

# *Rendcomb College*

## *Chronicle*



*Vol 13. No. 11.*

*July 1966*

# Rendcomb College Chronicle

Volume 13 No. 11

July 1966

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
College Officers ... ..	2
Meeting Officers ... ..	2
Meeting Notes ... ..	3
School Notes ... ..	4
The new Electronics Room ... ..	5
Holiday Expedition ... ..	7
“Treasure Island” ... ..	8
“Dido and Aeneas” ... ..	10
The Fete on May 21st... ..	11
Visit of The Public Schools Commission ...	11
Cricket Report ... ..	12
Tennis Report ... ..	16
The Mouse ... ..	17
Eternity ... ..	19
Political Disillusionment ... ..	20
Obituary: Dr. F. C. Gladstone ... ..	22
Old Boys’ Notes ... ..	23

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## COLLEGE OFFICERS

### Summer Term, 1966

*Senior Prefect*—S. H. Shellswell.

*Prefects and Group Leaders*—L. A. Webb, F. R. Glennie,  
R. J. Edy, J. A. Dow.

*Prefects*—N. S. Whatmough, D. J. Mabblerley, F. Bolton King,  
J. F. Harris.

*College Workman*—R. B. N. Bryant.

*Public Workman*—J. F. Harris.

*Music Warden*—W. T. G. Griffiths.

*Choir Librarians*—P. R. Free, R. Millard.

*Picture Man*—F. Bolton King.

*Choir Ushers*—R. J. Edy, L. A. Webb.

*Librarians*—W. A. Thompson, D. J. Mabblerley, H. M. Peterson,  
R. C. Goodsell, N. A. Dakin.

*Manual Foremen*—S. H. Shellswell, G. F. Smith, R. J. Wood,  
A. J. Pain.

*Stagemen*—G. F. Smith, L. A. Webb, J. A. Dow, F. Bolton King,  
J. A. Hiscox, D. P. Kyle, D. R. Brown, M. R. Dow, T.  
Yuvaboon, D. J. Simmons, R. A. Law.

*Bellringers*—F. R. Glennie (Tower Captain), A. A. J. Raddon,  
R. B. N. Bryant, W. A. Thompson, J. A. Hiscox, N. J. Green,  
R. J. Wood, A. T. Patrick, A. J. C. Walker, S. J. Brisk,  
E. W. Yates, S. H. Hook, A. C. Whittles.

## MEETING OFFICERS

### Summer Term, 1966

*Chairman*—L. A. Webb.

*Secretary*—P. Little.

*Cricket Captain*—R. J. Edy.

*Vice-Captain*—S. H. Shellswell.

*Tennis Captain*—F. R. Glennie.

*Running Captain*—N. S. Whatmough.

*Games Committee*—A. E. Hillier, M. W. Harrop.

*Nominations Committee*—R. B. N. Bryant, R. J. Edy, S. H.

Shellswell, L. A. Webb, N. S. Whatmough.

*Meeting Banker*—J. A. Hiscox.

*Shop Banker*—P. R. F. Chanin.

*Boys' Banker*—J. V. Hemming.  
*Games Committee Treasurer*—H. Thompson.  
*House Committee Treasurer*—R. H. Arkell.  
*Entertainments Committee*—G. F. Smith, M. P. Grant, N. H. Wapshott, K. A. Belcher, T. J. Patrick.  
*Meeting Advisory Committee*—D. J. Mabberley, S. H. Shellswell, N. S. Whatmough.  
*Council*—R. B. N. Bryant, J. A. Dow, R. J. Edy, F. R. Glennie, S. H. Shellswell, L. A. Webb, N. S. Whatmough.  
*Junior Advocate*—J. F. Harris.  
*Breakages Man*—N. M. Collins.  
*Cricket Secretary*—P. N. C. Evans.  
*Rugby Secretary*—N. J. Green.  
*Hockey Secretary*—F. R. Glennie.  
*Magazine Committee*—F. Bolton King, J. F. Harris, H. M. Peterson.  
*Senior Shopman*—J. J. Fonseca.

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Summer Term, 1966**

The Meetings this term were generally short, and no continuation meetings were held. There was still a good deal of time wasted on trivialities and meetings tended to be rather noisy especially at the beginning of term, but this improved as the term progressed.

The Meeting Advisory Committee brought in a radical proposal for abolishing allowances. It was thought that it would be wiser to put the money into the Meeting Reserve to buy something worthwhile, such as a cricket roller, rather than give the money to the boys, when a good deal of it would be squandered at the Tuck Shop. After little discussion this proposal was passed. The Headmaster pointed out that although the Governors were to cut allowances by threepence per boy, they would still supply money for other Meeting expenditure.

The present office of Vice Captain of Games was abolished. The Secretary would in future perform the functions of both secretary and Vice-Captain. The Secretary would be a senior boy, who might become Captain later. After some lengthy discussion this proposal was passed by a large majority.

The Meeting granted an initial allowance of twenty pounds to the Motor Club for the purchase of another car, and a yearly allowance of twelve pounds for tools and spares. The Motor Club bought a car for seven pounds ten shillings, and were given five pounds for tools and spares.

The Meeting expressed its sorrow at the death of Dr. Gladstone, who had been so generous to the boys of the College, and gave a donation to the Church Fabric Fund in lieu of a wreath.

## **SCHOOL NOTES**

### **Late Spring Term, 1966**

We bid farewell to the following and wish them well for the future: C. G. Cattermole, P. N. Cutts, R. W. Hole, W. A. Laws and B. F. Pullen.

\* \* \*

F. R. Glennie was chosen to play hockey for the West of England Schoolboys at the Crystal Palace on January 6th, 1966.

F. R. Glennie, S. H. Shellswell and A. E. Hillier played for the Gloucestershire Schoolboys side at the Western Counties Hockey Tournament at Taunton on April 5th, 6th and 7th, 1966.

