. I won my match.

There was a 15 minute break before the next match so we went up to the analyst where we were given extra training - which is very useful if you want to win! Matthew, Michael, Joshua, James and I continued to play our matches and finally each managed to win 2 or 3. Even though we didn't make it through to the next round, it was a worthwhile experience and we all played our best. Harry Plunkett

CROSS COUNTRY CLUB

Having a huge area to run in it was difficult to know where to start. The choice of routes was endless and it was difficult for me not to get carried away and expect too much from the members. We started off with the basics and the children were taught how to warm up correctly and to run using their heads and not youthful exuberance.

We worked on long distance running technique and strategies for coping with the many hills that Rendcomb has to offer.

After several weeks of shorter continuous runs, we began to work on 'fartlek' exercises and interval training as well as hill work. The children became accustomed to the terrain and began to make forays into the surrounding estate which gradually increased in length and difficulty.

The season culminated in a very windswept and wet cross country race, the course wound its way up to top pitch through the woods and down the track into the wilderness and across fields to the golf course. The course in itself wasn't too far but it was made arduous by the nature of the terrain and the appalling weather conditions.

All of the competitors did exceptionally well just to finish and there were some notable achievements and battles. First place was hotly contested for by Michael Crickmore and Joshua Hutton-Potts. Well done to Michael who eventually won the race.

It is worth noting that on the last club session all of the members ran constantly for twenty five minutes without even realising it; beware Jon Brown and Paula Radcliffe! J. Arnold

Cookery with Mrs Houghton-Brown and Mrs Reid.

During the Michaelmas and Lent terms Mrs Reid and I ran a Monday evening cookery activity. The highlight of any cookery lesson is always the eating and there were occasions, especially if cooking chocolate refrigerator cake or choc chip cookies, when not many of these delicacies ever reached the kitchen table at home. There was the time when a pupil, returning to school on the Tuesday morning, came in proudly to say his spaghetti bolognese container turned upside down in mum's car and the contents poured all over the foot well. Fortunately I haven't seen the receipt for the cleaning bill but I hear it added to the taste! If you wish to try your hand at cookery, it'll be back by popular demand in September. Mrs Houghton-Brown



OTTERS SPORTS DAY

The annual Otters Sports Day was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Everyone joined in the various races and there was some excellent running in the parent's race. A lot of promise was shown by many of the Otters and I look forward to seeing how they improve next year.

OTTERS SWIMMING SPORTS

On Friday 2nd July, despite the cold windy conditions, the otters enjoyed participating in the swimming gala.

Parents were supportive on the poolside while pupils took part in activities such as front crawl, woggling and some impressive pencil jumps. It was obvious for all to see how confident the children had all become and how they all enjoy the water.

U8 FOOTBALL

The U8's played one match, this was against Rosehill. The team consisted of players from years two and three. The squad played very well and won 4-0. Well done.

JUNIOR SPORTS DAY

The Junior School held its annual sports day on the last Friday of the first half of the summer term. Thankfully the rain that was forecast held off for most of the afternoon. All of the children were very competitive in their races, particularly during the egg and spoon race.

The parents competed in two races 80m for the mums and 100m for the dads. Both races were hard fought for and the parents received plenty of encouragement from the children. Congratulations go to Imogen Meborn-Hubbard and Michael Crickmore who won the Victor Ludorum Cup on the day.



JUNIOR SWIMMING GALA

This term the swimming sports took place on a lovely summer's afternoon and the enthusiasm of the pupils and parents created a wonderful atmosphere. The standard of the races was encouraging with many new individual records broken. Well done to all the competitors

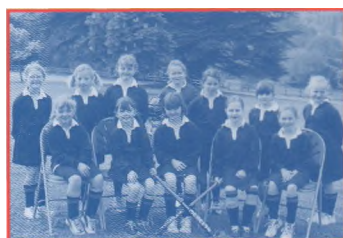
SWIMMING GALAS

Boys and girls from J3 to J6 had the opportunity to compete in several swimming galas this term. We came across tough competitors who swim regularly such as Rosehill. Richard Pates and St Edward's. Our individual efforts always outshone the end result of the meets.

U9 HOCKEY

The performances the team put on were fantastic, considering that some of the girls had not picked up a stick before September.

They valiantly fought in a couple of matches with some great talent already beginning to shine through. Well done girls!



U9 RUGBY

The U9s had a difficult season and many of the boys were adjusting to playing full contact rugby after having played the less physical tag rugby variation of the game.

We played several matches the most notable being against Cokethorpe School. Cokethorpe showed promise by scoring an early try, however Rendcomb fought back and won the game 5-3. Congratulations go to all those who represented the squad, they all tried very hard and made significant improvements in their skills. They also played and trained in some atrocious conditions.

U9 NETBALL

This term the U9's have had an extremely successful Netball season. Although we lost one match the girl's skill and determination took over, resulting in an 8-2 win against Hatherop Castle. Over the term all the girls have greatly improved and I am looking forward to seeing them play next year.

U9 FOOTBALL

The U9 season kicked off with a football tournament at Hatherop Castle. The team all tried really hard and significant development of skill was made within the matches, unfortunately we were knocked out in the early rounds.

The squad had two more matches during the season, one was against Rosehill and one was against St Edwards.

All of the boys who represented the school played well and were good ambassadors for Rendcomb.

U9 ROUNDEERS

This term the U9's have had an excellent rounders' season, winning all of their matches. A close match against Berkhamstead ended with the stronger side winning and we came away having won 12-10. Another match was won, this time against Hatherop Castle with the final score being 9-8 to Rendcomb.

U9 CRICKET

For the first three weeks of Summer Term we had a torrential down pour of rain without fail every Friday afternoon.

Good weather for ducks but definitely not cricket! However we spent the time developing batting and bowling skills.

The U9's had little experience of using a cricket crease before their first match.



Our first match was against Berkhamsted, this was a friendly training game and was used primarily for skill development. Berkhamsted were in the same boat as us having not played due to the recent spate of bad weather.

Our second match was away against Hatherop Castle School. The team played extremely well and there were some stunning wickets taken by our bowlers, we were also entertained as our batters hit back and began to hit several fours in a row, much to the dismay of the opposition, Cokethorpe.

U11 A&B BOYS' HOCKEY

A's played 2 Won 0

Drew 0

Lost 2

B's played 2 Won 0

Drew 1

Lost 1

For the first time Rendcomb College Junior School fielded boys' hockey teams in competitive fixtures. Though very inexperienced both teams played with tremendous spirit and considerable skill and tactical awareness.



