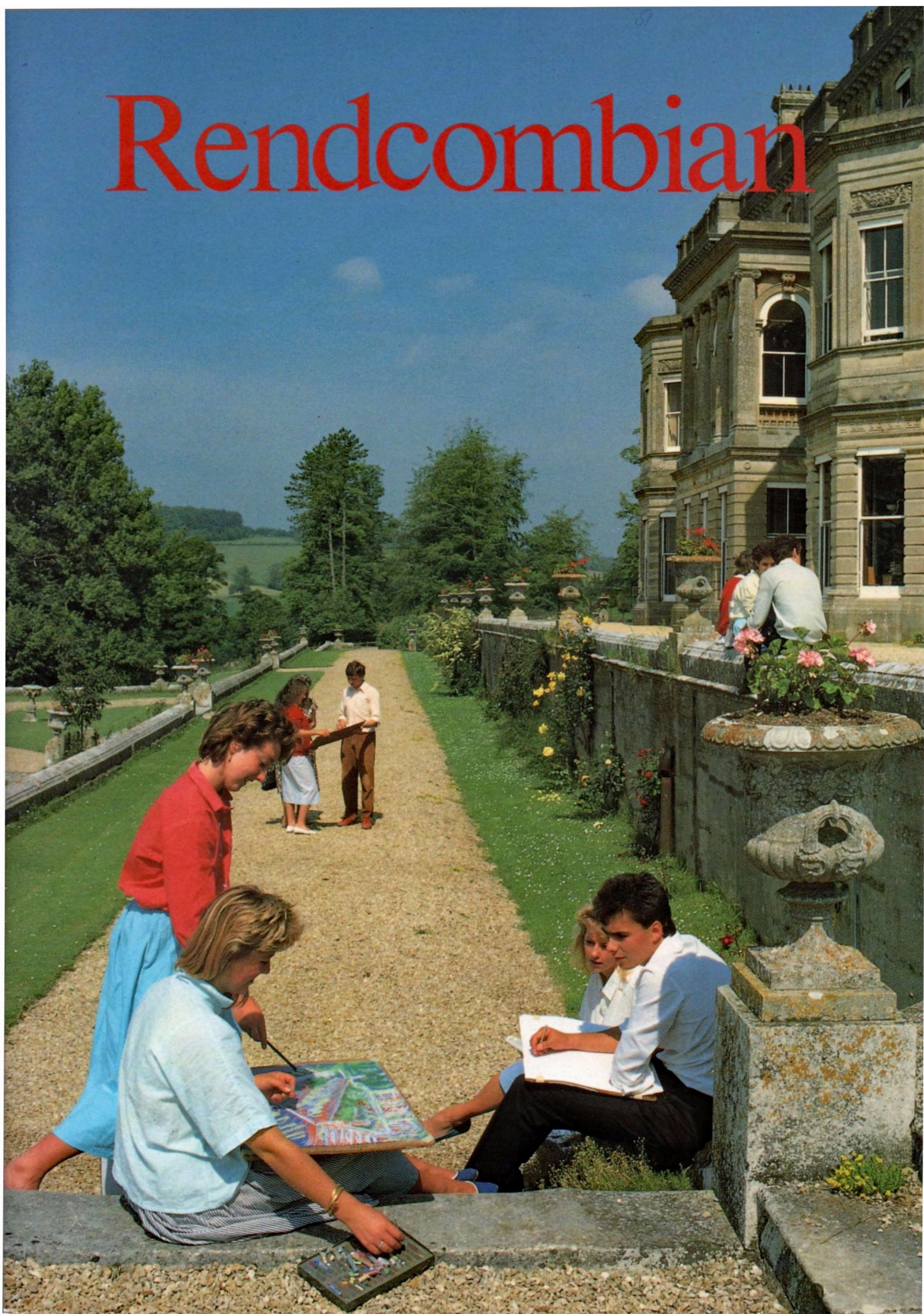


# Rendcombian





# Rendcombian

No. 3

September, 1985



*Editorial Committee:*

Karen Alder  
Timothy Robinson  
Christopher Moody

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**Back Cover:** *Photo: Focol Studies*

**Rendcomb College, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7HA England**

Telephone: +44 (0)1285 831213 e-mail: [info@rendcombcollege.org.uk](mailto:info@rendcombcollege.org.uk)  
[www.rendcombcollege.org.uk](http://www.rendcombcollege.org.uk) (Contact details updated 2023)

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*June 2023 NSP Reset in Times Roman typeface*

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## Editorial

As I have spent only two years at Rendcomb, my general views of the past year can be based only upon a comparison with my first.

The predominant theme, I feel, has been one of dynamic change, shown in many different areas. New and nearly completed features of our surroundings include four holes of golf in the Park, the transformation of Landage Field into an athletics pitch, a Computer Laboratory and bright new surfaces on two tennis courts.

Alongside the physical, there has been organisational change: for example in the new structures of the Meeting and Public Works, or in the formation of the Parents' Association. With the introduction of a new dining system next year, it appears that the theme of change is to continue.

However, the theme encompasses not only internal variation, but also the integration of Rendcomb into the broader changes of society, of the nation, perhaps best exemplified in the sixth-form Industrial Conference. This brought a realisation of industry's vast careers scope and of the movements towards its greater recognition, a recognition especially necessary in schools.

While freedom from excessive competition within Rendcomb has been maintained as always, the year has nevertheless underlined the school's awareness of, and involvement in, external competition and modulations in society. Such involvement must contribute to the various flavours of school life, and I hope that some of this contribution is reflected in this year's 'Rendcombian'.

**Karen Alder**



**Work Experience—Auto Garage**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*





## Admiral Sir Richard Clayton, G. C. B.

It was with a sense of great shock and sorrow that we learnt last September of the tragic and untimely death of Dick Clayton in a road accident. He was to have taken over as Chairman of Governors in December; since becoming a Governor he had taken a keen and active interest in all College affairs. As a former Commander of the Home Fleet and actual Director of Training and Management for the G.E.C. group of companies, he would have brought remarkable experience to the task of Chairman.

Like all truly distinguished men, he seemed totally unaware of his own great qualities. As a tribute to him, there follow the notes of the address given by the Revd. Tom Ekin at his funeral on 29th September.

What happened on that fateful Saturday afternoon none of us know; but we do know that we have all lost a friend; one who was a great influence for good in our lives and each of us comes to mourn. Life for each one of us will never be quite the same again.

We do know that of his hobbies, skiing and motor cycling are at the top of the list; he died doing what he loved — this unconventional Admiral. Like me, you will have your memories, most of them happy ones, of this man.

This man of FAITH — for Dick was a regular communicant, he frequently read the lessons here and he adored good and beautiful things. He loved and made music, he appreciated flowers and wine and had a great sense of colour. And at this point it is so suitable that we are able to welcome the choir from Rendcomb College who have come to pay him honour with their music.

This man of INTELLECT with his photographic mind, his computer-like approach to problems, who could so often see the wood for the trees where we, his fellows, stumbled so often.

This man, who above all things, was a MAN; a man for all men and women, and children, for we all loved him in our own way. Yes, this bachelor, family man — “Richard” to his sister Jos, and John and Peregrine, Gyr and Quentin, and “Dick” to Bridget, Charles, Simon, Jonny and me.

This LOW PROFILE MAN, whether “Dick” or “Richard”, and Admiral though he was, could there ever have been a more unassuming, self-effacing human being? He brought out the best in all of us, this man who listened with such patience, this catalyst who was always available, this man of such compassion and sensitivity to all who were in need, fear, pain or anxiety; this man who had never lost “the common touch”. He was so busy listening to other people’s problems that very few of us ever heard of his.

This most THOROUGH of men, who always saw the job through to the end. From running the Navy to his work at GEC or Rendcomb, to washing the dishes or his car, Drake’s famous prayer featured number one on his list.

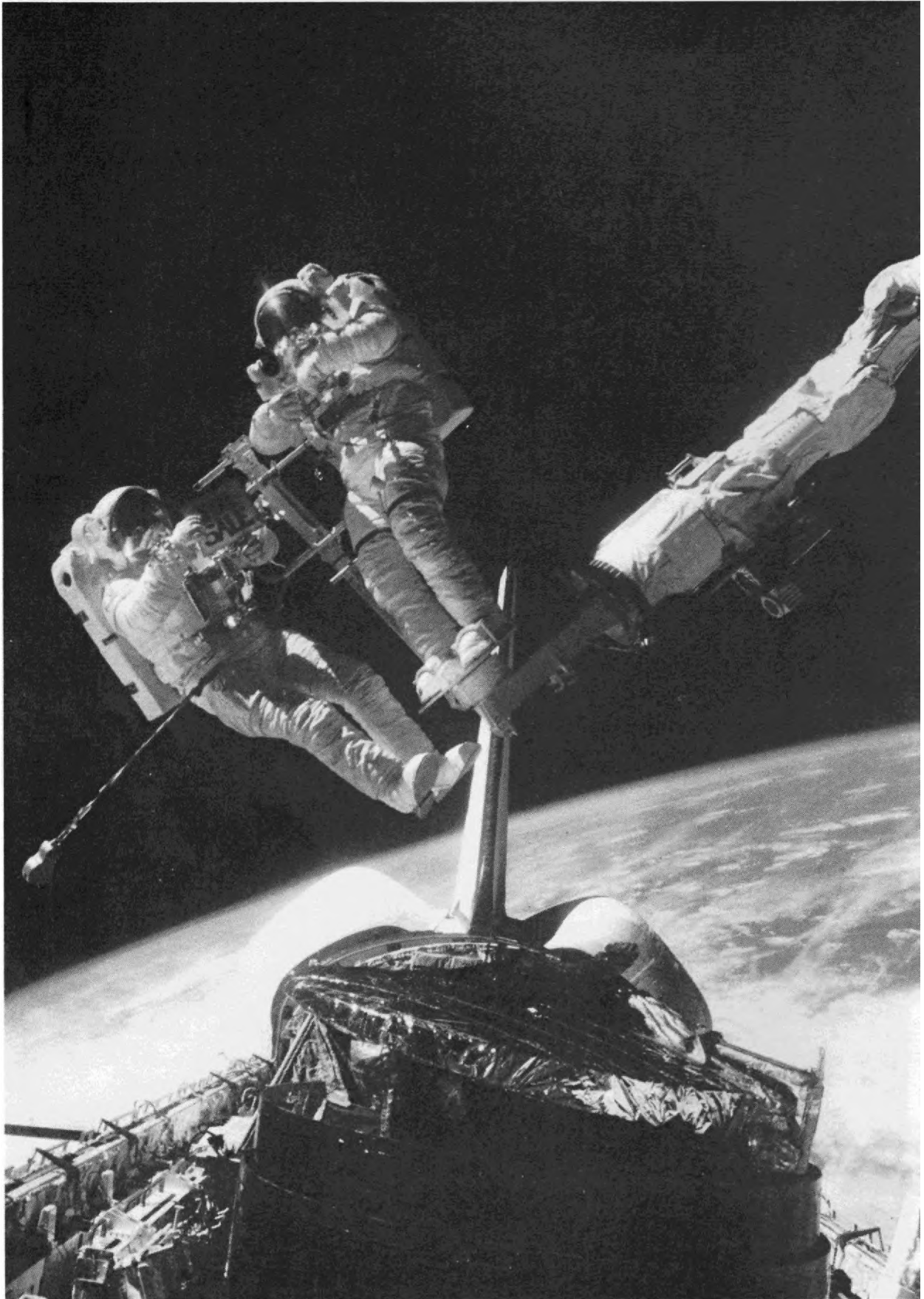
And what of ourselves? We come this morning above all things to thank God for him but to pray for him, so that we may let him go and that God may take him to Himself. We come to ask for strength for all who will miss him most and that our faith through our loss may grow. We pray too that through his example we may commit ourselves as he did, so often to help in making this world a better place, and finally to think about our own death.

But, in our own grief let us remember that God created us to laugh and cry, the stiff upper lip has its place, but we bottle up our grief at our peril and possibly at his.

I can only end like you with tears and joy and to pay tribute to those who have brought flowers to the family.

I want to quote from one who says “It is a rare person who instills both the love and respect of those who work for him. This he did with charm and also authority”. May he rest in peace. Amen.





Our most famous photo

NASA

## Errant Satellites

We are indebted to Stephen Merrett, O.R. (1952-58), Chairman of Merrett Syndicates, Ltd. and a member of the Committee of Lloyds, for the following article and the accompanying photographs.

Lloyd's is an insurance market, where approximately four hundred groups of individuals known as Names have insurance risks accepted on their behalf by underwriters, each of whom represents a syndicate of a number of Names. The syndicate for which I underwrite consists of some four thousand individuals from many countries and has participated in the insurance of satellites since 1979. Until February 1984 it was a profitable line of business, but that was to change following the launch of the American Shuttle in that month.

The launch was without any hitch, as was the ejection of the satellites from the shuttle, a process during which they are made to spin to make them stable at a distance from the earth of about two hundred miles in the low orbit reached by the shuttle. From that position the satellites are pushed by their Payload Assist Modules or PAMS into their operational orbit twenty thousand miles further away. First Westar VI and then Palapa B had its PAM fired and, instead of reaching its proper destination, the collapse of the exhaust nozzles caused the motors to fail, sending both into useless and irregular orbits between 150 and 700 miles from earth. The satellites had been insured for \$105,000,000 and \$75,000,000.

Almost at once engineers at the National Aeronautical and Space Administration and the Hughes Aircraft Company, which had made both satellites, began to investigate the possibilities of recovering the satellites, and soon reports appeared in the newspapers of their optimism that the satellites could be controlled and returned to a location in space where the shuttle could meet them. They would then be caught by the shuttle's arm and placed in specially constructed frames, and brought back to earth.

As an underwriter who had led the insurances on Palapa B and one placing for Westar VI, I was interested in any proposals which might result in reducing the claim and made arrangements to meet in Washington during the following week the Administrator of NASA and a senior officer of the Hughes Company. NASA and Hughes were both extremely interested in the possibilities and by the time I met them had done a good deal of research and were reasonably comfortable with the idea. It seemed probable that the remaining motors attached to the satellites, the Apogee Kick Motors normally used to place the satellites in their operating orbit when that had been reached by using the PAMS, would be sufficient to place the satellites into stable orbits from where they could be brought down to rendezvous with the shuttle by using the hydrazine thrusters, which are ordinarily used for station-

keeping adjustments. Although the plan seemed sound in theory, there were a multitude of things which could go wrong. For example, it was not clear how much damage might result from the extra radiation to which the satellites would be exposed in their low orbits. Both NASA and Hughes were keen to make the attempt for a number of reasons: the engineers rose to the challenge, and politically and commercially such a success would be welcome as a relief to NASA. The astronauts were anxious to demonstrate once again the advantages of manned space flight and indeed were to commence their training before the project was officially approved.

The greatest difficulty to be overcome was the question of ownership, or who had title to the satellites. Just as they had not been built for recovery, so did their insurance coverage fail to provide a proper legal framework for it. The only sort of salvage that had previously been envisaged was where parts of a satellite ceased to function, and in those circumstances it had always been provided that, once the satellite's functions had been so impaired that it could no longer perform the essential functions required of it, the owner would be entitled to keep the wreck for whatever use he could make of it, even though insurers were paying its full insured value. In the case of the two errant satellites, Western Union were not anxious to recover the satellite, because they had more satellite capacity than they could use, and the Indonesians, who had been assisted in the purchase of their satellite by the Export-Import Bank of the United States, urgently needed a replacement but were suffering serious financial constraints. Further serious complications for the Westar VI arose through the manner in which the insurance was placed, which resulted in more than one group of insurers feeling that it alone was entitled to the benefit in the event of recovery. That complication was sufficient to convince us that Palapa B should be tackled first.

In order to reach an agreement with the Indonesians, it was necessary to develop a plan by which both parties would benefit and thus the "dual approach" was created. Under it insurers would finance from the claims money the construction of a replacement satellite, but at the same time would proceed with recovery. If recovery was successful and the satellite could be refurbished and relaunched, then the Indonesians would have their satellite several months before the new one could be finished, and underwriters would pay any penalty required by manufacturers for the late cancellation. If recovery was successful, underwriters would have paid for the attempt and the Indonesians would have their replacement well on the way to completion.

It took several weeks before such a project became politically acceptable to the Indonesians, and just when it appeared on the verge of acceptance, the Hughes Aircraft Company decided that they



could not deliver on their agreement to limit underwriters' exposure to cancellation charges to \$5,000,000 but increased it to \$15,000,000. However, although the Indonesians rejected the dual approach, they were sufficiently persuaded of underwriters' good faith to agree to pass title to the underwriters in exchange for the claims money, and a somewhat similar arrangement was reached with Western Union.

Now the stage was set for underwriters to recover both satellites for the benefit of and at the expense of themselves, and they rapidly concluded contractual agreements with NASA and Hughes for recovery of both satellites at an inclusive cost of \$10,500,000. A great deal of planning had been done, including the invention of a special "stinger" device to be carried by the astronauts to fix to the spent motor of the satellite, to enable the two satellites to be moved into the shuttle.

The recovery mission took place in November 1984. Experience had indicated that there was a significant chance of a last minute hitch in the start of any mission, and I decided not to leave London until the launch had taken place. Two more satellites were to be ejected in the early stages of the flight, and the recovery would commence on the fourth day. In the event, when the launch was delayed for forty-eight hours by high winds, I was not inconvenienced.

By the time I reached the Johnson Space Center at Houston there were new worries; although contracts had been signed for recovery of both satellites, it appeared from public statements made that NASA was only seriously interested in one. That was resolved, to be replaced by suggestions that the satellites might not be safe to recover anyway, because of the risk that the hydrazine fuel remaining might freeze and become unstable.

Nor did the capture of the satellites pass without a further crisis, when it was discovered that the first satellite had a substantial box welded to it that had not been shown on the plans, and which made quite impossible the main plan's requirement of fixing a frame around the top of the satellite. At that stage the depth of NASA planning and the astronaut training was exposed, as they switched to Plan B, which involved manoeuvring the satellite by hand until its other end could be secured, a process which involved Joe Allen's holding a nine feet by seven feet satellite over his head for more than one whole circumnavigation of the globe.

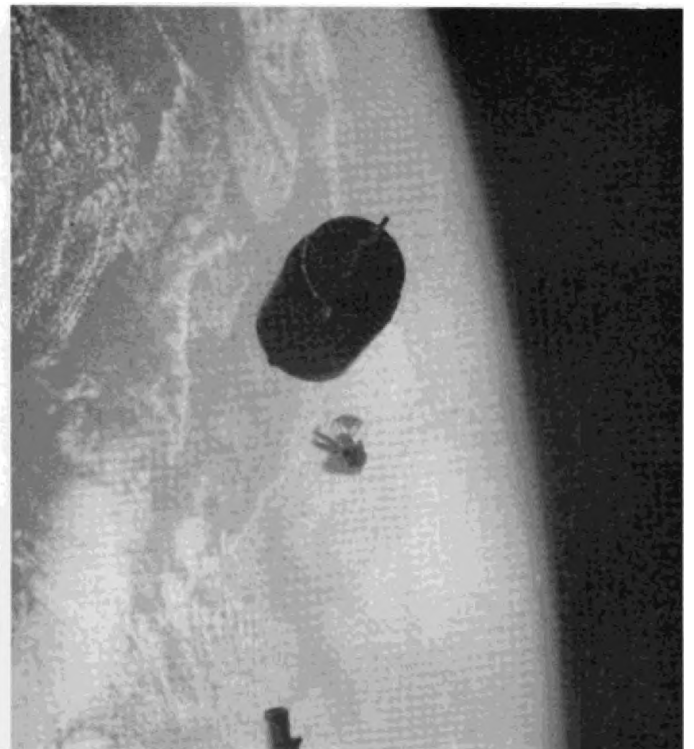
There was a rest day before the second satellite was secured, during which a refined Plan B was developed. It worked smoothly, and there were no other crises before the orbiter returned to earth.

Two months later President Reagan honoured both the astronauts and Lloyd's by presenting each of the five members of the crew with Lloyd's Silver Medal for Salvage. It appears to have been the first occasion on which an award by a commercial establishment has been presented by a serving President of the United States of America.



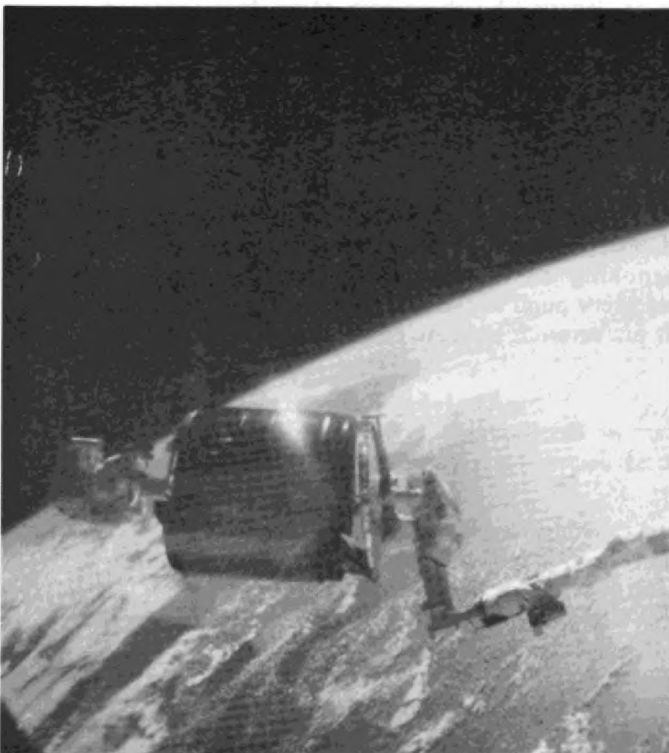
Going uphill

A»5^



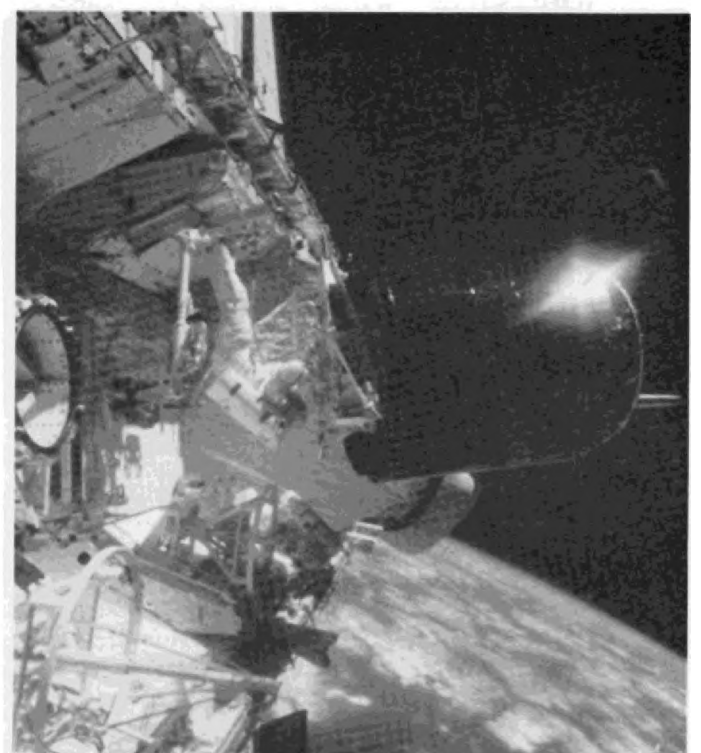
Dale pursuing Westar

NASA



Dale handing over Wettar to Joe

NASA



Dale holding Palapa while Joe position\* himself preparatory to manual berthing

A'1S/1



## News in Brief

During the year **Major Peter Birchall, Sir Louis Le Bailly, Lord Wigram and Sir David Wills retired as Governors.** Reports of interviews with Major Birchall and Sir Louis will be found elsewhere in this issue. Rendcombians will remember Lord Wigram particularly for his Remembrance Sunday addresses in which he movingly told us how, during the last war, he counted off from day to day the deaths of those who had been his friends at school. A tribute to Sir David Wills' long service and many benefactions to the College will be included in our next issue.

**Mr. Torquil Norman has succeeded Sir Louis Le Bailly as Chairman of Governors, and Professor the Revd. G. R. Dunstan** has taken Mr. Norman's place as **Chairman of the Future Policy Working Party.**

The **Confirmation Service** was held in March by **Bishop Tremlett**, who kindly replaced, at the last moment, Bishop Llewellyn, who was ill.

**Mrs. Catherine Fry** wishes to thank everyone who was so kind to her after the death of her husband **Ron.**

In July **Mr. Kaye Knapp** retired as **Headmaster of the Junior House**, after nineteen years' service. Warmly appreciative comments on Kaye and Margaret Knapp's time at the Old Rectory will be found in the speeches made by the Headmaster and Ben Uglow on Founder's Day. **Mr. Christopher Wood takes over as Headmaster** in September, and the Knapps have moved to Conigre House.

Our congratulations go to **Mr. and Mrs. Christopher King** on the birth of a son, **James**, to **Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Lane** on the birth of a son, **Anthony**, to **Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sykes** on the birth of a daughter, **Emma**, and to **Major and Mrs. Tom Wills** on the birth of a daughter, **Camilla Jane.**

This year saw a large number of outings, some of which are reported later. They also included **Sixth Form visits to Longleat and to an Open Day at Bristol University**, a **Fourth Form trip to London** and **First Form visits to Cotswold Farm Park and the Chedworth Roman Villa.**

The **Orchard Theatre Company** visited the College in February to perform '**Far from The Madding Crowd**'; the **National Portraiture Association** and the **Royal Navy Presentation Team** also visited us.

The senior play this year was '**Twelfth Night**'; the juniors performed '**When Adam Delved**', a mediaeval pageant based on the **Peasants' Revolt**, written and produced by **Simon Johnson.**

The levelling, and particularly the seeding of **Landage** proved a considerable challenge for Messrs. Grimshaw, owing to the amount of stone in the soil; the matter was dealt with by them, without recourse to '**stone-picking parties**'. In view of this, and of the forthcoming disappearance of '**serving**' in the Dining Hall, Old Rendcombians may perhaps be excused for saying 'it wasn't like this in my day!'

**Sheep and snow** have somewhat delayed the progress of the **golf course** in the Park, which now has four holes. We hope that they will be in full use next summer.

The conversion of the north-east corner of the Stable Block to house the **Computer Laboratory** is nearly complete and awaits only the installation of the appropriate hardware. There will be 12 computers, catering for 24 pupils from the junior forms or 12 sixth-formers.

The Foundation Meeting of the **Rendcomb College Parents' Association** took place on 27th October. The Committee of eight parents meet regularly, and there is an Open Meeting for all members each term. A party with refreshments was held before the **Handel Tercentenary Concert** in St. Peter's Church on 19th May. It is proposed to hold a **dance at the College** next summer. We are most grateful for their proposal to provide us with a **coaching machine**, to assist with cricket, hockey and tennis.

During the year we have had two visits from **Dr. P. Travers** of St. Luke's College, Exeter, who is carrying out research into **The Effects of Smoking on Lung Performance.** He hopes to see every pupil in the school; the evidence collected in his research remains **confidential....**

On 17th March **John Willson** played the solo part in **Beethoven's First Piano Concerto** at a most memorable concert in the Dulverton Hall.

As last summer, the College buildings were let for three weeks of the holidays to '**Teaching Holidays**', a Christian Family Houseparty. It was a pleasant change to see the Forecourt littered with diminutive tricycles.

On 17th and 18th August the **Gloucestershire Archery Society** held a **FITA Star Tournament**, attracting leading archers from all over the country, and the **County Championships** on Top. Prizes were presented by the Headmaster.

The **College Open Day** on 13th October again proved a great success, attended by between four and five hundred people. Visitors seemed to enjoy being shown round by sixth-formers, even by those with only four weeks' experience of the school!

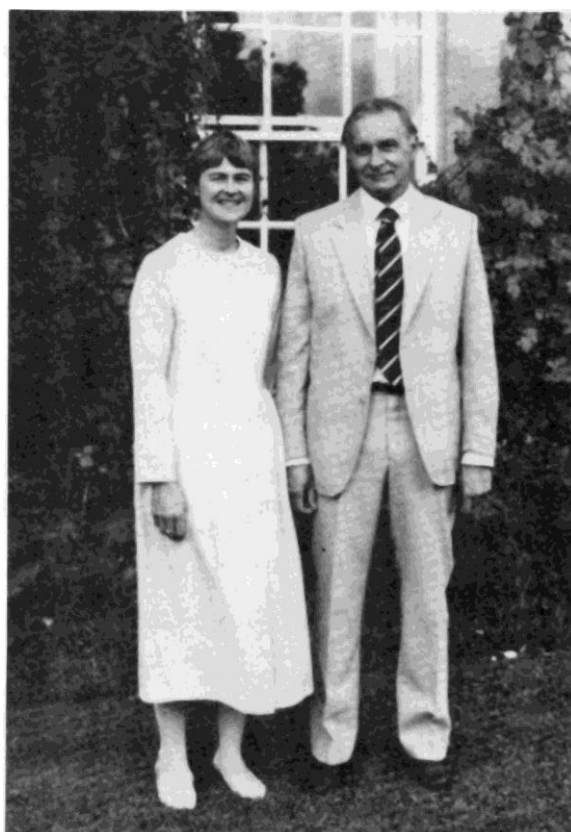
On 8th November we had a visit from the **Behala Boys' Orchestra** from Calcutta, who gave us a refreshing and stimulating concert of **Classical and Indian Music and Dancing**. Pupils and performers joined forces afterwards for a very pleasant social evening. Our **sponsored walk** in September will raise funds for the **Behala Boys' Home**.

On 26th June **Butch Thompson**, the well-known **American ragtime pianist**, gave a scintillating rendering of Ragtime, Jazz and Blues from such celebrated composers as **Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton and Fats Waller**.

This year we say goodbye to **Belinda Dennis, Paul Edwards and Simon Johnson**, wishing them every success and happiness in their new posts. They will be replaced by **Mr. Michael Craddock**, to teach English, **Mr. Martin Graham**, to teach History and **Mr. Lindsay Haslett**, to teach French.



**Torquil Norman**, Chairman of Governors



**Kaye and Margaret Knapp**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*



## Simon Johnson

Simon Johnson came to us via Sir Roger Manwood's School and Leeds University, in September 1981, to teach English. He was the successful candidate from some seventy applicants for Tim Dyke's job on the latter's move down the M5 to Blundell's; the past four years have increasingly underlined the wisdom of our choice.

Simon had one major theoretical disadvantage which may well have proved a partial blessing in practice: though he had concentrated on English during his PGCE year, his degree was in History. This enabled him, I believe, to approach English with a breadth of scope and freshness of vision which may sometimes be less easily attainable by those grounded in a university English course. Simon brought to his teaching not only a deep literary commitment but also a detailed knowledge of the social and political climate in which individual writers worked, an asset which helped to explain the enthusiasm he generated in his pupils for such diverse giants as Blake, Lawrence, Chaucer, and Hardy, both in 'A' Level studies and middle school projects. He kept his eye in, too, with some periods of History teaching.

Many talents make up the good schoolmaster and Simon soon showed himself a versatile man. A student actor himself, he gave us absorbing, imaginative productions of "The Insect Play", with its cast of fluttering thousands, the Brecht, / Weill "Threepenny Opera", Marlowe's "Faustus", and, in his final year, "Twelfth Night" (what more

beautiful swan-song?) and a junior play based on the Peasants' Revolt. The radical streak was clearly visible in the choices of play! He also organised many trips to the theatres at Stratford, Bath, and elsewhere and took school groups to Italy and Russia. For two years he was a firm but sympathetic tutor to the current Fifth Form, identifying with their problems of time and space, encouraging the anxious and diffident, castigating the slothful. In addition, he had a great affection for and knowledge of various sports, particularly rugby and hockey, the two at which he was especially competent, and cricket; where will the Staff XI's quick runs come from now? Nobly, too, he took systematic charge of the College Library.

Common Room chat and Staff Meeting debate will be less colourful and zany with Simon's departure, and I shall treasure his dry humour (the teacher's trademark?), gift for repartee, and friendship. He was a reforming idealist who was not afraid of treading on toes or pooh-poohing cant; thus the College is all the better for his stay, and I hope he feels the benefit was reciprocal.

The English Department has, indeed, been fortunate in its recent appointments and, as he moves on to St. Dunstan's College, Catford, we wish him good luck and health, along with his wife Caroline, of whose formidable intellect the College might surely have made more use; not forgetting Bevin the dog, who regularly defended his master's garden wall with benign pugnacity.

J. N. H.

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## Paul Edwards

Paul Edwards came to Rendcomb after a short spell at a Sixth Form College, having done his teaching practice at Eton. His own background — The Manchester Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford — instilled in him the highest standards of scholarship and devotion to the study of History, with all its sister arts, which are the most important legacies of his four years' work here. Those Rendcombians whom he has taught — or some would say, who have studied alongside him — whether in the lower school, to 'A' level or especially in their Oxbridge work, cannot fail to have been infected with his own enthusiasms, and stimulated to greater intellectual efforts than they thought themselves capable of.

Perhaps it is only after a few years' reflection that ORs will recognise this picture of Paul. Immediately, they will recall the burly, bustling figure, myopically intent on whatever he has on his mind to the exclusion of all else, a permanent worried frown behind owlsh glasses. They will

recall his intolerance for cant and his hatred for dishonesty, moral or intellectual. They will recall the warmth and the loyalty of his friendship.

Everything Paul did here he did with remarkable (if sometimes uncoordinated) energy and remarkable (if sometimes nerve-shattering) enthusiasm. We have all enjoyed his accounts of cricket matches, for instance, until we are compelled unwillingly to say, with Mr. Bennett, "That will do. You have delighted us long enough." As to school cricket, we might say, as they say of Wren in St. Paul's Cathedral, "Si memoriam requiris, circumspecte."; and if we add to this his zeal at Hockey, the hours of work he has put in as Deputy to the Senior Resident Master, his work, too, for this magazine — well, we realise what a gap will be left.

Rendcomb will no doubt be a quieter, safer and more respectable place when Paul is living at Harrow. But it will be in danger of being less purposeful and less forward-looking, and it will certainly be less fun, without him.

D. S. J. P.

## Belinda Dennis

Ah, Belinda! I am pressed with torment not to be confessed”.

When Belinda's imminent arrival from Oxford became known, the buzz went round the school that she must be related to a recently retired member of staff. This was not the case, of course, and it was soon apparent that she was going to make a very individual impression. In the staff common room she became notorious for sitting marking during her free lessons: she showed extraordinary resilience in continuing this habit through all manner of off-putting remarks. The singeing of exercise books, she claimed, was entirely due to the speed with which she despatched them. In the classroom she insisted on high standards of commitment and work but not without, in return, spending much time on preparing up-to-date material. She encouraged many pupils to acquire pen-friends and go on

exchange visits to France. Above all she showed a real sensitivity to the needs of the individual pupil, which was much appreciated. Girls' games benefited from her enthusiasm and skill. Her ability at table tennis and cricket remained relatively untapped resources which will perhaps find an outlet at Mill Hill, where she goes to teach French and German in September.

It seems to be the case that the younger and more able a teacher is, the more quickly he or she moves to a new post. Belinda spent two years only at Rendcomb; her zest for life made her want to be nearer the bright lights and cultural attractions of London. The quotation above, taken completely out of context from Purcell's opera 'Dido and Aeneas', gives hyperbolic expression to our sadness at her departure. It only remains to wish her every success and happiness at Mill Hill. She has been a fine colleague, and I am sure that they will find her the same.

G. R. B.

**Belinda Dennis, Simon Johnson and Paul Edwards**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*



## Bob Roberts

H. E. Roberts, universally known as 'Bob', retired last December after 33 years of visiting Rendcomb twice or more a week, in charge of the wind instrument teaching, a period of employment almost unparalleled in the history of the College. After 13 years as Bandmaster in the 12th Royal Lancers, Bob joined the staff of Cheltenham College in 1950, and we had him 'on loan' for two short afternoon sessions a week, during which he taught all the brass and woodwind pupils Rendcomb's small numbers of those days could muster.

In 1974 Bob retired from Cheltenham College and was able to spend more time at Rendcomb; the coincidence of this with one of our most substantial expansion periods resulted in the serious development of the wind department. By the end of the decade he had built up both numbers and quality of pupils to the extent that not only did he have to shed first the brass, then the oboe and later the flute and bassoon teaching to newly-engaged specialists, but also that the orchestra was able often to field a full symphonic complement of wind players without adult assistance.