\* \* \*

A Dance was held at the College on March 5th and we were glad to welcome a number of ladies for the evening.

\* \* \*

On March 9th, Forms III and V visited the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, to see a performance of "Merchant of Venice"

\* \* \*

The following films were shown during the Spring Term: "The Purple Plain," "Oliver Twist," "Ring of Spies," "Citizen Kane," "Reach for the Sky."

\* \* \*

Reports on performances at the College of "Dido and Aeneas" and "Treasure Island" will be found elsewhere in this number.

\* \* \*

### **Summer Term, 1966**

We congratulate the following on gaining awards in Personal Survival from the Amateur Swimming Association on June 21st, and would like to thank Mrs. J. Raynes for carrying out the examination:

*Silver Standard:* D. A. Tyler, O. G. Rhys, J. C. Reason,  
M. R. Dow.

*Bronze Standard:* W. E. Hanks, W. M. Nesham, M. J.  
Treasure, R. A. B. Sampford, C. J. Elliott.

\* \* \*

We acknowledge receipt of *The Gresham*.

\* \* \*

A party from Forms IV, V and VI visited Bristol University on May 5th to attend a lecture-demonstration arranged by the British Interplanetary Society.

The Director of the Public School Appointments Bureau visited the College on May 9th.

On May 12th a lecture on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was given by Mr. J. Sturrock to Forms III and IV.

On May 14th an illustrated lecture on Rugby at Oxford was given by F. J. R. Craig (Balliol and Campbell College), captain of the 1965 Oxford Rugby team.

The VIth Form visited Stratford-on-Avon on May 19th to see a performance of "Hamlet."

The Choir went to Gloucester on June 2nd to take part in the Royal Schools of Church Music School Choirs Festival.

A party, mostly members of Forms III and IV, attended a lecture in Cheltenham by Sir Mortimer Wheeler on June 23rd, and on the 24th, Mr. D. Kemp, of Kodak Ltd., gave an illustrated talk on Finland.

\* \* \*

Founder's Day, 1966, is arranged for July 2nd. Reports will appear in the next issue of the Chronicle.

### **THE ELECTRONICS ROOM**

Conversion of the laboratory boiler to oil firing removed the P. W. occupation, curiously not an unpopular one, of wheeling coal alternately from the college to the labs and from the labs to the college. It also resulted in the release of an extra room in

the laboratory block from use as a coal store; this has now become our "Electronics Room." Structural alterations involving a large window to the road and an abundance of electrical points were done professionally. We provided the benches as a P. W. gesture.

On the equipment side, we have started with a fair selection of test equipment and a nucleus of small tools. Some of the test equipment is of our own production and we hope that the proportion in this category will steadily increase. We are also gradually building up a working stock of components; this is somewhat of a struggle now that the junior forms have discovered a convenient shopping centre for their crystal sets and more ambitious requirements.

What are we going to do with these facilities? Constructional activities have always played a prominent part in the Rendcomb VIth Form science programme and one of the aims of the present venture is to make opportunities for similar work more generally available. For the future scientist, it is obviously an enormous advantage when he enters the VIth Form; for the ordinary mortal simple practical skills are always useful and there is a fascination attached to putting together something which works, particularly as one begins to understand how.

In the first place, a short practical course is being offered to some members of Form IV as an alternative option to the woodwork periods on the timetable. Since the room only became available after Easter, this year's course has been restricted to a single term. Next year should be less of a rush. The room is used quite extensively in free time by those doing the course and by an increasing number of others who obtain permission to do jobs there.

The chief emphasis is on transistor circuitry which has the attraction of being a fairly modern technique using relatively inexpensive components with a low working voltage. As a starting point, a number of 'Radionic' kits have been provided; this is an excellent system of interchangeable components which allows the rapid construction of a fairly large number of circuits which do work. The next stage is the assembly of circuits from loose components, a much more exacting procedure if the product is to function satisfactorily. An obvious early interest is the construction of simple radio receivers but this should then extend to other topics such as logic circuits and radio control of models.

## HOLIDAY EXPEDITION

Between March 22nd and April 1st, 12 members of the Vth form, accompanied by the Headmaster, travelled to Italy for a 12 day holiday in Florence and Venice. (This was, incidentally, the first organised party from Rendcomb to visit a foreign country). The object of the trip was not only to take advantage of the history and beauty in which these two cities are steeped, but also to provide a genuine holiday at a fairly low cost to the boys concerned.

The outward journey, by train, was not without incident. Three very irate French railway officials refused to believe our eminently reasonable argument (put forward, of course, in Alexandrine verse) that Englishmen, even if they were dressed in leather jackets and over-tight jeans, should be able to sleep in couchettes without paying for them. Eventually, after a surprisingly good-tempered argument for one o'clock in the morning, we paid.

After 20 hours in the train, we arrived in Florence. One's first impression was a mixture of admiration for the many beautiful Gothic buildings which dominate the city, and perhaps unjustified surprise at the slum-like exterior of large quarters of the town. During our 4 day stay here, the mornings were spent on organised visits to places of historical or artistic interest, while the rest of the day was left free for us to indulge in other pursuits. However, one complete day was spent on a day-trip to Pisa, San Gimignano (a beautifully secluded medieval town way up in the Italian hills), and Sienna. Among the places within walking distance of the central hotel which were visited were the "Duomo"; the world-famous Uffizi art gallery which includes such masterpieces as Botticelli's "Birth of Venus," and "The Holy Family," by Michelangelo; the Academy Gallery, which contains Michelangelo's truly inspired "David" (even if the hands are too big); and the Pitti Palace, designed on the somewhat reminiscent principle that it had to be bigger than anything else in the city. By the time we moved on to Venice, we had visited many churches and museums, and ("once bitten, twice shy") become experts at bargaining at the leather and "straw" markets.