In all of the matches we competed well and great credit was gained by our performance. The 'A's' only lost 1-0 to a very good and experienced Richard Pate side while Henry Brittain and Oliver Pullen scored our first ever goals, thus securing the 'B's' draw against King's Gloucester.

A brilliant experience and effort!

U11A HOCKEY

Played 7 Won 6 Drew 1 Lost 0

This team had looked promising last year as an U10 squad and they certainly proved me right as, with an extra year's experience they gelled to become a very strong and talented U11 side. Their record speaks for itself, completing the season unbeaten, conceding just 4 goals and scoring an astonishing 39 of their own. Some of their most notable performances saw convincing wins over schools such as St. Edward's, Richard Pates and King's Gloucester all of which are much bigger than we are.

The side was captained by Katy Schofield who led by example on the pitch. Fearless up front, she could hit the target from all angles of the D and 24 of the 39 goals are accredited to her. Katy was ably supported by Imogen Meborn-Hubbard in midfield and Tori Cannon and Kate Dally on their respective wings. All 3 managed to add their names to the score sheet on numerous occasions as well as feeding Katy with good clean ball. In defence, Holly Phelps was rock solid and being only in year 5 she will take plenty of experience with her into next year's side. Hannah Wood also worked hard in partnership with Holly at the back. A special mention must also be made of our



Goal Keeper, Abigail Whittles who donned a pair of pads for the first time in September. To only concede 4 goals was remarkable and many vital saves were made with apparent calmness and ease. Thank you also to Alice Collishaw, Rachael Jennings and Andrea Haas who willingly stepped in as reserves

adding their input to the squad's two tournament successes.

All in all this was a fantastic season of hockey performed by an enthusiastic and determined squad of girls. They showed total commitment throughout, listened carefully to advice given and were eager to improve on any areas of weakness. Results aside we had a terrific amount of fun and the girls should all be very proud of their achievements. Well done!

Colours were awarded to the following:

Katy Schofield, Tori Cannon and Imogen Meborn-Hubbard

U11B HOCKEY

Every girl in year 5 and 6 represented the school in hockey matches against other schools. A total of five B team fixtures were played and the team improved their skills and positioning as the term progressed. Some players who started their season in the B squad

ended up as valuable members of the A team which was most encouraging. The girls gained a thrilling victory against Rosehill with goals being scored by Alice, Andrea and Kate. They had a narrow defeat in the last minutes in the match against Hatherop and a good draw against Tockington. Other matches against Berkhamstead and St Edward's were closely contested matches. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and determination.

U11A NETBALL

Played 4 Won 2

Drew 0 Lost 2

These results perhaps fail to do justice to the standard of netball played in what was a short term thwarted by snow, inclement weather and two desperately unlucky defeats the first of which was at the hands of St. Francis and secondly St. Edward's. Both losses were a result of nail biting, high scoring, end to end matches where Rendcomb played some fantastic netball only to be pipped at the whistle by a single goal! Deserving some success, the girls put in solid performances against Richard Pates and Ingleside winning the former by 9-6 and then finished their season on a high note, outplaying Ingleside in all areas of the game to win by 14-0.

Tori Cannon captained the side and along with Imogen Meborn-Hubbard reformed last year's successful goal shooting partnership.

Katy Schofield's incredible 'reach' and athleticism was invaluable in defence and there was speed and agility displayed by players across the mid court game.

On a skill level, the start of the season saw all the girls needing to be more determined in their approach and it was not long before they transformed themselves from polite ladies who gave possession to their opponents in any 50-50 situation to committed netball players who fought determinedly for any loose ball!

By the end, excellent team work and an increasing ability to read the game and disrupt opponents' pattern of play was developing strongly in this side. I hope that the girls will continue to nurture these skills into their senior schools and above all keep enjoying the game. Well done!

Squad; Tori Cannon (Capt.), Imogen Meborn-Hubbard, Katy Schofield, Abigail Whittles, Alice Collishaw, Hannah Wood, Kate Dally, Catherine Sharpe.

Colours were awarded to the following:

Katy Schofield, Tori Cannon and Imogen Meborn-Hubbard



U11B NETBALL

The girls in the B netball team worked hard as a unit and their positioning and accuracy improved as the term progressed. Their first match against Richard Pates was rather tentative with the Rendcomb girls tending to be a little too polite! The team probably won't remember the match but they certainly will remember the blizzard like conditions that we encountered returning from Cheltenham when we felt that we were the only vehicle on the road in an arctic wasteland!

The second match of the season proved to be more of a team performance and although the Rendcomb team led all the way through the match St Edward's scored in the final minutes. The standard of play was very good and augurs well for those playing for the Junior School next season. Well done!

U11 RUGBY

Played 7 Won 4 Drew 0 Lost 3

All the squad played with pleasing determination and enthusiasm and they increasingly gelled to become a good, well-drilled unit.

From the outset it was clear that the back line possessed considerable pace and flair, and in matches where we secured a fair percentage of the ball we created many scoring opportunities. Initially the forwards lacked cohesion and mobility but to their credit the boys worked very hard and they improved considerably and confidence levels soared.

We suffered two heavy defeats, against Rosehill and King's Gloucester, both of whom completely outsized us up front. All the remaining matches were very competitive and gaining 4 victories was a fine effort, especially the 24-12 defeat of Hatherop Castle. These successes owed much to the super defensive work of the team and in particular the back division.



My thanks go to all who played, tried so hard and enjoyed the game. Colours were awarded to Tom Dally and Michael Crickmore.

U11 FOOTBALL

As played 4 Won 3 Drew 0 Lost 1

Winners of the St. Francis School Tournament

The team was well balanced and possessed good footballing skills and pace. In all of our matches, apart from against St. Edward's, where we were physically out-played, we enjoyed most of the possession and we were able to attack with width or directly down the middle.

We were strong in all areas. The goalkeeping and defence was solid while the midfield were both good at ball winning and showed much creativity. Excellent service was provided to the strikers and their finishing was often clinical.



The highlight of the season was winning the St. Francis tournament. We played one of the first matches and were overwhelmed by a physical Mill School side. Unfortunately we lost 2-1. After a motivational chat our boy's spirits lifted and we won the next match easily against St Francis. The final score being 5-1. This performance put us into the semi-final, and the tension began to mount. The parent supporters were surprisingly quiet, we won the semi-final. Ironically we faced Mill School in the final! Our boys played exceptionally well and we won 2-0. Again all the boys performed with determination and enthusiasm and we emerged worthy winners of the competition for the first time.

