



Rendcombian

Rendcombian

No. 5

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Reset in Times Roman typeface

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Back Cover: Orchestra John Wright

Contents

Editorial	3	Fourth Form visit Portsmouth	51
The Record 1		Geography Field Trip	52
News in Brief	4	6B Biology Field Trip	52
Roger and Mary Medill	7	6B visit Longleat	53
Bodley's Librarian	11	Birmingham Railway Museum	53
Staff Changes	13	The Junior House visit the	
		Ironbridge Gorge Museum	54
Viewpoints 1	15	The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition	54
Founder's Day		Black Country Canal Experience	55
Chairman's Speech	19	Activities	
Headmaster's Report	21	The Workshop	56
Guest Speaker's Address	25	The Art Department	56
Speech of Thanks	25	Senior Debate	61
Academic Results		A Political Forum	61
University	26	An Anglo-Japanese Concert	62
Entrance Scholarships	26	Orchestral and Choral Concert	62
'A' Level	27	'High Crisis'-RIP?	63
'O' Level	27	A Mozart Concert.....	64
		The Oriel Singers' Concert	64
Opinion Poll	29	'High Crisis' Concert	64
Reports		Bell Ringing Round-up	64
Bursar's Notes	32	'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	65
A day in the life of Mr Partridge	32	'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations'	
Public Work	33	and 'The Wedding'	66
Chaplain's Notes	34	Arts Society	66
The Parents' Association	35	Community Service	67
The Friends of Rendcomb	35	Gardening P. W	67
Careers	36	Bridge Club	67
Work Experience	36	Science Society	68
The Junior House	38	Photographic Society.....	68
Computing and Technology	39	Photographic Society visit to the NEC	69
The General Meeting.....	40	The Junior House Collectors' Club	69
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	40	The Energy Factor Project	70
Library News	40	Film Unit	71
The Annecy Exchange.....	40	Viewpoints 2	72
Talks		The Record 2	
Michael Wills Memorial Lecture	41	College and Meeting Officers	77
Remembrance Sunday 1986	42	Valete and Salvete	78
Norris McWhirter, CBE	42	Old Rendcombian Society.....	79
Talk by Captain F. H. Dell	43	News of Recent Leavers	81
'King Lear' Workshop	43	Boys' Sport	
Insight on Blindness	44	Rugby Football	83
Amnesty International	44	Hockey	88
'The Food Chain'	45	Cricket	93
'The Cult Scene'.....	46	Squash.....	98
Outings		Tennis	99
'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	47	Basketball	99
'The Fair Maid of the West'	47	Girls' Sport	
'Henry IV, Part I'	48	Netball	100
'Henry V'	49	Tennis	100
'Kiss Me, Kate'	49	Hockey	100
'Twelfth Night'	49	Squash	100
'The Merchant of Venice'	50	Other Sports	
'West Side Story'	50	Badminton	101
The Arts Society at the Opera.....	50	Archery	102
Second Form Trip to Welsh Castles	51	Sailing	102
Godman House go to Slimbridge	51	Skiing	104



RENDCOMBIAN is now five years old

From the beginning the Headmaster has taken a lively interest in its development and lent a skilful hand to shaping it. In recognition of this help and support, the Editors take great pleasure in dedicating this issue to Roger and Mary Medill.

Editorial

So often in the past the *Rendcombian* editorial has taken 'change' as its major theme. As we approached the end of the year and listened to Mr Medill's speech on Founder's Day, the idea was definitely in the air again. Plans for the structural development of the school are soon to be put into practice, and perhaps we might be allowed to boast that *Rendcombian* shows signs of similar development. Certainly we would all hope that the trend towards more pupil involvement in the challenge of producing a magazine for and about the school will be continued. The talent and enthusiasm of those who contributed or are mentioned in these pages are our manifesto.

In the necessarily close community of a school like Rendcomb, it is essential that we also look outwards.

Trying to reflect this in the magazine, we have included, for example, an account of a political survey conducted here in general election year.

We have reached what might be termed 'a point of departure': with the plans for a change in structure we see the arrival of a new headmaster. Rendcomb must expect something different; if the past has been good, we may hope that the future will be even better.

From the past, however, we should save those things that make Rendcomb special. In this magazine we have attempted not only to give a record of the year's events and an idea of the variety of activities available, but also to represent the school's unique, unchanging atmosphere of friendliness - through the words of its pupils.

STEPHEN GREEN
KAREN HARMAN
EDWARD WEBB



C. J. Wood

The Record 1

News in Brief

This summer **Roger Medill retires after 16 years as Rendcomb's fourth Headmaster**, years during which the school has developed more rapidly and more radically than in any other comparable period. Appreciations of his work as Headmaster will be found elsewhere in this issue. **We offer our very warmest wishes to Roger and Mary Medill for their success and happiness in the future.**

In December 1986 the Governors appointed **Mr John Tolputt, MA**, a housemaster at Cranleigh School, **to be Headmaster of Rendcomb from September 1987.** Mr Tolputt was educated at Ardingly College and St John's College, Cambridge, and has been Head of English at Cranleigh since 1974.

Christmas Term 1986

Just before the term began Rendcomb had **two airborne visitors. A small white glider**, a beautiful machine of the latest type, hand-finished, made in Germany and costing £20,000, landed on the Top Field and was later folded up and taken away by a support team. The pilot was an RAF officer who had set off from Dunstable hoping to reach Wales, but conditions were against him.

On the same day there was **a much less welcome visitor, a huge hot-air balloon**, which floated down into the field across the river from the Main Building. It seemed harmless, but its enormous size and periodical bursts of flame and noise from the gas burner terrified the horses, which plunged twice through the river and careered wildly up and down the field, one of them being severely injured.

In addition to the new appointments mentioned in our last issue, **Mr Martin Hughes joined the Staff in September to teach Mathematics.**

Starting at 11.30 a.m. on 24th October, **most of 6B boys took part in a 24-hour sponsored football match.** The members of the teams changed every 20 minutes, battling it out with great enthusiasm, apparently undaunted by the challenge of surviving for 24 hours. Play was backed by the melodious sound of **Roderick Hill's guitar and other musical participants.** Congratulations to all who took part, **on raising £450 for Cancer Research and the British Heart Foundation.**

An Anglo-Japanese concert was given in the Dulverton Hall on 28th September, a joint performance by girls from the Japanese School in Cheltenham and Rendcombians.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was performed in the Dulverton Hall at the end of November.

Theatre trips included C. S. Lewis's **'Voyage of the Dawn Treader'**, **'Oliver'**, **'Richard II'**, **'A Midsummer Night's Dream'** and **'The Fair Maid of the West'**, the last played in the new and most attractive Swan Theatre at Stratford.

The Arts Society ran its now termly **Creative Writing Competition.** This term's theme was **'The Future'**. Debates were held in October and November on **Sanctions against South Africa** and **The Arms Trade.**

The Michael Wills Lecture was given by **Professor J. C. R. Turner**, of Exeter University, on **'Process Engineering in a Crowded World'**. Invited by the Science Society, **Dr K. Rose gave a talk on 'Nuclear Power'**. **Captain F. M. Dell repeated his popular account of his wartime exploits**, and **Mrs J. Richmond's talk on 'The Cult Scene' aroused great interest.**

The Remembrance Day sermon was given by **Mr Norris McWhirter, CBE**, who later answered questions testing his memory of **The Guinness Book of Records.**

In September a radical change to Rendcomb *mores* took place: **the institution of self-service catering.** As a result of this, after many years crowded into the old scullery, where OR's from the fifties will remember washing-up at weekends, **the Staff are taking over the Junior Dining Room as their Common Room.**

Everyone much regretted the **departure in December of Sandra Taylor**, after five years as Headmaster's Secretary.

Easter Term 1987

After a week of useful practice for matches, snow put the pitches out of action for a spell, but the season turned out well eventually, and **the first eleven was able to play 12 out of its 14 fixtures.**

Icy road conditions also caused the **postponement of the first Wednesday lecture, on 'The Future of Space in Europe'**, but this took place early in the summer term.

Other interesting talks were **'Airlift for Ethiopia'** by **Lt. Col. Adams, MBE**, **'Amnesty International'** by a **local representative**, and **'The Samaritans'**. All three emphasised the help and support provided for those suffering from physical or mental hardship.

In addition to these, **Mrs Anne Brimicombe** returned to give her helpful and sympathetic advice on **personal relationships** to members of the Lower Sixth; **Mr Elgood came with his guide dog** to give a thought-provoking talk on blindness and what it is like to lose your sight when you are at the height of your career.

Finally, **Captain H. P. Morgan** spoke on the pleasures and perils of **'Rock Climbing and Mountaineering'**, illustrating his talk with slides and a film.

The Educational Theatre Project Group returned on 18th March to present another workshop, this time on **King Lear.** Once more the enthusiasm and energy of this group of young actors easily won the admiration and interest of the audience.

On 6th February a team of Sixth and Fourth Form pupils were narrowly defeated by Cheltenham College in an exciting heat of **the Regional Schools' General Knowledge Quiz.**

The Fifth Form visited Gloucester to see a production of **Twelfth Night**. The Sixth Form went to Oxford to see **Henry IV Part I** and **Henry V**, and Stratford for a performance of **Kiss Me, Kate**, which many considered the most impressive piece of theatre they had ever seen.

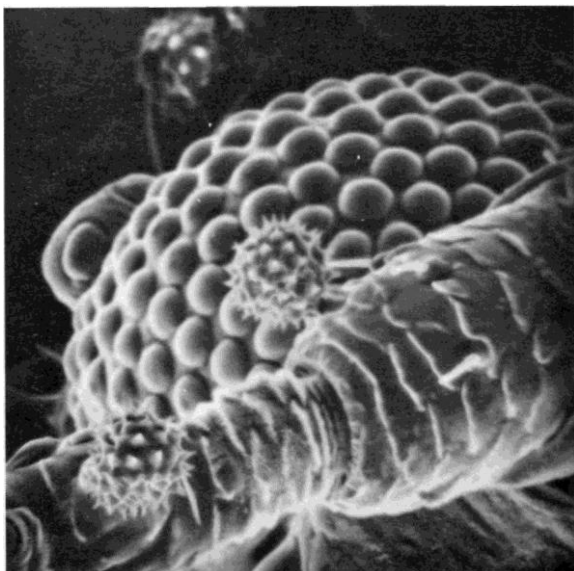
The **Careers Convention** was held on 6th March. March also saw this year's Junior Play, **Alan Ayckbourne's Ernie's Incredible Illusions** as well as a **short farce by Chekhov** played by the senior school. A concert of a **choral work and a horn concerto by Mozart** was given on 22nd March, distinguished in particular by the horn playing of **Christopher Moody**.

Whilst the term ended for most people on 29th March, a number stayed behind to complete another stage in their **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**; some braved the biting winds of Snowdonia on a **Geography Field Trip**, and some departed a day early for this year's **skiing trip to Risoul in France**.

Summer Term 1987

Sadly, **this term began without Mrs Charlotte Holdaway**, who had suffered a car accident at the beginning of the Easter holidays and who was recovering in hospital. During the term, however, she made good progress and paid the school several visits in anticipation of her return in September. We would like to **thank Mrs Biddy Lewers** for taking her place in the classroom at very short notice, and to wish her the very best in the future.

On 3rd July the Second Form made their regular **excursion to the Welsh Castles**; the Fourth Form visited the **Mary Rose in Portsmouth in May**, the **London Planetarium and Science Museum in July**. The Arts Society went to **The Marriage of Figaro by the Welsh National Opera** in Bristol; the **Third and Sixth Forms** visited Cheltenham for **West Side Story** and Stratford for **The Merchant of Venice**. **6B scientists** visited **Oxford University** and the **Nuclear**



Electron micrograph of pollen grains on a fly's eye *Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories*

An Ensembles Concert was given in the Dulverton Hall on 17th May; the **Rendcomb Rock Band, High Crisis**, gave what may be its last concert, and the **Oriel Singers** came and gave a much appreciated recital.

The **Guest Speaker** on Founder's Day was **Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing**, and the **Parents' Association** presented the **Headmaster with a picture of Rendcomb and a cheque to mark his retirement**.

This year we must say goodbye to the **Matron, Mrs Carol Kenworthy** and her assistant, **Mrs Parsons**, to **Mrs Barbara Tyler**, to the **Catering Manager, Mr Tony Barrett** and to **Mrs Doris Mills**, who has worked in the kitchens for a quarter of a century.

Congratulations go to **Mr Lindsay Haslett** on receiving his doctorate from the University of Ulster and to **Mr Martin Griffiths** on his safe return from his expedition to Africa.

An innovation this year was **Leavers' Weekend**: on Saturday, 20th June, Sixth Form leavers had a **supper party with the staff**, followed by a **disco**; on Sunday a **Leavers' Service in the Church**, at which the Headmaster gave an address, was followed by a **buffet lunch for leavers, their parents, staff and governors**.



John and Anne Holt

C. J. Wood

At the end of this term **Mr John Holt retires after 12 years as the first Housemaster of Godman House**; a tribute to John and Anne Holt's dedicated service will be found in the Headmaster's Founder's Day report.



John Wright

Roger and Mary Medill

The loss of two such talented, vital and generous people as Roger and Mary Medill will be sadly felt by Rendcomb. A tribute from the Chairman of Governors will be found in his Founder's Day speech. There follow three others, which we hope will give some impression of the invaluable part they have played in Rendcomb life during the past 16 years. Finally we print the text of the Headmaster's Address to Sixth Form leavers and their parents, given on 20th June, which conveys something of the spirit of the speaker.

Bill White, Senior Resident Master 1966-75, Second Master 1973-85, writes:

When Roger Medill became Headmaster in 1971 Rendcomb was at a turning point. During the previous ten years under Anthony Quick the school had increased in size and retained its record of academic achievement, and the Headmaster had joined the Headmaster's Conference. But it was still a very small school, with only 150 pupils, and largely a local school, with modest facilities despite the recent building programme: it was the kind of school that could very easily have been swept away in the growing tide of competitiveness in independent education. That this did not happen is in itself a tribute to Roger Medill's headmastership.

Two things, the one intentional, the other fortuitous, may be considered to have set Rendcomb on its course for the seventies and eighties. First, the Governors' decision to admit girls to the Sixth Form: Rendcomb was one of the first boys' boarding schools to become co-educational, largely owing to the advice of Sir David Wills, then also a governor of Atlantic College, where he had seen the scheme working successfully. From the beginning, the interviewing and selection of candidates for the girls' entry was carried out solely by the Headmaster; the success of the venture, whether judged by their academic achievements, by their unanimous appreciation of their two years at Rendcomb or by the fact that in 15 years only two girls found they had made the wrong choice and did not complete the course, illustrates very clearly Roger Medill's especial skill in this field. Secondly, the increase in numbers. Purely by chance, in 1971 there was a strong potential thirteen-year-old entry of double the normal size; it was decided to admit a double-form entry that year, as an exception. Economics, and the increasing feeling that the school needed to expand if it were to compete with other independent schools, caused the exception to become the rule. In time this allowed the school to increase to its present numbers, incorporating on the way extra accommodation for girls.

Very early in his time here, as I recall, Roger Medill said to me "Rendcomb is a very good school, but no-one has ever heard of it". Herein lies the pointer to another of his major contributions to the success of Rendcomb today: his determination that Rendcomb should compete strongly in the increasingly commercialised world of independent education and be 'put on the map'. This required not only

more contact with local preparatory and primary schools, but also the improvement of facilities and accommodation, made all the more urgent by the increasing size of the school and the absence, until recently, of any real future planning.

Despite some opposition from conservative minds (*et ego cum illis eram!*) and the problems of persuading the Governors to realise the necessary finance, Roger Medill's foresight and innate optimism brought about the building of the Sports Hall, the extension of Godman House, the modernisation of the Science Department, the construction of more study bedrooms and the conversion of the conservatory into the Dulverton Hall. Most of these plans required endless negotiations, and it says much for his belief in his ideas that the schemes were completed to provide the facilities we enjoy today.

The expansion of the school both in numbers and buildings has meant that its character has necessarily changed from that which had been preserved for its first 50 years. Yet I think it is true to say that Roger Medill has kept before him the early ideals of the school and attempted to preserve the most important of them. His sympathetic understanding of the problems of young people and his desire that everyone should have the opportunity to prove his best have led to Rendcomb's continuing to be an essentially happy community. He has recognised the changing pressures to which young people are subjected and with gentle firmness steered them through the more difficult phases.

The position of Headmaster at Rendcomb has undergone some change in the past 16 years. When Roger Medill was appointed, the Headmaster was still very much in the traditional mould, an autocrat in his school, responsible for all decisions directly to the Governors. With the passage of time and with the increasing need for the Headmaster to spend much of his time on 'selling' the school, some of the responsibilities have been shifted in an attempt to rationalise the Headmaster's role. The appointment of a Bursar and the establishment of a Finance and General Purposes Committee have relieved him of one area of responsibility; the Future Policy Working Party and its offshoot the Development Committee have provided a channel for other people to advise on new projects. This has enabled the Headmaster to concentrate his energies on seeing that the number of pupils in the school remains high - something at which over the years Roger Medill has been significantly successful - and that the school keeps abreast of new curriculum developments. I am sure that his successor will be grateful that such a shift in emphasis is already well established.

To turn from broader issues to a more personal level, visitors to the school, prospective parents and pupils will have been struck first by the courteous and affable manner with which the Headmaster at once put them at their ease. Again, his Founder's Day speeches will be remembered for their combination of wise precepts, wit, clarity and fluency; his Sunday sermons and addresses at morning prayers have contained sound advice easily acceptable to his young audience. This facility for public speaking has been prominent whenever he has addressed the school on a specific topic.

Throughout his time here his energy and enthusiasm have been much in evidence, seen in practice on the squash courts, on our sponsored walks - and even quite recently on a sponsored run. His passion for rugby is well known, and he has made a particular point of giving keen support to rugby teams. This energy and enthusiasm, infectious in itself, spread also to his encouragement of all kinds of spare-time interests, whether lectures or computing, musical events or art and craft, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or bridge. As a result, pupils at Rendcomb can now enjoy a far wider range of interests than was possible 15 years ago. He used these same talents to launch and organise the highly successful Appeal which realised a sum far in excess of that predicted by professional advisers.

I know how much, throughout his time here, he has depended on the support and advice of his wife, Mary. Her wide circle of acquaintances and her professional connections have been valuable to us. Although she has always, on her own admission, not wished to 'interfere' in school matters, she has, despite uncertain health, been most generous in her hospitality, entertaining visitors, leavers and others connected with the school. In addition, of course, she was responsible for initiating riding as an extra activity, one which, in our superb surroundings, has given much pleasure. The family connection with the school was strengthened by the fact that both Rachel and Oliver were pupils at Rendcomb.

In conclusion I would say that the buoyant atmosphere of the school and its continuing academic record in themselves indicate the success of Roger Medill's 16 years as Headmaster. I hope that he will see these as some reward for the work which he has put into making Rendcomb what it is today. We hope that Roger and Mary will look back on their time at Rendcomb with happy memories and will enjoy a long and contented retirement.

Ruth Beckett, OR (1972-74) writes:

I remember Mr Medill for many reasons...

I remember him firstly in his capacity as headmaster of the school. He rapidly invigorated the primary purpose of Rendcomb as a centre of academic achievement. He showed himself to be a man of wisdom, and I recall on many occasions his ability to evaluate clearly and quickly a situation or event and prescribe a solution in the same breath.

All this was not however at the expense of other school activities. Mr Medill continued to improve the school's sports facilities culminating in the opening of a new sports hall in the grounds. He supported fully all extra-curricular drama and musical projects within the school and expended time and effort encouraging groups and individuals in their endeavours. "Absolutely marvellous" was a phrase I remember well.

I personally remember Mr Medill as the first person I ever met at Rendcomb. For better or for worse, the decision was made to admit 'young ladies' at sixth form level, and I was one of the first twelve! It fell upon the headmaster to make the decision as to which of the first batch of young hopefuls were right for Rendcomb. Perhaps the dozen finally chosen were another manifestation of Mr Medill's wit and sense of humour -

as mixed a bag of individuals has probably yet to be repeated, and we had a wonderful time educating a boys' school about girls!

I also remember Mr Medill as a generous man. When the girls arrived, he was happy to share his house with three of them, share his horses with several of them and share his larder with all of them!

His dinner parties for the sixth form were much heralded events and seats at the table were hotly contested. Not only was there the delight of the best food around at his table, but Mr Medill and his wife could also engage their young guests in the best conversations for miles! Perhaps I can note here the affection still held by many of the 'first' girls for Mrs Medill - vivacious, exciting, always charming, incredibly amusing and, like her husband, generous to a fault with her house, possessions and family life.

And perhaps most importantly to a headmaster, I remember Mr Medill as an approachable man. For these and many other reasons he was a man liked, respected and understood by all. During his time at Rendcomb he has overseen many exciting projects and several really major ones to keep the school in tune with the rapidly changing expectations and demands on education and private educational establishments. I hope that I speak for the girls past, present and future of Rendcomb when I say thank you to Mr Medill. May his retirement be as happy, full and rewarding as our time at Rendcomb was, and for future generations I am sure will be.

Nick Miles, OR (1975-80) writes:

It has been Rendcomb's good fortune to have been under the leadership for so many years of Roger Medill, in my opinion one of the world's natural gentlemen. He was a perfect 'front man' who could provide the right image of the school in all academic, commercial and social circles. This allowed him to raise for the school new resources in the form of pupils, equipment, finance, publicity and good will.

To be the headmaster of any school is an onerous responsibility, let alone of an institution as unique as Rendcomb. What kept Roger Medill so young throughout his headmastership was his unrelenting enthusiasm for all aspects of school life, from the pomp and ceremony of Founder's Day to the internal politics of the General Meeting. Rendcomb has always been a 'practical' school in that emphasis is given to non-academic pursuits alongside the mainstream of the examination curriculum. Luckily, Roger Medill shared this ideal and promoted its attainment through his enthusiastic sponsorship of all kinds of pursuits ranging from the traditions of rugby, cricket, music and woodwork to the lesser known thespian readings, bridge, golf and computers. Lest I have conveyed a picture of Roger as being a rather serious person, let me correct this by reminding everyone of his natural loud, warm laugh and inimitable but instinctive gesture of clasping his hands together when 'tickled pink' by a story whether told by a parent or impudent third former. Also it is a testimony to his open-mindedness that he never took our caricatures of him at the Christmas party to heart.

You always knew how far you could go with Roger; you knew exactly where he would draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. He was a man of high principles and saw things strictly in terms of right and wrong with very little grey area in between. He tried to convey this perception of life to all of us, but sometimes we were probably not bright enough to appreciate his wisdom. Personally I owe a large debt to Roger and his wife Mary, who took me into their family as one of their own whilst I was recuperating from a serious illness in the third form. I spent the best part of two terms living with them as my parents were abroad; their hospitality, warmth and caring will never be forgotten.

The best way to review Roger's stewardship of Rendcomb is to compare the school on his arrival with the school on his departure; a small, introverted establishment

has been transformed into a forward looking college which can provide a whole range of up-to-date facilities needed to equip today's youngster to face the world with confidence and a well rounded personality. Yet this transformation has been achieved without harming the essential character of the school; a warm, friendly and relaxed 'home from home' set in the most beautiful countryside of England. Such progress is a testimony of Roger's vision and expertise.

My lasting memory of Roger will be that of his gaunt, greyhound-like frame striding the touchline 'Up Top' totally immersed in the performance of the 1st XV, oblivious to the entanglement of his dog's lead round his legs, yelling encouragement and revealing instinctive delight when the team scored a try.



H. Rothman

THE HEADMASTER'S ADDRESS TO SIXTH
FORM LEAVERS AND THEIR PARENTS
GIVEN IN RENDCOMB PARISH CHURCH ON
20th JUNE

What will you remember of your schooldays in 20, 30 or 40 years' time? Perhaps you will forgive a few reminiscences and thoughts from my own time at school, a place I have revisited only once in nearly 40 years. There were special reasons for that, and I am sure you will be visiting Rendcomb more often; but what stands out in one's mind? People, of course, schoolmasters, both eccentric and relatively normal. Obviously stronger memories will remain of friends and friendships, which will no doubt be maintained by planned meetings, and you will find it amazing how often chance meetings occur; even a school photograph can arouse powerful memories.

I'd just like to mention an odd thing that has remained with me, and that is inscriptions on buildings, five of them. At my school you arrived down a long drive at a huge portico flanked by pillars, and across the top were the words:

OSTIUM MIHI APERTUM EST MAGNUM

A great gate is open to me

I don't suppose those words meant much to any boy of 13, shaking in his shoes on arrival; certainly to me that gate seemed unnecessarily large. Some of you may know the words inscribed over the entrance to Hell in Dante's great poem on the Inferno:

LASCIATE OGNI SPERANZA VOI CH'ENTRATE!

Abandon hope all ye who enter here

That would have been more like it, especially for me, as I had the misfortune to arrive a fortnight late, when everybody else had settled down and, worse still, wearing shorts instead of long trousers. My Housemaster hurried me away to be kitted out, but too late; I had been spotted. That was bad news in those days when schools were rather harsher institutions, and it took me some time to live it down. We all know what it feels like being new and feeling different from everyone else.

So I didn't appreciate at that time that those words *a great gate is open to me* could have another meaning, but you might like to consider the great gate which has been open to you while you have been at Rendcomb, probably a richer, fuller experience than people at school have ever had in the past, quite possibly richer and fuller than in any other country at the present time. You start off needing help to open the gate, but the whole purpose of your education is of course to enable you to open it for yourself and leave your teachers behind. What will you find through that gate? This brings me to my second inscription, over the science labs:

EPPUR SI MUOVE

It was inscribed looking like a single Greek word, but it is three words in Italian and means *nevertheless it moves*. What is the point of that?

Galileo, mathematician, physicist and astronomer of genius, one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, proved by telescopic observation and deduction on January 10th, 1610 that, contrary to all previous belief, the sun did not move round the earth, but *vice versa*.

If the earth was not at the centre of the universe there was no up and no down, so in effect it seemed that Heaven was abolished. Of course the Church wasn't going to have that, and the Inquisition brought out the thumbscrew and the rack. One look at these instruments convinced Galileo that a recantation was necessary - and who would blame him? He made a public statement that, contrary to all he had taught, the earth stood still at the centre, but under his breath he muttered defiantly what he had discovered and knew to be true:

EPPUR SI MUOVE

Nevertheless it does move

The Church no longer wields the power of life and death as it did in those days, but people still need to find something which gives meaning to life. When Galileo was asked "Where is God in your universe?", he replied "In us or nowhere." What would your reply be to that question? I think my answer would be "In us and everywhere", but the main thing is at least to look for an answer to that question, rather than to ignore it. There is a paradoxical remark worth remembering: 'Who seeks for God has found Him.' So through the great gate lies the stubborn quest for truth, human, scientific or spiritual.

The third inscription was over the same portico through which you entered, but on the other side, so that you read it as you left the school:

GRATIS ACCEPISTIS, GRATIS DATE

Freely you have received, freely give

Challenging words. As you will recognise, they come from the Bible, where Jesus reminds his disciples what they have learned from him - the greatest teacher who ever lived - and how they should conduct themselves. But you don't need to be a Christian to recognise the fairness of that comment, because it appeals to our natural sense of justice. It must be right that those who have much should be generous and give much. And, we here today, are among the most highly privileged people who have ever lived.

The fourth inscription, in great gold letters, was in the school chapel:

ESTO FIDELIS USQUE AD MORTEM ET DABO

TIBI CORONAM VITAE

*Be thou faithful even unto death,
and I will give you a crown of life*

Whatever you may think of the promise of a crown of life, believe it or not believe it, nobody could quarrel with the nobility of that command and that aspiration, 'Be faithful even unto death', faithful to our friends, later on faithful to our wives or husbands, to our families, faithful to our ideals and beliefs.

There's a story of a headmaster showing round a parent whose one concern seemed to be how much money her son could earn after leaving school, and when she asked once again, "But, Headmaster, what are you preparing your boys for?", he replied, "For death, madam." History doesn't relate whether the boy went to that school; I think not. He was clearly exasperated by her narrow persistence about material things, but I don't think that was just a cutting reply. Surely we would all one day want to look back on our life and feel that we had fulfilled a purpose and

that, near to the end, we were in some sense prepared?

And so I come to the fifth and last inscription, in even larger gold letters round the great shallow dome of the dining hall, which held 600 people: the magnificent words of Mr Valiant For Truth, coming to the end of his journey in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, in sight of the Celestial City, with only the river to death between. Then said he:

My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles who will now be my rewarder. So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

I learnt those words over 45 years ago and I've never forgotten them, but perhaps I should add before my conclusion that none of these inscriptions was pointed out to us at school; they were just there, part of the background. And it may be that for you, too, some of the things at Rendcomb which you have taken for granted or even ignored will come into focus as you grow older. See what you remember 40 years on.

After 45 years of listening to sermons, I know from experience how little remains in one's mind, so may I sum up the five inscriptions?

1. The great gate of learning and experience.
2. The pursuit of truth, human, scientific and spiritual.
3. The appeal for generosity.
4. The command to be faithful, even unto, death.
5. Mr Valiant For Truth's final words of achievement, fulfilment and reward.

If I were to choose only one of these to remember and to recommend you, if I may, to remember, it would be the third inscription, the one you read as you left the school, and may I offer it to you, not only as our duty to our neighbour, but as a source of lasting happiness in life:

FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE



E. McNeile

Bodley's Librarian

David Vaisey (OR 1945-54) was appointed Librarian of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, last year, having recently become a Governor of the College. There follows an account of an interview he gave in December to **Christopher Hoare** and **Edward Webb**.

Brought up in the agricultural community of pre-war and wartime Tetbury, he won a Foundation Scholarship to Rendcomb. The Rendcomb of his day was unusual and experimental, and he took full advantage of his new opportunities. As a senior pupil he played a crucial role in the running of the school: he became Head Prefect, Chairman of the General Meeting (at that time an influential position) and Captain of Cricket and Hockey; he even taught the three junior forms History for several weeks, when the Headmaster was ill. However he still found time to gain an exhibition to Oxford. After two years' National Service spent in Kenya, he took up his place at the University, where he read History and became interested in archive work.

Leaving Oxford, he took a job in the Staffordshire County Records Office, which entailed chasing and cataloguing documents. He enjoyed the work, finding it varied and unpredictable, taking him to locations as different as disused mines and stately homes.

Writing to the Bodleian Keeper of Western Manuscripts, he learned of forthcoming vacancy in the department, for which he successfully applied. He worked his way up to Head of the Department and in March 1986 he was appointed Bodley's Librarian.

The Library is the second largest in Britain, with 4.9 million books stored on 79 miles of shelving, and nearly 2,000 new books and 4,300 periodicals arriving each week. It also contains a great number of priceless manuscripts, many of special historical interest, and is constantly acquiring the papers of writers and politicians, such as the former Prime Ministers Disraeli and Asquith.

The Bodleian exercises its legal right, as a copyright library, to receive free of charge a copy of every book published in the British Isles. Thus it is continually expanding and has outgrown the historic buildings in which it has been housed since its foundation by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1602. This continual expansion, added to the considerable outlay for preservation of the old buildings and their contents, severely overstretches the library's income.

This income is made up of grants, which have been sharply cut by the present government, and endowments. Thus Mr Vaisey considers his role to have changed dramatically from that of his predecessors who, in the words of the Founder, 'stirred up other men's benevolence' to obtain collections of books and manuscripts; his role is to stir up modern men's benevolence to reach into their pockets and provide much-needed capital. Although he would prefer to spend his time lobbying politicians for their papers and acquiring rare books, his work has its rewards. As administrator of one of the world's most famous libraries he comes into contact with many interesting people from very different backgrounds and countries, from the Benedictine Father

who travelled half-way round the world in order to hold in his hands the earliest known manuscript of the Rule of St Benedict to the President of Italy and the Vice-President of Ecuador, who dropped in one Saturday while visiting Oxford.

His job is that of administrator and historian rather than librarian; his foremost concern is to run the service he provides to academics the world over, and especially of course to the University, as effectively and efficiently as he can and as the 'customers' want. He cannot, however, work like the Managing Director of a company: he is providing a service and cannot therefore put up the cost of his product, hence his constant effort to raise money, especially from the United States, in order to maintain the service and to preserve the piece of Western culture of which he has been given charge.

On top of the colossal cost of preserving the library and its contents while constantly acquiring new material, he feels he has to bring the library into line with other great modern libraries by standardising and computerising the records system to provide a more efficient service. This in turn means a need for more money and powers of persuading people that this conversion is necessary, another challenge for the public relations talents of Bodley's Librarian....

Our interview was to have lasted about half an hour; in the end we talked for at least three times as long and, despite our doubts and inexperience, we found it very easy and interesting, because of Mr Vaisey's friendly and open approach. We should like to offer him our sincere thanks for the opportunity to discover something of what this highly respected post entails, and to wish David Vaisey and the Library many happy and successful years to come.



Billett Potter

Staff Changes

Doris Mills

I first knew Doris Mills when I came to Rendcomb over 17 years ago, and at that time she had already been working in the kitchens for eight years in a part-time capacity. In addition to her job at the College she was also cook-housekeeper in a large house at North Cerney, where her husband Arthur was the gardener.

When Doris and her husband moved to Woodmancote, she took over the full-time position as Head Cook in the kitchens, where she was always capable and enthusiastic in her work. Doris really excelled herself when required to cater for any special functions held at the College, and anyone who attended these events will remember the meticulous attention to detail which went into the cooking and decoration of the food.

You could always rely on Doris to be in the kitchens on time, despite any adverse weather conditions, and many times she would trudge through the snow on a cold winter's morning to be in the kitchen by 6.30 a.m. to prepare breakfast.

Her happy, smiling face and cheerful nature will be sadly missed from the Rendcomb scene, but I hope that she will continue to keep in contact with us: we wish her and her husband Arthur a very happy retirement.

MAVIS MEZO

Tony Barrett

Tony came to us nearly two years ago, having been out of catering for a period. He decided he wanted to run a pub in South London but became disenchanted with some of the hassle. He then rejoined Fairfield's and came to Rendcomb, no doubt expecting less hassle! What he did not know was that Rendcomb is a very difficult operation, particularly on the family-style service which was still in force when he arrived, although plans to convert to self-service were in the pipe-line; and any hassle lying around when he appeared quickly vanished.

Tony at once demonstrated his fine catering skills, which he had earlier acquired as the Catering Manager at Shiplake College, resulting in some very satisfied customers. He managed to introduce a salad bar and still not exceed his budget, which was a remarkable conjuring trick. He masterminded the change to self-service and, despite some forebodings from pupils and staff, demonstrated the success of this method of feeding, and I think it is fair to say now that no one would willingly change back.

He has joined in with a will in all the school activities and has been seen making a few runs and dropping a few catches in the Staff Cricket Team and filling the Staff Soccer Team goalmouth. The great thing about him is his 'can do' attitude, and all the College's requirements, from Sixth Form dinner parties to many hundreds of packed lunches have been met willingly and with style. I think this last word sums up Tony, and we shall sorely miss him. At the same time, I would like to welcome his successor, Tom Gomersall, who comes to us with several years managerial experience and is determined to maintain Tony's high standards.

E. T. T.



C. J. Wood

Carol Kenworthy and Eddie Parsons

My first encounter with Mrs Kenworthy was a salutary one. I had rashly and unwittingly strayed into Sick Bay with the wholly innocent design of washing up a cup, when I was discovered by an irate School Matron and brusquely dismissed! Such an experience may not be unfamiliar to the unwary or the hypochondriac when crossing the threshold of Sick Bay, but it quite belies the true nature of Carol Kenworthy, School Matron for the last five years. Whilst standing for no nonsense from those merely trying to avoid tests, rugby or disgruntled members of the staff, Carol's sympathetic, practical and professional attitude to those in real need has been much appreciated and will be sorely missed in future.

Carol is leaving to start her own Rest Home in the Worcestershire village of Offenham, near Evesham, realising a long-held ambition to set up her own business. Such a venture is entirely characteristic of her energy and resourcefulness, qualities apparent in the improvements she has made to conditions in the Sick Bay during her stay here.

Over the last few years Carol has become, in the best sense, an institution at Rendcomb. Conversation at staff supper will never be quite the same again without her! A much sought-after and sympathetic ear to pupils and staff alike, efficient and conscientious, she will prove a hard act to follow. Whilst very sad to see her go, we wish her and her family all the very best in her new role and challenging future.

Also leaving is Eddie Parsons, one of Mrs Kenworthy's assistants for the last five years. Everyone who has ever met Mrs Parsons pays tribute to her unfailing kindness and her integrity, both professionally and personally. It is typical of her that she is leaving to become a Macmillan nurse, caring for the terminally ill in and around Cirencester. She will be remembered at Rendcomb for her quiet professionalism and completely unflappable nature, whatever the crisis! We wish her and her husband Chris all the best for the future.

M. C. C.



C. J. Wood

Sandra Taylor

Sandra Taylor came to Rendcomb in 1982 after working as a private secretary in business and rapidly came to terms with a quite different world.

I remember one of her references which read 'In my experience her commitment to the job was quite exceptional', and I would warmly endorse that comment about her five years with us.

The school office at Rendcomb is a vital nerve centre, and the separation of it from the Headmaster's Study by a flight of 33 stairs leaves it at the mercy of all-comers. Interruptions, essential or social, can number as many as 50 a day, excluding 'phone calls. My new secretary describes the scene at its busiest as 'totally volcanic'. It is switchboard, post office, registry, waiting room, thoroughfare and much else besides. Typewriters whirr like grasshoppers; telephones buzz and tinkle; outside the window are the leap and swipe of asphalt netball and hockey; past the door troop several hundred pairs of feet a day.

Such working conditions are not for the faint-hearted; you need efficiency and firmness; you need concentration and energy; you need diplomacy and a robust sense of humour; above all you have to like people and enjoy coping with problems.

Sandra had great style, great charm and a great sense of fun. Her vivacity and warmth of heart endeared her to boys and girls, staff, parents and visitors alike.

She was totally dedicated to Rendcomb and helped me enormously.

She will be remembered by us all, not forgetting the leavers of the past five years, and we owe her a lasting debt of gratitude.

R. M. A. M.



C. J. Wood

The Modern Languages Department, along with the College as a whole, owes a debt of gratitude to two tireless ladies, Barbara Tyler and Biddy Lewers, who generously gave up their time and talent to teach French and German during 1986-7. At short notice and in exceptional circumstances, both of them accepted teaching commitments which might have deterred the faint-hearted, and we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their knowledgeable and authoritative assistance.

We look forward to the return of Charlotte Holdaway, when she is fully recovered from her injuries, and to the arrival of Wendy Musto in September 1987.

L. J. H.

Viewpoints 1

Rendcomb drama from the Grass Roots

Rehearsals for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* proceeded smoothly enough until the last week. Nothing really funny happened until the play was 'this week'. Maybe this was because I - to play the part of Hippolyta - didn't really know in what direction the play, and my part, were going! It is only when the play is immediate that you can laugh with quietly nervous hysteria at such problems as the fact that you do not yet know your lines perfectly - and do you think it helps the situation if you know you had only 27 lines to learn in the first place? I recall the number of times our director, Mr Craddock, repeated that there were to be no more scripts on stage, in a gradually rising tide of threats, exhortations and desperate pleas. Right up to the dress rehearsal, however, copies were surreptitiously smuggled around.

When we returned from the November exeat, the fun really began. We attended the costume fitting with a degree of anxiety and barely concealed self-interest. The male members of the cast were quickly satisfied with their attire and eager for display. However, Susanna van Moyland (Hermia) and Fiona Carlisle (Helena) looked rather odd in their costumes; lamentation and threats were voiced until it was discovered that they were wearing each other's skirts, and peace was restored. My outfit was apparently designed to give the wearer the greatest possible difficulty in manoeuvring - and then to be told not to make the curtains move when we were backstage! But funniest of all were the navy patent thigh-high boots worn by Oberon, alias Simon Reichwald, set off by headgear that reduced the cast, but not Simon, to helpless laughter.

Opening night, and I had to be the one to forget my lines; I was so nervous I didn't hear the prompt, but after a second of dumb suspense the play carried on relatively smoothly. The next day we had yet another rehearsal. At each rehearsal every action seemed to be redirected, but somehow we managed to complete two more nights.

In *The Wedding* the funniest moment occurred on the first night, when one of the leading characters, Roland Martin, actually fell off the stage. They say that at such times professionals carry on, but it proved too difficult to ignore the feet of the disappearing boy waving goodbye. As for breaking a leg on the opening night... the bridegroom, Aubrey Powell, was so eager that he managed to hurt his foot during the week of the production and was put on crutches. However, he succeeded in conducting arguments and mini-brawls from a seated position, and no one seemed really to notice. Well, why should people notice that if, on the first night, they failed to realise that we had missed out a large proportion of a very short play?

A lot of the time the director's incessant expletives were very appropriate, as we went wrong with unflinching consistency, but we managed five nights of entertainment and we made people laugh - which is what it's all about in the end.

ESTHER MCNEILE

'First day at a new school'

All I can recall with any great clarity was the lump in my throat. After a tearful farewell containing a fair amount of both pleadings and denials, I had been abandoned, left in a large brick building containing twenty other children of entirely the same disposition as myself.

Some of them started chatting amongst themselves, others even managed a smile, but not I; I had been deserted by my parents, and for this they would never be forgiven; at least that's how I saw it.

Then a large mother-like figure with a broad false smile led us off to the classroom, where we came face to face with twenty more pupils who were looking surprisingly calm. They were, of course, 'the old hands' and, equally of course, they were expected to become our friends. However, all they did was simply stare at some of us and hit the others; I stayed put in my corner.

What happened next was lesson time. A teacher came in, handed us all a sheet of sums, and sat down. The old pupils started writing on their sheets of paper; the new pupils cried. This bizarre ritual was known to most of the teachers as 'settling in', though what was settling about it I failed to notice.

Gradually though, as the day wore on, things began to improve. We did not cry; we simply stared at our work and did nothing. Occasionally a teacher would get up and 'explain' things to us on the blackboard, but I found it hard to concentrate and learn at the same time, so I made little progress.

At some point in the day a bell rang, and those of us possessing both a watch and the ability to understand it ascertained the fact that it was one o'clock. Relieved to be going home at last, we felt our hearts lift. Then they promptly sank. Instead of being delivered safely into the arms of our waiting mothers, we were led into yet another large, grim brick building which served as the school canteen. We were doled out our daily quota of meat, followed by a rich confection under the name of treacle pudding.

We ate our meal in silence. Even if we had been allowed to talk, I doubt that any of us would have. The grim expression worn by the headmaster, caused perhaps by the food, or the pupils, or both, saw to that.

It was after this that the true purpose of our red and white striped shirts and blue shorts was revealed to us. We dressed up, were paraded into the freezing cold, given a very strangely shaped ball and told to play.

At first it was all right. I stayed at the end of the pitch and watched large, muscular youths throw a ball to each other. Then some fool knocked it all the way down the pitch, and it landed at my feet. I stared at it. I could still see it in my mind as I was carted off the pitch, dazed. I vowed never to play again.

After a quick shower and change, however, we were at last free to go home. My mother stood at the gate, looking first anxious and then relieved. I had survived my first day, only just, mind you, but survived nevertheless.

JAMES THRAVES

‘Routine’

Wake, rise, work, sleep, sleep,
With nothing to stop the machine
But dreams and graves. Living automata,
Each movement precise and calibrated,
Scanning every eighth of washed-out life
With dull eyes and polished teeth.
Metallic concision, each day planned
With utmost care. Using every second
To fulfil the wish for unfulfilledness.
Don't make yourself a slave of time,
The living microwave oven;
Free yourself from the man
In the grey, pressed suit and gleaming shoes
Who calls himself Routine.

MARCUS RANN



D. Hutton

‘D. I. Y. I. D. ’

Over the years, building and shaping,
We mould a shell to climb inside,
And every day we use it more,
The more we feel a need to hide.
As time goes on our shell matures,
Improving through use like a writer's style,
And it's easy to let it do all the talking,
So we let it think for us, just for a while.
And one day we notice, or it lets us know,
What nobody else can tell:
That we, the creature, have used it so much,
That we're no more than vehicles for a parasite shell.

EDWARD WEBB

‘Africa on a Bootlace’

Memoirs of Travel in Kenya and Egypt, February - April 1987.

To be honest, the original concept had included Australia and various other ports of call on the return trip; however, time, money, logistics and above all the lure of Africa were against it.

I had persuaded a friend to come with me; he and I had spent six months organising the trip before we left. We chose Kenya as the main area for travel, partly because an uncle of mine had been a settler-farmer, and I had some loose contacts there, but also because, from what I knew already, it encompassed a broad range of landscapes and tribal cultures, was of reasonably easy access and many of its people spoke English - I was not fluent in Swahili. It also offered the opportunity of visiting and working in schools abroad, although the impossibility of obtaining a work permit limited this ambition. I was also able to organise, by flying with Egypt Air, some time in Egypt to travel along the Nile and see the sights.

A long, uneventful flight brought us, via a stopover at Cairo airport, to Nairobi. Beneath sprawled the vastness of Africa, gently coming awake to another day with the rose-touched hue of dawn. After customs and numerous currency forms, with the money belt securely on, we were off on the local bus into town. While this kind of travel in Africa was later to become an everyday experience, to be viewed with nonchalance, this first sleep-shattering journey was a rude awakening to budget travel, Kenya-style. Having survived the journey and the pickpockets, we found Nairobi to be a broad-streeted, pleasantly bright city at its centre, scruffy round its vast perimeter. Dire warnings about Nairobi at night proved comparatively untrue, and we found the people warm and welcoming.

No other urban area matched Nairobi's commercial sophistication. A day spent at the Hillcrest school proved interesting: it is a 'European' school with an art department run by an American - 'Gee, what *is* CDT?' - and hockey coaching in the afternoon - 'the problem here is no rain; our pitches are always rock-hard and dusty.' An evening game of bowls at Karen Country Club showed that a European quarter still existed.



The start of our travels took us north and, after a delay due to a broken fan belt, we arrived at Naro Moro, at the base of Mount Kenya. Here the waves of shamba-infested* hills and hot, dusty plains are dominated by Mount Kenya's sharp peak, with its equatorial glaciers and fringe of rain forest. Eventually we arrived at 10,000 feet, to camp near a British army training base, and the early-morning hike to 14,000 feet, through the aptly named vertical bog, further proved the diversity of the Kenyan landscape; up here, above the tree line, plants had specially adapted themselves to the extreme conditions of rain and cold. We also had an unpleasant introduction to altitude sickness, necessitating a return to base camp and British army tea as an aid to recovery.

The return to Naro Moro allowed us to spend some days visiting the local primary school and a family shamba. This proved fascinating and enlightening; there is free milk in the school, but a desperate shortage of books and the problem of a rapidly increasing population - over 50% of the population of Kenya are under 15, and 80% are illiterate.