Venice, of course, is an entirely different city from any other in the world. The canals are justifiably world famous, but the whole pace of life in the town seems to be far slower



and more relaxing than in any other city in Europe. Although our hotel here was not so central, it was still within easy walking distance of San Marco Square, where we visited the Doge’s Palace and the cathedral; and the San Giorgio Maggiore, a beautiful church made almost entirely of marble. We also saw the Venetian glass experts at work in their factory on the nearby island of Murano, but, unfortunately, most items were far beyond our meagre financial reserves.

The mad rush for souvenirs to take home to expectant parents now began. With many of us armed with generous, desperately needed, financial loans from the Headmaster, we just had time to buy the inevitable silk scarves and bottles of Chianti before starting on the long train journey through Switzerland and France.

Throughout the holiday, the food had been good, the accommodation excellent and the weather perfect. Add to this the Headmaster’s extreme helpfulness, generosity and liberality (to whom we all offer our sincere thanks) and a suitable impression is conveyed of the most enjoyable and pleasant time had by all.

M. W. H.

“TREASURE ISLAND”

Cast in order of appearance:

Captain Bones .....	PETER JONES
Jim Hawkins.....	ROGER PYECROFT
Black Dog .....	MICHAEL COX
Blind Pew .....	TED YATES
Dr. Livesey .....	KIM WARREN
Squire Trelawney .....	OWEN RHYS
Supervisor Dance .....	KIM BELCHER
Captain Smollett .....	RICHARD MILLARD
George Merry .....	MARK COLLINS
Dick .....	ALAN LAMB
Long John Silver.....	NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT
Israel Hands .....	ANDREW WHITTLES
Job.....	NIGEL MOOT
Morgan .....	ROBERT ARKELL
Redruth .....	ANTONY WALKER
Hunter .....	ROBERT BROWN
Gray .....	HAYDN THOMPSON
Joyce .....	STEPHEN BRISK
Ben Gunn.....	DAVID TYLER

The junior play, an effective demonstration of Stevenson's novel by Susan Richmond, was performed at Rendcomb College on Friday, March 18th, and Saturday March 19th.

This was the first play for many years in which the cast was drawn entirely from forms III and IV, but the time and energy put in it by the producer, Mrs. Quick, and the invaluable help from Mr. Sells was thoroughly rewarded by the success they achieved. The acting throughout was impressive and the set extremely colourful and realistic.

To start, then, with perhaps the central character of the play—Jim Hawkins. Roger Pyecroft gave us a youthful and plucky character. His lines were clear and convincing, although perhaps more use could have been made of variations in voice and gesture.

Nicholas Wapshott, as Long John Silver, was undoubtedly the centre of attraction in the play. He had a long part which included much action, but his powerful voice and bold gestures never faltered, and he took all possible advantage of the considerable opportunities offered by the part.

Dr. Livesey and Squire Trelawney, played respectively by Kim Warren and Owen Rhys, both portrayed suitably West-country characters. Although at times they both spoke slightly too quietly, their performances were never less than competent.

Richard Millard as Captain Smollett had another long part, but he successfully portrayed a stiff upper-lip attitude, and obviously possessed considerable stage presence for one so young.

Perhaps the most individual character in the story Ben Gunn, was played very well by David Tyler. His voice was the necessary high-pitched warble, and his manner convincingly tense and animal-like. We heard his every word clearly.

Special mention should be made of Peter Jones and Michael Cox, as Captain Bones and Black Dog, whose bold and realistic acting in the first act might easily be forgotten as they did not appear again in the play.

It would take too long to list the qualities of all the pirates, but suffice it to say they were as mutinous and blood-thirsty as one could hope. However, Mark Collins and Andrew Whittles, as George Merry and Israel Hands both helped to enliven the production with performances of commendable pugnacity.

As we have already mentioned, the set was excellent, particularly on the ship's deck and in the stockade. Realistic

“props” were procured, including guns that really went off and a fine skeleton made by David and Colin Mabblerley. Special thanks are due to Mr. Salter and the hard-working stagemen, who, for the second consecutive term, gave up many hours of free time to the play. We are again very grateful to Mrs. James and Mrs. Sparks who took considerable care in providing realistic and convincing costumes for the entire cast, and to Mr. Jenkin for providing some dramatic programme music on gramophone records.

Finally, may we sincerely thank parents, friends and relatives who made such an appreciative audience on both nights, and without whom the play could not have been a real success.

M. W. H.; W. T. G. G.

### **DIDO AND AENEAS**

On Sunday, March 6th, the Choral Society and a string orchestra gave a concert performance of Purcell’s opera, “Dido and Aeneas,” in Clock Hall. The story of the opera is of the tragic love affair between Dido and Aeneas, and these parts were sung by Betty Howse and Michael Gillions. The parts of Belinda (Dido’s Lady-in-waiting) and the Sorceress, who plots the unhappy ending of the love affair, were sung by Elizabeth Baker, and we are very grateful to these soloists for singing so well for us.

The function of the chorus in this opera is to comment upon the words and actions of the principal characters, in the manner of the Chorus in Greek Tragedy, and the music of the choruses echoed the changing moods of the principal characters. Both Dido and Aeneas change from a mood of ecstatic joy when they both meet, to complete despair when they are forced to separate, and this change of moods accounts for the variety that is displayed in the chorus writing, and the contrast between such jubilant choruses as “Fear no danger” or “To the hills and the vales” and the sombre chorus, “With drooping wings,” which is sung at the end of the opera when Dido has stabbed herself. More variety is introduced into the music by the sinister witches’ choruses—“Harm’s our delight” and the cackling “Ho ho ho” choruses.

On the whole, the chorus coped well with the diversity of styles in the music, though from the point of view of the audience a stage presentation of the work would have appeared more

coherent, as it is not easy to follow the plot from only hearing the music.

Finally, we express our thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the orchestra, to the soloists, and to Cirencester Grammar School, whose music department kindly lent us the harpsichord.