This was most enjoyable and successful season. Well done boys!

Colours were awarded to Joshua Hutton-Potts and Harvey Rich.

U11A ROUNDERS

Wednesday afternoons and the summer term seem to mean one thing - RAIN! It was an unavoidably slow start to the season this year with adverse weather making the pitches unplayable, resulting in early matches having to be cancelled. It was shortly before half term when the squad, captained by Imogen Meborn-Hubbard, finally had their first game, resulting in a convincing win over Hatherop Castle.

This was an opportunity to experiment in different playing positions ready for the St.

Francis tournament the following week.

Although they lacked match practice, the girls put in a fantastic team performance at this event to come away as the overall winners. For many, this was another medal to add to the silverware already collected this year!



This year's team was fortunate to have a strong contingent of batters who were able to notch up rounders on a consistent basis. This was the team's great strength. A special mention must go to Katy Schofield who, sent many a team scrabbling into the hedgerows in search of lost balls due to her immense hit. She never scored less than 4 rounders in any one match. Fielding was the slightly weaker element to the squad's game and we were still shuffling positions right till the end in an attempt to find the best combination.

In my opinion the best achievement of the season however was our match against Cheltenham College. Although the result was a loss in the dying minutes by half a rounder, the squad played some of their best rounders ever, showing terrific determination and team spirit. We certainly made Cheltenham sweat.

Well done to all the squad, you listened hard and worked to improve on the weaker elements of your game. It was a very successful season with a cluster of wins and two very close defeats.

Squad : Imogen Meborn-Hubbard (capt.), Katy Schofield, Tori Cannon, Abigail Whittles, Alice Collishaw, Hannah Wood, Kate Dally, Catherine Sharpe, Rachael Jennings, Holly Phelps and Andrea Haas.

Colours were awarded to the following:

Katy Schofield and Imogen Meborn-Hubbard

ST.FRANCIS ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday 26th May the U11A squad travelled to St. Francis, Pewsey where four schools took part in a round robin tournament of just one 10 minute innings per team, per match.

Our first game was against Salisbury Cathedral School. This was a tightly contested match, resulting in a 9½ all draw.

Rendcomb played their best rounders in their second match against Kingsbury Hill. This they won by an astounding 18 - 4. No mean feat in just ten minutes, with all the team contributing to the score sheet.

As we went into the final game against St. Francis we knew we had to win to be in with a chance.

Rendcomb lost the toss and went in to bat first. Although some key batters were out early, the remaining girls managed to keep the innings alive and score a respectable 7½ rounders. St. Francis were unable to match this score in their innings, finishing on a total of 3½.



A few tense moments at tea showed that Rendcomb had finished on an equal points tally with Salisbury Cathedral School but due to their outstanding batting in the second match, Rendcomb won the tournament on their total number of rounders scored.

Very well played to all the girls. It was a terrific whole team effort.



U11B ROUNDERS

The B team only managed to play one fixture against Tockington, due to poor weather, but what a thrilling match it turned out to be. Many of the rules and skills learnt during lessons could be used in a “real” situation and the girls rose to the occasion. Some very accurate bowling by Sarah Jones and Emily Taylor and some good fielding by the rest of the team showed complete team commitment. Nearly every girl scored rounders within the two innings and this gave Rendcomb a deserved victory: the final score being Rendcomb 16 Tockington 10. Well done to everyone who played.

UNDER 11 CRICKET

Played 3 Won 2 Drew 0 Lost 1

Sadly with two fixtures lost to poor weather only 3 matches took place. This was particularly disappointing as this team possessed considerable potential.

The entire squad worked with great enthusiasm in both general practice and in net sessions and significant progress was forthcoming. Batting and bowling skills improved, especially the latter, while in the field catching, throwing and the reading of match situations also developed well.

The team was based around two very talented and experienced all-rounders, both of whom fully deserved the award of colours, and they received excellent support from the squad in all departments. Our bowling attack proved to be very strong with many boys performing extremely well. Certainly we had good variation in our attack and all three opposition teams struggled to set big totals. The batting was potentially very strong but with only 3 games experience in the middle was limited.

Most importantly the boys approached and played the game in the right spirit and hopefully they will enjoy years of cricket ahead.

Colours awarded: Matthew Beck and Tom Dally

POP LACROSSE

Pop Lacrosse has been a new sport taken on this year with amazing results. On a freezing Sunday the girls’ lacrosse team ended up winning the Downe House Pop Lacrosse Championship, proving a force to be reckoned with. A few



weeks later saw a mixed lacrosse team take on the challenging task of the regional Pop Lacrosse Championships. Using the talents of the team and their sheer determination, we left the tournament qualifying for the National Pop Lacrosse Championships, representing the South-West of England. Many training sessions later, we found ourselves winning our first match at the Nationals. Great sportsmanship and courage meant Rendcomb won the Plate Competition, making the school and teachers immensely proud of our achievement. Congratulations to everyone and roll on next season.

DUATHLON

The first Rendcomb College Junior School Duathlon was run on Monday 26th April. A duathlon is a run followed by a bike ride followed by a run. The skill of this type multi-discipline race isn’t just in the race but in transition. Transition is where the competitors change equipment between each race. On an elite level this is where a closely contested race can be won. Elite competitors can change out of wet suits and be riding their bikes before us mere mortals can tie our shoe laces. The children performed exceptionally well in this part of the race considering this was the first time that all of them had experienced it.

Two races were held, one for the Year 3 & 4s and one for the Year 5 & 6s.

The distances were:

<u>Year 3 & 4</u>	<u>Year 5 & 6</u>
Run 335m	Run 1,022m
Bike 800m	Bike 2,300m
Run 162m	Run 631m

I’m not sure if the competitors really knew what they were letting themselves in for.

Both races were keenly contested and everybody tried very hard. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and it turned into a glorious evening.

Congratulations go to Lance Baynam who won the 3 & 4 race in a time of 5 minutes and 19 seconds, and Michael Crickmore who won the longer and more arduous 5 & 6 race in a time of 17 minutes and 27 seconds.

It really was fantastic to see children competing in an activity which is still regarded as something of a minority sport.