The journey on to Meru in the north-east provided more stunning landscapes, although the journey in the bus, packed with people, goats, hens and various containers, did have its distracting moments. We left Meru and its red dust and hitched a lift into the remote Meru National Park, where we were able to camp on a so-called site; we were rewarded with an introduction to animal life, kept awake by the noise of lions' roaring nearby, and waking to see the 'friendly' white rhino. Meeting an elephant while we were on foot had not been part of the plan, but the caretaker acting as our guide assured us that it was all right, as the wind was in the right direction; we were a little worried when he asked us how fast we could run, 'just in case'.



We moved back westwards via a local spinning workshop and a picturesque waterfall at Thompson Falls, very much in contrast to the town itself, a rambling collection of huts and run-down colonial buildings. By now we were getting used to the garish markets, enjoying the products on the fruit stalls and the bartering involved in making a purchase. A matatu † ride took us down into the Rift Valley and Nakuru, a town which highlighted the contrasts of Kenya, from the rich and heavily guarded President's Residence to the shambolic bus station and the toilets which could be smelt a mile away. All this was surrounded by the spectacular Rift Valley, with its huge volcanic craters, and Lake Nakuru, with its millions of pink flamingos and other wild life.

Leaving Nakuru, we went northwards by bus, out of the valley and up through steep, forested hills to flatter plains with many small shamba farms, and to Kitale, a town bustling with life and a sense of purpose, most of its pavements still intact, and the richer agriculture of the area apparently keeping it fairly prosperous. Another matatu trip took us out into the country, and after a long hot walk we reached Saiwa Swamp Reserve, a small, lush, green swamp famous for its bird life and for the Situtunga Antelope, which has become adapted to life in this watery environment.

Going northwards for nine hours in a bus, we reached Lake Turkana. This journey starts in gently-sloping farmland, but then descends through steep forest and a river-beaten gorge, before starting the long trek through semi-desert and blistering temperatures. The newly-laid road (by courtesy of the Norwegian government) makes access to the Turkana region easier, but the people are still primarily nomadic, with a few destructive goats, but little else in the way of possessions. Living in palm-thatched beehive huts, many of the older tribes people still wear goatskins, wrist-knives and lip-plugs, and the women, even most of the young ones, still wear multi-coiled necklaces to stretch their necks. More independent by nature than the Masai, many reject the occasional camera-poking *Wuzungu* (white man) and maintain their own pattern of living with fierce pride. Nevertheless, the small 'village' we eventually reached still boasted a sign blurting out 'Have a Coke and Smile'. Our hotel, a date-palm shack in the sand, did have a trickle of running water and was able to offer us a cooked dinner, even if this did mean selecting a live chicken scratching around our feet. The presentation of this meal, head and intestines included and cooked over the open fire, gave us considerable food for thought. Later we were allowed to watch the village dance; set in the open plain under a full moon, it made a memorable, if unsettling, experience.

The long return trip to Nairobi took us through Kisumu, on Lake Victoria, Kagamaga rain forest, with its exotic birds and butterflies, and the rich tea-growing areas around Kericho. Then we went overnight by train to Mombasa and the coast, with its white beaches and iridescent blue sea. We travelled right up to the ancient Muslim settlement on the island of Lamu and were able to enjoy snorkelling among the coral and tropical fish at Malindi. The sweltering heat and mosquitoes made life at the coast uncomfortable at times, but the long almost deserted beaches, the mangrove swamps and the delicious sea food helped to make up for the narrow, open-drained streets and consequent amoebic dysentery.

From the coast we made a short trip into the rolling grasslands of the Masai Mara. We had been told of the vast array of wild animals and were not disappointed: lion, elephant, buffalo, zebra and a vast array of antelope were fairly easy to find, and the gentle hills, turned sage green by the rains, made a breath-taking backdrop.

We were now at the end of our time in Kenya, a land of great variety in its landscape, from the desert north to rich farming highlands, open scrub plains and tropical, coconut-fringed coast. It is a new country with friendly people, almost naive about their problems, a bulging population which is restricting, if not choking, efforts to

improve their welfare. It is a beautiful country with a vast potential, threatened by rumblings of political unrest and tribalism; the people's constant greeting, 'Jambo' - Hello and welcome - may not be enough to solve the increasing desire for material wealth.

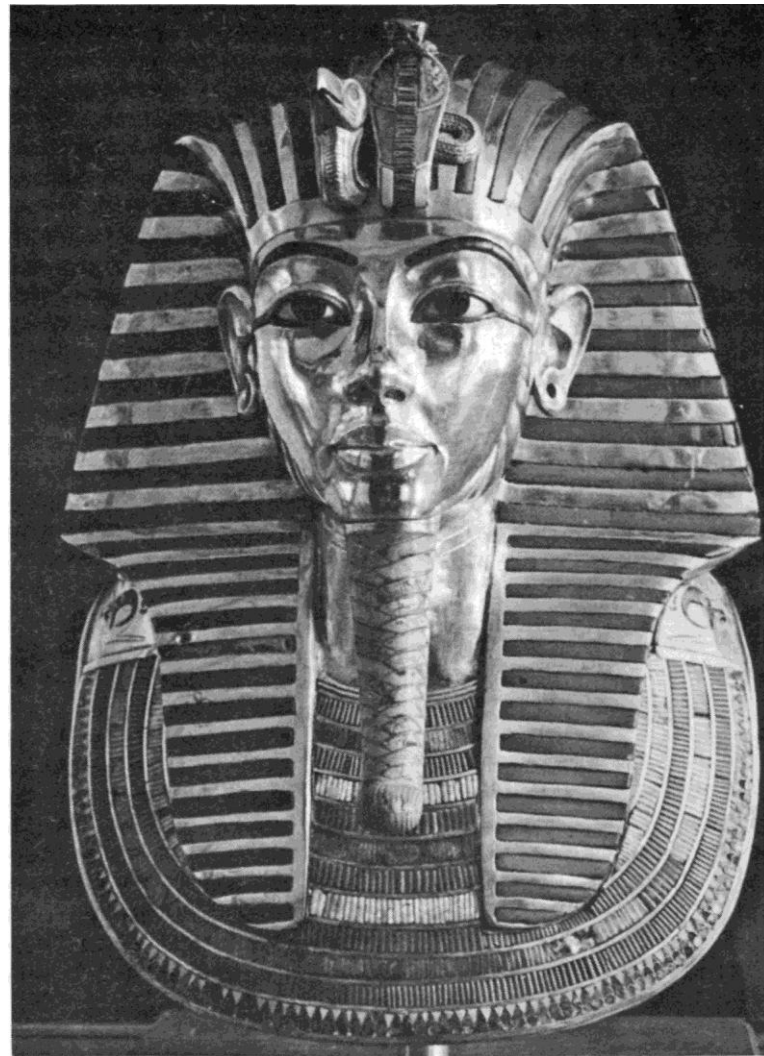
Flying into Egypt one sees the thin blue green-fringed line that is the Nile standing out as a lonely and desperate life-line against the vast tracts of desert and dry, rocky mountains. Cairo ranges from the friendly to the chaotic and distinctly seedy. The frenetic traffic and the Arab language give a fast-moving buzz to the city centre, soon lost when one moves into the country. We were able to see the famous pyramids and the Sphinx. By train and bus we went right down the Nile to Aswan on the Sudan border, visiting the temples of Luxor and Karnak, with their magnificent carvings, and the tombs of Kings and Queens, where many of the paintings remain startlingly fresh and bright, away from the dazzling sun.

Cairo also afforded the chance to see the glorious treasures of Tutankhamen, whose golden magic led me to these thoughts:

A mere boy, he stares into space, past the one-eyed clicking American; he does not see him, stares stiff-necked, focusing only inwards, contemplating the garlands thrown upon him, as one in a hospital, examined, investigated, but not known; a boy in his Sunday-best, on show but without time, only day and night, night and day; the flesh long gone, yet the face forever young with self-contained light, no gaudy reflection or distortion to his golden form. He wears his 'beard' as a boy - still flush with youth and not quite a man - might wear his father's hat; his head-dress primly starched like a fresh hairdo of azure blue stripes that no Egyptian breeze shall ever ruffle. The museum guard constantly calls 'you no touch'; there is no doubt - we never will.

The two weeks in Egypt were absorbing and fascinating, but I was pleased to be on the flight home, glad to pass over the snowy Alps and relieved to be back in an England looking green, lush and organised, where you could drink the water, ignore the insects and worry about the weather again.

M. S. G.



* shamba - a small home and farm,

† matatu - a local taxi, a hard-topped Peugeot pick-up, the idea being to fill it with as many people and animals as possible, driving as fast as possible to enable the maximum number of journeys to be made in a day.

View of Mount Kenya



Founder's Day

Chairman's Speech

May 23rd, 1987

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and members of the school. It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Founder's Day at Rendcomb.

I need hardly tell you that education in Britain is going through a period of stress and change. The changes affect every aspect of educational life, among them teaching methods, the syllabus, pay and conditions for teachers, educational standards and facilities and the relationship between the state and the private sector.

Some of the changes, such as the introduction of GCSE, involve teachers' learning new methods and mastering new syllabuses on top of their normal work load. The Baker proposals in the state sector seek to lay down - or at least clarify - the nature and extent of teachers' duties. But in independent schools, especially boarding schools, we have always asked for and received a tremendous commitment from our teachers for all kinds of duties, both during and after school hours. It is because of this support by our teachers that we can offer many extra-curricular activities as a feature of life at Rendcomb.

Part of the Government's proposals involve scrapping the outdated Burnham system for establishing teachers' pay, and the new Baker scales have started and will continue to bring about an overdue improvement in teachers' pay in the state sector. We are working out new pay scales at Rendcomb, which reflect these improvements and adapt them to our own circumstances.

I am afraid (as you are painfully aware) that this has necessitated an interim rise in our fees, since salaries are by far the largest element in our costs. But I'm sure you accept that we must pay our teachers properly and give them a good working environment, or we have no chance in a competitive world of attracting the calibre of men and women who will provide our children with the high standard of education we would like to give them.

We believe Rendcomb does have something special to offer, not only because of the skill and vocational commitment of all our staff, but also because of the beauty of the surroundings and our adherence to the principles laid down by our Founder. We hope that pupils leaving here will take with them a sense of values and comradeship and a spirit which will sustain and motivate them throughout their lives.

But in this competitive world we can't be complacent for a moment. We have been working hard over the past years to improve many of our facilities. But we have also been planning a major change in the basic structure of the school, which we call the Rendcomb Development Plan. I can now tell you exactly what this consists of:

What we plan is the construction, if planning permission allows, probably on the right hand side of Landage below the stable block - of two new boarding houses, each for 56 boys and each with accommodation for a married housemaster and family, to be completed by September 1989.

At the same time we will make considerable changes to the Main Building to convert it into a third boarding house of about the same size, also with married housemaster's accommodation.

Rendcomb has had a long tradition of formidable bachelor school masters, and I would like to break off for a moment to pay a special tribute to John Willson and to thank him for all that he has done over many years and is doing, in looking after the main house so conscientiously and well, and also for the pleasure he has given to so many Rendcomb pupils with his music and the mountaineering activities and expeditions he has organised.

But John has expressed the wish in due course to give up his duties in the main building, and I think we must look upon it as the end of an era.

As a result of moving boys from the main house to the new houses, we shall be able to have additional classrooms and common rooms and generally to improve the facilities there.

Our concern has not just been to improve the physical surroundings, but also the depth and continuity of care that we can provide for our pupils. We have been conscious of the inconvenience of concentrating so many boys in the main building. Under the new arrangements we will have three equal-sized houses, vertically structured with Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form boys in each.

There will be no changes to the Third Form arrangements, but Park House will eventually accommodate girls only, and the school as a whole will expand to include 19 more girls and about 20 more boys.

The advantages are that every pupil will have the benefit of a continuing relationship with one housemaster from entering the Fourth Form to the time of leaving the school, and the houses will be smaller, with boys of different ages mixing more easily together. There will be more classrooms, more and better common rooms and better facilities for both boys and girls.

Our objective quite simply is to make Rendcomb the best school of its kind in the country. It won't happen overnight, but we think this is a giant step forward.

I would particularly like to thank all the governors and members of staff who have worked so hard over the past three years to perfect this Development Plan. Many of them have devoted long hours, on top of a heavy workload and all their extra-curricular activities, to examining many options and bringing the final plan to completion. A special word of thanks also to the Trustees whose support in every sense has made it possible.

We believe the entire cost amounting to well over £1 million can be raised as a result of the generosity of various members of the Wills family, further gratefully received support from the Dulverton and Rendcomb trusts, our own efforts in setting aside funds for future capital expansion, and last but certainly not least the very considerable generosity of one of our Old Boys.

I would like to thank the Friends of Rendcomb for their generous support in inaugurating the Jack Fell Scholarship, which has been awarded to Julian Wilkie from Cold Aston Church of England School. This is the second Friends of Rendcomb scholarship and is enormously helpful to the school. Our grateful thanks go

to all who have helped.

As if these changes were not enough, it is my sad duty to tell those of you who may not already know it that this is Roger and Mary Medill's last term before Roger's retirement as headmaster.

Roger came to Rendcomb in 1971. In those days Rendcomb was a small, perhaps rather introspective, school which under Anthony Quick's headmastership had nevertheless grown from 100 to 155 pupils. During Roger's 16 years as headmaster the numbers have grown out of all recognition. The foundation stone for Park House was laid in 1972, the sports hall has been built, the science laboratories extended, Godman House completed as a place where the primary and prep school children are combined before moving to the senior school, an excellent idea which we are preserving in our Development Plan. There has been the construction of 11 new study bedrooms, the Computer Room and numerous extensions to the sporting facilities. And of course Roger has had a voice in the contents of the new Development Plan itself.

But I think Roger's greatest contribution has been the result of his fine personal qualities, combined with enormous commitment and hard work. Roger has always had a vision of what the school should be: a place where tolerance reigns, school discipline is as far as possible replaced by self-discipline and where pupils can develop the widest possible range of interests. Roger has striven to replace formality with what has been described as 'relaxed good manners'. He has truly carried the Founder's aims forward into the 1980s.

Roger has opened the school to the world outside by encouraging expeditions of all kinds and bringing in speakers on a wide range of subjects. He has had a flair for public relations, and as a result of his efforts Rendcomb is far better known in the world outside. He also abolished the short trousers which characterised Rendcomb for so many years.

And of course there is Mary. In spite of cruel difficulties with her health Mary has been a wonderful support to Roger. The cheerfulness and generosity with which she has lavished hospitality on so many of us, both in the school and in her home, and the work she has put into organising the riding and many other aspects of school life over the years will always make us deeply grateful to her. She has been a wonderful influence.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking you both, Roger and Mary, for the help and support you have given to me, an almost, uniquely green and unqualified Chairman of Governors.

Roger and Mary, thank you for all you have done over so many years for Rendcomb.

I'm afraid that is the bad news, but I am pleased and intensely relieved to tell you that, as a result of a very detailed and careful selection process, we have found a new headmaster who we believe will guide Rendcomb through our next phase of development, with the personal qualities and qualifications to have a considerable influence for good on all aspects of the school. His name is John Tolputt, from Cranleigh School.

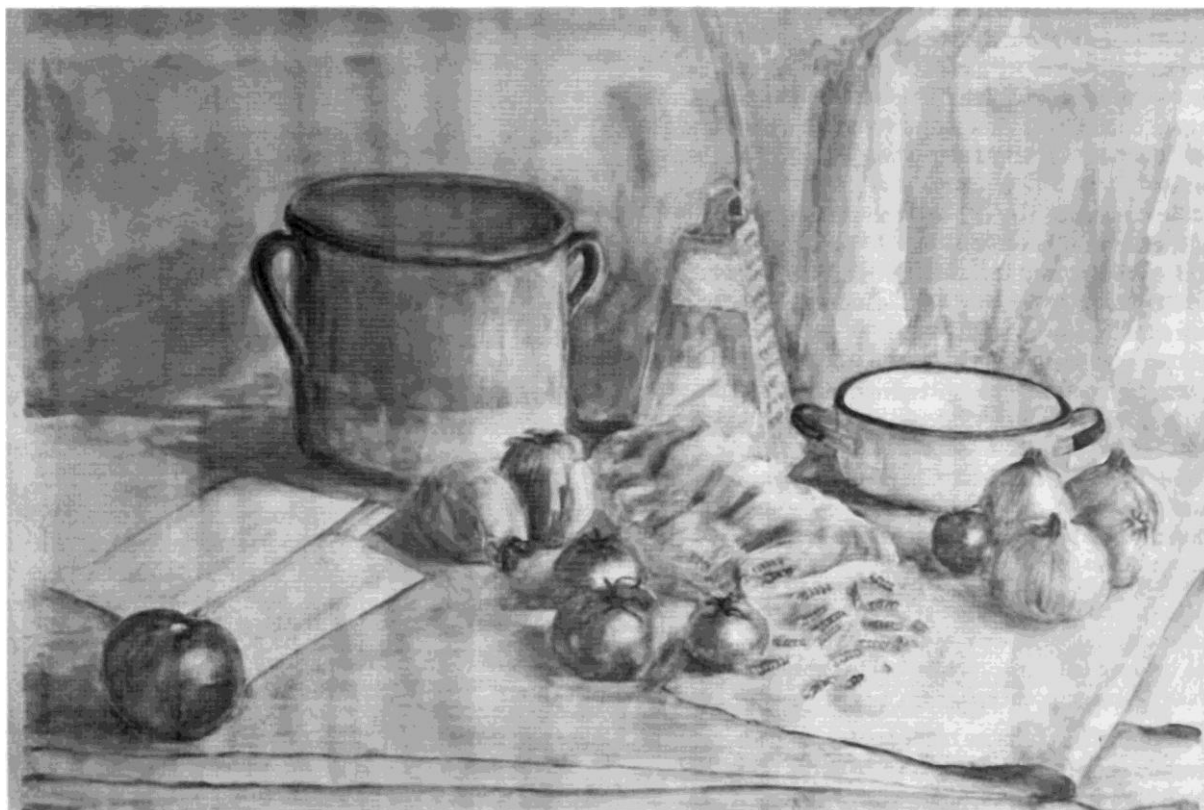
John has first class qualifications. He was an Exhibitioner of St John's College, Cambridge, where he won the Shakespeare prize. He took his degree in English and developed a deep interest in the theatre. He was President of the European Theatre Company.

He is a senior housemaster at Cranleigh, a job which he combines with being Head of English and Head of the Girls' School. He has just returned from taking his school theatre company on a tour to America. He has a charming wife, Patta, who graduated from the Royal College of Music, and two children, a boy and a girl. We look forward to welcoming John and Patta to Rendcomb in the autumn.

Finally, may I wish all of you who are taking exams the best possible luck, in the hope that all the right questions come up!



Tiger by A. Haddington



Still life by G. Branch

The Headmaster's Report

I add my words of welcome to the Chairman's and especially I welcome on your behalf our Guest Speaker, Mr Orr-Ewing. It's the Chairman's privilege to introduce him, so I will simply say that we are happy to have with us today such a successful and distinguished Industrialist.

1986 was Industry Year, and the theme is being continued in 1987 under the title 'Industry Matters'. The purpose is to increase still further the links between industry and education and to broaden awareness of industry's service to the community.

At the last Headmasters' Conference, Mr Corelli Barnett made a scathing indictment of British schooling over the past century, with its narrow bookish emphasis which, he said, made sense only if the aim was the production of Dons, Schoolmasters and Six Humphrey Applebys. An exaggeration, of course, especially if you think of the breadth and variety of a Rendcomb education, but there's more than a grain of truth in it. Changes in education take a long time - GCSE for instance has taken 18 years to bring into being - but at last things are under way, and the speed of change is gathering momentum.

Professor R. V. Jones, the first Michael Wills lecturer, who spoke of our brilliant radar discoveries during the

war, said this: "In a Britain that has been drifting downstream ever since 1945, I hope this story will show what we achieved and what we could do again if we could only replace the present mood of self-seeking easement by a sense of purpose and service". I believe there *is* a greater sense of purpose in the air and, though people may be no less self-seeking, there's a more realistic understanding that only hard work and commitment will bring rewards. Also, that unless this is fully understood we are finished as an industrial and trading nation.

What has this to do with a Headmaster's report? I'm simply pointing to a positive shift of emphasis. It's true that a disinterested intellectual curiosity is one of the hallmarks of civilisation, but how much of it can you afford? You can't neglect the plant to cultivate the flower. The current trend in education is towards a much wider personal fulfilment: to harness not only the intellectual, but the practical and social skills of people at every level of ability.

These comments I've made: hard work, commitment, a sense of purpose and service are echoes of Founder's Days over the past 15 years, because they are at the heart of what we try to foster and encourage. Here, the individual matters.

Now, with an election on June 11th, we face a renewed threat of political and financial pressure against

all independent schools. Freedom of choice in education is regarded throughout the Western World as a fundamental human right, and we have not only a right but a duty to protect it as best we can. We owe it to you, the parents whose children we educate, to future generations and to our Founder, Noel Wills, whose memory we honour today.

He was inspired by a vision of brotherhood and goodwill in society and, in order to test the power of opportunity and environment, the young, regardless of wealth or background, were to be educated in beautiful surroundings so that, as he put it, the true aristocracy among men and women, an aristocracy of brains and character, should flourish. Rendcomb was the result. Noel Wills would have been saddened by the present division in this country, but not discouraged. On Thursday, the Head Prefect, the Head Girl and I, following a long tradition, laid a wreath on his grave in Miserden churchyard. This is written on his tombstone:

‘One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward, never doubted clouds would break, never dreamed, tho’ right were worsted, wrong would triumph. He held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep to wake’. A magnificent epitaph.

And I’d just like to add to this a more personal reminiscence from an old boy - one of the 12 with whom the school started in 1920, Mr Ronald Daubeney. What he remembers are trips over to Miserden for tea and the warmth and kindness of the welcome everybody received there, and of being taught Art by Noel Wills himself. The staff and I have always respected and admired him as Founder, Chairman and Governor, but we are glad to salute him also as a former colleague.

My mention of colleagues leads me on to academic matters and, although the 1986 ‘A’ level results reflected great credit on the majority of candidates and on then-teachers, there were a few others for whom work did *not* come first, with the inevitable disappointments. But taking a broader view, there were compensations; ‘O’ levels were respectable, many University and Polytechnic places were secured and five candidates gained places at Oxford and Cambridge, in a good spread of subjects: English, History, French, Engineering and Physics. On a personal note, I took particular pleasure in the entry of our Head Girl to my old college to read Physics. There are now no entrance scholarships, but two internal awards were gained at Oxford by former pupils, one in Chemistry and one in English. Moving from the purely academic, another award was an RAF scholarship, and it was good to hear of our first commission in the Royal Marines to a recent old boy; for some years now our nuclear force has been strengthened by a Rendcombian submariner who may, for all I know, be cruising under the polar ice-cap at this moment and, with these and a number of other serving officers, we seem to do as well without a CCF as we might with one - perhaps even better.

Four further comments about work:

First.

I hope you’ve had an opportunity to see, not only the very attractive Art, Pottery and Woodwork, but also some GCSE Chemistry at the halfway stage. We’ve hit no major

snags yet, and the rethinking of aims and methods has been of undoubted value.

Second.

A new proposal for September, which I foreshadowed last year: Craft Design and Technology is a comparatively new subject, concerned with the solution of practical problems: designing and then making things that function. We shall add construction in metal and plastic to our highly successful woodwork. But we aim also to expand our computer work with modular courses in Micro-Electronics, Control and Information Technology. I have no doubt that as these courses develop they will significantly improve job opportunities, especially in Industry and Commerce. However, this raises the problem of the overloaded curriculum.

How can you squeeze a quart into a pint pot? We’ve had to rethink our curriculum radically - and when I say we, I mean every Head of Department, but particularly Mr Knapp, and Mr White, who has the unenviable task of working out the timetable. A problem of great complexity, more difficult in a small school than in a large one. I’m extremely grateful to them for the time and trouble they are taking to get the right solution.

Third.

I’ve spoken of results, achievements, changes, but let’s not forget the boys lower down the school, whatever their ability, who are slogging away to improve their grades. And a word of warning to those who are tempted to rest on their oars. It’s later than you think - don’t neglect your opportunities; although, if you have a particular interest of non-examinable kind, don’t neglect that either. Remember what a Victorian father said to his son: “You care for nothing but shooting, dogs and rat-catching, and you will be a disgrace to yourself and all your family”. The boy was Charles Darwin.

Now my last comment on teaching and learning:

You have paid us the great compliment of entrusting your sons and daughters to us. What is it that remains with the young when they leave school? When we look back, we remember not facts, but people. What a teacher offers is himself. It’s the quality of the individual who stands in front of a class or runs a House that determines the quality of education. Among these individuals I must single out this year, John Holt who, with the support of his wife Anne, has run Godman House with such dedicated care and concern for 12 years. Your children have been fortunate to experience their humane and generous influence, and I count myself lucky to have had the wholehearted support of them and of a staff of such energetic and dedicated professional teachers. I’m sure that you will join with me in showing your gratitude to them.

What next? For a moment of light relief I turn to food, and I think we would all agree that the change to self-service has now fully proved itself. I noted a letter in the *Times* not long ago from an old boy of Shrewsbury School which went like this: ‘One morning, 57 years ago I found myself on my way to the Headmaster’s Study. His wife, a finely proportioned and formidable lady was speaking on the phone to the town. I could not avoid overhearing her authoritative tones as she shouted, “Is that the butcher?”’

Right, well will you please send me 3 pounds of your best rump steak, and 44 pounds of boy's meat". But the letter concluded "I still enjoyed all my days at the school".

Well, things are no longer quite like that but, before moving on, I'd like to say a warm thank you to our Catering Manager, Tony Barrett, who, sadly for us, is leaving at the end of term, promoted to be an Area Manager, which he fully deserves.

Next a welcome to two new members of staff: Mr O'Connor, who is teaching History and English, Mr Sudbury as our new Chaplain. As I saw from my study window Mr Sudbury coaching cricket in the nets, I remembered an advertisement which actually appeared in the *Church Times* not long ago: 'Vicar seeks colleague. Left-hand fast bowler preferred. Good golf handicap an asset, but not essential'.

And there was the very young curate at interview who had described himself in his letter of application as a Christian Gentleman. The Chairman said "could you elaborate on that a little?" to which he replied, "certainly, Sir; which term is unfamiliar to you?"

But if I may be serious for a moment; one of the quiet but permanent strengths of the independent boarding schools of this country is that they are communities which consciously uphold the values of a Christian way of life and have at their centre a Christian Church. Surrounded by the pressures of a secular, consumer society in a world containing extremes of poverty, young people look for something beyond materialism. Bob Geldof focused this idealism, this longing for a fairer world, with his great imaginative enterprise, and that impetus has not petered out: but the acquisition of enduring values to live by, such as tolerance, generosity, and integrity are best gained by living in a caring community, whether that be a good family or a good boarding school.

Thinking of our community, one member of it has been sorely missed this term, Mrs Charlotte Holdaway,

gradually recovering from a serious car accident at the beginning of the holidays. We send her our warmest wishes for a full recovery and early return; meanwhile recognising how lucky we have been to engage Mrs Lewers at about five minutes notice to see us through.

When you think of all the people besides the teaching staff who work at Rendcomb, the Bursar and his administrative team, the Matron and hers, the cooking and domestic staff, it's hard to pick out individuals, but I must mention three. Mrs Mills in the kitchen has lasted out two Headmasters in her 25 years and is retiring this term, a marvellous span of service to the school. Mrs Toms, still running the linen and laundry department after 21 years. A letter arrived for her last week appropriately addressed to Rendcomb College, Linen Road... I ask you, what would *you* do with 101 pairs of unmarked socks? And that's fact, not fiction. I called for a recount. Then my third mention, at the head of a splendid team of grounds and maintenance men, Tony Partridge, one of those towers of strength on which the rest of humanity depend, and for whom, if I may quote him, "Anything is possible".

So I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, again to join me in showing your appreciation for all at Rendcomb who have given me, and your sons and daughters, such loyal and committed support over the years.

Now a very brief word about sport - and I keep it brief because enjoying it is so much better than talking about it: three fine first teams again this year in rugby, the toughest, hockey, the most popular, cricket, the most individual of main games, and masses of talent lower down the school. I have entered into the excitement of every sport here, team and individual, but I must confess to a partiality for rugby. Let a member of our 1st XV who pulled it off against Bloxham at last this year - though I haven't yet forgiven them for doing it in my absence - speak for the game and all team games at Rendcomb.



'The team atmosphere was electrifying before we took the pitch, and I can't really explain the feelings everybody shared after the match; we thought we'd be taken to the cleaners, but our game was lifted to the day, and we came out on top. There was amazing comradeship within the team, and we all responded to our coach's dedication and perseverance'. There you have the essence of the game: leadership, togetherness, strenuous determination. Emerson said "I pay the schoolmaster, but 'tis the boys who educate my son". There is at least a partial truth there, as friendships are forged and tested in adversity as well as leisure in our full-time living together. And education includes more than teaching.

But there is also the loneliness of the long distance runner, the disciplined concentration of the archer, golfer or fly-fisherman, the Duke of Edinburgh footslogger as he goes for gold, the aching fingers of the climber as he defies gravity on a sheer rock face - these and many others yield their rewards to those who take them seriously. And then the quite different challenge of playing a part in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. In the last act Shakespeare speaks of 'The lunatic, the lover and the poet' - and we have a few of those around Rendcomb.

Or the opportunity of playing in the school orchestra. The musical range this year has been remarkable, starting with an Anglo-Japanese concert last September. I asked one of the girls from the Japanese finishing school in Cheltenham who gave us their tea ceremony and dancing and Kendo, what the word for very good was, "Sbalasee", she said, and sbalasee it all was; as also during the year was the choral singing and a fine rendering of Mozart's Concerto on that most difficult of instruments, the French Horn. Memorable too was the concert by the Rendcomb Rock Group, a remarkably professional affair which got rave reviews.

Finally, the Oriel Singers delighted us and the Parents' Association after an excellent social supper. I am most grateful to the Parents' Committee who give up their time and show such a keen interest in the school.

Now a brief personal word from my wife and myself, a downwardly mobile Headmaster, about to leave our tied cottage and go out into what they like to call 'the real world'. I've always found the young both real and realistic - I heard of a Headmaster not long ago to whom a leaver said "Goodbye Sir, and thank you very much; you won't get away with this much longer..."

And then, the staff are pretty realistic too - when somebody knocks on the door and says "Headmaster, er, I think you ought to know..." and I wait for the bombshell to burst. In those circumstances I've never felt like Oscar Wilde, who said "The suspense is terrible; I hope it will last". And then your friends say "Well, there's light at the end of the tunnel", to which you reply, "yes - of course, it could be a train coming the other way". Over the years there have been some brief periods of turbulence when it seemed the signals had got stuck at red, and on reflection I've come to the conclusion that it has always been the result of inflation. Inflation of personalities, inflation of issues, or inflation of money. Fortunately my anxiety threshold is fairly high, and good will and common sense have always prevailed in the end.

What I must add is that Mary and I have always felt what a fantastic privilege it is to be here - for us, and for all of us here, and for all who have ever been here, to live in England, in Gloucestershire, at Rendcomb, in this unrivalled position with unlimited opportunities for all. I've always found the young an inspiration - the small boys provide the fizz and exuberance which keeps you young, the senior boys provide the challenge that keeps your feet on the ground and eyes in the back of your head. A Headmaster was recently showing some distinguished guests round a new changing room which included one of those hot-air hand driers. He was pained to see a notice pinned up which read 'For a short message from your Headmaster, press the black button...' And then the girls, well, they smile in that indulgent winning way girls have, and that helps to keep you going too.

There's a Chinese saying:

For the beginners there are many solutions.

For the expert there are few.

I think we can rely on these fresh young minds to tackle the problems of the future.

Finally, what is it that's special about Rendcomb?

Most people visiting for the first time comment on its 'atmosphere'. This elusive quality is hard to identify, but nonetheless real for that. I think it springs partly from the domestic scale and unforbidding nature of the buildings which were, for the most part, built for families to live in and which retain, whatever their size, a certain warmth and intimacy. More importantly, however, it comes from the people in and around those buildings; the warmth of welcome in the school office, where Anne Purdon has continued the marvellous tradition of Sandra Taylor; the friendly openness and courtesy of boys and girls; the informality of dress and bearing which reflect the ease of personal relationships with each other and with the staff. Rendcomb is 'User Friendly'. What also strikes any visitor immediately is the quite exceptional beauty of setting and surroundings. You five and grow up at Rendcomb in a place created by man in harmony with nature. Not wild enough for Wordsworth, but Alexander Pope visited Rendcomb in the 18th century and this was his comment: "I look upon the Mansion, walls and terraces, the plantations and slopes which nature has made to command a variety of valleys and rising woods with a veneration mixed with pleasure". Pope had clear ideas about creating a landscape and one of his lines says this: 'Consult the Genius of the place in all'. The Genius, the Presiding Spirit . . . I like to think of the generous spirit of Noel Wills, perpetuated by members of his family, still casting a benign influence upon Rendcomb, as each succeeding generation of boys and girls - with a little help from their friends - seeks to embody the vision of the school's Founder.

Address by Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing

Mr Orr-Ewing retired in 1986, after a distinguished management career in British industry. His experience includes service with Ford and Leyland Motor Companies and the Chairmanship of Jaguar PLC over the period of its launching on the public market. The last 20 years of his career were spent with Rank Xerox Limited, of which he became Chairman in 1980. We are grateful to him for the following summary of his address.

A Rendcomb education must not be taken for granted. It has involved careful choice and often self-sacrifice by parents, prepared to give up other things so that their children could benefit. A Rendcomb education provides an excellent start in life, but such an advantage imposes future responsibilities.

Only 100 years ago the British Empire generated one third of the world's wealth. At the start of the First World War the people of the United Kingdom were the richest in the world's history. Based on low cost raw materials and a huge market for finished products, we were a very great manufacturing nation. We have every right to be proud of our past. Let no one decry it!

Today all that has gone. We are now a middle-sized nation in direct competition with others. To maintain our material standards and way of life we must compete successfully with all-comers.

A nation is similar to a family. It can spend only what it earns. Governments cannot create wealth out of thin air to pay for all the things we need: health service, pensions, better public sector schools and so on. National prosperity must be earned. We are fortunate that our nation is highly competitive in banking, insurance and other services. Vital though financial services are to our economy, the figures make clear that without a flourishing manufacturing industry we can never earn enough to satisfy the expectations of the British people.

These fundamental issues relate directly to all those at Rendcomb.

Society expects those trained to lead to pick up the challenge of national prosperity and to generate the wealth essential to our national goals.

Benefits are always matched by obligations. The outstanding preparation for life you receive at Rendcomb must be repaid to society by the contribution you make in the future. It is a debt you cannot escape and must never forget.

Speech of Thanks

by the Head Prefect,
Roderick Hill

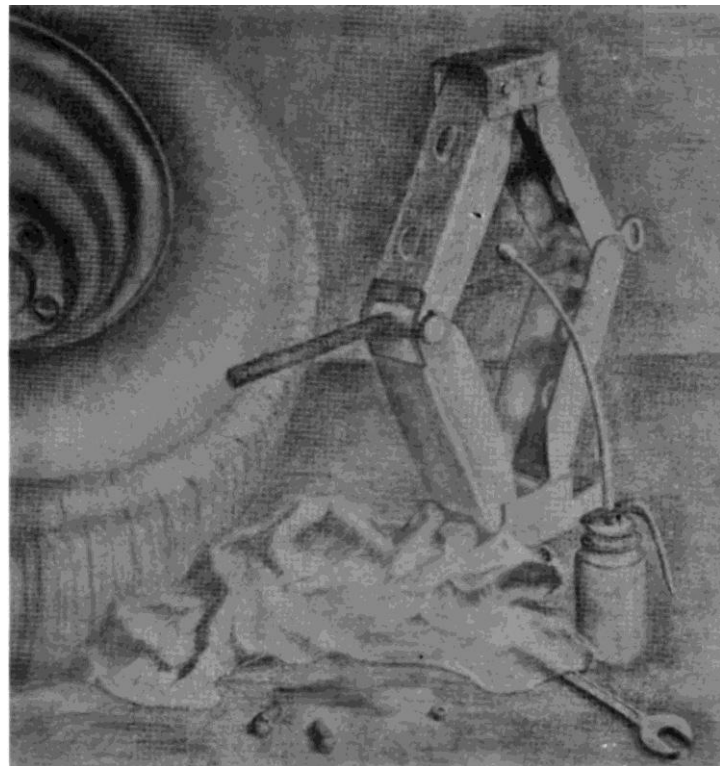
It is with great pleasure that I have been given the opportunity of proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Orr-Ewing for coming here today to help us celebrate Founder's Day. I am sure you have all found, as I have, his address both stimulating and thought-provoking.

It has long been the role of Rendcomb College and the original intention of our Founder, Noel Wills, to provide a foundation upon which its students have the opportunity to develop a well educated, receptive mind through self-motivation. This aim has remained and is being achieved despite ever increasing pressures and demands of a rapidly changing world. However, this is not the only quality Rendcomb instils in its pupils; throughout the school there is a degree of friendship and respect which is unique to the College, that will not easily be surpassed once we have left.

It is clear from our Guest Speaker's words that industry requires a certain calibre of person, and I believe Rendcomb gives its students the chance to develop, both in character and attitude, enabling them to cope with the challenges of leadership in the industrial and commercial organisations of our country.

Mr Orr-Ewing, I can assure you that your remarks have broadened my view of industry and commerce, and I am sure they will have influenced the thoughts of the younger members of the audience.

On behalf of the Governors, Staff, Parents and Pupils, thank you most sincerely for joining us today.



'A' Level piece by D. Aylott

Academic Results

Honours

We congratulate the following:

Darren Denby	1st Class Honours in Philosophy, University College, London
Phillip Evans	D.Phil in Chemistry, Pembroke College, Oxford
Jonathan Pedley	Domus Scholarship in Chemistry, Pembroke College, Oxford
Benedict Uglow	Susan Mary Ralph Memorial Prize in Psychology, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
David Webb	Domus Scholarship in English, Pembroke College, Oxford
Simon Wormleighton	Ph.D. in English, Exeter University

Anne-Marie Hobart (Westwoods Grammar School)	Shared Girls' Scholarship
Hilary Sumsion (St Teresa's Convent School, Dorking)	
Nicholas Pollard (Ann Edwards School, South Cerney)	Noel Wills Scholarship
Marcus Head (St Hugh's School, Faringdon)	Open Scholarship
Matthew Gee (Ingleside School)	Junior Open Scholarship
Julian Wilkie (Cold Aston Church of England School)	Jack Fell Scholarship
Charles Dudbridge (Croft School, Stratford-upon-Avon)	Minor Scholarship
Matthew Pentney (Ferndale School, Faringdon)	Minor Scholarship
Robert Sage (Uley Church of England School)	Minor Scholarship
Jason Smith (Aymestrey School)	HM Forces Bursary
Graham Lawton (Westbury Leigh Primary School)	HM Forces Bursary
Barrie Davies (Monkscroft Junior School, Cheltenham)	Gloucestershire Foundation Place

‘A’ Level

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

Corrin Adshead - French, German
 Robert Anderson - English, Mathematics, Physics
 Mark Astill - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry
 David Aylott - French, Art*
 Daniel Beales - English (M), History, Public Affairs*
 Gillian Bell - English (D), History*, Geography*
 Adam Binder - Art
 Giles Branch - English, French, Art*
 Barnabas Branston - English, French (M), German
 Alexander Brealy - History, Geography, Mathematics
 Thomas Burns - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry
 Fiona Carlisle - English, Public Affairs
 Andrew Cayton - History, Geography, Biology
 Dominic Clark - Mathematics* (M), Further Mathematics, Physics*, Chemistry* (M)
 Pollyanna Cochrane - English, History, Geography
 Giles Davies - Physics, Chemistry, Biology*
 Robert Draper - Physics, Chemistry, Biology
 Ian Ford - Physics, Chemistry (M), Biology
 Theresa Fox - Mathematics* (D), Physics* (D), Chemistry*
 Juliet Hasler - English, Geography, Biology
 Annalisa Heal - Physics, Chemistry, Biology*
 Kevin Hewston - Geography, Mathematics* (M), Chemistry
 Roderick Hill - Mathematics* (M), Physics*, Chemistry
 Tanya Holden - Mathematics*, Physics, Chemistry
 Raquel Hughes - English, History
 Darren John - History, Public Affairs
 Simon Kingscote - History, Mathematics, Public Affairs
 Kerry Mallindine - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry
 James Mann - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry
 Susan Maton - English, Geography
 Christopher Moody - History* (M), French*, Mathematics* (M)
 Amanda Moore - English (M), History, Public Affairs
 Philip Moore - History, Geography, Mathematics
 Nicola Newell - English, History, Public Affairs
 Polly Nicholls - English, French, Art*
 Justin Noyce - History, Geography
 Julian Odell - Mathematics*, Physics* (D), Chemistry* (D)
 James Penneck - Mathematics
 Christopher Pope - History, Mathematics, Public Affairs
 Timothy Prince - English, History, Public Affairs
 Simon Reichwald - English, History, French
 Matthew Reid - Mathematics*, Physics, Chemistry
 Angus Rollo - Mathematics*, Physics*, Chemistry* (M)
 Justin Rosa - English, History
 Henrietta Rothman - English, Geography, Mathematics
 Susanna van Moyland - English, History, Public Affairs
 Rachel Waddington - English, Geography, Biology
 Lisa Wallace - English, History
 Mark Walters - Mathematics*, Physics, Chemistry
 Nicholas Wharmby - English, Mathematics
 Iain Whittaker - English, History*, French
 Stephen Young - History, Public Affairs

Key: *- Grade ‘A’

(D) - Distinction in Special Paper

(M) - Merit in Special Paper

‘O’ Level

The following results were obtained at ‘O’ and ‘AO’ Level:

Stephen Young - m
 Alexander Andreis - E
 Michael Attwood - A, ct, ll
 Michael Bews - AM
 Adam Binder - e
 John Delaney - ct, FB
 Julian Fellows - h, M, p, c, B, W
 Patricia Flanagan - am
 Alexandra Fletcher - CT
 Amanda Fry - CT
 Stephen Green - A*
 Paul Griffiths - a
 Karen Harman - AM
 David Hauton - AM
 Christopher Hoare - LL, FB*
 David Kenney - ct
 Richard Kolb - CT
 Mark Larroucau - AM
 Julian Leigh - A
 Sophia Michaelides - CT
 Ian McMurtrie - CT
 Esther McNeile - FB
 Marcus Rann - CT
 Benjamin Rees - E, AM
 Richard Reichwald - e, el, H, F, c
 Colin Sainsbury - AM
 Andrew Satterthwaite - CT
 John Shaw - am
 Ann Speakman - CT
 Lucy Stringer - CT
 Hari Swami-Nathan - ct
 Anne Waddington - A
 Edward Webb - AM*, LL
 James Williamson - AM
 Cohn Bannister - E, EL, H, L, F, M*, P, C, B
 Anthony Bedford - E, EL, H, l, f, M, c, B
 Geoffrey Broomfield - E, EL, H, L, F, M, p, C
 Robert Bugden - E, EL, h, G, F, m, c
 Jason Carter - E*, EL, H, G, F, gn, M
 Angus Cochrane - E, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B
 Guy Cowie - E, EL, H, L, F, gn, M, P, c
 Thomas Eastham - e, EL, G, f, M*, P, C, B
 Matthew Faircloth - E*, EL, H, G, F, M*, P, C, B
 Richard Hardy - E, EL, H, L, f, m, b
 Christopher Hauton - E, EL*, H, G, F, M*, P, C, B
 Nicholas Hett - E, EL, h, f, m, c, b
 Daniel Houseman - E, EL, H, L, M, p, c, B
 Christopher Huck - E, el, h, g, M, p, c
 Grant Hughes - E, EL*, H, L, F, M, P, C, B
 Andrew Kinch - E, EL, H, G, M, b
 Jonathan Lutwyche - E*, EL, H, L, F*, GN, M*, P, C
 Roland Martin - E*, EL*, H, G, F, M, p, C, b

Philip Matson - E, EL, H, G, f, m
 Robert Mitchell - e, EL, H, g, f, M, p, c
 Julian Norbury - E, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B
 David Norton - E, EL*, H, L*, F*, M*, P*, C*, B*
 Russell Ogden - e, el, H, G, f, M, c, b
 Aubrey Powell - E*, EL*, H*, G*, F*, GN*, M*, P*, C*
 Simon Scott-White - el, h, G, m
 William Sherwood - E, EL*, H*, G*, F, M*, P, C*, B
 Jonathan Slattery - E, EL*, H*, G*, F, M*, P*, C*, B
 Nicholas Suffolk - E, EL, H, L, F, GN, M*, P, C
 Sean Tate - e, el, H, g
 Vaughan Tredwell - E, EL, H*, G, F, M, p, C, B
 Jason Vernon - E, EL, H, L, F, M, p, C, B
 Paul Wilson - e, G, m, C
 Christopher Wood - E, EL, H, G, M*, P, C, B
 Richard Wooster - e, EL, H*, G, M, P, c, B
 Stephane Banks - r
 Alexander Bell - R
 Oliver Boatfield - r
 John Carroll - mu
 Christopher Daniels - r
 James Dowson - R
 James Gregory - r
 Peter Grimsdale - r
 Nicholas Hall - R, a
 Jolyon Hammond - R, A
 Kevin Holmes - MU
 Arwyn Jones - a
 Alexander Lainé - MU
 Francis Lee - R
 Henry Le Fleming - R, A
 Andrew MacKinnon - R
 Benjamin Maslen - A*, mu
 Anthony Miles - MU
 Joseph Nicholls - A*, MU
 Mark Nicholls - R*, A
 Thomas Nicholls - R, A
 Charles Paine - r
 David Pearce - mu
 Shridhar Phalke - R
 James Prince - R
 Carl Reens - R
 Andrew Roney - MU
 Robert Tate - r
 James Thraves - R*
 Christian Vallence - mu
 Matthew Ventrella - R, A
 Matthew Waddington - r
 Adam Waller - R

Key: Capital letters denote Grade A - C; small letters denote Grade D - E; * - Grade 'A'
 E - English Language
 EL - English Literature
 R - Religious Studies
 H - History
 G - Geography
 CT - Classics in Translation
 L - Latin
 LL - Latin Literature (AO)
 F - French
 FB - French for Business Studies (AO)
 GN - German
 M - Mathematics
 AM - Additional Mathematics
 P - Physics
 C - Chemistry
 B - Biology
 A - Art
 MU - Music
 W - Woodwork

Opinion Poll

In this election year, the pupil editors decided to canvass opinion on various subjects of current interest. About one third of Sixth Form pupils were 'sampled' on a random basis, with questions designed to provoke general discussion rather than to produce answers for statistical tabulation. What appears below is not a series of results - the winners and losers with whom the media seem to be obsessed - but an attempt to assess the quality and strength of opinion. The survey was made during the three weeks before the General Election and completed four days before the country went to the polls.