Bob's happiest reward was in 1980/81 when two of his pupils gained Grade VIII passes and played Mozart Concertos (clarinet and flute) with the school orchestra.

Bob is remembered affectionately by generations of pupils and staff, and we all wish him and Mrs. Roberts a long, happy and well-earned retirement.

J. W.



**Bob Roberts**

*Photo: D. Adshead*

## Miss M. Bliss

Last December we learnt with regret that Mary Bliss would no longer be able to come to teach the bellringers. Since January 1962 Rendcomb ringers have had the benefit of her expert instruction, enthusiasm for bellringing and particular skill for teaching young ringers. We were indeed most fortunate to have someone like Mary Bliss who was prepared to come twice a week in all weathers and to all sorts and conditions of ringers, to instruct on Fridays and to supervise the ringing on Sundays. All those who have learnt to ring in the past twenty years owe a real debt of gratitude to Mary Bliss for her help in developing in them a specialized, and perhaps lifelong, hobby.

In addition, Mary Bliss was able to continue a tradition of ringing at Rendcomb which began in 1925 and had been continued by Mr. Lee-Browne until his illness in 1958. So when Mary Bliss took over, there was already a group of experienced, if rusty, ringers. She quickly took control of the Tower and had to cope not only with out of practice ringers but also with snapping sallies and breaking stays — a frightening experience for the uninitiated as I can confirm from personal experience. But, as a result of her patience, a competent band was soon trained and, apart from a few lean years, there has always been a good team of boys — and more recently of girls too — who have enjoyed ringing.

Rendcomb bellringers were most fortunate to have Miss Bliss's guidance for so long and I am sure that under her successor the ringing will continue to flourish.

W. J. D. W.

## Julie Adams

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Julie Adams, who left at the end of the Christmas term to get married. Julie had taught at Rendcomb for over two years giving great help and inspiration to her many pupils. We wish her and her husband all the best for the future at their new home in Iceland.

T. J. L.

## Rose Leathard

Rose joined the music staff in 1977, the first of our specialist woodwind teachers. Although this was the era of Galway mania when everyone was crazed about flutes, Rose developed a genuine following for the oboe at Rendcomb and maintained a steady stream of oboists, of whom there were always two or three good enough to play alongside her in the orchestra. She will be remembered with affection by her pupils for her conscientious and meticulous approach to all aspects of tone and technique and for her generosity in extra coaching at both home and school for special occasions.

The highlight of her time here was her partnership with Lesley Hunt and the school orchestra in Bach's Concerto for Oboe and Violin in 1982, which I found the finest single performance of any musical work I have heard at Rendcomb.

J. W.



# College Officers

*Head Prefect:* B. Uglow

*Head Girl:* S. Whybrow

*Prefects:* C. Carpenter, R. McIntyre, D. Adshead,  
B. Almond, J. Awdry, J. Butling, B. Jenkins,  
J. K. Loehry, S. McIntyre, J. Perkins

*Church Ushers:* S. Hawkswell, S. McIntyre,  
K. Cloutman, S. Evans, N. Hoare

*Magazine Editors:* T. Robinson, K. Alder, C. Moody

*Rugby Captain:* M. Binder

*Rugby Secretary:* D. Edwin

*Hockey Captain:* M. Binder

*Hockey Vice-Captain:* A. Hall

*Cricket Captain:* J. Healey

*Tennis Captain:* J. Marland

*Squash Captain:* G. Veale

The Editors wish to apologise to Charles Carroll, whose name was unfortunately omitted from the list of Prefects in last year's edition.

## Meeting Officers

### Christmas Term 1984

*Chairman:* J. Morris

*Secretary:* T. Branston

*Meeting Banker:* D. Wilson

*Boys' Banker:* P. Spackman

*Nominations Committee:* S. Evans, R. Prynne,  
K. Knight, J. Healey

*Debating Society\*:* M. Cordeux, R. Prynne, S. Noyes,  
M. Reid, B. Branston

*Entertainments Committee:* D. George, B. Hatcher,  
B. Jenkins, C. Harris, J. McMonigall, A. Andreis

*Community Service Committee\*:* T. Branston, E.  
Rowe, J. Larroucau, M. Faulker, M. Reynolds,  
C. Carroll

*Charities Committee\*:* D. Edwin, S. Jenkins,  
J. Valentine, B. Branston, D. Norton

*Snooker Committee\*:* M. Cordeux, T. Robinson,  
M. Thompson

*Dance Committee\*:* C. Harris, A. Aylott, F. Wilkins,  
K. Arnold, R. McIntyre, M. Newman

*Food Committee:* B. Foote, V. Finney, C. Eames,  
M. Rann, R. Reichwald

*Film Committee\*:* D. George, S. Noyes, C. Pope,  
W. Hammond

*Paperman:* M. Walters

*Breakages Man:* R. Hill

### Easter Term 1985

*Chairman:* C. Harris

*Secretary:* M. Reynolds

*Meeting Banker:* K. Cloutman

*Boys' Banker:* A. Hayes

*Nominations Committee:* B. Jenkins, S. Whybrow,  
K. Alder, B. Hatcher, K. Knight, E. Rowe

*Entertainments' Committee:* D. George, C. Harris,  
B. Jenkins, N. Paterson-Fox, A. Breal

*Food Committee:* C. Ellis, B. Foote, N. Wharmby,  
R. Reichwald, R. Wooster, J. Gregory

*Paperman:* J. Shaw

*Breakages Man:* M. Astill

### Summer Term 1985

*Chairman:* K. Knight

*Secretary:* N. Wharmby

*Meeting Banker:* A. Hayes

*Boys' Banker:* S. Reichwald

*Nominations Committee:* M. Reynolds, M. Stitt,  
C. Faircloth, A. Trowern, M. Astill, A. Breal

*Meeting Liaison Committee:* T. Robinson, A. Hayes,  
M. Faulkner, M. Reynolds

*Entertainments Committee:* N. Paterson-Fox,  
M. Reynolds, T. Branston, B. Branston

*Food Committee:* A. Trowern, D. Edwin, I. Whittaker,  
G. Carter, S. Tate

*Snooker Committee:* T. Burns, A. Cayton, M. Astill

*Newspaper Committee:* M. Houseman, A. Bedford,  
J. Slattery

*Breakages Man:* G. Carter

\* elected annually

## Valete

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

Doré Green, Caroline Grieves, Anthony Maton, Jane Merrett, Clare Parfitt, Andrew Rontree,

Darrell Adshead, Karen Alder, Benjamin Almond, Vanessa Andreis, Karen Arnold, Paul Attwood, John Awdry, Alexandra Aylott, Claire Bichard, Mark Binder, Duncan Brown, Jeremy Butling, Christopher Carpenter, Karl Cloutman, Samantha Evans, Victoria Finney, Beverley Foote, David George, Andrew Hall, Colin Harris, Barnaby Hatcher, Sara Hawkswell, Michael Hicks, Nicholas Hoare, Marcus Holland, Fiona Howard, Blaise Jenkins, James Kinch, Juliette Loehry, Justine Loehry, Robert McIntyre, Stewart McIntyre,

Josephine Merrett, Jonathan Morris, Stuart Newell, Matthew Newman, Simon Noyes, Paul Partridge, Jane Perkins, Robert Prynne, Kathryn Rowe, Sophie Rutherford, Dianne Sercovich, William Tong, Benedict Uglow, Suzanne Whybrow, Fiona Wilkins, David Wilson.

James Kook, Adrian Lamb, Adam Bain.

## Salvete

We welcome the following:

Amanda Baker, Sarra Butler, Charlotte Carroll, Katherine Conway, Rachel Daniels, Caroline Eldridge, Claire Ellis, Kristin Ewing, Catherine Faircloth, Sarah Hassall, Darryl King, Jane Larroucau, Mary Reynolds, Eleanor Rowe, Edwina Thring, Jane Valentine, Katrina Walsh,

Julian Leigh, Geoffrey Broomfield, Robert Bugden, Guy Cowie, Matthew Faircloth, Nicholas Hett, Christopher Huck, Jonathan Lutwyche, Robert Mitchell, Julian Norbury, Russell Ogden, Nicholas Suffolk, Sean Tate, Andrew Wharmby, Paul Wilson, Benjamin Wolf.

Julian Read, Nigel Bayliss, Stephen Bell, Christopher Brown, Patrick Evans, Alexander Hall, Simon Hardie, Richard Herbert, Simon Hett, Daniel Maslen, Neil McMurtrie, Michael Moody, Matthew Rogers, Richard Rowlatt, Martin Smith, Nicholas Smith, Peter Smithson, Ian Spencer, Leigh Thompson, Nigel Utting, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge, Oliver Ward, Simon Williams, Nicholas Wood.

## 1984 Leavers

Charles Acocks—

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 1986.

John Adams—

Leicester Polytechnic: Law

Gaye Adamson—

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 1986

Michael Airey—

Sussex University: Physics and Micro-Computing

Daniel Appleton—

Seale Hayne Agricultural College: HND

Anthony Bailey—

St. Andrew's University: Modern Languages

Richard Bendy—

Management Trainee: J. Sainsbury

Susannah Brown—

Smith University, Massachusetts: General Arts

Charles Carroll—

Leicester Polytechnic: Engineering

Clare Draper—

Newcastle Polytechnic: Bilingual Secretarial Degree

Doré Green—

Pembroke College, Oxford: Chemistry, 1986

Nicholas Green—

Imperial College, London:

Mechanical Engineering

Jacquelyn Greenwood—

Chelsea College: Pharmacy, 1985

Caroline Grieves—

Bristol University: History, 1985

Richard Hayward—

Trainee Manager: Building Society

James Hutton-Potts—

Newcastle Polytechnic: Social Administration

David John—

Leeds University: Agricultural Biochemistry

Benjamin Knapp—

King's College, London: History, 1985

Adrian Lewers—

Southampton University: Naval Architecture

Christopher Mansfield—

Leeds University: Economics, 1985

Anthony Maton—

Exeter College, Oxford: History, 1985

Jane Merrett—

Exeter College, Oxford: History, 1985

Richard Newman—

Trainee Manager, Gardiner's, Cirencester

Clare Parfitt—

Durham University: Geography, 1985

Philip Paterson-Fox—

Australia, then Insurance

Andrew Payne—  
 Thames Polytechnic:  
 BSc Estate Management Course, 1985

Jessica Richards—  
 Royal Holloway College: French and German

Andrew Rontree—  
 Leeds University: German and Music, 1985

Juliet Rutherford—  
 Witwatersrand University: Geology

Stephen Simkin—  
 St. Andrew's University: English and Philosophy

Alison Smith—  
 Trinity College, Oxford: Law

Lyndall Squire—  
 Brasenose College, Oxford: Biochemistry

Gareth Thomas—  
 Royal Free Hospital: Medicine, 1985

Allison Twyman—  
 University of the West Indies: Accountancy

Michael Uglow—  
 St. George's Hospital: Medicine

Angus Waddell—  
 City University: Electrical Engineering

Robert Wakeham—  
 Trainee Accountant

Christopher Walton—  
 Newcastle Polytechnic:  
 Business Studies and Languages

David Webb—  
 Pembroke College, Oxford: English

Alison Young—  
 Leeds University: International History



**The Haymaker**

*Photo: D. Beales*

# Old Rendcombian Society

The Chairman writes:

This year has seen the successful start of a London branch of the Society and David Beanland and Anthony Hillier must be congratulated for their enthusiasm and for organising, in January, a dinner which was enjoyed by all of those who attended. I am sure that the formation of this branch will prove most useful to the College and to recent leavers embarking on courses or careers in and around London.

The first OR Travel Bursaries were awarded to sixth formers for use during this summer:

Matthew Cordeux £100

France by bicycle

James Kinch's Group £100

North Africa

Nicholas Badcott's Group £50

Geological and historical points of interest on the coastal path, Cornwall.

## Congratulations to:

**Martin Butlin** (1940-47): D. Litt. London University.

**Philip Evans** (1972-79): 1st Class Hons. Chemistry, Oxford University.

**Maria Bitner** (1979-81): 1st Class Hons. Medical Sciences, London University.

**Ian Bishop** (1978-83): Pre-Clinical Scholarship in Dental Sciences, Birmingham University.

## Births:

To Anne and **Fraser Glennie** (1959-67) a daughter, Rebecca Louise, August 1984.

To Ruth and **Robert Edy** (1959-68) a daughter, Charlotte, February 1985.

To Jennifer and **David Shield** (1966-73) a son, Edward Anthony, June 1984.

To **Jane** (née **Watson**) (1975-77) and Richard Gunner, a son, Samuel Desmond, February 1985.

## Marriages:

**David Shield** (1966-73) to Jennifer Taylor, May 1983.

Edward Green to **Penelope Hooley** (1977-79), September 1984.

Andrew Barr to **Fiona Jane Wilson** (1979-81), July 1984.

**Ian Read** (1969-76) to Julie Marigold, June 1983.

Captain David Martin to **Diane Crew** (1975-77), September 1984.

**James Duncumb** (1973-78) to Nicola Parsons, March 1985.

**Nigel Green** (1961-69) to Patricia Anne Rose, August 1984.

## Death:

Flight Lieutenant **Edric Radford** (1973-78). We learnt with great sorrow of Edric's death in a flying accident on 5th January 1985. He had been in touch with the School only a few months before

and was full of enthusiasm for his life in the RAF. He did his 'A' level studies at Cirencester School and then took up an RAF Cadetship to be a pilot. He then spent three years at the University of Salford reading for an honours degree in Aeronautical Engineering, and followed this with a period at Cranwell. He was selected as one of six officers to complete flying training in the United States with the USAF. It was while he was training in a Talon jet that the crash occurred near Wichita Falls, Texas.

## News of Old Rendcombians

**David Shield** (1966-73) spent two years trying to make a living as a professional musician and then joined BBC television as a sound engineer in 1979. He is based mainly at the White City Studios but has had occasional spells of outside broadcasts and has spent some time at the Engineering Training Centre near Evesham. During his time working at Shepherd's Bush he has seen a number of London-based ORs. He married Jenny Taylor, sister of **Ian, Duncan** and **Kennedy**, at Aldsworth on 7th May, 1983; **Michael Findlay** was his best man and Jenny's brothers were ushers. He is still playing rugby — and also keeps in practice with the guitar and piano. He has recently enrolled in an Open University course.

**Christopher Hart** (1970-77) joined Knight, Frank and Rutley at their office in Stratford-upon-Avon in July 1984 after qualifying at the Royal Agricultural College.

**Rev. W. K. A. Hussey** (Chaplain 1974-78) is now Vicar of Gorran on the South Cornish coast near Mevagissey.

**Peter Little** (1960-67) is still working at the Commercial Office at Harwell and has recently been promoted to Principal Scientific Officer. He and his wife Helen have two daughters aged 2½ years and one year. He has also qualified as an ante-natal teacher for the National Childbirth Trust — being only the second man to do so in the UK! He explains that his post is in administrative/business management in the Marketing and Sales department. He left Biology behind some years ago, not without thoughts of eventually returning to it. His responsibilities cover mainly Engineering Sciences and Energy Conservation Technology — “a far cry from dog-fish dissections in the Stable Block on Friday afternoons under **Chris Swaine's** excellent tuition!”

**Mark Webb** (1972-79) joined a firm of agricultural auctioneers and valuers on leaving Rendcomb and then did a course in Rural Estate Management at the Royal Agricultural College before joining the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1983 as a graduate surveyor.



**David Barlow** (Staff 1983) has joined the staff of Forest School, Epping.

**Nigel Powell** (1967-74) regretted that he was unable to attend last year's reunion. He says: "The truth about Computers is that they never know when to behave themselves. Software Support has become my occupation, firstly with I. C. L., and over the last two years with Tandem. I am finding that the grounding in woodwork that **Mr. Burden** was largely responsible for is coming in useful now as I have acquired a lathe. Time permitting, I hope that wood-turning will provide a welcome relief from the pressures of the computer world".

**David Marshall** (1972-79) is with Stroud District Council as a Senior Housing Assistant.

**Mark Raven** (1974-79) is working for his father's haulage company at Kempsford and will take over the company next year when his father retires.

**Patrick Lorenzen** (1973-80) was one of four finalists in the 'Tractor Operator 84' Competition. Selected from 1,700 entrants, the four finalists had to demonstrate their skills on an unfamiliar tractor with implements which none of them was used to using. After a three-year degree course at the National College of Agricultural Engineering,

he has worked on a farm near Cirencester, and is now with Ford.

**Simon Howell** (1972-79) writes: "It is some five years since I graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, with a degree in African History. After graduating, I needed a further qualification before I could apply for voluntary work in the Third World. So I did a P.G.C.E. at Bath University and am now a qualified History teacher and able to try my hand at Art, Humanities, Sociology and even R. E.

I am now teaching English in a Sudanese secondary school. After teaching practice in a British comprehensive, it was a strange experience to be pitched into a classroom with 70 students. It takes some time to adjust to the mud floor, the fact that there are never enough books to go half-way round, and that the boys have to share chairs and desks.

Dongola is a dusty little town on the banks of the Nile. There's not much to commend it to the casual visitor, except the ruins of a Napatan temple, some way off in the desert. The stretch of the Nile is really very fascinating with pre-historic rock paintings, Napatan and Meroitic Pyramids and temples, Roman forts, remnants of the Christian era and the all-pervading Islamic Culture. My

## Still Life

*Photo: M. Bews*



only contact with the outside world is the weekly visit by the old colonial steamer, which brings the mail and news from Khartoum. I occasionally hear **Chris Terrill's** voice on the BBC news broadcasts to Africa. I guess that the civil war in the South has prevented him from making his planned ethnographic films on Sudan; but I was fortunate enough to catch the documentary he produced on the flight of the Eritrean refugees in Kassala Province.

I'm keeping myself busy in my free time doing a little independent research towards an M. Phil. on labour migration in the Sudan."

**Ian Bishop** (1978-83) is in his second year at Birmingham University where he is reading Dentistry. He passed his first BDS with honours and also won the Pre-clinical Scholarship in Dental Sciences (Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology and Oral Pathology). He has now started clinical training, working a 9-5 day in the city dental hospital. He hopes to have his first patient in March, after a course involving work on 'phantoms' — artificial heads with real and plastic teeth. He has also managed to play plenty of sport, including hockey for the University 3rd XI and cricket for the 1st XI.

**Fiona Jane Wilson** (1979-81) was married to Andrew Barr on 7th July 1984, in St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, **Callum Dick** was best man.

**David Brennan** (1972-77) is on the staff of Eastbourne College teaching Physics.

**Tim Lausch** (1970-77) is area Sales Manager for Rank Xerox in Avon.

**Christine Marsack** (1972-74) wrote in March from Australia:

"The Royal Flying Doctor Service is my present employer, and provides me with an extremely interesting, varied and very hot and dusty job. I did my general nursing and midwifery in England, then wandered Australia getting plenty of diverse experience both in cities and in the Outback. Last year I completed a year's Critical Care course (intensive care, coronary care and the like) and I now have no problem getting employment with the RFDS — an aim of mine for several years. So here I am, in Port Hedland, Western Australia, 2,000 km north of Perth.

The RFDS serves the whole of the Australian Outback, each state running its own section. The Western Australia section consists of five bases; ours covers the vast northern areas of the state — you can fly for hours without even seeing any sign of civilization in some parts.

I'm one of three nurses working for Port Hedlands RFDS. Our job consists of transferring patients from small towns or stations in the bush hundreds of miles away back to Port Hedland, or taking more serious cases from Port Hedland to Perth (a 4½ hour trip one way). A doctor ac-

companies us only if the patient is critically ill; so most of the trips are done on our own. Luckily we're well endowed with the latest medical equipment and we carry all sorts of life-support and monitoring machines — like a mini ICU at times. One day we might carry a 1½ lb, premature baby on a respirator; the next it might be a car accident victim with severe head injuries and multiple fractures. There is a lot of mundane routine work too!

The RFDS radio base receives all the emergency calls, hospital calls and co-ordinates and monitors all our flights (all in a small twin-engined aircraft — Piper Navajos and Cessna 421S). Stations (vast sheep farms) are extremely isolated and their only means of communication is the radio.

Even their children are educated at home to secondary level by the 'School of the Air' — lessons being broadcast over the Flying Doctor Service radio. Illness and accidents on stations (and a few small towns without a doctor) are treated by advice over the radio for minor problems and aerial evacuation for more serious ones. Each station has a RFDS medical chest containing drugs, pills and potions. The doctor in Port Hedland can advise the station people which is the most appropriate drug for their problem — all over the radio, of course, which means no privacy as everyone else is tuned in too!

Apart from the horrific heat (up to 115 degrees F. in the shade) and humidity in summer, I'm loving the job and the life here".

**Derek Tanner** (1978-81) has completed 'A' levels in French and Economics and has an HND Travel and Tourism course for 1984. During the summer he had a job in Switzerland as a barman before going to Bournemouth in September for higher education.

**Duncan White** (1976-81) is working in sales for Ashcroft Electronics and is now the System Manager for the Ashcroft Group.

**Mary Alexander** (1979-81) has left Cambridge and is at King's College, London, studying Anatomy and Biochemistry before going on to Clinical Medicine.

**Nigel Taylor** (1971-78) has been appointed to a Permanent RAF Commission in the GD/Pilot branch.

**Philip Evans** (1972-79) gained 1st class honours in Chemistry at Oxford and has now returned to begin work for a D. Phil. He spent some of the summer touring Greece, including Athens and Olympia, and was continuing his 'classical tour' by visiting Rome when he unfortunately had to curtail his holiday after having his wallet and camera taken.

**Ian Read** (1969-76) joined Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, Consulting Civil Engineers as a trainee in their London office after graduating from Durham. He spent two years in the design office

working on several large projects, including a major Libyan oil harbour. For the second part of his training he moved to a construction site and worked on the Thames Barrier Project. He became a Chartered Civil Engineer in 1983, being the second youngest to do so in that session. He returned to the London office to take over a small flood relief scheme from **Trevor Liddle** (1962-69) who was about to return to Manila for a water supply project — he has since left the firm, been married and is living in the Philippines. Ian married a medical researcher at Hammersmith Hospital in June 1983; **Peter Wilson** was best man. His wife Julia's second cousin is **James Cairns Terry** (1972-77) who is now working for a building society in Gloucester. Ian is now on a one year Master of Business Administration degree in Finance at the City University.

**Richard Dunwoody** (1975-81) has appeared in various Sports programmes on television and on radio during the year and was the subject of a recent article in the *Sunday Express* supplement which said: "He is intelligent — unusually for a jockey, he collected 10 O-levels before leaving his Gloucestershire school — and it is this, with his determination and what his current boss, trainer Tim Forster, calls 'the necessary devilment', that has brought him so many admirers". Former champion jump jockey Terry Biddlecombe commented: "Richard's got brains, good hands and horses run and jump for him. He also rides with a nice length of leg. A possible champion in the making". (With due acknowledgements to the *Sunday Express*). He was joint favourite for the Grand National, and was going well until Beecher's Brook thwarted his horse on the second time round.

**Richard Bendy** (1979-84) is working as a trainee manager for Sainsbury's in their Putney and Fulham branches.

**Rebecca Rosengard** (1979-80) wrote recently: "I have just joined the Big Wheel Theatre Company; we are a new company, based in Oxford, and we combine racy new adaptations of Dickens and Zola with projects aimed specifically at schools. The Theatre workshops which we have done so far have been on Shakespeare. Last week we presented 'Government in Shakespeare', based mainly on 'Julius Caesar'. We take certain scenes from the play and 'rehearse' them or perform them to stimulate discussion, combining this with readings of source material or relevant Renaissance texts. Since leaving Brasenose last summer, I have been to India — spending three months sitting on the hard benches of trains as we crawled round that huge country. It was quite an experience to see so many centuries jumbled together in the cities, and to see real poverty in the rural areas. We were in Calcutta when Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated but luckily were not caught up in any riots

**Martin Butlin** (1940-47) who is Keeper of British Watercolours in the Tate Gallery, has been made a Fellow of the British Academy. Also he has been awarded a D. Litt. by London University as the result of an assessment of his William Blake Catalogue.

**David Vaisey** (1945-54) has been in N. America, S. Africa and Los Angeles since the summer of 1984. His recently published 'Diary of Thomas Turner, an 18 th Century Tradesman', has had many complimentary reviews.

*(The Editors are grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for permission to reprint these extracts from their 1985 Newsletter).*

# The Friends of Rendcomb

Established by Sir Louis Le Bailly, the 'Friends of Rendcomb College Trust' came formally into being on 5th June, 1984. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends listed below, the Trust now has £20,000 invested for income and capital growth by Messrs. Cazenove and a further £30,000 either in deposit account or promised.

Fortunately Sir Louis Le Bailly has agreed to continue as Chairman of Trustees for the present. The infant Trust Fund owes, and will continue to owe, a great deal to his skill and experience.

The prime aim of the Trust is to finance places at the College on the same basis as the Gloucestershire Foundation and Rendcomb Foundation Places. In our uncertain political climate the former of these may well be under threat; the Friends' Places can play a crucial part in maintaining the Founder's aims for Rendcomb, preserving the wide range of backgrounds from which pupils are drawn. It is this variety which has, over the years, given the school vitality and helped to build its exceptional character.

The first Friends of Rendcomb place has been awarded for September 1985. Our aim is to achieve seven such places, one to be awarded each year. I would ask anyone who has pleasant thoughts of Rendcomb to consider seriously becoming a Friend and helping preserve the essence of the School. If you can covenant we can reclaim tax, and forward planning is made easier. Contributions may be large or small; they all help.

D. de G. SELLS,  
*Trustee*

## FRIENDS OF RENDCOMB—DECEMBER 1984

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. G. Acocks  
Mr. S. J. D. Awdry  
Mr. R. B. Barrett  
Major P. D. Birchall C.B.E. D.L.  
Mr. M. Boase  
Dr. and Mrs. T. C. Bradford  
Mr. R. F. Butler  
Mr. P. J. Callaghan  
Mr. A. B. Campbell  
Mr. R. A. Cockrell  
Dr. P. E. Coffey  
Mr. P. W. Curtis-Hayward  
Dr. and Mrs. D. Dakin  
Mr. N. J. Dakin  
Mr. R. G. Daubeney

Major General Sir James d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Bt.,  
C.B., O.B.E., M.C.

Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid  
Mr. and Mrs. T. E. D. Eaton  
The Revd. and Mrs. T. C. Ekin  
Mr. M. H. Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Green

Mr. and Mrs. E. Grimley  
Mr. K. A. C. Gross, O.B.E., E.R.D., T.D.  
Mrs. H. M. Hanks  
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hibbard  
of Alexcars, Cirencester  
Mrs. M. Hughes-Hallett  
Mr. F. C. Hummel  
Mrs. K. L. James  
Mr. and Mrs. M. D. C. Jenks  
Mr. R. H. Jones  
Mr. J. C. Lane  
Vice Admiral Sir Louis le Bailly, K.B.E., C.B., D.L.  
Mr. A. S. Lewis  
Mr. R. M. Lewis  
Dr. P. Little  
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Mr. and Mrs. R. M. A. Medill  
Mr. M. J. Miles  
Mr. D. Montgomery  
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Mrs. A. Pedley  
Mr. A. O. H. Quick  
Mr. P. D. Quick  
Mr. I. H. Read  
Mr. J. H. K. Rose  
Mr. D. de G. Sells  
Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Sherwood  
Mr. A. Smith  
Mrs. J. Stainton  
Dr. K. A. Stewart  
Mr. J. M. Tyler  
Mrs. J. Uglow  
Mr. D. C. Vaughan  
Mr. A. G. B. Wallace  
Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Webb  
Mr. E. Webster  
Lord and Lady Wigram  
Mr. A. Wilcox  
Dr. and Mrs. A. M. M. Wilson  
Melksham Troop, Girl Guides  
Barclays Bank, Plc.  
Commercial Union Insurance, Ltd.  
Deloitte, Haskins and Sells  
Dowty Group, Ltd.  
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust  
The Gloucestershire Dairy, Ltd.  
Lloyds Bank, Pic.  
Midland Bank, Pic.  
National Westminster Bank, Plc.  
S. F. I. A. Educational Trust  
Trebtor, Ltd.



# Chairman's Founder's Day Speech May 25th, 1985

GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In the past few years you have become accustomed to hearing from our previous Chairman, Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly. The strength and inspiration which he gave to us during his Founder's Day Review was simply a reflection of the tremendous energy and work which he put in over the past four or five years to the re-organisation and renewal of Rendcomb College itself. All change has a bitter-sweet flavour about it, and I know how sad all of us here are at the retirement of Sir Louis from the position of Chairman of Governors. Nevertheless, we also have to be extremely grateful to him for the enormous amount which he has done for Rendcomb, and thankful that he has left the College in the excellent shape which it is today. At the age of 74, he felt the time had come for him to retire from the Chairmanship, and all of us miss him greatly.

As many of you will know, it was intended that, following Sir Louis' retirement, the next Chairman would be Admiral Sir Richard Clayton. Dick Clayton died in a motorcycle accident last September, when he was working himself in to take over as Chairman. His death came as a deep shock to all of us, and particularly those of us who had worked with him and who had learned to love and respect him as a friend and a very very wise and perceptive man. He is a great loss, not only to Rendcomb, but also of course to the many other interests to which he devoted his time.

I am afraid, therefore, that with the passing in different ways of these two fine and distinguished men, the Trustees and Governors asked me to take on the job of Chairman of Governors. Needless to say, it was with hesitation and some trepidation that I agreed to do it. Several factors weighed in my decision.

First of all, I have lived most of my life within two or three miles of Rendcomb College, and my family has lived here a good deal longer than that. The School in some way has been part of my life. Secondly, through having a daughter at the School a few years ago, I came to respect it and the values which it stood for. Thirdly, I have known Roger and Mary Medill for many years, and have always held them in the highest possible respect, both as friends and Roger in his professional capacity as Headmaster.

I had worked as a Governor and Chairman of the Future Policy Working Party, which has been working on plans for the development of Rendcomb, and through this I have become interested in the many projects which we have in mind to further improve this fine School.

Finally, I felt I owed it to both Sir Louis and Dick Clayton to do what I could to continue the work which they had so ably undertaken.

None of this leaves me in any doubt that I have a very hard act to follow, and my only comfort is that I have received the strong support of the Trustees and other Governors, and particularly Major Tom Wills, the Chairman of Trustees, and Noel Gibbs and Gordon Dunstan, who as Deputy Chairmen, and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Future Policy Working Party respectively, are shouldering a good deal of the workload. Professor Dunstan has taken on the Future Policy work with great energy and perception. I also believe that the Headmaster and the Bursar and I have a good working relationship, and I hope over the next few years to develop more closely the ties between the staff and the Governing body. Please be assured that we shall do everything we can to continue the development and further improvement of Rendcomb College for the benefit of all who are associated with it.

There are some other changes of which I must also advise you. Sir David Wills, Lord Dulverton and Major Peter Birchall have resigned as Governors and, in the case of Sir David and Lord Dulverton, also as Trustees. My mental arithmetic does not stretch to the task of adding up the number of years that these distinguished gentlemen have given to Rendcomb, but alas all three of them felt that they had reached the age when they should pass their responsibilities on to younger men, and I would like to place on record our thanks for the enormous contributions of time, enthusiasm, money and practical help which they have all given to Rendcomb in very large measure.

Mr. Martin Wills and Miss Catherine Wills have joined the Board of Trustees and also become Governors. We are very pleased to have their support, and Miss Catharine Wills has also joined our Future Policy Working Party.

Looking to the future, it is also my pleasure to tell you that we are starting the slow and careful job of appointing new outside Governors to our board. First of all, I am very pleased to announce that Mr. David Vaisey, a distinguished Old Rendcombian and at the moment Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford (and a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford) has kindly consented to join us as a Governor. Mr. Vaisey came and gave a talk to the Sixth Form last year on the subject of "Preserving our Heritage," and it is with great pleasure that I welcome him to our ranks. I know that his help and influence will be of great benefit to the School.

Our second appointment as Governor is Mrs. Liz Bonham. I have known Liz and her family my whole life. With a Scottish mother and an American father, she combines the intellect and caniness of the Scots with the New World's drive and enthusiasm. I am so pleased that she has consented to

join us. For many years now she has been helping the College in a number of ways, and I know she will make a considerable contribution to us as a Governor.

Thirdly, a further distinguished Old Rendcombian and a father of two pupils in the School, Mr. Stephen Merrett, has also consented to become a Governor. We are grateful to him for taking time from a highly successful business career as one of the country's leading insurance underwriters, to help us. Parents may remember his organising the recapture of a wayward satellite, recently reported in the press and on television.

Now having three distinguished Old Rendcombians as Governors must further strengthen the bonds between the School and its former pupils.

Mr. Anthony Quick, whom many of us remember as a distinguished previous Headmaster of Rendcomb and who is on the point of retiring as Headmaster of Bradfield College, has also agreed to become a Governor. His wide experience, as well as his special knowledge of Rendcomb, will be a great help to us.

I must be careful not to steal the Headmaster's text, but there are a number of developments which I would like to bring to your attention. As you know, we completed last year the building of 11 new study bedrooms and we are now working on a number of other important capital projects. Work has already started on a fine new computer complex which will come into operation this autumn and provide, for the benefit of the School, a totally modern and up-to-date computer training facility which will be of great benefit to our pupils. This development was prompted by Lord Swann's academic review of Rendcomb, and since almost the whole of modern business life seems to revolve around the computer, we felt that we had a duty to provide the very best facilities available.

Last year, Major Tom Wills generously donated to us the land area known as Landage, which is beyond the stable block. This is now being levelled and converted, with the financial support of the Trustees, into a new sports field. Major Wills has done this in memory of his grandmother, Mrs. Sinclair, and all of us have reason to be thankful to both of them for their generosity. For the first time, there will be a sports field much closer to the School than the playing fields, and this will be a very useful new facility.

We have also just resurfaced two tennis courts which the School badly needed, and these courts will enable the enthusiasm and high standard of tennis which have been developed at Rendcomb to continue, since they are to championship standards.

I am also able to announce that, among the other projects which we have been considering for some time, we have decided to make some fundamental changes in the dining and food arrangements of

the College. I realise that this is a fairly emotive subject for the members of the School, but when all the changes are complete, we believe that even the pupils will be happy with the wider choice that will be available, and the new eating arrangements. This will take the form first of all of the appointment of a professional firm of caterers to run the food and the kitchens. After careful review we have appointed Messrs. Fairfield to undertake this job, and they will start their duties in September. I would like to place on record our thanks to Mavis Mezo, because she has done a tremendous job with slender resources on what has been really only a part-time basis.

Following the appointment of our new catering manager, we shall also re-equip the kitchens and dining room so as to change over to a full self-service system. We envisage that this work will be complete in about a year's time.

A beneficial side effect of this will be that at long last we can provide a proper Common Room for our Staff.

These are only a few of the many major improvements which we have in mind as soon as resources allow. But I should also add that we are continually improving the basic fabric of the School in a whole range of other minor ways, as we are conscious of the need to continue to provide the best services and facilities available.

The Headmaster will be telling us more about the academic achievements of the School, but perhaps he would allow me to congratulate him and the Staff for the outstanding results achieved in the Oxford and Cambridge Entrance Examinations last November. This, of course, is only one standard by which these things can be judged, but it was an all-time record for the School and really just symptomatic of the very high standards of education which are achieved in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form, of course, is only the final progression of the other forms in the School, and therefore really we have a lot to be proud of in terms of the academic record of the School as a whole.

A lot of the information on which we are basing the continuing work for change and improvement in the School comes from the parental survey which we carried out two years ago. This has proved an invaluable source, and we are continuing to reflect with these changes the views which you expressed to us through that survey. A small example of this is the change in the arrangements for the exeats, which were a direct result of what you have told us.

Another change which responded to your views is the formation of the Parents' Association. I would particularly like to thank those Parents who have devoted their time and energies to getting the Parents' Association off the ground, and to thank them for what they are doing. It is my own and the Governors' policy to do everything we can to

strengthen the ties between the Parents and the School, as the more we can work together, the stronger the school becomes.