[illegible]



A recipe for a happy teacher

Starter

Good work flavoured soup sprinkled with merits cooked on a good behavior oven with a neat work yoghurt.

Main Course

Grilled being kind, topped with no lying with a hint of walking all the time.

Pudding

A no messing about sauce on top of a smiling child with loads of effort sprinkles.

Drink

4 chair legs on the floor wine.

Starter

Begin with a bowl of children with ideas, sprinkled with smiles and happy faces.

Main Course

A crispy sense of humour, mixed with good behaviour and rich creamy work.

Pudding

A crispy no biro with a mixture of no shouting OUT!

Rich good work in a bed

of hard work, topped with good behaviour. A creamy sauce of merits. Smooth smiling sprinkled with neat work.

A crisp closed locker, washed down with four chair legs on the ground and layered with walking in corridors. A hint of being kind to others to finish.

J3 trip to Chedworth Roman Villa

On Tuesday 14th October the whole of Junior 3 went to Chedworth Roman Villa. First of all we met the lady who showed us around and she took us to the kitchen to meet the Roman slave. We found out how to keep apples fresh by dipping them in wax, cook meat and dry fruits. The slave told us how to fatten up snails and how to cook meat on a spit. We found out that for breakfast the Romans would have eaten fruit, bread and nuts. For lunch, they would just have soup and bread but for supper they would have a starter, a main course and a dessert. So, for a starter it might be stuffed dormice. For the main course it would be a spit roast with vegetables and for dessert it would be fruit, dates and chocolate.

Next we went to the hypocaust. It was amazing how they heated their houses. After going to the hypocaust we went to the Bath House. There were brilliant mosaics. There was a changing room, a hot room, a sauna and a cold room. Next we went to the Temple and saw the shrine. The animals still come down from the woods today to get a drink from the shrine.

Next we went to the dining room. There was an autumn, a winter, a spring and a summer mosaic picture on the floor. Next we went to see the Roman toilets. They were disgusting!

After our tour we went to the classroom and were archaeologists sorting and sketching real Roman artefacts.

Finally, we went to the gift shop. I bought two Roman coins and a bracelet. We had a very busy and enjoyable day.

Katina Ellis

Fire
 Fire looks like branches swishing
 from side to side.
 Fire feels like warm breath
 blowing at your cheek.
 Fire smells like a car engine
 over-heating.
 Fire moves like herds of cows at
 milking time.
 Fire sounds like wind going
 across the landscape.
 by Archie Doyle

Fire
 Fire looks like a dragon and
 a monster,
 Like a stone going up in the sky.
 Fire sounds like a tantrum,
 Like a cackling witch.
 Fire feels like a red hot oven,
 Like the sun beating down.
 Fire smells like a witched breath.
 Fire moves like ants crawling
 over a rock,
 Like witches on a broomstick.
 Fire looks orange, gold, silver,
 yellow and red.
 It is a ball of excitement.
 by Georgie Cannon

All the leaves are starting to go round.
 Under the trees there is a squirrel.
 The back notes for cones and acorns are falling.
 Up in the trees the birds fly away.
 Migration has started, the birds are gone.
 Now the animals are hibernating, so too for the animals.
 by Katina Ellis

After the summer the winter is coming.
 Up in the trees it is all bare.
 Twisting and turning the leaves are falling.
 Up in the trees the robins are hunting.
 Singing birds are flying away.
 All the blackberries are being picked.
 by Millie Parker

A little boy happened to the ground. Autumn I thought.
 Under the trees I saw lots of small leaves scattered.
 Twisting around what I saw was ready to go. I saw back notes and acorns everywhere.
 I told my mum I will have to wait to see everything look like all the birds and leaves in the trees.
 My family and all the other people will have this day.
 They will be like this day.
 By Sam Parker

J3 Trip to Caerleon

On Tuesday 11th November, J3 spent an action packed day exploring the Roman fortress town of Caerleon.

Throughout the course of the day they visited an amphitheatre, saw the remains of a barrack block that housed 5500 soldiers, visited the bath house, dressed up as soldiers in a reconstructed barrack room and also performed role play as both slaves and rich home owners.

Here is each of their highlights in their own words:

"My favourite part was when we saw a 2000 year old footprint in the Bath House." – Georgina Cannon

"I found out that the Romans ate peacock brains!" – Milly Beck

"I found out that 8 people had to live in a tiny barrack room." – Patrick Tarleton

"My favourite part was when we charged in a wedge formation across the amphitheatre at Miss Payne and Miss McIntosh!" – Harry Priestner

"I found the straw mattresses they slept on in the barrack room very uncomfortable!" – Megan Chadwick

"I learnt to march like a Roman. Sin- Dex, Sin -Dex, Sin -Dex..." – Katina Ellis

"My favourite part was trying on the armour." – Millie Parker

"I learnt that the rich people bossed their slaves about!" – Sam Parker

"I found out that the amphitheatre could seat 6000 people on wooden benches." – Archie Doyle



Feelings

I was lost. I couldn't find my mum. My eyes were watering, my mouth was trembling. All I was doing was wondering where my mum was. I was worried, worried if I would never see her again. My legs were shaking. I was nervous and afraid. I was very tense, frightened, sad, anxious and ashamed. I wish I listened to her when she said "stay with me." Now I'm lost surrounded by trees in the middle of a wood.

By Katie McCourt

Maggie

I woke up on a normal sunny day looking forward to the day ahead of me. It was my grandmas birthday and she was coming round for a birthday meal. I went to school as normal and when mum picked me and my brother Josh up she said she needed petrol. In the end we ended up having a McDonalds. We went home and mum kept us in the kitchen. She said "I have something to tell you. Maggie died." There was a moments silence. I could hear the clock ticking. It hit me so hard I couldn't believe it was happening. Out of all the days to die she died on her own daughters birthday.

By Imogen Hutton-Potts

Spring

Spring is when the lambs are born
Eating all the weight and corn.
Dancing and prancing all over the place
Making there own little race.
Eating grass with out a pace
Drinking milk all over there face.
Chewing every ones little laces
Bouncing there small faces.
Doing every thing with out a care
Eating apples and some times a pair:
Washing and licking everywhere
In the lake by the fair:
Having there own lambs next time
Making sure they are o so fine.
When they sleep oh boy are they cute
Not making a little hoot.