1. *Do you approve of multilateral or unilateral nuclear disarmament?*

Almost everyone asked held multilateral disarmament desirable, unilateral action inadvisable; many saw unilateral action as stupid or naive in the face of the potential threat. A handful of pupils thought unilateral action desirable, but most replies showed a highly cautious sense of Russian capabilities, whatever their stated intentions, and a sense of the status of being a nuclear power. There were also those who protested against the escalations of the arms race, the insanity of a situation in which neither side was prepared to shift ground in a contest which all thinking people should deplore.

2. *Do you think more money should be spent on education, health and the inner cities?*

There was overwhelming agreement that more money should be spent on education and the inner cities. Education was considered an urgent priority by nearly everyone, and many gave examples of such depressing facts as shared text books to underline the point. Teachers and nurses were considered to be particularly underpaid. There seemed to be less concern for the funding of the health service. A number pointed out that resources for education and the inner cities depended on a prosperous economy.



3. *Do you think the government and employers should positively discriminate in favour of ethnic and social minorities?*

The answer was almost universally 'no'. Only two people thought positive discrimination at all useful, and then only in cases of extreme disadvantage. Those suffering from physical disability were possibly worthy of some allowances, but most thought that jobs, for example, should be awarded strictly on merit, and that any other attitude was patronising and socially divisive; a few felt that there was no significant problem beyond the determination of the applicant.

4. *Do you think the government should do more to help the unemployed?*

A clear majority felt that as much was being done for them as could be managed in the country's economic circumstances. Those few who felt more should be done said that only economic prosperity could offer any long-term prospect of improvement. Helping industry create real jobs by encouraging a climate of incentive to enterprise was considered the best solution, much better than creating artificial jobs for the sake of social cohesion.

A number thought that some unemployed lacked self-motivation; several suggested that community work schemes might be provided for them. Some suggested import controls to protect our manufacturing economy; a few thought that the long-term unemployed did deserve special treatment; most drew attention to schemes already existing and thought that they were adequate.

5. *Do you think the government is sufficiently aware of ecological and environmental issues?*

Almost all thought that it was aware of these issues, but many pointed out that awareness and the will to act were quite different things. A number made the point that policies on such matters were inevitably a compromise between the pressures of economic activity and the need for conservation. Several people seemed particularly concerned about the dangers of acid rain. Some did not think that action was urgently needed to protect the environment, and a good number claimed that the question was misleading, since, without economic growth, caring about the environment would be impossible, a mere exercise in self-righteousness without the ability to back up sentiment with action. More thought that more could and should be done to protect what is irreplaceable.

6. *Do you think the government's AIDS campaign is changing young people's moral attitudes?*

Many felt that the campaign had made people aware of the dangers of certain kinds of life-style, rather than changed their attitudes. Some pointed out that it was the disease itself which might change attitudes, rather than the campaign. A few felt there would be no change at all, or that if a new morality arose it would be based on expediency and self-preservation rather than on any newly-found or rediscovered principle.

Several people criticised the campaign from various, at times apparently contradictory, angles. Some felt that there had been so much publicity that the effect had been to blunt the message and turn people away from serious consideration. Others criticised the images used in the campaign, claiming that more emphasis on the horrors of the disease would have produced a less hysterical and more informed response. Whilst most thought that awareness of the dangers was increasing, almost all were sceptical about any real change in attitude.



Illustrations by M. Larroucau

7. *Should the government defend the right of the people of Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom?*

A clear majority thought that the people should be protected by the government and remain part of the United Kingdom. A number pointed out that it was not only the majority who were being protected by the army, but also the minority, who also stood to lose at the hands of the IRA. On this question more than any other there was a great deal of caution in giving an opinion on what was felt to be an almost uniquely difficult issue. Whilst the general opinion was clear, many expressed a sense of the absurdity of the geographical unit of Ireland's being divided into two.

8. *Do you think that ordinary people are politically aware, or are they brainwashed by slogans and images?*

A small majority thought that people were brainwashed in various ways. The question raised a large number of points. Many thought that people were apathetic about politics. Some suggested that it was not the politicians who were doing the brainwashing, rather that people were conditioned in other more insidious ways, by parental or educational influence or by the media. Some held that political opinions were largely a matter of people's showing, consciously or unconsciously, solidarity with a class or social or peer group. A few said that politics should not be forced upon people, that people could be apolitical; they should be allowed to make choices or ignore the whole business.

9. *Do people vote for political parties or for personalities?*

The responses were almost equally divided between those who felt that parties were the more important factor and those holding that it was ultimately the personalities who were decisive. Many suggested that a combination of factors determined people's views. No one considered personalities overwhelmingly significant, though it was acknowledged that the personal qualities of a leader could be of considerable importance in shaping the style of a party as well as the content of its manifesto. Most felt that

personalities were given too much importance on the national stage and tended to obscure the real issues.

10. *Should the government do more to help the Third World?*

More than twice as many thought that the government should do more than thought that help should be curtailed or was already adequate. Several made indignant protests about the clumsy economics and shoddy morality of food mountains in a world where millions were starving. Even more maintained that aid should be given with discrimination; it was repeatedly suggested that helping countries to help themselves was the only humane way to deal with the problems they faced. A small minority suggested that resources should be allocated first to meet our own needs, themselves often substantial.

The answers showed a clear right-wing bias, although it was our endeavour to avoid as much as possible party politics and partisan questions or solutions. It seems fairly clear that Rendcomb's Sixth Form would have given Mrs Thatcher an even larger majority than she gained nationally.

Although some of the replies showed complacency and indifference towards issues not of immediate personal interest, many people answered the questions with an impressive degree of seriousness and concern and were honest about their doubts and uncertainties on major issues.



Durdle Door, Dorset

Hauton

Reports

Bursar's Notes

I started off last year's report with a reference to the long cold winter, and this one seems to have been even longer and colder. It is a tribute to all the staff here that, during the one week when we had very heavy snow-falls and many of the side roads were blocked, everyone managed to get here by some means or other. I had to walk about two miles to Woodmancote and was then able to bring my car down the hill and up the other side to Rendcomb. I borrowed one of John Willson's rucksacks, with which I was able to trudge home carrying the necessities of life for that week, as we were completely cut off.

Fortunately, we had obtained a snow plough from the Cotswold District Council, and with our more powerful tractor were able to keep the road up to the school open through all this, but we were defeated by the road round to Park House. We must be about due for a reasonably mild winter!

Those of you who were at Founder's Day will have heard the Chairman speak of the new development of two new Boarding Houses to be built ready for occupation in the Autumn of 1989. The plan, at the time of writing, is to build two separate boarding houses, one on a site below the Stable Block, the second one between the Old Rectory and the Estate Garden. This will mean losing that rather attractive wisteria, but the rest of the topography will be preserved. The architect is now producing plans which are being carefully examined by a small group of the teaching staff, most of whom have had boarding house experience, and we will shortly be applying for the necessary planning permission. There is a fall-back position if we cannot obtain it, but I hope not to have to cross that particular hurdle. There is no doubt that the addition of these two new boarding houses when complete, will make Rendcomb one of the best small Independent Schools in the country in terms of facilities and also, though I am not the right person to say so, in terms of all the other aspects which go to make a school good.

This is now the second year in which we have had the swimming pool heated and, although the weather this June has been absolutely abysmal, it has certainly enabled it to be used more than would have been the case hitherto.

There is one more sporting facility which I would like to improve, by converting the two grass tennis-courts adjoining Godman House to the same maintenance-free surface as the two next to them. This maintenance-free surface has been a great success, enabling us to play tennis most of the year; as soon as it is finished raining the courts have drained and are dry to play on. The problem is that there are other more essential commitments for the available cash at present, and likely to be so for the next year or two. I did hear a whisper, though, that the Parents' Association might be interested in this project, and I will be getting in touch with them during the holidays to see if we can work something out between us.

At the beginning of this year we achieved the transition to self-service catering. This went with a swing from the word go, and even one or two of the teaching staff who had been at Rendcomb for more than a year or two were kind enough to say how well it works, even though they had opposed the concept from the outset! There is now plenty of choice; we can cope more easily with the vegetarians, and people's appetites, both large and small, are better met. The single problem that remained at the beginning was that some people's eyes were bigger than their stomachs, and there was a lot of wastage; as the learning curve increased, so the wastage dropped, and it is now to an acceptable level. The self-service arrangements have enabled us to have some very successful Sixth Form dinner parties during the year, culminating in the leavers' party and the lunch for leavers and their parents on 19th and 20th June. I hope that this will now become an annual feature of the Rendcomb scene.

Finally, I would like to say to parents that I am only too pleased to see them when they come to collect their offspring, either just to introduce themselves and pass the time of day, or to discuss any aspect of the school's affairs which come under my auspices.

E. T. T.

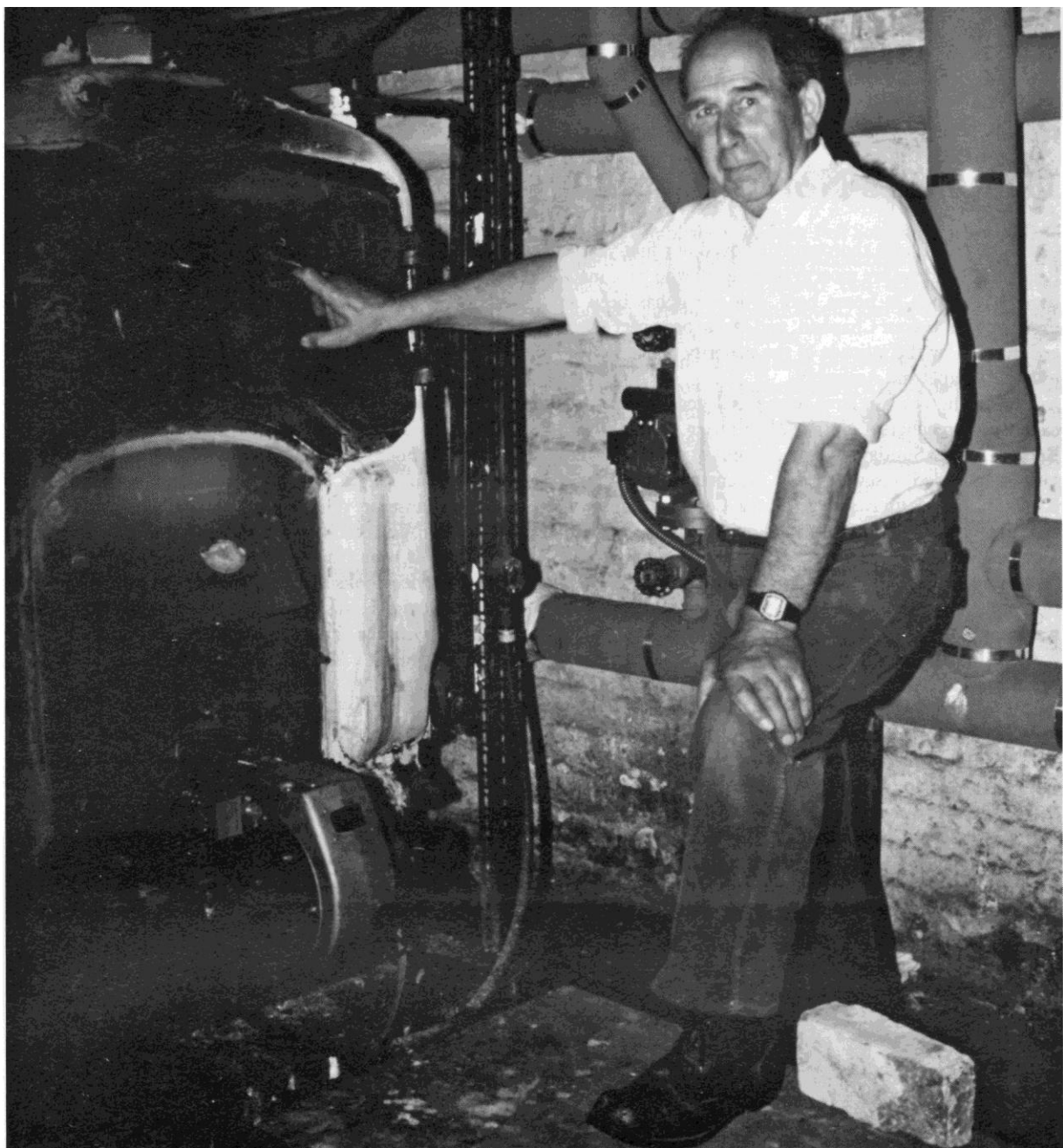
A day in the life of Mr Partridge

Mr Tony Partridge arrived at Rendcomb on the same day that Park House opened its doors to girls. After working on Park House as a carpenter and building operator, he stayed on at the school to become the new maintenance engineer, succeeding Mr Walter Telling. That was fourteen years ago; Mr Telling had been here 43 years, and so at first it was a hard act to follow.

He arrives at eight o'clock every morning, as do Paul Kampe and Clive Partridge, his two full-time helpers. As well as these two, Frank Fry and Fred Tombs, recently retired from the grounds staff, help him part-time. His first job is a walk round the complex to check on boilers and security and look for any major damage. The jobs that get priority, he assured me, are the most urgent ones, electrical faults and water leaks getting immediate treatment. On the morning of our interview he had rearranged the library after the Governors' Meeting, putting chairs and tables back into their usual formations, only to disturb them again as he supervised their removal and reorganisation in the Dulverton Hall for the afternoon's Careers Convention. Then, because of the morning's three-minute power cut, he had had to spend some time in the Arts Block restarting the clock's mechanism manually.

The jobs vary with the seasons. In winter it is mainly keeping the pathways free of snow and checking on leaks. In summer cutting the grass takes up most of his time. Mr Partridge sighed as he remembered one fortnight when there was at least one broken window every day.

His tasks are varied also in scope and challenge: this afternoon, for example, he was going to do some work for Mrs James, replace yet another door in the fifth form study block, and then spend the rest of the afternoon patching



Tony Partridge

C. J. Wood

up the plaster work in the squash courts, so that it should have time to dry over the next weekend.

Five o'clock signals the end of the day's work in a routine that has to cope with the many and sometimes conflicting demands of a busy public school.

During his time here he has witnessed many changes. Godman House, once Mr Price's home, is now the third form boarding house. Similarly, he has seen the building of the sports hall, the restoration of the Dulverton Hall and its conversion from gym to assembly and concert hall, the changing of the remaining stables into classrooms and staff flats.

Mr Partridge concluded modestly that his role was merely to do the odd jobs that needed doing; there had never been a day, he said, when there was no work to do. Generations of Rendcombians, staff, governors and visitors alike, owe much to this man's diligence and practicality, often in ways that they little suspect. All, however, will recognise the efficiency and genial courtesy with which he accomplishes his various tasks.

LUCY STRINGER

Public Work

Although there has been less variety this year, owing to staff commitments elsewhere, those activities which have been running have done so smoothly. From the humble sock-sorters working quickly and efficiently in the linen room to the gallant gardeners turning out in all weathers to ensure that this year's show of geraniums is better than ever, great alacrity has been shown on all sides.

During the Lent Term there was a lack of jobs, and a few stood redundant. Despite this, much needed work was done in the Wilderness, and the playing fields and golf course have been kept in tip-top condition, even through the terrible weather of the Lent and Summer Terms. Community Service has again been popular, and the library has functioned better than ever, thanks to the efforts of the experienced and efficient team of librarians.

Public Work continues to function efficiently under the guidance of Dr Smith, contributing to the well-being of the school and those around it.

MARCUS RANN

Chaplain's Notes

Christine and I have thoroughly enjoyed our first year at Rendcomb and we are most grateful to all who have made us feel so much at home here. For me it has been an exciting year as your Chaplain, and I have been very much encouraged by the attitude of the majority of the College towards Chapel and Assembly.

During the year we have been privileged to hear some excellent preachers; Norris McWhirter preached on Remembrance Sunday, and an account of what he had to say is included elsewhere in the magazine. Captain Kingham, from 29th Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, held everyone's attention as he strapped Paul Griffiths into a parachute and related his faith in the parachute to his faith in the Bible. When, at the end of the Sermon, Paul pulled the ripcord and the parachute opened, the message was clear!

One of the highlights of the year was most certainly our Confirmation Service. Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley, an old friend of the College, conducted the Service, and 23 candidates were confirmed. It was a shame that there was not enough room in the Church for all members of the College to hear the Bishop's very stimulating address, but he has promised to come again on a normal Sunday, and I am sure that will be something well worth waiting for. Those confirmed by the Bishop were: Ann Speakman, Kojo Annan, Paul Bartlett, Daniel Bowerman, Alexander Brealy, Christopher Brown, Andrew Digney, Stephen Green, Adam Halliwell, Richard Hughes, William King, Neil McMurtrie, Richard Milner, Paul Neve, Matthew Rogers, Richard Rowlatt, Tom Shillington-Balfour, Peter Smithson, Ian Spencer, Nigel Utting, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge, Oliver Ward and Nicholas Wood.

The Carol Service in Cirencester Parish Church was as well attended as ever, and both congregation and choir excelled themselves in the singing, to the extent that the Vicar of Cirencester commented that he had never heard us in such good voice. I hope that this high standard can

be maintained and that it will also be reflected in the congregational singing at our normal services.

This year saw the introduction of Leavers' Weekend over the last week of the year. On the Saturday morning the Church was filled with leavers, their parents and teachers, for a short but very meaningful service, the content of which had been largely chosen by the leavers themselves. Well-known hymns like *Jerusalem*, *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, *He who would valiant be* and *Glorious things of thee are spoken* were sung. Mr Bill White read the Lesson from Ephesians about 'putting on the whole armour of God', and the headmaster gave an address, the text of which is to be found elsewhere. Our thanks are due to:

Mr Bill White who, with Kevin Houston and his team of ushers, has been responsible for the smooth organisation of the service books and seating arrangements; Mr David Hawkswell and Dr Graham Smith, for assisting with the chalice;

Our Organists, Mr Tim Lane and Mr John Willson;

The Choir, for the lead they have given to all our singing, but in particular for their renderings of anthems on Sundays, often under the baton of Mr Martin Graham. They have always been good, but on some occasions outstanding, remarked on as such by visitors to the Church;

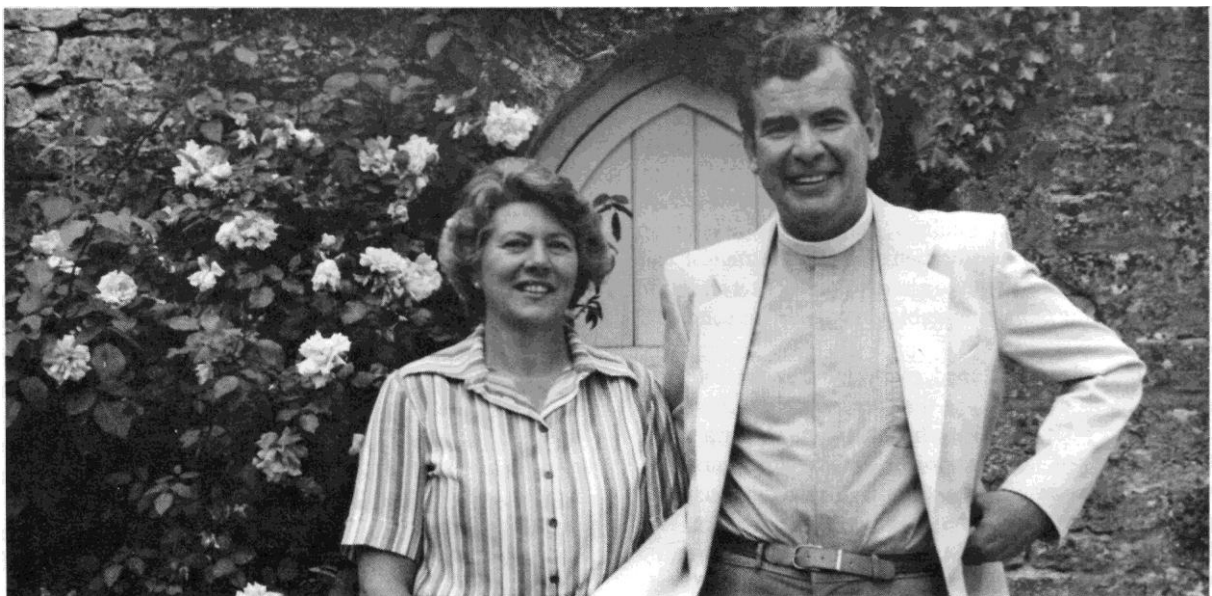
The Brass Ensemble, whose rendering of *Sunset and Evening Hymn* helped make our Remembrance Service such a poignant and moving occasion;

The Ladies who arrange the flowers so beautifully throughout the year;

Paul Sumsion, who continues to look after the candles; All who have read Lessons or helped with the taking of the collection.

Finally, I would like to wish every blessing on those who are leaving Rendcomb. Do call in, if you are passing, and give us your news; please remember that you will always be welcome at St Peter's Church - holiday or term-time, Christmas or Easter - we shall be delighted to see you.

PETER SUDBURY



Peter and Christine Sudbury

C. J. Wood

The Parents' Association

The following parents have served on the Committee: Sqn. Ldr. J. Williams (Chairman), Mr J. Warren (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A. Newell (Secretary), Mr M. Paine (Treasurer), Mrs S. Nicholls, Mr D. Barnett, Mrs J. Satterthwaite, Mrs H. Kolb and Mr D. Graham.

The Parents' Association has had another busy year, continuing in its efforts to support its constitutional aims, namely:

- (1) To foster and support the welfare of the College.
- (2) To keep the Headmaster in touch with parental opinion.
- (3) To encourage the exchange of ideas and information between parents and staff.
- (4) To foster friendship and understanding between parents and staff.

In the year following the AGM in October 1986, we held one mid-term meeting in March 1987, which was well attended. There were also several Committee Meetings.

During the Christmas Term we organised Wine and Cheese Receptions before the three performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, also in the Lent Term before the Junior Play and the Mozart Orchestral Concert in March. These receptions were very popular and enjoyable.

A Buffet Supper for parents and staff was held before the Oriel Singers' Concert on May 3rd, and the whole evening was a tremendous success.

On Founder's Day, a farewell gift and cheque was presented by the Parents' Association to the Headmaster, Mr R. Medill, as a gesture of the Parents' appreciation, with good wishes to Mr and Mrs Medill for the future.

The Parents' Association donated the prizes for the Parent/Pupil Tennis Tournament organised by the School.

We are continuing to raise money for a long-term major project for the School. Several ideas have been raised and these will be discussed further at the next AGM.

Liaison has been made with the Old Rendcombians, and it is hoped in the future to co-operate with them in joint ventures to the benefit of the School.

The Parents' Association in conjunction with the School will be holding A Sponsored Walk with a Difference. This will take place on Sunday 20th September and will culminate in a Barbecue Roast. All parents are welcome, and we hope they will join the boys in what should prove to be a very enjoyable day out in the country, followed by an excellent Barbecue. The money raised will be donated to the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham.

The fourth AGM will be held on 24th October 1987, and we hope as many parents as possible will attend. New names for election to the Committee are welcome and should reach the Chairman at least two weeks before the AGM.

HAZEL KOLB,
COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Friends of Rendcomb

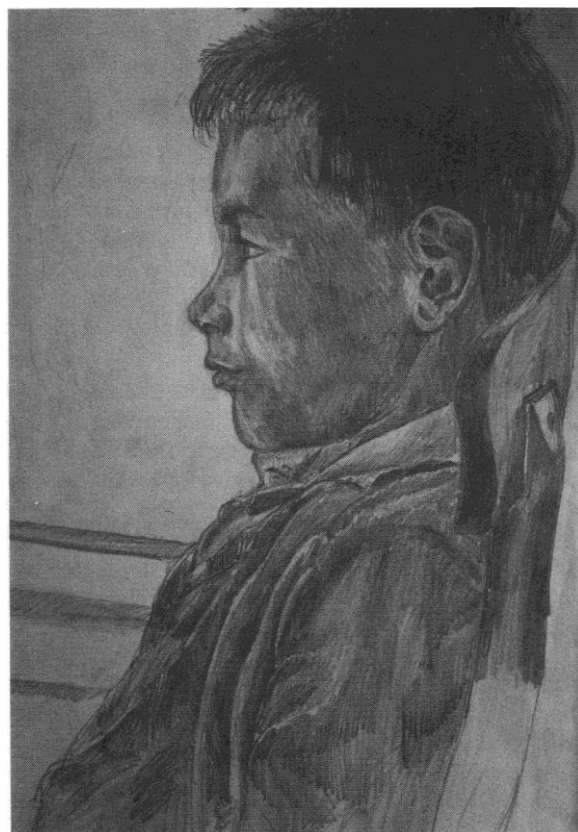
Having established the Jack Fell Scholarship, awarded to Julian Wilkie, who comes to Rendcomb in September, the Friends have now achieved two scholarships at the College; our aim remains seven, and to achieve this will mean raising further funds.

Next month we shall have £45,000 invested for income and capital growth and rather over £1,000 on deposit. The total of our funds raised and promised, with shares at present valuation, is something over £90,000.

We now intend to put our case to those charitable trusts with a declared interest in education, hoping to interest them in preserving the essential character of Rendcomb.

Our principal source of funds, however, will remain ORs and parents, and we hope that more of them will seriously consider becoming Friends during the coming year.

DAVID SELLS,
TRUSTEE



Portrait by B. Maslen

Careers

We were sorry to lose Mr Graham Ball, on his departure to Ellesmere College. He was particularly helpful in arranging activities with the Army, Navy and Air Force.

The high interest in the armed services has been maintained, with visits from the RAF Engineering Team and from our own Gloucester Regiment, on leave from Berlin and guarding Rudolf Hess. These have been in addition to the usual termly visit from the Liaison Officer of each service.

Next term the Fifth Form has been invited to visit RAF Cosford for the Joint Services Open Day, on which there will be a Red Arrows' display and, they hope, flights in a helicopter.

Early last September Dr P. Savigear, from Leicester University, returned to talk to 6A about university applications and interviews. This talk is of such great value to the students that it is hoped to make it a regular feature of their preparation for higher education and employment.

This preparation continued with the Careers Convention in March, when the 20 or so professions usually represented were joined by the Gloucestershire Education Authority's Student Grants Department, to give individual interviews on any outstanding difficulties relating to grants. Again, we hope that the value of this contribution will make it a permanent feature of the convention.

R. K.

Work Experience

Work experience continues to be popular with the Fifth Form, and it is gratifying to receive so many favourable reports from the employers, as well as letters of thanks from the students. This year over 80% of the Fifth Form were able to gain experience of their first choice from the 30 opportunities offered, the rest working their second choice. There follow three reports of this year's work.

R. K.

Barclays Bank

On my first morning I was taken by the Manager, Mr Gilchrist, to the Machines Room behind the tills; he introduced me to everyone working in the room and in particular to Alison, who was to show me round and look after me.

The first job I had to do every day was to send out statements requested by customers; each day there were about 30 to send. The next thing was to deliver by hand the letters for the other banks and companies in Cirencester.

These jobs were usually completed by eleven o'clock; before lunch and during the afternoon I would file the 'house' cheques in alphabetical order; these are the cheques drawn on the account of a customer of Barclays Cirencester branch. This work is called 'sorting-up' and is done throughout the day to lessen the workload when the bank shuts.

The final job before leaving was to seal and frank the



Fl. Lt. Digby explaining the controls of a RAF 'Gazelle' helicopter

C. J. Wood

envelopes. There were about 200 letters to be sent out each day, and in my enthusiasm I often franked a letter with the wrong value, sending it first class instead of second and *vice versa*. I then had to deliver the letters to the Post Office.

Cheques presented by customers of the Cirencester branch are sorted into 'house cheques', where another customer of the branch is making the payment, and 'foreigns', where the cheque comes from another branch or bank. The house cheques are credited to the payee's account and are then sorted. The 'foreign' cheques are then paid in and the total amount to be credited is added up. These cheques are then taken to the encoding machine, where the amount of each is printed on the bottom in a magnetic ink which can be read by the clearing computer in London. The total of all the cheques passed through the encoding machine must agree with the computer's total; if not, a long and tedious search takes place to find a cheque which has had the wrong figure typed on it, or to discover whether a foreign cheque has been put in the bundle of house cheques.

I also instructed the computer to make standing orders, telling it how many payments should be made, for how much and to whom.

It was a very interesting and enjoyable week, and I would recommend people to ask to do their work experience at Barclays. I learned a great deal and was very well looked after and instructed by a knowledgeable staff.

MATTHEW FAIRCLOTH

The Forum Veterinary Surgery

Messrs Lester and Mackinnon kindly agreed to take me on for a week, so that I could experience the typical routine of a veterinary surgeon. Arriving on Monday morning, I helped for a while restraining animals reluctant to be treated, and then went on to testing some cattle for tuberculosis and brucellosis; it was very tedious, and pouring rain made it rather miserable as well. However, I resolved that this first experience of field work would not influence my impression of the career, and by the end of

the afternoon my attention was diverted to checking a racehorse's retina for pigmentation deficiencies. The cattle-testing had shown me the boring side of a vet's job; the retina-checking had given me an indication of the variety in the job and accompanying training. Tuesday was to show me a much more fascinating side of the work.

Spaying a bitch is a fairly simple operation to a vet, who may have to do as many as 12 dogs and cats in a week. As my first operation, it was an enormous challenge and a wholly new experience. There was a surprisingly small amount of bleeding during the incision and the removal of the ovaries. The bitch was anaesthetised by ether gas, but it is still rather unnerving when the belly of the animal you are operating on is constantly heaving up and down owing to its breathing! When the ovaries had been removed, and tied off, we began stitching her up. Although the needlework was not immaculate, by the time we had finished about an hour and a quarter later we were quite proud of the neat little row of stitches, now the only evidence of the operation. When we had finished, there were just five minutes to grab a cup of coffee before starting on neutering a tomcat.

My experience of helping to operate on animals increased and, after assisting at the spaying of a few more cats, I felt ready to tackle anything.

Anything came on Thursday in the form of a Caesarean section on a King Charles spaniel. Two pups, unable to be born naturally, had been retained inside the bitch for over 12 hours, and so the chances of finding them alive were slim. An incision into the uterus proved that both pups were in fact dead, all attempts to revive them failing. The bitch was sewn up and given an antibiotic against infection. She came round an hour later and was taken home to minister to her other three pups, none the worse for her 'op'.

My work experience has shown me a wide variety of the different jobs a vet has to do, from racehorses to cattle to small animals, and even to pigeons exhausted from racing. I have gained valuable experience from working alongside the professionals, and I am now determined to qualify as a veterinary surgeon myself one day.

JONATHAN SLATTERY



D. Hutton

Mullings, Ellet & Co., Solicitors

Entering a rather daunting building, I was introduced to Mr C. R. Mullings and an 'office junior' named Sally, who was to look after me for the week. The friendly working atmosphere of the solicitors' offices impressed me, and I soon found myself hard at work. My first job was to rearrange and update files containing various statutes and laws; it amazed me to see how quickly the law changes. I was shown the strong room and the file room and taught how to use the photocopying machine. During the day I was to copy various deeds, wills and plans. I was fortunate enough to be asked to sit in on an interview between a solicitor, Mrs Thomas, and her clients, with their permission.

After the usual office routine of opening and recording the mail, Tuesday was spent in the County Council Chambers, witnessing a meeting concerning the planned erection of a chemical works in Tetbury. After this Mrs Thomas explained what the next step would be in this case and told me about Legal Aid, whom it was for and what it meant. In the afternoon I was asked to accompany someone finalising her will and to bear witness on the finished document.

I spent Wednesday morning working as an office junior. This involved preparing and copying conveyances, filing, despatching and delivering. I even tried my hand at a bit of typing, as envelopes had to be addressed, but my speed did not match that of the efficient secretaries. The afternoon was spent mainly in conversation with two of the senior partners of the company. They explained to me the particular areas in which they were involved, what the work entailed and what was the best way to become a qualified solicitor. They went into much detail, and I came out of the office quite sure of knowing which direction my future studies would take to help me qualify.

Thursday morning was spent mostly doing office work because Sally, the office junior, was away sick. I was thrown in at the deep end: I had to record mail in the special book, noting who sent the letters and to which client they referred, prepare and do the deliveries, answer the phone, prepare, compile and copy conveyances, mortgages and wills. I even had to type some envelopes! I spent most of the afternoon in conversation with the solicitors. Mr Mullings gave me three old volumes of 'Stone's Justices' Manual' and various literature on the profession. Friday, my last day, was very busy, and it certainly gave me an idea of how hectic life in a solicitor's office can be!

ROLAND MARTIN

The Junior House

The New Year started with only one real change, in the form of an activities afternoon on Fridays, the previously popular art, woodwork and computing being supplemented by a radio-control car club, a collectors' club and a target club, using 0.177 air weapons.

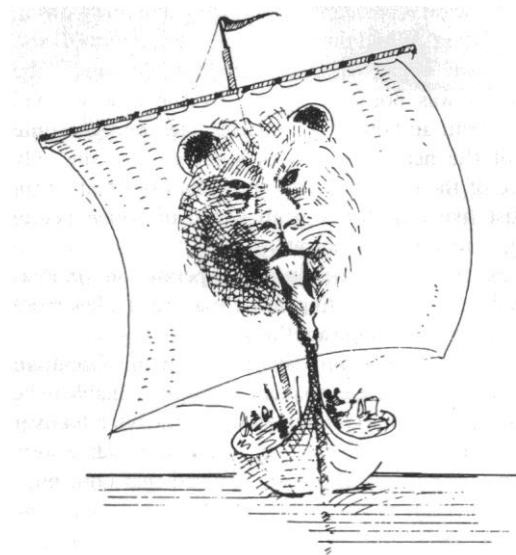


The whole House visited the Ironbridge Gorge Museum as part of their physical science studies, and this is reported elsewhere.

Inspired by the Biology Department, 22 boys walked from Bibury to Coln St Aldwyns and back in support of the World Wildlife Fund; as well as enjoying some very beautiful scenery, they raised £258, for which the House was presented with a shield.



One Monday in October we visited the Apollo Theatre in Oxford to see *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, an adaptation of the book by C. S. Lewis about children who are able to travel to a different world, called Narnia. Edmund, Lucy and Cousin Eustace accompany Caspian in his search for the seven lost Lords and encounter many strange creatures, such as dragons and dufflepuds, and experience peculiar phenomena. The acting was entertaining and the effects impressive. The same group has toured with *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, the first book in the Narnia series, and we would like to thank Vanessa Ford Productions for permission to print the drawing of *The Dawn Treader*.



To celebrate Halloween, James Grafton organised a mythlore event in the Wilderness, and James Sleeman arranged a most successful party in the Grotto that evening. The decorations and fancy dress added to the atmosphere of the event and, thanks to Mrs Sleeman and other mums, the food was superb.





Modelling proved a very popular pastime this year, and the standard of construction and painting was extremely high; without doubt the most able modeller was Christopher Scarlett, and his F5 aircraft could not fail to impress. Snooker continues to be a popular form of relaxation, and the new table has allowed many people to improve significantly, the winner of the tournament being Julian Madeley. Many juniors also took advantage of judo, bell ringing and badminton coaching.

With a revised format for the Christmas celebrations, the House had to organise its own entertainments after the meal, and many talents were revealed when members of Form II put on a Series of sketches entitled *Walking in the Attics*, *An Average Day on British Rail* and *Brown Peter*. Timothy Haine's 'Cossack' and Hamish Auld's 'Weetabix' were judged the best fancy dress costumes and, at over six feet, Hamish made a formidable Weetabix!

In the winter terms swimming took place at the Cotswold Sports Centre on some Sundays, and many parents joined in, just as they did for the Walkabout in the summer term.

Next year Mr Sykes will be tutoring in the Main Building, after being Assistant Housemaster in the Old Rectory for several years. Mr Lane and Mr Sudbury will be taking over the night patrol in September.

C. J. W.

Computing and Technology

The Modular Technology course is now one of the options available to the Fourth and Fifth Forms. By September 1988 there will be courses in Computing or Technology in every year. All those opting for the fourth and fifth year course should obtain the five modules needed for the award of the Cambridge Certificate in Information Technology, which involves using the Computer to drive and control Hardware. Pupils will design and build the devices and write the programmes to control them.

Many pupils, mainly from the Fourth and Lower Sixth Forms, have already obtained certificates for one or more modules.

Courses for the First and Second Forms have now been running for a year, introducing these pupils to the LOGO programming language and other aspects of Information Technology.

The next few years will see a rapid growth in Information Systems and Databases, using Prestel and other cable-based systems linked to our own network.

D. A. H.

The General Meeting

Despite the hope for a new-look, revitalised Meeting expressed in last year's magazine, this year has sadly seen a lack of enthusiasm and interest. Too often the meetings have turned into a slanging-match, dangerously resembling Question Time in the House of Commons! The Meeting will in future have to define more closely the limits of its power and be content to work within them. With a new Headmaster, the Meeting may be abolished, unless it puts its house in order.

Happily, the summer term has seen steps taken towards this, and a Meeting Reform Committee has been set up to examine the problems and to present a good picture of the Meeting to the new Headmaster. It is to be hoped that these reforms will usher in a new era in the Meeting's history, helping to involve the younger members and perhaps the Junior House - too often separated from the rest of the College.

Finally, may I appeal to all pupils? The Meeting was the first example of 'pupil-democracy' in the whole country, and it is one of the few surviving examples. It may seem ineffective, but give it a chance, use it, and it won't be too long before you see the results.

JOHN BARNETT

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The scheme has continued to flourish this year, though not without some difficulties. We were saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Tom Scriven from the St John's Ambulance Brigade, who had run the First Aid course with such *bonhomie* and enthusiasm. Fortunately, Mrs Joan Harney stepped into the breach and, together with her team, saw the Third Form successfully through their exam.

35 Students completed the Bronze Award this year, and as usual the range of skills shown varied widely, from bridge to piano-playing, and from art to computer-programming. Cookery continued to be a popular choice - for consumers as well as chefs!

The Gold Award involved 14 candidates, and an account of one of their expeditions appears elsewhere in this issue.

M. H. G.

Library News

Despite the hard work of Karl Knight and his team, the Library had become rather disorganised; it was impossible to check through all the sections at the end of term, and therefore many books recorded as missing were in fact merely displaced. I am grateful to Justin Rosa, all the other librarians and other occasional helpers, who have put in a great deal of effort both in and outside PW hours. Under Justin Rosa's stern discipline they have reorganised the English section, 'found' dozens of misplaced books in the history section and have systematically registered the considerable number of additions, both in the main

sections and in fiction.

Our losses have been considerably reduced, but they are still too high - any loss is too high - especially from the fiction section. But often last term's loss is recovered the following term.

So we would urge people to use the Library, but also to care for it and make sure that books are returned in good time to be enjoyed by others.

D. S. J. P.

The Annecy Exchange

The thought of going to a foreign country, staying with a strange family who don't speak your language, eating different foods and not knowing whether the family will like you tends to put people off the idea of taking part in a French exchange; from personal experience I have found it enjoyable, helpful in learning the language and interesting in finding out all about the French way of life.

For the first few days it was very difficult to communicate, but with the family's encouragement it began to get a lot easier, and by the end of the first week I was beginning to think in French, which makes speaking much easier.

The main difference I found between our two life-styles came at meal-times. For breakfast they have French bread, butter and jam, which they dip into a bowl of hot chocolate. It was even stranger at lunch and tea: you were served with meat, and once you had finished that you would have something like spaghetti, and after that peas or carrots. If there was salad, we would not have lettuce leaves, but locally picked dandelion leaves, which I thought would taste like grass, but which taste in fact just like lettuce. Once I received a plate covered with little rubbery things. I was encouraged to try them and found them delicious. I was later told that they were snails!

The outstanding event that took place during my stay was skiing. The family had a chalet in the mountains, mainly because Yann and his brother were both French junior skiing champions and they needed somewhere to stay during competitions. The first weekend Yann and his father took me on to the smaller slope, where I learnt the basics of skiing. The next week Yann was at school, but the week after we went back into the mountains and stayed there for eight more days. I was amazed at the amount it snowed, eight inches in half an hour one night.

One part of the exchange I was dreading was going to school with Yann, but to my surprise it was one of the most interesting events; during one of the English lessons I had to stand up in front of the class and answer questions in English. I made some good friends among Yann's friends, and everyone made me very welcome.

All in all, I would recommend a French exchange to anyone willing to try new challenges; it is both satisfying and helpful to all who take part.

ANDREW RONEY

Talks

Michael Wills Memorial Lecture

6th November was marked by the fourth Michael Wills Memorial Lecture, 'Process Engineering in a Crowded World', given by Professor J. C. R. Turner, Professor of Chemical Engineering at Exeter University. Mr Kelsey introduced Professor Turner, also giving the more ignorant of us a very basic idea of what Process Engineering is, in contrast to the pure science of Chemistry.

Professor Turner then delved more specifically into this contrast, explaining that Chemical and Process Engineering are virtually identical, differing from Chemistry in that they are applied sciences and are also on a much larger scale:

'Chemists deal with molecules; we deal with stuff.'

He then emphasised the four main problems of working on a large scale: design, cost, waste-disposal and safety. He illustrated the design problem, using a small wire tripod which supported the weight of a small ball-bearing but which, when enlarged to scale to form a model bridge, would not withstand the weight of an appropriately enlarged ball-bearing. The physicists amongst the audience struggled to work out why, but with little success, so Professor Turner relented and explained that the strength of the wire depended upon the idea, that is to say the square, whereas the weight depended upon the volume, that is to say the cube, and so the scale did not work. Bringing this down to natural level, he explained that it is for the same reason that elephants have thicker legs than mosquitoes.

He did not deal with the problem of cost much on its own account for, as he explained, economics come into both the design used and the safety precautions required. He did, however, mention that it had a major effect on waste-disposal, as 100,000 tonnes of phenol are obviously too valuable to be tipped down the sink in the way that unwanted products of chemical reactions are dealt with in the laboratory.

Waste-disposal also involves the problem of safety, and Professor Turner briefly explained how important the siting of chemical plant is, the fact that people must be considered at all times, a subject to which the second part of the lecture was to be devoted. He then showed us a few slides illustrating the principles of Process Engineering and typical plant.

The second part of the lecture was more interesting to the non-scientists in the audience. It was a view in greater depth of how an industry that is obviously of great importance to our everyday lives manages to minimise its safety hazards, particularly those affecting its employees and people who live nearby.

First Professor Turner made the rather obvious, though often overlooked, point that we all have to die of something eventually and that it is difficult to determine how much a life is worth in monetary terms. He went on to say that it was best to involve people as little as possible, as

they often became complacent if nothing happened for a long time, and then did not notice the first signs of danger. Yet that did not mean that our industrial plants should contain a wealth of high technology, indeed, as he quoted:

'If it can go wrong, it may and most probably will.'

and he was adamant that simplicity was desirable.

The Professor went on to describe the pressures working against safety. For example, there is the pressure of production for profit, a pressure well demonstrated at Bhopal, where the water-cooling tower of a chemical plant was removed because of its excessive cost and, as a result, the whole plant blew up, the chemicals released blinding many people. Bhopal also showed the political pressures involved, particularly in the Third World; it was an American plant situated in India.

He then showed several more slides and told us of the controls being exerted over asbestos, all designed to put the safety-risk of Process Engineering into proportion and to emphasise not only the difficulty but also the delays involved in controlling a hazard that causes no specific disease. For example, he told us, 87% of the radiation we receive occurs naturally, whereas less than 1% is due to weapon-testing and the nuclear power industry. He also drew some interesting comparisons, saying that working with asbestos, smoking 14 cigarettes, drinking five litres of wine, spending 60 minutes in a canoe or 20 days in New York, all in the course of a lifetime, increased our chance of an early death by the same amount: 1 in 100,000. This provoked an interesting question from Mr Kelsey about recurring effects and, although Professor Turner admitted that they were not directly considered in the figures, he said they meant that the figures were exaggerated and not minimised, as they were calculated by linearly scaling down excessive cases.

Concluding, Professor Turner said that the Process Engineering industry is aware that it carries a small risk, but that it tries to minimise that risk and is actually safer than living at home or driving a car. He then invited questions, unfortunately receiving little response.

The Headmaster thanked Professor Turner for his lecture, emphasising the fact that the media often exaggerate industrial disasters out of all proportion.

AMANDA FRY



Soldier by B. Maslen

Remembrance Sunday 1986

It is perhaps fair to say that the Sunday sermon does not always receive the closest attention, but on Remembrance Sunday a series of brass fanfares shocked us all into a state of awareness. Eyes turned, and everyone awaited the words of the celebrated Norris McWhirter, CBE, of *Guinness Book of Records* fame, with anticipation. His voice, although unamplified, succeeded in holding attention superbly.

Mr McWhirter began by informing us of a little-known anniversary to occur in March 1987: a date on which the length of time since the Second World War would be double that of the period between the two World Wars. The day, he predicted, would probably go by without recognition, but it should remind us of the greater security we now experience and make us grateful for it. Confrontation, he said, arises from jealousy, and jealousy results from a feeling that the next man is more privileged - and we at Rendcomb enjoy great privileges which many do not. Justifying this, he updated the Parable of the Talents; life is like travelling on the 'tube' from Cockfosters to Heathrow. Some, if they are lucky, can get on at Holborn instead. This may be unfair but, if you use your advantages to benefit those less fortunate than you, then it is not.

Mr McWhirter then went on to tell us that in his opinion two essential human characteristics are broadmindedness and tolerance. Suffering and repression heighten this fundamentally Christian message; there are 35 million very fervent Christians in Russia. Christianity has as its base the principle of helping other people, and it is essential that we bear this in mind in today's materialistic world. Thus, on Remembrance Sunday we think back on the actions of the many men who died to help us. We must ensure that war never happens again, and our contribution must be one of personal courage - the most important human attribute. Our freedom is not to be taken for granted; it must be intelligently and actively defended.

JOHN BARNETT

Norris McWhirter, CBE

After the Church service Mr McWhirter came into the reading room to answer questions. Appearing on *The Record Breakers* to ask Norris a question, to try to catch him out, is the childhood equivalent of *Desert Island Discs* - you vainly plan what you would ask (what discs you would choose), and it is always someone else who appears. But here, at last, was the fulfilment of our dreams - 'Norris on the Spot' and a real chance to ask him!

Before inviting questions, Mr McWhirter gave a short account of the work involved in compiling *The Guinness Book of Records*. The book was commissioned by the head of Guinness breweries, who wanted to settle pub arguments over records. Mr McWhirter was well qualified to be the editor of such a venture, as he and his brother had set up a business in 1951 to provide information on records to newspapers and year books. The book was started in 1954 and took sixteen 90-hour weeks to compile. It has now been translated into 26 languages and has sold 53.6 million copies, which, if stacked up, would be 118 times as high as Everest!