With Sir Louis Le Bailly's help and aided by the inspired enthusiasm and hard work of David Sells, the Friends of Rendcomb have raised a considerable sum of money for the benefit of the School. At the moment they have achieved a cash balance of £20,000 with commitments of a further £30,000, and this has enabled us to give the first 'Friends of Rendcomb' Bursary to a pupil who will enter the School next September. I would particularly like to thank all who have participated for their very valuable contributions. It is our ambition to build up these resources so that we can further extend our Bursaries and thereby continue to fulfil Noel Wills' original vision of drawing our pupils from a wide spectrum of society.

I should also add that the Old Rendcombian Association is active, and a dinner was organised in January, which was well attended and much enjoyed by all those present.

Having tried to tell you about some of the changes which have taken place, and to reassure you that the Governors and the staff are working together to continue the improvement of the School in every sense, I guess you have a right to know what my own views are on the fundamentals of education.

Personally, I regret the fact that there is a necessity for a private and public sector of education, totally divorced from each other. This is why I welcome very much the valuable contribution that Mr. Keith Anderson, Chief Gloucestershire Education Officer, makes to our Board of Governors, as well as to our Future Policy and Academic Review Bodies. In common with many others, I would like to see an educational system for the country where we did not have to justify the existence of an independent sector by pointing to the perfectly proper rights which we all have to spend our resources as we wish. It may be merely a pious hope, but I look forward to the day when the public sector is able to give, throughout its huge domain, a uniformly high standard of education, such that, in the end, class barriers and educational barriers may finally be broken down.

Until that day arrives, the independent sector must provide the best possible education and the best facilities that it can to all those who wish to exercise their choice in such a way as to take advantage of them.

I have always been attracted to the Rendcomb education, because it does not slavishly lay down pressures of competition in sports or in academic matters so as to encourage in our pupils an over-aggressive competitive sense of achievement week-by-week against each other. There are moments when obviously we are delighted to compete with other schools, and indeed within the School on

certain occasions, but at least all those who study at Rendcomb are encouraged to take a rather broader view of what life's true values really are.

I share the ambition that we should help to educate the young men and young women who leave Rendcomb in such a way that they have a clear, solid basis of values, both moral and educational; that they should have learned the benefits of applying real enthusiasm and energy to the causes in which they believe, that they should feel that nothing is impossible if they go after it, and with all this that they should not take life so seriously that they don't enjoy it on the way through.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have spoken for far too long, but before I close I would like to pay a tribute to Roger Medill, to Edward Thring the Bursar, to Bill White the Deputy Headmaster and to all the staff for the great effort and enthusiasm which they put in to running the School, and to all our Students who (with only very occasional lapses) represent the School with great distinction.

## The Headmaster's Report

In welcoming you all, I welcome especially on your behalf our Guest of honour, Mr. John Garnett, for 23 years the dynamic Director of the Industrial Society.

The granting of a Royal Charter by the Queen on February 20th this year was a tribute to the increasing influence of this organisation and to the man who has directed it for nearly half of its existence.

It's an odd paradox that while our prosperity and standard of living depend entirely on the wealth we create, too many of our ablest school leavers and graduates ignore the challenge of a business career.

We are unique in being an industrial nation with an anti-industrial culture.

Talking to members of the Sixth Form after last term's Industrial Conference, I was impressed to see how even in that short time interest had been stimulated and fresh points of view had emerged. We look forward to hearing more about the Challenge of Industry.

A sad irony is that it was Admiral Sir Richard Clayton, with his keen interest in personnel management who suggested Mr. Garnett as our speaker, and we remember him today with affection, gratitude and respect; but at least he would be glad to know that we were thinking of a vital subject so close to his heart.

And having mentioned Sir Richard Clayton, I would like to add my appreciation to the Chairman's valedictory words about Sir Louis Le Bailly. His energy was boundless, his enthusiasm infectious, and his very personal style and eye for detail brought him into close contact with everybody, and with every aspect of Rendcomb life. We owe him a great debt for his tireless work for the School, and his continuing efforts with the 'Friends of Rendcomb' which I warmly commend to you all. May I at this point throw out a random suggestion? That when the long years of fee paying come to an end and your sons and daughters leave us you may not only breathe a sigh of financial relief, but consider a farewell gesture. Most people who leave Rendcomb have enjoyed some happiness and success, and a covenant of whatever amount would help to ensure that the school can enable others to share these things in the future. Mr. Sells will be writing to you, and I do hope that you may feel able to respond.

It seems to me appropriate that in the year of Mr. Garnett's visit we should welcome as our new Chairman a highly successful businessman whose enterprise carries him into all the major markets of the world and whose thriving factory in Swindon has contributed, among many others, to making

that town the most rapidly expanding in Europe.

1986 is designated as Industry Year, and we look forward to extending further our contacts with local firms by means of yearly Careers Conventions, the work experience we arrange for Fifth formers, and the lower sixth mock interviews which the Parents' Association plans to organise for the first time this year.

I must take this opportunity of thanking those Parents who have supported the Association during its first year and particularly the members of your committee. I'm confident that this pooling of ideas will provide great support for the school, as well as help and guidance to parents in various ways.

Now, turning to Education, perhaps you have heard of that ancient Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times.' In teaching today the times are so interesting that you have to echo the Red Queen: 'It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place'.

**New exams** at 18 on the horizon — will the Universities have any truck with AS levels? Only time will tell.

**New exams** to Oxford and Cambridge — exasperatingly different of course. Admittedly, we did gain a record number of 9 places and an Exhibition this year so perhaps we shouldn't complain too loudly. But the ancient Universities will have to fall into step before long, and the sooner the better.

Then, all the new courses — we are bombarded with initials: Y.T.S., T.V.E.I., C.P.V.E., I.N.S.E.T., G.C.S.E.

However, putting aside the jargon and the technicalities, I nail my colours to the mast by saying that the new single examination at 16, G.C.S.E., which our first candidates will be sitting in 1988, is a step in the right direction.

The 'O' level examination has suited us pretty well — so well in fact that I almost forgot to mention our average of about 8 passes per pupil, scored again this year — but what a waste of resources it has been to have two separate examinations. The system has often caused distress and resentment, and it has in some measure reflected the divisions and tensions in our society. Another good reason for the change is what Sir Keith Joseph calls his anti-clutter movement; the learning of quantities of unrelated facts and a slavish reliance on the memory. My clearest memory of clutter takes me back to my Prep. School where the Headmaster used to teach History Dates. He didn't teach History, but he had this sinister Black Book which contained 100 History Dates, which everybody in the school had to learn for the yearly Test. It was one of those crazy obsessions Headmasters tend to suffer from. 20 questions and if you got less than 5 right you were summoned the same evening in





Scottish Isle

Photo: J. Kook

your pyjamas for execution. I remember vividly waiting my turn outside his study listening to the strokes of the cane.

Another example of the same thing is illustrated by the little girl, who, when asked 'What did you learn at school to-day?' replied 'I think I learnt rather more than I need to know about penguins'.

I need hardly say that clutter is not a part of the History teaching at Rendcomb, nor do penguins figure largely in the curriculum; and the changes brought by G.C.S.E. for us will probably be more in emphasis than in substance. But these changes will, I believe, be beneficial;

the aims are: *more* learning by exploration and discussion;

*more* teaching of practical and applicable skills;  
*more* stress on articulate oral, as well as written expression and

*more* assessment during the course and less in the examination room.

So it seems that the stranglehold of academic

examinations is to be weakened; the emphasis on personal, social and practical skills strengthened. But I would like to reassure parents that our firm grip on high results will not be relaxed. And in fact, I see these changes as a further extension of many of the things we already do. For a few examples, look at this term's Calendar, Form 1 exploring the Romans at Chedworth, Form 2 Norman Castles in Wales, Form 3 got quite dirty down a coalmine last Sunday, 4 head for London later this term, 5 should learn something from work experience, 6 from Historic houses and Theatre visits.

This in addition to all the practical and imaginative work in wood and clay and paint, of which you've seen some examples today, the Biology and Geography field trips, Community Service, Estate work, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and so on. A great deal of learning does go on outside the classroom.

And looking further afield, the school trip to Russia provided a fascinating culture shock to those who went. One more thing — our sincere thanks to the Old Rendcombian Society for the new travel bursaries. Travel is a valuable part of education and helps to eliminate the sort of Newspaper headline

we used to expect: 'Fog in English Channel; Continent isolated'.

I've spoken of national needs and I'm sure that Mr. Garnett will enlarge upon this theme, but the purposes of education remain rooted in the development of the individual. In a boarding school like Rendcomb there are endless opportunities for self-fulfilment and for service, and it's sad to see these chances neglected by some people — not many, but a few — in spite of the encouragement of House-masters and Tutors and the support of Parents. We must keep working at it together, and I hope that our new system of establishing yearly profiles for every member of the School, a process in which each boy and girl will be asked to participate by self-assessment, may encourage a greater personal awareness of progress and achievement.

This leads me on to speak more generally of the School and the two obvious developments you've seen this morning. The new Computer room will be available next term not only for Computer Studies and Projects but for the teaching of any subject.

I must confess to regarding Computers up to now as implacably user-hostile — to me, that is. I've always regarded I.B.M. as meaning 'It's Better Manually'. As I glanced idly the other day at a computer magazine with the engaging title of Beebug, my eye fell upon the bland opening words of an article which read 'Most of us have some simple understanding of Cartesian Co-ordinates... 'Well, not all of us actually...

However, the time has obviously come for me to make a conciliatory move, and it's only ten days since our English Department hosted a meeting of English masters from a dozen local H.M.C. Schools when the first half hour was devoted to a talk by our resident expert (followed by a lively discussion) on the use of computers in the teaching of English.

But of course the great success, of which you've read either in the local press or in your programme is that our team of 3 Computer buffs, 15, 16 and 17 year olds, have so far in the British Computer Society Quiz defeated all comers. It was creditable enough to win the area final against the local schools, but to go on to beat the other 5 area winners in the Home Counties Final, knocking out first Bedford School, last year's winners, and then St. Paul's School, was a remarkable achievement. We meet opponents from the seven other regions in the National Final at Reading University on July nth.

And the second development, the fine level stretch of Landage field which we look forward to using, prompts a few reflections about the year's sport.

Of the rugby season I would say that '84's were not quite a vintage year, but stronger than the '83's and with, more than a hint of promise for '85's.

I remember a comment from the rugby coach of our strongest opponents who fielded a huge scrum from whom we nonetheless won a considerable amount of ball. He said: 'We had the beef; you had the intelligence': well, judge for yourself which you'd prefer. Another touch-line remark I liked, partly because it mirrored the intense activity in front of us, but partly also because it coined a word new to the English Language, was 'Your chaps are small, but they're very goey'. I wouldn't mind that as a three word description of Rendcomb 'small but goey'. And what could be better than a school where the boys are goey and the girls are comely?

Last term was the first Hockey season when our extended top field came into play. Nine pitches beckoned invitingly and were used whenever possible, but the snow and frost wouldn't leave us alone this year. It was on March 16th that a record was to be broken — eleven matches against other schools on one day, but alas it was not to be. Interspersed with the tobogganing we did have a surprising amount of enjoyable sport, but a number of our opponents now have all-weather hockey pitches, which does tend to give them an advantage in practice and in matches.

As to cricket, we seem to be better at knocking spots off our opponents' bowling than prising their last two or three batsmen out of the crease. However, we continue to turn out keen sides who more than hold their own and if, you want to see how the game should be played, visit the top field for a cup of tea on a match day — preferably sunny and windless. Alternatively, may I recommend two exhibition matches to be played there this term: Sunday June 9th, North Cerney v the Barbados High Commission and Saturday June 30th, Parents v. The Staff. Big hitting to be looked for on both occasions.

The new tennis courts speak for themselves — rather loudly at present, but they'll soon tone down, — and they are a great asset to our large tennis contingent. Good prizes to be won in the Parent/Child Tennis Tournament on July 7th.

I was glad to see that one of Mr. Garnett's leisure pursuits is sailing, because I have to report what can only be described as a quantum leap in our sailing provision owing to generous loans from parents. We now have six dinghies at South Cerney where sail-boarding is also popular, but there's also the splendid addition of a six-berth boat, the Pampero, at our disposal, moored on the river Exe. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Scarlett for this marvellous opportunity, and I gather that its choppy maiden voyage for the school provided some novel experiences for the crew.

I note that another of Mr. Garnett's interests is Timber Construction, so he may have noted some advanced specimens in the woodwork display. The Art and Design work is also of particular interest this year, as it's the first time ever, I believe, that two boys have gained entrance to Art School in one year, and on the basis of their portfolios alone.

Our concert last Sunday celebrated the tercentenary of Handel's birth, and very attractive it was; it was a pleasure to meet so many parents at the social occasion beforehand, and the church made a perfect setting. But pride of place this year must go to two unusual musical events — first a fine performance of Beethoven's piano concerto No. 1, accompanied by our orchestra, the first time that such a work has been played by a member of staff; and second, the visit of the Behala Boys' orchestra from Calcutta, who stayed the night at Rendcomb and gave us a unique and delightful performance of classical and Indian music and dancing.

'If music be the food of love, play on' — the well known words which opened an entertaining performance of Twelfth Night this year, and the final words:

'But that's all one, our play is done —...'

We say goodbye at the end of this term to three of our younger members of staff: Paul Edwards, Simon Johnson and Belinda Dennis. Collectively they have served for 10 years — we'd have liked a little longer of course, — but their contribution has been tremendous: History, English, French, Oxford coaching, cricket, rugby, hockey, netball, tutoring, drama, library, magazine — the list could go on with all the other tasks that come along and need the willing co-operation of energetic people.

All three are joining well known London schools and there is no doubt that Harrow, St. Dunstan's and Mill Hill are getting more than they bargained for. Perhaps I could have phrased that better, but it's only when people leave that you start to reckon up the gaps that need to be covered.

Congratulations to them on the first-rate jobs they have secured against strong opposition, but may we share a little of the credit? I believe that Rendcomb provides a stimulating training ground not only for pupils, but for staff, Headmaster and — may I say — Governors. To replace these varied talents is not easy, but we've had over 150 applicants in all for the three posts, and I have appointed a Cambridge exhibitioner to teach History, a graduate from Lancaster University (who hopes shortly to be awarded his research Doctorate) to teach French and a graduate from York to teach English.

Another major change in September will be Mr. Knapp's retirement as Housemaster of the Junior House. It would be hard to overestimate the importance of this job in the Old Rectory, where eleven year olds have their first taste of boarding school. It needs a very special mixture of under-

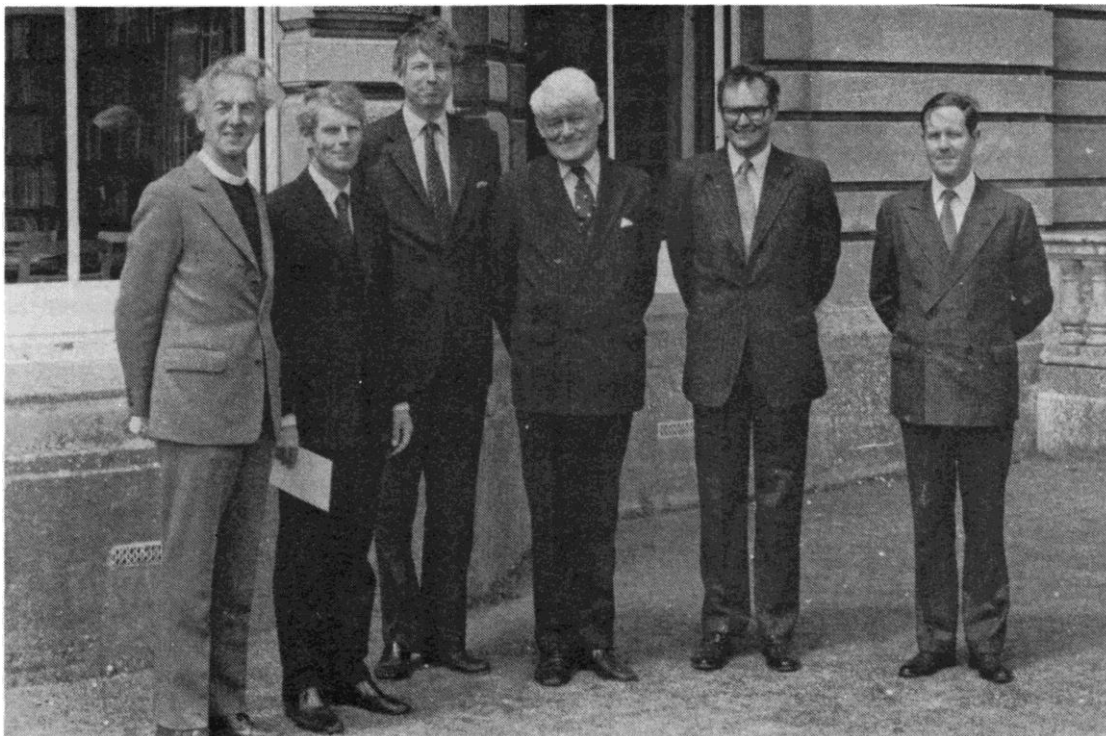
standing, firmness and concern to create secure conditions for the young to grow steadily in confidence and independence. Kaye and Margaret with remarkable and wholehearted commitment for 19 years have created a friendly and marvellously stable environment and many hundreds of parents and Old Boys, I know, share my gratitude to them.

I have every confidence that Chris and Penny Wood will continue this tradition in their own way.

Now in conclusion, I ask you to reflect upon all the dedicated and professional skills applied here during the past year — with governing, teaching, caring, cooking, administering, maintaining, cleaning, over 100 people are involved, and that's a staffing ratio of two fifths of a person per pupil.

It's recorded that a visitor to the Vatican, watching the staff hurry to and fro, turned to the Pope and asked "How many people work here?" To which he replied 'about half'...

Let me assure you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that everybody at Rendcomb works long and hard, and I offer to all, on your behalf as well as my own, my warmest thanks.



Prof. Dunstan, Headmaster, Chairman, Mr. John Garnett, Mr. N. Gibbs and Maj. T. Wills

*Photo: M. Rann*

## Summary of The Address by Mr. John Garnett, C. B. E. Chairman of the Industrial Society

Mr. John Garnett gave an extremely interesting speech, in which he communicated his enthusiasm for Industry most effectively. His vigour and commitment were infectious. Speaking very directly to the pupils, he told of the challenges which are presented to young people if they choose Industry as a career, and of the need for capable, dynamic leadership. If jobs are to be provided and wealth created, Industry must thrive and profits increase. Able men *and* women are needed in British Industry and must not shirk the challenge. These were his basic messages. However, Mr. Garnett spoke with such fire and enthusiasm, that a summary of his speech could never do him justice. All of us were entertained by and interested in what he had to say; some were also inspired. The speech was refreshing and thought-provoking, serious in content, but with many humorous touches. Mr. Garnett controlled his audience superbly. He was given a long and well deserved round of applause at the end.

TIM ROBINSON

## Speech of thanks by the Head Prefect, Ben Uglow

It is my privilege to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Garnett for his challenging speech. He has reinforced much of what we learned from last term's conference—a much greater understanding of the needs of our Industrial Society. He has given us a great deal to think about.

To convey my feelings about a place as unique as Rendcomb is no easy task. I think friendship has been the major aspect of my years here. For some this Founder's Day brings our time at the school near to a close. However, friendships made at Rendcomb are made to last — the strength of the Old Rendcombian Society shows this to be so. A school should provide a social as well as academic education; to be an active member of a lively community was the first lesson I had at Rendcomb. I particularly enjoyed my two years in the Old Rectory, and Mr. Knapp will remain in my mind as one of the great characters of Rendcomb.

Because of the school's size, everybody gets to know everyone else. Remote as it is, we can study in an ideal work environment. There are many challenges to be met, but opportunities seem enhanced by the relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Of course there are disputes and clashes of opinion, but one learns how to argue, and how to handle problems. In my experience the school has recognised individual achievement and encouraged pupils to contribute to the community. I certainly feel I have gained a lot here. In spite of changes, I think Rendcomb retains the qualities that Noel Wills admired. Mr. Garnett, thank you most warmly for visiting us to-day.

## Two Interviews

To compare the service to Rendcomb rendered by Major Birchall and Sir Louis Le Bailly is impossible because they were so different; we must simply record our heartfelt thanks to both of them.

Major Birchall, a governor for over 30 years, brought a lifetime's experience and a particular knowledge of county affairs to bear on the gradual growth and development of the School. During this time, under three Headmasters, Rendcomb trebled in size, with all the changes and additions that this involved. Major Birchall was dedicated to the School and there is no doubt that his influence and judgement were invaluable during these years. He concluded his service with three years as Chairman before ill health compelled him to hand over the task to Sir Louis.

Sir Louis, having agreed to a 5-year term of office, set about it with zest, and rapidly acquainted himself with everything that went on in the School and particularly the people in it. His first concerns were to set up Governors' financial and future policy committees, to clarify the relationship between Trustees and Governors, and to appoint a Bursar. Highlights were the official opening of the completely renovated conservatory as the Dulverton Hall by Prince and Princess Michael of Kent; the provision of additional study bedrooms and classrooms; and the proposal of the new Computer teaching room, now completed. Sir Louis responded warmly to the Founder's original ideas and was keen to ensure that they were maintained. It was for this reason that he founded the Friends of Rendcomb with its primary aim of providing additional Foundation places; we greatly value this organisation over which Sir Louis Le Bailly still presides.

R. M. A. M.

## Major Peter Birchall

D. G. How did you first become associated with Rendcomb?

P. B. I'd known the Wills family for a long time. Then after the war Mrs. Sinclair invited me to become a Governor, which I willingly did. By that time I was a member of the County Council and likely to become Chairman of the County Education Board.

B. U. What were your first impressions of Rendcomb?

P. B. Immediately I was surprised by and interested in the place. I knew the first Headmaster, Mr. Simpson, very well. He told me about the early days. Also I knew what Noel Wills' ideas were in creating the endowment and forming the school. He was an idealist, a visionary, and yet also a practical man. I was delighted to be linked with Rendcomb.

D. G. To what extent did the character of the earlier Headmasters shape the Rendcomb of today?

P. B. Mr. Simpson was keen on drama and on the Public Works programme. In many ways he was ahead of his time in being a liberal in his thinking about school life and discipline. He was followed by Mr. Lee-Browne, who was in some ways rather similar. He was also very keen on practical work. Both men felt that this must be a place where you are free to grow with guidance, but never control. The concept which Noel Wills, had of boys at the school from different backgrounds, they both fully subscribed to. For example, each boy had the same pocket-money, and they were all clothed by the school. The aim was to make it clear that it made no difference whether your father owned a Rolls-Royce or a bicycle or neither. That was the theme.

B. U. Some say that 'small is beautiful'. Do you think that Rendcomb was more beautiful as well as smaller then?

P. B. I think there's a lot to be said for that idea. My school, Eton College, though large, was broken into houses of 40-50 boys. Originally at Rendcomb there were fewer than 50 boys.

D. G. How has the role of the Governing Body changed during your time?

P. B. I don't think it changed much until Sir Louis Le Bailly became Chairman of Governors. I helped to find my successor, whom we wanted to come from outside the school. We were lucky to find the Admiral. He has introduced many changes.

B. U. What have been the most significant changes in your time as a Governor?

P. B. There have been two very major ones. First, the increase in the size of the school, secondly admitting girls. To some extent these two went together. However, there has been no change in the ethos of the school.

D. G. What was your most important achievement as a Governor?

P. B. I think it was to continue the link with the County Education Authority. There was always a risk that the County Council would say that they were not going to support boys at Rendcomb any longer.

D. G. Do you think that the aims and ambitions of the pupils have changed?

P. B. I think there is more ambition now. Also there are a greater number of options open to pupils. You are now more mobile, and that has been a great help.

D. G. Do you have any special hopes for Rendcomb in the future?

P. B. My hope would be that the ethos of Noel Wills should continue. Politically, you see a divided nation. However, Rendcomb does foster a sense of community, of living together, of people of different interests and ambitions getting along well with each other. I don't wish to see any revolutionary changes; rather, a development of what we are already doing.





**Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly and Major P. D. Birchall**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

## Sir Louis Le Bailly

D. G. What inspired you to join the Navy? Was it a conscious decision on your part, or were you prompted by your parents?

L. L. B. It's a long story, but at the age of four three things happened to me. I was taken on board HMS Lion by my uncle, and my grandmother gave me a book 'The ABC of The Navy' which began: 'A is for Admiral'! Also, at my birthday party, I was pushed into a pond in my grandmother's garden and rather enjoyed it. Those three, added to my parents' belief that the Navy was a poor man's profession and to the fact that they were almost bankrupt after the First World War, led to my entering the Navy. I never wavered. Oakley Hall, the prep school in Cirencester, was also keen on the Navy.

D. G. How influential was the Navy in developing your character?

L. L. B. To begin with, the Dartmouth education, when I was there, was rather anti-character-forming. You were taught totally to conform. Everything was laid down as 'holy writ' by the Navy. However, when I became an engineer I received four years' training at the Naval Engineering College from people with a much wider outlook than the officers and masters at Dartmouth. You had to think for yourself. Also I was taken, with others, by a most

remarkable naval chaplain to Jarrow during the depression, to help with things up there, and he took us to listen to Dick Sheppard, who preached in St. Martin's in the Fields and the Heritage Craft Schools for Disabled Children at Chailey. We did Community Service—quite a novel thing in those days—and it opened my eyes.

K. A. After the war, how much did your work in intelligence contribute to your administrative experience?

L. L. B. Well, of course, my intelligence work was

done a long time after the war. My function as Director-General was once described as 'to tell those who won't listen all the things they don't want to know.' I'm not sure it contributed to my administrative expertise. What it did was to stretch such expertise as I had already acquired to the limit, because my task was to co-ordinate five separate intelligence services, which had hitherto been different parishes.

D. G. Moving back to the Second World War, how did that change your views and attitudes?

L. L. B. The war upset most of the preconceived notions that the Navy had. By the end it was composed of 800,000 people. It has 60,000 now and had about 80-90,000 before the war. You had this enormous injection of people from civilian life with totally different points of view. I finished the war in the Far East. Discounting the Captain and

Commander, the average age of the whole ship's company was 24-25. To some extent the Navy had been apt to live on its great tradition and not up to it. The war changed my perspectives. My own group at Dartmouth was 45 strong in 1939; at the end of the war there were 20 left.

K. A. Do any particular experiences stand out?

L. L. B. Being sunk, torpedoed, and swimming off into the night is the one that sticks out most vividly. That occurred when we were returning from running through a convoy to Malta in 1942. The other incident was being one of the first people allowed into Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the bomb had dropped. That was horrifying.

D. G. Were you aware of Rendcomb when at Oakley Hall?

L. L. B. Very much so. Mr. Jones, who taught us French, was an old Rendcombian. Also, I was at Oakley Hall with David Wills.

K. A. What were your first impressions of the school when you became involved with it?

L. L. B. Well, in the late seventies when I first became a Governor, the Headmaster made it very easy for me to meet the prefects and the officers of the General Meeting. I was much impressed with the outlook and ability to talk rationally that your predecessors possessed, and I have been equally impressed since. I visited many schools when I was a Schools Liaison Officer, and in many of them I didn't find these abilities anything like so much in evidence.

D. G. What decided you to become a Governor of Rendcomb?

L. L. B. David Wills decided it. He knew I had just retired and wrote to me asking if I would like to become a Governor. I am sure now that it was his intention that, if I proved satisfactory, he would try and lure me into becoming Chairman of the Governing Body.

K. A. What do you consider to be the most important achievement during your chairmanship?

L. L. B. I don't think any of it is personal achievement. But between us we have managed to make every penny count. The work of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Future Policy Working Party has been invaluable. And perhaps I helped by suggesting these innovations, and of course the Bursar. Also the role of the Friends of Rendcomb will be important. We've raised upwards of £50,000 on deposit and promised.

D. G. How important do you think it is for Rendcomb to maintain the ideals of its Founder, Noel Wills?

L. L. B. Most important. I do think it's a pity we haven't yet got the General Meeting off the ground. I realise that there are problems with this, but that is the one thing that perhaps hasn't been fully maintained.

D. G. What particular developments should Rendcomb aim to foster in the individual?

L. L. B. I fully realise the value of an academic education and the acquisition of knowledge. But I would like to see that side of anyone's character offset a bit more by activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. I am sure that it is important to test people outside the classroom. One needs to push people beyond where they think they can go, physically and mentally. I am sure that this develops character. Also, Community Service is vital.

K. A. Do you think that the need for academic qualifications makes an 'A' level education far too narrow?

L. L. B. I think there is that difficulty, and I think that is what Sir Keith Joseph is fighting against. It is obvious that qualifications are needed, however, to get to university, but once there students should already have the impulse to look at the wider world.

D. G. What are your views on the youth of today?

L. L. B. It is very difficult to generalise here. I find that, in society as a whole, the move away from the Church and towards cults and sects is interesting and perhaps worrying. The temptations open to young people in America in the 1960s and in Britain today were and are very considerable. If one can hold on to some kind of faith, it can be of the greatest help to young people. I'm not sure that at the moment the drift away from the Church is not being reversed. I hope it is. Boys and girls have not altered, but there are many more different paths open to them that they can go down. You have a more difficult job nowadays.

K. A. Are there any experiences which young people might have had in your day which they are now missing?

L. L. B. No. On the contrary, we lived in a much more enclosed world. There was no thought of seeing, through the media, the horrors equivalent to Bhopal or Ethiopia. So you have more difficulties to cope with than we did.

D. G. Is it a good idea to shelter people from the outside world?

L. L. B. Somebody who left Rendcomb twenty years ago once said to me 'Of course, Rendcomb was like Tibet before the Chinese came.' I don't think it is at all like that now. You are not under-exposed to current issues and problems, embryology for example. Rendcomb does very well in the way of presenting many of the different aspects of the world that you will live in. For me, Rendcomb has got something that many other schools haven't got. Don't lose sight of the place when you go. We have among Old Rendcombians a Director of Warburg's, the Keeper of the Turners at the Tate, a member of the Committee of Lloyds, an Editor of the Financial Times and the Chairman of one of the great advertising firms. The Friends of Rendcomb is gradually pulling people in, and that's a very good thing for those who will follow you.

# Academic Results

## HONOURS

We congratulate the following:

MARIA BITNER-GLINDZICZ (1979-81)	1st Class Honours, University College Hospital School of Medicine, London
IAN BISHOP (1978-83)	Pre-Clinical Scholarship in Dental Sciences, Birmingham University
MARTIN BUTLIN (1940-47)	D. Litt., London University As a result of an assessment of his William Blake catalogue
PHILIP EVANS (1972-79)	1st Class Honours, Chemistry, Pembroke College, Oxford
ROBERT PRYNNE	Exhibition, Metallurgy, Trinity College, Oxford
PAUL IRVING (Cranham Church of England School)	Noel Wills Scholarship
THERESA FOX (Pate's Grammar School)	Girl's Scholarship
JOHN WHEELER (Ferndale School, Faringdon)	Major Scholarship
JAMES SLEEMAN (Anne Edwards School, South Cerney)	Minor Scholarship
JULIAN MADELEY (Hydesville Tower School, Walsall)	Minor Scholarship
JAMES THRIVES (St. John's on the Hill, Chepstow)	Minor Scholarship
ANDREW POLLARD (Anne Edwards School, South Cerney)	Rendcomb Foundation Scholarship
JAMES GRAFTON (Minchinhampton Parochial School)	Friends of Rendcomb Scholarship
DAVID PEARCE (Rose Hill School, Alderley)	Services Bursary

## GLoucestershire Foundation Places:

GRAHAM BENNETT (Bourton-on-the-Water Primary School)  
GARETH DAVIES (Monkscroft Junior School, Cheltenham)  
NATHAN HOUSEMAN (Coates Church of England School)  
ANTHONY PALIN (Dursley Church of England School)  
NICHOLAS SMITH (Didbrook Primary School)

## ‘A’ Level

The following results were obtained in G.C.E. examinations at ‘A’ level this summer:

Darrell Adshead—English, German, Public Affairs.  
 Karen Alder—English\*, Maths\*(M), Physics\*(M)  
 Benjamin Almond—French(M), German\*, Chemistry.  
 Vanessa Andreis—English, History, French, Italian\*.  
 Karen Arnold—English.  
 Paul Attwood—History, Geography, Biology.  
 John Awdry—History, Public Affairs.  
 Alexandra Aylott—English, Art\*.  
 Claire Bichard—Maths\*(M), Physics, Chemistry(D).  
 Duncan Brown—History, French\*(D), German.  
 Jeremy Butling—Physics, Chemistry, Biology.  
 Christopher Carpenter—Physics, Chemistry, Biology.  
 Karl Cloutman—Chemistry.  
 Samantha Evans—History\*, French.  
 Victoria Finney—English\*(M), History\*(M), Public Affairs.  
 Beverley Foote—English\*, History.  
 David George—English, German.  
 Andrew Hall—Maths, Physics, Chemistry.  
 Colin Harris—Geography.  
 Barnaby Hatcher—English, Public Affairs.  
 Sara Hawkswell—Physics, Chemistry, Biology.  
 Michael Hicks—Chemistry, Art.  
 Nicholas Hoare—History, Geography, Maths.  
 Margaret Howard—History\*, French, Biology\*.  
 Carey Jenkins—Geography\*, Chemistry, Biology.  
 James Kinch—Maths, Physics, Chemistry.  
 Juliette Loehry—Physics, Chemistry.  
 Justine Loehry—English, French, German.  
 Robert McIntyre—Physics, Chemistry, Biology\*.  
 Stewart McIntyre—Maths, Physics, Chemistry.  
 Josephine Merrett—English, History, French.  
 Jonathan Morris—English\*(D), History\*, French\*(D), German.  
 Stuart Newell—History(D), Maths, Public Affairs(M).  
 Matthew Newman—English, Maths.  
 Simon Noyes—English\*, History, Public Affairs.  
 Paul Partridge—Maths, Physics, Chemistry.  
 Jane Perkins—History, Maths, Public Affairs.  
 Robert Prynne—Maths\*, Physics\*(M), Chemistry\*(M).  
 Kathryn Rowe—English\*, French, German.  
 Ellen Rutherford—English, Public Affairs.  
 William Tong—Maths(D), Physics, Chemistry.  
 Benedict Uglow—Physics, Chemistry, Biology(D).  
 Suzanne Whybrow—Maths, Physics, Chemistry\*.  
 Fiona Wilkins—Geography.  
 David Wilson—Maths, Chemistry.

Key: \*—‘A’ grade, (D)—Distinction in Special Paper, (M)—Merit in Special Paper.