By Tori Collishaw and Sophie Popper J4

ACROSTIC POETRY

Snow is falling fast
No-one should be bored
On and on at last
We reach our reward

THE END

BY ALANA

Fluffy Feathered Friends on the Loose

On Tuesday 25th May
Rendcomb Junior's J3 and J4 went to the Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge.

They first went to our cinema to find out about the ponds.
They wore masks of ducks, bloodworms, diving beetles, lily
pads, underwater plants and daphnia.

Afterwards they went pond dipping to find what they had
just learnt about. After that they went to feed the birds. All
J4 girls found the little chicks adorable!

They they went into The tropical house
where it was really hot. There was
tropical birds and fish, and finally
they went into the shop.

They had great fun and they
were very polite and kind to
the birds.

Hannah Clift
reporting from WWt (water and
wetlands trust), Slimbridge.



Where Am I?

I am in a place where tree's sway in the breeze.
A place where wild animals live and that's including fleas.

Have you got the answer ... well take another guess,
I am in a place where everybody does their best.

I am in a place where kookaburras sing,
I am in a place where monkeys swing swing swing,
I am in a place where gorillas drum and beat,
I am in a place where ants have little feet.

I AM IN THE RAINFOREST!!!!!!

By Jessica



My Dog Pepsi

Pepsi loves to chase the cats,
But he should be chasing rats.
He is such a little dog,
And he can sit upon a log.
Pepsi came to school one day,
With my class he enjoyed to play.
He loves to go for a walk,
How I wish he could talk.
He loves to steal and
chew our slippers,
His mouth is full of
awesome nippers.

By Joshua Thomas



The Moon

The moon rises like a balloon at the end of a party
The moon gleams like the halo over Jesus' head
The moon sneaks like a fox hunting for its prey
The moon glistens like a light when it has just turned on
It slides like a banana when its skin is on the floor
It hides like a mouse when he has just got his cheese.

By Charlotte

J4 Visit to the Ashmolean Museum

On Tuesday 7th October J4 visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. It was a long way, one hour and ten minutes to be exact! My favourite parts were the mummies and the shrine. There was a story about a Pharaoh, (a King of Egypt), written in hieroglyphics around the shrine. It was about a Pharaoh who had three Protectors, bodyguards in our language. They carried an ankh and a staff. The ankh was a staff with wings. Bandaging the mummy could take up to 15 days! It was only for wealthy people. The Egyptians had really preone cross with a handle on the top of it. It was a sign of life. The staff was a wooden pole with a spearhead on the top. It was a sign of power.

The mummy had three cloth layers of covering, sealed with resin, a top, middle and bottom layer, then the mummy itself. It was bandaged up and placed in a wooden box with patterns on it. On two of the layers there were painted scarab beetles and jewellery. We also saw make-up pots for eye make-up. There were statues of mummies for every day of the year and you would be buried with these. There were some really pretty shoes, but they were only for men! We also saw a mummified cat and ibis(bird). It was a great and interesting trip!

By Sophie Popper

Warhammer

Find the blazing Lizardmen
Then you'll sing like a big fat hen.

Come the Woodelves you will see
Then you'll have to lift there tree.

Here the Seaven come right now
You will feel like a big fat cow.

Tomb kings come of Khemri
You will never see the sky.

The Beastmen of the doom
Will come into this room.

Come the Dwarfs bold and stout
You will never have a doubt.

Here the little Orks come
Riding with their fellow chum.

Here the Chaos scary creatures
Come with there very ugly features.

Vampire Counts come in the night
You will have a dreadful fright.

By Lance Baynham and Oscar Ellis.

RAIN FOREST WATCH OUT!



DON'T GO SWIMMING in The Amazon
SOME CROCODILES there, way a Ton
The Piranhas say MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
The Camera Man says one Snap and I'll be for Lunch.

DON'T GO CLIMBING in The Amazon
SOME MONKEYS there will PULL YOUR TONGUE.
ALL The Snakes will Poison YOU
Then The BIRDS go Co Co Co!



By Lance Baynham.



WATER TREATMENT VISIT

J5 visited Farmoor Water Treatment Plant as part of their science topic. They discovered that the lakes held 43 million litres of water and also enjoyed the smell of the sludge plant!



WAR TIME STUDIES

The History topic, Life during World War II, was made more realistic by visiting the Cirencester air raid shelter which is full of amazing artefacts from the era. It was like an "Aladdin's Cave" with uniforms and everyday items giving a real "feel" for wartime Britain. Many of the items had personal stories behind them which made them even more interesting. We even saw a wartime teabag — unused of course!

The children also had the opportunity to wear wartime items of clothing during an excellent visit by two helpers from Cirencester museum. Many of the children looked as if they could be straight from the 1940's and with pretend sad expressions they could have been evacuated to Rendcomb! Some of the boys dressed in uniforms looked amazingly like a scene from Dad's Army! The workshop also included the thoughts of an evacuee and the handling of real artefacts to try to guess what they would be used for.

THE HIDDEN BEACH

On the hidden beach,
The creepy crawly crabs scuttling,
Along the soft and silky sand.

Then the rolling waves,
Coming from the blue,
To crash mercilessly on the jagged rocks.

Suddenly a cry from nowhere,
As a seagull swoops down
Looking for food.

The distant moan of a trawler
Over the ultra marine blue sea
Destroying all the peace.

The sun set is lighting up
The hidden beach
With an amber glow
Have you seen this place?

By James Preston.



A SNOWY SCENE AT RENDCOMB

Snow falls like a sandstorm, then turns into a white desert.
I've seen sparkly soft snow seeping through my fingers.
I've touched powdery flakes and giant snow covered trees
I've heard crunching, screaming shouting
Snow falls like sugar through a sieve.

By Oscar Doyle

MY MARVELLOUS MUM

My mum is a crisp which is crunchy and full of flavour
She is a bottle of champagne once opened she's sparkly and bubbly
She is a cat—slim and always wants a cuddle
My mum is like a bed that you can always snuggle up to
She is a ladybird colourfully buzzing around me
She is like a rose but if you hold her in the wrong
place you might get prickled.
Her voice is like a bird tweetting in my ear
My mum is a racing car always running after me
She is a warm woolly jumper which will never let me go cold
She is a shining boot that may get muddy
She is a marvellous mum!