After this, members of the audience were invited to ask questions about records. At last, the moment of truth - would he know the answers? Or did they just rehearse it all for the television programme? On such diverse subjects as: 'the hardest climb in Britain', 'the highest tight-rope walk', 'the smallest woman', 'the highest rugby score', 'the fastest speed' or 'the furthest jump by a windsurfer', he not only answered the question, but also gave us information on numerous related topics as well. His knowledge was astounding, but his technique in answering questions soon became apparent. Several times he changed the question subtly, not actually answering the one posed. For instance, asked 'what is the furthest distance a golf ball has been hit?', he actually answered the question 'what is the longest hole-in-one?' The reason he gave us was that it was impossible to measure anything else accurately. In the book it states that the furthest distance is over 1½ miles, across ice, not 445 yards as he claimed.





D. Hutton

Nonetheless, most questions were answered fairly and well, and it was agreed that there would be little reason to dismiss so knowledgeable a man as a fraud. The talk was most enjoyable, and we are grateful to Mr McWhirter for giving us some of his time. As for the fulfilment of childhood dreams - I was frustrated by having to write notes at the high speed at which Mr McWhirter rattled off facts. But then, dreams are always better than the reality, and I shall just have to go on dreaming.

JOHN BARNETT

Talk by Captain F. H. Dell

On Sunday, 12th October, in the Dulverton Hall, Captain Dell told us of his wartime experience as a mosquito pilot. In 1940 he was shot down over Germany; he could not climb out of the plummeting plane because of the centrifugal force, and he escaped only when the plane disintegrated around him.

When he landed he took to a narrow country road, but soon he saw behind him a truck coming, with men walking in front shining torches. He doubled back across a field and came out on the road behind the truck. He followed the truck into a wood, where he hid and fell asleep.

Sometime later he was awoken by a loud noise; he soon discovered that it was coming from the truck he had followed into the wood. What he had thought was a truck was actually a V2 rocket launcher. Captain Dell was soon found by the Resistance, who hid him. Shortly he was joined by an American pilot who had also been shot down. Eventually he was hidden with four Americans, one Australian and two Canadians. For a while they were hidden in the hay loft of a barn, and some German soldiers came to sleep below! This situation lasted for some days without their being discovered.

Later a farmer in whose barn he was staying told him that he had seen a tank down the road. Captain Dell went to see if this was true, and what he found was a British armoured car. The first thing the driver said when he introduced himself was 'Jolly good show!' After this he was flown home.

After the talk Captain Dell showed us some of the things he had carried with him, such as emergency rations and maps printed on silk.

I found the talk very intriguing and informative, and it was well appreciated by everyone.

NEIL WALMSLEY

'King Lear' Workshop

The 18th March saw the return of the Workshop Company; this year the play under study was *King Lear*. Once again, in their unique style of presentation first seen at Rendcomb last year, they provided insights into both the form and content of what many feel is Shakespeare's greatest work. The idea of the Workshop is to provide a unique opportunity for communicative interaction between audience and actors. This was helped by the easy and approachable manner of the group. As both actors and students of Shakespeare, they were able to offer a perspective different from that produced in the classroom.

The company's approach is to play out various scenes in a simple 'rehearsal environment'. These cameos are interspersed with comment and analysis of character and action. The actors' simple dress, the minimal props and lack of scenery focus the emphasis on the performance. From both performance and discourse several points arose. Studying Shakespeare in the classroom it is easy to forget that the stage adds an extra dimension to the works. It is for this medium that they were written, and the study of them simply as works of literature tends to depreciate the full extent of their mastery.

There was also discussion of the enduring nature of Shakespeare's works. The root of their timelessness is in the manner in which the plays are open for interpretation. Lear's last words are a case in point: does he die believing his daughter Cordelia to be alive? Shakespeare implies otherwise, but the possibility for different interpretation is present. Furthermore it was apparent that very different ideas can emerge from the play according to the manner in which it is acted and presented. A selection of exchanges, acted in different ways, made this very evident.

Concerning *King Lear* specifically, the Workshop dealt with two principal issues: whether the play is essentially pessimistic and whether it is suited to being performed, as it is often regarded as a play best seen on 'the stage of the mind'. On both points genuine insights were proffered. The sheer power of scenes such as blind Gloucester's deception on the cliffs of Dover mean that the play is too rich in drama not to be acted. Also, the group concluded with the view that, although *King Lear* is a tragic, pessimistic play, it is possible to find salvation in the marvellous achievement that such an epic work of drama represents in its own right.

IAIN WHITTAKER

Insight on Blindness

On 1st March the school was treated to a rare insight - on blindness. On entering the hall, we were confronted by a row of tables stretching nearly the whole width of the room, decked with a multitude of gadgets and devices, most of which were unrecognisable, but among which a scrabble set and a pack of cards could be discerned.

Enter Mr Elgood with guide-dog Ian. Straight away you were struck by the ease with which he went up on to the stage, in a room which was unknown to him. The theme of his talk was straightforward: 'It's difficult to explain to white mice that black cats are unlucky' - that is, it's difficult to understand what you haven't experienced. Difficult or not, Mr Elgood took on the task of explaining it with enthusiasm and left us at the end with at least a small understanding.

He had gone blind suddenly. After the initial bitterness, the 'why me?' syndrome, usually known as *the mounting period*, he went to a training school for the blind. The teaching was divided into three sections: reading and writing, getting about, and solutions to everyday problems, which he then went on to explain. Finally we were to find out what the instruments on the tables were for. Reading and writing are done in Braille, a system of raised dots on a page. It takes about three months to learn, and the books are large and cumbersome, as are the machines for writing it.

Getting about involved two alternatives: the cane and the guide-dog. The cane is easy to use, requires no maintenance and is cheap; the guide-dog requires care and affection, exercise and careful training and will cost about £2,000 to keep for eight years. Nonetheless, the companionship makes the cane no competitor.

Finally we were posed a series of problems which would never seem difficult unless you were blind. How, for instance, could you tell the time, get the right amount of milk in a cup of tea, make sure you were wearing matching colours or sign a cheque? The answers come in the form of a Braille watch, a hypodermic syringe, colour-coded (by shape) buttons and a template for the signature.

The questions at the end outran the time available, and many stayed behind to ask individual questions. I am sure that everyone would like to thank Mr Elgood (and Ian) for such an absorbing afternoon.

JOHN BARNETT

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation, founded in 1961 in the United Kingdom, working for the release of prisoners of conscience and drawing attention to the abuse of human rights. In his introductory talk on 27th February, before showing a video, Mr Wilkinson, Chairman of the Cirencester group of Amnesty International, was concerned above all to emphasise that Amnesty is *not* a political organisation: it is independent of everything but the desire to ensure that ideas, beliefs and ethnic origins are never in themselves qualifications for persecution and imprisonment. Amnesty holds this as a basic principle, provided that violence has never been



Mr Elgood

M. Betts

practised or advocated by those involved - an automatic disqualification for inclusion in the category 'prisoner of conscience'.

Amnesty relies on the United Nations Charter as its basic source, and Mr Wilkinson pointed out that over half the 154 signatories of this charter are thought to be holding prisoners of conscience. Amnesty's vigilance and campaigning helps to ensure that gestures made at international levels, whether the UN Charter or the Helsinki Accords, are never taken at face value when the truth of a situation points to a more repressive reality. Human rights might perhaps not be an issue but for the work of Amnesty International and its 350,000 members.

It is to be hoped that the video shown punctured our cosy complacency and made us realise the appalling extent to which we do take our privileges for granted. Arbitrary arrest, detention without trial, torture and the breaking-up of families, young children often being lost without trace, seem a long way away. Perhaps the idea that we can change people's fives, by caring and the smallest effort, is equally relevant to our own society. Amnesty International, through its programme of finking prisoners of conscience with local groups who 'adopt' them through the writing of letters, ensuring that their cases do not pass unnoticed or languish forgotten, proves that this philosophy is relevant on a wider scale.

The local group of Amnesty International meets at the Friends' Meeting House, Thomas Street, Cirencester (near Powell's School) on the first Monday of every month. The Sixth Form would like to thank Mr Wilkinson for his time and trouble.

DANIEL M. BEALES

'The Food Chain'

On 8th October Mr Oscar Colburn, CBE, talked to the Sixth Form about Food Production. He started his talk by showing the rapid development in the British food production industry during the last 30 years. In the 1950s 50% of the money from food sales went to the farmer, with only one or two middle-men taking a share. Now only 25% of food is bought by the public in 'raw material' form, 75% of it being processed. In the south-east of England the big retail chains have over 60% of the business, which may not be a good thing, as it limits competition. The food industry is one of our biggest employers, and 10% of the working population are employed in some aspect of it. Despite the fact that we produce 80% of our temperate crops, food is still our biggest import, followed by timber and tobacco.

Mr Colburn then took us expertly through the three stages of the food chain: farming, processing and retailing. Being a farmer himself, he could talk from knowledge and experience, an excellent combination.

The main advances in agriculture have involved replacing people by capital and energy. Modern machinery has reduced labour costs but, more importantly, Europe could not support its population without nitrate fertilisers. In Mr Colburn's graphic phrase, 'we have poured oil into the soil of Europe'. Also super-efficient strains of crops have been developed and more effective herbicides and pesticides produced.



John Wright

Formerly a good hen was expected to lay 180 eggs a year; now 250 is a normal figure. One interesting aspect is the change in breeding patterns. In the wild, an animal grows a strong skeleton, then gradually acquires muscle and finally deposits fat. For a century breeders have concentrated on producing an animal which grows all three simultaneously. Now, with the emphasis on a healthy diet, the ideal breed of animal would have a light carcase, plenty of lean meat and a minimum of fat. In fact, Mr Colburn suggested, in spite of the trend from red to white meat and the fashionable rejection of fats, research showed that the balance of protein, carbohydrate and fat consumed had changed little; the people who left the fat on their plates would eat it in cocktail snacks or chips instead.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect was the added profit which accrues from the processing of food. The first example he gave was that of a baked potato with a slice of cheese in it, which needs only heating to make it ready to eat. There was a steady sale for these at 80 pence each, which would work out at £4,000 a tonne, whereas last year the price to the farmer for potatoes was £60 a tonne.

The second example was that a poultry farmer would expect to get £1 for a chicken which retailed for £3 plucked and dressed. If cooked it would cost £5, whereas with a little garlic sauce added it became Chicken Kiev at £9. The customer was gaining in convenience, labour-saving and variety, but paying a heavy price for it.

The third area of profit was marketing, the psychological warfare of selling food. Mr Colburn explained that the deep-freeze was very good news to retailers; it persuaded the consumer to buy quantities of food and to store it, relieving them of the storage costs.

Mr Colburn dealt very well with all the questions, showing his experience and depth of knowledge on everything from EEC food mountains to the controversial issue of milk in diet. On the question of food mountains, he pointed out that if oil stocks in an industrial country fell below 70 days' supply they would be regarded as dangerously low, whereas the food mountains, though admittedly too large, contained not more than six weeks' supply for Europe.

One final question was about the balance of farming and conservation. Were farmers despoiling the countryside in quest of greater profits? Mr Colburn's view was that prosperous farming made for good conservation.

Altogether it was a most interesting and educational talk.

JOHN DELANEY
BEN REES

‘The Cult Scene’

On Wednesday, 17th September, the Sixth Form were given an extraordinary and deeply disturbing talk about some of the many religious cults now operating in this country.

It seems that they sprang up in the United States in the 1960s, perhaps fuelled by disillusionment with the war in Vietnam. Some of the leaders were fanatics aiming for a kind of spiritual anarchy; others recognised a source of wealth and power which could be exploited for personal gain.

Now these cults, which number over 300, have spread from America to this country and the rest of Europe. The most powerful of them offer a serious threat to individuals leaving school at 18, because recruiting is carried out by ruthless trickery and hypnosis. A seemingly harmless invitation for a free meal or a visit ‘just for interest’ may turn out to involve the innocent visitor in a cultic experience from which he or she cannot escape.

An unsuspecting victim, encouraged by the apparent warmth and friendliness of the welcome, agrees to participate, often from a mixture of politeness and curiosity.

The cults use many methods to ‘hook’ their recruits, from the slow-acting but insidious ‘love-bombing’ of the Moonies to the almost instant hypnosis through mass-hysteria used by the Hare Krishnas. The result is the same - an ecstatic commitment and the start of a long period of ‘conversion’ through brainwashing.

The brainwashing is similar to that described by George Orwell in *1984*. The main features of this treatment are:

1. Lack of sleep and the disorientation caused by disturbing the circadian rhythms of the body,
2. Unfamiliar and inadequate diet, which lowers resistance,
3. Perpetual chanting and praising the cult, to drive out thought or questioning of any kind, thus concentrating the mind on a very narrow field.

It may seem unbelievable that a reasonable person should succumb in this way, but anyone can be at risk. The initiate is made to feel guilty if his mind wanders; to feel afraid of the outside world; to lose personal identity and become totally subservient to his ‘leader’; to regard his parents and his former background as ‘evil’; and as a test of conversion and the total submission of his reason, he is made to accept as true the most blatant and grotesque absurdities.

This rape of the mind converts an intelligent individual into a mesmerised puppet, whose main function is raising money to further the movement and to support the opulent life-style of its leaders.

The speaker, who asked to remain anonymous, was one of many parents who have suffered deeply from the loss of a son or daughter. Members of the Sixth Form showed by the rapt silence in which they received this talk that they appreciated the warning.

R. M. A. M.



Face by D. Aylott

Outings

On Seeing 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Stratford, 9th October

A warm October evening. People make their way in streams, through the dusk, to converge at the doors of the theatre, which looks, but isn't, just like any other theatre. A full house is suddenly silent as the lights come down. There is an expectant hush; expectant because tonight is special; special because every performance night is special at Stratford; special because tonight we shall all dream the same dream: one created four hundred years ago by England's greatest writer. On stage, shadowy figures take up their positions and wait. The dream is about to begin.

The stage lights, to reveal spartanly impressive scenery - marbled pillars and walls and, centre stage, a large and imposing settee. On this Hippolyta, languid and graceful in black, has arranged herself disdainfully. It is full of 'twenties and thirties' elegance; we might be watching the start of a Noel Coward satire - the men in suits and bow-ties, the women in cocktail dresses, footmen attending. But the words are undoubtedly Shakespeare's. Spoken unselfconsciously and without the adoring, almost fearful intonation of an amateur production, the words become real, the situation believable and surprisingly modern-sounding.

Introductory speeches by Theseus and Hippolyta are followed by the dramatically-made entrance of Hermia and her father Egeus. Egeus, pompous and faintly ridiculous, drags in Hermia, who flings herself sobbing to the floor; he wishes her to marry Demetrius, while she loves Lysander. Made comical by the convincingly furious Egeus, the petulant looks and exclamations of Hermia and the adoring gazes of Lysander, the scene ends with plans for elopement, after Hermia is given the choice between life 'abjuring the society of men' or death. Enter Helena, tall and blonde and jealous of her friend Hermia, who attracts Demetrius. Her puppy-dog adoration of Demetrius urges her to tell him of the elopement and the planned meeting of the lovers in a nearby wood.

Meanwhile, a change of pace introduces us to the 'rude mechanicals', the motley group of craftsmen who plan to produce a play for the Duke's wedding. This dishevelled party limps apologetically on stage, amusing before they speak; their mannerisms and clothes talk for them: shuffling, short-sighted Flute, in a long, baggy jumper, the tailor Snout in his suit, the efficient Peter Quince. But it is Bottom who, boastful and talkative, catches the audience's attention. They plan to meet again at night in the wood nearby - we can see confusion coming.

The scene-change, achieved in seconds, transforms the stage into a magical place - lanterns, flowers and plants, all on a giant scale and surmounted by a huge cobweb. The floor is carpeted by a cloth embroidered in patches of many colours. Titania and Oberon enter, dressed in filmy, trailing clothes. Titania is gracefully attractive, but it is she who controls Oberon, a strong and very masculine King of

the Fairies. Puck is sent to 'put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes', and we know the confusion and the dream are about to begin, as lovers swap partners and Puck 'translates' Bottom, giving him the head of an ass, Titania having been sung to sleep by her attendant fairies.

The next scenes, the body of the dream, are fast-moving and comic, as the night hastens towards day and, as day comes, all is right again, the lovers together, Lysander and Hermia, Demetrius and Helena, Titania and Oberon, and ready for a multiple wedding. The supreme comic scene in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is the production of *Pyramus and Thisbe* by the 'mechanicals'. This cannot fail to be successful - here the audience is treated to the performance of the melodramatic Bottom as the lover Pyramus, the apologies of the Lion, the explanations of Wall and the long blonde wig and fast-spoken words of Flute as Thisbe. 'Hammed-up' to the highest possible extent, Pyramus's dying words draw gales of laughter, as does Thisbe's 'unfeminine' death. Brilliantly acted, this was, for me, the high-point of the play.

The finale, a 'goodnight' sung by the whole cast, is greeted by prolonged applause, and the dream on stage is over - the collective dream. But surely, each individual must have left continuing a personal dream, if only a memory - perhaps about the energetic, impish Puck, the grandeur of the Fairy King and Queen, or simply an overall impression of having been part of something highly successful.

KAREN HARMAN

'The Fair Maid of the West'

When Mr Medill suggested that *The Fair Maid of the West* was a suitable play for the scientists of 6B to go and watch, some of us were slightly dubious of his choice, to say the least. After all - a tale about a Plymouth barmaid by the Royal Shakespeare Company!

However, the 8th December saw us all ready to go - at least it was a night out from Rendcomb - and we soon arrived at the Swan Theatre, Stratford. The cast immediately found favour with many of 6B, emphasising the atmosphere of the tavern by handing round free glasses of beer; perhaps it wasn't going to be so bad after all....

The play, by a contemporary of Shakespeare, Thomas Heywood, was true to the Elizabethan style of popular writing and full of action. It told the tale of Bess Bridges, a seventeen-year-old barmaid whose lover, Captain Spencer, is forced to go off to sea in a hurry, having killed a man in a duel over Bess. However, he leaves all his wealth in Bess's hands, including a tavern, *The Windmill* at Foy. Whilst at sea Spencer is mortally wounded and, in fear of his death, despatches his friend, Captain Goodlack, to give his legacy to Bess. The grief-stricken girl decides to use her new-found wealth to recover the body of her lover, so she gets Goodlack to fit her out a ship and sets sail for the Azores. There she fights valiantly, disguised as a man, until a storm destroys her ship.

Bess survives the shipwreck only to be captured by bandits, but is then rescued by a Moroccan, Bashaw Joffer, who takes her to Mullicheg, King of Fez. Bess is there reunited with her friends, including Spencer, who is not dead at all, and everything points to a nuptial ending.

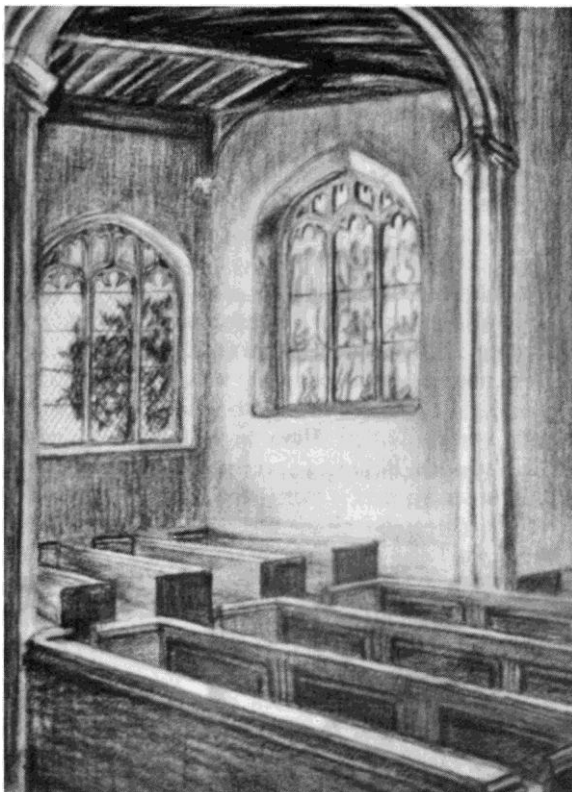
However, Mullicheg is not so willing to let his new Queen leave, and he and his rejected Queen, Tota, eventually cause the English to try to escape. Spencer is captured, but Bashaw Joffer agrees to his going to say goodbye to his friends before they depart, so long as he promises to return by noon. The English return to Mullicheg to save Joffer from his vengeance, and the King is so impressed with their nobility and constancy that he releases them.

The play, a mixture of melodrama, sentiment and comedy, was interspersed with simple songs, such as the rousing *A Woman Born in England* and the plaintive *A Woman Alone*. It was clearly recognised by this Elizabethan playwright that any reference, however oblique, to the Virgin Queen would be well received, and his heroine displays all the appropriate qualities: courage, fidelity, spirit, unassailable virtue and a loving heart.

There were some good special effects, such as the cannon and musket fire in a sea battle on the Spanish Main, and plenty of swashbuckling sword play. The open stage, with the audience clustered round on three sides and three levels, offered great opportunities for audience participation; the highlight of the evening for the Rendcomb party came when Mr Medill discovered he had a friend for life, as Roughman, a Swaggering Bully tamed by Bess, shinned down a rope from the gallery and landed on his lap....

I think it is safe to say that most people, if not all, who went on the trip had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and it simply remains to thank Mr Medill for arranging it.

AMANDA FRY



Church interior by G. Branch

‘Henry IV, Part I’ at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford 23rd February

The large cast wandered apparently informally on to the stage, on which oddly assorted furniture was scattered. Taking their places, they began, almost spontaneously it appeared, to sing. The story of Richard II’s defeat by Bolingbroke was told graphically, and Hal introduced, in song. It was a new and different start to the play, setting a more modern and much lighter mood than might have been expected.

‘So shaken as we are...’ Henry didn’t look shaken; dressed as a Victorian gentleman, he appeared more like a bored father lecturing his children without much hope - or a politician talking *at* rather than *with* his audience. Reality here was sacrificed to information and impression - or perhaps to the reality of a king feeling himself isolated because of his burden of sin. Slightly confusing, to anyone knowing the text, were the alterations to the first scene, where speeches from *Richard II* were used; the point being to have Henry’s discontent with his son and his pride in Hotspur’s achievements voiced, not in public court, but to a single friend.

Hal was the degenerate son in denim jacket and jeans. His soliloquy, so important to the whole play, was delivered with vigour and a certain amount of sensitivity; it seemed to lack the cold and calculating quality that many have attributed to Hal because of it. Explanation and youth, rather, were its main points. His growing maturity throughout the course of the play has to be considered in the light of this ‘explanation’.

Falstaff’s entry was altogether in character: wheeled on on a large sofa, he is a rounded lump asleep under a blanket. He and Hal exchange friendly banter. Beside Hal’s slightly laboured humour, Falstaff’s natural wit is all the more impressive.

Perhaps the most impressive scene in this production was the long tavern scene, in which Falstaff comes into his own as the intelligent realist who is a ‘coward by instinct’. His account of the counter-robbery, in which Hal and Poins rob their companions, who, in their turn have just robbed some travellers, was highly amusing. The great dramatic moment in which Hal’s future rejection of his friend Falstaff is shadowed was played with close attention to Shakespeare’s instructions - and well. Hal’s ‘I do. I will’ - a promise of rejection, hangs in the air to be punctuated by a loud knocking on the door. Falstaff and Hal remain as if frozen in time. Comic, the scene did not forfeit its tragic undertones.

Hotspur here lacked perhaps the full power needed in an interpretation of this spontaneous and emotional character, but as the play proceeded the actor gained a little more confidence; the impatience became more real, the anger less synthetic. The soldier’s immaturity was well illustrated, as he listened to no-one but himself and argued ‘on the ninth part of a hair’.

It was the small touches in this production which made it particularly interesting: the recorder player whose melodies punctuated some scene changes, and indeed all the use of music within the play; the mixture of styles and

ages in costume ensured that the play could not in entirety be labelled as either traditional or modern. The mohican-haired Peto was memorable, as was a Worcester more reminiscent of *Minder's* Arthur Daley than a scheming politician. In all, it was an interesting and imaginative interpretation of the play, with flashes of brilliance which were not entirely Shakespeare's - an exciting prelude to future productions by the new English Shakespeare Company.

KAREN HARMAN

'Henry V' at the Apollo Theatre, Oxford 27th February

An empty stage, with scaffolding standing to one side; a man in jeans strolls in and sits down in a black leather swivel chair: was this *Henry V* or *Master Mind*?

From the Prologue onwards the English Shakespeare Company's production of *Henry V* clearly demonstrated that Shakespeare is for all ages: the Falklands-style combat kits of the English army vied with the Victorian elegance of the French gold braid and breeches. Although perhaps, the 'teddy-boy' Pistol seemed a little strange spouting sixteenth-century prose, the patriotism and comedy rang true.

In some instances taking liberties with Shakespeare was clearly inadvisable: Pistol's capture of a Frenchman became a disturbing reminder of war's brutality, instead of comic relief. Yet any such criticisms were overshadowed by the high quality of acting. As Henry, Michael Pennington expertly balanced dispassionate majesty with soldierly *camaraderie* and desperate wooing to produce a convincing portrait of the elusive king. Meanwhile Gareth Thomas, as the garrulous Fluellen, and Jenny Quayle, as the elegant Princess Katherine, brought refreshing vigour to the intervening scenes. Clearly this was a production which would not be easily forgotten by those who watched it.

6A would like to thank Mr Holt and Mr O'Connor for making such an enjoyable evening possible.

GILLIAN BELL

'Kiss Me, Kate' 5th March

The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford: where else should this Encyclopaedia of Shakespeare have been performed? Based around a production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, made into a musical in the true American style, *Kiss Me, Kate* follows the fortunes of a company of actors whose private lives spill out on to the stage. The play glides from rehearsals into the opening night, through the secret lives of the actors, all of whom seem to love or to hate each other, and ends up with everyone living happily ever after.

From the start we see how similar the characters are in life to those they are playing. Miss Vanessi is just as bad-tempered off stage as she is in her role as the Shrew, and Fred Graham is a charming character all the way through, even if his charm backfires when a bouquet of flowers is expertly delivered to the wrong person.

The singing, acting and dancing are superb, signs of a truly magnificent piece of directing by Adrian Noble. The rivalry between the two female roles, the two gangsters, the acrobatics of the stage-hands, all are cleverly and effectively portrayed. The attention to detail makes this performance excel - the sign of a company which really knows what it is doing. The sets, as always at Stratford, are superb and ingenious.

Throughout the play there are hints of other Shakespeare works, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, all culminating in 'Brush Up Your Shakespeare', a song full of clever word-play with a catchy tune; add to this the fact that it is sung by two gangsters who have come only to collect a debt - a hilarious rendition. This standard of comedy is maintained in the rest of the play. I would like to thank Mr Holt for his enterprise in taking us to see it.

MARCUS RANN

'Twelfth Night' at the Olympus Theatre

On 10th March the Fifth Forms went to see *Twelfth Night* in Gloucester. Any trip to the theatre to see a play you have read entails a revision and adjustment of your own personal interpretation of it, and this was certainly the case here. The Orchard Theatre's production brought the play to life on a stage and certainly helped as a study for part of the English Literature 'O' level. On the whole, the festive mode of the play remained apparent throughout, but Shakespeare's tinges of sadness were unfortunately disguised, perhaps by the company's desire above all to please the audience.

Nonetheless, the performance could have been more interesting and stimulating if more emphasis had been placed on the contrasts within the play. The bawdy characters seemed somewhat subdued, while the noble characters failed to rise above them. At the same time, the play's more serious incidents retained an almost overworked humour. However, the humour provided was of a fine quality: the visual and farcical comedy resulting from dramatic reversals and mistaken identities was excellent.

Comic touches such as the firing of a gun may prolong the extent of the audience's participation and keep its attention, but sadly some aspects of the play, the comedy apart, fell rather short of the standard that Shakespeare demands.

Despite these really rather minor reservations, it remains to be said that the Orchard Theatre's version of *Twelfth Night* appeared to be, in the Fool's closing words, 'striving to please' with comedy, which they certainly did.

AUBREY POWELL

‘The Merchant of Venice’ at Stratford

Arriving at Stratford on a spring evening, for once we saw the town in daylight, and we were looking forward to a performance of *The Merchant of Venice* which had been acclaimed by critics in Rendcomb and in the national press. Such enthusiasm indeed left some of us a little sceptical, but we were not to be disappointed.

The themes of this play, prejudice and love, have lost none of their topicality in four hundred years. Here Jews and Christians quarrel and, although the moneylender Shylock is frustrated in his attempt at retribution - his pound of flesh - it is the Christians who are made to look intolerant or stupid. So a balance was held and sympathy divided equally between the two sides. Production, as ever at Stratford, was excellent, and a versatile one-piece set was used to great effect. Anthony Sher was as good as expected: oily, smooth and sad. The only criticism of the acting voiced was of Deborah Findlay’s performance as Portia, who at times lacked animation. Symbolism in this interpretation was important: in a poignant and thought-provoking ending the stage was darkened, and light shone on a silver cross held up by one of the characters. What did it mean? It was very much up to the individual to decide, as it should be in good theatre.

CLAIRE FLANAGAN
KAREN HARMAN

‘West Side Story’

On 7th May Godman House went to the Everyman Theatre to see a production of *West Side Story*. Following the Sixth Form’s enthusiastic response to the performance they had seen the preceding Tuesday, I was particularly looking forward to the visit, as I had seen a London production some years earlier and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The singing was very good, even though the choruses were small. Numbers like *I like to be in America* went very well, performed with style and raucously, as they should be. The male lead, Tony, had one or two problems with voice and pitch production, but for the most part he carried his role well.

The swift changes of scene and the lighting were remarkably good. Along with the dancing, which was energetic and enthusiastic, the visual aspects of the production were exciting, though the timing seemed occasionally precarious. On the whole, characterisation was good, though the rival gangs were played too much as if they were still young boys, rather than ruthless criminals.

For me, the star of the show was the orchestra, which played with real feeling for the very distinctive music. In general, the Cheltenham Everyman Company acquitted itself very well in a challenging piece, and our thanks go to Mr Holt for making the trip possible.

PATRICK EVANS



Dominic O'Connor

M. Bews

The Arts Society at the Opera

On 1st July a group of staff and pupils left Rendcomb for the Bristol Hippodrome. For the majority of us it was a new experience, going to ‘the Opera’, and so it was with open minds that we went, trying to forget what some of our peers had previously said about it.

The performance began at 7.15 and, after finding our seats, we discovered that it was to end at 10.45. So, with three-and-a-half hours of opera to go, we settled into our limited amounts of space and began fashioning makeshift fans, as the heat was incredible; it was slightly disconcerting to find St John’s Ambulance volunteers standing in the aisles. However, all these things were gradually forgotten as the curtain rose.

To our surprise, most of us recognised the overture, and quite a few heads nodded in pleasure. I certainly had forgotten that *The Marriage of Figaro* was in fact *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and I found that, the words being in Italian, my programme was the only road to comprehension. Nevertheless we needed only to appreciate the outstanding quality of the performance; we were not expected to sing along.

Before the performance a rather scared young man had announced that the leading lady, Suzanna, was just recovering from laryngitis and, as her understudy was also ill, was performing whilst being off form. The audience, waiting for croaks, was happily disappointed. The performance was marvellous on all counts, the scenery inspiring and the orchestra faultless.

So despite the stifling heat, the vertigo induced by our position and the overawing length of the production, a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. I shall certainly return to the opera. Thank you, Mr Craddock, for organising the trip.

EMMA SMITH

Second Form Trip to Welsh Castles

The trip began like many others - the usual rush to get on the coach, followed by the impatient wait to get started.

After a long but interesting journey to the Welsh Marches, we arrived at Goodrich Castle, the most structurally intact and impressively sited of the ruins we visited.

After a rapid tour we set off for White Castle and lunch by the moat under a sweltering July sky. The picnic was followed by an architectural survey and then, as relaxation, a game of rounders on the green.

Next, and last, we visited Skenfrith Castle, tucked away in a small village with a working water mill in a remote valley.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable trip and, amidst all the fun and frolics, we learnt a great deal about castle design and structure *by actually being there*.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr O'Connor, Mr Craddock and Mrs Pasmore for going on the trip, and for tolerating Form II for the day!

JAMES GRAFTON

Godman House go to Slimbridge

On Sunday, 22nd February, Godman House had an outing to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. When we arrived, all that greeted us was a lot of wet mud and what looked like a few grubby buildings. This, of course, dampened our enthusiasm considerably. However, we all had a pleasant surprise in store.

After paying our entrance fee and passing through the lobby we all split up and went our separate ways, some to the gift shop and some to the lavatories, but most of us went outside. There all we could see were birds, birds and more birds. There was a huge variety of ducks, swans and geese. Most of these birds migrate every year to places like Russia and come back to Slimbridge for the winter months.

There were various huts and towers where we could go and watch the birds on the ground and in the air. Also there was a tropical house with species such as humming-birds and parrots in it. The heat inside was stifling, and the vegetation had a tropical look and feel. To complete the atmosphere, there were also pools full of multi-coloured fish.

Once we had completed a circuit of the grounds, most of us ended up at the cafe, where we bought our sandwiches and ate them until it was time to return to Rendcomb. To the ornithologists in our Form the trip must have been very exciting and interesting, and for the rest of us it was a memorable experience, if not the best place we have visited, certainly one of the most unusual.

ANTHONY BUNGE

The Fourth Form visit Portsmouth

On 17th April the Fourth Form went on a trip to the naval dockyards at Portsmouth, to see the *Mary Rose* and the Royal Naval Museum. The weather, overcast and showery when we left, cleared up during our two-hour coach drive, and it looked as though it would be a hot day.

First we went to see the wreck of the *Mary Rose* in its Ship Hall beside the *Victory*. The wreck, its port side rotted away, is now upright and standing on the viewing platform. You can see where people lived and worked, and the whole layout of Henry VIII's most famous warship is clear. The Ship Hall was very cold and wet, as the ship had to be sprayed with cold water to keep it from rotting further. The Mary Rose Museum displayed the artefacts which had been recovered from the ship, explaining who used them and how.

The Royal Naval Museum, on the first floor of three warehouses, had displays and stories covering the history of the Royal Navy from Tudor times to the Falklands conflict, featuring naval artefacts, uniforms and figureheads, and many fine models reconstructing battles and other incidents.

Many thanks are due to Mr Haslett and Dr Smith for accompanying us on a very interesting and enjoyable day out.

ALEXANDER LAINÉ

Geography Field Trip

The Draper's Field Centre, scene of the Sixth Form Geography Field Trip, is in Snowdonia, North Wales, and about a mile from the village of Betwys-y-Coed. The accommodation was warm and comfortable, and the food, appropriately enough, seemed to be mainly leek soup and lamb.

Each day we covered a different topic. Saturday was 'stand-in-rivers' day, and we were taught about the use of theodolites, impeller-driven flow meters and other such everyday items. Did you know that you can calculate the velocity of water in a river with just an orange and a stopwatch? Well, I didn't. The evening was spent, as on all days, writing up and expanding on the day's work.

Sunday was spent studying Hydrology, including various experiments with bits of old drainpipe and lots of water. Wales is an ideal location for rainfall collection, and indeed there was no shortage of it while we were there. We investigated a variety of recording equipment designed for this purpose.

Monday was Sand Dune Day, involving among other things the Rendcomb group's attempting to throw Mr King into the sea. Somehow he managed to avoid this, but he did get half-buried in sand. The majority of the day was spent analysing dune micro-climates and evolution.

Urban Geography was scheduled for Tuesday, and this meant a coach trip to Llandudno, the nearest big town. During our investigations to discover where shoppers had come from, it seemed that there were a disproportionately large number of Canadians in this part of Wales. We never did discover why...

On Wednesday we studied soil types around the Centre, from peat bogs to podzols (for you non-geographers, that's another type of soil). The teacher from the Centre revealed to us that you could judge a soil's composition by looking at it or by tasting it. Personally, I stuck to looking.

The last full day was Glaciation Day. The weather was fine, and Mr King decided that the best way to reach the top of the mountain was via a vertical-looking fault in the back wall of Cwm Idwal. It was just the Rendcomb group which was mad enough to go with Mr King, and we soon found ourselves virtually scaling a waterfall. We eventually decided to turn back, as Mr King was looking rather uncomfortable, in spite of Paul Griffiths's urging us to carry on. Notwithstanding this disappointment, we learnt a lot that day - that girls are better than boys at rock climbing, for example.

Overall, the field trip was a great success and very instructive. There is no doubt that we worked hard, and equally little doubt that we all enjoyed it. I would recommend the Draper's Field Centre to anyone.

RICHARD KOLB

6B Biology Field Trip

On arrival at Nettlecombe Court, the Leonard Wills Field Centre in Somerset, in late April, we decided that our stomachs should have priority over settling down to the real business of the trip: work. Having arranged our priorities, we were introduced to our rivals for the

duration of our stay, the girls from Clifton High School who were to share our course.

Our tutor, Sally Hayns, then introduced us to the notion of Ecology, the subject of the course, at which point things began to sound rather serious. However, we discovered that we had gained over last year's group in that the day started half an hour later, with breakfast at 8.30, and that, unlike last year, there were no howling gales, only the sun, which seemed determined to turn us all a brighter shade of beetroot.

After general instruction, our days in the field - and the fun - really began. We spent some time on Exmoor studying the distribution of some invertebrates in a freshwater stream. Having been told that we would *not* need our wellies, we proceeded to spend a good deal of time floundering around, imperilling valuable soil pH kits in our not always too earnest pursuit of knowledge! There was also a memorable day on an exposed rocky shore, where we had a deal of trouble with a yellow rope 100 metres long, as we attempted to sort out topshells and winkles. Amongst the most infuriating of our experiences were the two hours spent watching the activity of mussels and rescuing the intrepid explorers, dog whelks, who seemed to prefer the desk top to captivity and scrutiny in a glass bowl of water.

Back at the Field Centre we had to convert practice into statistics. Some of us began to get really engrossed in it all, reluctant to go to bed for fear of not discovering why heather grew better on the first plateau, or why marine mussels preferred freshwater streams!

As well as a goodly amount of work, which we found surprisingly enjoyable and interesting, there were of course other things that made the Field Trip special. In particular, a friendly rivalry between Clifton and our group developed and added spice to the experience.

Sadly, the time to depart arrived all too soon, but we were back again within ten minutes to retrieve the inevitable forgotten wellies. Our tutor looked terrified, as she thought we were returning for a second week! Altogether it was a most enjoyable and useful trip, and the whole group would like to thank Mr Hannaford for organising - and putting up with it all!

MANDY FRY
CLAIRE FLANAGAN



John Wright

6B visit Longleat

When we visited them on 28th September, the animals of Longleat Safari Park decided that the best way to deal with the annual influx of rowdy Sixth Formers from Rendcomb was to confront them openly rather than to disappear into the undergrowth, so they were all plainly visible. Some were marauding on the road, whilst others pressed curious noses against the coach window. Some maintained a haughty stance, whilst others were so mischievous that to see them at close quarters would probably have meant damage to the coach, so we avoided the monkey enclosure.

Not only wild animals were visible that day; we arrived at the car park to discover that it was full of horseboxes and their equine inhabitants. However, the coach driver managed to find a space, and we set off in small groups to visit the various attractions on foot.

Some people continued their study of the animal inhabitants by setting off on a boat trip to Gorilla Island, finally satisfying their insatiable appetites by discovering that sea-lions could displace three-quarters of a tonne of water, in their direction! Others decided that a taste of culture was more in order and visited the grandeur of Longleat House, with its intricate tapestries and beautiful ceilings, revelling in the nostalgia of Lord Bath's Bygones, whilst some preferred to find nostalgia in a steam train ride.

However, by far the most popular attraction was the maze, where we all tested our sense of direction by trying frantically to reach the central tower, some with more success than others at distinguishing between the remarkably similar hedges.

Finally everyone was satisfied, and we reassembled in the car park to eat our tea, surrounded by reminders of the horses' recent visit. Then a rapid coach drive back to Rendcomb in time for the Anglo-Japanese concert concluded a most enjoyable day, for which 6B would like to thank Mr and Mrs Holdaway.

AMANDA FRY

Birmingham Railway Museum

In May Form I visited the Railway Museum at Tyseley, Birmingham, as part of their scientific studies. The object was to compare the petrol-driven motor car with the steam-driven locomotive in many different ways, varying from fuels to breaking systems. Consequently it was particularly interesting to be able to examine a rare petrol-driven locomotive as well as the usual steam locomotives.

The visit began with a film about the restoration of a steam locomotive, *Duke of Gloucester (71000)*, which had been recovered from the steam engines' graveyard at Barry, South Wales. It was thought to be the most difficult project of its kind in the world, because it involved the manufacture of new parts, working in many cases only from photographs and the original corroded parts.

This was followed by a conducted tour of the site, which included a turntable, points, signals, a guard's van, a mail carriage sorting office (one of the set involved in *The Great Train Robbery!*), several locomotives in different states of restoration, and the engine shed. Everyone was given the opportunity to go up on to the footplate of *Kolhapur (5593)*, where the controls were explained in some detail. *Kolhapur*, which was built in 1934, had recently made a run in the north of England, and a wheel bearing had overheated, with consequent damage to an axle. This axle had been removed for repair, and it was most impressive to see the pair of six foot eight inch high wheels mounted on the massive wheel lathe.

The visit concluded with a short journey on a working steam train - a perfect way to finish an enjoyable and informative step back in time.

C. J. W.



Form 1 on the turntable at Tyseley

C. J. Wood

The Junior House visit the Ironbridge Gorge Museum

The first thing we saw upon arriving was the original Ironbridge, completed on New Year's Day 1781. It was black and, with its white lettering, made an impressive sight. After answering the questions about it on our work-sheets, we made our way by coach to the Coalbrookdale Museum.

Here they had an old blast-furnace, kept under a roof to slow down the process of decay, with a walk-way round it. It was taller than I had expected and, with the lights and background noises, made a truly magnificent impression on the eyes and ears of the onlookers.

When everybody had quite finished looking at the display, lunch was distributed. When the last sandwich had been eaten and the remnants of our stay removed, we went across to the museum. Inside was a treasure-trove of items, ranging from the simple cabinet displays to the advanced working models. After exploring the maze of rooms and looking at most of the intricate items on display, we assembled outside.

Call-over completed, we climbed on board the coach and drove to the Blists Hill blast-furnaces. On leaving the coach everyone felt tired, and the heat helped to emphasise this. However, Mr Wood quickly took us through the turnstiles and into Blists Hill, and inside we saw an old Victorian town!

This cheered us up tremendously, and we quickly finished answering the questions on our sheets and then went exploring by ourselves among the interestingly old-fashioned buildings. In some of them volunteers, dressed in authentic Victorian costume, were at hand to answer any questions and to make our visit more interesting. In the town there was a tea shop, an olden-day chemist and a printer's, along with numerous small cottages. When we had all asked our many questions, we gathered at the exit and were driven away to the Severn Valley Railway for a brief visit, then home to Rendcomb for some food and plenty of sleep!

Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Wood, Mr and Mrs Hawkswell and all the other adults who made this day possible.

GRAHAM LAWTON

The Duke of Edinburgh 'Gold' Expedition

For most of us waking up at six a.m. was the first new experience, one of us, keener than the rest, preferring to do so at four-thirty. After a cooked breakfast kindly provided by the kitchen staff we checked our equipment, loaded the van and set off by six-thirty, arriving at the foot of Mam Tor, the so-called 'beauty spot', two hours later.

Within half an hour we were setting off up a ridge, straight into gale force winds which almost ripped our maps from our grasp, but we continued unperturbed.

The first day was generally flat, heading away from Mam Tor in a westerly direction, a total distance of 18.65 kilometres, which took us six and a half hours, allowing for breaks and lunch.

All the camp sites we stayed at were very respectable, with a strict discipline for cleanliness and a little shop selling soft drinks and chocolate, if you had the money; on the final assessment there would be no such privileges. Most days were overcast, with a little sun here and there; the only time it rained was on the first night, so we were lucky.

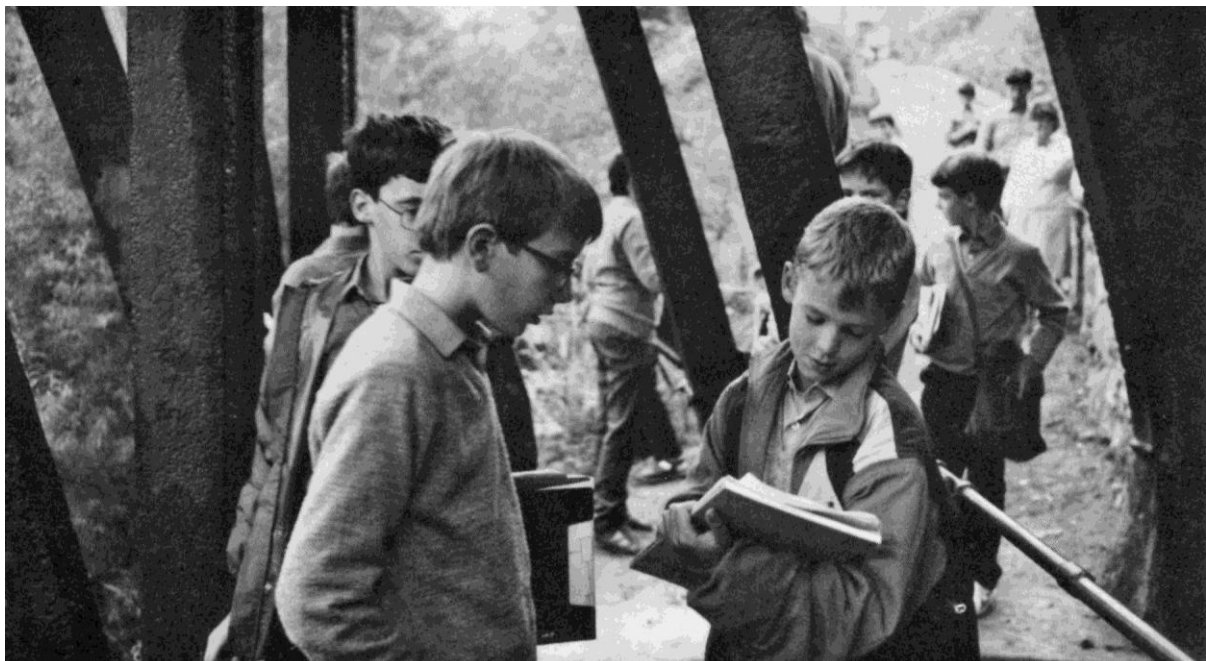
On the second day we returned to 500m, testing our compass navigation to the limit! Any degrees out, and we could be in the wrong valley without knowing it for, as Mr King stated many times, 'every valley looks the same'. For the whole morning we climbed up and up in a northerly direction, encountering treacherous bog-land or 'porridge', as we called a steep slope down with a bog at the bottom which could easily eat half of you if you trod in the wrong place, followed by a steep slope up and then down again. This frustrating stage seemed to continue for miles. We returned through it on the third day, turning back to Mam Tor, not touching roads and keeping away from the Pennine Motorway as much as possible. After some brilliant navigating through dense fog and a little rock climbing, we climbed the last two beauty spots, Hollins Cross and Mam Tor, covering a total distance of 50 miles in three and a half days.