## ‘O’ Level

The following results were obtained in GCE examinations at ‘O’ and ‘AO’ level this summer:

Nicholas Badcott—E, m, CT  
 Mark Bailey—CS  
 Nicholas Blackshaw—m, CT  
 Alistair Brain—A, ct  
 Thomas Branston—FF  
 Sarra Butler—CT  
 Katherine Conway—CT, FF  
 Matthew Cordeux—ct, LL  
 Rachel Daniels—AM, CT, FF  
 Darren Denby—CS, AM, CT  
 Alan Doyle—AM, ct  
 David Edwin—AM, ct  
 Kevin Elderfield—LL  
 Caroline Eldridge—FF  
 Claire Ellis—ct, FF  
 Kristin Ewing—CT  
 Mark Hammond—CT, FF  
 Sarah Hassall—ct  
 Alex Hayes—CS, CT  
 John Healey—FF  
 Simon Jenkins—am  
 Christopher Jones—CT, LL  
 Reza Khosrowshahi—CT, ll  
 Karl Knight—CS  
 Duncan MacDonald—CS, AM  
 Richard Moss—cs, AM  
 Timothy Needham—AM  
 Adam Pallant—AM, CT  
 Neil Paterson-Fox—CT, ll  
 Jonathan Quick—E, CS  
 Timothy Robinson—CT  
 Dominic Scarlett—cs  
 Paul Spackman—cs, CT  
 Martin Stitt—cs, AM  
 Edwina Thring—ct  
 Angus Trowern—AM  
 Nicholas Webb—m  
 Corrin Adshead—E, EL, L, F, gn, M  
 Robert Anderson—E, EL, h, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Mark Astill—E, el, h, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 David Aylott—E, el, H, L, F, gn, M, P, C,  
 Daniel Beales—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Giles Branch—E, EL, h, G, F, M, p, C, B  
 Barnabas Branston—E, EL, H, L, F, GN, M, c  
 Alexander Brealy—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Thomas Burns—E, el, h, G, F, gn, M, P, C  
 Andrew Cayton—E, EL, H, G, f, M, P, c, B  
 Dominic Clark—E, EL, H, L, F, GN, M, P, C  
 Edward Crowther—e, el, L, f, M, P, c  
 Giles Davies—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Robert Draper—E, EL, h, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Ian Ford—E, EL, H, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Nicholas Hannaford—E, EL, H, G, f, M, c, B  
 Kevin Hewston—E, EL, H, G, F, GN, M, P, C  
 Roderick Hill—E, EL, H, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Matthew Houseman—E, el, g, f, M, P, C, B

Darren John—E, EL, H, G, M, p, c  
 Simon Kingscote—E, EL, H, G, F, gn, M, P, C  
 James Kook—E, EL, h, l, F, gn, M  
 Adrian Lamb—E, el, l, F, gn, M, p, C  
 Kerry Mallindine—e, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 James Mann—h, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Christopher Moody—E, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 Philip Moore—E, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 Justin Noyce—E, H, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Julian Odell—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 James Penneck—E, EL, h, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Christopher Pope—E, EL, H, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Timothy Prince—E, el, H, G, F, gn, M, P, C  
 Nicholas Prowse—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Simon Reichwald—E, EL, H, L, F, gn, M, P, C  
 Matthew Reid—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Angus Rollo—E, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 Justin Rosa—E, EL, H, l, m, c, b  
 Mark Walters—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Nicholas Wharmby—E, EL, h, G, F, GN, M, P, C  
 Iain Whittaker—E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Stephen Young—e, el, H, g, c, b  
 Alexander Andreis—r, A, I  
 Michael Attwood—R, a  
 John Barnett—MU  
 Michael Bews—MU  
 Adam Binder—R, A  
 Simon Bird—a  
 Piers Bowley—r  
 Giles Carter—r  
 Jonathan Chappelle—R  
 Mark Croft—R, a  
 John Delaney—R  
 Christopher Eames—R, A  
 Julian Fellows—r  
 Stephen Green—mu  
 Paul Griffiths—R  
 Warren Hammond—R  
 Mark Hastings—R  
 David Hauton—r  
 Christopher Hoare—R, A

Rory Johnston—r  
 Richard Kolb—R, a  
 Mark Larroucau—r, A  
 Julian Leigh—R  
 Robert Matson—R  
 Ian McMurtrie—r  
 Hari Nathan—r  
 David Paton—A  
 Marcus Rann—r, a  
 Benjamin Rees—MU  
 Richard Reichwald—r  
 Colin Sainsbury—R  
 Andrew Satterthwaite—R  
 John Shaw—R  
 Edward Webb—MU  
 James Williamson—MU

Capital letters denote a pass at Grade A—C;  
 small letters denote a pass at Grade D—E.

*Subject key:*

E	English Language
EL	English Literature
R	Religious Studies
H	History
G	Geography
L	Latin
F	French
GN	German
M	Mathematics
P	Physics
C	Chemistry
B	Biology
A	Art
MU	Music
CS	Computer Studies
AM	Additional Mathematics
CT	Classics in Translation
I	Italian
LL	Latin Literature (AO)
FF	Further French Studies (AO)

**6A leavers 1985**





## Chaplain's Notes

One of the unavoidable features of working in a school or college is that of the 'moving population'. Sometimes that can be a good thing; it guarantees that scoundrels and rogues are with you only for a limited time! But the reverse is true too; so are the stalwarts, and that is a sadness. Another occupational characteristic is the 'unevenness' of years and year-groups; and the religious life of the school community is not exempt from either.

Last year we said goodbye to half a dozen founder-members and regular attendees of the weekly Bible Study group, all from VIA, which has left us rather depleted this year. By the time you are reading these words another, Mr. Paul Edwards, will also have moved on. I hope that others will come forward to swell the numbers again.

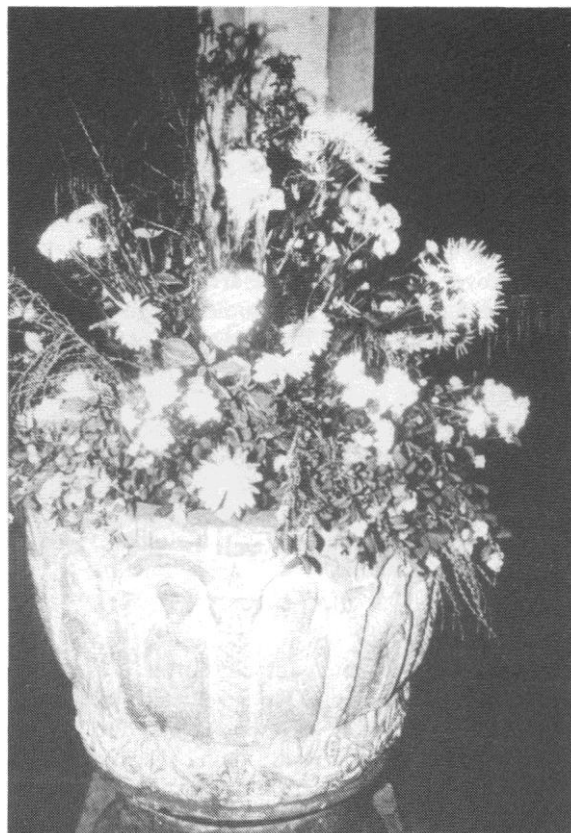
At the Confirmation Service in the Parish Church on Sunday, 24th March, the following were confirmed: Michael Attwood, Rory Johnson, Mark Larroucau, Andrew McKinnon, Ian McMurtrie, Russell Ogden, Ben Rees, Simon Scott-White, Sean Tate, Christian Vallence and Andrew Wharmby.

Two days before Confirmation Day, Bishop Llewellyn, who was due to officiate, was taken ill with 'flu', which caused some consternation. However, the Cotswolds seem to be a popular area for Bishops to retire to and, at extremely short notice, Bishop Tremlett, who lives in Northleach, deputised.

Some charities catch the imagination more than others, and over the past year the Ethiopian Famine Appeal was generously supported. So too was the field work of the Royal Commonwealth Institute for the Blind, enough money being raised to restore the sight of eight blind people. But on many Sundays the average collection is lower than it should be for a school of our size.

On a brighter note, and for the second year in succession, the Parish Church benefited from the sponsored cycle ride organised by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Preservation Trust. Two pupils who took part, John Barnett and Rupert Martin, again nominated St. Peter's as the recipient Church, which meant that half the money they raised came to us.

Another enjoyable occasion was the St. Peterstide tea in the Rectory garden, when members of the village and VIth Form leavers were able to share a pleasant afternoon together. VIB boys and girls acted as waiters and waitresses, and it was highly successful. The Village Jumble Sale was another occasion when members of the College and village mingled—as buyers at least. It is always fascinating to see what the pupils go for: this year it seemed to be sports jackets, multi-coloured socks and labour-saving gadgets!



**Flower Festival 1984**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

We have been especially well served by our ushers this year: Mr. White and I have both felt that this team has been one of the best ever. We say goodbye with special thanks therefore, to Samantha Evans, Sara Hawkswell, Karl Cloutman, Nicholas Hoare and Stewart McIntyre. Their duties have been considerably increased this year because we have been using the Church five days a week. In addition to the Sunday services, it was decided to use the Church instead of the Dulverton Hall for Prayers during the week. Juniors meet on Monday and Wednesday, seniors on Tuesday and Thursday. I think most people agree it is a better atmosphere for Prayers.

Finally my thanks again to Marcus Rann, who has been an efficient and conscientious 'unofficial sacristan', preparing the Church for Sunday Communion Services.

T. O.

## Landage field—A Memorial

Major Tom Wills has very generously made the College a gift of Landage field in memory of his grandmother, Mrs. Huntly Sinclair, widow of the Founder, who died in 1980.

After the Founder's death Mrs. Sinclair continued to take a keen interest in the College and was for some fifty years a very active, interested and conscientious Governor. Her generosity to the College over that period was constant and inexhaustible, her acts of kindness to boys and staff countless. There was the truly magnificent gift of the Founder's 'cello to the Music Department; many Old Rendcombians will remember the box of chocolates, large enough to be shared by the whole school, which arrived regularly and unobtrusively after the Carol Service; few current Rendcombians will realise that the curtains in the Library were her gift. All over the school there are examples of her thoughtful kindness far too numerous to mention here. It is indeed fitting that her sense of duty and affection towards the school should have a substantial memorial.

Those who have seen the operations recently carried out on Landage will know that 'substantial' is the word. The field has now been levelled and the drain running through it re-routed. The cost of this mountainous work is part of Major Wills' gift.

The plan is to lay out a running track round the field and to provide other facilities for athletics. There seems to be some competition for possession of the centre of the field. One is reluctant to accuse our Head Groundsman of opportunism but, while rugger and hockey pitches are being discussed, the rudiments of a cricket square are already visible.

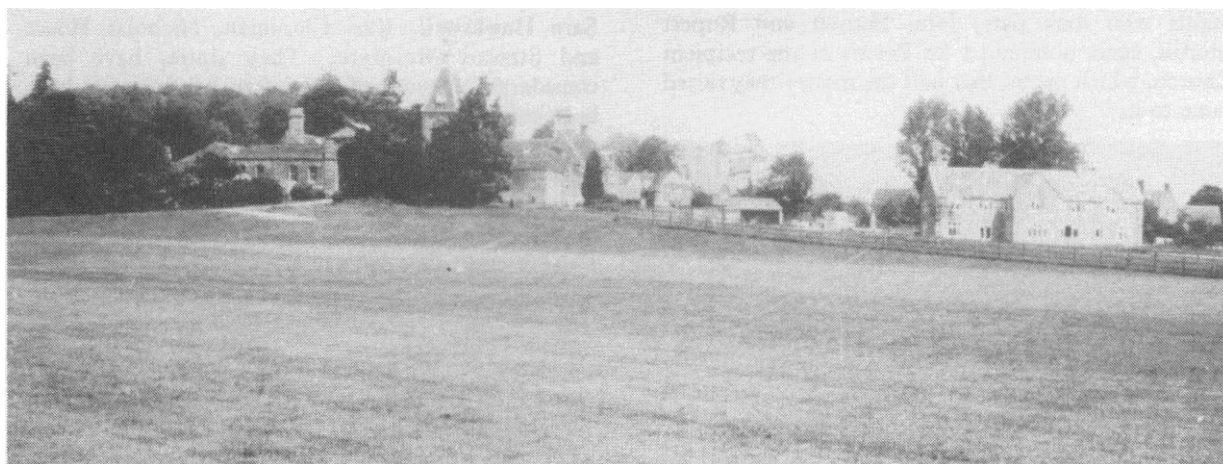
Whatever the final outcome, we can be sure that, as Mrs. Sinclair would have wished, Landage will be fully used and enjoyed by many generations to come. Thanks to Major Wills, a proper memorial has been laid down to the widow of our Founder, who was in her own right such a generous and faithful friend to the College.

D. de G. S.



**Before**

*Photo: Lt. S. Ellin R.N.*



**After**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

## Bursar's Report

We are now in the throes of construction, within the Stable Block, of a new Computer Classroom and Projects Room, which will have twelve computers to be used by classes of up to twenty-four. At the time of writing, we have not yet decided on the make of computer, but BBC Micros are looking good.

Concurrently with this operation we have to provide a new staircase for access to the Computer Classroom on the first floor, which will be sited where the present Sixth Form Geography Classroom is. We are therefore taking the opportunity to improve the Geography Classrooms and create a new Sixth Form Geography Classroom by taking in the old Computer Room. There will also be a space for Geography projects outside the classrooms.

The levelling and preparation of Landage field, to be used for athletic and other sports, is now virtually completed, and plans for its use next year are well advanced.

The eleven study bedrooms were completed to time — just — and are a most welcome addition to the accommodation facilities. There have been few if any teething troubles and the occupants will, I am sure, agree that they have been finished to a high standard.

I am happy to report that, after continual problems with the new fire detectors setting off the fire alarms inadvertently, the system has now settled down and — touching wood very hard — we have had no spurious fire alarms since making some alterations to the system last term.

Please could I put in a plea to parents through the medium of these pages that they do not send their fee cheques back with their offspring in order to save postage. Some cheques have been known to appear a fortnight later in a condition where it is clear that they have been carried around in the offspring's pocket, and on more than one occasion I have had to embarrass a parent by writing and asking for the fees when they were in the school — albeit in someone's pocket — all the time. Please use the envelopes provided and the post.

At the time of writing I am in the throes of preparing the annual budget for 1985/86, a time-consuming but interesting task, as I have to justify every figure to the Governors' Finance and General Purposes Committee and then to the full Governing Body. It is not easy to reconcile the conflicting interests of maintenance of the fabric of the school and all the various teaching departmental requirements. We do our very best, however, to ensure that the balance is right and that reasonable Departmental requests are not turned away.

The Chairman announced at Founder's Day that our catering arrangements are undergoing a radical change. The background to this is that the Governors decided some time ago that we must have a full-time Caterer to be responsible for all the work



**Mavis Mezo**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

in the kitchen, dining room and wash-up. A small Sub-Committee of Governors together with the Headmaster and myself and Mrs. Newby (who runs the Cookery courses here) then visited operations in schools controlled by three firms whom we selected to be contenders for our contract, and we looked at two operations of each firm. In the end, we decided that the firm most suited to take on this quite demanding role at Rendcomb was a "good little 'un" rather than a "good big 'un", and have selected Messrs. Fairfield Limited. They are now looking for a suitable Caterer from within or without their organisation and we, of course, will be involved in the selection process; it is hoped to have the new Caterer in post living at Rendcomb by 1st September. The Governors have also taken the decision in principle to change to a self-service form of feeding, which is now the practice in the majority of boarding schools, and which will provide a reasonable choice at each meal. The aim is to complete this within about a year to eighteen months from the start of next term.

I cannot let this milestone pass without reference to the enormous load which Mrs. Mezo, our Domestic Bursar, has borne over the last fifteen years or so. To combine catering for a population of over 300 (at lunch times) with the school's accounting task for such a long period and so successfully will have been extremely taxing, and the school owes her a great debt of gratitude for combining both these time-consuming tasks for so long. As well as being here during the normal working day, Mrs. Mezo has also put in many additional hours making sure that all was well for the many different functions that we have to cater for.

I look forward to the next school year to see the computer classroom completed and in full use (not only for teaching computery but being made use of to teach other subjects) and in particular to try and catch up with the "Forth Bridge" task of getting the fabric of the buildings up together.

E. T. T.

## Careers

In addition to the usual range of interviews and talks, we held another Careers Convention. This took a form different from those held previously, in that it was aimed at the Fifth and first-year Sixth Forms, and also in that it provided twenty or so professions which could be approached individually, rather than having a series of formal talks, films and discussions. There was also a book display which proved very popular; many selections were made from the hundreds of books available.

We held another of our very popular 'Challenge of Industry' Conferences, and this maintained the high standards set in the previous conferences held for the College. It is our intention to continue these in alternate years, so that every sixth-former has some idea of the demands and challenges of industry.

This year we have produced a booklet giving details of 'A' level courses and relating them to eventual careers.

As usual, the last week of term gave the fifth-formers some post-'O' level experience of the working life! Some accounts are given below. Meanwhile the first-year Sixth visited another careers convention in Cheltenham.

R. K.

## Work Experience

The Fifth Form work experience week followed the pattern of last year. Each student had to select three occupations from over three dozen offered. It was again possible to provide the first choice in the majority of cases. We continued to expand the range of opportunities and number of contacts. The additions this year included local government, aquatic biology, hotel management and antique restoration.

The majority of the workers enjoyed the experience of a week doing something completely different from school routine, and only one person felt he had been used as cheap labour. Unfortunately he manfully left his complaints until the end of the week, when it was too late to make amends, other than ensuring that he has the opportunity to do some more profitable work during the coming weeks.

R. K.

### Bridges Garage, Cirencester

As soon as I arrived I was introduced to many of the tools of the trade; then I started work. At first I dealt with more the general parts of the car, such as the door facias.

In the afternoon I started to work under the bonnet of the car. I helped to do compression tests, checked spark plugs, replaced brake discs, knocked bumps out of doors, replaced door hinges, corrected engine speeds and went out on a road test.

When I arrived on Tuesday I was immediately put back to the grindstone. I did three separate wheel alignment tests and helped to replace a complete set of rear lights on a Mini. During the lunch break the apprentices took me with them for a hot dog from Greasy Joe's caravan.

After lunch I helped service a Bedford van belonging to the army and then went round watching and trying to help others on the cars they were working on.

On Wednesday I arrived to find that an apprentice and I were to service a Range Rover. Although this may not sound much, it was a 36,000 mile service, and the manual said a mechanic could do it in 5.7 hours. The manual always reckons that people work with the speed of light, so it was going to take over six hours; but then you must remember that it was only a skilled apprentice and a blunderer on the job. Anyway we set about this mammoth task, and after over six hours of work the Range Rover was ready for the final job, tuning. But when Jim (mechanic and foreman) came to do the job, he found that a diaphragm had gone, and so the car could not be tuned until this part was replaced.

So Deane (the apprentice I worked with for most of the time) and I started on a P.D.I. (Pre-Delivery Inspection) on an automatic Mini Mayfair, which was to be sold on 1st August with nine other cars. We discovered, and Deane fixed, a faulty choke cable.

On Thursday I helped all around the garage, doing odd jobs for people and helping to do services. In the afternoon I helped Jim to remove a gear-box from a Montego. I then watched and attempted to comprehend all the cogs, seals and bearings which he deftly removed without any worries. He discovered a faulty bearing in the gear-box, and the car is now waiting for an appropriate bearing and seals, which had to be broken and removed.

On Friday I generally helped to do services and pre-delivery inspections. In the afternoon I helped Jim to fix an oil cooler to a Maestro Mg; some modifying of the car was necessary with an extremely large hammer. After that I watched the tuning of another Range Rover and then helped to start work on a Range Rover automatic, which had been driven into a gravel pit up to its windows and left overnight before being retrieved; it was in quite a state.

I would just like to say that everyone at the garage was extremely helpful and friendly, that is Colin (manager), Jim (foreman and mechanic) Graham (mechanic), Rob and Deane, the two apprentices, and all the others in the garage.

ROBERT ANDERSON



**Work Experience—Midland Bank**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

#### **Local Government (Legal Admin. Section)**

Monday: I had an introduction to the set-up of local government, its different departments and their organisation, with Mr. Wicks, the assistant director of administration. I then took my place in the records and licensing department, where I spent most of my time during the week. There I studied deeds and documents concerning certain plots of council land, the issue and needs of licences and further details on the organisation of the council. I looked at cemetery records, forms for filing deaths and procedures to be carried out after death. I learnt about the rights of landowners and the job of the planning department.

Tuesday: I attended Cheltenham County Court with Miss Atkins, assistant solicitor, for a possession case. We obtained a suspended possession, as well as hearing several other rent arrears cases. During the afternoon I had a guided tour of the Corinium Museum, as this is financed by the Cotswold District Council. There I was shown the stores, the laboratory and the files, as well as the displays. I also went out to date the timbers of the 'Cloisters' for a record of the changing buildings of Cirencester.

Wednesday: I had a legal discussion with Mr. Church on land and property transactions, including contracts, conveyances, searches and land charges. I spent the afternoon setting up notices to inform the public of the re-direction of a public footpath.

Thursday: I attended the Magistrate's Court in Cirencester for a Food and Drugs prosecution under

the Food and Drugs Act of 1984. In the afternoon I had a discussion on the work of a solicitor, certain typical past cases, statutory and case law and town and country planning.

Friday: I helped take some council minutes from the strong room in the C.D.C. offices down to the offices at Moreton-in-Marsh. In the afternoon I again went to court, this time at Evesham, for another rent arrears case. On returning I had a final discussion with Mr. Hicks, who tried to sort out any problems I had not understood.

Overall I enjoyed my work experience. I learnt a lot about conveyancing and litigation and was shown deeds to back up this knowledge. I had great fun in court, and fortunately the Council did not use me for slave labour! I feel I benefited from this week and have become even more interested in the legal profession. My thanks go to Mr. Kelsey for organising this experience.

NICHOLAS PROWSE



### **The Fleece Hotel, Cirencester**

Monday: I met Mr. Parffrey, the manager, and was introduced to the other members of the staff. Another thing I was introduced to was a great deal of washing up. Due to the lack of the washer-upper, it became my task to load the machine, unload it and replace the plates etc. But my whole day did not consist of washing up; I also laid up some tables and cleared a few. My first day came to an end at 5.15 p.m., and I departed for the school bus, wondering what Tuesday would be like.

Tuesday: Fortunately when I arrived at 8.40 a.m. the washer-upper was there, and there was no washing-up for me. I began by taking food through to the guests; once breakfast was over, the table had to be cleared and then re-laid for lunch; butter had to be made into little curls and the dining room hoovered. Lunch is served from 12.15, and so

everything began to happen from then on: going into and back from the restaurant with plates full of food prepared by Chef and then returning empty. The afternoon from 3 o'clock consisted of laying up the tables for dinner and doing odd jobs.

Wednesday followed the same pattern as Tuesday, except that in the afternoon I cleaned the brass lamps. Thursday morning was normal, but during lunch I helped to prepare the sandwiches and lunches for the bar, which I enjoyed doing immensely. Then I learnt how to do the afternoon teas and did them on Friday.

I enjoyed my work experience and I feel I got a useful insight into the behind scenes of a hotel; I would like to thank everyone who helped me.

SIMON REICHWALD

### **Cat**

*Photo: M. Bews*



## The General Meeting

In view of the reforms which took place within the Meeting constitution in the Lent term, during the summer term the Meeting has run remarkably well. Even though there were many absentees owing to cricket and exams, the attendance at the general meetings was still high. The strength of the Meeting can be measured by the number of proposals which are debated and passed, and in this respect the term has been a great success.

It was decided that debating topics should be formulated at meetings, thereby reflecting the wishes of the Meeting members. Also two new committees have been formed. The first was the Meeting Liaison Committee, incorporating the defunct Meeting Advisory Committee, the Pupils' Suggestion Committee and the Pupils' Appeal Committee. The second was the Court, replacing the defunct Council, to act as a disciplinary body.

As is usual, the question of papers and magazines arose in the Summer term. It was decided that 'Time', 'The Spectator' and 'The Economist' would be bought by annual subscription, thereby saving money which could be used to buy extra magazines.

It has now been arranged that a video will be shown for Vth and VIth formers on a Saturday night, while a film is shown to Forms 1 to 4, thus increasing the variety of entertainment open to members.

The Report stage of the Meeting has now been reintroduced, to give more committee accountability, particularly now that Public Work is part of the Meeting responsibility.

On the whole, this term has seen the Meeting fulfil the role it was created for: that is to act as a body through which the students can voice their opinions and introduce improvements to the school.

KARL KNIGHT

## Public Work

This year we have reorganised both the running and the structure of Public Work. To give pupils greater involvement and responsibility, the organising and supervision have been handed over to the Meeting, in consultation with Dr. Smith. To improve morale and interest, pupils choose their task whenever possible, although regrettably some of the less popular but nevertheless essential jobs still have to be done by non-voluntary work. For overall supervision the number of PW men has been increased to three: one responsible for maintaining and distributing tools, one inside man and one outside man, each checking that the various tasks are taking place and reporting back to the Meeting on their progress or effectiveness. Staff remain responsible for many of the individual activities.

The structure has been arranged to give greater flexibility, and the majority of PW activities occur on either a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, although some tasks remain which have to be done at other times. Larger groupings have been formed: for example, the furniture group is responsible for the whole school, whether in the Dulverton Hall, Reading Room or classrooms; there are three outside groups employed on rebuilding the dry-stone walling round the Wilderness and clearing the overgrown paths through it. The games group includes not only the games wardens but also those responsible for the judo mats and the Sports Hall. A large group of boys, under the supervision of Mr. Burden, perform an essential and much appreciated job maintaining the school furniture in a good state of repair. Yet another group, under the eyes of Mr. Essenhig and Mr. Hannaford, are constructing a golf course in the Park and helping to maintain the games fields.

Other activities included under the PW umbrella are community service in Cirencester, which is popular with the VIth Form, maintenance of the churchyard grass, and the school orchestra.

We hope that all feel more involved, whether they contribute to the well-being of the school through their musical abilities at concerts, with their hands in maintaining the fabric and appearance of the school, or enhance the name of the school in the wider community in which we live.

G. J. S.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Over the past year about half of the school have been involved with this scheme. The Third Form have all completed the St. John's Ambulance Junior First Aid course given by Mr. Scriven, a retired Primary School Headmaster from Cheltenham. The Fourth Form have been undertaking expeditions and a two-term 'skills' programme. The Fifth Form have completed their 'physical recreation' and thereby qualified for the bronze award. Sixth Formers have been involved in silver and gold standard expeditions to Wales and the Peak District. John Willson has organised the expeditions single-handed and with customary thoroughness, so that the only major complications have arisen from sources beyond anybody's control, such as the Spackman appendix, which opted out of a Peak District expedition at a rather late stage.

There follow extracts from reports written by Fourth Formers on the various activities in which they have been involved:

'We were expertly taught by Mrs. Newby, who also gave us a helping hand when things started going wrong... I don't think the Godman House kitchen will ever be the same again... We did

manage to cook Hungarian chocolate biscuits, lasagne, bread, Victoria sandwich cake and sausage rolls... I would like to thank Mrs. Newby for putting up with us...'

'I have learnt a lot about cameras... It would take x pages to say the technical name for what normal people call a film... We have learned what to point a camera at, how to develop and print the photographs—which brings me to our assignment, to take twelve photos of animals and/or children. Of course \* \* \* \* had his prepared two terms before it was supposed to be handed in, while the rest of us fought for the dark room just before the complete folder was due. I, being very organised, did not have a folder...'

'The morning was wet and steamy, and progress was slow.'

'The camp site was surrounded by tall trees, and there were showers and facilities for washing and drying clothes... We were lucky to have good weather, unlike the other walking group.'

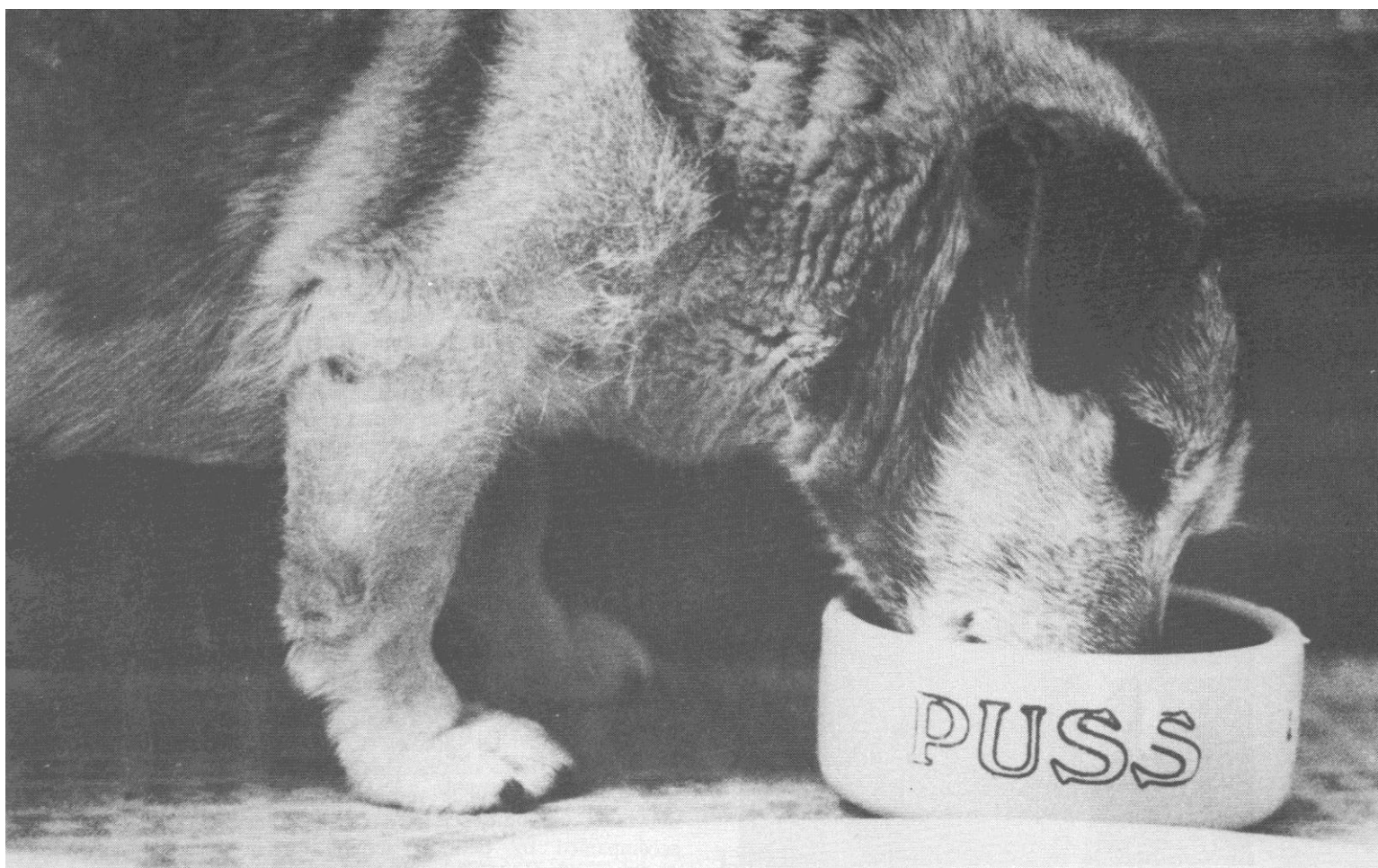
Many thanks to all involved in organising and assessing activities. If, in a few cases, a lasting interest in some particular pursuit is sparked by involvement in this scheme, then the exercise is thoroughly worthwhile.

G. R. B.

### Bronze expedition

*Photo: J. W. R. Willson*





**'Duke of Edinburgh skill' photograph**

*Photo: M. Bews*

## Community Service

Community Service has been greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm by a number of Sixth Form pupils this year.

Paternoster House, a residential home for elderly people in Cirencester, is visited twice a week. Those residents who are able to participate gain immense pleasure from talking to the younger generation and reminiscing over cups of tea.

Next door is Paternoster School for the mentally handicapped. Only three pupils visit here, which means that close ties are formed with these very affectionate children. A party was held for them at Rendcomb during the Christmas term, which was greatly enjoyed by guests and helpers alike.

Those keen on horses enjoy helping with Riding for the Disabled at Siddington, which caters for a wide age group and a wide range of disabilities.

Querns, a day hospital for elderly people in Cirencester, is also visited. Here pupils not only talk to the patients, but also enjoy participating in games and helping to cook.

A new Charity Committee has recently been formed by the Meeting, which aims to hold a spon-

sored walk early next term, the money to go to a charity to be decided upon.

Peasant lunches (a rather popular alternative to our usual cuisine!) take place twice a term. £90 is saved every time, which is used to educate two Indian children: a boy called Ravi, who is in his last year at school, and a girl, Anitha.

Three members of our Sixth Form represented the school at the annual Schools' Community Service Conference in Birmingham, which is reported below. The pupils were made aware of the problems and achievements in community service, and this has been beneficial in broadening the outlook of our community service group, making us wonder how we can continue to do more for the community.

The Community Service Committee has recently changed hands and now consists of: Tom Branston (Chairman), Eleanor Rowe (Secretary), Jane Larroucau (Treasurer), Charlotte Carroll (Peasant Lunches), with Mary Reynolds and Myles Faulkner in charge of Community Service on Tuesday and Thursday respectively.

Unfortunately, due to exams and changed lesson times, there has been no community service since the summer half-term, but we hope it will be resumed with continued enthusiasm next term.

ELEANOR ROWE



*Photo: D. Beales*

## Windmill House Conference

To arrive at a new place, with new faces, and ten minutes later to be designing a house seems a daunting and irrelevant task to ask of a group of community service helpers. However, it was called an 'ice-breaker session' and secondly we were all (temporarily) handicapped — be it blind, mute, deaf, deaf-mute or immobile.

So really the task was relevant, opening new eyesight into the real problems faced by the handicapped, and helping us to get to know one another.

Then followed a fairly long-winded lecture on 'The History of Community Service'. When I saw this in the programme, I instantly started to find excuses to miss it. I'm glad I didn't, because it showed how far we have come in CS but, more importantly, how far we have yet to go.

After a brief tea break we were given a questionnaire and sent off in groups to discuss how our community service varied in the different schools we represented.

Then came the first of many really interesting tasks — on the PHAB the Merchant Taylors' School run. 'PHAB' means 'physically handicapped — able bodied', and this is exactly what it is. Pupils of the school select around 20 handicapped children

between 11 and 14 years old, and for a week give them a really great time.

Dinner was followed by the most incredible experience, I think, that any of us will ever have. Tim Dyke, whom some may remember as a history teacher here some years ago, had organised Robert Jones to come and speak to us. The name sounds nothing special, but I assure you the person is. He is severely handicapped, can't speak very clearly, has no use of his hands and is weak on his legs. Yet, despite these cruel setbacks, he has fought for his right to be taken as a normal person. He sailed on 'Victory' in the 'Americas Cup' backup team; he has just returned from the Bahamas where he was part of 'Operation Raleigh', and he now has a job with a firm in Plymouth. His sense of humour was incredible, and he was not afraid to speak to 70 able-bodied people on his view of life. Although he said he hated being patronised, the number of drinks we bought for him that night, out of sheer respect, was astronomical!

Sunday started with an address about Springfield Environmental Studies Centre from David Crossley, the head of this particular centre. This was followed by coffee and the Sunday morning debate: 'Community service has no relevance unless accompanied by political action'. After heated discussion from the floor, the motion was rejected (27 against; 4 for; 26 abstentions). Most of the debate, however, was on the wording of the title, not the real topic. The speakers were all good in their own way, apart from a certain hint of arrogance from one!

After lunch we heard four stories to do with community service. The use of computers interested us, as did news of a 'talking paper' for the blind run by Stamford School. Harrow told how they organise holidays for destitute children, and we were told the story of Nadya, by her brother. This was received almost as well as Robert Jones' tale; Nadya suffers from autism, yet Karl managed to give a frank account of his life with his sister without breaking down.

The final part of the Conference was the 'Brains Trust'; a panel was called together to answer some of the questions arising from the weekend. I was on this panel, and it was interesting to hear how CS varies from school to school.

The front cover of the whole weekend's programme had announced: 'For students and staff to explore and share experience and problems of CS in schools'. I think that this aim was largely achieved but, more than that, the Conference enlarged our horizons, so that we may now help our local community more than ever.

TOM BRANSTON  
(other participants:  
SIMON JENKINS,  
AMANDA BAKER)



## First Form Trip To Wookey Hole

On Sunday, 23rd September, the 1st Form went to Wookey Hole for the afternoon.

The bus came just after church, and we all piled in, looking forward to our trip. The journey took two hours, and we ate our lunch straight away, before setting off towards the caves.

We met the guide at the gate, and he took us into the caves. The temperature dropped by quite a bit when we were inside, so we were pleased we had brought our coats. The guide took us into the first chamber, the witch's cavern, and told us the legend of the witch and how she and her dog had been turned into stone by some holy water brought into the caves by a priest. We were then taken into other chambers and told how they had been discovered by explorers. On our way to one chamber we had to cross a bridge which was 30 feet above the water — some people preferred to go another way, avoiding the bridge! We visited several chambers, although it was not possible to go to them all, before the guide escorted us out through a man-made tunnel.

From the caves we went to a papermill where we saw people making paper, which was very interesting. You could also buy the paper along with other items at the gift shop. Carrying on from the papermill, we came to an old penny arcade and fair-ground collection. You could change your money for old pennies and play on the slot machines. Also in this part of the buildings was a store of Madame Tussaud's waxworks.

We went back to the coach and arrived back at College at six o'clock; we think we all had a very enjoyable day out.

RICHARD ROWLATT  
RICHARD HERBERT

## Second Form History Trip

It was a lovely day when we left Rendcomb at 8.30 a. m. We had a pleasant drive through glorious Welsh countryside until we reached our first stop: White Castle.

As soon as we got in, we began to look around. From the tower in the centre of the castle there was an excellent view of the moat and surrounding country. During the 15 minutes we stayed there some people explored, whilst others made notes for their project.

