

A photograph of a person rock climbing a steep, grey rock face. The climber is wearing a blue helmet, a white tank top, and a climbing harness. They are positioned vertically on the rock, with their right arm extended upwards and their left leg bent. A red rope is attached to their harness and extends downwards. The background features a wide, calm river and a forested hillside. The text "Rendcombian" and "1986" is overlaid in yellow at the bottom.

# Rendcombian

1986



# Rendcombian

No. 4

September, 1986



## Pupil editors:

Christopher Moody	<i>Records</i>
Barnabas Branston	<i>Outings &amp; Lectures</i>
Melanie Gill	<i>Activities</i>
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*Front cover:* John Shaw on *Acid Test* (Wintour's Leap) E3 5c

John Willson

*Back cover:* Pottery - see page 50

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# Editorial

**‘Times change, and we change with them.’ Anon.**

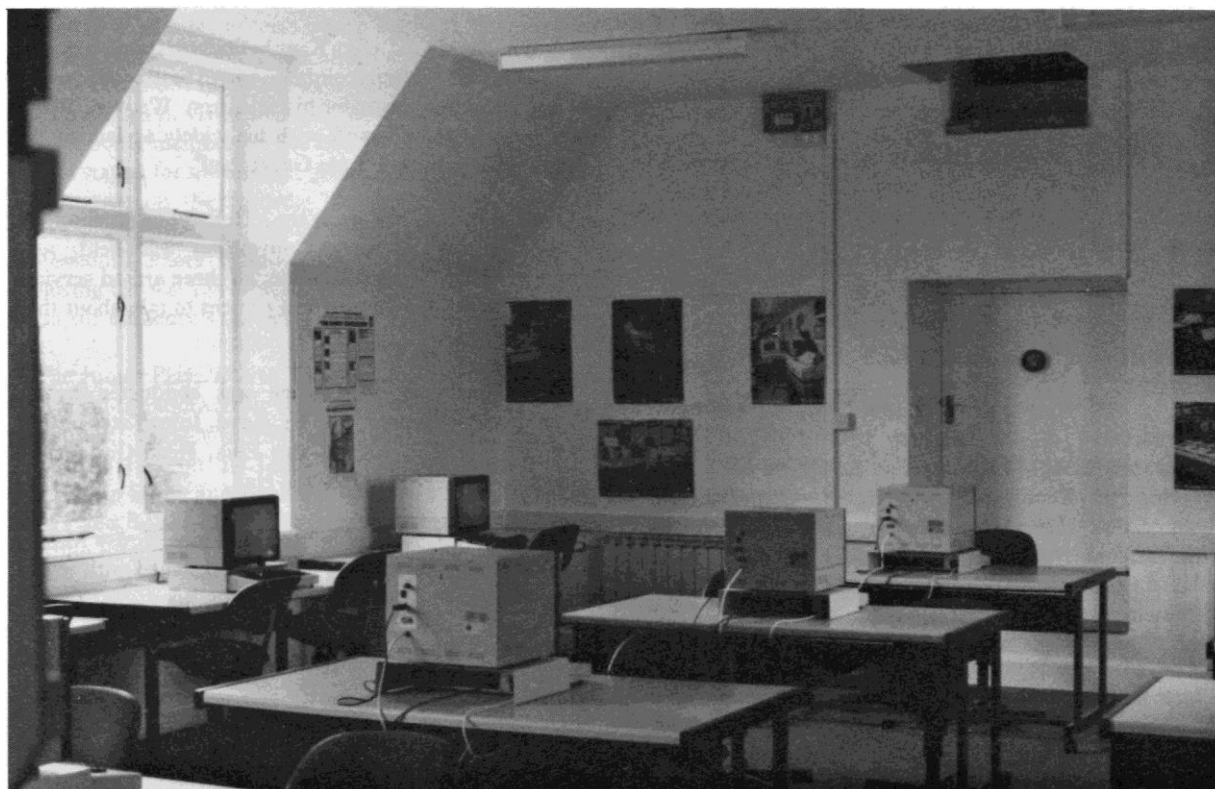
If any one quotation might sum up the past few years at Rendcomb, surely that must be it. From the design and layout of this magazine to the new computer labs; from expanding buildings to a new self-service catering system and Rendcomb’s first-ever rock concert, the College has evolved considerably in the last two years. The changes have generally been long-term in outlook, and often include greater pupil participation in school affairs.

This last term has seen a somewhat revitalised enthusiasm from Meeting Officers and more pupil responsibilities, in such areas as PW administration and running the bookshop, for example; surely these posts must be useful experience for managerial or administrative work in ‘the real world’.