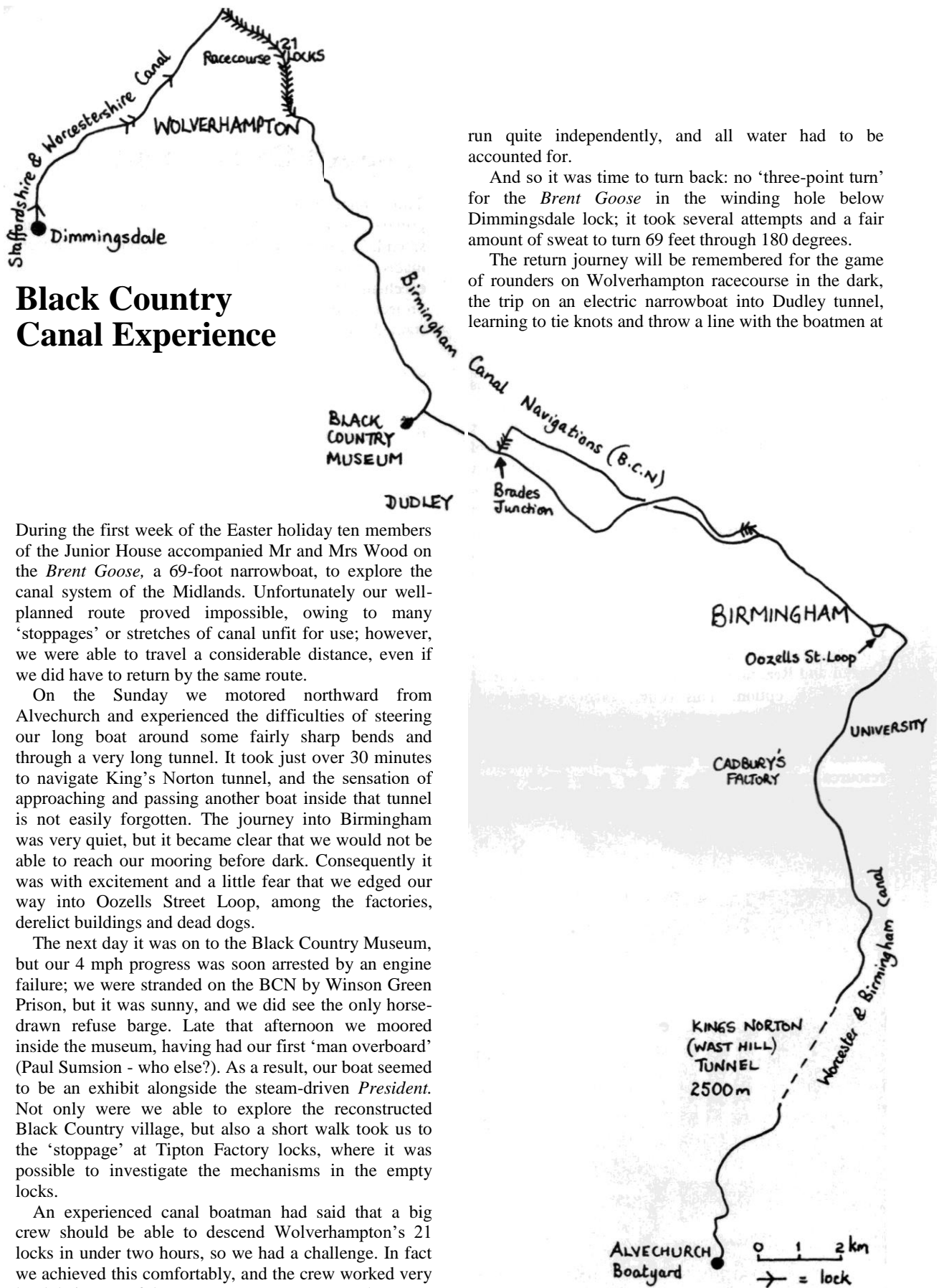
It was a hard-going but successful expedition, and we would like to thank Mr King for his careful supervision and other exertions.

MICHAEL ATTWOOD

Ironbridge project

C. J. Wood





Black Country Canal Experience

During the first week of the Easter holiday ten members of the Junior House accompanied Mr and Mrs Wood on the *Brent Goose*, a 69-foot narrowboat, to explore the canal system of the Midlands. Unfortunately our well-planned route proved impossible, owing to many 'stoppages' or stretches of canal unfit for use; however, we were able to travel a considerable distance, even if we did have to return by the same route.

On the Sunday we motored northward from Alvechurch and experienced the difficulties of steering our long boat around some fairly sharp bends and through a very long tunnel. It took just over 30 minutes to navigate King's Norton tunnel, and the sensation of approaching and passing another boat inside that tunnel is not easily forgotten. The journey into Birmingham was very quiet, but it became clear that we would not be able to reach our mooring before dark. Consequently it was with excitement and a little fear that we edged our way into Oozells Street Loop, among the factories, derelict buildings and dead dogs.

The next day it was on to the Black Country Museum, but our 4 mph progress was soon arrested by an engine failure; we were stranded on the BCN by Winson Green Prison, but it was sunny, and we did see the only horse-drawn refuse barge. Late that afternoon we moored inside the museum, having had our first 'man overboard' (Paul Sumsion - who else?). As a result, our boat seemed to be an exhibit alongside the steam-driven *President*. Not only were we able to explore the reconstructed Black Country village, but also a short walk took us to the 'stoppage' at Tipton Factory locks, where it was possible to investigate the mechanisms in the empty locks.

An experienced canal boatman had said that a big crew should be able to descend Wolverhampton's 21 locks in under two hours, so we had a challenge. In fact we achieved this comfortably, and the crew worked very hard being careful not to waste water - we hope we descended the flight using only one lock of water. During this descent the landscape changed from town centre to factories to the very welcome countryside beyond Wolverhampton racecourse. We had to visit a boatyard in the Shropshire Union Canal, and it was here that we came across a most unusual lock, with a water-level difference of only six inches. This dated back to the times when the canals were

run quite independently, and all water had to be accounted for.

And so it was time to turn back: no 'three-point turn' for the *Brent Goose* in the winding hole below Dimmingsdale lock; it took several attempts and a fair amount of sweat to turn 69 feet through 180 degrees.

The return journey will be remembered for the game of rounders on Wolverhampton racecourse in the dark, the trip on an electric narrowboat into Dudley tunnel, learning to tie knots and throw a line with the boatmen at

the museum, descending the staircase lock at Brades Junction, being trapped by the wind at the entrance of a lock below a dry pound and the last stop at King's Norton.

At the end of the week we had navigated 56 locks, recovered three crew from the canal and experienced the many contrasts of the canal system - an enjoyable journey.

Activities

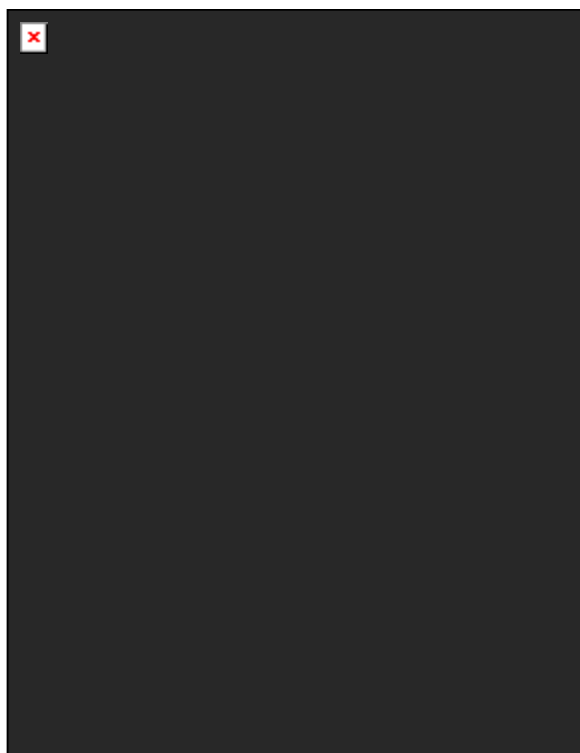
The Workshop

The workshop has been quite busy this year. Junior boys, particularly first-formers, have made good use of facilities. Lathe work has continued to be popular, and the new morticer has been in regular use. A good supply of five-inch-square ash and elm has been purchased from a timber merchant in Norwich. This will ensure a good supply for table lamps for two or three years. A small exhibition was mounted on Founder's Day in the Dulverton Hall.

Workshop P.W. has for a number of years been unable to cope with the increasing problem of maintaining school furniture; only a small number of suitably skilled boys have been available. Last July we were lucky to acquire the services of Mr Roger Attwood, a cabinetmaker from Cheltenham, who has been employed for two days a week. As well as dealing with general day-to-day repairs, he has restored the marquetry floor in Clock Hall, repaired and regilded the doors of the new Staff Common Room and designed and made a pair of notice-boards for the Church porch.

Next September a strand of Craft Design Technology - Design and Realisation - will be introduced as a fourth-year GCSE option. This course involves designing, making and evaluating articles in resistant materials, such as wood, metal and plastics. New developments will include a fully-equipped drawing and design studio, a resource centre, possibly in the Arts Block foyer, upgraded metalwork equipment and the introduction of plastics.

C. C. B.



Child's chair by H. Rothman

The Art Department

Throughout the year the department has continued to pursue a wide range of activities. There has been some splendid painting and drawing, and several people have made purposeful use of the pottery department. Some excellent results have been obtained from Graphic Design projects, and some pupils have done well in sculpture and stained glass.

The 'A' level students have concentrated mainly on drawing and painting, although other fields were represented by Polly Nicholls, with a late venture into sculpture, and Adam Binder with his pottery. Earlier in the year Paul Wilson and Geoffrey Broomfield made much use of the pottery while working for their 'O' level exam. They were both successful, the former often experimenting in an innovative and vigorous manner; his working process with the 'Raku' firing technique was memorable, to say the least.

Highly successful work, by the Fourth Form, with Joe Nicholls and Ben Maslen often leading the way, should lead to some good 'O' level results, while lower in the school there are a number of highly promising pupils. The introduction of 'Art and Design' as a GCSE option will give the department the opportunity to build on the type of work produced in recent years. The course, with its broadly based syllabus and emphasis on the development of personal ideas, should work well at Rendcomb and should allow for the continued learning of visual skills, with more opportunity to develop themes of work.

The changes necessary to deal with GCSE will mean a shift of emphasis in some ways but, with the introduction of more sculpture and possibly photography, involving a close liaison with the new 'Design and Realisation' course, the department is set for a challenging and exciting year ahead.

News of several past students who are now successfully undertaking degree and vocational courses should underline the fact that, for those with skill and determination, Art and Design can be more than just a hobby.

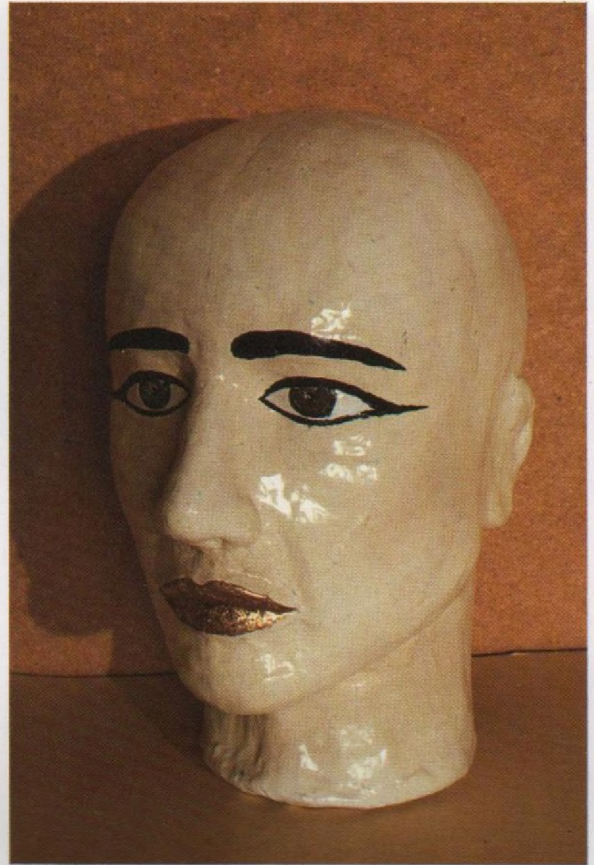
T. F. C. D. M. S. G.

There follow illustrations of some of the items from the Founder's Day Art Exhibition:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| a Pastel drawing of a head | Paul Griffiths |
| b Sculptured and slip-cast head | Polly Nicholls |
| c Coloured glass 'Bird of Prey' | Jane Kelly |
| d Coloured glass 'Dragon' | Finale Hicks |
| e Examples of third-year studies, clockwise from top left: | |
| (i) 'The Churn' | Daniel Maslen |
| (ii) 'Wolf' | Nicholas Smith |
| (in) 'Seascape' | Richard Parsons |
| (iv) 'The Churn' | Neil Walmsley |
| f 'Washing' | Giles Branch |
| g Still life watercolour with tulips | Emma Sprawson |
| h Pots | Adam Binder |
| i 'Paris Street Scene' | Giles Branch |
| j Large still life | Emma Sprawson |



a



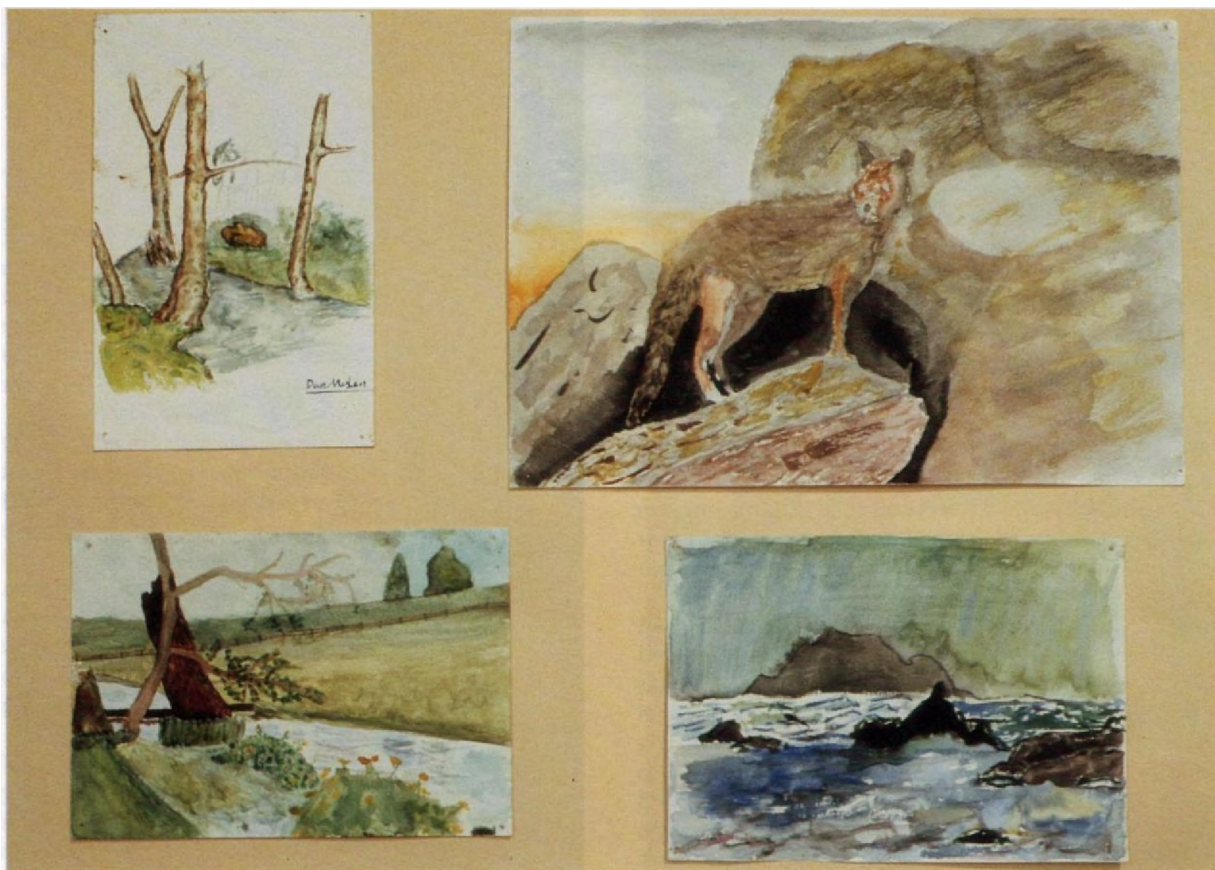
b



c



d



e



f





h



i



j

Senior Debate

On 1st November the motion was; 'This House believes that economic sanctions are the most effective way to end apartheid'.

For the motion: Mr Michael Craddock
and Robert Matson.

Against the motion: the Revd Peter Sudbury
and Emma Smith.

Apartheid and economic sanctions - emotive issues, but ones into which anyone coming to this debate with an open mind should have gained some insight. However the general impression was that minds were set against the motion before the first speaker began.

Mr Craddock took the opportunity to produce all the common arguments raised against sanctions and to counter them one by one. The argument that it would be the blacks who suffered most from sanctions he answered by pointing out that it was the black leaders who were pressing for them. A distinction had to be made, he said, between economic and moral wealth; prosperity based on an immoral system was wrong. An already violent South Africa, he asserted, could get a lot worse if Britain did not stand with the rest of the world in imposing sanctions.

Mr Sudbury, with experience of living and working in South Africa, gave a very convincing argument against sanctions. He began by telling us about the proud, possessive people who lead the country at the moment, the Boers. They, he said were not susceptible to threats of interference from foreign powers; they had history on their side. Those countries refusing to impose sanctions he called realists; they recognised the impracticality of such a course, especially as South Africa is now almost self-sufficient. Negotiation, he declared, was the only way to end apartheid.

Both Robert Matson and Emma Smith produced well-prepared, well-researched and emotive speeches. Robert, in favour of a total trade embargo, told us that failure to take advantage of this opportunity to destroy the evil of apartheid would only strengthen its authors in the knowledge that the rest of the world was not really interested. Emma reasserted the idea that sanctions would only harm the black population. She asked us to remember that sanctions had had little effect so far, and that large numbers of people in Great Britain could lose their employment as a result of our imposition of sanctions.

After a reluctant start, there was a good response from the floor, with most questions directed to Mr Craddock. The result of the division was 36 against the motion, 15 for. Although Rendcomb rejected the motion, who knows what the British Government will do? By the time you read this, you will probably know.

KAREN HARMAN
RICHARD KOLB

A Political Forum

*When shall the softer, saner politics,
Whereof we dream, have play in each proud land?*

THOMAS HARDY (1840-1928)

On 6th May Mr Sudbury chaired a political forum, dealing with the three major parties and their views on topical issues. After a brief introduction by the Chairman, speakers from the local constituencies were invited to address the floor, bringing out a brief resume of their political views, as representatives of their parties.

The Conservative representative from Gloucestershire County Council began, putting forward the point that new ideas and promises of change were needed to capture the attention of the electorate. He believed strongly in the idea of more private ownership, saying that this was the key to economic stability and success. We were told that the Conservative government had created wealth from 1979 onwards, which could now be used to spend on education, the health service and, primarily, to promote employment.

The Labour candidate from the Cirencester district countered by outlining his party's policy on independent education. He stressed the need for equality in the country, saying that to achieve this in the education system would involve the removal from independent schools of government assisted places and tax relief privileges. He then went on to state the Labour Party's motives: independence, self-reliance and equality.

The candidate representing the Alliance, also from the Cirencester district, showed a policy which, he believed, would be concerned with the community and with making the country more democratic. He told of specific plans to combat the existing problems of unemployment and housing, stressing that the main aim of the Alliance was to please and help the people.

After these addresses the Chairman threw the forum open to the floor, so that questions could be put to one or all of the representatives. The subsequent questions asked varied immensely and covered a wide range of issues. The first questions challenged the Labour representative over the education policy he had outlined, but topics moved on to the cover rates, defence, unemployment and law and order. These questions were answered with varying degrees of tact and discretion, circumlocution and honesty by the politicians; the floor was able to appreciate the views and policies of the three major parties. Enough was said to ponder over after the forum had finished, and the event provided a means of stimulating political ideas in the minds of those who attended.

ROLAND MARTIN

An Anglo-Japanese Concert

On 28th September an event unique in Rendcomb musical history took place: some Japanese girls spending ten months learning English at a school in Cheltenham offered to take part in a concert combining Japanese and English culture.

This mixture of performing artists from Rendcomb and from the Far East provoked much anticipation and speculation, and the Dulverton Hall was satisfyingly filled.

Our oriental friends delighted the audience with varied and colourful displays of Japanese music, dance and custom. They began with their rendering of two songs from *The Sound of Music*, sung in both Japanese and English! This was followed by dancing to a recent popular song and by some traditional Japanese dances. Perhaps of most interest was the ancient Japanese tea ceremony, to the accompaniment of traditional music and involving the eager participation of a member of the audience. Full credit must also go to the girls for their courage in announcing all their items in (to them) a foreign language.

The second half of the concert again comprised very varied items, this time performed by the Rendcombians. First there was a guitar duet played by Hari Nathan and Roderick Hill, followed by a selection of songs sung by Kate Ellis, who, all agreed, showed great potential. Then came a horn solo played by Christopher Moody, some barber-shop singing and the humorous *Tuba Smarties*, a duet for tuba and euphonium. But it was the last two items, perhaps, that provoked the most comment.

The first of these was a slick jazz performance by the brass ensemble, complete with saxophonist fittingly wearing trilby and dark glasses! Then the concert was rounded off by the now well-established school rock

band. Their performance was impressive, but made even more so by the fact that they had written the song only one-and-a-half weeks before.

The whole evening was a great success, and congratulations go to all concerned, but in particular our thanks go to the Japanese girls for providing us with such a varied and interesting first half to a remarkable concert.

STEPHEN GREEN

Orchestral and Choral Concert

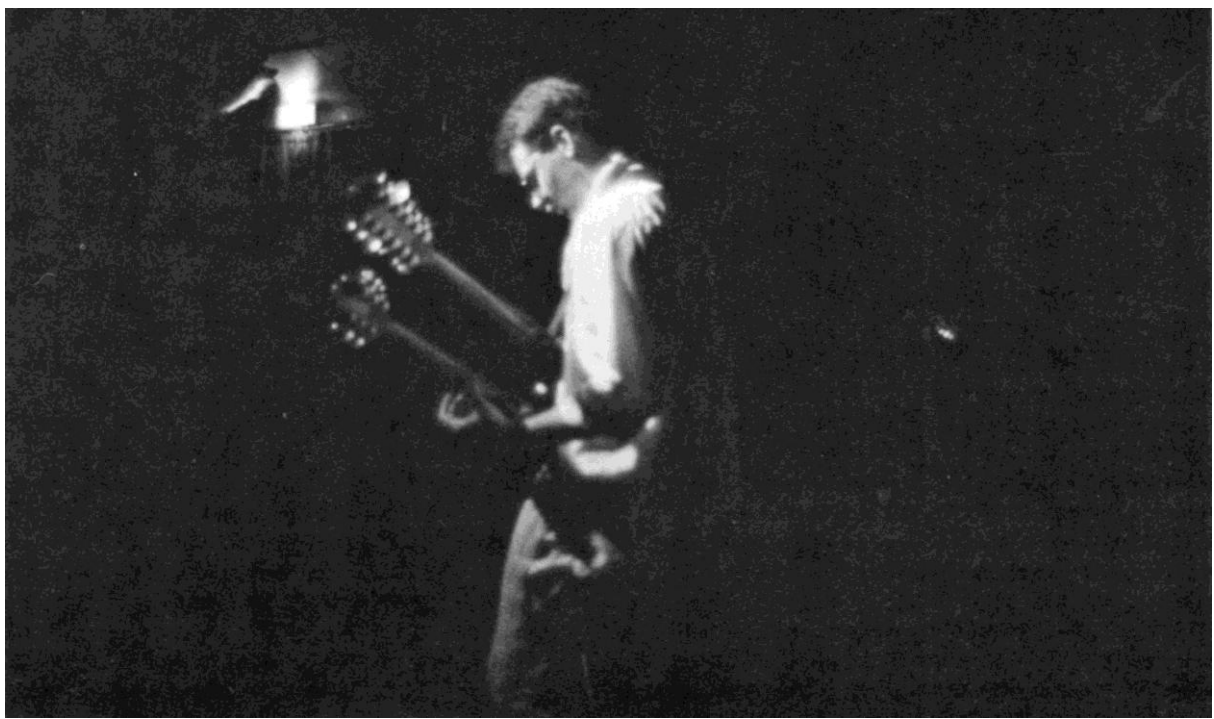
On Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, a choral concert was given in the Dulverton Hall, with the added attraction of a first half showcasing the talents of the music staff and making full use of the fine Goble harpsichord specially hired for the occasion.

The programme began with a virtuoso performance by Tim Lane of Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor and continued with two Trio Sonatas by Vivaldi for varied combinations of flute, oboe and violin with harpsichord and 'cello. An amazing harpsichord and guitar duet brought the first half to a riotous conclusion.

After the interval the Choral Society gave a particularly impressive performance of Vivaldi's Gloria, with solos by Lisa Wallace and a duet by Kate Ellis and Julia Morris, a member of the music staff. The choir displayed a blend of new talent and more experienced members, expertly backed by a small orchestra including a fair number of senior music pupils, leading to a high standard of performance and an enjoyable second half. This, with the varied and interesting first-half performances, made up a most entertaining evening: credit must be given to all the musicians for their hard work and an excellent concert.

EDWARD WEBB





Rod Hill

P. Dunn

'High Crisis' - RIP?

After more than three years together 'The Band', as they have been called, have finally chosen a name for themselves - 'High Crisis' - but the concert this summer could be their last, as they go their separate ways after 'A' levels. I interviewed their guitarist, Rod Hill....

For Rod it all started when he got his first guitar and amplifier, for a grand total of £80; now the value of the band's equipment, new, would run into thousands - Rod's new guitar alone is worth a good £500. While in the Third Form Dave Aylott became interested and bought himself a bass, and in the Fourth Form Matt Reid was lucky in finding a cheap drum kit; the band was born.

Mr Johnson obtained the use of a room in the cellars for them to play in. Joined for a time by Phil Moore as a second guitarist, and then more and more regularly by Gus Noyce on piano, they started playing Heavy Metal, because groups like Iron Maiden were the easiest for an inexperienced band to copy.

It was at about this time, in the Fourth and Fifth Forms, that they started writing their first songs, not very seriously at first, music heavily influenced by the groups whose songs they had played.

When Gus returned in 6B with a new synthesizer, the music really began to come together. With help and encouragement from Mr Lane and from Mr Dunn, who had come to Rendcomb as the College's first guitar teacher, the band became more serious about what they were doing - and more competent. Their first public performance came at a guitar concert where they performed the Led Zeppelin classic *Stairway to Heaven*, featuring Gus on vocals, with an enthusiastic reaction from the audience.

Encouraged by this, they gave a concert of their own to raise money for the public address system Mr Lane had bought for them. The concert featured songs as diverse as Chuck Berry's *Johnny B. Goode* and the Genesis ballad *Afterglow*. The most interesting aspect of this concert was the inclusion of three songs written by the band. These were well received, and they have written many more

since. They find it easier to write now, working more as a unit: anyone's idea will be developed by them all in an atmosphere of constructive criticism. The process is faster now; Rod attributes this to a greater tolerance between the more progressive element, himself and Gus, and the other two with their Heavy Metal influences. Thus the band draws on a range of styles for inspiration: from Yes to AC/DC and, the group with which their early offerings were most often compared, Rush.

The only serious problem the band has come across so far has been that of finding a vocalist. Rod explained that there are plenty of good singers available, but none is really suited to the type of music. They have now decided to do the vocals themselves: whoever has the least difficult part to play at any point will sing and play at the same time.

The future? The climax of a sadly short career could be the summer concert. They will be performing a set of their own compositions, enhanced by a new PA and better quality instruments than those used last year. From what I've heard in rehearsal and on tape, I can safely say that it will be an impressive performance - by the time this is published the concert will be history, so ask anyone who was there!

The more distant future doesn't look so bright for the band as an entity: three of its members intend to go to University, and Dave is hoping to start a career in the music business. Before they break up they would like to get into a studio to record a few pieces - you never know; somebody in the music industry might be interested - but Rod isn't too hopeful about the commercial possibilities of their music. Anyway, University is more important to them, though they'd like to re-form in the holidays perhaps. It seems more likely that they will all get interested in other groups, other projects, but even if 'High Crisis' doesn't survive it will have been a useful springboard, especially for Dave, and well worth the effort of the past few years.

We wish them all every success in the future, as a group or individually, and feel sure that Rendcomb will miss its only serious rock group.

EDWARD WEBB

A Mozart Concert

Sunday, 22nd March, saw the performance of two works by Mozart. The first was the famous Horn Concerto in E flat major popularised by its transformation into a humorous song by Flanders and Swann. The soloist was Christopher Moody, and it was obvious from the start that he had spent many long hours rehearsing his part. A few small errors were noticeable in his performance, but these did not detract from the overall enjoyment he gave to the audience, and their appreciation was shown by their resounding applause. Christopher's well constructed cadenza at the end of the first movement was a tribute to his skill, his practice and his instrument, and would have been the envy of many professionals.

In the second half the Choral Society followed the success of the first with their rendering of *King Thamos*. This youthful work, which foreshadows the great choruses of *The Magic Flute*, was written as incidental music to the historical drama *Thamos, King of Egypt* by Frecherr von Gebler. As this play was not a great success, Mozart's music is not often performed, but Rendcomb College has not forgotten it, this being its third performance in the last twenty years. The Choral Society, under the direction of John Willson, gave a very good performance, one of their best for several years. The work was partly chorus and partly solo, and it was nice to see pupils, as well as staff, singing the latter. Kate Ellis and John Barnett, soprano and bass, performed well, as did the members of the staff, Julia Morris, contralto, and Martin Graham, tenor.

The whole performance built up slowly to a peak during the last chorus, showing both the volume and the range of the Society. Thanks must go to the soloists, the chorus, the conductors, John Willson and Tim Lane, and to the orchestra, largely composed of professionals, who did such a good job in both parts of the concert. A very entertaining evening was had by all.

DAVID HAUTON

The Oriel Singers' Concert

Over the Christmas holidays you may have watched the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition. At the time it may have gone unnoticed but, had you known that one of the choirs contained two members of the Rendcomb staff and their spouses, you might have paid more attention. Mr Lane, always eager for a *coup*, immediately booked them for a concert here. However, for a variety of reasons, bad weather and illness among them, the concert had to be postponed until 2nd May.

Perhaps the least enjoyable part of the evening, for the pupils, was to have to wait outside, looking longingly into the dining hall where the guests were enjoying their buffet supper. But this feast was small in comparison to the one of music and verse which awaited us.

The programme was an interesting and varied one, with music from across the ages interspersed with humorous verse which, on the Headmaster's stipulation that it should be educational, contained a Natural History lesson and an account of the Battle of Hastings.

The songs were mainly English and French, but some American ones managed to slip in. Especially memorable were the performances of *Linden Lea* and a swingle arrangement of a medieval song, where members of the choir used their voices as drums, flutes, violins and other instruments.

The Headmaster summed up the enjoyment of the evening in his vote of thanks at the end of the concert.

JOHN BARNETT

'High Crisis' Concert

Possibly their last ever, certainly their last in the school, this concert contained only music written by the band, with the exception of *Blue Soul* by Paul Kossoff, a song all the more effective because of our vivid memories of David Kossoff's tribute to his dead son a year before. The standard of musicianship and song-writing skill came as no surprise to those who had been at their earlier concert, and as a pleasant one to those hearing them for the first time.

The style of song ranged from the one-instrument, one-voice ballads *The Mantrap* and *Follow your Leader*, the voice being Matt Reid while he gave his drums a rest, to the climax of the set, a dramatic concept piece called *Full Circle*.

But perhaps the most vivid memories will be of *Timbo*, an affectionate tribute to a certain music master who has given them continual support. Strangely enough, this classic of the 'get the crowd singing' type was attributed to the multi-talented *Anon* in the programme.

The sound quality showed a great improvement on the first concert, no doubt partly owing to the dazzling array of new instruments, but largely thanks to a professional sound engineer and a hired PA system. There were too many people involved behind the scenes to mention them here; parents, staff and pupils are mentioned in the programme, which itself must have meant a fair amount of work for someone, but I think that everyone who helped in any way will feel that it was well worth the effort.

EDWARD WEBB

Bell Ringing Round-Up

Bell ringing has certainly gone with a swing this year. There has been a pleasing revival of interest among the school, with new members joining from all years. Even Mr Sudbury has begun to master the art.

So far only two 'public' performances have been given: on the Sunday before Christmas and on Founder's Day. However, on the strength of this, there are now plans to ring on Sundays again next year.

We should like to thank our enthusiastic instructors, Mrs Godwin and her team, for their time and patience.

GILLIAN BELL

‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

27th - 29th November

Comedy is arguably the most difficult dramatic discipline; humour, after all, lies very much with the response of the individual. But because of this it is all the more rewarding when it goes well, both in terms of entertainment for those watching and of achievement by the actors. To be able to make an audience laugh by deliberate look, word or action must be extremely satisfying. That is why this year’s choice of senior play was both brave and inspired: brave because jokes can fall flat, inspired because the cast had sufficient talent to ensure they did not. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* when rightly handled is a very, very funny play, but there is more to Shakespeare’s *Dream* than the farce. Within it lies the magical world of Titania and Oberon and the Athenian splendour which forms the background for what was described in the programme as ‘the silly yet moving confusions of a quartet of aristocratic lovers’. Here again, confidence saw that the cast performed some difficult scenes with apparent ease.

Most people know something of the plot of the *Dream* with its three levels: the worlds of the immortals, the rustics and the lovers, the strands of which become tangled in a night of midsummer madness.

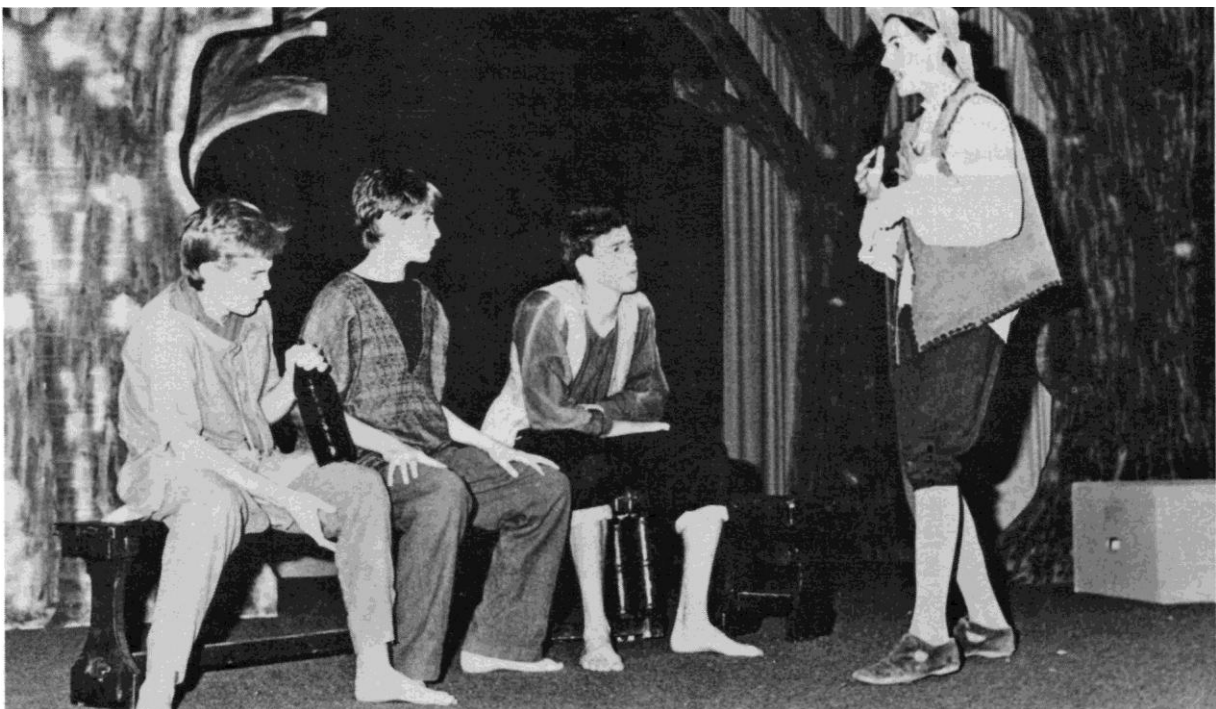
Lisa Wallace as Titania possessed poise and elegance. Simon Reichwald, impressively costumed and made-up, played Oberon with power. In a fit of jealousy he orders Puck (David Norton) to manipulate events so that Titania falls in love with the first creature she sees. This, as a result of Puck’s meddling, is Bottom (Roland Martin), one of the rustics transformed into an ass. Puck’s lines were delivered with immaculate comic timing, and his

appearance (needing little apparent alteration!) was perfect. For many it was Fiona Carlisle’s portrayal of Helena, the scorned lover, with her petulant exclamations and jealous actions, which stood out among the other performances.

But it was the rustics who stole the show. Roland Martin, brilliantly and deliberately overacting Bottom, infected the audience with his exuberance as he threw himself into the role with obvious enjoyment. The others too, combined to make a special success of the play-within-the-play, performed at the celebrations following the marriages of Theseus (Andrew Satterthwaite) and Hippolyta (Esther McNeile) and the other two couples, finally united in their rightful combinations. Matthew Houseman as Thisbe held the audience in the palm of his hand. His entrance, wearing dress, wig and two balloons, was particularly memorable.

It was difficult to find fault with set, lighting or costume. Behind a production of this kind there are always more people to be thanked than those immediately visible. As they say at the Oscar ceremonies, the undoubted success would not have been possible without them all. And, if there were some not quite intentional dramatic silences, crashes and bangs from backstage or moments when giggles might have spoiled the atmosphere, the partisan audience of friends and well-wishers forgot and forgave. Lovers of Shakespeare would have been content with the handling the play received, and cynics going in prepared not to be entertained should have been pleasantly surprised, as the Bard proved he does stand the test of time. Thanks go to Mr Craddock for the enormous amount of time and work he obviously put into *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, agreed by many to have been the best in a series of good productions.

KAREN HARMAN
EDWARD WEBB



M. Bews

‘Ernie’s Incredible Illucinations’ and ‘The Wedding’

These two short but lively comedies were staged during the Lent Term. The former, by Alan Ayckbourne, was this year’s junior play. It concerns the daydreams of a young boy, Ernie, excellently portrayed by Graham Lawton, and the problems that result when his imaginings start to become reality. Ernie’s mother and father, played by Julian Madeley and Matthew Waddington, were particularly impressive with their vivid representations of two very funny characters.

Several of Ernie’s fantasies were re-enacted in flashback, as he told his tale to the doctor whose advice his anxious parents had sought. Each of these interludes was capably managed by members of the large cast. In particular, James Grafton gave us a realistic portrayal of the doctor, and Hugh Costelloe stole the show with his depiction of the handbag-wielding Auntie May. Indeed, considering the inexperience and youth of many of the actors, the performance was really most highly polished and accomplished. Praise must go also to Mrs Pasmore, who had aptly and cleverly costumed the players.

The Wedding by Chekhov, performed by members of the Fifth and Sixth Forms, was set in a somewhat unusual wedding reception. The play is a satire on a marriage made for all the wrong reasons - money, social kudos, personal ambition - and the custom of hiring a supposedly important person to give the reception the necessary social *éclat*. Christopher Moody portrayed the important personage well, demonstrating aptly the tedious witterings of a retired sea-captain whose appearance is not a social coup, but a social disaster. The bride’s parents, Fiona Carlisle and Vaughan Tredwell, gave appealing impersonations of a snob and a buffoon. Ed Webb took on the cameo part of the patriotic Greek with zeal and an accent that few will forget. Roland Martin, Esther McNeile and Susanna van Moyland

performed their parts stylishly; Aubrey Powell and David Norton, as the villains of the piece, displayed a great deal of native talent. Chekhov is not the easiest of writers to perform; the actors and actresses nonetheless gave more than a good account of themselves in the various and demanding roles. The emphasis in both plays was on enjoyment, and credit must go as well to Mr Craddock for producing and directing the evening’s entertainment.

JASON VERNON

Arts Society

This year the society has been dominated by the Sixth Form, although there have been some interesting contributions to the creative writing competitions from the lower forms. The competitions provided us with many serious, thought-provoking pieces, which led to enjoyable discussions. Among the outstanding events of the year was a lively discussion which attracted a great deal of interest, *The Rambo Syndrome*, about the pernicious influence of films and other media in helping to shape behaviour and attitudes, especially in the young. The musical side of the Arts has not been neglected either, with a colloquy on classical music led by Mr O’Connor and a trip to *The Marriage of Figaro* in the summer term.

Next year, with a new influx of interest in the lower sixth and a new chairman, we hope to extend our range of activities and our appeal with a series of videos and discussions and some guest speakers to complement the more academic lectures arranged by the school. The success of the talk by a local representative of Amnesty International indicated that there would be support for a series of alternative lectures.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of all the committee, Mr Craddock for his tireless enthusiasm, and I think we shall be able to offer a fuller and more varied programme in future.

EDWARD WEBB

‘The Wedding’

John Wright





P. J. Sudbury

Community Service

Community Service had been a great success again this year, with 30 sixth formers visiting the old and infirm at Paternoster House and Querns Hospital. Everyone looks forward to Tuesday or Thursday afternoons spent chatting with the old folk and being told countless stories of how it used to be, not to mention the old photographs and scrapbook clippings. Many of us have become very attached to a specific person or small group we visit, and this made our latest venture, the old people's walkabout and tea at Rendcomb, even more enjoyable than before. Unfortunately the Querns Hospital minibus had broken down, but this did not stop the group from Paternoster, nor the assembled 6B flock, led by Mr Sudbury, from having a splendid afternoon, admiring the church and the main building, as well as the view down the valley, and munching through piles of cakes and sandwiches. On behalf of the CS Group, I should like to thank the kitchen staff for making us an extra special afternoon tea that day.

Probably the most significant event for the group, however, has been the arrival of our new organiser, Mr Sudbury, who not only drives us to Cirencester and back, as do Mr Graham and Mr Price, but also sorts out any hitches or mishaps.

I am quite sure that Community Service will remain as popular as ever, and I look forward to its continuation next year.

PAUL GRIFFITHS,
CHAIRMAN

Gardening P. W.

Fine weather last autumn provided a late splash of colour in the grounds; a particular success were the beds of deep blue petunia grandiflora and orange tagetes. However, frost in mid-October nipped most of the annuals, including the cosmea, which had not come into full bloom until September because of the wet summer! The geraniums in the urns luckily continued to provide colour on the terraces until late in November, when they were

returned to the greenhouse, where most survived despite the severe weather in January.

Daffodils in the grounds were in full bloom in March, followed by an early season for the various flowering trees. Wet spring weather prevented our doing much maintenance until late April, when the herbaceous border at the Old Rectory was given priority. A further spell of wet weather delayed the planting-out of summer bedding, but this was completed by the middle of June. The Library beds have been stocked with petunias, tagetes, impatiens and begonia semperflorens, and the urns with geraniums, nasturtiums and petunias. Cosmea has been used once again to provide late colour in various places.

This has been the twenty-fifth year of Gardening P.W.! When it was started, there was a group of eight working on Tuesdays and a similar group, taken from non-cricketers, on Wednesdays. This year at the height of the season the group consisted of three junior gardeners! Over the years, of course, the amount of gardening to be done has been substantially reduced by replacing herbaceous borders with lawns, but there is still much to be done if the grounds are to continue to look attractive. Gardening is a very worthwhile activity, and I hope for more volunteers next year. I am grateful to Christopher Pope, Timothy Prince, Robert Bugden, Richard Hardy, Julian Head, Neil Walmsley, Jonathan Tomsett and Hugo Stringer for their help during the year, to Mr Partridge and his staff for their work in the holidays and to Mr Burden and Mr King for their assistance at times of crisis.

W. J. D. W.

Bridge Club

The renewed interest shown last year continued to grow this year and, with an average of around 20 players on Sunday evenings in the winter terms, the quality of play steadily improved.

At the beginning of the year a team of four - Warren Hammond, David Kenney, Alexander Andreis and Michael Attwood - entered the *Daily Mail* competition in Cheltenham. Of seven schools represented, some with two teams, Rendcomb came fourth, a sound performance by any standards, especially as many of the other players were well-practiced participants in more highly competitive occasions. Rendcomb was not represented at the *Guardian* competition, owing to the event's falling on an exeat.

Once again Bridge was taken up as a skill at the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, with a number continuing their play at the gold level.

All that remains is for me to perform the task, too often taken for granted, of thanking Mr White, who has acted as our coach, organiser and referee, and whose persistence and encouragement has kept our club flourishing.

DAVID KENNEY

Science Society

The year has consisted of a major lecture and visit each term.

The autumn term included a seminar organised by the Friends of the Earth, held in the Mayor's Chamber in Cirencester. The main speaker was, inevitably, opposed to nuclear reactors and Sizewell B. By contrast, and for balance, we had a presentation at Rendcomb by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, which encouraged and answered very fully a whole range of questions from the lively audience.

Continuing the current theme, 6B visited the Nuclear Laboratories of the Central Electricity Generating Board at Berkeley. A very full and interesting day was programmed, and we were very impressed by the hospitality, particularly the lunch!

The academic year was concluded with a visit to Oxford for the Open Day of the Science and Engineering departments. In addition to lectures, demonstrations and tours, there was the opportunity to have tea with the Admissions Tutor of one of the colleges. This visit to St Anne's College provided a very useful insight into courses and life at Oxford.

R. K.

Photographic Society

Despite the dwindling number of members in the society, over the past year the remaining few have continued to show their interest in photography as an art form. This has included experimenting with new chemicals, notably turning black and white prints blue, and the use of infra-red film.

In November the society visited Tekprint, the printers of *Rendcombian*, in Swindon. The party was shown all aspects of printing, with special emphasis on the photographic processes and the formation of plates for producing colour pictures.

Once again there was a trip to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, to *Photo 87*. This was well attended by non-members, who showed a keen interest in the new cameras on display; however, the more adventurous also visited the Classic Car Show and the airport!

The annual photographic competition included another category, 'Rendcomb Life', in the hope of increasing the number of entries. The following were winners:

Black and White	'Sailing'	M. Bews
Colour	(i) 'Portrait of Brother'	D. Hauton
	(ii) 'Sunset'	H. Rothman
Rendcomb Life	'Snow'	Esther McNeile

We hope that, with the intake of new pupils at the beginning of next term, there will be renewed interest in photography at Rendcomb.

DAVID HAUTON



Photo 87

C. J. Wood

Photographic Society visit to the National Exhibition Centre

When our party of 14 arrived at the NEC we did not quite know what to expect. It had been advertised and extensively trailed as bigger and better than last year, so we were looking forward to an even more interesting show.