Once we had left it was a ten-minute drive before we reached our second castle, which was called Skenfrith. Of all the castles we saw it was the smallest and most decayed. The floors in the tower had rotted, so we were unable to climb it.

Another short drive brought us to Goodrich. Before we entered the castle we had our lunch.

The castle is positioned on a high hill and overlooks the River Wye. Its only entrance was through a huge gatehouse that opened on to the main courtyard. The castle seemed to grow out of the rock foundations it was built on; the walls were 15 feet thick, tapering to 9 feet at the battlements.

From the top of the 60-foot tower at Goodrich we could see every corner of the castle, and we got a taste of how hard castle life could be when we climbed up some very steep stairs. Leading off from the main courtyard were narrow passages and rooms which were lit only by thin arrow slits and, although it was a boiling day, the rooms were damp and cold.

Our final castle was Chepstow, which again was built on a mound next to the banks of the River Wye. It was the largest of all the castles and was divided into three large sections. We could walk along the battlements, which have remained standing since about 1190.

We were lucky, as it was a very nice day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it, and we all would like to thank Mr. Edwards for taking us.

JOSEPH NICHOLLS  
BENJAMIN MASLEN

## Exhibit

On Sunday, 18th November, 50 pupils and staff visited the IBM Exhibition of Information and Technology in the grounds of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. Very few fifth and sixth formers showed any interest, so our party consisted mainly of boys from the third and fourth forms.

We arrived just as the Exhibition opened for the day and, in spite of the long queues, we were able to go in immediately as we had pre-booked tickets.

The building itself is unique, designed by Renzo Piano, co-designer of the Pompidou Centre, and Ove Arup, the famous Swedish architect. The display was in London as part of a three-year tour of 20 European countries.

Once we were inside, the latest miniaturisation techniques were demonstrated, including the latest disk storage of 2.5 billion characters. Then followed an amazing display of high-resolution graphics, showing uses in various fields including architecture, medicine, oceanography and geography. In the corner two robots tried to cheat each other at a simple game. A guided tour of New York was offered via a touch-sensitive screen, giving access to a large data base. Many other items were displayed: a holographic bar-code scanner for supermarket check-outs, techniques for teaching deaf children to speak, flat screen plasma panels (the TV of the future?) and many uses of personal computers.

There was then still time to visit either the Natural History or the Science Museum before returning to Rendcomb.

D. A. H.

# Godman House Visit

## Portsmouth

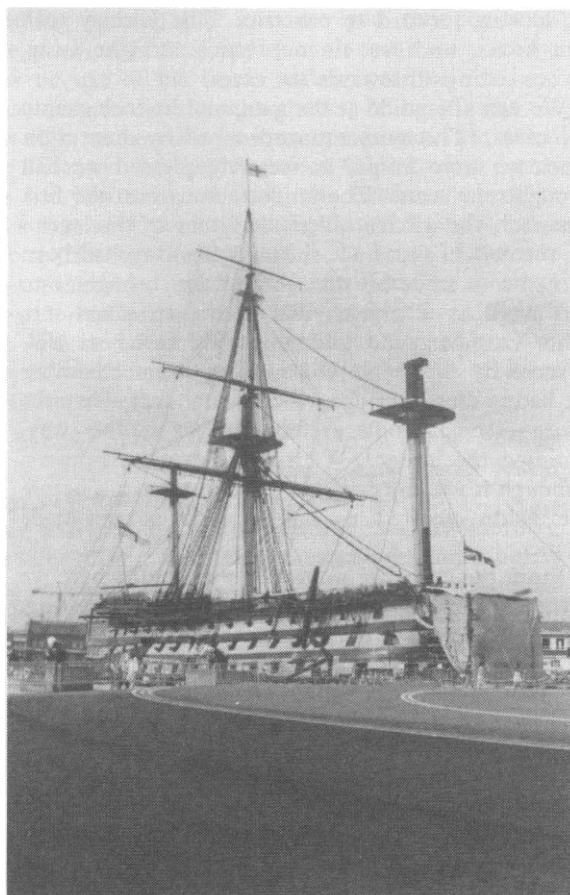
On Sunday, 9th June, after an early start, we arrived at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Gosport, at about eleven o'clock. This museum tells the story of undersea warfare and life beneath the depths, from the pioneer machines to the nuclear submarines of the present day. We were briefed with an interesting video on submarines in general, their shape and how they work, and then we were guided round HM Submarine 'Alliance'. This showed all of us what life in a submarine is really like. We then visited the museum, which tells the history of submarines.

Later we travelled by ferry across the estuary and visited the newly-opened D-Day Museum. This is the first British museum of its kind devoted totally to that special day forty years ago. Again, a film gave the story of Operation 'Overlord', supported by brilliant and vivid exhibits of maps, tableaux, photographs and so on.

As the Bayeux tapestry told the famous story of William the Conqueror's journey across the Channel back in 1066, at this museum an embroidery was the star. It is eighty metres long and is the largest embroidery of its kind in the world.

The day finished with a visit to Nelson's celebrated ship, HMS 'Victory'. After all these years, it provides an example of warfare at the time when Napoleon's Navy was sailing against us, though the vessel was looking a little the worse for wear from the Solent weather.

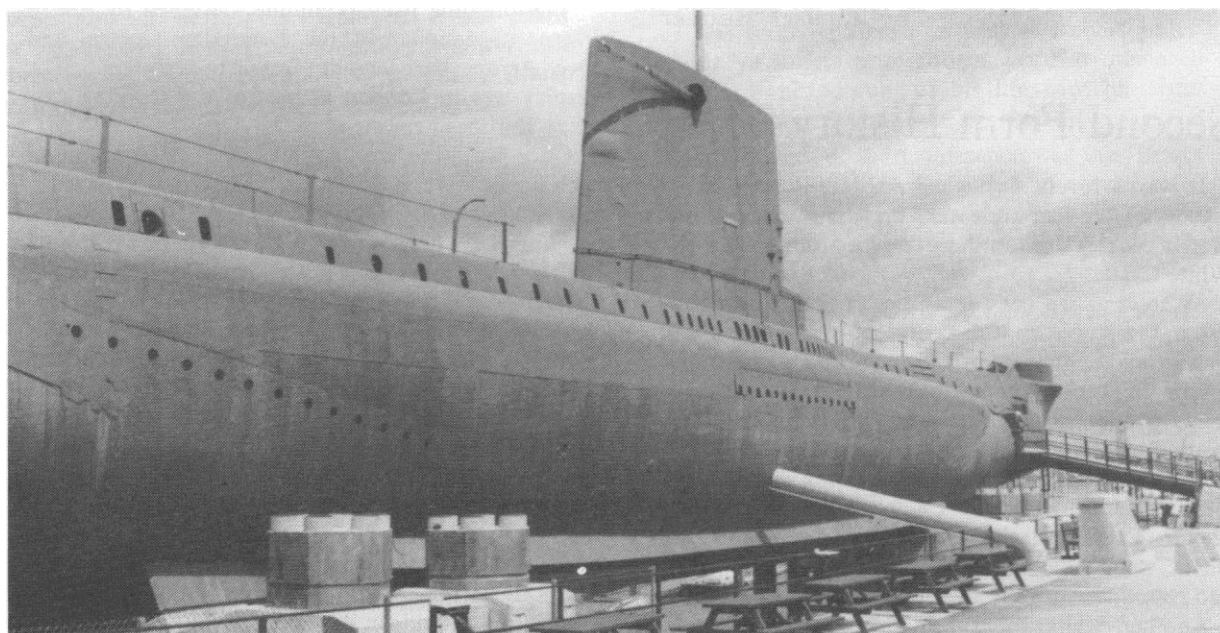
For me, however, the D-Day Museum was the main attraction, reminding us all of all those who fought for the freedom we have today.



ROLAND MARTIN

**HMS Victory**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*



**HMS Alliance**

*Photo: C. J. Wood*

## 6B Visit to the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon

On July 4th and 5th, a party of five girls and eleven boys visited RNEC to gain an insight into engineering careers in general and engineering in the Royal Navy in particular.

After a long, hot journey by coach and train to Plymouth, we arrived in time to be shown to our rooms before dining in the Great Hall. We were entertained in the Wardroom by various students from the College, including one OR! During the evening there was a short introduction to the work of the College, including a video showing student life at Manadon.

The following morning we were formally welcomed by the Captain, who also gave a short talk on the history of the RNEC. This was followed by a most interesting talk given by the Director of Undergraduate Studies who stressed many features to be taken into account when choosing a career in engineering. He pointed out the advantages to be gained by taking up a career in the Royal Navy, but also gave a very fair indication of the disadvantages.

After a coffee break, a visit to HMS Cleopatra had been arranged. Eventually our Australian guide managed to convince the Dockyard Police that we were harmless, and we got on board the frigate which was in the midst of a partial refit. In spite of this, the visit was very rewarding, particularly to those of the party who had no idea what shipboard life was like.

After lunch, visits were arranged to the Post-graduate areas of the College, where we had a rapid tour of the Air Engineering, Marine Engineering and Workshop facilities, where project work varied from making ornamental copper jugs to building a complete sports car.

It was then time to make the return journey to Rendcomb. Although our trip may not result in anyone's joining the Navy, I'm sure all those involved must have been impressed by what they saw and by the hospitality shown by everyone we met in this short visit.

D. A. H.

## Sweet Bird Of Youth

It was a grey, dull evening on the 18th May when a party of VIB left for an evening out at the theatre, to see the latest production of 'Sweet Bird of Youth' at the Royal Theatre, Bath.

The play is by Tennessee Williams, who has probably written more good plays over a longer period than any other American playwright and has earned considerable wealth, fame and affection. He has been described as 'a dramatist of lost souls', and certainly the main characters in 'Sweet Bird of Youth' are no exception. Although the play is set against a social background of Southern racist politics, Tennessee Williams here explores one of

his favourite themes, that of time as the destroyer of beauty. Only art can save, he suggests, since it exists out of time. It therefore allows the ageing, tormented film star to make a successful comeback, while the gigolo Wayne Chance, whose chance and good looks have waned with each passing year, meets defeat and emasculation on his 'triumphant' return to his own home town.

The performance was enjoyed, although to many the American accents were slightly off putting, as was the intense heat. The most outstanding performance was undoubtedly Lauren Bacall's, playing the Princess Kosmonopolis. Her presence and dignity held the audience captivated throughout the play, and her portrayal of a lonely, rejected film star was played to perfection. Also to be praised was James Grout's acting of the part of Boss Finley, which provided some comic relief. Michael Beck's performance, as Chance Wayne, suffered perhaps by comparison to Lauren Bacall's. However, taking into consideration the complexity of the part and his formidable co-star, I think that his performance deserved commendation.

The set was very well designed and undoubtedly added to the production, especially an enormous projection screen which allowed screen drama inter-play and greatly contributed to the general effect. Despite three hours of tropic-like conditions, the general consensus was one of approval, as denoted by the stentorian tones of the applause.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Johnson for arranging the trip.

AMANDA BAKER

## 'The Ghost Train'

On 5th March most of Godman House went with Mr. Ball to the Theatre Royal in Bath to see 'The Ghost Train'. The play was written by Arnold Ridley, who played Private Godfrey in the television show 'Dad's Army'.

The plot is the story of a railway station in Cornwall, Fal Vale Station, which is invaded for the night by six travellers who have missed the connection to Truro. They are told by the Station Master a grim tale of the ghost train which haunts the station, tearing through it on intermittent nights; whoever sees the ghost dies. The train comes that night and, after much uproar and confusion, it is discovered to general consternation, that Teddie, who caused everyone to miss the connection, is really Morrison of the Secret Service. He uncovers a racket to scare people away from Fal Vale, so that guns can be smuggled into the country undisturbed.

The cast included Fenella Fielding, David Jason, who has starred in several television shows, and Nyree Dawn Porter, who received the OBE in 1970 for her services to television. Peter Byrne, of 'Dixon of Dock Green' fame, was the other well-known actor.

The acting was excellent, and the play hung together well, blending thriller suspense with much hilarity.

JONATHAN LUTWYCHE

## ‘Swan Lake’

On the first day of May a Sixth Form party left Rendcomb on what was for many their first trip to the ballet. We were to see a performance in Bristol by the Scottish Ballet of, as described in the programme, ‘probably the best known and most loved of all classical ballets’. I suppose my thoughts about going were different from most people’s, as I knew what I was letting myself in for, having seen ‘Swan Lake’ the summer before.

With the haunting opening bars of the Overture the atmosphere was created, and when the curtain was raised we saw the highly decorated apartment of the Prince Siegfried; the interior sets were very realistic. With the Prince’s hallucinations the audience was taken to the world of the lakeside, and skilful lighting created an aura of romanticism and dreamland.

The orchestra of the Scottish ballet certainly brought the music of Tchaikovsky to life, although the wind players were sometimes a little hesitant. The performance by Elaine McDonald as Odette/Odile was very moving and greatly enhanced by the neat dancing and acting of David Bombana as Prince Siegfried. The ballroom scene, with its complicated dance sequences and colourful costumes, was full of life. For me, however, the lakeside scene with the swans was the most enchanting and magical.

From the comments I have heard, everyone enjoyed parts, if not all, of the ballet. Perhaps this will encourage more boys to go on a trip like this, which was certainly female-dominated. However, without Mrs. Holdaway, none of us would have gone, and I would like to thank her for organising such an enjoyable evening out.

CATHERINE FAIRCLOTH

## Geography Field Trips

A variety of trips took place during the year, allowing most forms to undertake some work out of the classroom. With the Industry year approaching, two visits stand out as being of relevance. The Vth Forms visited the Austin Rover car plant at Cowley, and the third Forms found themselves down a coalmine in South Wales, a trip described elsewhere.

At Austin Rover we saw all the stages of motor manufacture. Particularly impressive was the widespread use of ‘robots’ in the production process. The conducted tour provided excellent detailed information which helped form the basis of the answer to one of the ‘O’ level questions set this year. However, more important perhaps was the insight into the organisation of part of one of Britain’s major companies. How important is it? Well, did you know that 7,000 companies owe their very existence to Austin Rover, or that Rolls-Royce car bodies are assembled at Cowley?

The Vth Form also took their traditional long day-trip to the Dorset coast to observe the coastal features of Lulworth and Swanage Bay.

In the VIth Form day trips to study such diverse subjects as the villages of the Cotswolds, the physical features of the Wye Valley and the urban morphology of Swindon are now a regular event. The residential Field Course this year was based in Snowdonia. This provided a relaxed, nevertheless invaluable, period of study devoted to relevant ‘A’ level work. Glacial, periglacial, coastal and soil processes were all investigated with a problem-solving approach. A holiday? Well, I think one has to be dedicated to give up half-term to work from nine a.m. to ten p.m. every day for five days!

I hope that some of the trips made this year will become annual events, and more projects are planned. The 1st Form deserve a mention for their ‘Rendcomb Village’ projects, which were exhibited on Founder’s Day. This reminds us that not all field work need take place in remote parts of the country; much valuable study can take place on our own doorstep.

C. P. M. K.

## The Big Pit

Typical of this area is the little hilltop town of Blaenavon, which was created by the need for iron in the 1780s and for coal in the 1840s. Big Pit was in operation until 1980, and now it is maintained as a unique museum of mining; the detailed underground tour was included in this visit by the Third Forms.

Before going underground we were given a lamp and a 'self-rescuer', which is a breathing aid to be used in the event of an explosion. We were told that the two dangerous gases are methane, which collects near the roof, and blackdamp, which sinks into the hollows. The descent in a cage to 'pit bottom' was at a third of the speed at which miners travelled; nevertheless, the 294 feet drop was impressive.

At one stage mining had one-tenth of the working population risking their lives for a few shillings each week (about £25 today), and it was easy to appreciate the poor conditions in which they worked — old, damp, dirty, dark and cramped. We saw

where boys used to work, operating the air doors in complete darkness and only hearing the voices of the men passing through the doors. Twelve-hour shifts, with a day in the sunshine on Sundays!

Our guides were retired miners, and they were able to demonstrate the various techniques of extracting and transporting the coal from the face. Most required the miner to kneel or lie down and hack the coal with a very restricted movement of the arm.

On reaching the surface we had our 'contraband' returned to us and we had the opportunity to see the winding-engine room, the workshops and the pithead baths. The photographic exhibition completed the tour well, and it gave us a real 'feel' for the place.

Afterwards one of us wrote '... the trip was interesting, and I learned a lot about the life of a miner, and finally I decided that I would not want to be a miner...'

CHRISTOPHER WOOD  
JASON VERNON  
COLIN BANNISTER



## Biology Field Trip — Easter 1985

The setting was as last year, a 15th Century Manor House at Nettlecombe, situated between Exmoor National Park, the Quantock Hills and the North Somerset coastline. The long distance between Rendcomb and Nettlecombe, coupled with an incompetent navigator, served to render the journey down in the school minibus long and tiring. On our arrival at the Field Centre we were given an entertaining introduction to the course by the Warden and our subsequent tutor, Dr. Crothers, who was careful to emphasise the dangers of fire and of being locked outside after 11 o'clock at night. Half an hour later we were plunged into the first few of a great many hours of work, to prepare us for the forthcoming day.

The average day consisted of an introduction to the day's work immediately after breakfast, followed by a data-collecting session in the field from 10 a. m. to 4.30 p.m. What we had not bargained for was the session recording the data from 5 to 6.30 p.m. and the analysis of the results from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. But this was not all; after 9.30 p.m. we were sent off to the library to do a further hour's study. Although the group's enthusiasm had dwindled somewhat by 9.30 at night and this last session was sparsely attended, we were all amazed at the end of the week by the amount of time we had actually spent working. Before our return we had studied a freshwater stream, three stretches of coastline (including a sheltered and an exposed shore), and an area of grassland — not to mention the particularly scintillating theory of the 'n-dimensional fried egg'.

The field work was indeed, as Dr. Crothers took great pains to warn us, often "paralytically boring", with two notable examples. First, the afternoon spent counting plants in different plots of grass, and also our tracks down the shores measuring the sizes of dog-whelks and limpets (particularly uninspiring creatures to the uninformed). The weather was terrible throughout most of the trip, and this was only partially compensated by the relatively high standard of food at Nettlecombe. However, the real worth of the field trip became apparent after tea when, with the results carefully collected and tabulated, we were at last able to sit back and attempt to interpret the day's data. Only at this point in the day were we able to appreciate that the long hours spent in the field had been worthwhile.

The general consensus of opinion at the end of the week was that we learned a great deal and that the course was worthwhile. Despite the bad weather we were kept warm and well fed, and we would like to thank the Warden and his staff at Nettlecombe for their patient guidance, and Mr. Hannaford for his invaluable advice.

ADAM PALLANT  
ALAN DOYLE

## Russian Holiday

Although most of our week-long visit to the Soviet Union consisted of organised coach excursions to the major 'tourist' sites, we were able to explore the cities on our own. We found it surprisingly easy to reach the city centres using the Metro, the Soviet equivalent of our Underground, costing only five pence to travel anywhere within the city.

Our tour guides proudly showed us all the major tourist attractions of both Moscow and Leningrad, including Red Square, the Kremlin and the Hermitage. These, together with folk concerts and the Leningrad Circus, were supposed to convey to us some of the nature of the Soviet culture. However we were unable to grasp a feeling for the aspect of the culture that one might hope to find in the day-to-day life of the people; even our independent ventures into the cities failed to satisfy our curiosity, as we could find little besides tourists shops and hotel bars.

What we did see during these coach excursions should not be dismissed as insignificant. The splendour of the Hermitage is an illustration of the deep appreciation of art encouraged within the Soviet society. Our visit there seemed all too brief, and we sampled only a small selection of the two million items contained within the walls of these beautiful buildings.

The Kremlin, with its gold onion domes and ornate chapels, proved a contrast to what we had expected as the seat of the Soviet government. The Summer Palace at Pushkin was being painstakingly resored to its original splendour after extensive damage during Nazi occupation in the Second World War. The Moscow Metro stations were a feature in themselves, containing sculptures, mosaics and stained-glass windows.

Our trip to the Soviet Union proved to be an enjoyable experience, despite long coach journeys and unorthodox cuisine! We would like to thank Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hannaford and Mrs. Uglow for their patience and for their organisation of the trip.

BEVERLEY FOOTE  
DIANNE SERCOVICH



## Form Two Trip To The Centre For Alternative Technology

On Sunday, October 14th, Form Two got up before 7 a.m. to prepare for a long journey to Machynlleth in deepest Wales. After breakfast, we left College: next stop the Little Chef at Newtown, only 30 miles from our destination. After a lunch of beefburgers, chips and ice-cream, we collected our free maps and lollies and set off again.

We passed our time listening to our radios and tape-recorders until we saw the first signs of the centre.

The driver had trouble in turning into the narrow road leading to the car park. The first thing we saw were hills of shale and windmills in the distance, as we walked up the steep incline to the displays. We collected our guide books from the reception and we each had a go on a specially rigged-up bicycle which told you how many watts you were generating. We found that the people who lived and worked on the site used the alternative sources of energy. The first display we saw was a house completely heated by solar power: it had a large solar panel covering one whole wall. One way we saw of using wood as

a form of energy was a gas woodbine system; it extracts gas and burns it in an internal combustion engine. The next form of alternative energy we saw was hydro-electric power, produced by dams and water-wheels. After a short walk we arrived at the organic gardens, in which different types of plants and crops were grown by different methods; this also contained a large fishpond.

Next on the agenda was the dairy and the small-holding; nearby were a few types of wind-mill, one of these made out of a bicycle's rear wheel. Then came the solar panels; there were many different types, including a paving stone which had a special black covering on it to absorb heat from the sun.

The main feature was a house that is featured on many television programmes, because of its being so energy-efficient.

After going round a small maze and playing in the adventure playground, we visited the shop in which we could buy mementoes of our visit to the centre.

We had a snack in the car park and then we set off on the long journey back to college. We all thanked Mr. Hawkswell and Mr. Wood for a very enjoyable and educational day out.

JOHN CARROLL  
CHRISTOPHER DANIELS



Wind Power—C. A. T.

*Photo: C. J. Wood*



**First quarter**

*Photo: G. J. Smith*

## ‘Exploration of the Moon’ —A Talk by Dr. P. H. Cadogan

This talk was welcomed by many of the 5th year as not just an interesting and new subject of Science, but as an excuse to miss the much-dreaded Physics prep! Dr. Cadogan based his lecture on three main topics, on each of which, owing to the limited time available, he spoke fairly broadly.

His first theme was the history of ‘moon-mapping’. This he illustrated with a series of slides, ranging from the first, hand-drawn, pictures of the moon as seen by the human eye to the much more accurate photographs of the last few decades. On these maps two distinct types of rock were visible: the darker, flatter basins or ‘mares’, and the lighter, mountainous highlands.

His second theme was the exploration of the moon. He showed us a series of excellent slides showing the mares and highlands and, in one case, a previously undiscovered species of mutated insect, the size of a spaceship! He also spoke of the massive supplies of equipment left on the moon, transmitting various signals back to earth.

His final theme, which was probably the most complex scientifically, touched on the process of dating moon-rock. By a series of reactions involving radioactive isotopes the scientists, including Dr. Cadogan, were able to find rocks of nearly the same age as the Solar System itself: 4,600 million years.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Cadogan on behalf of all who attended his most interesting talk.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY



**Last quarter**

*Photo: G. J. Smith*

## The Michael Wills Lecture — ‘Listening to Satellites’

On the 9th October 1984 the senior school was privileged to hear a talk, ‘Listening to Satellites’, given by Mr. G. E. Perry, M.B.E., F.Inst.P., who until last year was physics master at Kettering Grammar School. For almost thirty years he has run, with the help of some of his pupils, a satellite tracking station, often making discoveries before large, well equipped government laboratories.

To do this work successfully three points have to be appreciated: that it is good fun, that a great deal of physics is involved and that an eccentric personality helps. The talk was based around three questions:

1. What equipment do you need to listen to satellites?
2. What do you hear?
3. What do the signals which you hear mean?

We were all convinced that relatively cheap and unsophisticated equipment was quite adequate; indeed one of the earliest satellites was tracked in 1958 using an ex-government radio set costing £25 and a simple globe of the earth. In fact three satellites were detected during the course of the lecture using little more than a sensitive pocket radio. Enthusiasm for the work was perhaps best illustrated when we were shown a slide of Mr. Perry’s bedside monitor, showing that he was near to his work even when sleeping. Excitement was roused when in 1967 the group were able to tell the western world via the Daily Express headlines that a Russian cosmonaut had just died in space.

Tape recordings of satellite signals were used so that the complexity of the ‘bleeps’, ‘pips’ and ‘brrs’ could be appreciated, and it was their interpretation which formed a large and difficult part of the talk. Combinations of ‘bleeps’ conveyed information from the satellite to ground control of many variables, such as temperature and pressure inside the satellite, and all had been decoded by repeated listening and the intellectual effort of Mr. Perry and his pupils.

The practical application of some of this work was shown by the fact that in one year 230 lives had been saved from shipwrecks, using a navigation satellite. The information to be obtained from weather satellites has obvious practical applications.

Overall the talk was interesting, enjoyable, full of factual information and well illustrated with audio-visual aids. However, the point which came across most clearly was the great enthusiasm which Mr. Perry had for his work, and we are indeed grateful that he could spend a morning sharing it with us.

G. J. S.



## Treasures of the Bodleian Library

Mr. David Vaisey, who gave us this talk on 23rd October, gained a History scholarship from Rendcomb to Exeter College, Oxford, and after taking his degree he trained as an Archivist.

Two episodes from his career illustrated something of the interest and variety of the work. One was the discovery of a magnificent find of medieval documents tucked away in a roof space of the old laundry in the Duke of Sutherland’s house at Trentham.

The other was less fortunate; when John Masfield, the Poet Laureate died, it had seemed too vulture-like to ring up his daughter immediately, but when Mr. Vaisey did so after a decent interval of a few days, she had burned his entire correspondence.

Thomas Bodley’s father had become wealthy fishing for pilchards off the Cornish coast. Bodley inherited this money and, having no wife or children to spend it on, he decided to found a Library in Oxford in 1602 with the idea that it might contain all available knowledge. Over the centuries, books have accumulated in huge numbers, especially since the Bodleian is one of the three copyright libraries in the country, so that a copy of every book published has to be sent there. The shelf space needed now expands by 1.75 kilometres a year, and the new Bodleian with three floors below ground and eight above is enormous, but full. Now satellite libraries are being established in the country around Oxford.

Mr. Vaisey then showed slides of some magnificent treasures, among them an eighth century Irish manuscript, a tenth century book of St. Dunstan, the Gospel Book of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland and the Rule of St. Benedict written while he was alive. The slides were accompanied by a lively and interesting commentary, with such details as the making of parchment; to make a large sheet of parchment took a whole sheep, so a large book might require a flock of 300.

One other memorable item was the song which the bowmen of Agincourt sang as they went into battle.

Mr. Vaisey rounded off his talk by showing some fascinating and amusing early twentieth century advertisements. A good audience drawn from all levels of the school expressed their warm appreciation.

R. M. A. M.

# The Status of the Human Embryo: Liberty and Responsibility

At a seminar held on Friday, 21st September, Mr. Hannaford presented the biological foundation: the reasons for parental infertility, the techniques of artificial conception, the stages in embryo development and the cure or prevention of disease which may result from research on live embryos.

Professor Dunstan then introduced the ethics of the situation, describing cultural, religious and historical factors contributing to the present-day controversies over embryology. He stressed the distinction between the 'rights' of the human embryo and the duties we have towards it, focusing upon the crucial question of duty: how much liberty can we allow scientists, giving due moral consideration to the situation?

On this note VIA, VIU and some of the staff separated into discussion groups of seven or eight, to exchange ideas on a less formal basis and to prepare questions to be raised in the second half of the seminar. Some extremely penetrating questions resulted and, even though Professor Dunstan's detailed knowledge and authority in the field were apparent in his answers, many arguments proved a fair challenge.

Concern was expressed at the inhumanity of scientists' wishing to produce embryos specially for experiment, in addition to the 'spares' available after artificial implantation in mothers is performed. Professor Dunstan's response to this concern was that it must be weighed against possible benefits: when scientists are able to sustain embryos for longer periods, cures for diabetes and leukaemia may be found, in which case many more experimental specimens would be necessary. From this arose the argument that, if embryologists are so far unable to provide time enough for their research and are not completely sure of beneficial results, they are reducing justification of their cause to mere speculation.

Indeed the probable agreed time limit for research will be fourteen days, at which stage all stem cells are present and the embryo becomes unique; some feel that it receives human 'soul' or 'spirit' at this stage, and so experiment must stop. However, embryos can so far be kept alive for only nine days, although there are research programmes lasting up to twenty-one days. So, will scientists keep within the morally determined limits, or not?

Combining this query with that on scientific justification, it was asked whether the layman was not in danger of being misled, since scientists might well lay aside morals in excitement over new concepts. Professor Dunstan offered the idea that, in this advancing field, limits must be under continuous revision and scientists must be trusted both factually and morally.

The difficulty of reaching any collective decision

was shown by the range of views: there is the fourteen-day limit; some felt that research should stop before the central nervous system is developed at forty days; some expressed an absolutist opinion, that human 'life' begins in the gametes themselves'. Professor Dunstan described ethics as the tension between what is possible and what is morally correct. In this case ethics must also be based on fact. However, most people seemed disturbed by the possible abuse of human life: even if possibilities increase, surely facts and moral decisions remain consistent.

In all, the seminar was very valuable, in that it provided an opportunity to discuss a highly specialised field with someone of Professor Dunstan's calibre, to appreciate its growing importance in society and to consider its serious moral implications.

KAREN ALDER

## The Art of Public Speaking

Mr. Rick Pearson gave a highly entertaining and informative talk on the art of Public Speaking on Sunday, October 14th. Some of his main points were as follows:

The first problem is to overcome fear because, just as with delayed parachute jumping, much depends upon a good opening; preparation is vital:

1. Plan.
2. Research.
3. Decide on length.
4. Write out in full.
5. Learn by heart if possible, but if longer than possible rehearse thoroughly and use cue cards. Your personal appearance is important.

You should feel nervous, aim to disarm your audience if necessary by admitting it; don't put on an act, be yourself. Treat humorous points cautiously because you never know whether you will or you won't get a laugh. Think on your feet. Don't stand behind a table or lectern; move around. Decide what to do with your hands. Look around at your whole audience; don't fix your eyes on a point, or worse, upon one sympathetic listener. Avoid clichés like "at the end of the day". Use simple language, avoid American jargon such as "at this moment in time" or "objectivity-wise we have a 95% negativity factor," meaning: we are not going to achieve our aim, or "run this up the flag pole and see who salutes it" means: see who agrees to this idea. There may be disrupters, don't let them stop you; always be courteous to interrupters.

Five 'nevers':

1. Do not be rude or talk down.
2. Do not read your speech.
3. Avoid politics or religion.
4. Avoid bad language.
5. Do not turn your back on your audience.

R. M. A. M.



**“Robert Prynne”** by Simon Noyes

## Art

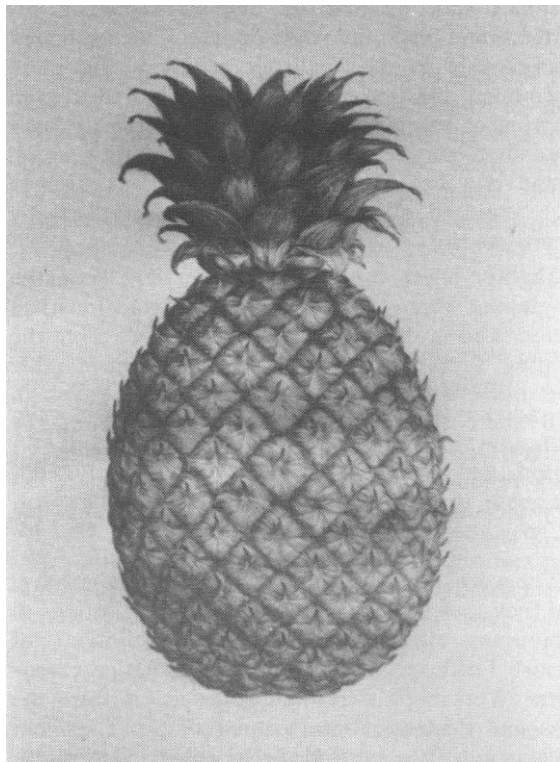
Perhaps the most notable feature this year in the Art Department has been the remarkable level of ability shown by those VIth formers committed to the subject. Our Founder’s Day Exhibition, again shown to advantage in the Dulverton Hall, demonstrated this. The bulk of exhibition space was given to three VIth formers, two of whom have elected to go to Art College and all of whom showed outstanding work. One feels that this kind of example is an inspiration and encouragement to Rendcomb as a whole.

Certainly there has been some excellent work produced in all forms. A large and determined group of IVth formers have tackled the ‘O’ level exam, while this year’s third Form seems to be emerging as a surprisingly talented one. Among the occupants of the Old Rectory, too, are some highly gifted boys.

This has been a year in which Art has occupied a serious place in the scheme of things at Rendcomb, a core of VIth Formers, working in their own space in the old Sculpture Room, diffusing their influence throughout the school.