N. H. W.

### **THE FETE** **May 21st, 1966**

The second Rendcomb Fete was, money-wise, a great success—£150 being gathered in by the stalls and raffles. The weather was damp and dreary, but by 3 p.m. people were streaming in, brought by anxious sons or by the notices scattered over the countryside a few weeks before by the 3rd and 4th Forms.

First in line were Mrs. Quick's Bring-and-Buy stall and the sweet stall, out on the asphalt. Behind the balustrades were the Critic stalls and the College raffle, while behind them was Buried Treasure, unfortunately picked second go by Mr. Jenkin.

Further down past the soft drinks and cake weight, hordes of Rendcombians, intent on joining Alcoholics Anonymous, crowded round the Tombola. The Balloon-pricking stall was cleared out by destructive gamblers within half an hour, but the Coconut Shy lasted longer, a long-haired old boy doing a roaring trade in unwanted coconuts. At the far end the Clothes Pegs on the Line stood ready to suck the last money out of those who managed to reach it.

By 5 p.m. business was dying down. After tea it only remained for the hard working 4th Form to pick up the bits and pieces and taken them back to where they came from.

We are most grateful to all those who gave food for the tea and presents for use in the raffle, and to all the many helpers who assisted in making the Fete a success, not least to Mr. R. E. Caves who acted as chief organiser.

M. R. D.

### **PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMISSION**

Rendcomb is one of the 277 schools that the Secretary for Education and Science has listed for preliminary investigation by the Public Schools Commission. Two members of the Commission, Mr. Dancy of Marlborough and Mr. Hill of Myers Grove Comprehensive School, Sheffield, made a purely

informal visit on 6th and 7th of June. They showed great interest in the school and met many members of the staff and boys.

We hope that their visit to Rendcomb will have helped them in the problems they will have to tackle on the Commission. They will certainly have found the school a marked contrast to the schools they run as headmasters.

### **CRICKET REPORT, 1966**

For the first half of term, matches were played on slow green wickets with wet outfields and consequently scores were low. We were fortunate to lose only one match completely to the weather and to have another, against Dean Close, abandoned half way through.

Again the team was a young one, but the frame work of last year's side remained. The only real vacancy was in the spin bowling department where fortunately D. F. Black competently filled the gap created by D. Little's departure. In fact, the strength of the team was the bowling. Hillier and Evans formed a useful opening partnership and Shellswell and Black both bowled well when called upon.

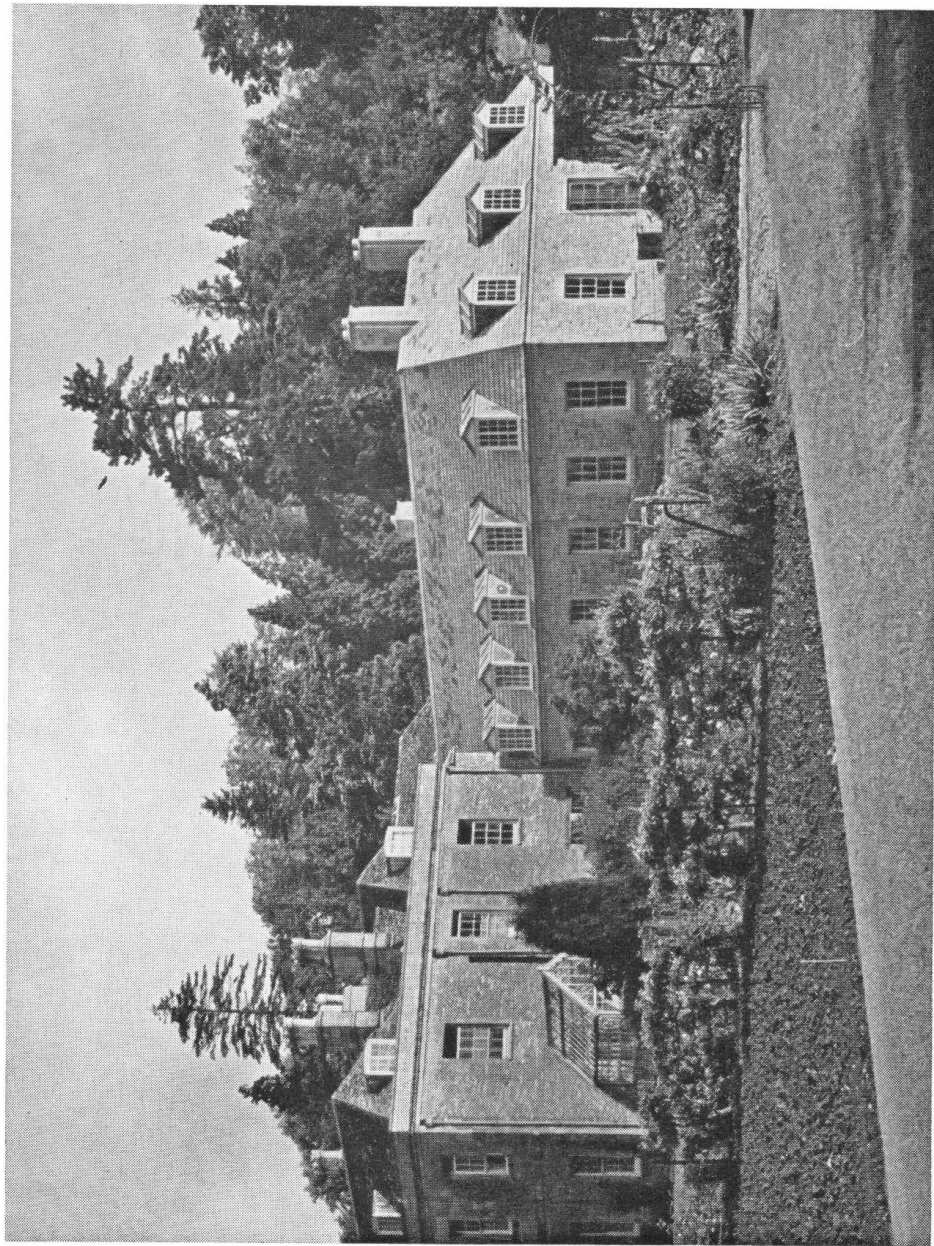
The batting proved fragile. We did not have enough batsmen willing to attack the bowling—Glennie and Hillier, our two successes in this way last year, have not repeated their success.