The exhibition was indeed on a scale superior to last year's effort, but I felt it perhaps lacked something of the spice of the previous one. Not being an expert on the latest cameras and lenses, I saw more quantity than before, but no appreciable change in the quality. What drew some interest, however, was a change in the presentation, involving two lightly-clad models walking round the stands and smiling sweetly at anyone who cared to point a camera at them - a definite advance on the publicity side!

As last year, the JVC video stand attracted plenty of interest. Visitors could watch the latest special effect pop-video or try out an expensive video camera. The Konica stand also attracted some attention, with the gimmick of free packs of playing cards stamped with 'Konica'. These were distributed to all and sundry, the sundry being those who came away with perhaps more than their fair share of packs...

A particularly interesting stand was the Sigma one, where the range and ingenuity of lenses attracted curious children and hardened experts alike.

On the whole, I was more impressed this year by the means of promotion than by the originality of the equipment, but the trip was certainly worthwhile, and I am looking forward eagerly to see what next year will bring.

JONATHAN LUTWYCHE



Portrait of brother

D. Hauton

The Junior House Collectors' Club

This club began during the Easter term to cater for the collecting interests of several enthusiasts in the First and Second Forms. Meetings were held on alternate Fridays in the Old Rectory reading room, under the watchful eye of Dr Smith. Collections of model trains and of coins have been shown, but stamp collecting is the principal interest. Collectors of picture postcards, cigarette and tea cards, bottles etc., have not so far appeared.

During the Easter holiday the club was most fortunate to be given, by the British Philatelic Trust, several guides to stamp collecting, pairs of tweezers, magnifying glasses and a set of stamp catalogues, including a Gibbons whole world catalogue and Birds, Trains and Mammals thematic catalogues. These provided much stimulation to those working on their stamp collections, although the summer term is not the most suitable time for doing this. We hope to use them more fully in the winter terms and to develop a thematic stamp display.

DOMINIC EGRE
JAMES SLEEMAN

The Energy Factor Project

1986, as well as being Industry Year, was also Efficiency Year, and so the Department of Energy launched a competition to encourage people to use electricity wisely, and also to broaden their insight into the world of energy.

It was an extremely comprehensive competition and covered most aspects of the use of energy. The Second Form was arranged into a number of groups, and each was given a task to complete. The tasks were varied and ranged from measuring energy losses in the home to comparing heating systems in large companies. The work was spread over a number of weeks, and in the end we had a very complete entry.

The work in the home involved the energy lost in a 'Dead Leg'. This occurs when hot water is left in the piping system, subsequently losing heat and wasting money. The results from our 'Dead Leg' experiments were carefully analysed and helped us to find ways in which to conserve energy in the home.

Our work in a large company was done with a firm called

Deloro Stellite, which had previously won an award with the Southern Electricity Board for eliminating long pipe runs by installing immersion heaters at the point of use. They kindly provided us with a comparison of the old and new systems, which further helped in our project.

The next term we were very pleased to find out that our entry had been 'highly commended' and that we had been invited to a prize-giving at Didcot Power Station. The prize-giving was very professionally arranged, and all the entries were displayed on boards around the large hall. The Southern Electricity Board even had John Craven giving out the prizes. We received a cheque for fifty pounds, and Mr Wood received two crystal goblets.

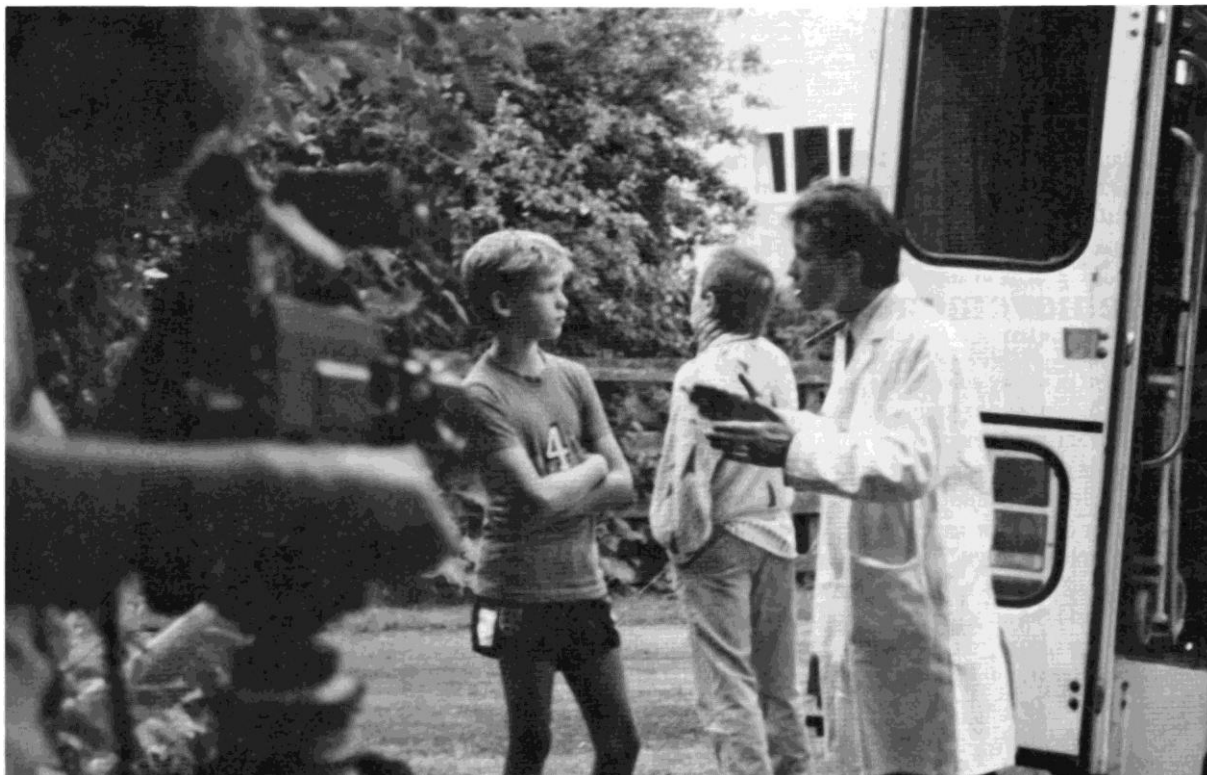
After the prize-giving we were treated to a trip round Didcot Power Station and a sumptuous buffet lunch.

We are grateful to all who made this trip and the competition possible, especially to Mr Wood and the Southern Electricity Board, and we hope that another such competition can be organised in the future.

GRAHAM LAWTON
HENRY PUGH



Southern Electricity



Sound of Silence

C. J. Wood

Film Unit

Once again it has been a very busy year for the Film Unit, and we have turned out three completed videos, *Playback*, a short video about two boys who are taken back in time to the Second World War, *A Change of Heart*, a ghost story based on M. R. James's short story, *Lost Hearts*, and finally *The Sound of Silence*, about the problems of a deaf boy, played by Hugh Costelloe, trying to communicate to the world in general and to a young footballer, played by Alex Beales, in particular. This last film was particularly notable for the fine acting of the two boys, and we are

hoping that one of them might be lucky enough to pick up a best actor award around the Film Festivals in 1987/88.

On the subject of awards, *These Sons of York*, made by the boys in 1986, won the Best Overseas Schools Award and was second overall in an International Film Festival; it also gained a very creditable Silver Award in the London International Film Festival.

The boys also gave an excellent interview on Severn Sound Radio, and we hope that during 1987/88 more radio, and possibly television, interviews can be arranged. It was also very gratifying to see the interest shown in the Film Unit display on Founder's Day.



James Sleeman, Christopher Scarlett and Jonathan Roney with the trophy for *These Sons of York* *C. J. Wood*

Viewpoints 2

‘Adventure or Achievement?’

Rock climbing is undergoing a revolution. With the development of sticky-soled boots, hi-tech protection and a greater incentive for training, standards have risen greatly. A traditional classic route might be long and have an element of risk and adventure; it would probably not be very difficult, but could be sustained. However, new routes being done now are extremely hard and are often more like strenuous gymnastic problems. Since many of these routes take blank walls, they have little or no natural protection, and the only way to provide some security is to place an expansion bolt, which is the safest form of protection there is, but which does damage the rock and so is frowned upon by the traditionalists.

Over the past year or so there has been a great deal of new-route activity at Wintour's Leap; with Mr Willson's new guide due out shortly, people have been looking for the final routes to be put into the book. The contrast between the traditional adventure and the modern gymnastic problem was nicely illustrated by two new routes I have done recently, both graded E2 and both very enjoyable, but two very different climbs. *Reel to Reel* is a traverse and is now the longest climb on the cliff. After an upward climb of 120 feet there is a rising traverse of 180 feet, falling away under the overhang of *Primeval*, the hardest route in the Wye Valley. *Childhood's End* is also E2, but is only 70 feet, albeit a very sustained 70 feet. The climbing is hard all the way until the top section, where there are two even harder moves; but we placed a bolt here, which means that although it is hard it is safe.

On 15th February we decided that new routes at Wintour's Leap were exhausted, so we went to do the classic route in Cheddar Gorge, *Coronation Street*, first done by Chris Bonington in 1965. It is 385 feet and graded E1.

We arrived at the bottom of the climb to find that a party had already started the first pitch. The leader was desperately slow and, if we were to be stuck behind them all day, we should never complete the route. Luckily, after some very subtle hints, they allowed us to climb through. The first two pitches are relatively easy; the third takes you over the first large overhang and then through a larger one at the top of an outward-leaning chimney. This first overhang, although easy to reach, is very deceptive, because what appears to be a large hold is sloping and very polished. The fourth pitch is probably the most famous, although not the most difficult: a traverse underneath a large roof which leads to *The Shield*, a large overhanging block you have to swing round, with your legs disappearing into 200 feet of space below; the exposure is amazing, as you step off large footholds into the unknown. The fifth pitch is the hardest: a bold lead up an overhanging chimney. The final pitch has one tricky move to start with and suddenly emerges on a grassy plateau. Owing to the immense height of Cheddar and its steepness, you are constantly looking down on the ant-like tourists walking below.

After the descent and a short rest we decided to try to find a route which a friend had recently done. It was left of *Coronation Street* and had four bolts. This was all we knew about the route, except that we thought it was E4. I had only ever led E3 before, so this was a large step. We found what we thought was the route, so I began to climb. Although it was harder than anything I had done all day, I reached the first bolt with little difficulty. The route was very hard because not only was it very strenuous but every move had to be worked out beforehand. I rested on all the bolts and fell off three times, but at last I got to the top.

This route was a perfect contrast to *Coronation Street* because, although only just over half its size, it was of a different order of difficulty altogether. This must have been the ideal day: one very long and exposed classic climb and then a short, very difficult, modern route. We later found that it was called *Still Waters Run Deep* and was E5, not E4. Mine is only the second recorded ascent, although there have been some attempts.

Now that the new routes at Wintour's Leap have been done, I am looking forward to some hard climbing in the summer and to watching people struggle on my routes as much as I did. We are hoping to climb one of the six North Faces in the Alps this summer, the *Cima Grande*, and then, and then, when I leave Rendcomb, perhaps to go to Yosemite to do *El Cap*.

JOHN SHAW

Formula One Racing

Formula One racing is my favourite sport, even if it's just for the sheer excitement. Apart from the bloodthirsty battles which take place for the very much sought-after title, in every race you run the risk of being killed. This risk, you may think, is totally ignored by the drivers, and you may believe that they are madmen. This is not true; all drivers take into consideration the risks involved but, as they are addicted to the sport, all carry on.

So many elements have to be taken into account in order to drive well in a race. You can never say for sure who is going to win until the leading car crosses the line, and even then victory may be stolen from the driver. This happened last year to the reigning World Champion, Alain Prost. After driving an immaculate race in his usual 'professorial' way, he had some terrible luck; he won the race, only to see one of his rivals snatch victory from him when his car was found to be a few pounds under weight!

Our British hero of the moment is Nigel Mansell. I'm sure you all saw his tyre burst in a shower of sparks - and with it the World Championship everyone was hoping he would win. Mansell's hopes for 1987 are good, though. Already he has a significant win under his belt this season, adding to his growing tally, and a chance of winning the ultimate accolade.

Mansell's burst tyre is just one example of the complicated tactics that can so easily go wrong in Grand Prix races. Only last week a driver came near to death during practice. As for me, I've rather gone off the idea of racing after all these deaths; I think I'll stick to dinky cars and dream!

JULIAN MADELEY

‘On the way to Biggin Hill’

I stamped my feet, numbed by the frosty cold. The taxi was late, I observed, scrutinising my watch for the umpteenth time. I checked my pockets - yes, everything was there: money, ticket, invitation, hidden money (in case of emergencies).

In the still morning air I could hear the ticking of a diesel engine climbing the steep hill. As the taxi swung into view, I picked up my heavy holdall and walked to where the driver was turning round. As the car accelerated, I tried to make conversation, but the driver was trying his hardest not to.

“How long will it take to get to Kemble?”, I inquired.

“Bout fifteen minutes”, he said.

Silence fell. Thinking that, being a car driver by profession, he might perhaps talk about cars, I tried to start a conversation once more.

“It corners well”, I said, as we slipped effortlessly round a sharp bend at fifty-four miles an hour.

“Hmmm”, he smirked. Well, at least he had smiled. “Good cars, these Datsuns”, he observed, and with that he fell into complete silence.

Kemble station was deserted, except for the station master, who looked with interest at my rail warrant and began filling out the necessary forms, eventually exchanging the warrant for a ticket valid for the return journey I was to make.

Sitting down on a wooden bench I looked left and right, but there was no one else. A strong breeze began to cut through me. I thought to myself, “Good heavens, in three hours’ time I shall be in Victoria Station, surrounded by thousands of people all going somewhere, and in four hours’ time I must be at Biggin Hill, the other side of London, or I shall be starting the long journey home three days early!”

The contrast in my mind between the utter tranquillity of Kemble Station and the hideous business of London during the lunch hour chilled me, and I shivered inwardly and outwardly. This would be my first unaccompanied train trip, and I was more than a little nervous; perhaps it was a good thing that I didn’t know at the time that one missed train would mean ultimate disqualification, because the bus I had to catch at Bromley South Bus Station ran every one and a half hours, and anyone who arrived later than the set time was disqualified.

The train lumbered heavily into the station and stopped, emitting a series of mechanical clanks and squeaks and a loud hiss. I climbed in and dragged my bulky holdall after me. The train had few passengers, and I took up a position on my own next to a window. The overcast sky threatened rain, and a few minutes later it darkened and the first splashes smeared across the glass.

The train slowed jarringly and then steadily came to a halt. Reading the ‘Swindon’ sign on the platform, I jumped out. From the list of times I was carrying I knew that the train I needed for Paddington left in only two minutes’ time; the only question was, ‘where from?’ The displays were off, and there was a lack of people to ask but, hearing the slam of coach doors, I made my way towards the source of the noise. As I shut the door, the train jolted forwards and began the long journey to Paddington.

In spite of the scarcity of people on the platform, the coach was extremely full; however, there was a seat left next to an elderly, rather distinguished-looking gentleman and, having asked whether the seat was vacant or not and been told, “Yes, sir, it is indeed not occupied!”, I sat down, placing my luggage in the overhead rack.

After a few minutes of silence, my neighbour began to talk about his destination, and whilst doing so he extracted a large pipe of well polished red wood and proceeded to fill it with a raisin and cinnamon tobacco, which he pressed down well with his gnarled fingers.

“Of course, London’s changed a lot since the war”, he said, employing that wistful tone of voice that only a seasoned old story teller can. “I was in the war, you know, Egyptian campaign; always remember the night when the bombing started; one landed right next to the fuel dump, sheet of flame a thousand foot high; we all hid under our bunks, of course; there were bits of timber and all sorts falling from the roof, and the beds, being made of sturdy steel tube, made an ideal air raid shelter. Anyway, above the noise of these bombs dropping I could hear my commanding officer shouting - he was quite fond of drink, you see, “You stupid RAF bastards!” And it turned out afterwards that the planes *were* British. The silly bastards were bombing their own men.

“Anyway, where are you heading?” he said, suddenly snapping out of his reverie.

“Biggin Hill”, I replied with a smile, “I want to join the RAF.”

MICHAEL BEWS



‘Welsh Weather’

The party set off amidst a few large snowflakes that were falling slowly to earth. The road lay at the bottom of a small fold in the hillside, shrouded by trees which calmed the air around them, allowing the snowflakes to continue their drifting fall. We followed the road, flanked on either side by snow-filled hedges, up the hill until it petered out at the entrance of a field. The field from the gate rose up the mountain side and disappeared into the clouds and falling snow. There were no walls in sight to confine this great expanse of frosted grass and rock.

The mountain we were about to tackle, Cribyn, was really a peak at the top of a very long ridge, and we were starting from the bottom of the northern end. The ridge began as a wide, gentle, grass covered slope. The wind was strong here, out of the protection of the trees, and the snow had all been blown off the sloping field. As we ascended the mountain the weather grew steadily worse. The snowflakes grew finer and the wind more ferocious, beating the snow into our faces, stinging unprotected parts with their chill. The saddle of the hill grew narrower and steeper. Visibility was almost non-existent as we ascended into the clouds, especially for me, as both the inside and the outside of my glasses were frosting up and I was constantly having to scrape away the ice. Making headway was becoming increasingly difficult as the incline grew steeper, and the ascent never seemed to end. All that could be seen was the dark shape of the ridge climbing forever upwards and steep sides constantly converging. The grass had taken on a strange appearance, each blade a long curving stem of ice about half an inch thick. An ice-axe had to be used to climb with, as the peak approached, although little purchase could be gained with it against the earth frozen as hard as rock. Eventually the peak appeared out of the gloom to the relief of us all. The brief break from walking we had while we checked the bearings gave us a chance to take in our surroundings. Very little could be seen in the whiteness, but a strong feeling of isolation came over us. It was difficult to believe that there was actually a world beyond what could be seen now, a world of driving snow and biting wind. The places we had left early that morning seemed so different as to exist only in the illusions of the deepest crevasses of the mind.

The descent was probably as perilous as the climb. The long drops on either side could barely be seen, and boots slipped on frozen earth. Gradually, however, the wind relented and the snowflakes became larger. The ridge began to fan outwards, and the slope lessened. At the bottom it was quite sheltered, but the snow and the cold were still there. The snow had now grown in depth and was being steadily added to by great concentrations of huge snowflakes, drifting gently to earth. Progress had become slow and tiring, as every footstep would sink deep into the snow, often up to the waist. It was decided among the group that our original goal could not be reached, so a quicker route would have to be found. We took lunch in order to ponder the alternatives.

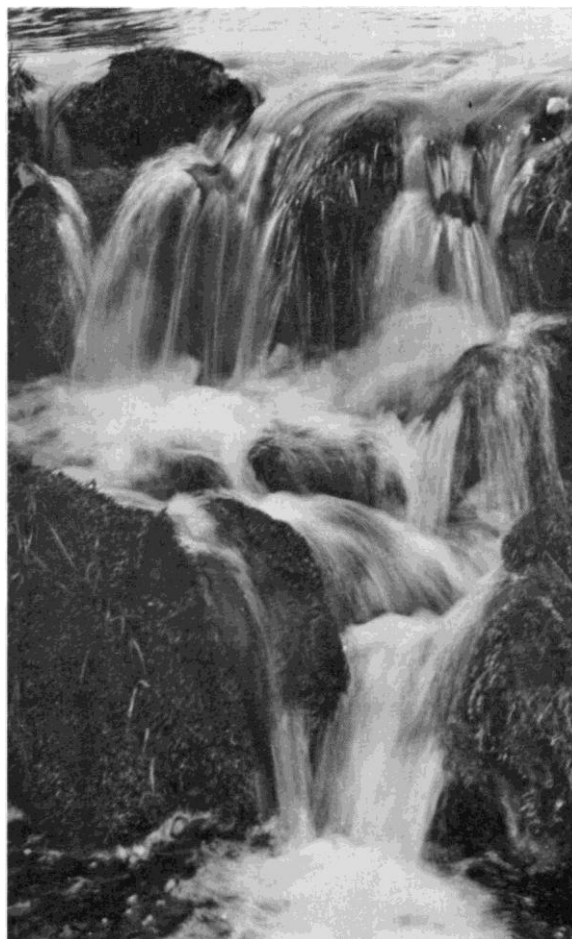
Lunch is usually a welcome break from strenuous exercise, but not today. As soon as we stopped walking the cold began to press in, creeping like a worm through each

layer of clothing. When we opened our water bottles we found they had frozen, so we settled for eating snow.

The quickest return route involved going up another steep ridge, which appeared to be one long snowdrift. However, this was the most stimulating part of the walk. The wind had died, and the feeling of isolation had returned, but it was not a depressing feeling, it was an emotion verging on the euphoric. You were on your own striving against the elements and making progress. You had no worries or concerns, just your sights set on a target. The peak brought the walking close to completion. It was a quick slide down into the valley and then, in the encroaching darkness, all that remained was to skirt round the ridge we had begun the day by climbing. A small spring had frozen over but had continued to bubble out, forming what looked like a miniature glacier pushing its way down the valley. The ice was so hard that it refused even to be chipped by an axe.

The weather did get a last shot at us, however. The three or four inches of snow that fell while we were walking meant that the minibus was stuck, and pushing the minibus up the hill was not quite what we had hoped for at the end of the walk.

ROBERT MATSON



M. Bews

Rendcomb as an Archaeological Site

In February a distinguished local archaeologist, Dr Alistair Marshall, visited Rendcomb as part of a general survey of the Cotswolds. He made use of some aerial photographs taken of the Wilderness 20 or so years ago, before the new playing field had been excavated on the Wilderness side.

He is convinced from this evidence that Rendcomb was either a hill fort, bivallate (with a double line of earthwork ramparts), with its main defences across the spur; or it was part of the line of a dyke comparable to others at Bagendon (Perrott's Brook) and Minchinhampton. In either case, the site dates from the later Iron Age, that is within two to three hundred years before the Roman occupation.

Unfortunately from the archaeological point of view, so much levelling work has gone on and so much topsoil has been removed that there is little chance of finding any shards of pottery as evidence. On the other hand, Dr Marshall found clear evidence of a Roman farmstead in the field on the valley slope on the other side of the road from the 1st XI pitch; and the flint scatters in some Shawswell fields give clear pointers to Neolithic (New Stone Age) settlements in the locality.

Can we deduce from Dr Marshall's findings anything more about Rendcomb? Unfortunately not. There have been several Roman finds in the locality; the Roman snail colony still inhabits the Cirencester drive; the base of the churchyard cross probably dates from the ninth century. It is difficult to believe, therefore, that there was *not* a continuous settlement here from the Iron Age, through the Roman occupation after 48 AD to the coming of the Angles and Saxons in the sixth century. The Rendcomb site is an ideal one, a south-facing slope, well wooded and watered, for a villa, in typically close proximity to the Whiteway and existing settlements. But to prove it, we would have to dig up Saul's Hall...

D. S. J. P.

'Among the Peaks'

Every year we go, like birds migrating to a better climate. The outstanding peaks are chosen: Scafell, Harrison's Stichle, Coniston Old Man. The night before, a plan of attack is organised; books and maps are consulted, and the best route is chosen.

A Plan B, in case of mist, rain or snow, is always thought out, but even in these conditions the fascination draws, and expeditions clothed in waterproofs often ensue.

There is something about being able to see the sea one way and the Pennines the other that photographs can never capture. The lakes all around glitter in the sun, the colour of mercury. Coniston Water has hardly a ripple visible; I can imagine Donald Campbell's speedboat gliding easily across it, and the gasps of horror as it smashes.

For miles there are huge green mountains, almost unrealistic in their colours, darkened in places by the clouds above them. In autumn patches of brown-orange



Rendcomb Park

D. Hutton

bracken cover the slopes. If it is early or late in the day and there are no other hikers, the silence is wonderful. There may be a sheep crying out with its almost haunting voice, a river or a waterfall flowing, but that is all. On a very high mountain even people do not seem to make much noise; it comes as a surprise to see a bright red coat appear from round the corner.

The air seems so clear and fresh that I have to take in great gulps, hoping to breathe out every bit of city smoke. The streams run over peat and rocks, sometimes dampening the coarse grass around them. Like the air, the water is clear and tastes better than anywhere else. Often we have to cross the streams, stirring the water, our boot- marks like scars in the mud.

Sheep and humans make easy paths up the mountains, although the sheep can scatter when a human appears, up any gradient to a ledge from which they watch with frightened eyes; their only memorable experiences with humans are being confined between fences and separated from parents.

The mountains seem to me to be alive, solemn, majestic figures, tolerant of the small creatures clambering up their sides. They draw people, fascinated by their immense size and by what could be at the top.

ANNE WADDINGTON

‘Rejection’

“Of course she will”, they all said.

Of course. Believing, trusting, hoping, he had tried to find the courage, find the moment. Running the scene over and over in his mind. It had been put off for too long; now he needed to know. No, the answer was irrelevant. But the question needed asking, the answer a mere formality. He knew what to expect. He had known for months. As a pagan to some obscure, unappeased god he had prayed, sacrificing others’ feelings in the fatal pursuit. Now the ritual was reaching its drawn-out climax. Do you go up; do you go down? Does it matter?

The moment of conflict: two combatants, silently preparing for the brief verbal duel. An unperceived mutual signal - confrontation. Both knowing what would happen. Too late to stop it; the ritual must be played out. A barely audible phrase, the stronger reply. Formalities over, life continued. Didn’t it?

Two people, strangely needing solitude, yet company: perversely, each other’s company.

So here I am once more, in the playground of broken hearts: the return to the bleak reality, laughing away the tears; surely even jesters cry. One more experience, another entry in the diary. Overdosed on sentiment and pride, I’m losing on the swings, I’m losing on the roundabouts. The nervous anticipation, the superfluous preparation are over. Immaculately I act the role of a martyr, carved with twisted smile, epitaph to a broken heart.

Vision clouded by infatuation, the words had made no sense. Remorse sets in. Why? Perhaps one clever comment, one off-the-cuff remark would have made it.

‘I would your frowns could teach my smiles such eloquence’.

Too late. Life goes on, changed.

But boys don’t cry.

JOHN DELANEY

Hong Kong

My interest in Hong Kong stems from my father’s posting there; he is a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He has been to many places with the army, ranging from Cyprus to Northern Ireland, but Hong Kong has been the most exciting, and that is my reason for writing this article.

After the British had withdrawn from India, Hong Kong became their new jewel. It is now a prosperous colony, the centre of banking in the Far East, with people investing millions of dollars in its development. In spite of the impression given by many postcards, it is not completely covered in buildings; forty per cent of its land is devoted to country parks. This enables the Chinese to relax at weekends and during their New Year festival.

The Chinese are a very friendly people and are successful business men, always on the lookout for good quality items at very competitive prices.

Hong Kong consists of a small island and a peninsula joined to mainland China. Victoria, on Hong Kong Island, is the capital city, and it is here that most Asian banks have

their headquarters; the Hong Kong and Shanghai bank, for instance, has spent millions of dollars on its new ‘hi-tech’ headquarters.

On the peninsula is Kowloon, an ever growing city centred upon one very long road, Nathan Road, on both sides of which are miles and miles of shops selling every conceivable item.

Hong Kong means ‘Fragrant Harbour’, and it’s an apt name. It boasts the third largest container port in the world, with only Rotterdam and New York ahead of it, and after 1989 it should be the largest. You should be able to catch a glimpse of it before you touch down at Kai Tak airport.

This is the only civilian airport and is capable of taking all types of civilian passenger aircraft, owing to a runway greatly extended on to land reclaimed from the sea.

I find Hong Kong one of the most exciting countries in the world and, whether you are there to shop or just to explore, the experience is unique.

GRAHAM LAWTON

‘Hotspur’

The tears of the widow of the fighting man
On the yawning grave, on the dust, on the mud;
She’ll carry on, do what she can
To forget the pain of the salt and the blood.

There is a garden overgrown with weeds;
In the centre is a pool,
Where fashioned silver, flicked skywards,
Climbs gracefully in glittering arc,
Reaching its peak,
Hangs poised, one breathless moment.
In that second it is everything -
and nothing -
but motionless silver in golden light.
Descending then, at dizzy speed,
Striking the water,
It slows, light playing a last dazzling game
as it sinks; till, lazy, it settles,
becomes once more,
inert among so many others,
Uniqueness gone.

The tears of the widow of the fighting man,
On skin, on silver, on the muted earth;
What does she care for the honour he’s won,
While time, and the salt, destroy its worth?

KAREN HARMAN

The Record 2

College Officers

Head Prefect:

R. Hill

Head Girl:

T. Fox

Prefects:

B. Branston
A. Brealy
T. Burns
A. Cayton
D. Clark
G. Davies
R. Draper
A. Heal
K. Hewston
C. Moody
S. Reichwald
L. Wallace
N. Wharmby
I. Whittaker

Church Ushers:

K. Hewston
D. Beales
A. Brealy
D. Clark
R. Hughes
S. Maton
A. Rollo

Librarians:

J. Rosa
N. Newell
C. Hoare
S. Phalke
A. Moore
E. Smith
K. Harman
C. Flanagan
M. Bews
J. Barnett
L. Stringer
S. Green
K. Harman
E. Webb

Magazine Editors:

I. Whittaker
P. Moore
B. Branston
M. Astill
I. Whittaker
A. Brealy
A. Cayton
K. Hewston

Rugby Captain:

Rugby Secretary:

Hockey Captain:

Vice-Captain:

Cricket Captain:

Vice-Captain:

Tennis Captain:

Squash Captain:

Meeting Officers

Christmas Term 1986

Chairman:

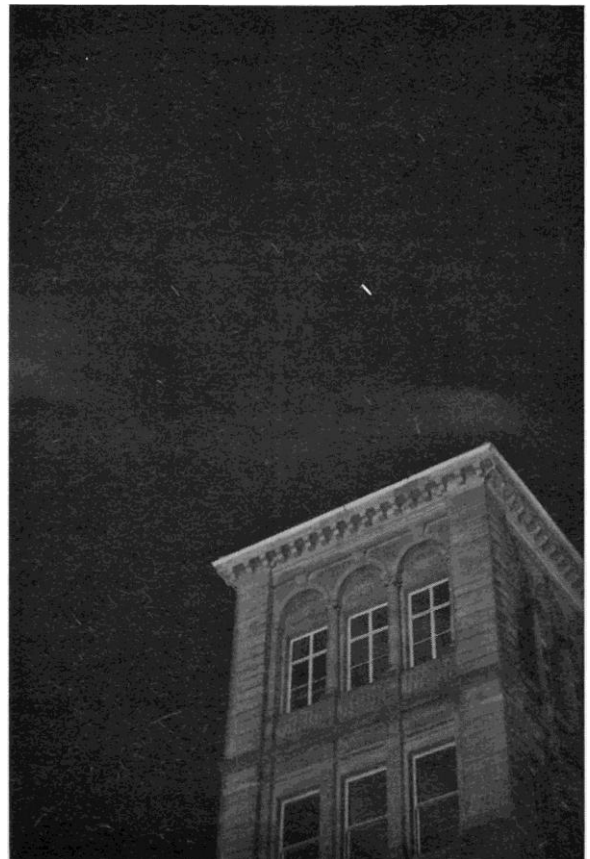
M. Houseman

Secretary:

W. Hammond

Meeting Banker:

H. Rothman



Star shower

C. M. Wood

Boys' Banker:

M. Larroucau

Nominations Committee:

S. Kingscote
I. Ford
M. Astill
A. Brealy
P. Griffiths
W. Hammond

Meeting Liaison Committee:*

A. Brealy
S. Reichwald
C. Moody
D. Beales
B. Branston
J. Hasler
W. Hammond
G. Carter
R. Ogden
B. Maslen

Debating Society:*

Entertainments Committee:*

S. Kingscote
C. Adshead
P. Moore
M. Hastings
S. Kingscote
M. Houseman
P. Moore
A. Heal

Community Service Committee:*

Snooker Committee:*

M. Rann
J. McMonigall
D. Kenney

<i>Food Committee*:</i>	T. Holden M. Houseman L. Wallace G. Carter P. Wilson M. Waddington
<i>Newspaper Committee:</i>	J. Leigh R. Tate C. Brown T. Nicholls
<i>Breakages Man:</i> <i>Broom Warden:</i>	G. Broomfield T. Nicholls

*elected annually

Easter Term 1987

<i>Chairman:</i>	D. Beales
<i>Secretary:</i>	E. Webb
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	H. Rothman
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	A. Andreis
<i>Newspaper Committee:</i>	S. Green J. Nicholls T. Nicholls N. Wood
<i>Breakages Man:</i> <i>Broom Warden:</i>	C. Bannister N. Hall

Summer Term 1987

<i>Chairman:</i>	G. Carter
<i>Secretary:</i>	A. Powell
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	A. Andreis
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	H. Swami-Nathan
<i>Nominations Committee:</i>	M. Hastings J. Fellows C. Rowe G. Hughes D. Houseman
<i>Meeting Liaison Committee:</i>	M. Hastings I. McMurtrie M. Moody
<i>Debating Society:</i>	H. Swami-Nathan E. Smith R. Matson R. Martin A. Powell M. Waddington R. Rowlatt
<i>Entertainments Committee:</i>	F. Hicks W. Hammond M. Faircloth M. Waddington R. Rowlatt
<i>Snooker Committee:</i>	J. Slaterry A. Bedford N. Suffolk

<i>Food Committee:</i>	S. Perkins J. Chappelle R. Martin A. Jones N. Houseman
<i>Newspaper Committee:</i>	J. Hammond J. Gregory C. Sainsbury
<i>Breakages Man:</i> <i>Broom Warden:</i>	J. Norbury R. Hall
<i>Meeting Reform Committee:</i>	P. Griffiths M. Hastings W. Hammond J. Barnett A. Powell J. Lutwyche

Valete

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

Corrin Adshead, Robert Anderson, Mark Astill, David Aylott, Daniel Beales, Gillian Bell, Giles Branch, Barnabas Branston, Alexander Brealy, Thomas Burns, Fiona Carlisle, Andrew Cayton, Dominic Clark, Pollyana Cochrane, Giles Davies, Robert Draper, Ian Ford, Theresa Fox, Juliet Hasler, Annalisa Heal, Kevin Hewston, Roderick Hill, Tanya Holden, Matthew Houseman, Raquel Hughes, Darren John, Simon Kingscote, Kerry Mallindine, James Mann, Susan Maton, Christopher Moody, Amanda Moore, Philip Moore, Nicola Newell, Polly Nicholls, Justin Noyce, Julian Odell, James Penneck, Christopher Pope, Timothy Prince, Simon Reichwald, Matthew Reid, Angus Rollo, Justin Rosa, Henrietta Rothman, Susanna Van Moyland, Rachel Waddington, Lisa Wallace, Mark Walters, Nicholas Wharmby, Iain Whittaker, Stephen Young, Adam Binder, Richard Reichwald, Emma Sprawson, Ian McMurtrie, Geoffrey Broomfield, Robert Bugden, Thomas Eastham, Andrew Kinch, David Norton, Sean Tate, Paul Wilson, Richard Wooster, Jethro Woodcraft.

Salvete

We welcome the following in September 1987:

Elsbeth Anderson, Ann-Marie Chapman, Rachel Davis, Stephen Gammage, Lara Haine, Sandra Hardy, Anne-Marie Hobart, Jeremy Jenkin, Clare Mallindine, Lucy Merrett, Sara Deacon, Jessica Naish, Gemma Noyce, Katryn Russell-Duff, Hilary Sumsion, Susan Waddington, Kate Woodward, Alastair Baker, James Dowbiggin, Glen Harris, Marcus Head, Christopher Payne, Matthew Percival, Simon Ricketts, Cass Silchenstedt, Jason Smith, Christopher Walsh, Mark Valentine, James Bainbridge, Andrew Branston, Barrie Davies, Charles Dudbridge, Matthew Gee, Daniel Irving, Christopher Lawton, Andrew McIndoe, Christopher Norman, Matthew-James Pentney, Nicholas Pollard, Robert Sage, Paul Walsh, Charles Waters, Julian Wilkie.

Old Rendcombian Society

Officers

<i>President:</i>	A. E. A. Brain (1929-37)
<i>Chairman:</i>	M. C. Jones (1954-62)
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	B. L. M. Smith (1965-72)
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs J. Gunner (1975-77)
<i>Treasurer</i>	R. B. Barrett (1969-76)
<i>School Representative and Editor of Newsletter</i>	W. J. D. White (Staff 1961-)
<i>London Representative</i>	D. Beanland (1974-79)
<i>Girls' Representative</i>	F. Wilkins (1983-85)
<i>Rugby Secretary</i>	A. D. Payne (1979-84)
<i>Hockey Secretary</i>	B. Branston (1982-87)
<i>Cricket Secretary</i>	J. Healey (1981-86)
<i>Tennis Secretary</i>	J. Allen (1975-80)

Marriages

Jeremy Stupple (1972-76) to Carol Stuart, July 1986.

Shaun Brennan (1972-79) to Jill Dingley,
September 1986.

Nigel Powell (1967-74) to Catherine Newbould,
September 1986.

Alisdair Wilson (1969-77) to Rebecca Rose October
1986.

Simon Howell (1972-79) to Ann Kshirsagar, August 1986.

Philip Chivers (1975-82) to Sara Norcott, June 1985.

Martin Graham (Staff 1985-) to Aileen Smith,
August 1986.

David Mackonockie (1967-72) to Bridget Mortimer,
April 1983.

Nigel Burgess (1974-77) to Bernice Taylor, March 1987.

Richard Pitt (1973-80) to Pamela Massey, April 1987.

Births

To **Tessa** (1974-76) and **Steve** (1969-76) **Hicks**, a
daughter, Gemma Katherine, April 1986.

To **Sally** (1975-77) and Jonathan **Ede**, a daughter, Olivia
Catherine, September 1986.

To **Jane** (1975-77) and Richard **Gunner**, a son, Luke
Joseph, April 1987.

Deaths

We have learnt with much sorrow of the deaths of the
following:

Christian Lee (1972-77) following an accident in Hong
Kong early in 1986.

Dick Field (1924-31) died in October 1986. On leaving
Rendcomb, he studied at the Royal College of Art. After
war service in the Middle East, he became Art Adviser to
schools and colleges in the West Riding. From 1953 to
1962 he was Head of the School of Art Education at
Birmingham College of Art. From this post he went on to
become Senior Lecturer and Head of the Art Department
at the Institute of Education, London University. He was
also an examiner in Art at a number of Universities and
was Chairman of the Board of Studies in Art at the
Cambridge Institute of Education. He was the author of a

number of works including 'Change in Art Education'
and 'The Study of Education and Art' (1972). In 1983 he
published his account of his schooldays at Rendcomb,
entitled 'Champagne Days' and in 1986 a slim volume of
poems, 'Troop Ship', written in 1941 on a ship bound for
the Middle East. Our deepest sympathies go to his
widow, Molly, and their family.



Timothy Daniels (top)

News of Old Rendcombians

Timothy Daniels (1975-82) joined the Royal Marines
after graduating at Nene College of Further Education.
Last May he wrote about his experiences of the first
stages of officer training. "My time is taken up by
extremely hard work, 'though a lot of it is gratifying in
meeting the extremely high standards set. After many
Februarys spent playing hockey on Top in driving
blizzards, Dartmoor held no evils, 'though I admit that
one exercise at Sennybridge training area when the
temperature did not rise above 19°C for the ten days we
were on the ground was a stultifying experience.
Training has been every schoolboy's dream with regard
to excitement - abseiling from helicopters, tearing about
in Land Rovers, landing from raiding craft in the dead of
night, cliff assaults, etc. - it is this which, coupled with
the intense 'esprit de corps', makes life worthwhile. All
efforts are now concentrated on passing the commando
phase of training which culminates in a week of intense
physical effort - the ultimate test being a 30 mile run
across Dartmoor carrying kit and rifle and to be
completed in under six hours..." He now has his 'green
beret' and is on secondment to the Scots Guards.

John Quick (1937-41) retired from W. D. and H. O. Wills in Bristol in 1982. Since then he has set up as a consultant electrical engineer; although he has enjoyed this he wants to find time for more voluntary activities locally and is running the business down. He is Chairman of the Bristol area of the Institution of Electrical Engineers for 1986/87.

Desmond Knox (1970-75) has completed a M. Sc. Conversion Course in computer science at Hatfield Polytechnic, with distinction. As a result he was offered a research post at the Polytechnic, which he has held for two years; this is, as he says, quite a change after four years on the dole. His brother **Bill** (1973-78) together with **Alan Fidler** and **Kevin Nunan** all work as dispatch riders and part-time musicians in London.

Nigel Powell (1967-74) works for Tandem Computers. He specialises in providing European Consultancy Services and his wife is manager of customer education in the same firm.

Nigel Wren (1977-80) has graduated in Economics at Portsmouth Polytechnic and is a trainee accountant with Bowaters.

Anthony Rose (1965-71) is a consultant anaesthetist in Blackburn.

Philip Cutts (1934-42) is Chairman of the Cotswold District Council.

Niven Boyd (1965-72) visited the school in November. He is enjoying his acting career and was recently seen in some episodes of 'The Singing Detective'.

Peter Callaghan (1956-61) has been made a member of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. The honour, which brings with it the Freedom of the City of London, has been conferred on him for his firm's work in repairing the clock on the Parish Church in Cirencester.

Christopher Hart (1970-77) passed his Chartered Surveyors exams in June and is now with Hampton & Sons 'selling expensive houses in Esher'.

Ann Pilgrim (née Rickards) (1976-78) works as an Account Manager for a sales promotion company.

Jennifer Lane (1980-81) is in her third year at Cologne Medical School.

David Hogarth (1958-64) is Managing Consultant for Scicon Ltd. (Computer Systems, Services and Consultancy). He is now based in London after tours in Iran (76-78), Saudi Arabia ('80-'82), Oman ('83-'85) and South Korea! He is married with two children.

Derek Tanner (1978-81) obtained a distinction in the Higher National Diploma in Tourism at Luton and is now with Aer Lingus as Reservations Agent in London.

Philip Chivers (1975-82) has been working as a computer programmer in Redditch since 1984. In 1985 he married Sara Norcott, whom some of his contemporaries may remember from Pate's Girls Grammar School.

Susan Stanhope (1972-74) is Head of Art at a Comprehensive School in Truro.

Peter Uglow (1974-81) has joined the West Midlands Police Force. His brother, **Michael**, is a third year medical student at St George's Hospital, London.

Christopher Brealy (1976-81) graduated in the History of Architecture at Edinburgh and is now employed with a Conservatory Construction firm in London.

Andrew Hall (1980-85) has completed his initial training in the RAF He is now a Pilot Officer.

Philip Paterson-Fox (1979-84) is at Southampton University reading Politics and International Studies - and also playing rugby. His brother, **Neil**, hopes to join him at Southampton in October 1987.

Barny Hatcher (1978-85) is reading Business Studies at Sheffield University.

Jo Merrett (1983-85) is at St Andrew's University reading English.

James Hutton-Potts (1977-84) is reading Politics at Hull University.

Richard Hayward (1978-84) is on a four year B. Ed. course at Birmingham University.

Toby Brealy (1978-85) is at Harrow Art College and is also studying accountancy.

Penelope Green (1977-79) (née Hooley) is with the Personnel Department of Schlumberger, an oil service company.

David Mackonockie (1967-72) works for Barclay's Bank in Reading.

Keith Winnill (1972-79) has been appointed branch manager of the Highworth office of the Stroud Building Society; he was previously assistant manager at Cirencester.

Christopher Morshead (1975-78) graduated from the Engineering College at Manadon, Plymouth, last summer. He then flew out to Singapore to join HMS Illustrious for the cruise back to the UK, where he met **Timothy Nicholas** (1969-76). He has also been in touch with **Roy Edwards** (1972-79) and **Anna Hummel** (1977-79).

Christopher Pulford (1970-77) is at present a curate in Liverpool; in September he will take up the post of Chaplain at Berkhamstead School.

Duncan Taylor (1972-79) has left J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency and is now managing his uncle's bacon factory in Yorkshire.

Karen Alder (1983-85) spent a year with NEI Parsons before going up to Queen's College, Cambridge, to read Engineering.

Simon Wormleighton (1968-75) was awarded a Ph.D. in English at Exeter University last July for his thesis entitled 'A Study of the Romantic Impulse in the Work of Wilfred Owen, with particular reference to the idea of the hero and images of darkness'. He spent 1986 as teacher of English and boarding master at Magdalen College School, Brackley. He is now hoping to find a job in publishing.

Isobel Nicholas (1975-77) did an M.Sc. in Toxicology at Birmingham University with a Medical Research Council award after graduating at King's College, London. She won the Fisch's Pharmaceutical prize for the best research project of the year. She now works as an assistant editor for IMS World Publications which specialises in the pharmaceutical industry.

David Mabblerley (1960-67) who is Dean of Wadham College, Oxford, spent the summer teaching at a University in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Adrian Patrick (1963-70) is in the oil exploration business. He returned to England from Canada in 1985 and is working at his firm's headquarters in London. He is married with two daughters.

Ruth Beckett (1972-74) writes: "I am marketing manager for 3M Health Care based in Loughborough and living about thirteen miles away close to the site of the battle of Bosworth! At the moment I work exclusively on ophthalmic products but expect a change to a new product very shortly. I am very happy in the world of business management and industrial marketing and have no regrets at all about leaving a more academic background and the laboratory bench. **Rosie** (1974-76) works for a photographic agency in London and **Simon** (1970-76) continues as a cabinet maker. He has also become a fanatical coarse fisherman, winning competitions fairly regularly".

Sarah Robinson (1975-77) has returned from Hong Kong and is working for Lloyds of London.

Richard Tudor (1973-80) is in charge of the vice and drugs squad in the Hong Kong Police Force.

Nick Price (1973-80) is currently looking after dollar Eurobond trading at Sogen Securities in Tokyo on behalf of SGST London.

Donald Pearce (1969-74) runs his own agricultural contracting business in Maisemore and continues to play a great deal of cricket.

Dominic Ind (1973-80) runs a Marine Insurance Agency, specialising in yachting insurance. **Tim Clark** is also in the insurance business in London.

Peter Binks (1935-41) has sent details of the Adult Training Centre at which he works at Doncaster, Victoria, Australia. This centre specialises in training staff to work with mentally retarded adults. He would be interested to hear from other OR's who have experience of this work.

Philip Evans (1972-79) has obtained his D. Phil. at Oxford and is now doing Chemical Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nick Marlow (1973-78) is with Walker Crossweller.

Nick and Elaine Roberts (1969-74) - and baby Christopher - are now working for a Catholic Aid Organisation in Juba, South Sudan. They are thoroughly enjoying a fairly adventurous life.

Christopher Mansfield (1977-84) is working in Tottenham with the psychiatrically ill.

Richard Bendy (1979-84) is with the Anthea Foote Conference Organisation as an assistant.

Graham Moore (1971-78) is running his own garden design and developing business in Henley-on-Thames. He studied horticulture at Cambridge Technical College and then spent three years with Kennedy's Garden Centres.