T. F. C. D.

*Photographs by M. S. Griffiths*

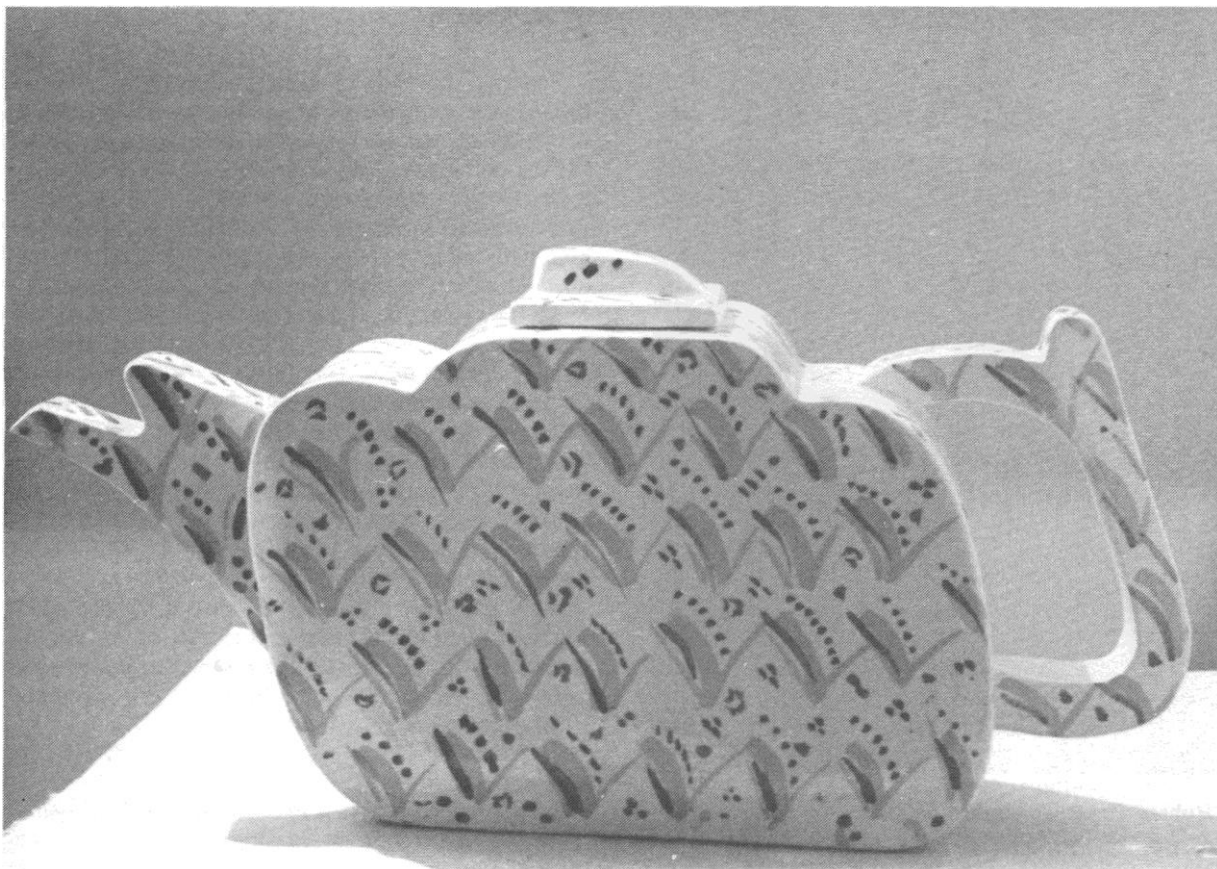


**“Pineapple”** by Simon Noyes



**“Tim Needham”** by Alex Aylott





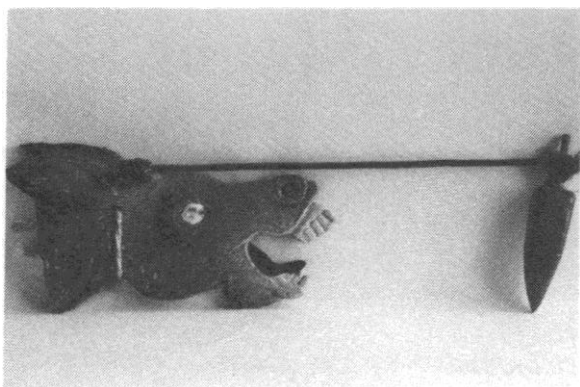
## Pottery and Graphic Design

Another busy year has been highlighted by the work of Michael Hicks and Simon Noyes; their efforts have produced much fine work and helped their successful applications to Art College. Michael Hicks has shown a great range of talent; the various teapots he produced over the last six months for his 'A' level project were particularly impressive, not only for the speed with which he grasped techniques but for the way he developed his ideas and decoration in such a short time. Simon Noyes' work was more intrinsically involved with illustration and

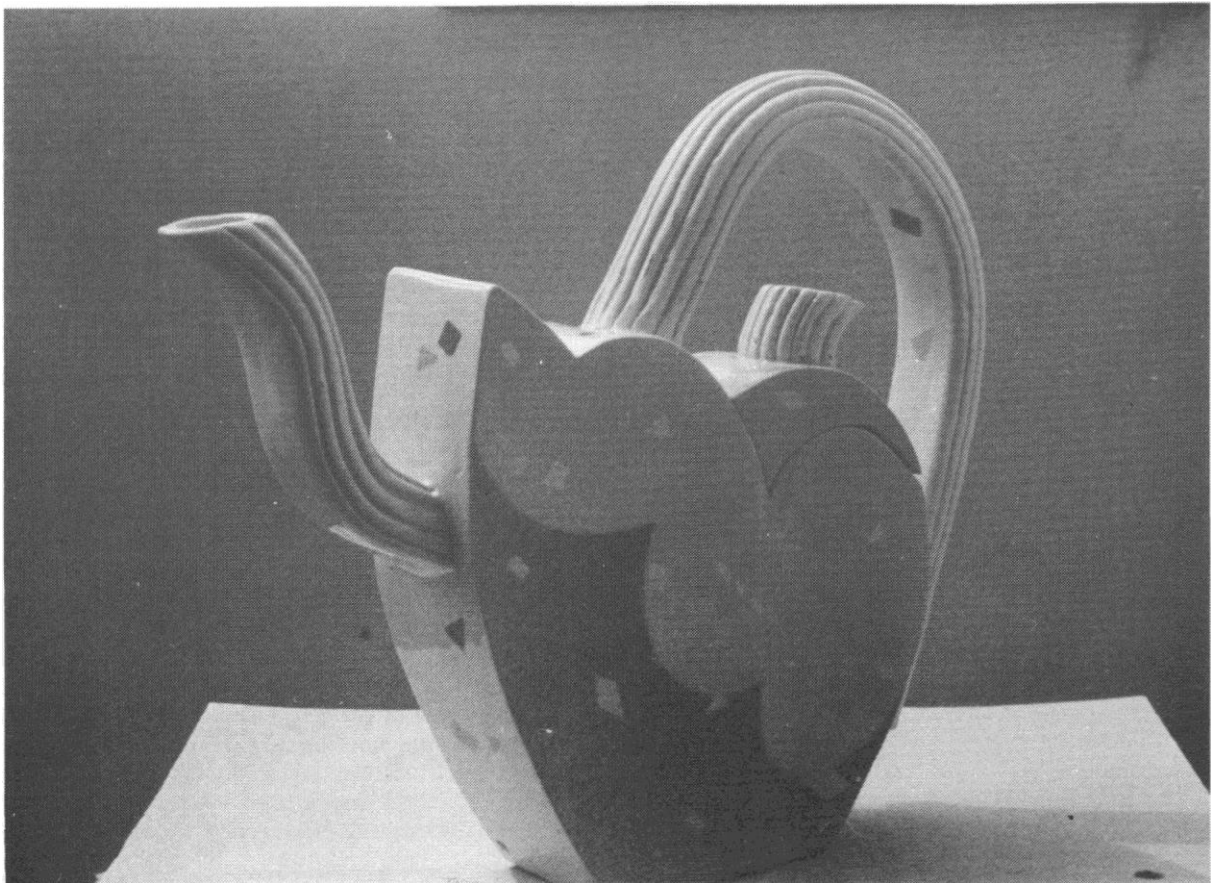
graphics and, besides the humour shown in his cartoons and black and white drawings, he responded marvellously to the challenge of producing more disciplined illustrative work; the coloured crayon drawing of the pineapple shows an extremely keen eye, first-rate technique and great application. These two have between them set an extremely high standard of achievement to be aimed at by future students.

Slightly lower in the school we have seen the developing work of Timothy Needham and Jonathan Quick, who in their different ways are exploring the exciting areas of study, including a memorable start made with the raku firing technique. Also in VIB there has been much fine work from the Pottery/Design group. The range and quality of work produced for their 'looking at legs' project was very pleasing, and throughout the year many fine ideas were produced and pieces made.

The work of the girls in this group was impressive, and they showed a good deal of interest on outings to exhibitions and workshops. The exhibitions of 'British Leatherwork' and 'Animals in Art' at Cirencester Workshops were well received, as were the talks and demonstrations given by several resident craftsmen. These included P. Winser-Stevens on Jewellery and S. Beadsmore on Weaving; even John Healey was impressed by the superb silkscreen demonstration given by the Blackwells of Chedworth.







The Fourth Form were surprised to find that they had so much ability in graphics, many of them making excellent progress and producing fine work for their 'O' level exam, Christopher Eames, Mark Croft and Christopher Hoare in particular. Adam Binder developed his sound throwing technique to produce some fine work for his Pottery 'O' level exam.

Lower in the school, many of the Second Form showed themselves capable of producing both pottery and graphics of a very high standard indeed. They also dealt with the introduction to solving 3D design problems in a very encouraging way. Question: how tall a structure can be made from one sheet of foolscap paper and a limited amount of tape, able to bear the weight of two digestive biscuits on the top? Answer: only structures above eight feet need apply. The work by this form on illustrated capital letters was extremely impressive, as were James Gregory's two-feet-high model of a punk's head and Andrew Roney's pyramid teapot.

The Third Form produced interesting work and some novel ideas in the Pottery (as ever!), while the First Form made an encouraging start and good use of the Pottery on Sundays.

M. S. G.

#### **Teapots by Michael Hicks**

**"Donkey and Carrot" by Karl Knight** (*previous page*)

*Photographs by M. S. Griffiths*

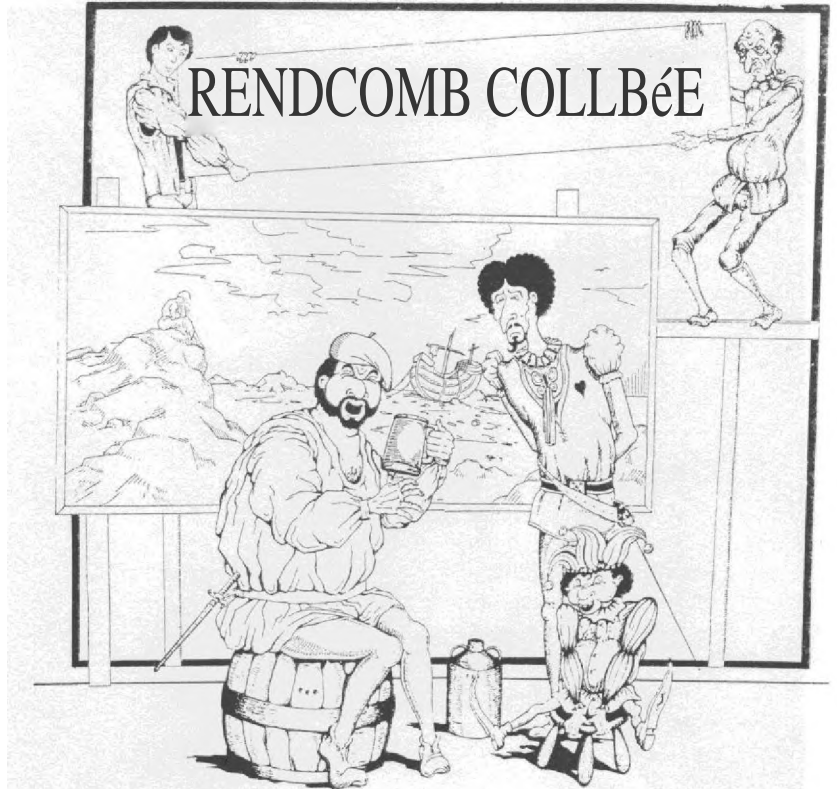
## **Woodwork**

We have been fortunate in purchasing some unusual timbers this year. Our new local source of supply is Foss Glen Forestry, based at Chedworth, which has supplied us with some interesting 'burrs' in oak and elm, olive ash and tipped pear. These have been used mainly for wood-turning and provided some of the most interesting items on exhibition on Founder's Day.

Two coffee tables made in the workshop of Brazilian mahogany and English oak were presented to Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly and Major P. D. Birchall on their retirement from the Governing Body.

We are always looking for new sources of timber and had an expected windfall in June when a small laburnum outside the workshop was blown down. We hope to season the logs in the round and make use of it in a few years.

C. C. B.



Programme cover by Simon Noyes

# 'TWELFTH NIGHT'



## Twelfth Night

Simon Johnson's choice of 'Twelfth Night' for the school play this year was a brave one. The challenges presented by the language and the characterisation of the work are considerable; the plot is not simple. Yet I enjoyed the Rendcomb production enormously; it was coherent, carefully directed and entertaining. The cast clearly gave their maximum effort, and the audience, on the night I went, after being rather daunted at first by the play's emotional complexities, was soon carried along by the fun and intrigue of the play.

The male leads, Thomas Branston (Orsino) and Neil Paterson-Fox (Sebastian) worked hard in roles which often suffer by comparison with the play's more colourful characters. Both actors need to improve their diction; however neither became an anonymous figure. Their female counterparts were an interesting contrast. Jane Valentine (Viola) took on a difficult role extremely competently. She gradually, as the programme notes said, 'bears the brunt of all the confusions of identity'. Samantha Evans (Olivia) was excellent. The principled simplicity of Olivia's character was well conveyed, and yet a particular highlight was the scene where she is confronted by her steward Malvolio (Denis Price). Samantha underplayed her part beautifully, leaving Malvolio to look ridiculous. In the part of Malvolio Denis Price was a great delight. Sour, puritanical, officious and uncomprehending, he never stole scenes but played his part to the full, obviously relishing the challenge. So did the audience.

The comic relief in the play is provided by Toby Belch and Andrew Aguecheek. David Edwin and Alex Hayes were an effective contrast here. Outrageous, drunken and absurd, they milked their scenes for all they were worth and never lost the audience's sympathy or affection. But they were marvellously supported by Sophie Rutherford as Maria; at first appalled and later attracted by Toby, she revealed a subtle understanding of her role's demands. Equally effective was Claire Ellis as the fool, Feste; here was a fool who was no fool at all.

The minor parts were well played, and the lighting and stage crew were most efficient. Special mention should certainly be made of Phillip Dunn's playing on the lute and Graham Ball's singing. They provided a charming introduction to an evening in which the emphasis was placed on enjoyment, either of participating or watching. For this Simon Johnson, as director, must take most of the credit.

P. M. E.



*Photo: D. Adshead*

## “When Adam Delved”

For this year's Junior Play, which took place on the evenings of March 22nd and 23rd, we moved back from the outdoor to the indoor stage, from irate jungle beasts to the equally incensed peasantry of mediaeval England. The Dulverton Hall, with its simple but vivid backcloth of two panels acting as a bucolic diptych with a dash of 'fin amour', showed once again it was reasonably well suited to theatre in the round and the gain in audibility and intimacy was considerable. Before the start Renaissance-type music set the mood, ushering us into the world of Chaucer, Wiclif, and Richard II.

The play, written by Simon Johnson and entitled “When Adam Delved” (the peasants' refrain), was an adaptation of the well-known historical episode of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. Here the event was dramatised in eight scenes, these roughly alternating between the Establishment (King, courtiers, Church) and the radical peasants and demagogues. Within this basic pattern of two restless factions we had more varied attitudes and groups: court bickerers and sycophants, more and less audacious rabble-rousers, knights coveting privilege, peremptory tax-collectors, and so on.

As the royal head of the feudal pyramid, Vaughan Tredwell gave a convincing portrayal of a man at different moments confused and uncertain, authoritative, compassionate, proud of his ancestry but bewildered by the burdens of office — hinting at Shakespeare's brilliant depicting of a king at bay. The variety of the court group was successfully conveyed by Ben Rees as the reactionary, avuncular John of Gaunt, Christopher Eames as the anxious Archbishop Sudbury, Edward Webb (impatient, with a sharp line in sarcasm), Marcus Rann,

Giles Carter, Sean Tate, and Richard Reichwald. All these did well. The peasant leaders in various guises were played by Warren Hammond as Watt Tyler (good when not grinning— had he been studying Scargill on TV?), Geoffrey Broomfield as a suitably aggressive Jack Straw, Jonathan Slattery, David Norton, and Roland Martin. Again all these had their moments and I thought that the last two in particular showed promise for the future and had carefully pondered the light and shade of their speeches.

The desirable ‘cast of thousands’ was achieved by two large sets of villagers, one from Kent and one from Essex, drawn from Forms 2, 3, and 4. They evidently relished their noisy involvement, their Glos-cockney hybrid mutterings against the latest tax injustice — clearly times don't change! Their entrances and exits were dextrously done, maintaining the play's impetus, and their confrontations with Authority, in the form of arrogant knights or Richard himself, rang true.

Many congratulations to author-director Simon Johnson, Tom Denny, and to all concerned, including Vicky Finney and Katie Rowe who helped with the excellent costumes, and to those responsible for the lighting and musical effects. There seemed to be no major disasters on the first night when I attended, and the applause for the production was warm and thoroughly merited. My main criticisms are extraneous and purely chronological: in my view thirty-five minutes playing time is much too brief, especially with visitors coming from a distance, and, secondly, seven o'clock is a needlessly early starting-time. We were enjoying ourselves and, like Oliver Twist, wanted some more.

J. N. H.





## Music Report 1985

This year has seen a particularly wide range of musical activities within the college. On November 18th the college orchestra and Choral Society gave a performance of Fame's Requiem in the Dulverton Hall, which was most successful. On December 2nd there was a soloists' concert which involved many pupils including Andrew Rontree, who gave a sparkling performance of Beethoven's Waldstein sonata. The Carol Service this year followed the traditional pattern, but with some unusual items as well as including two of John Rutter's excellent compositions.

The main concert of the Easter term was a performance of Schumann's Rhenish symphony and Beethoven's first piano concerto, with John Willson as the soloist. It is refreshing for the school orchestra to be augmented by visiting musicians occasionally, and this opportunity enabled the pupils to enjoy the thrill of playing a large-scale orchestral work. John Willson undertook the task of learning the piano concerto back in the Autumn term and, all through the Christmas holidays, anyone walking past the front of the main building would hear sections of the concerto being carefully pieced together. The performance itself was a credit to John and a joy for the audience. At the beginning of the Summer term the school string quintet gave a performance of quintets by Mozart and Boccherini, which was well attended and very well received. My thanks go to Lesley Hunt for her work with the quintet this year.

On May 19th the Choral Society and Orchestra gave a concert in St. Peter's Church, Rendcomb, to celebrate the tercentenary of the death of Handel. The programme included an alto solo sung by Graham Ball, two choruses from Messiah, an Organ Concerto and the Chandos Anthem number 9, in which the soloists were Christopher Carpenter, Katrina Walsh, Claire Ellis and Graham Ball.

On June 16th we were very fortunate to have a visit from the Talismen of Tewkesbury, who gave an excellent and entertaining performance. The programme included vocal items from 500 years ago up to modern day barbershop.

The final concert of the year was given by the American ragtime pianist, Butch Thompson. There was a very large turn-out for this concert, mainly due to the particularly appealing type of music, and it made an excellent end to a most enjoyable and varied year.

T. J. L.

## Senior Debates

The Debating Society has had a rather unsuccessful year, mainly due to an apathetic response from the sixth form. At the three debates this year it was clear that the majority of the pupils attending were from lower forms. The coterie of pupils prepared to speak was still too small, and often members of the debating society had to step in and talk when no-one else could be found.

The most common criticism levelled at the society was a choice of obscure debate titles, for example "This house believes that life did not originate on earth", although a challenge to provide a better title usually gave the response "why not something about nuclear war/nuclear power/the miners' strike/smoking at Rendcomb?" or other such ideas.

The debates this year certainly had potential; setting a keen animal rights enthusiast against the predominantly upper-middle-class Tory values of most of the school should have thrown more sparks than it did, and the question of whether life began on earth is a very interesting scientific argument which should have brought about an uneasy alliance between Christian Fundamentalists and orthodox Darwinists.

In an attempt to come up with titles suitable for the whole school, it was proposed that titles should be chosen when the school was all together at the General Meeting. This seemed the perfect riposte to those who had criticised previously, but due to some unfortunate administrative errors the Debating Society did not meet during the summer term.

Despite the problems this year, I am sure that there will be a renewed effort next year, and I would like to wish everyone good luck for the future.

ROBERT PRYNNE

## Bell Ringing

Since most of our regular ringers left last year, there were not sufficient numbers remaining to ensure that ringing could take place every Sunday. However, new ringers were soon trained by Miss Bliss and her successor, Mrs. Godwin, on Wednesday evenings. Church ringing has now restarted on a regular basis, and I hope that more juniors will volunteer next year for this interesting and worthwhile activity.

DOMINIC SCARLETT

## Computing

The new Computer Room should be completed by the end of September and will then be equipped with twelve new computers, linked to a central hard disc unit by a network system. It will then come into use not only for lessons in computing, but also to use the computers in various subject areas. All members of staff will be encouraged to use the room as a teaching aid. The size of the room is limited by the dimensions and shape of the stable block building, but even so it will provide a much needed improvement in our facilities. If staffing is available, we hope soon to have computer courses in every year except the fifth.

It is always interesting to note the wide variety of computers brought to the school for personal use. We still intend to provide the facilities needed for these computers as well as our network system for class use and a room for project work.

A major feature of the year was the success of our team in the British Computer Society Schools Computer Quiz. Starting in January, the team of Alex Hayes, Julian Odell and John Barnett won an area heat, the area final, a regional semi-final and then the Home Counties Regional Final, beating last year's national winners, to qualify for the National Final at Reading University on July nth.

From the original entry of about 450 schools eight remained to contest the final, the first part of which was held on a league basis. The Rendcomb team qualified for the semi-final, then losing 39—38 to finish equal third. By doing this they won a computer, disc drive and modem for the school, and holiday vouchers, computer software and books for themselves.

D. A. H.

## Arts Society

The Society, although not continually active, has thrived this year. It has survived periods of dis-interest and found its niche in Rendcomb life. Functions have included an informal Poetry Forum, a visit to Swindon to listen to the poet Craig Raine, and a series of films: *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man*, *Casablanca*, *Touch of Evil* and *The Godfather*.

The imprecise nature of its name gives the Society an extremely flexible character. With its grant from the Meeting, it enables senior pupils to entertain and inform themselves in a most relaxed manner. However, when Mr. Paul Edwards and Mr. Simon Johnson leave us at the end of the year, the Arts Society will be in danger of withering away. It is, as with everything at Rendcomb, what the pupils make of it, and I hope and trust that future generations of Rendcombians will devote the attention to the Society that it deserves.

TIM ROBINSON

## Bridge

During the year there have been regular meetings on Thursdays for beginners, especially for those involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and on Sunday evenings for more experienced players.

The Gloucestershire Schools' Bridge Competition was unfortunately held at half-term in November and so we were unable to enter any pairs. However, in January the team of R. McIntyre (Capt.) and B. Almond, W. Tong and D. Wilson came third in the Cheltenham heat of the Daily Mail Schools' Bridge Cup. This qualified them for the regional semi-final at Oxford in March; but here, S. McIntyre having replaced D. Wilson, luck and skill appeared to desert them.

R. McIntyre and W. Tong won first prize at a Bridge Drive in March at which there were four tables, including some Staff pairs.

In July all the experienced players will be leaving; I am most grateful to all those in VIA who have supported the Club over the past three or four years. In particular I should like to thank Robert McIntyre, who has captained the teams and run the Club meetings for two years, for his loyal support, and also Ben Almond, William Tong, David Wilson, Stewart McIntyre and Andrew Hall, all of whom have been stalwart members of the Club and have played in a number of competitions. I hope that they will continue to enjoy playing Bridge for many years to come.

With so many players leaving, it has been most encouraging to see the interest in Bridge in the Fourth Form. I hope that this will continue to develop, as these players will be the main stay of the Club next year.

W. J. D. W.





**Gordon Jackson** with the film group and ZAZ actors

*Photo: D. Beales*

## The Film Group

The Film Group has continued to instruct junior boys in the skills of film making, both on the technical and acting sides. At present they are finishing a video film which will be entered for competitions next season. A number of first-year boys have shown a great deal of interest and have subsequently joined the group.

Several of the group have been very fortunate to have helped with scenes at Rendcomb for their latest film. They met the actor, Gordon Jackson (from 'The Professionals', 'Upstairs and Downstairs', etc.) when scenes were filmed in the Library and the Headmaster's study, but they missed the spectacular helicopter scene on the Asphalt at half-term. It will be interesting to see Rendcomb in a futuristic film, and we look forward to a showing here.

C. J. W.



## Gardening

Last year the summer display of bedding plants was affected by the long spell of hot weather and, although the nicotiana and cosmea continued to flower until late into the autumn, the season was on the whole rather disappointing.

In October the Library beds and some tubs were planted with wallflowers and tulips, but the severe weather took its toll of wallflowers and also of some thirty geraniums which were near the greenhouse door. There was the usual display of Carlton daffodils in the Outer Hall in late February and this was followed by an attractive assortment of pelargoniums and chrysanthemums. In May two of the Library beds were planted with ageratum, begonia semperflorens and calceolaria, with the round beds containing alyssum, salvia, tagetes and phlox drummondii. At the Junior House in addition to a border of geraniums, pansies and alyssum, there is a bed of cosmea, African marigolds and coleus. Planting conditions were more favourable this year and we hope for a colourful show later on. Six new climbing roses have been planted on the terrace, where the urns contain geraniums, lobelia and verbenas.

Although the amount of gardening has been reduced over the years, there is still much to be done by the team of gardeners in their weekly P. W. session. I am especially grateful to Paul Attwood and Karl Cloutman for their loyal support and help over the past four years and also to S. McIntyre, R. Matson, D. Kenny, M. Larroucau, P. Wilson and R. Hardy. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation of the work done by the ground staff in maintaining the gardens in the holidays.

W. J. D. W.

## Stamp Club

The idea of a club grew out of meetings which I had with a few boys who had chosen philately as their skill for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. To assess what interest a stamp club might have, a preliminary meeting was held before the summer holiday, about twenty boys attending and expressing interest.

On 9th November a visit to the Bath Postal Museum attracted a dozen boys. In addition to looking round the museum, we were shown two films on the design of modern British postage stamps.

During the Lent Term meetings generally attracted five or six members, and they were encouraged to present some of their own material (Duke of Edinburgh participants have to present six pages of stamps and speak on them for five minutes). I presented small displays illustrating Rhodesia's mutilated postmarks, stamp varieties, philatelic material and photographs of rare letterboxes.

On 3rd March we were visited by two members of the Stroud Philatelic Society, Mr. G. Kitson and Mr. A. Meares. We were shown excellent and interesting displays of British Stamps of King George V, Stamps from Tristan da Cunha and a thematic display of French cathedrals. This was the most successful and well attended meeting of the year; all present expressed their enjoyment.

To summarise, the year was disappointing as far as attendance and participation by the membership were concerned, although we did have two excellent meetings. I hope for greater participation and commitment next year.

G. J. S.



Photo: G. J. Smith

## The Sixth Form Dance

The Sixth Form Dance to mark the end of each term has long been a subject of controversy. It has always been difficult to maintain a degree of formality and order without repressing the party spirit, and there is widespread recognition of the need for improvement. But it is, I think, an occasion which most people look forward to, and the liberal nature of the school allows quite a good time.

The Summer Term Dance this year was special, not only because half the Sixth Form were leaving two days later, but also because a group of them got together and, with only a few days' practice, produced a concert of modern pieces performed in the last hour of the dance. Justine and Juliette Loehry provided the vocals; Paul Partridge and Ben Almond shared the bass and lead guitar; John Awdry was on keyboards and Dave George finished his drumming with one of his 'spur-of-the-moment' solos which never fail to arouse admiration and amazement. Jerry Butling and Bob Prynne completed the act with expert lighting.

The band performed with the sort of professionalism and harmonic flair which many national record-producing bands would have trouble in matching, and the sound which drifted from the Dulverton Hall that night set the successors to 'the Dance' a hard target to beat.

TIM ROBINSON

## Photographic Society

In the summer term we moved into the new darkroom near the Vth Form block, and its excellent facilities are much appreciated by the growing membership. Now it is possible to demonstrate developing and printing to a group of newcomers, rather than taking hours with individuals, and working with the Duke of Edinburgh candidates will be much easier next year. The Society is very grateful to Marcus Rann's father for lending his colour enlarger and accessories. It will allow us to establish whether it would be worthwhile to continue saving towards our own colour system, although we have recently decided to process colour transparencies anyway.

Despite the very cramped conditions, good work continued to come out of the old darkroom, and the competition was well supported this year, many prints being exhibited in the Dulverton Hall on Founder's Day. The winners received mini-viewers and film:

COLOUR (open to the whole school):

- 1st Daniel Beales 'Hills and Lake'
- 2nd David Hauton 'Reflections'
- 3rd James Kook 'Scottish Isle'

BLACK and WHITE:

- 1st Darrell Adshead 'Wine Glass'
- 2nd Michael Bews 'Still Life'
- 3rd Daniel Beales 'The Haymaker'

Six boys studied photography as their skill for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and it was pleasing to see them progress so quickly and win prizes in the competition.

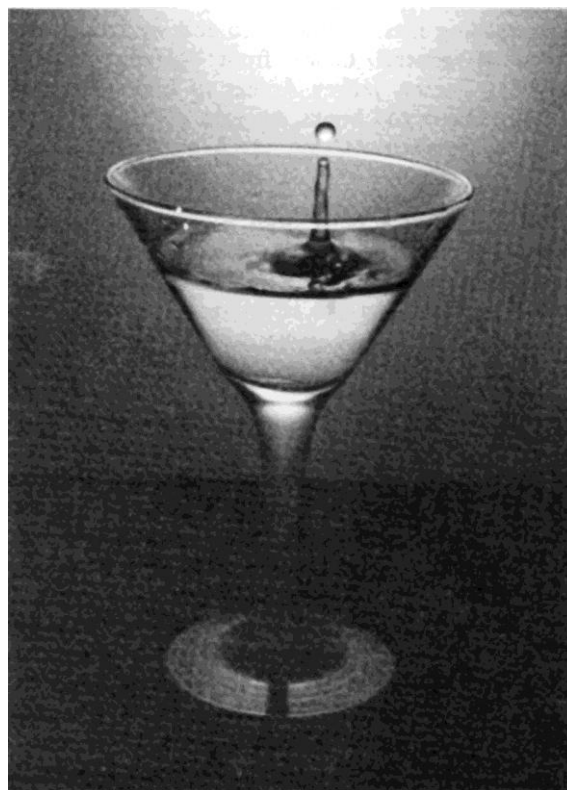
We were able to visit Cheltenham Camera Club more often this year, and a number of our members attended some excellent sessions, some of which were practical:

- 'Portraiture' R. Sloman, FRPS
- 'Portraiture and beyond' David Tann-Ailward
- 'Club Auction'
- 'Slide Development and Printing' R. F. Parry, ARPS, AFIAP
- 'MCPF Road Show'
- '10 x 8 Print Competition'

Darrell Adshead, the Society's Secretary, displayed some of his work at the Camera Club and received praise and constructive comments from experienced members. Darrell has done a superb job as Secretary this year, and it has been interesting to watch the development of his own skill. We wish him every success in his career as a photographer.

Once again we were fortunate to be able to visit Colortrend (Truprint) processing laboratories in the summer term, and it made a good ending to the Duke of Edinburgh course.

We welcome the following new members: N. Suffolk, I. Simmins, R. Wooster, C. Wood, R. Martin and C. Hauton.



C. J. W. "Wine Glass"

Photo: D. Adshead

## Paperback Bookshop

Since it was started in January 1984, the Paperback Bookshop has been in regular use, opening three times a week for sales and orders. Mr. Coombes, the Physics Laboratory Technician, has had the major task of keeping the accounts up to date and making up orders, as well as supervising the day-to-day running of the Bookshop with the help of a few interested 5th and 6th Formers.

Our books are supplied by a wholesaler based near Warwick; it has been possible to visit the warehouse to examine the stock of over 22,000 books, which are arranged so the cover of each book is on show. A computerised system allows books to be chosen from this display and an order compiled.

We were initially reluctant to stock their School Kit range of pens, pencils, rulers, pads, etc., but now this has become a very popular addition to the Bookshop, as the goods are cheap and of good quality. The profit which is made on both books and stationery has been used so far to pay for our stock and also to increase its range. Also, substantial donations have been made to both Junior House and Godman House to enable them to update their libraries. It is intended to distribute profits in this way so that they will benefit all members of the College.

An important feature of the Bookshop has been the provision of set books, study notes and books from reading lists. We are also able to keep a wide range of general books from Adventure Game books to Poetry, Jeffrey Archer to Emile Zola. On average about 500 books are sold each term, and a stock of between six and seven hundred books is kept.

Although there have been some problems with supply, mainly due to the fact that our suppliers have been taken over twice this year by larger firms, we hope that the situation will now stabilise and that the range of books will increase now that the parent company is W. H. Smith! An encouraging feature has been the interest shown by parents and others on Founder's Day and Open Day.

D. A. H.



**Snow on the Churn**

*Photo: D. Beales*

# Viewpoints

## King and Pauper

Let me rest,  
Lean my head against gentle winds,  
And as the dew drifts  
From the stones of fortune,  
So my powdered bones  
Slip through the cracks of time;  
And all that I have is yours.

Carry me your diction,  
That slips from mouths  
As quickly as sense does from me.  
And yet I hear nothing,  
Giving birth to my cruel rage;  
Barren decisions flood me,  
And soon you are sent away.

Cast out, amongst blackness,  
But lift and turn,  
Turn towards images that confuse  
All but myself.

Rise and  
**STRIKE!**

Nothing,  
A non-entity  
Flowing through my soul,  
Swallowing me into void.

Show me light,  
And I will leave, and live,  
All strength to me as I blossom.  
Hold me, ever tightly,  
But stay by me  
For I need love.  
From king to pauper, I was  
And am king.  
Follow me now,  
Sweet Cordelia.

NEIL PATERSON-FOX

## The Cold Land

A mist hung, grey and cold, around the rusted  
cranes and dying hulks,  
Smoothly glided over scummy waters and across the  
dark estuary.

The cranes stood, static and lifeless, monolithic  
reminders of the grim tide of deterioration.  
The debris of life, the flotsam and jetsam of culture  
lay washed up by the dark endlessness of the  
sea.

And at the centre of it all two boys sat, watching  
over the grim kingdom that was theirs,  
Sitting on thrones of rock, courts of driftwood and  
pebbles around them.  
Their empire lay before them in all its baleful glory  
And sang a mournful song called the wind.

BEN REES

The two following poems were prizewinners in  
the under 14 section of the Stroud Literary Festival  
Poetry Competition this year.

## The Hippopotamus

A giant glutton chameleon,  
Mingled with grey mud.  
Splashes of murky water  
Dapple the wrinkled skin.

Eyes like broken limpets  
Embedded on a scarred rock  
Nostrils slumped in pools of grime;  
Caves of unseen dark.

Scored figures, choked with a crust  
Of his gaunt habitat.

A still log of tranquil life,  
Entranced and drunken; dozing.

Unseemingly hidden in lifeless pools.  
The jaws that bite, so savage.  
Just a tarnished glimmer of hints  
In those eyes, pools of polished crystal.

STEPHEN GREEN

## In The Eye Of A Dog

The sky was a pale, washed-out grey  
And the sun was nowhere to be seen.  
A group of figures, but cardboard, dead,  
Frozen forever, as in a dream.

Leading the eye downwards and nearer,  
Are a line of paralysed birds, pink.  
Grass merges into concrete,  
Concrete into steel; sky sinks.

The baleful eye of a passing dog,  
Frozen in its own long stare.  
A million and one things, not moving,  
Stuck to ground or hung on air.

The glossy print was on a board,  
The board was in a room,  
The room was in the eye of the dog,  
As it peered out through the gloom.

EDWARD WEBB

## ‘Hamlet’

From the product of Shakespeare’s middle-aged disillusionment the finest play (arguably) in literature was born. Written about 1600, this masterpiece melts precepts, axioms, suspense, curiosity and dramatic action into a multi-faced diamond, at which we can look and see a million different shapes, but never crack it and unravel the mystery. Thus, after the story fades, the lessons continue to be remembered, ‘Hamlet’ being the most quoted piece of literature. But the whole play centres on the indefinable character of Hamlet; without his behaving in such a manner the play is little, and so it is his character that thousands have written upon.

Perhaps a reason for these many interpretations is a diversity of character; no one characterisation can explain all his actions; from his sad soliloquising in the first scenes to his violent action towards the end of the play, my view of Hamlet’s character takes account of this conflict of attitudes within himself. The Prince Hamlet, with leisure and luxury to think and study, has time to consider life far more deeply than the majority of people living from day to day; at the beginning he is secure and safe, with few worries. Aged about thirty, he appears to have been at the University of Wittenberg for a long time, and the King and Queen do not want him to return there. One suspects that he has been studying philosophy, a common discipline to study at that time. Thus he appears, from his speech and the time spent at university, to be a very learned man. This quality and plenty of leisure, combined with his emotional temperament, have led him to question life and its purpose. From thinking he has become disillusioned with life and his own loss of purpose, the futility of mankind and its base nature; ‘to be, or not to be’ — he says he has bad dreams. On top of this comes his mother’s ‘o’er hasty’ marriage to a man he hates (‘hyperion to a satyr’); he is now paralysed by his thoughts on life’s futility and the feeling that he ought to do something about it, but at this stage he knows not what. His first soliloquy shows how close he is to death, to death he gives his closest attention, his mother’s marriage being secondary in importance. Throughout, his soliloquies deal with life in general, rather than with his specific problems. He seems to float above the specific and to tackle the general principles of life itself.

Obsessed with acting and the way the player cries ‘and all for nothing’, the joy of drama is the only happiness Hamlet derives from life in the earlier part of the play. Putting on ‘an antic disposition’ would be most enjoyable for him, and I believe that Hamlet unknowingly self-induced a Multiple Personality Disorder, creating several characters. One of these hates women, because of his mother’s unfaithfulness, and rebuffs Ophelia;

this personality is prone to contemplation and deep thought.

Then we have the almost psychotic personality, the man of violent action. It is on his return from England that this part comes out. Showing his love for Ophelia at the grave and attacking Laertes, he later says that the deaths of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ‘are not near my conscience’. Then he kills Laertes and the King, acts which could not be done by the thinking Hamlet; he is acting to such a degree that he lives the part begun with the murder of Polonius. By such acting Hamlet has the ability to ‘wipe away all trivial fond records’ or to appear to do so.

His hesitation in killing Claudius can easily be explained: Hamlet could not simply kill the King without any proof but a ghost’s word; he would be killed immediately by the Swiss guards if he attempted it. But on returning from England he has proof of Claudius’ wickedness; this must surely boost his confidence.