By Alex Symcox

A POEM ABOUT MY BROTHER

My brother is a comfy chair
But he can turn wooden
He is a lion
He can strike at any second
My brother is a sunflower
But sometimes he can prickle.
He is a T-shirt
Nice to wear but can be uncomfortable
My brother is a fizzy drink
Always loud and bubbly
He is a Range Rover
Standing tall and proud
My brother is a ladybird
Big eyes and spotty!
Louis, my brother
By Oliver Greenaway

MY SISTER CISSIE

My Sister Cissie is a cheesy Watsit ready to be eaten.
She is a glass of champagne, fizzing up and down.
My sister is a red rose opening, staying beautiful all year round.
She is a granny's scooter always breaking down and starting up again.
She is like a dainty mouse scuttling across the floor
She is a jumpy grasshopper
Cissie is a mini polka dot skirt all spotty and bubbly.
She is a bouncy bed that you can cuddle up to
Cissie is a cheetah running as fast as it can
My sister is a red leather stiletto boot all beautiful and shiny.

By Threshie Hayward



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Many exciting projects have been undertaken this year with the making of Wartime like Cam toys being a real challenge. The design and making of the toys proved to be inventive and some of the final results could have easily been prototypes for any toy manufacturer.



COOKERY

The children also had the task to design a scone or cookie using mainly ingredients from the Cotswolds. They had to write letters to the makers of the various cheeses etc and the delight at receiving a reply was clear to see. The actual making proved to be great fun but the best part was of course the tasting!



THE PINK JELLYFISH

Swaying from side to side
She moves like a ballerina
Flourescent, pink, patterned
Shimmering in the light
Waves smash on the sea shore.

up
Floating and

down

She looks like candy floss on a stick.

T	S	F	B
R	T	R	E
A	I	I	W
I	N	G	A
L	G	H	R
I	I	T	E
N	I	E	J
G	G	N	E
		D	L
T	S	F	Y
N	U	I	F
T	C	S	I
A	K	H	S
C	E		H
L	R	F	I
E	S	L	N
S		E	S
		E	E

By Andrea Haas

VISIT TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

On May 17th J5 visited Westonbirt to take part in a workshop called "Growing Green". The sun was very hot that day and we all had to put sun cream on and wear hats. First we went to the Education Centre to watch a slide show about plants and then we went on a walk to look at different trees and flowers. We played a game where we had to collect certain cards such as soil, sun, water and air but we weren't allowed to move. If you got them all then you could grow.

We went through a maze of bamboo which was hollow in the middle. We saw beautiful rhododendron bushes which had gorgeous flowers and they smelt lovely and sweet. My favourite tree was a monkey puzzle tree which had prickly leaves and you had to be careful not to get hurt. We also saw a very rare Dove tree or Hanky tree because it looks like doves sitting in the tree and handkerchiefs hanging on the tree. We walked a little further until we found some flowers and we were allowed to pollinate them. Our next game was "Soil Soup" where we had to find ingredients like rotting leaves and put them in a cup to make "soil". It was good fun as we worked with a partner.

Another game we played was where one person in each pair was blind folded and the other had to lead them to a tree and let them touch it and feel it. You would then walk them away from the tree and take off the blindfold. They would then have to guess which tree they had been touching. The "Food Factory" was also a fun game.

We had a lovely day and we hope to go back soon. By Charlotte Stedman, Katie Fuller, Conrad Beynon and Oliver Pullen





A day in The Cotswolds

This morning I jump out of bed and stare through my window, there I see the most stunning view in the world. I see trees with delicate icicles dangling from their branches sparkling in the early morning sun. I see fields that look like they had been gently tucked in at night by a pearly white blanket and I see a sky as white as the snow on the ground with the sun's rays just breaking through the shimmering surface.

By Sarah Jones

Every day we look and see the same thing, rain or shine, wind or hail, we see the same; but today is a special day. Today is sunny, so we can see for miles. Lots of beautiful shades of green rolling hills, the trickle of water coming through to the stream and over the slippery, wet, stones, the forest at the top of the hill as the dusty path leads down to the stream and field with unique yellow buttercups. It's one of those days when it feels like a hundred degrees celsius but you still run up the hills then roll back down again.

By Sarah Tarleton

You could see for miles on this gorgeous day, the green hills with the sound of clear blue streams trickling through the wonderful landscape. The view was still and silent with a few birds tweeting calmly.

By Rachael Jennings



Kilve Court

It was with great anticipation that the J6 pupils left Rendcomb College Junior School on a chilly morning in February. For many, this was to be their first trip away from their families. The bus rang with lively chatter, the rustle of sweet papers and the whispers of plans being made.

We arrived, to see a quaint, ivy covered building, where we were all warmly welcomed with a hearty meal and the regulatory safety briefing. An afternoon of adventurous activities followed, with team work being tested on the low ropes, tenacity and perseverance encouraged on the climbing wall, fears conquered on the abseiling tower and skills and prowess brought to the fore in the archery activity.

The day didn't end there. After dinner we set out for an exciting night walk up the steep, muddy Quantocks to a good view point across the Severn Estuary. The moans and groans that accompanied the hill climb soon disappeared and shrieks of laughter were to be heard as the children negotiated their way downhill through the woods in the dark.

The following day was equally good. It began with a morning spent foraging for ammonites and Devil's Claws on the Fossil Beach followed by a second round of the previous day's outdoor activities. A variety of games were played during the evening, including our own Rendcomb version of Pop Idol. The rivalry between dormitories, pop groups and games teams grew steadily, with the Pardlestone dormitory winning the overall award. Our final day dawned and after a lengthy walk through the hills, the children boarded the bus, ready for home and fresh, clean clothes. Cheery singing filled the bus, diaries were updated and emerging memories were shared as another Junior School adventure drew to a close.

J6 VISIT TO WARWICK CASTLE

On Tuesday 25th May, J6 visited Warwick Castle as part of the Summer term's period of study in History. This stunning medieval fortress brought the topic to life providing superb examples of castle defensive fortifications. The highlights of the trip included a visit to the dungeons and Jingle the Jester's Show with guest appearances from Rendcomb College Junior School pupils!

J6 VISIT TO THE SHAMBLES

J6 enjoyed a very informative trip to this Victorian Museum, where many aspects of life in that age were vividly depicted. All of the pupils were glad to be alive in this era especially when we looked at Victorian toilet facilities!!



STORY OPENING

By Emily Taylor

The door opened, three children dressed in rags saw a stranger coming up the stairs. He was dressed in black and was quick as a knife. His movement was like a slithery snake. The children were worried, who was this man? Was he their new owner? Why was he in their house? The floorboards creaked as he approached their door. Suddenly a cold breath blew the back of the children's necks. It made them shiver, and in the gleam of the light they saw a shiny metal point coming towards them.