The ground fielding was adequate, but too many catches were dropped.

At half term we had played 5 matches, lost 3 and drawn 2—a rather dismal record. But since half term we have had good victories against Cheltenham College 2nd XI and Sir Thomas Rich's School and confidence has returned to the team's batting. So we look forward to our remaining matches against Marling School, Cheltenham Grammar School, North Cerney C. C. and Old Rendcombians.

Thirteen players have so far played in the 1st XI:

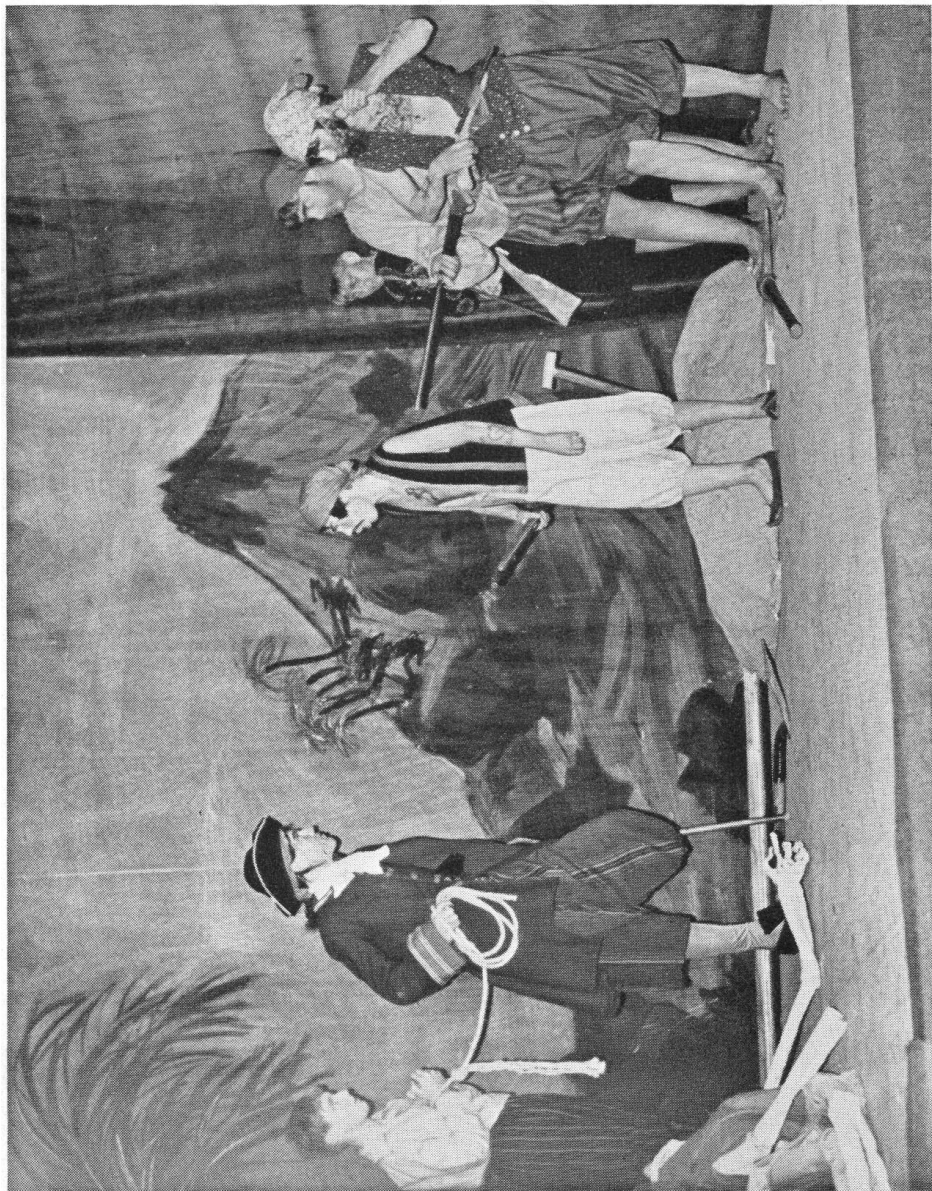
S. H. Shellswell was vice captain. His slow medium bowling has been consistent including 5 for 8 against Avonhurst. His fielding has been outstanding but until the last match his batting was over-defensive and disappointing.



The new wing added to the Old Rectory for its conversion into the Junior House.



"The black spot, the black spot."



“Curse you, John Silver, you’ve fooled us all along.”





The skeleton of the Arts Block.

M. W. Harrop's wicket-keeping proved reliable during the term, with many fine stops off the fast bowlers. His batting, though somewhat restrained, was steady and valuable to us during this term of low scores.

A. E. Hillier was our most attacking and successful bowler taking 26 wickets for 174 runs in the first seven matches and displaying great stamina. His fielding was good, but as an opening batsman he has failed to give us a good start.

L. A. Webb proved the enigma of the side by making some useful scores by specially cultivated, if unconventional methods. His out-fielding was reliable and good.

F. R. Glennie has had a disappointing season because of his anxiety to score runs before playing himself in, although this fault has been less marked recently and he has done better.

J. J. Fonseca also had a disappointing season, proving very vulnerable early in his innings. His fielding was sound and his batting has recently shown signs of returning form.