In Fortinbras and Laertes we have contrasting parallels to Hamlet, which spur him on in his character transformation. There is the manner in which Fortinbras is arrogantly claiming land ‘that hath in it no profit but the name’, while Hamlet is moping around Elsinore. As well as this princely parallel there is that with Laertes, who is avenging his father’s death; there is also the way in which he, though not as popular as Hamlet, raises the crowds. Hamlet could do this far more effectively, but fails to; his deep thought about human existence, strengthened by repetition in speech as if an extension of thought, leads to inaction.

As for Ophelia, there is evidence in letters that he loved her once, but now, owing to the unfaithfulness of his mother and his feeling of the foolishness of life, he renounces her, though perhaps only because of the task the ghost has given him. In the ‘nunnery’ scene there is a character conflict within Hamlet; he alternates insults with phrases of ‘dispriz’d love’, such as ‘I did love you once’. In this scene the violent and the thinking Hamlet battle for control; his thoughts of human insincerity are vehemently put forward, marking the phase before the personalities split.

In the first act the feeling is repeatedly conveyed that ‘something is rotten in the state of Denmark’, and by the end of the play all this corruption has been wiped out. Hamlet has been the indirect instrument of eight deaths, deaths to cleanse the state. Thus the evil that has spread amongst a happy community because of one foul deed is eventually wiped out, taking all the tainted with it. Hamlet’s final words ‘the rest is silence’ sum this up; now everything can return to its normal, quiet state. Hamlet has been the martyr in the removal of the evil blemish, though he himself is contaminated by murder and so has to die too.



This, yet another interpretation, passes by, but the play itself stands immortal, and the enigma goes unsolved. This is but one of the many indicators that the work is a masterpiece; that thousands of people may pluck advice and thought so differently from the same piece of literature. The moral precepts and philosophical questions remain unimpaired, the acid test of four hundred years having done nothing but sharpen the blade of this magnetic masterpiece.

ALEX HAYES

## 'To Belong'

It was a quiet little place off the main street. The dimly lit neon sign flashed a feeble "Giovanni's" to attract the attention of whoever passed. No-one did, and so no-one saw the hours we spent behind the grease-encrusted net curtains that shielded us from the world.

"Mario's", as we called it (Giovanni having long since passed on) appealed to us because of the sense of security it presented. It was a vacuum, void of all sounds but the slurping of tea from the woman with no teeth and the gentle rustlings as Mario turned the pages of the newspaper.

The woman was there as often as we were. She was part of the scenery, a permanent fixture, as she sat with a cup of tea in her hand and her eyes fixed firmly on the clock on the wall. To its gentle ticking, like the beating of a tiny heart, she would while away her life as if it didn't matter to her. Perhaps it didn't. Even we could not break the spell that locked her thoughts away. She could only stare at the clock, whose blank face callously grinned back.

We sat just as silently, our six empty eyes focusing on an unseen point between us. Our fourth was gone now, and the gap her murderer had created was impossible to bridge. We could trust no-one. Even Mario, who had been like a brother to us, was lost. We now sat, frozen by time, as if never to speak again.

We didn't need to speak, not now. The dark cloud of fear which engulfed us like a shroud killed the need to talk. We could say everything, or nothing, with our minds. Our fear-sharpened senses created an undeniable telepathy, impenetrable to anyone else.

"Hello". This word was not spoken. We looked, as one, at the stranger who had broken defences. Our upturned faces met two dark eyes, shining from a parchment face like hot coals in snow.

The thin, yellow lips curled into a condescending sneer, and again our minds were attacked.

"You know me, don't you?"

"No, leave us."

"I'm going nowhere. I know I can beat you. You can't shut me out. I'm stronger than you are."

"We can," we retaliated, "We are three; you're only one; what can you do?"

"You were four. Where is she now? What do you think happened to her?"

The atmosphere was electric in the room. Not one word had been spoken, but the woman with no teeth had shifted her gaze from the clock to us. We could do no more. Our minds were strong, but the leering smile from the half-moon face was eating into our brains. We had to do something, or all would be lost.

Mario coughed and switched the sign on the door from 'OPEN' to 'CLOSED'.

"Retreat, retreat, retreat." The chorus raced through our heads as we made for the door. Not yet running, nevertheless fleeing, we walked as if in a dream, with the echoing laughter harassing our minds.

We walked faster, yet when we looked there was nothing there. The streets were silent. It was as if the whole world was sleeping while a few fought to save it.

Then we heard footsteps, and the maniacal laughter re-entered our brains. As it swerved wildly through our minds, as if on a great mental rollercoaster, there was a sudden feeling of pain. We were being struck in the back by what felt like a branding iron. A burning, searing pain seemed to be melting our clothes and our flesh with it. I turned, and the red-hot coals for eyes struck me full in the face. I uttered a cry of shock and pain, and we began to run.

We ran blindly on. We did not know or care where we ran. With every turn the laughter swirled around our heads like coffee in a cup.

Then we were there. Our feet clattered on the cold stone floor. He stood facing us, the moon casting unearthly shadows through the vast stained-glass window behind him.

"Get out! Get out! Get out! You don't belong here!" we cried.

"But I want to belong!" The silent scream died, and before us sat a broken crying man. Pity, once again returned to our hearts.

LOUISA ROSEBLADE

# Rugby

Thanks to fine weather and pitches that were perfect underfoot for most of the season, we were able to complete a full programme of fixtures at all levels. All teams seemed to enjoy their rugger and for most the term proved successful; the senior sides produced respectable records, the middle school XVs battled on, with the talented Under 14s developing well in the latter part of the season while the Under 15s played with tremendous spirit even against some monstrous, well-drilled sides. Mr. Burden's Under 13s produced some impressive handling and running resulting in some notable victories, while Mr. Kelsey again moulded the Under 12s into a well-drilled and effective side.

On paper this season's 1st XV were not strong, but all credit is due to their character and attitude in performing as well as they did, from both a coach's and spectator's point of view, and in achieving such a pleasing final record.

The lack of injuries meant that in the early stages of the season the unity of the team developed well. The tenacity and aggression of the forwards, helped by the addition of a ruck/maul machine to our resources meant that they became technically very effective as a rucking unit. Their efficiency at getting the ball on the ground and keeping it available meant the backs had chance to work their set moves in the best possible situations, as seen in the Dauntsey's, King's and Rednock matches. The three-quarters suffered from periodic injuries as the season went on, which upset their fluidity as a unit, but their aggressive tackling and intelligent play in attack and defence gave them the edge against several sides who were physically bigger and more skilful.

The Kingswood match again proved to be 'the big one' and, despite losing, the XV played with great courage and enterprise, being held short of the line on numerous occasions. The victories against King's and Dauntsey's were very satisfying and certainly well-deserved, whilst in the King Edward's, Bath, match we put them under considerable pressure and just failed to take our chances, to lose by two points. Bloxham's talented handling side had a convincing win over us, but defeat against Prince Henry's was very disappointing; lethargy and mistakes, due in part to fatigue from the tough Kingswood fixture two days before, were the main problems.

In the forwards the technical ability of David Edwin as hooker proved invaluable, while props Doré Green and Nicholas Badcott, who were usually physically outgunned by opponents, stuck to their job admirably. Robert "Jock" McIntyre proved reliable as lock, whilst the back-row combination of Matthew Newman, Angus Trowern and Simon Jenkins were effective in support and in loose play. Blaise Jenkins needs special commend-

ation for his role as pack leader and vice-captain; his 'fire' in loose play and height plus weight in set pieces proved particularly important. He also had a crucial role, along with the back row, in our two-man lineouts, which were used regularly and to great effect, especially against the larger packs.

The backs developed into a well balanced unit helped by the reliable and skilful half-back combination of Nicholas Webb and John Healey who, with another season to go, are maturing into very talented players. Duncan Brown, although lacking experience, showed particular speed and tackling ability, while Jeremy Butling, David Aylott and David Wilson showed great commitment and keenness to rim the ball. Kevin Elderfield had established himself as a regular XV player and showed considerable potential until injury in October led to retirement for the rest of the season.

Mark Binder, Captain of Rugby deserves a special mention; his commitment and natural ability as fullback proved a perfect reference point for other players, whilst his personal attitude to the game helped motivate the team without losing sight of the important element of enjoyment. It was this balanced approach that led to an excellent team spirit and from my point of view a thoroughly enjoyable season; many thanks, Mark!

Mark's hard work and efficiency off the pitch were invaluable when he, Blaise Jenkins, Robert McIntyre and 2nd XV Captain, Chris Carpenter, helped organise the first ever Rendcomb Rugby Club Dinner. This was held in the Dulverton Hall during the last week of term and was attended by the senior players and their guests for the evening who included team coaches, the Headmaster and Mr. D. S. J. Price who as Master i/c Rugby Football over a decade helped elevate "this glorious game" to its present position in the College. Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. R. C. Hannaford, ex-England International player, who captivated and greatly amused his audience by meandering through "Rugby" with numerous personal reflections and interesting anecdotes! Excellent food and a genial atmosphere made the occasion most enjoyable and certainly a great success.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Essen-high who, despite always wanting me to cancel matches at the slightest hint of rain to save damage to the cricket outfield, worked hard to keep our pitches to a standard that is the envy of visiting masters and teams. Many thanks also to Mrs. Kenworthy for her hyper-efficient medical back-up, fortunately required more by visiting players than by our own. Finally thanks also to my hard-working, underpaid and underloved colleagues for the time given and enthusiasm shown in the coaching of their

sides; with special mention of Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Lane for standing in for the "off games" Mr. King. Mr. Griffiths was particularly invaluable; during the course of the season he was able to, dare I say, 'mould' the Under 14 B XV into an impressive and unbeaten team — on that performance don't hang your boots up yet, Martin; we may need your talents next season!

M. J. N.

### 1st XV

It was generally expected that this season would be a repeat of the previous one. The XV were smaller than last year's, especially in the forward department but fortunately most of the opposition teams seemed to have the same problem.

The season proved to be enjoyable and successful in many respects; we seemed to put up our best performances against the 'better' sides, but the only disappointment was that against some of the weaker teams we knew we could easily beat we put up a poor display, either winning narrowly or even losing as against Prince Henry's. Despite these annoyances we managed to 'keep our heads up', helped by the tremendous team spirit that developed as the season went on. Our best performances were undoubtedly the result of good teamwork rather than due to certain individuals only, with tenacious pack play and effective running and handling by the backs, helped by the 6B half-back duo of Nick Webb and John Healey, who provided the perfect link between the two units. This team factor inevitably makes it impossible to pick out individuals who contributed most to the XV.

Every year has injuries, but luckily we escaped with only a few not too serious ones. Unfortunately we lost the talented Kevin Elderfield from the wing quite early in the term with a broken collar-bone, while several players had niggling injuries which fortunately only kept them out for one or two matches. Throughout the season the pack were well organised and supported each other well in set-piece and loose play, especially in rucking where they proved to be clinically efficient. They provided the perfect platform for running and handling the ball, but we were not so well organised in the back division. This was mainly due to the fact that several changes had to be made during the season through injury or lack of consistency in individual performances; by the latter part of the season, however, we began to work well in our set moves and general handling.

May I convey my thanks to everyone who made my final year of 'Rendcomb Rugby' a memorable one; to Blaise as Vice-Captain for his support through the season, to Mr. Newby for his considerable time and effort spent coaching and improving the squad and, of course, to all who played for the XV, whom I wish well in their future rugby.

MARK BINDER



U13 XV in action

Photo: D. Adshead

Played 15; Won 6; Lost 9; Points for 122; Points against 176.

v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	3-8
v. Rednock School (H)	Won	14-8
v. Kingswood School, Bath (A)	Lost	3-20
v. Prince Henry's School, Evesham (A)	Lost	13-20
v. Wycliffe College 2nd XV (A)	Won	9-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	16-8
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	17-4
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-32
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	13-22
v. Burford School (H)	Lost	4-9
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	6-3
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Lost	0-13
v. King Edward's School, Bath (H)	Lost	6-8
v. Old Rendcombians (H)	Lost	4-18

### 'A' XV:

v. Cokethorpe School 1st XV (H)	Won	14-0
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Team from: M. Binder (Capt.), J. Awdry, D. Aylott, N. Badcott, B. Branston, D. Brown, J. Butling, C. Carpenter, D. Edwin, K. Elderfield, D. Green, A. Hall, B. Hatcher, J. Healey, N. Hoare, M. Holland, B. Jenkins, S. Jenkins, C. Jones, J. Kinch, S. Kingscote, R. McIntyre, S. McIntyre, R. Moss, M. Newman, A. Trowern, N. Webb, D. Wilson.

### 2nd XV

This year's 2nd XV squad can look back on the season with considerable satisfaction. Faced with a long and demanding fixture programme, they acquitted themselves with skill and determination and achieved some noteworthy results.

The forwards played with great verve and flair. Inevitably confronted with heavier opposition, they relied on mobility and a quick distribution of the ball to deny their opponents. In the line-out Mark Astill was outstanding, with Christopher Moody and Simon Kingscote providing excellent support. The play of the back row deserves special mention: both

in the tight and the loose Richard Moss and Andrew Hall played some excellent rugby and created many scoring opportunities.

At scrum-half Christopher Carpenter was outstanding. His penetrating running, solid tackling and tireless enthusiasm were an example to the whole side. I thank and congratulate him for his efforts.

The three-quarters also acquitted themselves with skill and courage. Nicholas Hoare, Jeremy Butling and Barnabas Branston demonstrated considerable talent.

An encouraging feature of this season has been the number of fifth-formers who have forced their way into the side and then coped more than adequately. This bodes well for next season.

S. H. J.

Played 11; Won 6; Lost 5; Points for 153; Points against 108.

v. Dean Close School 2nd XV (H)	Won	9-4
v. Rednock School 2nd XV (H)	Won	32-0
v. Kingswood School, Bath, 2nd XV		
(A)	Lost	0-8
v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV (A)	Lost	9-15
v. The King's School, Gloucester,		
2nd XV (H)	Won	19-0
v. Dauntsey's School 2nd XV (H)	Won	32-0
v. Bloxham School 2nd XV (A)	Lost	0-24
v. Monkton Combe School		
2nd XV (A)	Lost	10-26
v. Burford School 2nd XV (A)	Won	18-7
v. Millfield School 3rd XV (H)	Lost	0-14
v. King Edward's School, Bath,		
2nd XV	Won	14-6

Team from: C. Carpenter (captain), M. Astill, A. Brain, B. Branston, A. Brealy, J. Butling, R. Draper, D. Green, A. Hall, N. Hoare, D. John, C. Jones, R. Khosrowshahi, J. Kinch, S. Kingscote, S. McIntyre, J. Morris, R. Moss, C. Moody, M. Newman, N. Paterson-Fox, G. Veale, M. Walters, I. Whittaker, D. Wilson.

### 3rd and 4th XVs

Although, on paper, the 3rd XV has done as well as usual, this has not been a good season.

Much individual talent was available, but at no stage did the team play with real purpose and cohesion. We lacked experience in the front row and at half-back, and thus our potentially strong three-quarter line had very little possession. Under

any sort of pressure, too many silly errors and wrong options presented the opposition with easy points. Until players realise that this is essentially a team game and that a little ability is of no use unless matched by a positive and sustained effort, the results will not improve.

Alistair Brain, Nicholas Hoare and Christopher Moody made the greatest all-round progress and thoroughly deserved their promotion to the 2nd XV. Good performances were also seen from Tom Branston, Nicholas Hannaford, Philip Moore and Dominic Scarlett, usually our captain, who performed his duties efficiently and sensibly.

The 4th XV played with some enthusiasm, but unfortunately their other match was spoilt when Dauntsey's School deliberately fielded the wrong team.

D. A. H.

Played 10; Won 4; Lost 6; Points for 88; Points against 171.

v. Dean Close School 3rd XV (H)	Lost	0-23
v. Kingswood School, Bath, 3rd XV		
(A)	Won	6-0
v. Wycliffe College 4th XV (A)	Won	22-4
v. The King's School, Gloucester,		
3rd XV (A)	Won	34-0
v. Bredon School 1st XV (A)	Lost	0-23
v. Dauntsey's School 2nd XV (H)	Won	26-0
v. Bloxham School 3rd XV (A)	Lost	0-29
v. Monkton Combe School		
3rd XV (H)	Lost	0-32
v. Farmor's School 1st XV (A)	Lost	0-20
v. King Edward's School, Bath		
U16 XV (A)	Lost	0-40

### 4th XV

v. Bredon School 2nd XV (H)	Lost	0-6
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The following played for the 3rd or 4th XVs: A. Hall, T. Branston, T. Needham, D. Scarlett, G. Veale (captain), J. Butling, N. Hoare, J. Kinch, S. McIntyre, J. Morris, N. Blackshaw, A. Brain, D. Denby, M. Hammond, A. Hayes, R. Khosrowshahi, D. King, K. Knight, D. MacDonald, R. Moss, N. Paterson-Fox, T. Robinson, M. Stitt, D. Beales, A. Brealy, T. Burns, A. Cayton, R. Draper, N. Hannaford, K. Hewston, R. Hill, M. Houseman, D. John, S. Kingscote, J. Kook, C. Moody, P. Moore, J. Penneck, M. Walters, N. Wharmby, I. Whittaker, S. Young.

## Under 15 XV

The season was a long and hard one for a weak under 15 side. However, not once did they falter against much stronger opposition. Although the tackling remains weak, a number of players improved this physical side of the game. Giles Davies led by example and was ably supported by an encouraging half-back combination between John Shaw and Giles Carter. The pack was competent but not dominant. Marcus Rann played with determination all season, and the pack was led well by Paul Griffiths. David Hauton, Justin Rosa and James McMonigall had some good games, whilst Adam Binder, Jonathan Chappelle and Colin Sainsbury were always reliable. Alexander Andreis, Hari Nathan and Stephen Green improved steadily. Once again my thanks to Davies for his efficient organisation and to the squad generally for keeping in good heart during adversity.

R. C. H.

Played 14; Won 2; Lost 12; Points for 76; Points against 510.

v. Dean Close School U15 XV (A)	Lost	0-52
v. Rednock School U15 XV (A)	Lost	0-15
v. Kingswood School, Bath, U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-46
v. Wycliffe College U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-52
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U15 XV (H)	Lost	4-55
v. Bredon School U15 XV (A)	Won	24-4
v. Dauntsey's School U15 XV (A)	Lost	12-36
v. Monkton Combe School U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-26
v. Burford School U15 XV (H)	Lost	3-7
v. Cokethorpe School U15 XV (H)	Lost	4-20
v. Bloxham School U15 XV (A)	Lost	0-20
v. Kingham Hill School U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-32
v. Kingshill School U15 XV (A)	Won	26-0
v. King Edward's School, Bath, U15 XV	Lost	3-25

Team from: G. Davies (captain), P. Griffiths (vice-captain), A. Andreis, M. Attwood, J. Barnett, A. Binder, P. Bowley, G. Carter, J. Chappelle, S. Green, M. Hastings, J. Leigh, D. Hauton, R. Johnston, J. McMonigall, H. Nathan, D. Paton, M. Rann, C. Sainsbury, J. Shaw, J. Rosa.

## Under 14 XV

During the first half of the season the fixtures were strong and, despite playing well on several occasions, the side was beaten primarily by the size of the opposition. After the game against Bredon confidence was restored, and some very good rugby was played in the second half of term. Indeed, if some of the earlier fixtures had been approached in this manner, we might have won one or two more. The forwards played well throughout the season and in this department Christopher Huck and William Matson were outstanding. The backs had little possession during the early games, but they tackled well and later on were moving the ball quickly, running at the opposition and scoring points. In the second half of the term William Sherwood made his mark in every game. The team shows much promise for the future.

P. S.

Played 11; Won 4; Drew 1; Lost 6; Points for 194; Points against 164.

v. Rednock School U14 XV (H)	Drew 14-14
v. Kingswood School, Bath, U14 XV (H)	Lost 26-6
v. Wycliffe College U14 XV (H)	Lost 16-10
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U14 XV (A)	Lost 22-10
v. Dauntsey's School U14 XV (A)	Lost 8-0
v. Monkton Combe School U14 XV (H)	Lost 60-0
v. Bredon School U14 XV (H)	Won 48-0
v. Bloxham School U14 XV (H)	Lost 12-0
v. Kingham Hill School U14 XV (H)	Won 38-0
v. Kingshill School U14 XV (H)	Won 28-6
v. King Edward's School, Bath, U14 XV (A)	Won 40-0

## Under 14 'B' Team:

v. Kingshill School U14 XV (A)	Won 12-0
v. Kingshill School U14 XV	Won 11-4

Teams from: C. Huck, W. Hammond, D. Kenney, A. Powell, G. Hughes, W. Sherwood, J. Carter, J. Fellows, G. Broomfield, R. J. Martin, J. Vernon, R. Kolb, W. Croft, R. Matson (captain), S. Fieldhouse, C. Bannister, N. Suffolk, P. Wilson, V. Tredwell, J. Norbury.

## Under 13 XV

It was an interesting season with a mixed bag of results. The early matches were against strong sides, and we suffered two heavy defeats. Fortunately we sustained few injuries, and as the season progressed the team improved steadily. The best matches were against Rednock School and Kingham Hill and were hard fought. The Kingham game was particularly exciting and ended in a no-score draw, a rare occurrence in rugby. Unfortunately, the matches won were against weak sides. These, however, allowed the boys to demonstrate their handling skills. Benjamin Maslen, Tom Nicholls and John Carroll deserve particular mention as promising three-quarters, and also all members of the pack, who had a good season.

C. C. B.

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 3; Points for 130; Points against 68.

v. The King's School, Gloucester, U13 XV (A)	Lost	0-30
v. St. Hughes School, Faringdon, 1st XV (H)	Won	28-0
v. Dauntsey's School U13 XV (A)	Lost	0-30
v. Rednock School U13 XV (A)	Lost	0-8
v. Farmor's School U13 XV (H)	Won	50-0
v. Kingham Hill School U13 XV (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Kingshill School U13 XV (H)	Won	52-0

Team from: B. Maslen (captain), A. Bain, J. Carroll, A. Cochrane, C. Daniels, J. Gregory, N. Hall, C. Hauton, K. Holmes, A. Lainé, A. Miles, J. Nicholls, T. Nicholls, J. Prince, A. Watson, L. Watson, R. Wooster.



Photo: C.J. Wood

## Hockey

Despite a great deal of snow and ice, many people were able to enjoy their games and improve the standard of their play significantly. This was due to several factors: first, the Sports Hall, which allowed us to practise skills and to play short five or six-a-side games when layers of ice kept us off the Asphalt and the tennis courts beyond Park House. Indeed the girls played an indoor match against Marlborough College and were successful, and First Game used a sports hall in Cheltenham for an internal tournament. The aim next season will be to expand the game of indoor hockey at all levels, as it polishes certain skills, although the rules differ in some details. Secondly, the assistant national coach, Trevor Clarke, gave us a full afternoon of practice at different levels, finishing with an extremely useful session for those unsung heroes and heroines, goalkeepers. Thirdly, when the grass was eventually exposed to sunlight and first pitch looked more like a map in green and brown, there were several mild afternoons of which both staff and pupils took full advantage. Just to remind us that it was still March, there was a terrific hail-storm during and at the end of the matches against Dean Close. Rendcomb boys' natural immunity to such conditions showed when the 1st XI retired to the goal for the half-time chat, while the Dean Close side retreated to the pavilion!

It is evident that, as more schools have all-weather surfaces laid down, we shall have to make greater use of our small hard surfaces to improve skills, and certainly the work with the first year boys during the Christmas term proved most worth while.

The season ran very smoothly, thanks to the dedication of the sometimes hard-pressed staff, including the tireless efforts of David Essenhigh, to the efficiency of the Captain of Hockey, Mark Binder, to the patience of the Kitchen Staff and to the enthusiasm of team members and non-team players.

Overall: played 59; won 24; drew 10; lost 25; goals for 157; goals against 117.



## 1st XI

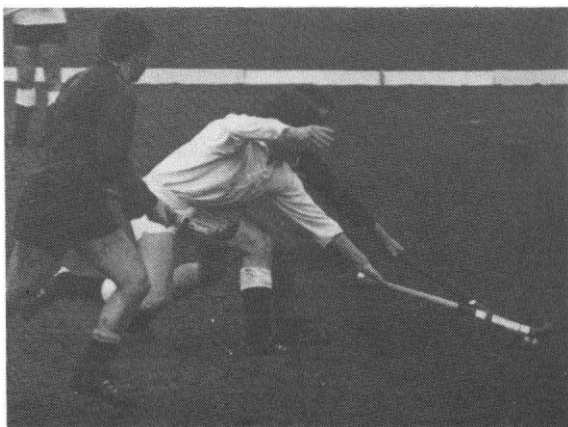
In the 1st XI there was never any problem in the selection of backs and halves, the former being strong enough to allow a conventional 5-2-3-1 formation without a sweeper of any kind. The forwards proved to be the problem area — Marcus Holland did not develop as a centre forward as expected, although he did adapt reasonably well to the left wing position, and the eventual promotion of Jonathan Morris from the 3rd XI to 1st XI centre forward was a great success; he scored eight goals in six matches. Jeremy Butling was effective on the right wing but, despite much coaching, the ball was not passed to him enough. The insides, Nicholas Webb and Simon Jenkins, worked hard, the latter proving extremely skilful but perhaps not as effective as he could have been. These two should be key figures in next year's team. The halves were all reliable, and very strong when moving forward; Andrew Hall's stickwork improved significantly, and it is unfortunate that he leaves this year. However, half the team will be available next season, and the quick reactions of James Kinch will be replaced by an equally secure goalkeeper in Mark Astill. The success of the 2nd and 3rd XIs also supports optimism for the future.

C. J. W.

It was a disappointing season as far as the results were concerned, but I think it was enjoyed by everyone. At the beginning of the season our forward line seemed unable to get the ball in the goal but, after a few changes about half-way through the season, our forward line, with added fire in their attacks, suddenly found some form. This year first game had a definite shortage of wingers to choose from, so we had to introduce people who were totally new to the position; they coped and proved very useful in that capacity. The defence was reasonably strong, on two or three occasions preventing heavy defeats, especially early in the season when the forwards lacked that goal-scoring ability, relying on the defence to supply them with

## Old Rendcombian Society match

*Photo: J. D. Williams (O.R.)*



the ball and keep the opposition out. By the end of the season the team was working very well together and often proved hard to stop, but unfortunately we still lacked that last edge over the opposition. One of our main faults was that the ball was not distributed quickly enough from the centre, nor in the D when 'one-tvos' around the defence could have been used.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Wood on behalf of the team for being so patient in his coaching, also thanks to David Essenhigh for maintaining our pitch to its usual high standard, despite the wet weather, throughout the term.

The team: M. Binder (captain), J. Kinch, G. Veale, A. Hall (vice-captain), D. Edwin, A. Brain, J. Butling, N. Webb, J. Morris, S. Jenkins, M. Holland. Also played: M. Cordeux, M. Bailey, C. Carpenter, B. Almond.

MARK BINDER

Played 11; Won 2; Drew 3; Lost 6;  
Goals for 16; Goals against 21.

v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. King Edward's School, Bath, (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Cheltenham HC Wednesday XI (H)	Lost	1-5
v. Colston's School (H)	Lost	0-2
v. Marling School (H)	Won	6-1
v. Dean Close School (H)	Drew	0-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. The Crypt School, Gloucester (H)	Won	3-0
v. Old Rendcombian Society XI (H)	Drew	2-2
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	3-3

## 2nd XI

The teams have had a successful season this year despite the bad weather at the beginning of term. The first match, against Cheltenham College, started well, but the team lost confidence when Kevin Elderfield left the pitch injured after being hit in the face with a stick. Consequently, we were faced with the problem of having to re-position many players, finally resulting in the unusual formation of 5:2:3. Despite this sudden change, the match against Marlborough, one of our long-time rivals, proved the flexibility of the team and gained us a well deserved victory. My only criticism of the team was one of over-competitiveness amongst the forwards, who, in their hurry to gain control of the ball, often ended up tripping over each other. Neil Paterson-Fox, playing right half, found himself very busy because of the new formation, but played a sparkling season with some excellent stick work and well thought-out passes.

Towards the end of the season, it became clear that the new formation was suiting the team more and more, and many opposing teams found the three-man defence confusing and often impenetrable. Mark Astill, in goal, proved himself a most competent keeper and impressed his team-mates on more than one occasion with some excellent hand stops. Finally my thanks must go to Christopher Carpenter, who made a good job as captain, nor only keeping the rest of the team working hard, but also setting a good example by keeping up an exhaustive pace around the pitch.

The team was selected from: C. Carpenter (captain), B. Almond, M. Astill, A. Brain, A. Cayton, M. Cordeux, K. Elderfield, C. Harris, R. Khosrowshahi, P. Moore, N. Paterson-Fox, R. Prynne, M. Reid, M. Walters.

T. J. L.

Played 9; Won 6; Lost 3; Goals for 32; Goals against 15.

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

### 3rd XI

The 3rd XI had a very good season, losing only one match and playing with application and skill. Our first two games were played away on all-weather pitches, on which we had no practice. However, we drew both. An added problem this year was that we often played against extremely skilful Colts' sides, but the boys coped very well and enjoyed their hockey. It would be unfair to single out individuals for praise; we played as a team, and that was probably the most important factor in the success we enjoyed.

The team was taken from: B. Branston (captain), D. Adshead, M. Bailey, A. Brealy, D. Brown, T. Burns, D. Clark, R. Draper, N. Hannaford, K. Hewston, B. Jenkins, J. Morris, P. Moore, S. Reichwald, A. Rollo, M. Thompson, D. Scarlett, I. Whittaker.

D. E.

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 4; Lost 1;  
Goals for 34; Goals against 14.

v. Cheltenham College 4th XI (A)	Drew	3-3
v. King Edward's School, Bath, U16 XI (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Marlborough College 4th XI (A)	Drew	3-3
v. Cheltenham Grammar School 3rd XI (A)	Won	8-1
v. Colston's School U16 XI (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Marling School 3rd XI (A)	Won	5-0
v. Dean Close U16 XI (H)	Drew	3-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester, 3rd XI (A)	Won	10-1

### 4th XI

Although they lost two of their fixtures owing to the weather, the 4th XI once again played with enthusiasm and no little skill. The main tactic of the side was to attack, whatever the circumstances. 24 goals were scored in our four matches. Blaise Jenkins often played as an extra centre forward rather than as centre half. He also captained the side well. The full-backs, James Penneck and Simon Reichwald, did sterling work. Mark Thompson, Simon Kingscote, Nicholas Badcott and Michael Hicks were effective in attack. Both in practices and matches the boys enjoyed their hockey, and a marked improvement was shown in their ability.

The team was taken from: N. Badcott, D. Clark, M. Hicks, B. Jenkins (captain), S. Kingscote, D. MacDonald, S. McIntyre, C. Moody, P. Moore, J. Penneck, S. Reichwald, M. Thompson.

P. M. E.

Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2; Goals for 12; Goals against 12.

v. Cheltenham College 5th XI (H)	Won	3-2
v. Colston's School 3rd XI (H)	Lost	3-6
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U15 XI (A)	Lost	2-3
v. Bredon School 2nd XI (H)	Won	4-1

### Under 15 XI

The pool of talent was not deep enough this year to make it likely that the success of the last two Under 15 sides could be emulated, and this proved to be the case. However, the team played with greater commitment, skill, and constructive acumen in the latter part of the season and by the last match had developed into a useful combination, playing well together.

We were convincingly beaten by Cheltenham College in the opening match and it was clear that a lot of work was needed on basic skills, attacking principles, and marking techniques. There was also insufficient drive in going for the fifty-fifty mid-

field ball and in retaining possession. The next game, against Crypt School, was narrowly lost despite our intense late pressure but then morale was raised as we defeated Marlborough by the odd goal in a game of grotesque defensive blunders by both teams after a goalless first half. Wintry blizzards unfortunately brought the cancellation of the Prior Park and King's, Gloucester, games but early in March, rusty, undetermined, and out of our element on a hard pitch, we allowed a useful Colston's XI to overrun us after we had turned round at half-time only 0-1 down; the urgent need to have a hard pitch of our own at Rendcomb, in order to compete in such cases on level terms, was, incidentally, yet again amply demonstrated in this particular contest. On grass once more at Dean Close we played effectively in the second half, holding our own territorially and conceding no further goals, and the away match at Bloxham was only just lost, confirming the team's progress.

The almost permanent absence of Adam Binder through injury did not help the team's balance and we struggled to find an effective blend in midfield and attack. The defence, despite occasional nerve-tingling aberrations and mishits around their own circle, played with increasing skill and judgement: Robert Matson, applauded by several opposing umpires, was a most reliable, promising goalkeeper, who will surely guard the 1st XI fortress with distinction one day, while both full-backs, John Barnett and Richard Kolb, came out of the season with a lot of credit. The halves had fair natural ability but did not always cover enough ground and tended to wander far out of position, leaving midfield holes and entirely unmarked opponents; nevertheless Giles Carter, Julian Fellows, and Mark Croft (later moved to inside forward — he must keep his feet!) all showed neat touches, and with more drive and experience their talents will flourish. Giles developed an impressive understanding with his right-wing, Stephen Green, who was perhaps the most consistently effective of the forwards. The selection of the inside trio was not easy and we were short of experience and pace here: Richard Reichwald (much improved and quite skilful but rather indecisive), David Kenney (keen but still a bit clumsy and green), and Mark Hastings (with a good shot but slow, with his stick much too high), played in most of the matches. Rory Johnston developed and had touches of skill at left-wing but he needed to be more aggressive and active to make the most of his many opportunities.

Julian Fellows cajoled the troops and set a good example of commitment on the field; my thanks to him.

The team was: R. Matson, J. Barnett, R. Kolb, G. Carter, J. Fellows (captain), M. Hastings, S. Green, R. Reichwald, D. Kenney, M. Croft, R. Johnston. Also played: A. Andreis, D. Hauton, H. Nathan, J. Shaw, A. Binder.

J. N. H.

Played 7; Won 2; Lost 5; Goals for 7; Goals against 20.

v. Cheltenham College U15 'B' XI (H)	Lost	1-6
v. The Crypt School U15 XI (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Colston's School U15 XI	Lost	0-6
v. Dean Close School U15 XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Bloxham School U15 XI (A)	Lost	0-1
v. The Crypt School U15 XI (H)	Won	3-1
v. Marlborough College U15 'B' XI (H)	Won	3-2

#### Under 14 XI

After a slow start this year's U14 squad developed most encouragingly. Early training was hampered by the poor weather, but the practices on the hard surfaces certainly helped to improve stick control and passing.

The side worked hard throughout; not once were they overwhelmed. The defeats were narrow and the victories often impressive. A sense of urgency and competition was engendered, particularly by the half-backs, which produced fast-flowing, entertaining hockey.

The wingers played particularly well. Jason Vernon led the side by example and was outstanding. Nicholas Suffolk, though new to the game, showed real promise, and Aubrey Powell always gave of his best. William Sherwood, at centre forward, scored a number of goals, and he was given excellent service by the inside forwards, Grant Hughes and Gordon Hewston.

The squad can look back on the season with satisfaction and forward to next year with confidence.

The team was taken from: J. Vernon (captain), J. Norbury, D. Houseman, A. Kinch, C. Huck, C. Hauton, G. Hughes, A. Powell, J. Carter, G. Broomfield, N. Suffolk, G. Hewston, W. Sherwood, C. Bannister.

S. H. J.

Played 7; Won 4; Lost 3; Goals for 28; Goals against 12.

v. Cheltenham College U14 XI (H)	Won	6-1
v. King Edward's School, Bath, U14 XI (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Marlborough College U14 XI (H)	Won	5-1
v. Colston's School U14 XI (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Dean Close School U14 XI (A)	Lost	2-5
v. Bloxham School U14 XI (A)	Won	3-0
v. The Crypt School U14 XI (A)	Won	10-0

### Under 13 XI

The considerable potential of the second year boys was not developed as much as had been hoped, because of the adverse weather conditions. Apart from matches, there were only seven occasions when it was possible to play on grass; the long-term effect of such a season is serious for young players.