Dear MP

RE: CHANGING FISHING TO SAVE DOLPHINS IN UK WATERS

According to a certain article, the dolphin population in UK waters has dwindled significantly in the recent past. The aforementioned article also showed that, during just 71 days at sea, an amazing 53 dolphins were caught on a single commercial fishing boat.

The new figures were released at the International Whaling Commission 91WC0 meeting held in Berlin this week, by Andrew Read, co-chair of the WWF'S Cetacean Bycatch task Force and co-author of the study. "This level of bycatch is significantly depleting and disrupting many populations of whales, porpoises and dolphins which will lead to the loss of several species in the next few decades if nothing is done," Read exclaimed. The exact estimate for the extinction of the bottlenose dolphin in UK waters is 2012, although that's only if nothing significant is done to save these beautiful animals.

I do hope that you can do something that will stop these poor creatures from becoming extinct in the inviting waters of the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Plunkett (aged 10)

HUMOROUS VERSE

I LIVE ON A SHELF,
ALL BY MYSELF,
I DEPEND ON MY SLEEVES
TO LOOK AFTER MY LEAVES
WHAT AM I?
BY CATHERINE SHARPE
ANSWER: A BOOK

THE DAY IT SNOWED AT RENDCOMB

Happy children,
Dancing snowflakes.
Deep and scary,
Fluffy snow.

Happy children,
White and crispy.
Snowball fights,
Cold and evil.

Happy children,
Freezing ponds.
Sledging fast,
The day it snowed at
Rendcomb.

By Edward Stark



NIGHT

*I met at eve the Queen of night
Hers is a face filled with shimmers of stars
She glides like a speeding comet
Caring in a joyful place*

*Her garb spun of golden thread
About her hair long golden locks
Bringing happiness like music,
That is joy to your ears*

*Her voice is calm and gentle
Her eyes are a chestnut brown
Like leaves on an autumn day
Her eyes with a twinkle of a shining star
Glowing Strong*

By Sam Dally



J6 LEAVERS

Sarah Tarleton

At Rendcomb, I have had many friends and enjoyed messing about, playing and laughing with them; especially at Kilve Court when we played Pop Idol and had midnight feasts in the dark. I have also had many opportunities such as becoming a prefect, playing the lead in the Wizard of Oz and being awarded the drama cup. There have been great memories that will stay with me forever.

Edward Slark

During my time at Rendcomb I have been in a number of teams like I was in the Rugby and Swimming teams in both J5 and J6, the Cricket team in J5 and the Pop Lacrosse in J6. I was in Rock around the Clock in J4, Babushka and Wizard of Oz in J5 and Amahl, Christmas all around the world and Oliver in J6. I also sang in assembly in J5. My most memorable moment has been director of the J6 play Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Imo Meborn-Hubbard

One of my fondest memories in J6 was when it snowed. Not only was it the biggest snowfall I had seen in my life but the atmosphere was so different to the usual. It was full of tense excitement and happiness. Many lessons were replaced with snowball fights, sledging and making snowmen. It was a day I will remember for the rest of my life.

Tori Cannon

One of the best trips I have been on was to Kilve Court Education Centre. The best part of Kilve Court was playing Pop Idol, Mr Arnold and Mrs Haas were the judges. There were many competitors but the winner was Tom Diddly. Singing, "Who Am I What Does The Bible Say". It was a really good day and song.

Matt Beck

I was one of the first people in the school. My favourite sports memories were when we beat Richard Pates four two in football and I scored a hat-trick. The other was a cricket match against Hatherop Castle. After their twenty overs they were sixty eight for nine and I got two wickets. Tom and I put on a sixty seven run partnership. Tom scored thirty two and I scored twenty out.

Beth Timmins

The reasons I love Rendcomb are because of my friends mainly because I've had them for most of my life and we always make each other laugh. My favourite subjects are Drama and Art. Drama gives me a real buzz. I've been in many plays and I've really enjoyed them all. I've been in some of the school teams for rounders, netball and hockey. The teachers are amazing, I felt lucky to have been at this school, so thank you Rendcomb.

PRIZES

The following prizes were awarded in Final Assembly:-

Boys' Cross Country Cup
The Meborn-Hubbard Girls' Victor Ludorum
The Henniker-Gotley Boys' Victor Ludorum
Reeves Cup for Improved Reading
Carden Cup for Music
Dufosse Art Cup
Shackel Cup for Drama
Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport
Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport
Tatham Losh Shield for Improvement
Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement
Trim Happy Cup
Potter Cup for Overall Contribution

- Michael Crickmore
- Imogen Meborn-Hubbard
- Michael Crickmore
- Grace Brittain
- Catherine Sharpe
- Imogen Meborn-Hubbard
- Sarah Tarleton
- Katy Schofield
- Michael Crickmore
- Finnbarre Brennan
- Emily Taylor
- Tom Margesson
- Alice Collishaw

Hannah Wood

My favourite subjects included: games and music. In games I was in the U11 rounders, netball and hockey teams. My best event was when the helicopter visited. We also went on a school trip to Warwick Castle to learn about castles; and the Easter bonnet parade, when we designed and created a hat and had it judged. My responsibility was being librarian and involved sorting books and helping keep the library methodical.

Emily Taylor

I will remember Rendcomb because of the funny lessons and brilliant plays. I liked doing Amahl because everyone put a lot of effort into doing it. When the night came to perform, my job was to hand around the nuts. I also liked sport because it was fun whenever we got to play a real game. But I will never forget the jokes Mr Arnold and Mr Watson told.

Ollie Homan-Green

In the beginning of J6 I felt scared because I had to set everyone else an example at the school (that means no more being silly!). I was in six sport teams and in drama. I acted in Amahl and Oliver. I have many friends but all of them are my best friends. I loved Kilve Court and the Victorian Shambles but my favourite must be Warwick Castle.

Harvey Rich

In the second term of year six I was made football captain which was a high responsibility. Our first and best match we played was a tournament which we won. There were six teams competing for it and we won it! My fondest memory of my time here at Rendcomb was when I was awarded five distinctions in one week, which I thought was pretty good!