Preparation for the outside world, and an emphasis on ‘think for yourself are today of prime importance; indeed Rendcomb tries to wean us from reliance on other people’s beliefs and ideas and to make us think for ourselves.

Couple this with a lively element of team competition with the world outside, giving scope for supporting others in as many as seven sports in which there are active school teams, and it is clear that the school’s character is by no means insular nor, for that matter, revolutionary! It contains a balance from all sides of every argument, and I hope that this balance of attitudes and outlooks will be reflected in this magazine, and continued into the future.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY



New Computer Room

*D. A. Hawkswell*



# The Record

## News in Brief

### Christmas Term 1985

At the beginning of the school year **Mr W. J. D. White** relinquished the appointment of **Second Master**, which was taken over by **Mr K. J. Knapp**. Mr White has retained the demanding job of working out the timetable and a number of other administrative duties.

Our new **caterers, Fairfield's**, got off to a shaky start, but gradually things improved, and we had an excellent Christmas Dinner. Just before Christmas Fairfield's were taken over by **Sutcliffe's Catering**. A new manager, **Mr Tony Barrett**, was appointed for January and moved into a flat in the Stable Block.

On 22nd September everyone took part in a 21-mile **Sponsored Walk** across nearby Leckhampton Hill, in aid of the **Behala Boys' Home** in Calcutta. £1, 855 was raised, most of which was sent to India; a small sum was sent to the Across Trust to further their work with the physically handicapped.

On 29th September two Old Rendcombians, **Adrian Lewers and Andrew Rontree**, played the solos in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor and Mozart's Piano Concerto in A major respectively, accompanied by the school orchestra in the Dulverton Hall. On 20th October there was a **Guitar Concert**, featuring numerous soloists and ensembles.

**The Open Day**, on 12th October, was again a great success, perhaps highlighted by the new 'high-tech' **Computer Room**, just ready for use and containing 12 interlinked BBC Micros and monitors.

The first AGM of the **Parents' Association** took place on 26th October, and the Association arranged drinks and refreshments before each night's performance of '**HMS Pinafore**'.

There were several outings, notably a Junior House trip to the **Thames Barrier**, a Sixth Form visit to **Longleat**, theatre trips to **Stratford and Bath** and two **Geography field trips**.

District 10 of the **Incorporated Association of Preparatory School Headmasters** held their **Divisional Meeting at Rendcomb** in October. Some of the Headmasters were shown round by Sixth Formers, and after their meeting, which included a talk by a guest speaker, most of them stayed on for a convivial supper with members of the Staff.

**The Michael Wills Lecture** was given by **Dr J. K. White of King's College, London**, who gave a very interesting talk about some problems in civil engineering. It was a curious coincidence that one of his best assistants recently was an **Old Rendcombian, Toby Roberts**, who appears in the engineering photograph later in the magazine.

A poetry presentation by **Dr Leo Aylen** and a talk by

**Dr J. M. Gay**, a consultant psychiatrist, on '**Taking Risks**', were both much appreciated by the Sixth Form.

The **Remembrance Day sermon** was preached by the **Chaplain of the Fleet, the Ven. N. D. Jones**.

### Easter Term 1986

The term was one of **late starts and postponements**. After what seemed to be a promising start to the **hockey, only four matches were played before half-term**, during one of the longest and coldest spells for some years.

**The Junior Play, 'Oliver Twist'**, had to be **postponed until the Summer Term**, owing to a chronic lack of cast at rehearsals! The school was struck by a '**bug**' - **twice!** All levels of the school were affected, and **many congratulations go to the Matron and her staff** for coping so well.

**Indoor sport** flourished, however. **Gavin Featherstone**, coach to the 1984 Olympic Hockey Team, visited us for an afternoon's instruction, and the **new bowling machine, presented by the Parents' Association**, came into regular use in the Sports Hall.

On 29th January and 19th February **Mrs Anne Brinicombe** talked with different groups of the Lower Sixth on '**Problems in Personal Relationships**'. The discussions ranged widely and were much appreciated.

Sadly, the visit of a **Sea King helicopter**, piloted by Tim Nicholas, an Old Rendcombian, had to be cancelled owing to other commitments for his squadron. We were able to welcome **David Kossoff** with his widely acclaimed and moving presentation '**Late Great Paul**'.

On 7th March, alongside the VIB Parents' Meeting, the second annual **Careers Convention** was held, with representatives from the **police, all three armed services and about twenty local firms** present to talk about their work.