P. N. C. Evans has not shown the hostility of last year but he has never given up and has bowled much better since half term. His lusty batting has been effective and welcome on occasions.

D. F. R. Black bowled consistently throughout the season, usually picking up a couple of wickets each match. His excellent spell against Sir Thomas Rich's School portends well for Rendcomb's cricketing future.

C. J. Gray played for most of the season but made an indifferent start. His fielding and batting have improved and his bowling, although not used in the 1st XI has become quite hostile.

M. R. Barnes started the season as an opening batsman but has recently lost confidence and form and consequently his place in the team.

W. A. Thompson's spin bowling, while showing considerable improvement was not quite controlled enough to hold a place in the 1st XI.

N. J. Green's lively close fielding eventually gained him a place in the team.

R. J. Edy has been an efficient and enthusiastic captain of cricket. He has not allowed his poor batting form to depress him and he has led the side well and displayed a good tactical knowledge of the game.

## **Results;**

May 5th:

- v. DEAN CLOSE SCHOOL (Away). Match abandoned.

Dean Close School 104 for 8 declared (Hillier 5 for 43).

May 7th:

- v. AVONHURST (Home) Lost.

Avonhurst 36 (Shellswell 5 for 8).

Rendcomb: 29.

May 14th:

- v. KINGHAM HILL (Home) Drawn.

Kingham Hill: 59 (Thompson 4 for 13).

Rendcomb 'A' XI: 26 for 3 (Hillier 19 not out)

May 21st:

- v. PRINCE HENRY'S G. S. (Away) Lost.

Prince Henry's G. S. 119 for 9 declared (Hillier 7 for 42).

Rendcomb 37.

May 25th:

- v. CIRENCESTER G. S. (Home) Lost.

Cirencester G. S. 33 (Hillier 6 for 14).

Rendcomb 25.

June 4th:

- v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE 2nd XI (Home) Won.

Rendcomb 75 (Glennie 20, Harrop 17).

Cheltenham College 2nd XI 59 (Evans 4 for 15).

June 11th:

- v. SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL (Away) Won.

Rendcomb 71 (Shellswell 17, Evans 14).

Sir Thomas Rich's School 40 (Black 6 for 11).

## **2nd XI**

May 5 th:

- v. DEAN CLOSE 3rd XI Match Abandoned.

Dean Close 3rd XI 92 for 9 declared (Longman 5 for 13)

May 21st:

- v. PRINCE HENRY'S G. S. Lost.

Rendcomb 57.

Prince Henry's G. S. 61 for 4 wickets (Belcher 2 for 18)

To play:

July 6th v. Cheltenham G. S.

The following played: W. A. Thompson (captain), A. A. J. Raddon (wicket keeper), N. A. Dakin, N. J. Green, P. Little, C. P. Stevens, R. B. Billimoria, R. K. Hunt, D. P. Kyle, T. V. Liddle, K. A. Belcher, W. Longman, T. Yuvaboon.

### **Under-15 XI**

May 7th:

v. AVONHURST Won.

Rendcomb 108 for 7 declared (Johnson 28 not out, Liddle 21)

Avonhurst 53.

June 4th:

v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE Lost.

Cheltenham College 83 (C. Hunt 4 for 9).

Rendcomb 43.

To play:

June 29th v. Cokethorpe School.

The following played: T. V. Liddle (captain), C. J. Gray, K. A. Belcher, N. M. Collins, W. Longman, J. C. Reason, E. W. Yates, W. E. Hanks, C. S. Hunt, N. A. Johnson, A. T. W. Patrick (wicket keeper), K. D. Warren, T. Yuvaboon.

### **Under-14 XI**

May 14th:

v. KINGHAM HILL. Tied.

Kingham Hill 37.

Rendcomb 37 (Yuvaboon 12 not out).

June nth:

v. SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL Lost.

Rendcomb 31.

Sir Thomas Rich's School 33 for 5 wickets.

June 25th:

v. MARLING SCHOOL. Match cancelled.

The following played: Liddle (captain), Belcher, Collins, Rees, Walker, C. Hunt, Johnson, Law, A. Patrick (wicket-keeper), Treasure, D. Tyler (wicket-keeper), Rhys, Warren, Yuvaboon, J. Gray.

### **Under-13½ XI**

May 25th:

v. OAKLEY HALL SCHOOL 1st XI Lost.

Oakley Hall School 1st XI 147 for 4 declared.

Rendcomb 56 (Rhys 18, Gray J. 17).

To play:

v. HILL PLACE SCHOOL 1st XI.

The following played: Belcher (captain), Collins, Rees, H. Thompson, Walker, Johnson, Law, Rhys, D. Tyler (wicket-keeper), Yuvaboon, J. Gray, D. R. Brown, M. J. Treasure.

### **Under 13½ 2nd XI**

To play:

v. HILL PLACE SCHOOL 2nd XI:

Team: R. A. Law (captain), O. G. Rhys, N. L. Hillier, R. V. Raynes, A. M. White, J. R. Harris, T. J. Patrick, R. Mace, A. Thompson, T. H. Bates (wicket-keeper), N. Willford.

### **TENNIS REPORT 1966**

There has been less keenness throughout the school this season, but there are several juniors who show promise for the future. Yet again the First VI has been composed entirely of cricketers and regrettably the team was unable to give very much time to tennis. However we have won our first match for two years and look forward to a brighter season next year.

The following played for the 1st VI:

1st Pair: F. R. Glennie and S. H. Shellswell—won 6 events out of 9.

2nd Pair: L. A. Webb and J. J. Fonseca—won 3 events out of 9.

3rd Pair: M. W. Harrop and R. K. H. Hunt—won 3 events out of 9.

#### **Results:**

Thursday, May 12th: v. WYCLIFFE COLLEGE 'A' VI; lost 2—7.

Wednesday, May 18th: v. MARLING SCHOOL; won 7—2.