Tom Margesson

I started my time at Rendcomb College Junior School in the summer term of 2003. Since I started at Rendcomb I have achieved a lot. I was given the responsibility of being Head Boy in the lent term of 2004. I have been in Amahl, Oliver and one of the four main parts in Christmas all around the world. My favourite lessons are Drama, D.T. and Art.

Harry Plunkett

During my time at Rendcomb I feel that I've progressed more in everything than in any other school. In sport, for example, I was in the U9, U10, U11 football, U10, U11 rugby and U11 rugby and cricket teams. I was also awarded prefectship which I am very proud of. I have been in the Wizard of Oz, Oliver, Baboushka, Rock Around the Clock and Christmas Around the World.

Henry Brittain

At Rendcomb I have achieved lots like being in teams for example: football, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rugby. My favourite lessons are PE and games. I was in lots of school plays like: Rock Around the Clock, Baboushka, Wizard of Oz, Christmas Around the World. My friends, well there are too many to say and the teachers here are very kind and helpful and willing to help.

Kate Dally

While I was at Rendcomb I was head girl and prefect. I was also in the U10 and U11 netball, hockey and rounders teams and I was lucky enough to be in the U11 lacrosse team. A really amazing memory was when all J6 visited Kilve Court for a couple of days, it was so fun! I was able to act in many of the plays performed at Rendcomb. It was a really great two years at Rendcomb College Junior School.

Joshua Hutton-Potts

At the beginning of the year I was happy for being at Rendcomb College Junior School but sad as it was my last year. Being Head Boy was tough and testing but it gave me an experience of responsibility. My friends were supportive and kind but even we had occasional fallouts! School trips to Warwick Castle, Victorian Shambles were fun and interesting. The trip to Kilve Court was fear conquering.

Abi Whittles

I'm Abi Whittles, I have been at Rendcomb College Junior School for two years. I have played in the U11A hockey team, U11A netball team, U11A rounders team, swimming team, U11 girls lacrosse team and the U11B lacrosse team. The drama I have been in is the Wizard of Oz and Oliver Twist. I became head girl in the Summer Term. My time at Rendcomb has been very enjoyable. I am sad that I am leaving.



Alice Collishaw

During J6 I became head girl, I then became a prefect. The main jobs I did was delivering the registers and helping the school. I was also captain of the U11 hockey B team and in the netball and rounders A teams. I will never forget Mr Arnold's terrible jokes and Mr Watson's terrible drawings.

James Bell

I will miss all of the funny moments like, when Mr Arnold had to act like Goliath. He put his hands in the air and he put an angry expression on his face, which looked like a badger going off to catch a rabbit, or something like that. I think that my friends will remember me for how funny I am. I love Rendcomb so much and I will miss it dearly.

Oliver Brady

Arriving at the school for the first time I was nervous. The first person from my class I met was Joshua. We met at the front door and he showed me up to J6. When I walked in I was scared that I would do something silly, fortunately I didn't! First was English, we were writing about a theme park. Then maths, french, geography, RS, ICT and music. I felt sad going home.

Sarah Jones

I have been at Rendcomb Junior since it started. During my time at Rendcomb I have had many personal achievements such as participating in group assemblies with fellow classmates, winning sports and swimming races and contributing to school plays. One special memory was staying for three nights at Kilve Court where I achieved both abseiling and archery.

Tom Dally

At Rendcomb I have played for all of the boys sports teams and I was the cricket captain and hockey captain. Games and PE were my favourite lessons. I was awarded colours for rugby and I hope to get colours in cricket. On the drama side I was in Amahl, Wizard of Oz and Christmas Around the World. In J6 we went to Kilve Court; it was good fun. Overall, Rendcomb was a great school.

Sam Dally

Throughout the year there have been a lot of ups and downs. Becoming a prefect was great, when my name was called I was gob-smacked. Our first cricket match was awesome, we won, plus I bowled someone out. The best moment was sitting under a tree talking to my friends. Sporting-wise, coming second in a lacrosse tournament was wicked.

Michael Crickmore

In my time at Rendcomb I have fulfilled many personal and team achievements like being head boy, prefect and being awarded rugby colours. My best moment was having the Lynx helicopter land because it was really interesting. I have won swimming races, the cross country, duathlon and the Victor Ludorum Cup twice. I have been in the U11 rugby, football, cricket, hockey, lacrosse and swimming teams. I was captain for rugby.

Katy Schofield

I was in the Junior School production of Oliver, in which I played Old Sally and was made head of the Junior School chorus. I was also in the College's production of Amahl. I represented the school at swimming, netball, rounders and lacrosse. I captained the U11 hockey team, being undefeated in all matches. In lacrosse I represented the school and Southwest region at the national tournament.

Rachael Jennings

Teams : U11A rounders, U11B netball, U11A /B hockey
Favourite subjects : Music, DT, Maths, Art, Games
Drama / Music : Windband, played piano in assembly, achieved 2 piano grades, Oliver, Baboushka, Amahl, Christmas Around the World, The Wizard of Oz
Memories : snow day, swimming, getting prefect badge
Achievements : prefect, games teams, music grades

Finn Brennan

My time at Rendcomb College Junior School was amazing. In the time I was at Rendcomb I was in lots of fun things like Oliver! I was Oliver. We also did Amahl and the Night Visitors I was one of the chorus. My favourite lessons are Music and Drama. I have had the responsibility of librarian.

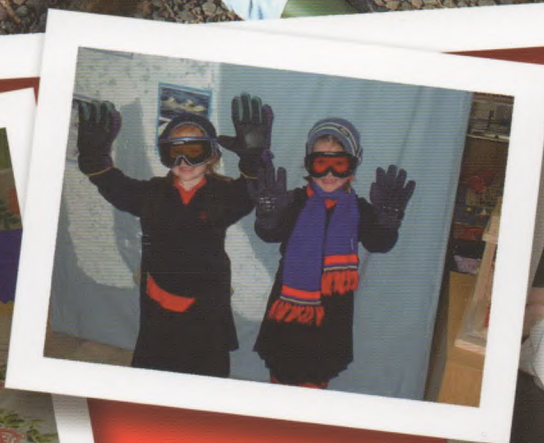
Catherine Sharpe

One of the best trips I have been on was one to Kilve Court, which Mrs Haas, Mr Arnold and Miss Marshall all joined us on. One evening we were doing "Pop Idol" which was hilarious because Miss Marshall had joined in while Mrs Haas and Mr Arnold were the judges. The winner was Tom Diddy and his fiddle. When we came back everyone wanted to go again.









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