The **Confirmation Service** was conducted by the **Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt. Revd. John Yates** on 16th March. In the evening **Claire Ellis**, Head Girl, gave a **piano recital** in the Dulverton Hall.

**Mrs M. J. Campbell** retired as **Junior House Matron** after seven years' service. She was presented with several gifts at a farewell party in the Reading Room.

**The Easter holidays** seemed even busier than the term, with a **skiing party** of 50 pupils and staff travelling to **Obergurgl in Austria**, a **Biology field trip** for VIB to **North Somerset** and a **Geography field trip** to **Shrewsbury**.



Sport Aid

*D. M. Beales*

### Summer Term 1986

On the first Tuesday of term over a hundred pupils from Gloucestershire schools came to see a film of **Molière's 'Les Femmes Savantes'** shown in the **Dulverton Hall**.

Two groups of visitors caught the imagination of many people. Some members of the **Lee Abbey Community** in Devon stayed for a weekend, giving a thought-provoking presentation on the Saturday evening and leading the school's worship the following morning. A group of professional actors conducted a **'Hamlet Workshop'**, exploring the ways in which different interpretations can affect the audience's understanding of even a well-known text.

The Junior Play, **'Oliver Twist'**, was performed on two nights in May and warmly received. Various **instrumental ensembles** came together to give a concert in the Dulverton Hall on the following evening. Later in the term **Philip Dunn and Graham Ball** gave a recital of **Lute Songs and Solo Lute** in the elegant surroundings of the Reading Room.

Twenty-eight pupils received the **bronze level certificate** of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and one the **silver**.

Members of 6B attended a **Higher Education Conference** in Cheltenham, organised by the County Careers Service. **Fifth-formers** again spent a week after 'O' levels on **work experience** with various local professions and businesses.

**£230** was raised by those who ran or swam for **Sport Aid**. The swimmers benefited from the **new heating**

**system**, which has considerably increased the amount of time spent in the pool. A **four-hole practice golf course** in the park has come into use during the term.

A number of pupils entered a **competition organised by the Cirencester branch of Amnesty International** in celebration of their 25th anniversary. Rendcomb entrants to the 16-18 age group came first, second and third in the poetry section and first in the art section, also winning the poetry section for 13-15 year-olds.

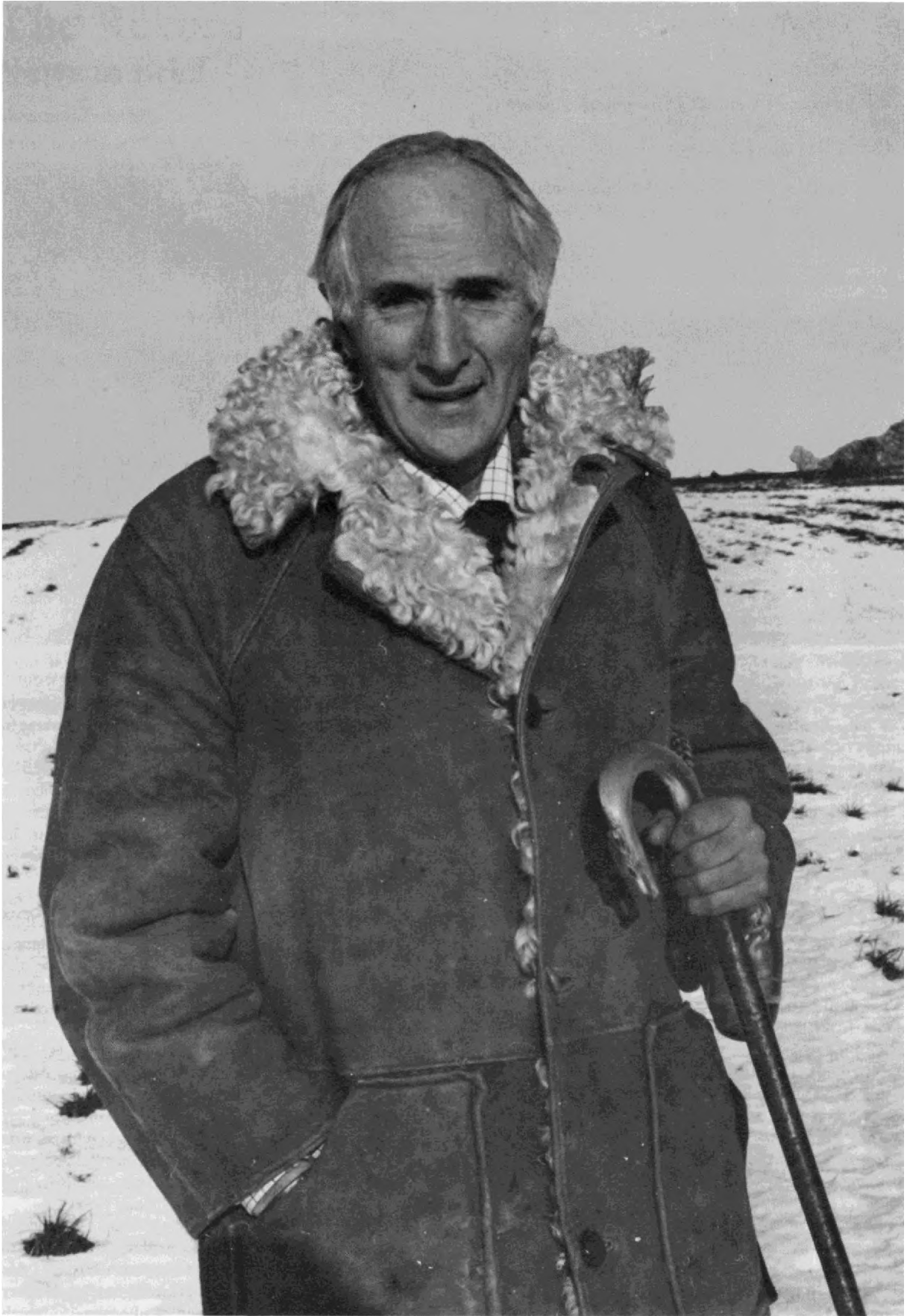
We congratulate **Charlie Hannaford** on his appointment as **County Rugby Coach** for Gloucestershire for next season, also **John Shaw** (alpine climbing), **Katherine Conway** (Jumbulance to Lourdes for the handicapped), **Alex Hayes and Adam Pallant** (Contrasts in European Cultures) on gaining **Old Rendcombian Society Travel Bursaries**.