Nevertheless the group was most enthusiastic and eager to improve its skills whenever there was an opportunity. The team played well in all their matches; in particular, the game against Cheltenham was, as usual, an excellent contest, with both sides playing some good hockey and providing plenty of excitement for spectators — and for umpires too! The new fixture with Oakley Hall was a keenly fought match despite torrential rain.

Christopher Daniels captained the team well; John Carroll showed great promise at centre forward, and the inside forwards, Benjamin Maslen and Tom Nicholls, were very effective.

Team from: J. Gregory, K. Holmes, J. Nicholls, A. Clark, C. Daniels (captain), N. Hall, A. MacKinnon, A. Bain, J. Carroll, T. Nicholls, K. Raffael, B. Maslen.

W. J. D. W.

Played 4; Won 2; Drew 1; Lost 1.  
Goals for 11; Goals against 6.

v. The Crypt School U13 XI (A)	Won 5-0
v. a Cheltenham College Junior School team (A)	Won 2-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U13 XI (A)	Lost 1-2
v. an Oakley Hall School team (A)	Drew 3-3

### Under 12 XI

The unkind weather resulted in a frustrating season for all concerned. The 1st Form's considerable depth of talent became apparent at an early stage of the term, and work in the Sports Hall helped skills to develop, although total lack of practice on grass meant that hitting ability and team work were sadly below par. Match preparation was very difficult, usually occurring between snow and hail showers. Consequently their first match, against a well-drilled and experienced Cheltenham College Junior School team, saw three goals against us in the opening ten minutes, although after that the game proved very even. The return match was cancelled owing to bad weather, so the only other game of the season was at home to Oakley Hall. This was an even game from the beginning, with much better team play in attack and defence, although missed chances 'up front' and a couple of mistakes in defence allowed the visitors to win.

Despite the record of 1985, the 1st Form squad played with enthusiasm, commitment and certainly great enjoyment. They have considerable potential as a group, and I am sure that this will reveal itself as they gain more experience on grass.

The team was taken from: N. Smith (captain), C. Brown, S. Hardie, R. Herbert, S. Hett, D. Maslen, M. Moody, N. McMurtrie, M. Rogers, R. Rowlatt, P. Smithson, I. Spencer, N. Utting, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, N. Wood.

M. J. N.

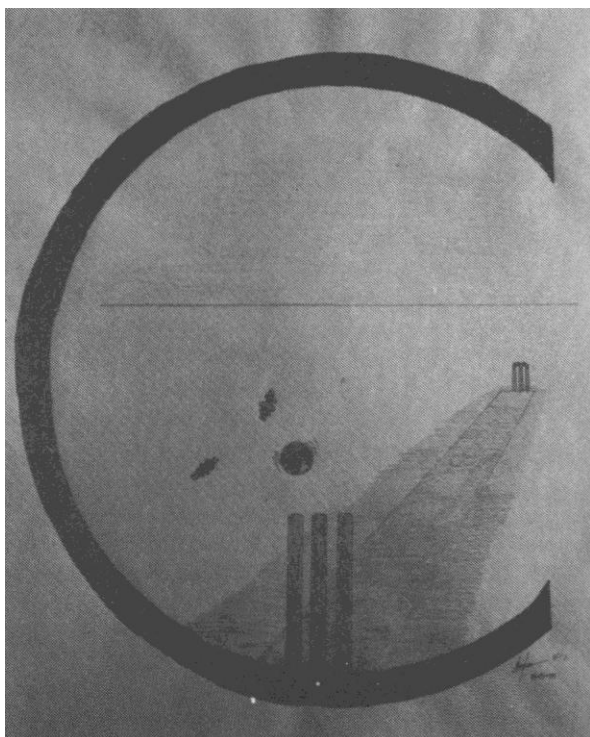
Played 2; Lost 2.

v. a Cheltenham College Junior School team (A)	Lost 1-4
v. an Oakley Hall School team (H)	Lost 0-2

### Winter sport

Photo: M. Bews





# CRICKET

At the end of my time as Master in charge of Cricket at Rendcomb, I should like to thank all the boys and members of staff running games, who have made my job so easy and pleasant. I am particularly grateful to David Essenhigh and to every member of the 2nd XI for the last four years. They have taught me a great deal.

P. M. E.

### 1st XI

The 1st XI enjoyed a most successful season in 1985. Although the majority of the matches were drawn, none was lost, and the most pleasing aspect of the whole term was the growth in maturity and ability of several members of a young side.

John Healey captained the side well and was the major batsman, scoring 677 runs. Certainly in the first half of the season his field-placing and general approach to leading the side could have been more positive. However, these qualities are difficult to acquire, and Healey's captaincy undoubtedly improved. The batting was greatly strengthened by the improved form of Mark Binder and Matthew Cordeux. Binder added discipline to his proven ability as a most attacking batsman. Cordeux, in his first season in the 1st XI, developed into a solid opener and confirmed his progress by scoring his first two fifties in the last week of term. Alex Brealy and Graeme Veale also scored useful runs and must look to take a leading role next season.

The bowling depended largely on the four seam bowlers, Neil Paterson-Fox, Alex Brealy, Mark Binder and Nick Webb. All performed well and took valuable wickets. They have contrasting styles, and no side batted with confidence against them. More use could perhaps have been made of Kevin Elderfield's off-spin, for he bowled well when required.

As ever at Rendcomb, it should be emphasised that this was a team and not a collection of talented individuals. Matthew Newman's wicket-keeping improved quite markedly; the fielding was sharp and the team spirit good. Next year there will be some important gaps to be filled. Alex Brealy should derive confidence from his performance this summer. He has the ability to be a major all-rounder. Graeme Veale should develop into a leading batsman. In conclusion, the whole side can gain satisfaction from the season. The general improvement was typified by the Old Rendcombian match, when a low score was defended against a strong batting side and the match was tied.

The team was taken from: J. Healey (captain), M. Astill, M. Binder, T. Branston, A. Brealy, T. Burns, M. Cordeux, D. Edwin, K. Elderfield, M. Hammond, D. John, M. Newman, N. Paterson-Fox, B. Uglow, G. Veale, N. Webb, I. Whittaker.

P. M. E. / D. E.

Played 16; Won 4; Drew 11; Tied 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday XI (H)—Match Drawn  
Swindon 159 for 6 decl. (Murray 54, Thompson 51,  
Binder 4-28)

Rendcomb 145 for 7 (Healey 65\*, James 3-48,  
Davis 3-39)

v. Kingham Hill School (H)—Won by 8  
wickets.

Kingham Hill 39 all out (Paterson-Fox 3-3,  
Webb 3-6)

Rendcomb 39 for 2

v. North Cerney C. C. (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 171 for 3 decl. (Healey 73\*, Binder 53\*)  
North Cerney 103 for 5 (Webb 4-50)

v. The Crypt School (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 225 for 4 decl. (Healey 100, Binder 89\*)  
Crypt 129 for 5 (Balcombe 60, Binder 3-35)

v. Balliol College, Oxford (A)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 165 for 9 decl. (Healey 42, Cordeux 34,  
Blacklocks 4-37, Williams 2-23)  
Balliol 64 for 7 (Brealy 3-18)

v. Swindon Wednesday XI (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 151 for 8 decl. (Binder 52)  
Swindon 121 for 8

v. Prior Park College (A)—Won by 8 wickets.  
Prior Park 107 all out (Hadley 34, Paterson-Fox  
3-17, Elderfield 3-42)  
Rendcomb 111 for 2 (Cordeux 44\*, Healey 40\*)

v. Cheltenham Grammar School (H)—Match  
Drawn.  
Cheltenham G. S. 101 for 9 decl. (Binder 2-18)  
Rendcomb 101 for 9 (Healey 30, Hanks 6-50)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)—Won  
by 90 runs.

Rendcomb 165 for 5 decl. (Healey 50\*)  
King's 75 all out (Binder 4-7, Elderfield 2-7)

v. COKETHORPE School (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 138 for 8 decl. (Cordeux 37\*, Akande  
4-15)  
Cokethorpe 61 for 1

v. Westwood's Grammar School (A)—Match  
Drawn.

Westwood's 184 for 6 (Kennedy 38)  
Rendcomb 142 for 8 (Cordeux 32)

v. Ratcliffe College (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 223 for 6 decl. (Healey 101\*, Binder 42)  
Ratcliffe 139 for 4 (Paterson-Fox 3-29)

v. The XL Club (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 246 for 6 decl. (Healey 79, Veale 45,  
Binder 39)  
XL Club 131 for 6 (Davey 53\*, Paterson-Fox 3-31)

v. The Diocesan XI (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 223 for 4 decl. (Cordeux 92, Binder 56\*)  
Diocesan XI 160 for 5 (Bore 61, Binder 3-61)

v. Marling School (H)—Won by 7 wickets.  
Marling 132 for 9 decl. (Gingell 36, Smith 36,  
Paterson-Fox 3-16)  
Rendcomb 134 for 3 (Cordeux 62\*, Healey 32)

v. The Old Rendcombians—Match Tied.  
Rendcomb 160 all out (Brealy 41, Hammond 41,  
G. Healey 4-24, Page 3-15)  
Old Rendcombians 160 all out (Page 47, Newman 28,  
Binder 5-73)

## Leading Averages:

BATTING:	<i>Innings</i>	<i>Not Out</i>	<i>Highest Score</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>100s</i>	<i>50s</i>
Healey	16	6	101*	677	67.7	2	4
Binder	12	4	89*	449	56.1	—	4
Cordeux	16	3	92	455	35	—	2
Brealy	9	3	41	130	21.7	—	—
Veale	13	3	45	197	19.7	—	—

BOWLING:	<i>Overs</i>	<i>Maidens</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Best Bowling</i>	<i>Average</i>
Paterson-Fox	127	41	284	26	3—3	10.9
Brealy	82.5	21	232	17		13.6
Binder	149.2	51	376	27	5—73	13.9
Webb	110	32	274	16	4—50	17.1
Elderfield	69.1	14	216	12	3—42	18.0



## 2nd XI

It was unfortunate that, due to weather and other factors outside Rendcomb's control, only five 2nd XI fixtures could be played in 1985. Nevertheless the side approached each match with great enthusiasm, and several players will be in contention for the 1st XI next season.

The side was very well captained by Colin Harris, who had the difficult but pleasant problem of having a side most of whom were all-rounders. The leading batsman was Tom Burns, but David Edwin, Paul Spackman, Mark Hammond, Mark Astill and Darren John all scored useful runs. James Kinch was undoubtedly the leading bowler, taking 21 wickets in five matches (including 9-21 against Bredon), but he was always well supported, particularly by Ben Uglow, who returned the remarkable figures of 9-4-14-9 in the last match of the season against King's, Gloucester.

The team was taken from: C. Harris (captain), M. Astill, B. Branston, T. Branston, T. Burns, D. Edwin, M. Hammond, D. John, J. Kinch, R. Moss, P. Spackman, B. Uglow, M. Walters.

P. M. E.

Played 5; Won 4; Drew 1.

v. Kingham Hill School 2nd XI (A)—  
Won by 100 runs.  
Rendcomb 148 for 9 decl. (Spackman 40, Edwin 36,  
Burns 28, Leggat 6-38)  
Kingham Hill 48 all out (Kinch 6-14, Spackman 3-8)

v. Bloxham School 2nd XI (H)—Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 148 for 5 decl. (Edwin 35\*, Astill 32,  
Hammond 31)  
Bloxham 37 for 8 (B. Branston 3-8, Uglow 2-0,  
Kinch 2-25)

v. Bredon School 2nd XI (H)—Won by 101 runs.  
Rendcomb 143 for 8 decl. (Burns 87\*, Pick 7-35)  
Bredon 42 all out (Kinch 9-21)

v. Prior Park College 2nd XI (H)—Won by  
138 runs.  
Rendcomb 158 for 7 decl. (Hammond 31, Spackman  
25, Burns 24)  
Prior Park 20 all out (Kinch 4-11, Uglow 3-0,  
Spackman 3-4)

v. The King's School, Gloucester, 2nd XI (A)  
—Won by 121 runs  
Rendcomb 176 for 7 decl. (John 48, T. Branston 27\*)  
King's 55 all out (Uglow 9-14)



Photo: K. Knight

## Under 15 XI

This was a weak U15 XI. However, there was a marked improvement over the season, and several players came on very well.

The side found scoring difficult, as only four members had any real batting skills. Adam Binder was the most consistent, scoring 151 in eight innings, and was quite well supported by Richard Reichwald, Robert Matson and Julian Fellows.

Stephen Green proved to be a good opening bowler, with 32 wickets. His line and length improved with every match. He was well supported by Reichwald and Binder, who bowled particularly well late in the season.

The outfielding, which was disastrous in early matches (eight catches being put down in one match), did improve, and some good catches were taken, which surprised the umpire!

Julian Fellows was a competent captain and always encouraged the team to give of their best. He was selected to play in two matches for the County U14 XI.

The team was taken from: J. Fellows (captain),  
A. Andreis, M. Attwood, C. Bannister, J. Barnett,  
A. Binder, G. Broomfield, S. Green, W. Hammond,  
M. Hastings, C. Huck, D. Kenney, R. Matson,  
J. McMonigall, H. Nathan, M. Rann, R. Reichwald,  
W. Sherwood, N. Suffolk.

C. C. B.

Played 9; Won 2; Drew 3; Lost 4.

v. COKETHORPE SCHOOL U15 XI (H)—Match Drawn.

Cokethorpe 134 for 6 decl (Reichwald 4-27)

Rendcomb 62 for 6 (Sherwood 21\*)

v. THE CRYPT SCHOOL, Gloucester, U15 XI (H)  
—Match Drawn.

Crypt 155 (Green 6-52)

Rendcomb 76 for 4 (Reichwald 21\*)

v. THE KING'S SCHOOL, Gloucester, U15 XI (A)  
—Lost by 87 runs.

King's 144 for 6 decl (Green 4-27).

Rendcomb 57.

v. PRIOR PARK COLLEGE U15 XI (A)—Lost by 7 wickets

Rendcomb 87 (Binder 21, Green 23)

Prior Park 88 for 3

v. CHELTENHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL U15 XI (H)  
—Match Drawn

Rendcomb 140 for 6 decl (Matson 22, Binder 48)

Cheltenham 102 for 4

v. THE KING'S SCHOOL, Gloucester, U15 XI (H)  
—Lost by 7 wickets

Rendcomb 85 (Hastings 36\*)

King's 87 for 3

v. BREDON SCHOOL U15 XI (A)—Won by 70 runs

Rendcomb 91 (Reichwald 32)

Bredon 21 (Green 4-13, Binder 6-8)

v. KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL U15 XI (A)—Won by 8 wickets

Kingham 56 (Green 5-12, Binder 4-14)

Rendcomb 58 for 2 (Binder 33)

v. MARLING SCHOOL U15 XI (H)—Lost by 10 runs

Marling 113 (Green 6-33)

Rendcomb 103 (Binder 40)

## Under 14 XI

This year's U14 team can look back on the season with considerable satisfaction: the semi-finals of the Lords Taverners competition were reached, more matches won than lost, and some excellent performances registered with bat and ball.

William Sherwood and Geoffrey Broomfield provided the mainstay of the batting, while Colin Bannister and Nicholas Suffolk bowled consistently well. The fielding gradually improved as the weeks went by, and the catching became first-rate. Next year should see even greater success.

The team was taken from: W. Sherwood (captain), C. Bannister, G. Broomfield, N. Hett, C. Huck, G. Hughes, J. Lutwyche, R. Mitchell, A. Powell, N. Suffolk, S. Tate, V. Tredwell, J. Vernon.  
*Scorer:* R. Martin.

S. H. J. / C. P. M. K.

Played 9; Won 4; Drew 3; Lost 2.

v. THE CRYPT SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER, U14 XI—  
Won by 46 runs.

Rendcomb 127 for 5 decl. (Sherwood 70\*)  
Crypt 81 (Suffolk 4-5)

v. BLOXHAM SCHOOL U14 XI—Match Drawn.  
Bloxham 134 for 7 decl (Sherwood 4-22)  
Rendcomb 92 for 5

v. PRIOR PARK COLLEGE U14 XI—Lost by 134 runs.  
Prior Park 224 for 2 decl  
Rendcomb 90

v. CHELTENHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL U14 XI—  
Match Drawn.  
Rendcomb 138 for 8 decl (Sherwood 59)  
Cheltenham 69 for 6

v. MARLING SCHOOL U14 XI—Won by 15 runs.  
Rendcomb 119 for 9 decl (Sherwood 45, Broomfield 34)  
Marling 104

v. THE KING'S SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER, U14 XI—  
Won by 66 runs.  
Rendcomb 152 for 4 decl (Sherwood 65\*, Broomfield 52)  
King's 86 (Sherwood 4-17)

v. COKETHORPE SCHOOL U14 XI—Won by 97 runs.  
Rendcomb 146 for 4 decl (Bannister 37, Sherwood 68)  
Cokethorpe 51 (Suffolk 4-11)

v. CHELTENHAM COLLEGE U14 XI—Lost by 74 runs.  
Cheltenham 173 for 8 decl  
Rendcomb 99 (Sherwood 44)

v. KINGHAM HILL SCHOOL U14 XI—Match Drawn.  
Kingham 133 for 9 decl (Suffolk 7-32)  
Rendcomb 132 for 6 (Hughes 36, Broomfield 67)

## Under 13 XI

Although the season was not as successful as the previous two, there were some notable individual performances and a lot of effort and enthusiasm from the team as a whole. The matches against Cheltenham Grammar School and Kingham Hill were particularly exciting, and the results could have gone either way. Kevin Holmes led the team well and contributed good performances with both bat and ball; John Carroll's innings against Cheltenham was one of the best of the season; Charles Paine's batting throughout the season was outstanding. The bowling and fielding was sound, and generally the side shows a lot of promise for the future.

The team was taken from: K. Holmes (captain), J. Carroll, A. Bain, K. Raffael, C. Paine, C. Daniels, B. Maslen, J. Nicholls, T. Nicholls, J. Gregory, A. Lainé, A. Mackinnon. *Scorer:* A. Clark.

P. S.

Played 6; Drew 4; Lost 2.

v. PRIOR PARK COLLEGE U13 XI—Lost by 7 wickets.  
Rendcomb 33  
Prior Park 35-3

v. TOCKINGTON MANOR SCHOOL U13 XI—Match Drawn  
Tockington 135 for 4 decl  
Rendcomb 27 for 6

v. CHELTENHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL U13 XI—  
Match Drawn.  
Cheltenham 11 for 8 decl  
Rendcomb 108 for 7

v. THE KING'S SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER, U13 XI  
Match Drawn.  
King's 103 for 5 decl  
Rendcomb 63 for 9

v. KINGHAM SCHOOL U13 XI—Lost by 2 wickets.  
Rendcomb 84  
Kingham Hill 88 for 8

v. MARLING SCHOOL U13 XI—Match Drawn  
Marling 97 for 4 decl  
Rendcomb 52 for 8

## Boys' Tennis

Some twenty-eight boys opted for tennis this term, though this number fluctuated according to the different choices of sport on the various games days. From this group emerged a useful first team squad, one of the best and certainly the youngest for many years; apart from one reverse early in the season, the 1st VI remained unbeaten.

The crucial question now is whether the individuals concerned will have the character, interest and drive to mature their playing standards over the next few years, rather than marking time in an unproductive welter of complacency, poor concentration and non-percentage stroke-making flashiness. There is definite intrinsic talent among this group but some competitive play and practice all the year round, including holiday time, is now the pre-requisite. If Boris Becker was only seventeen and a half, well...

The second parent-pupil doubles tournament was held at the College on Sunday, 7th July, and proved as popular and successful as the inaugural event last year. Ten couples turned out, the warm sunshine again obliged, and the Carter and Bowley pairings gained the first and second prizes respectively.

The following played for the **1st VI**:  
John Marland (captain) Reza Khosrowshahi,  
Andrew Cayton, Nicholas Hannaford, Giles Carter,  
Piers Bowley, James Kook.

J. N. H.

Played 7; Won 5; Lost 2.

v. Sir Thomas Rich's School	Lost 3½-5½
2nd VI v. Sir Thomas Rich's School	
2nd VI	Lost 3-6
v. Dean Close School	Won 5-4
v. Cheltenham College 2nd VI	Won 6-3
v. Wycliffe College 2nd VI	Won 8-1
Mixed VI v. Cirencester School	Won 5-4
U16 VI v. Cheltenham College U16 VI	Won 5-4

## Boys' Squash

The season began with the 1st V playing in the 2nd Division of the Gloucestershire Under 19 League and the 2nd V in the 3rd Division. The standard of these leagues was not strong enough for our teams, and the matches were one-sided.

For the second half of the season both teams were promoted and, in turn, found their opposing teams too strong for them. However, valuable experience was gained in playing against the best young players in the County. Of the dozen boys who played in the matches only one is leaving this year, and so it should be possible to turn out two competent teams next year.

In an enjoyable match against the Staff, the boys were defeated 4-2.

The Teams were, in playing order:

**1st V:** Graeme Veale won 3 out of 6, Simon Jenkins 3 (6), Colin Harris 3 (5), John Healey 3 (5), Kevin Hewston 4 (5), Matthew Cordeux 2 (2).

**2nd V:** Kevin Hewston 1 (3), Matthew Cordeux 2 (5), Thomas Burns 3 (7), David Edwin 2 (4), Andrew Cayton 4 (7), Mark Hastings 3 (4), Mark Astill 2 (3).

K. J. K.

### Christmas Term

#### 1st V — Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division 2.

v. Tewkesbury 'A'	Won 5-0
v. East Gloucestershire 'A'	Won 5-0
v. Dean Close School 'A'	Won 5-0

#### 2nd V — Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division 3.

v. Gloucester Country Club 'B'	Won 4-1
v. East Gloucestershire 'B'	Won 5-0
v. Stroud	Won 4-1
v. Cheltenham College 'B'	Lost 0-5

### Easter Term

#### 1st V — Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division 1.

v. Cheltenham College 'A'	Lost 1-4
v. De La Bere 'A'	Lost 1-4
v. Cirencester 'A'	Lost 2-3

#### 2nd V — Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division 2.

v. Dean Close School 'A'	Won 5-0
v. Gloucester Country Club 'A'	Lost 0-5
v. Cheltenham College 'B'	Lost 0-5

## Girls' Hockey

Unfortunately the girls' hockey was badly disrupted by the weather, especially at the beginning of the term. Hence our first match, against Marlborough, was played in the Sports Hall and, despite our lack of practice, we won.

The whole team showed great determination in the later matches, which were not affected by the weather. Despite some very strong mid-field play by Fiona Wilkins and Claire Ellis, our main problem seemed to be shooting! We had a sound defence, in particular Charlotte Carroll, and some excellent half-backs, notably Jane Perkins, who was very efficient at clearing the ball.

We were very evenly matched in the games we lost; it was a great shame that we could not score against Cirencester, as we dominated both matches. My thanks go to all those who played in the team and to Jane Perkins, who was very helpful as vice-captain, especially on the field.

The team was selected from: S. Hawkswell (captain), J. Larroucau, C. Carroll, E. Thring, C. Ellis, J. Perkins, K. Conway, F. Wilkins, J. Merrett, S. Whybrow, A. Aylott, M. Reynolds, C. Eldridge, E. Rowe, J. K. Loehry, S. Hassall.

SARA HAWKSWELL

Played 6; Won 2; Drew 2; Lost 2.

v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	7-5
v. Cirencester School (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Charlton Park Convent School (A)	Won	3-2
v. Westwood's Grammar School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Cirencester School (A)	Drew	0-0

## Girls' Squash

We had a very strong team this year, and over the Christmas and Lent terms won 10 out of 12 matches. One loss was to a team from the Junior County Squad; playing against them perhaps put the inter-school matches into perspective! A different perspective!

Our thanks go to Caroline Grieves (VIU) for playing at No. 1 during the Christmas term, and special thanks to Mrs. Holdaway for her enthusiastic support and for driving us to matches in all kinds of winter weather!

The team was: K. Alder (captain), C. Carroll, F. Wilkins, J. K. Loehry, S. Whybrow. Reserves: C. Grieves, F. Howard, A. Baker.

KAREN ALDER

Played 12; Won 10; Lost 2.

v. Marlborough College (A)	Won	4-1
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	4-1
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	3-2
v. Charlton Park Convent School (A)	Won	5-0
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	4-1
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (H)	Won	5-0
v. Charlton Park Convent School (A)	Won	5-0
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	4-1
v. Marlborough College (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (A)	Won	3-2
v. Charlton Park Convent School (H)	Won	5-0
v. Junior County Girls (H)	Lost	1-4

## Girls' Tennis

The girls' tennis team had a very successful season, thanks to a combination of skill and determination from all concerned.

Our only lost match was due to the absence of a number of players. There was a good sense of team spirit, and the atmosphere at matches remained friendly and relaxed. It was a good and enjoyable season for all those involved.

The teams were as follows:

**1st VI:** Karen Arnold, Fiona Wilkins (captain), Justine Loehry, Vanessa Andrews, Charlotte Carroll, Claire Ellis. Reserve—Edwina Thring.

**2nd VI:** Sarah Hassall, Jane Valentine, Mary Reynolds, Karen Alder, Sophie Rutherford, Juliette Loehry.

FIONA WILKINS

**1st VI—**Played 8; Won 7; Lost 1.

v. Westwood's Grammar School (H)	Won	7—2
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	7—2
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	6—3
v. Chosen Hill School (A)	Lost	2—7
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	5—4
v. St. Clotilde's Convent School (H)	Won	7—2
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Won	6—3
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	7—2

**2nd VI:** Played 4; Won 4.

v. Chosen Hill School 2nd VI (A)	Won	4—0
v. St. Clotilde's Convent School	2nd VI	Won 5—4
v. Dauntsey's School 2nd VI (H)	Won	5—4
v. Wycliffe College 2nd VI (A)	Won	5—4

## Girls' Netball

The Christmas Term proved very successful for both the 1st and 2nd teams, despite numerous injuries and consequent absences. The Cirencester Ladies, as expected, proved to be the toughest encounter for the 1st VII, although the match in which we drew against them assured all that we had the capabilities, if not the confidence. Credit must go in particular to our shooters, Fiona Wilkins and Justine Loehry, although the overall strength of the 1st team makes it hard to distinguish particular talent.

The 2nd VII also had a successful season. Some of the girls in the team had not played before this season but improved rapidly as it progressed.

These newcomers enjoyed the matches as much as the more experienced players and gained much from them. No doubt the success of the teams was due to the enthusiastic coaching of Miss Dennis, as well as the marvellous support of all spectators.

**1st VII:** Jane Perkins, Fiona Wilkins, Jo Merrett, Jane Merrett, Edwina Thring, Claire Ellis, Amanda Baker.

**2nd VII** taken from: Karen Arnold, Katherine Conway, Vanessa Andreis, Samantha Evans, Jane Larroucau, Sophie Rutherford, Justine Loehry, Sarah Hassall, Sara Butler, Catherine Faircloth.

Jo MERRETT



*Photo: D. Adshead*

**1st VII:** Played 11; Won 7; Drew 1; Lost 3.

v. St. Clotilde's Convent School	Won 19—2
v. Hatherop Castle School	Won 21—4
v. Cirencester School	Won 14—1
v. Dauntsey's School	Won 8—2
v. Chosen Hill School	Won 26—7
v. Cirencester Ladies	Lost 7—32
v. Marlborough College	Lost 11—27
v. Cirencester Ladies	Drew 22—22
v. Chosen Hill School	Won 17—5
v. Cirencester Ladies	Lost 18—38
v. St. Clotilde's Convent School	Won 30—7

**2nd VII:** Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2.

v. St. Clothilde's Convent School	2nd VII Won 8—4
v. Hatherop Castle School 2nd VII	Won 10—1
v. Cirencester School 2nd VII	Lost 3—7
v. Westwood's Grammar School	2nd VII Won 16—7
v. Marlborough College 2nd VII	Lost 12—13
v. Chosen Hill School 2nd VII	Won 21—2



## Sailing

This term has seen a great increase in the number of pupils sailing. Our trips to the gravel pits at South Cerney have been extended to twice a week, and consequently there has been a considerable improvement in the standard of sailing. We are particularly indebted to Messrs. Hill, Draper, Noyce and Kolb for the loan of their boats to the college.

On the first day of the season the weather was appalling — it didn't improve much for the rest of the term — but, in true traditional style, capsizing drill was the order of the day. Fifteen pupils duly took their turn at being flung from the comparative comfort of the dinghy into the icy water, only to struggle with wet, slippery sheets in an attempt at righting it, a most unpleasant, though very necessary experience. For the rest of the term the group has practised sailing all the different types of boats from the Navy training dinghy — the Bosun, to the Lightning — a very fast single-handed dinghy (out of which, incidentally, I have been thrown on more than one occasion, much to the delight of those present!), and this variety will have improved their skill considerably.

It is appropriate at this point to mention one pupil in particular; Julian "Bruce" Leigh (at present resident in Saudi Arabia) must take the prize for being the most water-logged pupil of the term. Always keen to try something new, Bruce has experienced more "cold water" than the rest of us put together — no doubt the Red Sea will seem more appealing than ever when he returns there this summer!

T. J. L.

## Sailboarding

Sailboarding continued this year and was pursued with great enthusiasm and commitment by the participants. The intrepid band spent Wednesday afternoons at the South Cerney Gravel Pits, where novices were able to try their hand at this exhilarating sport, whilst the 'experts' polished up their technique, took part in simple triangle racing and attempted weird and wonderful tricks on the board. Definitions like 'body-dip', 'sail 360' and 'duck gybe' were freely used by the end of the course, but undoubtedly the most commonly used term was "poser!" usually aimed in the direction of Messrs. Trowern, Needham, Wharmby and Leigh.

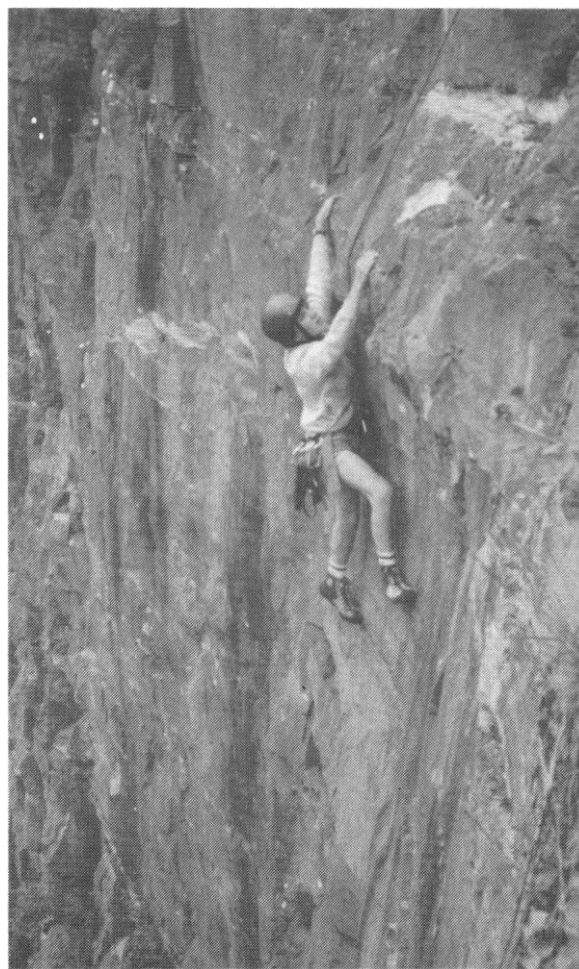
Everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself and improved throughout the term, with 14 Rendcombians achieving their R. Y. A. Proficiency Certificate. Many thanks to Mr. Newby and the excellent instructors of the Cotswold Leisure Sailboarding Club, whose enthusiasm and competence now enable all of us at least to spend more time on the board than in the water.

BARNABY HATCHER

## Climbing

After a lull in activity in the Autumn, interest has revived strongly recently, and there are some promising climbers in the middle school, with the ability to tackle some extremely difficult problems. The climbing wall has been exceptionally well used this term, and it is proposed to complete the blank half in the autumn. Apart from the usual Saturday and Sunday visits to the Wye Valley only one week-end trip, to Bosigran in West Cornwall, was possible this year, but it is hoped to arrange more frequent trips to different climbing areas next year. In March a group of 3rd and 6th formers carried out a useful rubbish clearance operation at Wintour's Leap, a job much appreciated alike by climbers, local residents and the Nature Reserve Management Committee.

J. W.



*Photo: J. W. R. Willson*

## Archery

Archery was well supported again this year, particularly by the Fourth Form. The weather could have been kinder during the summer term, but at least experience has been gained in cold and windy conditions!

Last August, The Gloucestershire Archery Society held a FITA Star Tournament and the Gloucestershire County Championships on the Rendcomb playing fields in glorious weather, top class archers coming from all over the country. Two archers from Rendcomb College shot in the National Round on the Sunday, with Stuart Newell winning the Woodbow Cup, which is awarded to the best Gloucestershire Novice.

J. M. E.



**Joan Essenhigh**, the coach



## Judo

In September Alan Davis retired from coaching after 15 years, owing to business commitments. We are grateful for his long and enthusiastic association with Rendcomb Judo Club. He is succeeded by Paul Godsell, coach to Cheltenham YMCA, who is carrying on the good work.

The club has been well supported, particularly by members of the Third Forms. We have had some success in the Junior Judo League, although we cannot always provide a competitor in every weight division.

There was a junior and senior grading at Winchcombe in March. The following promotions were obtained:

### JUNIOR

D. Maslen	6th MON
L. Thompson	3rd MON
R. Herbert	6th MON
M. Ventrella	6th MON
J. Slattery	7th MON
C. Hauton	5th MON

### SENIOR

C. Carpenter	ORANGE
D. Adshead	LOWER BLUE
S. McIntyre	YELLOW

We are sorry to lose Stuart McIntyre, Christopher Carpenter and Darrell Adshead, as they have been loyal and long-serving members of the club.

C. C. B.

## Basketball

The senior Griffins squad met regularly, while on the middle school scene great enthusiasm and patriotism were shown in a Godman House 'A' and 'B' team tournament, played over several weeks. The 'Bs' drew overall in matches, but the deciding match of the 'A' competition proved an exciting cliff hanger; a draw at full-time meant that extra time was played and with the last shot of the match, Powell, who had played particularly well throughout the tournament, scored to give 3A the title.

The senior players enjoyed their sessions and played some impressive basketball, being composed of a nucleus of able 6B players as well as younger up-and-coming stars, including some keen fourth formers. Several players showed particular skill improvement as the season progressed, and all undoubtedly benefited from the use of the school video camera to highlight faults in technique.

Matches were played against a senior side from Malmesbury and the famous Staff Common Room All-Stars. In the former, the experience and sheer height of the opposition proved too much for the Griffins and, despite good attacking, team play and tenacious defensive play by Scarlett and Burns, the visitors were run away winners. In the Staff match not even the agility of Miss Dennis, the cunning (and usually illegal) dribbling of Messrs. King and Ball and the 'steamroller' tactics of Messrs. Hannaford and Griffiths could help the All-Stars; the Griffins took the match by 36—34.

The squad included:

D. Scarlett (captain), T. Burns, P. Griffiths, S. Jenkins, D. John, K. Knight, R. Moss, J. Shaw, P. Spackman, A. Trowern, N. Webb.

M. J. N.



Olympic sponsorship

Photo: D. Adshead

## Junior Shinty

In a friendly match at home against North Cerney Primary School some of Form I were introduced to the art of Shinty, a game that has been described as a cross between hockey, Irish hurling and kendo! The restrictions of the Sports Hall meant that there was plenty of end-to-end play by both teams, although in the first half goals were rather infrequent; at the interval the score was 4-4. As the second half progressed, the home team began to grasp the subtleties of play; Simon Williams completed his hat-trick, and a double hat-trick by Richard Herbert put Rendcomb three goals up with ten minutes of the match remaining. Tenacious play and some excellent goals by the younger North Cerney players, however, helped them snatch back the lead and, despite a last minute rally by the home team, led by captain Ian Spencer, the visitors held on to win by 13-11.

Both teams thoroughly enjoyed the fast and exciting match; all certainly deserved their squash and biscuits at the end. Many thanks to Mr. Walsh for bringing his team and so ably refereeing the event.

Team: I. Spencer (captain), S. Bell, P. Evans, R. Herbert, S. Hett, N. McMurtrie, M. Smith, L. Thompson, S. Williams.

M. J. N.



Photo: C.J. Wood



**“Exit” by Simon Noyes**