Tuesday, May 31st: v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE 'A' VI; lost 3—6.

To play:

Sunday, July 10th: v. GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE FORCE VI.

## **THE MOUSE**

### **A version of an old anecdote**

Johnathan Judkin had been brought up from infancy to the confines of middle age, by a doting mother whose chief aim in the educating of her small son had been to protect him from what she termed the coarser realities of life. Consequently on her demise, she left the poor Johnathan to discover a world a good deal coarser and a lot more real than he had ever thought it need be. Thus it was that a railway journey of such a type as Judkin was in the process of facing at this moment was not without its minor discords and petty annoyances.

He had been spending a trying long weekend with a country vicar, a friend of his mother's, and his family at their rather agricultural rambling vicarage, and the putting up with the domestic chaos which he had found there had been too much for Judkin's rigid constitution. Taking this into consideration, it was not surprising that on boarding the dirty, dingy train back home, Judkin's nerves were not so much at one as they should have been. Fortunately for the self-conscious and embarrassed

Judkin the only other occupant of the compartment was an elderly lady who was more inclined to slumbering than to scrutinising. In Judkin's mind this was well, as he would not be troubled by any other passengers, the train having no corridor and being non-stop.

However, as the journey wore on Judkin was conscious that he was not alone with the dozing lady. Something quite warm was definitely crawling over his flesh in the depths of his garments. In a frantic calculation Judkin came to the conclusion that it was some small rodent which had somehow attached itself just before his departure. Furtive stamps and shakes and wildly directed pinches failed to dislodge the intruder. The lawful occupant of the clothes lay back in his seat and endeavoured rapidly to evolve some means of putting an end to the dual ownership. It was horrifying to Judkin that he should act as a host to such a revolting animal, and yet, at the same time, he reckoned nothing short of partial undressing would bring success. To do so in the presence of a lady made Judkin cower and burn in complete shame and embarrassment.

However, faced with this awful dilemma, Judkin embarked on the most daring exploit of his life and resolved to disrobe before the lady, who was, after all, sleeping.

Crimsoning to the hue of a beetroot, Judkin suspended his travelling rug across the compartment by attaching it to the two luggage racks, but at the same time keeping an agonized watch on his sleeping fellow traveller. In this improvised dressing room Judkin proceeded to extricate the mouse, which, scared out of its wits, darted headlong into the rug. Down it fell with a heart curdling flop, and almost simultaneously the sleeper's eyes opened. With a movement as rapid and frantic as the mouse's Judkin placed the rug around his semi-naked figure, and thereupon collapsed into a far corner of the carriage.

The blood pounded through the veins of his neck and forehead as he waited for the communication cord to be pulled. The lady, however, contented herself with a cold silent stare at her strangely garbed companion.

"I think I have caught a chill" frantically urged Judkin.

"Really, I'm sorry," she replied, "I was going to ask you to open the window."

Judkin, completely out of control and at his wit's end was suddenly struck by a thought from his frenzied brain to make a clean break.

"Are you afraid of mice" he stammered.

"No, not particularly, except in large number," came the reply.

"I had one crawling in my clothes just now," he ventured, "It was rather awkward."

"It must have been," came the polite reply.

"I had to get rid of it while you were asleep." continued Judkin; then with a gulp, he added, "and it brought me to, er, this."

"Surely getting rid of a mouse wouldn't bring on a chill" came the surprise reply.

Judkin collapsed. Obviously she understood his predicament, and was having fun at his expense. Every minute the train was getting nearer to the suburbs and the terminus, and instead of one cold stare would be exchanged a dozen prying eyes. Judkin prayed that the old lady would fall asleep again, but that vain chance gradually ebbed away.

"I think we must be getting near the terminus," she observed.

Judkin was only too well aware of that, and with a beating heart glanced out at the small, dingy backs of the terraced houses. This was a signal. Like a cornered rat, he threw aside his rug,

and quickly dressed, hardly daring even to lift his head towards that cold corner opposite. With a frantic movement he sat down, and as the train glided to a halt he was conscious of a choking, hammering, sensation in his throat and heart, and of an icy silence from the corner in which he dared not look. Then as the train stopped the woman spoke.

“Would you be so kind as to get me a porter,” she asked, “I know it’s a pity what with your cold, but being blind puts one at such a loss at stations.”

N. A. D.

### ETERNITY

Early morning, misty and dark  
down to the sea, empty, deserted,  
Sharp sea grass whipping his legs,  
Cold clammy sand seeping into his shoes.

Far off, coming closer, the swirling, rushing inbreath of  
sea over sand.

The muttering sigh of the ebb, sometimes choked  
by the sea gurgling noisily back again.

Down at the edge, the man  
shivers,

chattering as the still cold damp touch  
of sea mist fingers his warm body.

At last, a pile of clothes with shoes on top,  
Numb feet tiptoeing delicately into the liquid ice.

Sea surges and touches his knee, only to subside  
again, fearfully. Man wades relentless  
sea desperately pulling him back, slowing  
the firm measured tread, yet failing,  
slipping past.

The sun just rising, and he just thinking.  
Deeper now, Man crawls  
with his flailing arms, sea gives up,  
supports him while  
pausing,  
for breath,

then slowly pulls him down.

Man instinctively thrashes, beats the cruel  
cold sea, leaps to the surface,  
but thankfully letting go



allowing himself to be dragged to the depths  
as a lion drags a deer to his den.

The sun just rising, and he just sinking.

An arrowshaft of the sun

breaks through the surface.

Cunning sea distorts it. Man now

sees a light from down in the throat of the ocean,  
swims, drifts,

swirling, tumbling

down, down to the light,

which recedes slowly as he nears it,

grows fainter

fainter,

until all is black.

The sun has risen, he has thought, and sunk.

A seagull breaks surface somewhere,

cries mournfully,

and flies up, wheeling, and heads for home.