Congratulations also to **Lindsay and Marie Haslett**, who were married in December, to **Martin and Aileen Graham**, married in August, and to **Colin and Dorothy Burden** on the birth of their son, **Richard Antony**.

We say goodbye to **Trevor and Margaret Oldroyd**, who are moving to **Wrekin College**, to **Graham Ball**, going to **Ellesmere College**, and to **Lesley Hunt**, who is leaving after many years of teaching the violin and viola.

**The Revd. Peter Sudbury**, recently Rector of Siddington, has been appointed **Chaplain**. Next year **Mrs Barbara Tyler** rejoins the staff to teach **French**; **Mr Dominic O'Connor** has been appointed to teach **History and English** and **Mrs Veronica Pogson** to teach **Computer Studies**.





## Sir David Wills, CBE, TD, DL

Sir David Wills, or Major David, as he was known to earlier members of Rendcomb College, became a Governor of the College shortly after the end of the War; so continuing the close link between the College and the Founder's family which had been so tragically broken for a while by the death in action, in North Africa, of the Founder's elder son, Captain Michael Wills, MC.

Educated, like his father, at Eton and Magdalen College Oxford, Sir David had already shown a lively interest in College affairs and schemes for the development of Rendcomb. As the second son of the Founder he might seem to have inherited some of the qualities generally ascribed to his father; in particular his generosity and his love of outdoor pastimes. During his years as a Governor of the College, from 1951-1984, the College has benefited greatly from his many generous acts, either in conjunction with the governing body, or with the Dulverton Trust, or as personal gifts.

On his return to civilian life after five years of War Service he must have been made aware of the financial problems which had been facing the governing body with increasing intensity. Like most institutions the College had existed during wartime on a policy of 'Make Do and Mend', as the patched and repatched College clothing illustrated. All College necessities from text-books to scientific equipment were, in the current phrase, in short supply. A shortage of ready money had affected matters as diverse as choice of new Staff and boys, and of repairs to the main buildings. There was virtually no games equipment or facilities for games.

Generous gifts from the governing body alleviated the situation, for instance Sir David paid for the whole of the redecoration of the College. But the most influential of Sir David's early gifts was the extension and remodelling of the playing field in 1953. For thirty years the playing field had consisted of a small area of rough pasture in the field bordering the Shawswell road, badly maintained by indifferent boy-labour. Various suggestions for its improvement had been made over the years but obviously some radical measures were needed. In 1953 it was announced that Mrs Sinclair had given an additional area of land adjoining the old field and Sir David would pay for its entire preparation for its use as a games field. This made possible the introduction of rugby football; and the further gift of ten new rugby posts from Sir David made a propitious start to the game.