The Editors are grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for permission to reprint extracts from their 1987 newsletter.

News of Recent Leavers

Nicholas Badcott
Lancaster University - History

Mark Bailey
Working for British Airways

Thomas Branston
Cheltenham College of Art - B. Tech. in Fashion Design

Sara Butler
Kent University - Geography

Charlotte Carroll
Brighton Polytechnic - Chemistry and Energy Studies

Katherine Conway
Durham University - Geography

Matthew Cordeux
Working in Barristers' Chambers in London before going to Leicester University (Law)

Alan Doyle
Reading University - Psychology

Kevin Elderfield
Bath University - French and German

Caroline Eldridge
Gloucestershire College of Art - Foundation Course

Claire Ellis
Pembroke College, Oxford - Chemistry

Kristin Ewing
University College, London - English

Catherine Faircloth
Cardiff Polytechnic - Law (1987)

Mark Hammond
University College, London - Philosophy

Sarah Hassall
Lanchester Polytechnic - Modern Studies

Alex Hayes
Baring Bros. - Bankers

John Healey
Birmingham University - Law (1987)

Christopher Jones
Pembroke College, Oxford - History (1987)

Reza Khosrowshahi
Royal Holloway College - French and History

Darryl King
Institute of Commercial Management -
HND Business Studies

Karl Knight
Bangor University - Banking and Finance
(Midland Bank sponsorship)

Janet Larroucau
Edinburgh University - Biological Science

Richard Moss
Loughborough University - Geography

Timothy Needham
Silsoe Agricultural College - B.Sc. Agricultural
Engineering

Adam Pallant
Bristol University - Biological Sciences

Jonathan Quick
Newcastle Polytechnic - Travel and Tourism

Mary Reynolds
Secretarial Course

Timothy Robinson
Exeter University - Law

Louisa Roseblade
Newcastle University - Engineering

Eleanor Rowe
Exeter University - English

Dominic Scarlett
Barclay's Bank Trainee Manager

Paul Spackman
Plymouth Polytechnic - Geography

Martin Stitt
Christ Church, Oxford - Biology

Mark Thompson

Civil Service - GCHQ

Edwina Thring

French Institute, London

Angus Trowern

Southampton University - Biology and Oceanography

Katrina Walsh

Oxford Polytechnic - English and Publishing (1988)

Nicholas Webb

Farming

Alan Edwards

Farming

Christopher Eames

Marling School, Stroud

Piers Bowley

Cirencester School

Simon Bird

Boston College of Further Education

Mark Croft

King's School, Worcester

Edward Crowther

In business

David Paton

Hereford Technical College

Jonathan Suffolk

Trainee Stage Manager, Bristol Old Vic

Anthony Maslin

Working for McDonald's at Oxford

Kerstin Waterloh

Southampton University - Biological Sciences

Samantha Evans

Leeds University - Business Studies

Fiona Wilkins

Leeds University - Psychology

Darrell Adshead

St Andrew's University - German and Business Studies

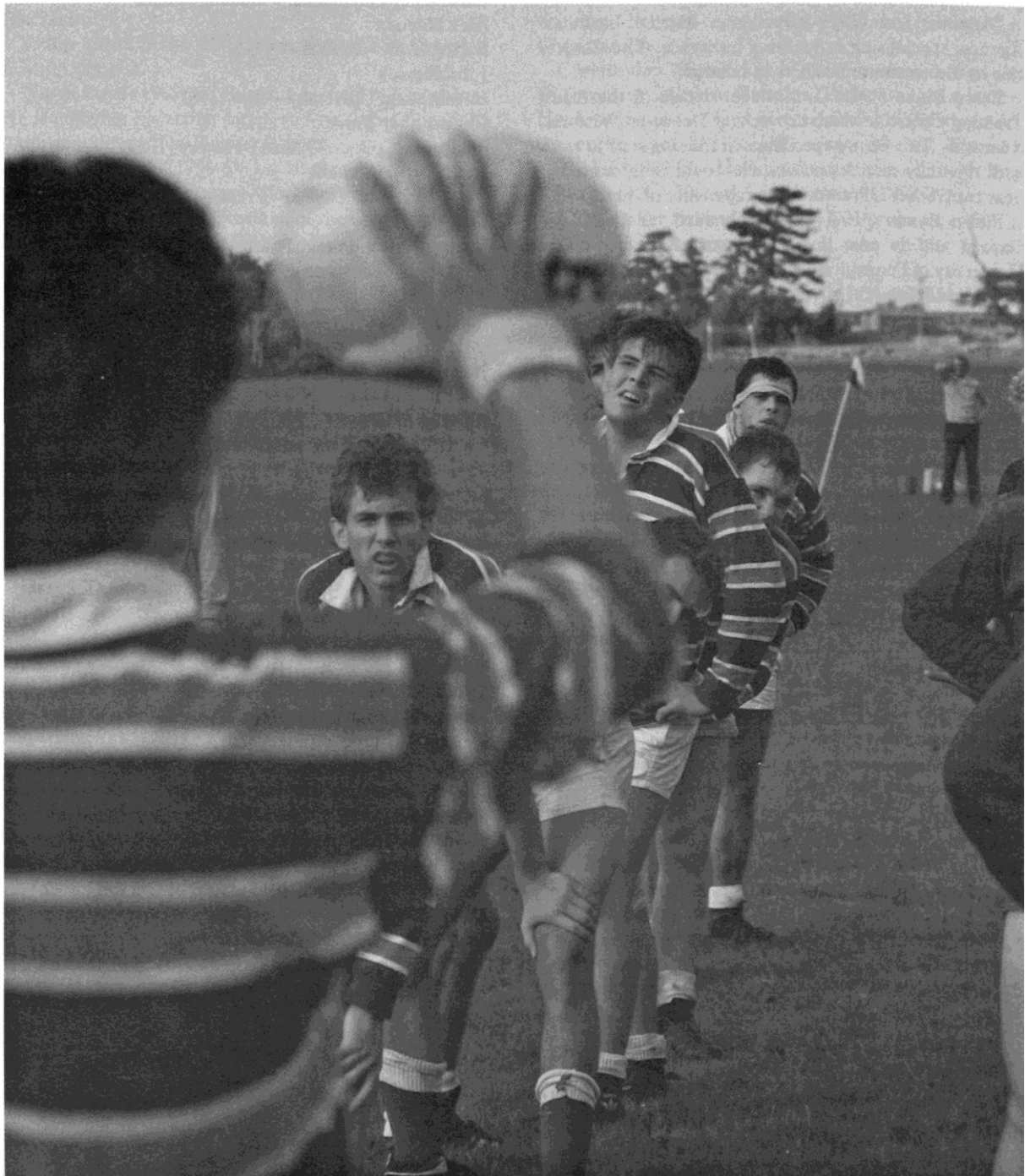
Andrew Rontree

Leeds University - History

Claire Newth

Bristol University- Dietetics (1988)

C. J. Wood



Boys' Sport

Rugby Football

Good weather throughout the term allowed a very full fixture list to be completed, with most matches being played in perfect conditions for rugby, the nine teams playing a total of 90 matches (well over double the number played ten years ago) with more than 170 boys representing the school. The junior sides under Mr Kelsey and Mr Graham produced some spirited performances and enjoyed their rugby, whilst the Under 14s and Under 15s showed their outstanding strength and depth of talent; their records at both 'A' and 'B' level were second to none! In the seniors a Colt squad replaced the old 3rd XV, allowing the Under 16s to develop their skills and confidence with their own age group under Mr Hannaford and Mr Haslett and, although the 2nd XV were hit by the change in the system, their performance, especially during the latter part of the term, was very pleasing.

The 1st XV, although a mediocre side on paper owing to a lack of individual 'stars' especially in the key positions, proved that if the attitude is right then the goods can be produced! The effort and commitment of all the squad members both in training and matches was exceptional, which was justly rewarded by the development of an exciting and very successful style of open play; the six consecutive wins after half-term reflected this point! The highlights for me were the Kingham Hill, Bloxham and Dean Close victories; the former because the team proved that it is possible to play a running, handling game even in atrocious wet, misty, cold and muddy conditions, and the latter because although being the 'underdogs' the XV played with terrific spirit, tenacity and ability and thoroughly deserved their victory. The only disappointment was the Monkton Combe match, where a long journey, a 'cold start', sustained inertia and a very able opposition who liked to run the ball led to a dismal performance and result. The Old Boys' match produced some good rugby; up front the School held their own despite opposition players like six feet six inches Mike Uglow (Captain of Rugby at St George's) and David Edwin (Cheltenham Colts). In the backs the ORs had a great deal of talent, with ex-School Captains Andrew Payne and John Healey (Bexley and Cirencester Colts respectively) along with Simon Jenkins (Cheltenham Colts) and Giles Brealy (RAC) proving too strong for the School.

Everyone played his part in the season's success, but particular mention must be made of David Aylott who contributed a great deal in his three years with the XV, not only through his playing ability but in his role as Vice-Captain this season; his influence certainly helped develop the effectiveness of the backs. Captain of Rugby Iain D. Whittaker deserves special commendation; his efforts and approach both on and off the park were exemplary. Iain showed particular ability to motivate the team by strong but sympathetic means, whilst his objectivity and decision-making developed throughout the season and proved vital on many occasions. However, at no time did

he lose sight of the crucial element of enjoyment; the effect of all this was the development of an excellent team spirit in the squad and a very open, handling style of play. My personal thanks to Iain for making it an excellent season; it was a pleasure to work with him.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who helped with the rugger this year; especially the dedicated and hard-working coaching staff, the Rugby Committee, Mr Essenhigh not only for his time and effort spent in preparing the pitches but for standing in at the last minute as guest speaker at the Rugby Club Dinner, Philip Moore for organising the latter so efficiently and Mr Tony Barrett and the Kitchen Staff, who helped make the Dinner a delightful and successful occasion. Finally, my thanks to the XV who made '86 an enjoyable and memorable season.

M. J. N.

Overall record:

Played 90; Won 52; Drew 3; Lost 35; Points for 1,278; Points against 1,160.

1st XV

In many respects this year's team overachieved, its most notable victories being over Dean Close, Bloxham and Wycliffe. It lacked the prodigious talent of last year, but overcame this with a kind of teamwork rarely seen. The style produced was a wide, open kind of 15-man rugby. Indeed it was this refreshing approach to the game and a willingness to run the ball, even out of defence, that was the root of our success.

In the backs, David Aylott, Barney Branstons, Alex Brealy and Daniel Beales combined, in their varying styles of speed, aggression and hard running, to produce an effective set of three-quarters. Giles Carter and Mark Hastings added to this, forging a special partnership that led to some superb play, and this augurs well for next season.

Up front the pack achieved a high technical standard that compensated for the perennial lack of size. Mobility was the essence of pack play, and in this aspect the back row, Simon Kingscote, Philip Moore and Giles Davies excelled. Mark Astill was superb in the line-outs and, with James McMonigall, provided a good second row which, along with Jonathan Chappelle, Iain Whittaker and Chris Moody formed a basically sound front line.

The team's attitude was positive and motivated at all times, and the close margin of the games bears witness to its tenacity. The team spirit was kindled by the warm and productive environment created by Mr Newby, whose enthusiasm and dedication took root throughout the side.

IAIN WHITTAKER

Played 16; Won 10; Lost 6; Points for 257; Points against 215.

v. Marlborough College 3rd XV (A)	Lost	3-7
v. Rednock School (H)	Won	17-14
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	7-21
v. Wycliffe College 2nd XV (A)	Won	16-8
v. Prince Henry's School (A)	Won	18-4
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	15-18
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	7-12
v. Bloxham School (A)	Won	14-10
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	0-44
v. Burford School (H)	Won	30-4
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	24-23
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	42-0
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won	14-4
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	19-10
v. Whitefriars School (H)	Won	27-14
v. Old Rendcombians (H)	Lost	4-22

Team from: I. Whittaker (Capt.), D. Aylott (Vice-Capt.), M. Astill, D. Beales, A. Brealy, J. Chappelle, G. Davies, R. Draper, B. Branston, G. Carter, M. Hastings, S. Kingscote, C. Moody, J. McMonigall, R. Matson, D. John, T. Burns, M. Rann, M. Houseman, P. Moore.

2nd XV

At the start of term, for the first time, I had a certain sympathy for Bobby Robson, the England Soccer Manager. I visualised the situation after 'we' have just played a crucial World Cup match, and Bobby is interviewed afterwards.

'Ron you've just seen your side lose 18-0 to Andorra. How do you feel?'

'Well, Brian, of course the lads are disappointed, but we knew Andorra would be a good side, and the lads gave 110%...'

Like Bobby Robson, I knew that the 2nd XV had a lot of spirit. I also thought that, by reputation, they would be likely to perform rather like Andorra might in reality. Nothing pleases me more than to see so-called national sporting experts have their public statements and predictions proved wrong. I can also say that I have been delighted that my pre-season predictions have been proved wrong. Indeed, if the team had had an ounce more self-belief, their record might have been even better.

The forwards emerged as a highly motivated and mobile pack. In the set play they were never bettered, except perhaps at Monkton Combe. Rod Hill and Justin Rosa were ever-present in the side, forming a solid platform. Julian Leigh progressed well as hooker. Stephen Young also played in that position, but it was his determination on the wing in the final games for which he will be remembered. Paul Griffiths showed tremendous determination, and by the end of term considerable skill, in the second row. Various partners kept him company, but the strength of Colin Sainsbury helped to make the best combination. The back row settled down to be an effective trio: the ever-present Stephen Green, the rugged Marcus Rann and the effective Christopher Huck. Huck developed particularly well this year and is to be congratulated on winning a place in the Gloucestershire County U16 team. He has started to apply his considerable

talent in a devastating fashion. Robert Matson made an invaluable contribution in all the matches he played for us.

Among the backs, things took a long time to settle down. However, the usual combination saw Tom Bums as a strong running and kicking outside half. Michael Attwood handled the ball well at inside centre, and Darren John kicked many valuable points. Alex Andreis played almost everywhere and as a result improved his knowledge of the game. On the wings we had a variety of representatives. Christopher Pope played with some determination, and the U16 players, Guy Cowie, David Kenney, Robert Bugden and Jason Carter all played with considerable vigour to give promise for the future.

Finally, the captain, Simon Reichwald, set the style of our play: enjoyment and enthusiasm with maximum effort was the order of the day. Simon was a first-class Second XV captain! If the team can recapture this attitude next season, the term should prove a most successful one, but I doubt if it will be more enjoyable.

C. P. M. K.

Played 12; Won 5; Lost 7; Points for 195; Points against 178.

v. Marlborough College 4th XV (A)	Lost	0-26
v. Rednock School (H)	Won	43-0
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	3-25
v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV (A)	Lost	10-36
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	3-17
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	0-10
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost	6-28
v. Burford School (H)	Won	50-0
v. Avonhurst School 1st XV (A)	Won	20-12
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Won	42-0
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won	14-12
v. Cirencester School (A)	Lost	4-12

Team from: S. Reichwald (Capt.), A. Andreis, M. Attwood, T. Burns, J. Chappelle, S. Green, P. Griffiths, M. Hastings, R. Hill, C. Huck, G. Carter, D. John, D. Hauton, J. Leigh, D. Kenney, R. Matson, M. Rann, C. Sainsbury, J. Rosa, S. Young, C. Pope.

Under 16 XV

This has been the first year that Rendcomb has produced an Under 16 side. In view of the small numbers in the squad and the loss of Robert Matson and Christopher Huck to the senior sides, the team had a good season. The half-back combination of Jason Carter and Jason Vernon matured as the season progressed; they have a lot of potential. Aubrey Powell's reliable line-out work and tackling were outstanding, whilst the commitment, drive and determination shown by Warren Hammond and Geoffrey Broomfield were an example to all. The strong running by the backs was recognised by the 2nd XV, and Guy Cowie, Robert Bugden and David Kenney acquitted themselves well in a number of games. The individual talents of William Sherwood and Grant Hughes were invaluable on a number of occasions.

We were smaller in stature than many of our opponents, but despite this Paul Wilson, Julian Norbury, Roland Martin, Jonathan Lutwyche, Matthew Faircloth and

Vaughan Tredwell played well for the team. The most encouraging feature of the season was the obvious improvement in skills and the increased level of enthusiasm shown by everyone. Mr Haslett's group started the season as a group of individuals lacking in confidence, but ended up playing some determined and attractive rugby. Russell Ogden and Sean Tate were as skilful and involved as any in training, whilst Colin Bannister, Anthony Bedford, Philip Matson, Richard Hardy and Simon Scott-White all showed that they were not without ability.

The draw at Dauntsey's was the highlight of the first part of the season. In this match Cowie and Sherwood scored the best tries of the year. The win at Dean Close was a fitting culmination to the hard work and commitment shown by the squad. Kingswood and Bloxham would have been close games with this fifteen in this mood. However, the success of this year will depend on how many of this squad stick together and play senior rugby. We hope to see all the players mentioned above playing in either the 1st or 2nd XV next year.

Finally we would like to thank the Captain, Julian Fellows, who was an inspiration to everybody and a calm, efficient leader on and off the field. Good luck to you all in 1987.

R. C. H.
L. J. H.

Played 10; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 3; Points for 116; Points against 131.

v. Marlborough College U16 'B' XV (A)	Won	13-4
v. Kingswood School (A)	Lost	0-40
v. Wycliffe College U16 'B' XV (A)	Lost	4-15
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	16-4
v. Bredon School 1st XV (A)	Won	17-10
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Drew	13-13
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-24
v. Monkton Combe School U16 'B' XV (H)	Won	7-4
v. Farmor's School 1st XV (H)	Won	32-13
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	14-4



U15 XV

C. J. Wood

Team from: J. Fellows (Capt.), J. Carter (Vice-Capt.), J. Norbury, R. Martin, W. Hammond, A. Powell, D. Kenney, P. Wilson, G. Broomfield, J. Vernon, G. Cowie, R. Bugden, M. Faircloth, G. Hughes, W. Sherwood, S. Scott-White, R. Ogden, V. Tredwell, J. Lutwyche.

Under 15 'A' XV

This was the best and most successful U15 side that I have taken in my 23 years of rugby at Rendcomb! We won all but one of our matches, the only defeat being against Kingswood in a very tight game.

We were fortunate in having plenty of good players to choose from, and when an injury occurred a good substitute was always available from the 'B' XV.

Although the forwards often faced larger and stronger opposition, they managed to obtain enough possession for the backs. Their main weakness was their unwillingness to get their heads down in the rucks.

Nicholas Hall was a good hooker; Christopher Hauton and Arwyn Jones proved an excellent pair of flankers, and Kevin Holmes and James Gregory showed some skilful touches at the end of the season.

Tom Nicholls, at scrum-half, put his opposite number under constant pressure and provided the three-quarters with a good service. The fly-half, Peter Grimsdale, had an excellent season. His kicking was outstanding, particularly against the stronger sides. Ben Maslen and Joe Hammond in the centre, with their power and speed, penetrated most teams' defences and scored many fine tries. John Carroll continued to do well at full-back and never let the side down.

These boys should continue to do well at Under 16 level. I would not be surprised to see one or two make a senior XV by the end of next season. It has been a pleasure to be involved with this group.

C. C. B.

Played 11; Won 10; Lost 1; Points for 187; Points against 78.

v. Rednock School (A)	Won	39-16
v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	14-18
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	7-6
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	34-0
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won	12-7
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won	6-4
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Won	13-6
v. Burford School (H)	Won	26-3
v. Cokethorpe School (H)	Won	20-6
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	8-0
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	14-12

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

Under 15 'B' XV

After a disappointing run of defeats, the team concluded the season with a series of closely fought and fiercely competitive matches. In the final match they came back to win 12-10 after trailing for most of the second half. The quality of the team is shown by the fact that a few of them moved up to the 'A' XV during the season, all playing with commitment and determination, taking their part in the success of that team. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the season was the way the side enjoyed their rugby throughout; nearly all will be making a valuable contribution when they move higher up the school.

D. O'C.

Played 7; Won 2; Lost 5; Points for 36; Points against 132.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Lost 0-24
v. Bredon School 'A' XV (A)	Lost 10-22
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost 4-18
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Lost 0-42
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 6-4
v. Kingshill School 'A' XV (A)	Lost 4-12
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won 12-10

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



U15 XV

C. J. Wood

Under 14 'A' XV

This was an excellent season in every way. The results were as good as those of any Under 14 side I can remember, and the squad thoroughly deserved the success they achieved, not just for the way they played, but for their approach and enthusiasm for the game. We were fortunate not to have any injuries, so the team was basically the same throughout the season, and the more they played together the better they became.

There were some outstanding individual performances during the season - and with the two centres scoring over 100 points between them, we were bound to do quite well - but this should not detract at all from the way they played as a team. The forwards this year gained much more possession than usual, and in this department Andrew Digney and Matthew Rogers were outstanding; the aggression and work-rate of Richard Rowlatt was a bonus. The half-back combination of Nicholas Wood and Daniel Maslen did a superb job of providing that vital link between forwards and backs and, as already mentioned, Kojo Annan and Richard Hughes were indeed dangerous in the centre. It was a joy to watch William King's all-round skill at full-back, which shows a great promise for the future.

As the squad progresses through the school, I hope that they will continue to listen and learn and work at their game as they have this year, for they have the talent to develop into a very exciting team.

With such a successful season it would be nice to mention all the players for their efforts, but I must single out Daniel Maslen and say what a good job he did, not only in captaining, encouraging and organising the team, but also for his work off the pitch. I wish the team continued success in the future.

P. S.

Played 14; Won 11; Lost 3; Points for 334; Points against 134.

v. St Edward's School, Oxford (A)	Lost 6-16
v. Rednock School (A)	Won 22-8
v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost 6-8
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won 44-0
v. Farmor's School (A)	Won 22-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won 12-11
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won 22-8
v. Bloxham School (H)	Won 12-10
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost 12-24
v. Avonhurst School (A)	Won 62-0
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won 28-8
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won 30-9
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won 26-8
v. Bredon School (A)	Won 40-4

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

Under 14 B' XV

This proved a successful year for the 'B' team, with three wins, two draws and two defeats. However, the results are only a guide to the spirit, effort and sometimes quality of the play displayed during the term. By no means a large side physically, even by Rendcomb 'B' standards, they proved a good match to all their opposition, except the Bredon 'A' team; here they were totally mismatched this year, the game being wholly dominated by their large, powerful and skilful fly-half. Despite my early reservations about their size, they showed great skill and good running play to beat a weak Wycliffe team in the first match, following this with an excellent display and win at Bloxham. They did well owing to good spirit and an ability to out-think physically larger opponents. This was especially true at Monkton Combe where, after an incredibly tense match, we came away with a 0-0 draw.

The side lost some confidence after the Bredon game, but still drew with a heavy Kingshill team and beat Kingham in another good display. Unfortunately Dean Close were too strong for us, and we were unable to stop their powerful and skilful backs.

Besides thanking Leigh Thompson and Michael Moody for their excellent work as captain and vice-captain, I shall mention no other names, as this was a good, enjoyable term with much encouraging rugby played by a group whose success was based on all-round team play and support. Well done, all of you.

M. S. G.

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 2; Points for 70; Points against 94.

v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	34-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Won	14-8
v. Monkton Combe School (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Bredon School U14 'A' (H)	Lost	0-50
v. Kingshill School U14 'A' (A)	Drew	4-4
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	14-8
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	4-24

Team from: L. Thompson (Capt.), M. Moody (Vice-Capt.), N. Bayliss, C. Brown, D. Chapman, A. Digney, P. Evans, P. Gorman, A. Halliwell, S. Hardie, R. Herbert, S. Hett, P. Neve, R. Parsons, T. Shillington-Balfour, P. Smithson, I. Spencer, J. Tomsett, N. Utting, O. Ward.

Under 13 XV

On the whole, the XV had a balanced season. An excellent victory at Dauntsey's was followed by a drubbing at the hands of a very strong St Hugh's side. Indifferent displays against Prior Park and Kingham Hill were matched by some excellent rugby against Bredon and Kingsmill. With only a small squad to choose from, much depended on a few key individuals and the avoidance of injuries. Fortunately we were able to field a settled side for much of the term. Graham Bennett had a good season at scrum-half and he linked up well with Nicholas Smith at stand-off. Gareth Davies played a captain's part in the centre, always inventive in open play. The backs worked well as a unit from mid-season, and we were fortunate that both Smith and Davies were good kickers. The forwards struggled occasionally against larger packs, but their determination was evident. Graham Lawton was a very talented flanker and was always in the thick of the action, ably abetted by James Ursell and John Wheeler in loose play. The front-row combination of Nathan Houseman, Andrew Pollard and Henry Pugh also battled away very well in the scrum.

Many individual episodes stand out - Antony Palin's try against Kingsmill, the dogged defence against Dauntsey's in the closing minutes, the tackling of Jonathan Roney and Neil McMurtrie, the penalty kicking of Nicholas Smith - but most impressive of all was the enjoyment and commitment shown by the whole team. Not every match was won, but even the defeats had their good points, and the victories were well-earned and deserved. There is a lot of promise for the future here.

M. H. G.

Played 8; Won 4; Lost 4; Points for 60; Points against 108.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	0-14
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Won	8-0
v. St Hugh's School (H)	Lost	0-24
v. Prior Park School (A)	Lost	0-36
v. Bredon School (H)	Won	12-4
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	12-0
v. Kingham Hill School (A)	Lost	6-18
v. Kingsmill School (H)	Won	22-12

Team from: G. Davies (Capt.), P. Evans, M. Smith, N. S. Smith, N. McMurtrie, G. Bennett, N. Houseman, G. Lawton, J. Madeley, A. Palin, A. Pollard, J. Roney, J. Ursell, J. Wheeler - also played: J. Grafton, M. Norman, T. Underwood, S. Vernon.

U13 XV

C. J. Wood



Hockey

Statistical analysis of sport in the Lent Term can be depressing, but at the same time it can be very interesting: of 27 games days we were able to use Top Field fully on 11 occasions only; however, 74 matches were played against other schools, colleges and clubs, owing partly to the increasing number of all-weather surfaces in the area. The 1st XI experienced artificial grass pitches at Marlborough College and at the Royal Agricultural College, but they played their best games on the older, redgra surfaces, especially under floodlights in Cirencester against the hockey club.

Overall: Played 74; Won 30; Drew 16; Lost 28; Goals for 143; Goals against 156.

Once again, very few boys opted out of hockey, and it was encouraging to see a renewed interest in the former practice of asphalt hockey during free time. There are a large number of keen goalkeepers throughout the school, and they were put through their paces at an intense, if belated, coaching period, which proved that goalkeepers need to be fit, agile and, of course, fearless!

Despite the services of Peter Sudbury and Dominic O'Connor, staffing this game was particularly difficult, owing to illness; several coaches are to be thanked for taking extra games on many occasions. We were very fortunate to have a parent/RAF umpire in Squadron Leader Parsons, who umpired several matches, his high standards appreciated by staff and boys alike. There were no changes in the rules themselves, only in their interpretation, and the aerial ball was easier to umpire as a result of this.

New fixtures were made with Monkton Combe, not played owing to snow, King's School, Worcester, Christ College, Brecon (U13), Cirencester Hockey Club (1st) and The Downs, Malvern (U13 and U12). The 'ghost' fixture with Prior Park College was played for the first time since it was made in 1983!

Six boys played for the county this year: Under 18 - Barnabas Branston, Philip Moore and Alex Breal; Under 14 - William King, Andrew MacKinnon and Nicholas S. Smith.

The administration of the first game ran particularly smoothly, thanks to the positive and sensible approach of the 1st XI captain, Barnabas Branston, and his vice-captain, Mark Astill, and the school equipment was ably cared for by Christopher Huck and Guy Cowie.

The senior games consisted of a large number of talented players who needed to be placed in the correct environment to produce their best. Consequently there were several changes in the composition of the 1st XI and a change in formation before a really effective team evolved. Branston led his team well on and off the field and tactically he encouraged them effectively, although they were taken by surprise in two of the earlier matches. As a back, he was fast and useful under the greatest of pressure, and during the season Mark Walters reached the same standard in the other back position. Thomas Burns played a type of sweeping role which suited his speed and tendency to roam, and in certain matches he created havoc amongst the opposition, setting up several goals. The half

line proved reliable, if a little hesitant to dominate the midfield, and the four forwards linked well, relying heavily on the skills of Philip Moore (16 goals) and Kevin Hewston (9 goals). Giles Carter showed considerable ability on the right side, and his experience will be invaluable next season. Astill, last year's goalkeeper, defended extremely well by timing his kicks and using his height to the best advantage. In addition, he saved two penalty strokes, which is quite an achievement in itself. This 1st XI was certainly enjoyable to coach and, when they all played well, they were a formidable unit and deserved their successes.

C. J. W.



1st XI

In spite of the weather, the XI had an almost full season, playing 14 out of 15 matches. However, the weather *did* affect the surfaces, so that we did not often play on a good grass pitch, but rather on various all-weather surfaces. We learned much from these faster surfaces and managed to adapt the square pass and faster distribution, with modest success, to our own game. The team's record, although statistically not as impressive as that of the 2nd XI, includes some more *valuable* scalps, most notably that of Dean Close who, despite fielding three internationals and going 2-0 up in the opening ten minutes, eventually succumbed to the more *team* game of the XI and lost 4-2.

However, at the other end of the scale, the XI was simply outclassed by Prior Park, as the result shows. It was, so far, the first fixture against them which has escaped cancellation, and we must wonder whether it was worth the wait! We did, however, learn much from the game and were able to use these lessons later in the season. A return fixture at home might have proved more favourable, as Rendcomb certainly did not adapt very well to their all-weather pitch.

In general, the build-up of play from the back was sound, although perhaps the wings were used too much, denying through-balls up the middle. However, the flanks

nonetheless worked very well in taking the ball up, most notably on the counter-attack, and thus their work was not fruitless. In spite of this, the shooting itself was at times poor, lacking speed, power and direction, and frequently shots were not followed up, missing many opportunities. The team was chosen from a squad of 14 and was really settled only by mid-season. Giles Carter deserved earlier recognition, in view of his performance and skill on the right wing but, this aside, the selection proved ultimately to be very sound. Philip Moore proved a very effective centre-forward, displaying a good tactician's mind and a good eye for a shot. Kevin Hewston led the attacks admirably on the left wing, showing much skill and sense in making the ball available, and he was equally well supported by Andrew Layton and Mark Hastings. The halves supported well both in attack and defence, and I hope that Julian Fellows has gleaned some valuable experience to use next season as centre-half. Alexander Breal proved a very reliable centre-half, constantly giving maximum effort to the team and displaying a good eye for the ball. Mark Walters excelled in defence, being both reliable and enthusiastic, and developed into one of the best players in the XI.

Thomas Burns saved many a situation by hovering defensively behind the full-backs, although perhaps a more attacking role would at times have been more profitable, as he is also a keen attacker. Lastly, Mark Astill, the 'keeper', was excellent, not only giving reliable performances in his position (most notably against the Old Rendcombians), but also as vice-captain, and I am indebted to him for much good advice and many helpful opinions.

BARNABAS BRANSTON

Played 14; Won 7; Drew 4; Lost 3; Goals for 33; Goals against 30.

v. Cheltenham College 2nd XI (A)	Won	3-2
v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (A)	Drew	0-0
v. Prior Park College (A)	Lost	0-5
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	3-1
v. Cheltenham HC Wednesday XI (H)	Won	6-5
v. Colston's School (H)	Drew	2-2
v. The Royal Agricultural College 2nd XI (A)		2-2
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	4-2
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	2-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-1
v. The Old Rendcombian Society (H)	Drew	2-2
v. Cirencester HC 'A' XI (A)	Won	3-2
v. King's School, Worcester (A)	Won	3-1

Team from: B. Branston (Capt.), M. Astill (Vice-Capt.), M. Walters, R. Draper, A. Breal, J. Fellows, S. Reichwald, G. Carter, M. Reid, T. Burns, P. Moore, A. Cayton, M. Hastings, K. Hewston.

2nd XI

An unbeaten record, well, almost! This year must have been one of the most successful seasons in a long time for the 2nd XI, losing only one match. The fact that this match was the final one did not, I hope, mar the memory of the season. The enthusiasm of the team on the field was evident, even if at times a little too much so! The defence could be relied on at all times to remain solid, and Christopher Huck showed himself a reliable and strong defence man. The attack proved very effective; when Giles Carter and Mark Hastings combined, they were both dangerous and successful, despite their antics! Jason Vernon and Stephen Green both played important roles on the wings, providing a lot of very good crosses. Andrew Cayton, who played for the XI at the start of the season, showed everyone his ability to score goals, getting three against Cheltenham; unfortunately for us, he moved on to better things! Geoffrey Broomfield played reliably at half, occasionally showing considerable flair. Of course, a report would not be complete without a word about our goalkeeper, Robert Matson; his contribution was invaluable, saving us on many occasions.

Finally, I would like to thank both David Essenhigh and Tim Lane for their enthusiasm and devotion to the team; I hope we lived up to their expectations and that next year's squad will have the same success!

SIMON REICHWALD

Played 9; Won 3; Drew 5; Lost 1; Goals for 15; Goals against 11.

v. Cheltenham College 3rd XI (A)	Won	5-0
v. Marlborough College 3rd XI (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Prior Park College (H)	Won	2-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Drew	1-1
v. Colston's School (H)	Won	1-0
v. Bloxham School (A)	Drew	1-1
v. The Crypt School 1st XI (H)	Drew	0-0
v. The Old Rendcombian Society 2nd XI (H)	Drew	3-3
v. Bournside School (H)	Lost	0-3

Team from: S. Reichwald (Capt.), A. Cayton, A. Rollo, D. Clark, M. Reid, M. Hastings, G. Carter, S. Green, J. Barnett, R. Matson, C. Huck, J. Vernon, G. Broomfield, J. Penneck, C. Pope, W. Sherwood, N. Wharmby, D. Beales.

3rd XI

Overall we had a very good season. Unfortunately, with Tim Lane unable to take games, we played Marlborough and Prior Park when I was in charge of the 2nd XI. This meant that we had not really sorted ourselves out, and we lost both matches. However, from then on we played really well, with many good performances from our young players, which bodes well for the 1st and 2nd XIs next year.

Christopher Moody captained the side very well and also put in many good displays on the right wing. Mention must also be made of David Hauton, who stood in for us when Iain Whittaker was ill and never let us down.

All the defence played well: James Penneck, Darren John, Jason Carter, Christopher Pope and Giles Davis,

who never stopped running. Of the forwards, Grant Hughes had an excellent season, and Jonathan Lutwyche and Colin Bannister developed well as twin centre forwards; Nicholas Suffolk improved in every game on the left wing.

All those who stood in when others were ill, injured or away on interviews, never let the side down; in fact the standard of the 3rd and 4th XIs was very good; the 3rd XI beat the 2nd in a six-a-side contest.

I would like to thank Chris Wood, Dominic O'Connor and Martin Griffiths, who helped out when other staff were unfit.

D. E.

Played 8; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 25; Goals against 9.

v. Cheltenham College 4th XI (A)	Won	6-2
v. Marlborough College 4th XI (A)	Lost	0-3
v. Prior Park College (A)	Lost	0-3
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	2-0
v. Colston's School U16 XI (H)	Won	3-0
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Drew	0-0
v. The Crypt School 2nd XI (H)	Won	8-0
v. Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Won	6-1

Team from: C. Moody (Capt.), D. Hauton, I. Whittaker, J. Carter, J. Penneck, D. John, D. Houseman, D. Kenney, G. Davis, C. Pope, N. Wharmby, D. Beales, N. Suffolk, W. Sherwood, J. Lutwyche, C. Bannister, G. Hughes, A. Binder, P. Griffiths.

4th XI

A strong 4th XI maintained a nearly perfect record this season. Much of the credit must go to David Essenhigh's skilful coaching, which enabled the team to compete on equal terms with schools possessing wider facilities. Daniel Beales led the team for much of the season and provided inspiration as well as a strong presence in midfield. After a close draw against a strong Cheltenham side, the team settled down to score six convincing victories. The closest match was against King's School when, with the match heading towards a draw and only seconds remaining, Adam Binder managed to score from the tightest of angles. Credit must also go to Marcus Rann, who in the same match brought off a spectacular penalty save.

Throughout the season the side played with enthusiasm and teamwork. The forwards kept up a high scoring rate, averaging nearly four goals a game, while the defence maintained a tight grip and gave away little to opposition forwards. Congratulations to one and all!

D. O'C.

Played 7; Won 6; Drew 1; Goals for 20; Goals against 8.

v. Cheltenham College 5th XI (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Marlborough College 5th XI (H)	Won	4-2
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Won	3-0
v. Colston's School 3rd XI (A)	Won	4-2
v. Marling School 2nd XI (A)	Won	3-1
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	2-1
v. Bournside School 3rd XI (H)	Won	3-1

Team from: D. Beales (Capt.), D. Houseman, C. Hauton, D. Hauton, R. Reichwald, M. Rann, P. Griffiths, C. Bannister, A. Powell, J. Gregory, R. Ogden, A. Binder, W. Sherwood, S. Kingscote, D. Aylott, A. Andreis, N. Wharmby, T. Prince.

Under 15 XI

There were high hopes of success from this side at the start of the season but these were only to a degree realised. The mild disappointment was largely due to loss of form or lack of expected improvement by certain key players, this being aggravated by lack of practice and positional experimentation through poor weather early in the term. However, in the final weeks we were playing fast and constructive hockey, and the last two matches brought nine goals without reply, as the team grew in confidence and skill.

The first match, against Cheltenham College 'B', was comfortably won, and we then drew creditably against King Edward's, on their unfamiliar hard pitch, after a determined second half onslaught. The defeat by Marlborough College 'B' was unexpected, prompted by a lethargic display on a heavy pitch. By now our problem of not turning territorial pressure into goals was becoming acute, and this was again patent in the next match at Prior Park, Bath, where we scraped home 1-0 after playing much of the game in the opponents' half. Missed chances cost us even more dearly than at home against King's, Gloucester, where, after leading, we conceded two late goals; by now the frustration was almost tangible. The game at Colston's, although narrowly lost, was a more encouraging and gritty performance against a successful team, but a few days later we were well beaten on a quagmire at Bloxham - Bloxham were a good side but again we squandered chances, especially in the second half. Finally there were the convincing wins over royalty - King's, Worcester, and King's, Gloucester - the latter bringing sweet revenge for the earlier defeat. Thus the balance sheet ended about all square.

Initially we had two goalkeepers of similar merit but James Gregory solved the selection dilemma by breaking his arm, leaving Andrew Roney capably in sole charge between the posts. Roney had problems timing his runs and guarding his near post but made some useful saves. At full-back Steven Whiting was very safe and quick - the best player in the side in the opening matches. He was partnered by Kevin Holmes, who has a ferocious hit from defence and good tactical sense, but is as yet too slow about the field in the face of fast-breaking forwards; he was ultimately displaced by the more mobile Charles Paine, who took his opportunity well and showed much promise. Jo Hammond moved speedily around the acres at right-half, tidying up in defence and prodding the forwards, though his stickwork is cumbersome - fast legs, slow hands! A potential right-wing? Peter Grimsdale is probably a natural inside-forward but the team's balance required him at centre-half and he performed this role with pace and aggression; with more experience and less reverse-stick fiddling he will be a fine player. Robert Tate began the term with some reputation as a goalkeeper but emerged as a competent left-half; he was arguably the

most improved player in the side but needs to shorten his backlift and think more about his positioning. Guy Waller, right-wing, was constructive but a little slow for this position and too prone to take the ball awkwardly facing his own goal. Ben Maslen spent most of the season at inside-left but may be better suited to inside-right because of his habitual fiddling and obstructing on the reverse-stick; if he can tighten his game and distribute faster he will be a dangerous attacker with his tackle-breaking strength and speed. John Carroll looked the part at centre-forward but frequently flattered to deceive, missing good chances; he moved eventually to inside-left and this, or left-wing, may be his best place. Andrew Mackinnon played variously at centre-half and centre-forward and will be an effective utility player with more physical strength. The regular left-wing was Joe Nicholls, who was an intelligent, elusive runner and perhaps the most consistent of the forwards; his cleverly worked solo winner at Prior Park was a highlight. Tom Nicholls played occasional matches at inside-right but his skills (verbal and physical) tended to be distracting and destructive rather than constructive and he did not keep his place, despite fair ability.

An enjoyable season, then, under the captain, Ben Maslen, to whom I am grateful for all assistance and for his energetic example on the field. This team will surely become a strong 1st XI before long, if the talents develop and the motivation is maintained.

D. A. H.

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 4; Drew 1; Goals for 17; Goals against 14.

v. Cheltenham College 'B' (H)	Won	3-1
v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Marlborough College 'B' (H)	Lost	1-3
v. Prior Park College (A)	Won	1-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. The King's School, Worcester (H)	Won	3-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	6-0

Team from: B. Maslen (Capt.), A. Roney, J. Gregory, S. Whiting, K. Holmes, C. Paine, J. Hammond, P. Grimsdale, R. Tate, G. Waller, A. Mackinnon, J. Carroll, J. Nicholls, T. Nicholls, A. Clark.

Under 14 XI

It was a disappointing season for the team, who despite some talent were unable to produce good results in matches. Too few practice games early in the season meant that a settled team was difficult to find, and often they played without spirit or conviction. William King fulfilled his duties as captain well, but his obvious skill was not used to advantage until the last few matches. Charles Paine was the most solid defender until his promotion to the Under 15 team. In midfield Michael Moody and Nicholas Smith showed skill and determination, but were often overcome by size and numbers. Christopher Brown would have scored many more goals with more support. Andrew Digney and Kojo Annan were the players who improved most during the term. In goal Anthony Bunge was often let down by weak defensive play, but had many excellent saves.

The 'B' team had a good match against Prior Park College, losing 0-3; all their other matches were cancelled.

D. A. H.

Played 9; Won 2; Lost 7; Goals for 8; Goals against 29.

v. Cheltenham College U14 'B' XI (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Marlborough College U14 'B' XI (H)	Lost	0-4
v. Prior Park College (H)	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 1st	Lost	0-5
v. Colston's School (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	0-7
v. Bloxham School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Lost	0-1
v. The King's School, Worcester (A)	Won	4-2

Team from: W. King (Capt.), K. Annan, C. Brown, A. Digney, R. Herbert, S. Hett, D. Maslen, A. Mackinnon, M. Moody, C. Paine, R. Rowlatt, N. Smith, P. Smithson, N. Utting, A. von Westfalen-Bunge, N. Wood.

Under 13 XI

The season proved frustrating in many respects. The weather was against us, especially during the all-important early weeks. The lack of basic skills and experience, owing to the arctic problems last year, was very evident, and the teams we played were virtually all preparatory school 1st XIs, well drilled and with years of experience on their side.

D. Essenhigh



Despite this, the team played with great spirit and tenacity and by the end of the term were showing some good hockey. This could be seen in the improved scores in the 'home and away' fixtures; the victory over Cheltenham College Junior School was certainly well deserved, with everyone giving 100% effort and commitment. One pleasing feature was that there were no 'stars' in the group, and so they relied on team play, which will obviously help them all in future years.

Graham Lawton deserves particular mention for his role as captain; he always led his team by example and was very efficient both on and off the pitch.

M. J. N.

Played 6; Won 1; Lost 5; Goals for 2; Goals against 19.

v. Cheltenham College Junior School	Lost	0-5
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (A)	Lost	0-6
v. Cheltenham College Junior School	Won	1-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester	Lost	0-2
v. Oakley Hall School 1st XI (H)	Lost	1-2
v. The Downs School 1st XI (A)	Lost	0-4

Team from: G. Lawton (Capt.), G. Bennett, G. Davies, J. Grafton, N. Houseman, P. Irving, J. Madeley, A. Palin, H. Pugh, J. Roney, C. Scarlett, T. Underwood, J. Ursell, S. Vernon.

Under 12 XI

Despite a slow start caused by the inclement weather the enthusiasm shown by all players led rapidly to an improvement in basic skills and a greater understanding of the game. Although most of our matches were against more experienced sides, they were not as one-sided as the scores suggest, and in the second game against Oakley Hall the team showed real potential for the future.

P. J. S.

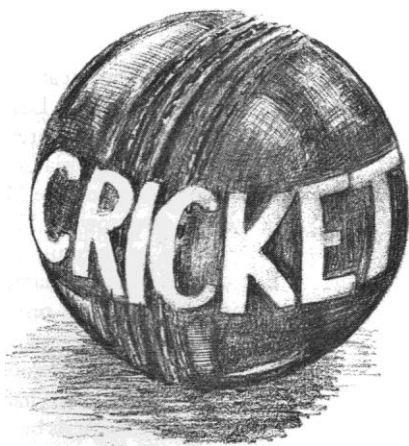
Played 5; Drew 1; Lost 4; Goals for 2; Goals against 21.

v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (H)	Lost	0-3
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XI (H)	Lost	0-5
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 3rd XI (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Oakley Hall School 2nd XI (A)	Drew	2-2
v. The Downs School 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-7

Team from: A. Beales (Capt.), C. Carmichael, H. Costelloe, P. Croft, N. Fischer, M. Giggs, A. Graham, S. Hall, R. Hutson, J. MacKinnon, P. Morgan, A. Platt, P. Williams, Y. Yakutieli.

C. J. Wood





Despite some rather miserable weather for most of the term, another successful season was had by all. Two major changes took place in the running of cricket at Rendcomb this year. The first, to bring it into line with the other major sports, made it optional only from the fifth year; the U15 'B' squad thus formed played with a lot of enthusiasm and in their only match were well on course for an easy victory when rain intervened, and we hope that this change will benefit senior cricket in years to come, more of the boys continuing with the sport. Secondly, the first cricket tour to Jersey by the 1st XI took place. This came about primarily owing to the decision that Fifth and Sixth Form examinees would no longer return to school for the final week of term. The tour turned out to be a resounding success, which you will read about later.

The 1st XI had a good blend of cricketers, who worked well as a unit and consequently produced some of the best results for a few years. A lot of credit must go to the boys themselves and also to David Essenhigh, who has worked with a number of the squad for some years now and has produced some fine attacking players. The U15 squad is very strong indeed, and some of them will be pushing for a 1st XI place next year. To see three bowlers working together was a joy and, coupled with some sound batting performances, produced the usual crop of good results. The U14 squad also maintained its usual high standard and, although the batting relied rather heavily on the top of the order, there is a lot of promise for the future. As for the juniors, I don't think I have ever seen as much enthusiasm for the game, and the delight shown by the U13 team when they defeated Kingham Hill in the final match was a well-deserved climax to their performance throughout the term.

Congratulations must go to John Carroll and Richard Milner for being selected for the county U15 and U14 teams respectively.

Finally, the season is successful only because of the efforts of a number of people. By the nature of the game a cricket match takes a long while, and many hours of umpiring and coaching, often in the rain and cold, have been given by the staff. I thank them very much, along with David Essenhigh for the grounds, the kitchen staff for the teas, and the 6B girls who did a tremendous job this year in preparing the food.