M. J. D.

### **POLITICAL DISILLUSIONMENT**

Charles strode cheerfully along the street, youthful and full of purpose, blue rosette fluttering in the breeze. He finally reached No. 1 Foxgrove Avenue, braced himself and rang the doorbell. A middle-aged woman with a shabby cardigan thrown over her shoulders appeared, her cigarette ash spraying into the wind.

“Yes.”

Fixed smile. “I’m canvassing for Mr. Forester, Conservative candidate for this constituency. We wondered if we might have your vote at the election?” A carefully prepared speech, he let it sink in.

“Oh, I don’t think so. No, Reg always votes Labour you see. Sorry.”

Charles faltered, should he give a rousing speech, make her see the light? He backed away, saying “Well thank you very much, goodbye.” He left the little garden, thankfully, remembering to close the gate. He felt rather defeated as he marked her down on the street-register, but as it was a big industrial estate, he couldn’t expect many supporters, they would all be staunch socialists. He had now reached the door

of number three (he had picked the odd-numbered side of the street to start on). A small boy answered.

"Mum's in the barf," he said politely. Faced with this unexpected difficulty, (it was 2:30 p.m.), Charles slightly lost his nerve. Retreating rapidly he called out "Ah well, don't bother her then." Too late, the buxom lady of the house appeared, swathed in a large emerald green bath towel. There was no going back.

"What can I do for you" she asked, beaming expressively.

"I was just wondering if we, er, that is the Conservatives, might have your vote at the election."

"Well I don't really see that I can just give it away to you just like that I mean" she giggled hysterically at the very idea, "I mean my husband may want it."

Charles shuffled his feet nervously, "I don't mean take it away" he said, "I meant would you vote for us." It sounded rather pathetic.

"Ooh, I might," she said coyly. She paused significantly, glancing at him out of the corner of her eye. She had obviously taken a liking to him; time to retreat. "Yes I think I will."

He had achieved his object, there was no need to get involved any further. He left, thanking her, and paused at the gate to wave. She stood sadly in the doorway, as if undecided in her intentions, and then raised a plump arm in farewell and went inside. He looked at her name on the register, Mrs. Crawford. Although he put a bold 'C' next to her name, Charles knew that she wouldn't even bother to vote. He glanced at his watch, 15 minutes for 2 houses. He would have to speed things up. He rapidly completed 5 more houses in ten minutes, all were Labour strongholds. Fortunately none of them were involved in bathing themselves, their children, or cooking their frozen meals. He had so far discovered six firm Labour supporters and one frustrated housewife who would probably vote Fascist for a handsome young canvasser. He was beginning to realize that politics was not all party political broadcasts and high-minded ideals. It was now clouding over, and a few drops of rain fell on the uniform Council pavement. No. 15 was out, an ill-omen. No. 17 looked little different from any of the others, chintz curtains and two china dogs on the window-sill. The garden was better kept than most with some fine roses. A grey-haired woman in sober Argyll tweeds opened the door.

“Oh, you’re from the Conservatives, I’m so glad you’ve come. Of course we’ll vote for you, we always do.” She paused, “Won’t you come in?”

Charles stumbled into the neat house while she continued with increased vehemence. He was established in an arm-chair and given tea and Dundee cake. He listened to her talking about a “better class of people” (the Conservatives) and a “worse class of people” (who lived in the neighbourhood). He was informed that the Prime Minister was “a horrid little man” and that Heath was quite good, “but he wasn’t really from the top drawer, was he, not like Sir Alec.” She told him that they had lived in the middle of the town, “the nice old part,” but that her husband’s job had forced them to come out to live on the estate, and she wasn’t sure if she was “going to live through it.”

He left half an hour later, in pouring rain and his stomach heavy with cake. He took out his now well-worn street register. He should be glad; he had found a Conservative; the agent would be interested; perhaps they would send a car round on polling day; perhaps she would put up a poster in her window. Suddenly he could stand it no longer. She was voting for a name, she didn’t even know anything about politics, like everyone else. She was voting for a class, a convention, for “the right kind of people.” He hurled his register into the gutter and began to walk home through the rain.

H. M. P.

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## OBITUARY

Dr. F. C. GLADSTONE

Only just three years ago there appeared in the *Rendcomb Chronicle* a lengthy tribute to Dr. Gladstone; it is sad that after so short a period of retirement we should have to announce his death. He entered Cheltenham Hospital for a comparatively minor operation but afterwards pneumonia set in and he died on June 14th, aged 77. He was buried at Rendcomb on Tuesday, June 14th. At the service the College provided a substitute choir (most of the regular choir were in public examinations) and Mr. Jenkin, the College Director of Music, was at the organ. The Headmaster read the lesson.

The qualities which made Dr. Gladstone so outstanding a man and so wise a physician were dwelt on fully in the College Chronicle for March, 1963 and many may care to turn to this issue and learn again something of what the College owed to him. It is sufficient to say here that for 40 years he was a most faithful servant and friend and that few who knew him well will ever forget him. To Mrs. Gladstone and Anne and David we offer our most sincere sympathy.

J. C. J.

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### **OLD BOYS' NOTES**

The news that has come in is even more scanty than usual. May I appeal to Old Boys to send me details of their activities so that this section of the magazine may be made more interesting.

One pleasing feature however has been to see various Old Boys returning to deal with the problems of entering their sons at the College. A. E. Shield returned for this purpose last term. E. A. Jones returned from Fiji this term for the same purpose having called on the way in Vancouver where he visited Michael Shepherd and his wife; they now have three children. Ross Gilham returned from Nigeria to enter his boy.

I hear fairly regularly from Geoffrey Bye in Venezuela where he is developing and protecting Britain's oil reserves; he has three children now.

We offer our congratulations to Bryan Glastonbury and his wife Marian on the birth of a son. We have also gathered, indirectly that David Henshaw did the choreography for some of the productions at the current York Festival.

J. C. J.