P. S.

1st XI

Once again, despite the cold weather during May and June, we played some excellent cricket, to remain unbeaten during the season. We played 14 matches, winning seven. The team played very well, with everyone joining in. A lot of credit must go to Iain Whittaker, who as captain led his team very well. Julian Fellows and Mark Astill formed a very useful opening pair and almost always got us off to a good start. William Sherwood, Tom Burns, Alex Brealy, Iain Whittaker and Barnabas Branston always followed up, making sure we got the runs.

Brealy was our main strike bowler, with 45 wickets, supported by Branston, Nicholas Suffolk and Christopher Huck.

The future looks promising, with many young players throughout the school having had a good season.

Lastly, I must thank Lindsay Haslett for his support with the 2nd XI.

D. E.

The team moulded into a far more positive and effective body as the season progressed. Unfortunately, with the influence of exams and poor weather, some of the early momentum was lost; however, the tour to Jersey recaptured the earlier form. The season, on paper, was one of the more successful in recent years, the product of the high level of commitment and enthusiasm exhibited by the squad.

The bowling attack turned out to be far more effective than was at first envisaged. Chris Huck, operating in short spells, produced a pace and bounce that bodes well for the future. The discovery of Nick Suffolk as a *bona fide* first change bowler significantly strengthened the side, with his ability to move the ball and bowl accurately. Barnabas Branston was a very able stock bowler, whose shining moment was in the crucial closing stages of the Wycliffe game, when his nagging length and line ensured the draw. Other bowlers were Cohn Bannister and Richard Reichwald, both of whom were unfortunate not to bowl more, but who have a considerable potential.

The batting was strong and did not suffer any of the traumatic collapses that have in the past occurred. The opening bats, Julian Fellows and Mark Astill, developed into a very good combination that provided the firm basis for many of the innings. Julian emerged as an immensely capable batsman, and Mark maintained the consistency and ability of seasons past. The middle-order batsmen, William Sherwood, Alex Brealy and Geoffrey Broomfield, all played extremely well, often being called upon to force the pace; it was a shame that they did not get the exposure they merited. Tom Burns developed as a mature player, demonstrating his capabilities in two good innings, against King's, Gloucester, and Cokethorpe. Barnabas Branston, with a uniquely cavalier style of batting, was invaluable as a late middle-order batsman. Darren John, a fringe player at the season's start, regained his form and justified his trip to Jersey with two good knocks, as well as displaying consistent fielding.

The season was extremely satisfactory in all aspects. The competitive spirit of the team meant that motivation was scarcely necessary. Thanks, as ever, must be extended to David Essenhigh for his work both as coach and as groundsman. I should like to thank the Vice Captain, Alex Brealy, who excelled as a bowler, with a remarkable tally of wickets taken, as well as displaying an inexhaustible reserve of stamina. 1987 must be marked as a season not only of considerable enjoyment, but also of success.

IAIN WHITTAKER

Played 11; Won 7; Drew 3; Abandoned 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday XI (H) - Won by 36 runs

Rendcomb 135 (Branston 32, Sherwood 27)

Swindon 99 (Brealy 7-31, Suffolk 3-11)

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Match drawn

Rendcomb 122 for 7 decl. (Sherwood 40*)

Wycliffe 119 for 8 (Branston 2-9, Reichwald 2-27, Brealy 2-28)

v. North Cerney CC (A) - Won by 6 wickets

North Cerney 132 for 9 decl. (Branston 3-11, Brealy 3-32)

Rendcomb 135 for 4 (Whittaker 62, Brealy 37*)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 8 wickets

Crypt 74 (Brealy 4-12, Suffolk 2-8, Reichwald 2-11)

Rendcomb 77 for 2 (Astill 29*, Fellows 30)

v. Bloxham School (A) - Match drawn

Bloxham 134 for 8 decl. (Suffolk 3-37)

Rendcomb 85 for 1 (Astill 32*, Whittaker 38*)

v. Marling School (A) - Won by 7 wickets

Marling 122 (Huck 2-11, Brealy 3-26, Branston 4-12)

Rendcomb 124 for 3 (Fellows 51*, Astill 24, Broomfield 23)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn

Rendcomb 143 for 4 decl. (Fellows 34, Burns 53)

King's 34 for 8 (Suffolk 2-4, Brealy 2-9)

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Won by 5 wickets

Cokethorpe 102 (Brealy 6-37, Huck 2-17)

Rendcomb 104 for 5 (Burns 42*)

v. Ratcliffe College (H) - Won by 2 wickets

Ratcliffe 118 (Bannister 5-2)

Rendcomb 119-8 (Whittaker 25*, Fellows 24)

v. Old Rendcombian XI (H) - Won by 67 runs

Rendcomb 197-3 (Sherwood 79*, Astill 53)

OR's 130

Team from: I. Whittaker (Capt.), A. Brealy (Vice Capt.), J. Fellows, M. Astill, D. John, G. Broomfield, W. Sherwood, B. Branston, T. Burns, N. Suffolk, R. Reichwald, C. Bannister, C. Huck, A. Binder.

Tour to Jersey

The tour, a first for any Rendcomb team, was an unqualified success both on and off the field. Lasting six days, 3rd to 9th July, it included three fixtures against Jersey teams. The party was based in Victoria College, St Helier, and all the fixtures were played on the Memorial Ground there. Ideally located for downtown St Helier, the team made the most of the 'cultural' opportunities offered.

The conditions were largely alien to us, namely hard wickets and abundant sunshine. The pitch resembled a concrete strip, meaning that the bounce was significantly higher and faster than on the damper wickets produced by a damp English June. The team showed great character in overcoming these differences and produced its best cricket of the season. Julian Fellows gave some notable performances, maturing greatly as a batsman and showing useful technique against the faster bowlers. William Sherwood and Mark Astill also gave fine batting performances, Mark rounding off the trip with the season's top score of 82. Our bowling was tight and made considerably more use of the wicket's lift than that of the opposition. Alex Brealy bowled extremely well and in long spells, confirming his development as a very fine opening bowler. Nick Suffolk, Barnabas Branston and Chris Huck all performed notably, the last realising the potential he had previously shown.

The matches, despite their failing to produce a result, were most positively played, Rendcomb chasing the win in all three and never being in any real danger. The success on the field, combined with tremendous enjoyment of the evenings and of trips to the beaches, meant that the team developed into a highly motivated and effective unit, very objective in its attitude. The overall mood was sustained by the management, Mr and Mrs Sykes, who in their varying capacities ran the tour extremely well and made it such an outstanding success.

IAIN WHITTAKER

v. Victoria College - Match drawn

Victoria 167 for 7 decl. (Brealy 3-53, Branston 2-23)

Rendcomb 127 for 5 (Fellows 25)

v. Jersey Youth XI - Match drawn

Jersey 177 for 6 decl. (Huck 2-29, Suffolk 3-46)

Rendcomb 158 for 7 (Fellows 61, Sherwood 38)

v. Victoriana XI - Match drawn

Rendcomb 182 for 5 decl. (Astill 82, Fellows 28, Brealy 29)

Victoriana 122 for 8 (Brealy 5-30)

The tour party: I. Whittaker (Capt.), A. Brealy (Vice Capt.), J. Fellows, M. Astill, G. Broomfield, D. John, W. Sherwood, B. Branston, T. Burns, N. Suffolk, C. Bannister, C. Huck.

2nd XI

'It never rains but it pours.. That, regrettably, sums up the 1987 cricket season at Rendcomb. Important net practice was all too often lost to the elements, while matches were played in a disarming variety of climatic conditions, from driving rain against Prior Park to stinging hailstones against Wycliffe.

For all that, the team spirit remained commendably buoyant throughout the hardship. Philip Moore skippered the side knowledgeably and authoritatively, and Colin Bannister (18 wickets), Adam Binder (16) and Stephen Green (8) aggressively bowled the XI into winning positions on several occasions.

Lack of regular net practice probably accounts for the relatively poor form of the batsmen during the season, but they normally did enough to secure a favourable result. This was never more unjustly, if delightfully, the case than against New College, Swindon, when Marcus Rann (1*), Stephen Green (1) and James McMonigall (1*) stubbornly held out for an hour and a quarter in order to achieve a draw.

Our established batsmen, Robert Matson (102 runs), Mark Walters (40), Grant Hughes (37), Philip Moore (24), Adam Binder (24) and Alex Andreis (20), were often and necessarily supported by Darren John (a visitor from the 1st XI with 75 runs) and Jonathan Lutwyche (66). This latter, who began the season as a bits-and-pieces tail-end of minor repute, finished it as an established middle-order batsman of no small talent.

Other important contributions were made sporadically by Paul Griffiths (2 excellent catches), Roland Martin (1), Richard Hardy and Henry Le Fleming, who came to us from the U15 XI for the final two matches of the season and spun his cunning way to figures of 2 for 18 and, most impressively, 7 for 38.

All in all, it was a successful season and one in which I, despite the weather, was happy to participate. Unfortunately I cannot resist the overpowering temptation to add that, as I write this report in the last week of term, with the 2nd XI season now completed, the sun is pouring mercilessly down outside . . .

L. J. H.

Played 7; Won 3; Drew 3; Lost 1.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Match drawn
Wycliffe 157 for 7 decl. (Green 2-28)
Rendcomb 91 for 8

v. Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 65 runs
Bloxham 134 (Bannister 6-56)
Rendcomb 69

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 7 wickets
Marling 28 (Bannister 6-13, Binder 4-13)
Rendcomb 30 for 3

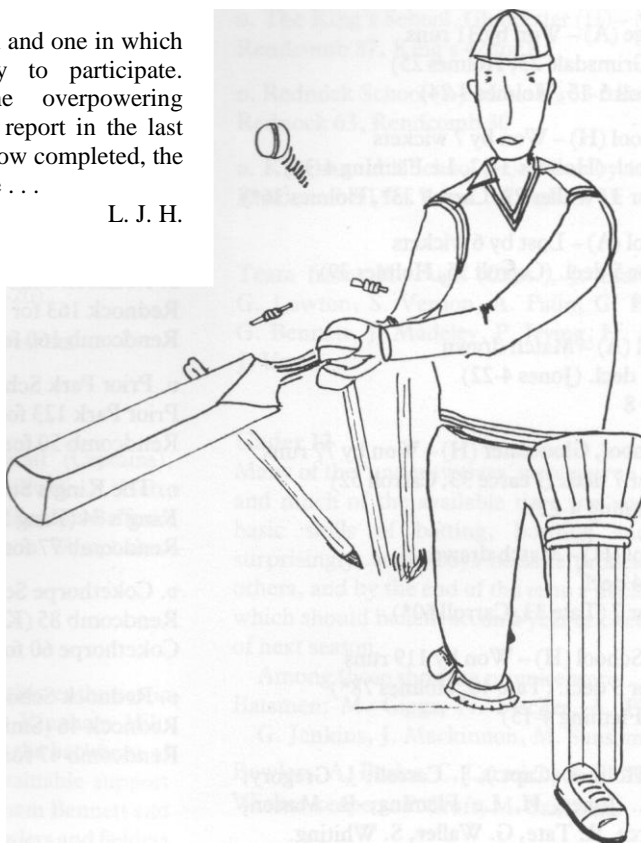
v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn
Prior Park 105 (Bannister 3-33, Moore 3-33)
Rendcomb 51 for 1 (Matson 24*)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Won by 3 wickets
King's 92 (Binder 7-21, Green 2-15)
Rendcomb 92 for 7 (Bannister 30*)

v. New College, Swindon (H) - Match drawn
New College 170 for 7 decl. (Le Fleming 2-18)
Rendcomb 89-9

v. A Diocesan XI (H) - Won by 7 wickets
Diocesan XI 153 (Le Fleming 7-38)
Rendcomb 154 for 3 (John 51, Lutwyche 33*, Matson 28)

Team from: P. Moore (Capt.), A. Andreis, C. Bannister, A. Binder, S. Green, P. Griffiths, R. Hardy, G. Hughes, D. John, H. Le Fleming, J. Lutwyche, J. McMonigall, R. Martin, R. Matson, M. Rann, M. Walters.



Under 15 XI

This was a strong U15 side, which enjoyed a successful season, despite a number of matches being lost in one of the wettest Junes this century.

The side played with a great deal of confidence, particularly after last year's success, and recorded some fine wins.

The batsmen found scoring quite easy, John Carroll, Kevin Holmes and Robert Tate contributing most of the runs. The side was fortunate in having such a varied attack. Carroll and Holmes generally opened the bowling and maintained quite a good line and length. The side boasted three spinners, a rare occurrence. Arwyn Jones and Henry Le Fleming showed considerable promise, bowling 120 overs between them - surely a record for any junior eleven.

The out fielding was of a very high standard, Arwyn Jones, Guy Waller and Steven Whiting being particularly outstanding, and some good catches were taken.

Memorable moments of the season include an 18-over partnership by David Pearce and Henry Le Fleming at Marling, to save the game, and Holmes's and Carroll's fine striking of the ball. The only disappointment was the defeat at Bloxham, where 149 runs were not enough to win.

I expect many of the side to do well in senior cricket next year. A fitting end to the season was John Carroll's selection for the Gloucestershire Schools U15 side.

C. C. B.

Played 8; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 1; Abandoned 1.

v. Wycliffe College (A) - Won by 31 runs
Rendcomb 118 (Grimsdale 23, Holmes 25)
Wycliffe 87 (Carroll 5-15, Holmes 3-24)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 7 wickets
Crypt 117 for 9 decl. (Holmes 3-12, Le Fleming 4-38)
Rendcomb 120 for 3 (Waller 29, Carroll 23*, Holmes 36*)

v. Bloxham School (A) - Lost by 6 wickets
Rendcomb 149 for 5 decl. (Carroll 55, Holmes 39)
Bloxham 150 for 4

v. Marling School (A) - Match drawn
Marling 135 for 6 decl. (Jones 4-22)
Rendcomb 75 for 8

v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Won by 77 runs
Rendcomb 146 for 7 decl. (Pearce 33, Carroll 52)
King's 69 (Le Fleming 4-22)

v. Rednock School (H) - Match drawn
Rednock 154 for 4 decl.
Rendcomb 140 for 7 (Tate 33, Carroll 60*)

v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 119 runs
Rendcomb 173 for 3 decl. (Tate 40, Holmes 78*)
Kingham 54 (Le Fleming 4-15)

Team from: K. Holmes (Capt.), J. Carroll, J. Gregory, P. Grimsdale, A. Jones, H. Le Fleming, B. Maslen, C. Paine, D. Pearce, R. Tate, G. Waller, S. Whiting.

Under 14 'A' XI

This was a term in which a talented side did not always match its full potential, but we were fortunate to have few injuries, which meant that there were eight or nine people who played in every match.

The principal batsmen were Richard Milner (total 248, highest score 71) and William King (203, highest score 54 not out). Paul Bartlett, who opened for most games, showed potential, as did Peter Smithson, Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge and Kojo Annan.

Richard Hughes bowled consistently well throughout the season, collecting 24 wickets with an average of 6.75. Michael Moody (15 wickets, average 7.73) and David Chapman, the team's only spinner, (4 wickets, average 9.25 in 16 overs) also did well. Milner, King and Nicholas Smith also bowled, and Andrew Digney kept wicket well, with two good innings (24 and 24 not out).

We were unlucky in the Lords Taverners County Competition, losing to Rednock when we needed 164 from 40 overs to win and could manage only 160.

The players were always determined to win, although on a few occasions not as hard-working as they might have been. Given a bit more time for certain talents to be shown, the team will become a very good one.

RICHARD MILNER

Played 10; Won 4; Drew 2; Lost 4.

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 54 (Milner 28)
Wycliffe 58 for 5 (Hughes 2-7)

v. The Crypt School (H) - Won by 8 wickets
Crypt 70 (Hughes 4-24, Moody 3-8)
Rendcomb 72 for 2 (King 33*, Hughes 25*)

v. Bloxham School (H) - Lost by 2 wickets
Rendcomb 109 for 9 decl. (Milner 37, Digney 24)
Bloxham 115 for 8 (Moody 4-12, Hughes 3-33)

v. Marling School (H) - Won by 81 runs
Rendcomb 146 (Milner 71, Smithson 16)
Marling 65 (Hughes 3-18, King 3-8, Milner 2-13)

v. Rednock School (H) - Lost by 3 runs
Rednock 163 for 8 decl. (Milner 3-31)
Rendcomb 160 for 8 (Milner 53, King 51)

v. Prior Park School (H) - Match drawn
Prior Park 123 for 7 decl. (Hughes 3-16)
Rendcomb 50 for 2 (Milner 27*)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A) - Won by 8 wickets
King's 74 (King 5-14, Hughes 2-10)
Rendcomb 77 for 2 (King 54*)

v. Cokethorpe School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 85 (King 20, Bunge 10)
Cokethorpe 60 for 8 (Hughes 3-25, Milner 2-14)

v. Rednock School (H) - Won by 5 wickets
Rednock 46 (Smith 3-16, Moody 2-3, Chapman 2-1)
Rendcomb 47 for 5 (Digney 24*)

v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Lost by 5 wickets
Rendcomb 53 (Milner 12, Smith 9)
Kingham 54 for 5 (Hughes 3-9)

Team from: R. Milner (Capt.), W. King, R. Hughes, A. Digney, N. Smith, D. Chapman, P. Bartlett, K. Annan, D. Maslen, N. Wood, N. Utting, R. Rowlett, P. Evans, P. Smithson, A. von Westphalen-Bunge.

Under 14 'B' XI

A great deal of interest at third-year level was evident again this season, and so it was possible, with the 'A' and 'B' squads, to allow more boys to experience playing in representative matches.

The 'B' XI had two matches during the term. The first was against a Prior Park team on a showery day with a wet, green wicket; with conditions difficult for our bowlers, our batsmen went to town, scoring 106 all out by tea-time, thanks to a splendid innings of 53 by Anthony von Westphalen-Bunge. An early breakthrough by our opening bowlers and some outstanding teamwork in the field put the visitors in difficulties with only 38 for 7 and 15 overs left. Unfortunately their tail-enders were able to 'stone-wall' their way, amid steady drizzle, to a draw at 48 for 9. The second match, against Kingham Hill, took place on one of the hottest days of term. Our opening bowlers, Patrick Evans and Nigel Utting, moved the ball well off the hard, dry wicket, leaving the other bowlers only four wickets to polish off. A stylish and proficient partnership by Paul Neve and Thomas Shillington-Balfour allowed the 50-run target to be reached with ease.

Congratulations go to the squad on their admirable performances in both matches - they certainly never looked like a 'B' team - and thanks go to Richard Rowlett and Daniel Maslen for their impressive and efficient captaincy of each match.

M. J. N.

Played 2; Won 1; Drew 1.

v. Prior Park School (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 106 (Bunge 53)
Prior Park 48 for 9 (Evans 3-15, Utting 3-20)
v. Kingham Hill School (A) - Won by 7 wickets
Kingham Hill 50 (Utting 4-14)
Rendcomb 53 for 3

Team from: D. Maslen and R. Rowlett (Captains), C. Brown, M. Digby, P. Evans, A. Halliwell, S. Hett, D. Lester, P. Neve, M. Rogers, T. Shillington-Balfour, M. Smith, J. Tomsett, N. Utting, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, N. Wood.

Under 13 XI

The final match of the season provided this enthusiastic group with a much deserved win over Kingham Hill. Henry Pugh, with a resolute 31, provided the backbone of the Rendcomb score, and he received valuable support from James Grafton, Gareth Davies, Graham Bennett and a doggedly defiant John Wheeler. The bowlers and fielders

responded marvellously to the opportunity of a win. Off the very first ball Antony Palin clung one-handed to a hard, low chance at third slip, and the team bowled and fielded with energy and purpose throughout. Pugh, Davies, Grafton and the spin twins, Jonathan Roney and Scott Vernon, all bowled well, and James Ursell, Bennett and Wheeler held more excellent catches. Davies held a stinging caught and bowled to win the match with only two overs left.

Despite bowling well all season, the team always struggled when batting, and only a 50 partnership between Roney and Bennett had rescued the situation against King's, who then themselves struggled and just held on to a draw.

Earlier the team had lost two close, tense games against Tockington Manor and, although bowling well, poor application when batting meant defeat against Marling and Rednock. The bowlers had again been on top against Prior Park (Davies 4-17) before rain stopped play.

A special mention goes to Graham Lawton, who became a splendid wicketkeeper, and to Pugh and Vernon for their performances as Captain and Vice Captain.

M. S. G.

Played 7; Won 1; Drew 1; Lost 4; Abandoned 1.

v. Tockington Manor School (A) - Lost by 8 runs
Tockington 60, Rendcomb 52
v. Marling School (H) - Lost by 90 runs
Rendcomb 68, Marling 158 for 5
v. Tockington Manor School (H) - Lost by 2 wickets
Rendcomb 73, Tockington 74 for 8
v. The King's School, Gloucester (H) - Match drawn
Rendcomb 87, King's 42 for 8
v. Rednock School (A) - Lost by 33 runs
Rednock 63, Rendcomb 30
v. Kingham Hill School (H) - Won by 46 runs
Rendcomb 91 for 9 decl., Kingham 45

Team from: H. Pugh (Capt.), J. Grafton, J. Wheeler, G. Lawton, S. Vernon, A. Palin, G. Davies, J. Roney, G. Bennett, J. Madeley, P. Irving, H. Auld, S. Scarlett, J. Ursell.

Under 12

Many of the 'under twelves' were new to cricket this term, and much of the available time was spent acquiring the basic skills of batting, bowling and fielding. Not surprisingly, some boys became proficient quicker than others, and by the end of the term a nucleus was emerging which should benefit second-year cricket at the beginning of next season.

Among those showing promise were:
Batsmen: M. Giggs, N. Fischer, A. Platt, P. Morgan, G. Jenkins, J. Mackinnon, M. Sansome.
Bowlers: A. Beales, C. Carmichael, P. Morgan.
Wicket keepers: P. Croft, M. Sansome.

P. J. S.

Boys' Squash

Squash is a minor sport at Rendcomb, and matches can be played only on Sunday afternoons. It is to the credit of the ten members of this year's two teams that, although all were heavily involved in rugby and hockey, they willingly gave their free time to practise and play matches.

In Division One of the Gloucestershire Under 19 League the 1st V faced formidable opposition, but avoided relegation at Christmas, when a 1-3 defeat was turned into a 5-0 win because the opposing team had played in the incorrect order.

During the Easter term the 1st V beat Cheltenham College 2nd V 3-2 and, in a particularly good performance, defeated Wycliffe College 4-1, our number one, Kevin Hewston, playing strongly in both matches.

For the next two years Robert Mitchell and Charles Paine will form the backbone of the team, and it is to be hoped that their enthusiasm will encourage others.

K. J. K.

1st V - Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division One

v. Cheltenham College 1st V	Lost	0-5
v. De La Bere Country Club 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Wycliffe College 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Gloucester Country Club 1st V	Won	5-0
v. Cheltenham College 1st V	Lost	0-5
v. De La Bere Country Club 1st V	Lost	2-3
v. Cheltenham College 2nd V	Won	3-2
v. Wycliffe College 1st V	Won	4-1

2nd - Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division Three

v. Cotswold 2nd V	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College 2nd V	Won	4-1
v. Gloucester SRC 2nd V	Lost	1-4
v. Gloucester Country Club 2nd V	Won	5-0

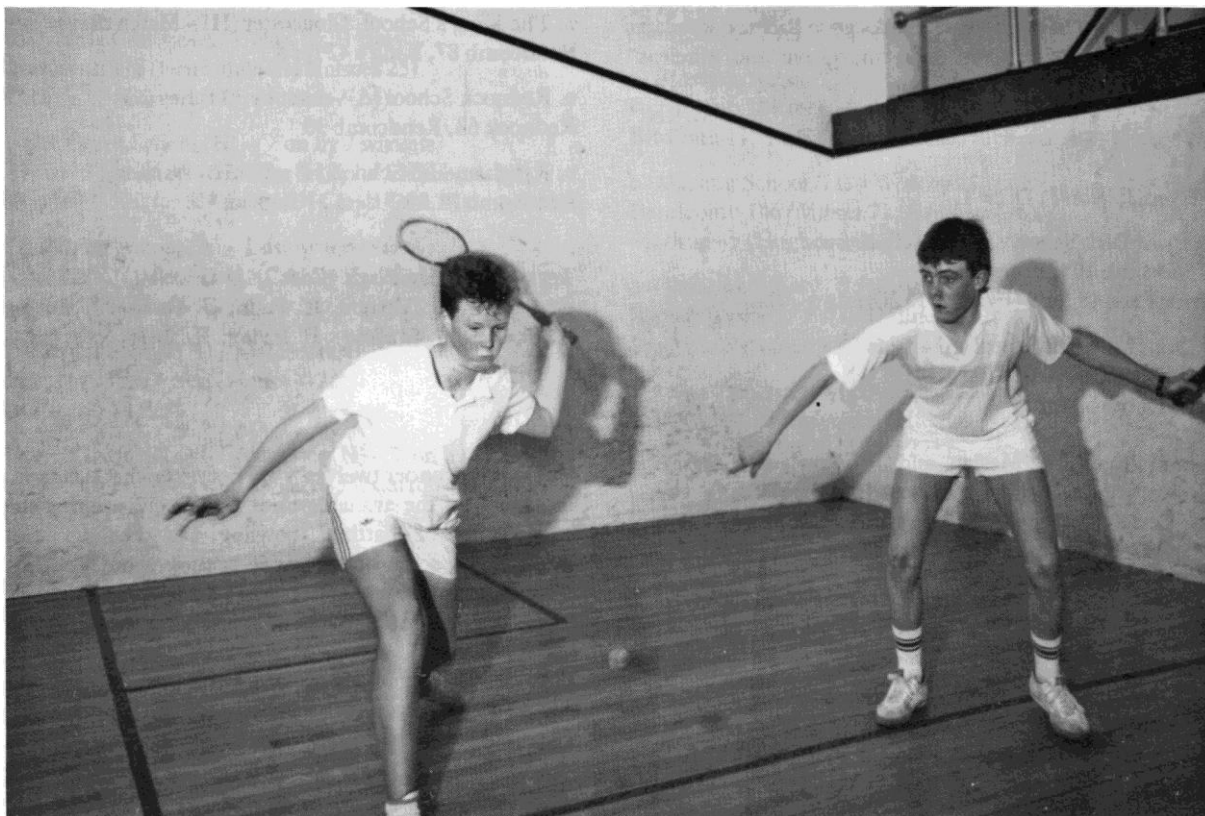
Division Two

v. East Gloucester 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Gloucester Country Club 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Tewkesbury SRC	Lost	1-4

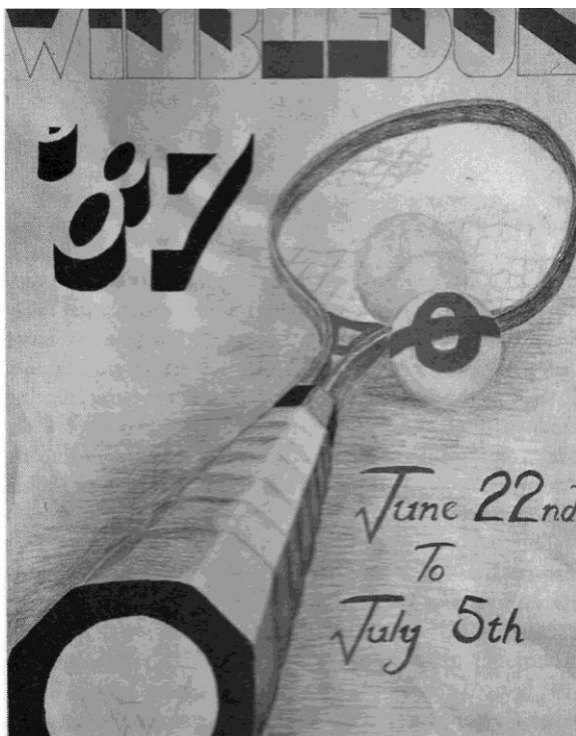
The teams, in playing order, were:

1st V: K. Hewston, A. Cayton, T. Burns, M. Astill, R. Mitchell.

2nd V: C. Paine, H. Nathan, M. Hastings, J. Fellows, R. Reichwald.



John Wright



'O' Level design by J. Nicholls

Boys' Tennis

Didn't it rain! The persistent poor weather made for a non-vintage season, but we did manage to play most of our matches with reasonably successful results, though the urgent need to cover with a hard surface the constantly unfit grass courts was amply demonstrated again, particularly in view of the heavy maintenance these demand.

The 1st VI had three experienced players from last year, Andrew Cayton (this year's captain, Giles Carter and Kevin Hewston. The first two constituted a strong pairing and remained unbeaten other schools over the season; both showed an improved tactical sense and were less prone this year to non-percentage extravagance and drifting concentration. In the second pair, the most reliable partner for Hewston eventually proved to be David Kenney, who developed in confidence and technique considerably over the year, making more use of his height and reach. Hewston himself has much natural ability and added a little more ground-stroke accuracy to his sharp volleying, but his game suffers from lazy footwork. The third pair, after further experimentation, finally comprised Michael Attwood and Sean Tate, both of whom played well in patches when not over-concerned to hit the ball, especially on slow hard courts, with needless violence and velocity.

Three of these players, one from each pair, remain for 1988, and prospects are quite rosy, particularly with some improving members of the 2nd VI returning and a number of keen, competent juniors joining the squad and competing for team places.

Fourteen pairs took part in the now annual Parent-Pupil Doubles Tournament on Sunday, 28th June and, despite some interruptions by rain late in the day, an enjoyable time was had by all. The two group winners were Giles Carter and Mr Carter and Guy Waller and Mr Waller, while David Kenney took the third prize. We are grateful to the Parents' Association for their support and for the prizes provided. Entry fees went to charity.

J. N. H.

1st VI:

v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Abandoned (rain) 2½-½
v. Marling School (H)	Won 3-1
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Won 6-3
v. Cheltenham College 'A' VI (A)	Lost 3-5
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 3½-5½
v. Cirencester School (H)	Won 8-1

2nd VI

v. Sir Thomas Rich's School (A)	Drew 4½-4½
v. Cheltenham College 'B' VI (A)	Lost 2-7
v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost 1-8
v. Cirencester School (H)	Lost 3-6

The following were in teams:

1st VI: Andrew Cayton (Capt.), Giles Carter, Kevin Hewston, David Kenney, Michael Attwood, Sean Tate.

2nd VI: Richard Kolb, Jason Vernon, Robert Mitchell, Matthew Faircloth, James Penneck (Capt.), Daniel Beales.

'Griffins' Basketball

The first match, against Warminster, was played after only one week of practice, and the team performed very well, considering this. Warminster scored a higher percentage of their jump shots from outside the zone, which was our downfall. This situation improved against Cirencester, where the team play was far better, despite the aggressive nature of the Cirencester players.

The match against Dean Close, despite the result, saw some of our better basketball. We found ourselves up against one six foot nine player and one of six foot six, our tallest man being about six foot three. Initially Dean Close used this to their advantage, but we soon managed to spoil almost all ball to the 'big men' and, especially during the second half, we started playing a far more careful and offensive style of basketball, which paid dividends.

The old campaigners in the side proved both a strong backbone for the team and a great example for the younger players, who showed a lot of potential. Mark Astill, despite his lack of points, was invaluable both in attack and defence, as was Tom Burns. The ever-improving ball-handling skills of Julian Fellows and Jason Carter were a good omen for the next year or two, and David Kenney shows much promise too.

Finally, I would like to thank Mike Newby for his advice and encouragement, and I hope that all those who will be here next year will continue to play with the same enthusiasm.

TOM BURNS

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2.

v. Warminster School (H)	Lost 53-58
v. The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester (H)	Won 53-42 (32-20)
v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost 45-59 (22-42)

Players: T. Burns (Capt. 68 points), M. Astill (Vice Capt. 32), J. Carter (14), D. Kenney (8), J. Shaw (8), R. Draper (6), D. John (4), A. Powell (4), A. Breal (2), R. Matson (2), J. Leigh (2), J. Fellows (1); also played: C. Bannister.

Girls' Sport

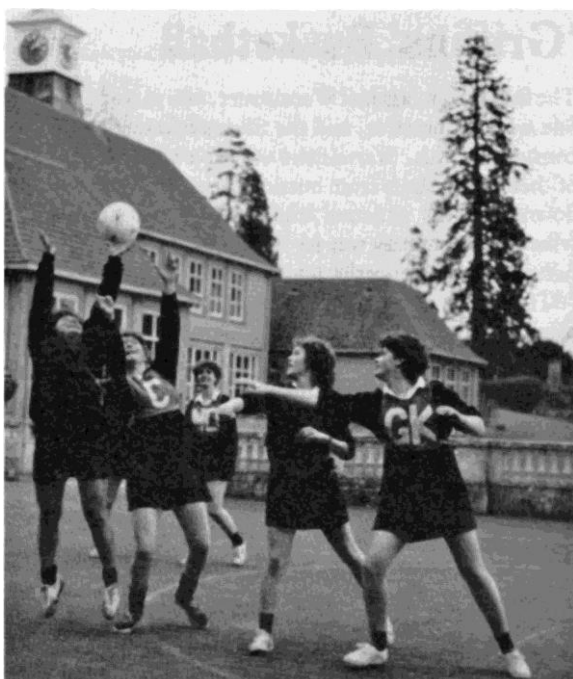
Girls' Netball

With strong shooters in both the 1st and 2nd teams - Tanya Holden, Nicola Newell, Emma Smith and Samantha Perkins - the season proved fairly successful; many players never having been part of a team before, the performances were all the more commendable. The standard of play tended to fluctuate during the season, but the games were enjoyed by everyone, and we give many thanks to Mrs Manners for her support.

JANE KELLY

1st team: J. Hasler (Capt.), P. Nicholls, L. Wallace, T. Holden, T. Fox, N. Newell, K. Ellis.

2nd team from: F. Hicks, J. Kelly, E. Smith, S. Perkins, F. Carlisle, L. Stringer, A. Fletcher, S. van Moyland, D. McNeile, E. Sprawson.



John Wright

Girls' Tennis

The players were slightly lacking in experience this year, though enthusiasm overcame this minor obstacle. If victories were few and far between, improvement by everyone throughout the term was very evident. The talent of 6A was sorely missed when they left. Our thanks go to Mrs Manners for her invaluable coaching and encouragement.

JANE KELLY

1st VI: L. Wallace (Capt.), T. Holden, S. Maton, H. Rothman, N. Newell, J. Kelly.

2nd VI: E. Warren, E. Smith, L. Stringer, S. Perkins, E. McNeile, E. Sprawson, F. Hicks, A. Waddington.

Girls' Hockey

The girls' hockey this year had a much greater opportunity to develop, owing to a two-term season, which went fairly well. There were no major failings, although a few more early-morning runs might have speeded up our game a little, and the defence would do better not to panic, leaving their end of the field in jeopardy by coming too far forward. The team was much helped by some promising talent from 6B, including some strong tackling by Emma Warren and Jane Kelly.

Our second term definitely found our game more competent, owing much to the time, effort and invaluable encouragement given by Mr Essenhigh in coaching us all through the Christmas term, for which we are all grateful. Thanks on behalf of the team go also to Mrs Manners for giving up so much time and energy for our benefit in the winter term. My special thanks go also to the whole team for their constant effort and determination, and especially to those non-team players who willingly supported our practices in all weathers.

POLLY NICHOLLS

Played 14; Won 6; Drew 2; Lost 6; Goals for 24; Goals against 37.

v. Westwood's Grammar School (A)	Lost	1-8
v. Stroud High School (A)	Lost	0-4
v. St Clotilde's Convent School (A)	Won	4-0
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	4-1
v. Pate's Grammar School (A)	Lost	0-7
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College 2nd XI (A)	Won	2-1
v. Westwood's Grammar School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-5
v. Cheltenham College (A)	Won	1-0
v. Cheltenham College (H)	Won	3-2
v. Marlborough College 2nd XI (A)	Won	3-2
v. Westwood's Grammar School (H)	Lost	1-2
v. Stroud High School (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Charlton Park Convent School 1st/2nd XI (A)	Drew	1-1

Team from: P. Nicholls (Capt.), J. Hasler, L. Wallace, A. Heal, S. van Moyland, E. Warren, J. Kelly, N. Newell, A. Waddington, A. Speakman, R. Hughes, K. Ellis, T. Fox.

Girls' Squash

The disappointing results this year are not due to any lack of enthusiasm or determination from the team; there were few new girls with experience of the game to replace last year's 'star' players. However, over the season the standard of squash showed a marked improvement, both inside and outside the team. The matches were always highly competitive and often very close.

Again this year some of the team played as individuals in the Schools' Tournament at Dauntsey's, where we were very successful, gaining a Runner's-up Trophy and a place in the semi-finals.

Overall it was a very much enjoyed season, and we are all sorry to see it end so soon. Many thanks go to Mrs Holdaway for her indispensable support and encouragement.

TANYA HOLDEN

Played 9; Won 4; Lost 5.

v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost	2-3
v. Charlton Park Convent School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	3-2
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	3-2
v. Marlborough College (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-4
v. Charlton Park Convent School (H)	Won	4-1
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (H)	Won	4-1

The team: T. Holden (Capt.), L. Wallace, T. Fox, H. Rothman, S. Maton. Also played: C. Rowe, R. Waddington.

Other Sports

Badminton

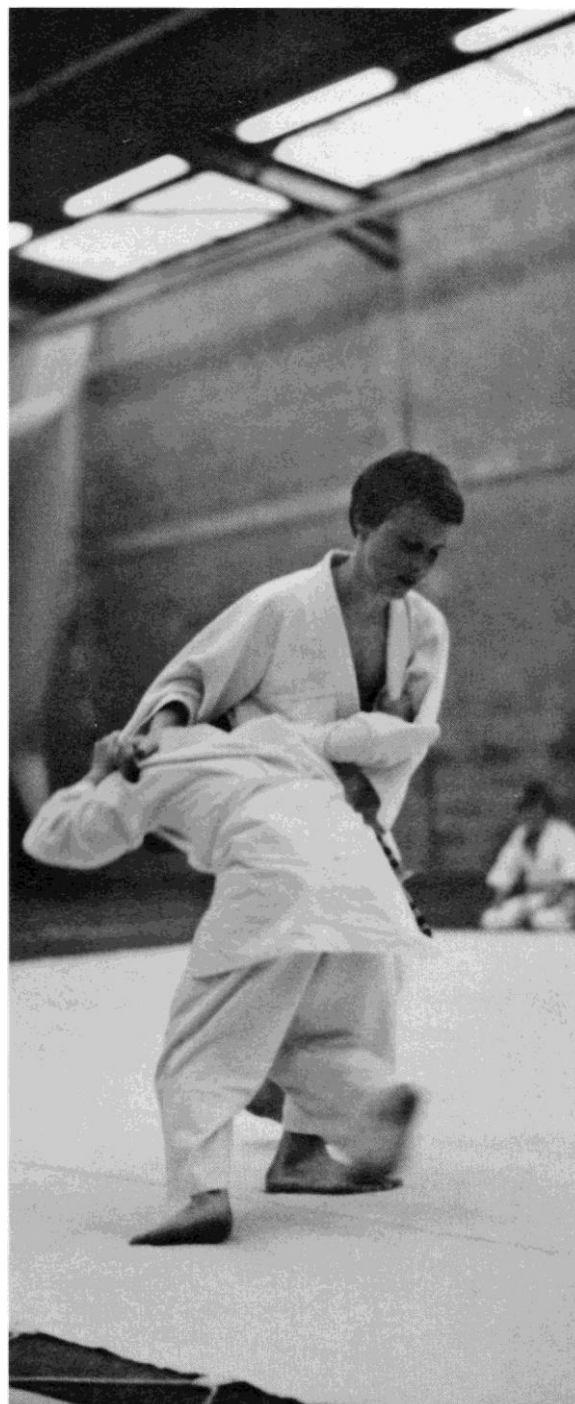
A larger group than last year took part in the regular Wednesday evening coaching periods and developed skills as the year went on. This being a minor sport, very few schools could field a team, but we were able to play five senior mixed matches on a home-and-away basis, against Dean Close, King's Gloucester and Cheltenham Grammar School. A good performance by each pair gave us victory in four of the matches, but a weakened team prevented our achieving an unbeaten record. Once again, my thanks go to Mr Jones and his club mates for their time and expertise on the coaching evenings.

HARI NATHAN

Played 5; Won 4; Lost 1.

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	6-3
v. Cheltenham Grammar School (A)	Won	6-3
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	6-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	5-4
v. Cheltenham Grammar School (H)	Lost	4-5

Team pairs included: Hari Nathan and Richard Kolb, Alexander Andreis and Anne Waddington, Theresa Fox and Tanya Holden, Thomas Burns and Andrew Cayton.



C. Hauton

Archery

This has been a happy and quite successful year, with some new archers showing promise and a lot of interest.

During the winter we shot in the Association for Archery in Schools Winter Postal League, finishing third in the Composite Section (over 15) and fourth in the Simple Bows Section (over 15).

Three archers gained certificates in the Achievement Badge Scheme, Karen Harman and James Williamson the blue badge and Clare Flanagan the white.

On 18th July the annual Black and Gold Longbow Tournament will be held at Rendcomb, and on 15th August there will be a FITA Star Tournament, attracting archers from all over the country - a Record Status shoot - followed the next day by the Gloucestershire Championships.

J. E.

Once again, under the expert guidance of our coach, Joan Essenhigh, archery has remained successful and popular. Most of the summer term has supplied us with unsuitable weather but, on the few occasions when shooting was possible, the new members from the Fourth Form soon showed their natural aptitude for the sport, two of them shooting several golds from 20 yards within an hour of picking up a bow for the first time.

Our creditable performance in the indoor Postal League was largely due to some consistently excellent shooting by James Williamson and Karen Harman.

I would like to thank Joan once again, on behalf of all those fortunate enough to be taught by her in the past school year, for her support and help; we look forward to archery in the year to come.

MICHAEL BEWS

Sailing

This term's sailing can be described only as varied, ranging from very strong, gusty winds, when only the more experienced (and heaviest, for ballast) ventured out, to still, calm waters where the fastest boat was simply the one with the most paddles! It saw the comeback of the *Heron* after an extensive overhaul, the temporary incapacity of the *Enterprise* and the introduction of the *Flying Arrow* (called anything from 'Bathtub' to 'Dying Sparrow'). The Hill family once again lent us their *Bosun* and the Kolb family their *Wayfarer*, so there was a wide variety of boats available for use, also including Richard Kolb's *Lightning*, and many of last year's beginners made their debut as helmsmen.

Even capsizing drill was lively this year, with the 'Bathtub' living up to its name as it started to sink - someone had obviously left the plug out - whilst others watched from the nearby shore, helpless with laughter, although ready to lend a hand should an emergency arise. Still, at least everyone knew how to right a capsized dinghy, even if most agreed, usually from first-hand experience, that righting a boat in the seclusion of a capsizing drill and doing so in the gale which caused it to tip over seemed to bear little comparison. Yet in all cases Mr Lane was ready with the rescue boat, so the manoeuvre was completed successfully, even if not without the occasional mishap.

Still, we can only hope that next year's sailing will be as good and thanks to all those people who made this year so enjoyable, enabling beginners and experts alike to take advantage of the varied weather.

AMANDA FRY

John Wright





Photographic Society Competition Winner

M. Bews

Skiing 1987

Mountains, moguls and mono-skis; Pomas, powder and pain; black runs, burned ears and broken legs. These terms were not new to some of us who were experienced 'piste-hounds', but the several novices in the group were shortly to be introduced to them as we boarded the coach for Risoul, a ski resort in the Hautes Alpes region of France.

After a relaxing run through to Gatwick in the company of a party from Bredon School and an uneventful flight, we settled down to a three-hour transfer to the resort. This, with sickness amongst the passengers and a slow driver became a long four-and-a-half hour stint, which combined with the loss of one hour travelling to the continent and another hour lost with the change to summer time to result in an arrival time at the resort of 2.30 a.m.!

The next day, despite somewhat foggy eyes, saw the routine ski and boot fitting and an introduction to our instructors; it made such a pleasant change having British ones this time, at least there was none of the monotonous 'bend ze kneeze'. It took a while getting used to the feeling of planks on the end of the feet again, but by noon we were well pleased with our performance and looked forward to our lunch. This proved typically French, with not only a hot meal but also an 'as much as you like' delightfully varied and very full salad table, fruit basket and cheese-board. There was even wine 'on tap' for the teachers; I can see why you chose this resort, Mr N.! Microwaves were dotted around the dining room to reheat any overcooked food; this proved not only a novelty, but invaluable.

The hotel or 'Club' as the locals referred to it was certainly very different from the normal hotel. First, it was enormous! The rooms were pleasant, even though the bathrooms looked like converted lifts - very modern and very functional. Set on five floors which included '-1 and -2 levels', for the first few days it seemed to be a maze of corridors, and the access to each floor via the two lifts often proved a mystery tour to every floor before reaching the required one. The club facilities were excellent, with video rooms, day and night bars, an enormous theatre, in which we sampled several Anglo-Gallic performances, live and

very noisy Flamenco guitar-playing/singing, an amazing demonstration of BMX riding and, of course, the disco; this became the focal point in the evenings, with the dancing proving an excellent way to loosen up tight muscles and, although it went on till 1 a.m. (though not unfortunately for us - mean Mr N.!), being situated at '-2' level, it did not disturb our sleep. The Fancy Dress Disco proved good fun, with Mark Hastings winning a prize for his appearance in 'drag' (the judges would not believe our statement that he normally dressed like this) and Hugh Costello as a runner-up, having used several tons of bed linen to wrap around his head as the Sheik of Rendcomb.

As for the skiing, it was fantastic! The pistes were vast with an impressive and very efficient lift system; in fact there were more queues for the bathroom in the morning than for the lifts. The weather for most of the week was sunny, and the snow was good, though suffering from the ice/slush problem in parts. The views from the top across the Alps, were breathtaking, as were some of the runs, especially the black run nicknamed 'The Wall of Death'. The numerous green runs back to the village not only proved good for the beginners but allowed the posers to schuss our way home in true Zurbriggen style to finish the day with a hot chocolate at one of the village cafes at the bottom of the slopes - blissful! As for injuries, every other school seemed to have dramatic leg-breaks, etc., but we only managed one case of chicken-pox, initially pronounced by the French doctor as 'small pox'! The only other incident was Hugh Costelloe's remarkable record: dropping his goggles first time on the chair-lift, dropping a ski-pole the second time up and actually dropping his ski the next time!

All in all, the holiday proved very successful and thoroughly enjoyable, and the choice of resort was certainly a good one, with all of us having chance to practice our French. Everyone agreed, especially the complete beginners who were all paralleling by the end of the week: skiing as a holiday - 'you can't beat it!' Our thanks must go to Mr and Mrs Newby for organising the trip so efficiently and making it an excellent and memorable way to finish my time at Rendcomb.

IAN FORD

M. J. Newby





John Wright



John Wright



Rendcomb's new Headmaster, John Tolputt, and his wife Patta, with Anna and Edward