Some years later, in conjunction with the Dulverton Trust, Sir David provided a swimming pool. The first pair of hard tennis courts at the Old Rectory were his gift also and subsequently he gave three more at Park House.

Like most generous benefactors Sir David has always been reluctant to admit to the full extent of his generosity. He has contributed generously to the Appeal Fund and to many other requests for financial help for the College, such as the provision of additional booths in the language laboratory.

The considerable venture of admitting girls to the Rendcomb Sixth Form is another instance of his concern for the development of the College. His connection with Atlantic College, where he became a member of the governing body, had convinced him of the educational value and potential for expansion which this policy would bring.

In recent years, 1972-1983, Sir David had become Chairman of the Ditchley Foundation, whose function was to promote Anglo-American relations. This must have absorbed a good deal of his time, particularly as it coincided with his Chairmanship of the Rendcomb College Trustees.

Finally one must not overlook another personal contribution which Sir David has made to the well-being of Rendcomb: namely the introduction of Sir Louis Le Bailly (an old family friend) as a Governor, and subsequently as Chairman of the Governing Body for five years. More recently the appointment of Sir David's son and daughter, Mr Martin Wills and Miss Catherine Wills, as members of the governing body and as Trustees, ensures that the close association of the Founder's family with the College will be maintained.

May we use this opportunity to wish Sir David and Lady Wills a very happy retirement and express the wish that they will continue to visit Rendcomb.

K. L. JAMES



## A 'National' Winner at 22

Richard Dunwoody (OR 1975-81) was interviewed by Melanie Gill, Amanda Moore and Iain Whittaker shortly before he rode West Tip to a truly remarkable win in the 1986 Grand National, as the youngest jockey in the race, a performance described in *The Times* as 'nothing less than stunning'. An account of the interview follows.

In 1985 Richard Dunwoody rode the joint favourite, West Tip, in the Grand National. He is a highly acclaimed newcomer to the racing world, and some of you may remember seeing him on BBC 1's 'Wogan' not so long ago. Not sure what his reaction would be to a request for an interview from a less prestigious organisation, without the added attraction of Lorraine Chase to talk to afterwards, we invited him to Rendcomb. He kindly agreed and so, on Sunday 16th March, refreshed with tea and biscuits, Richard began telling us a little about his life and career...

His early years were spent in Belfast, his family moving to England when he was eight. It would have been hard for Richard to grow up without a fondness for horses, as both his parents were trainers and his father was himself a jockey. Richard's parents decided to send their son to Rendcomb, and he duly entered the Junior House in 1975.

Being a good all-rounder, Richard played in various teams (on two feet) and finally obtained ten 'O' levels. He left half-way through the Sixth form, when he realised that a veterinary career was not for him. He commented that Rendcomb had taught him 'to stand on his own two feet'. Richard has many fond memories, and a few others too, of Rendcomb and of the staff.

Wishing to know whether the secret of jockeys'

weight lies in weeks of rigorous fasting, we asked him about his diet: at times he finds constantly watching his weight tiresome, and he strongly believes in eating freely as far as possible; before the eyes of those on diets light up with the prospect of unlimited feasting, we must point out that Richard remains a trim 9 stone 11 pounds! He often spends two hours a day in a sauna, where he finds he can shed up to six pounds at a time. However, he does not relish these moments, and he finds it incredible that people actually have saunas from choice!

Richard started his career 'riding out' for various small stables before finally securing a job with Captain Tim Forster, a well-known trainer. He had always admired such distinguished jump-jockeys as Johnnie Francome and Peter Scudamore and knew he wanted to follow in their footsteps. He holds his fellow jockey, Peter Scudamore (fondly referred to as 'Scu'), in high regard, even if his notorious fast finishes do prove a little irksome on occasion! His racing, which takes him all over the country, occupies most of his time, although he does do the occasional interview and plays squash for pleasure. He turned professional only in 1985, and his career has now taken him abroad for the first time, to America, New Zealand and Australia. He lives in Faringdon, in Oxfordshire.

Richard is cheerful and optimistic about the future, estimating that he still has a good ten years' racing ahead of him. To conclude our interview, which we all enjoyed, we asked him about his ambitions for the future. He replied with a modest shrug, 'to win the Grand National and become Champion Jockey - that'll do me'. The three of us wish him every success, and we know a horse we shall be putting our money on in April.

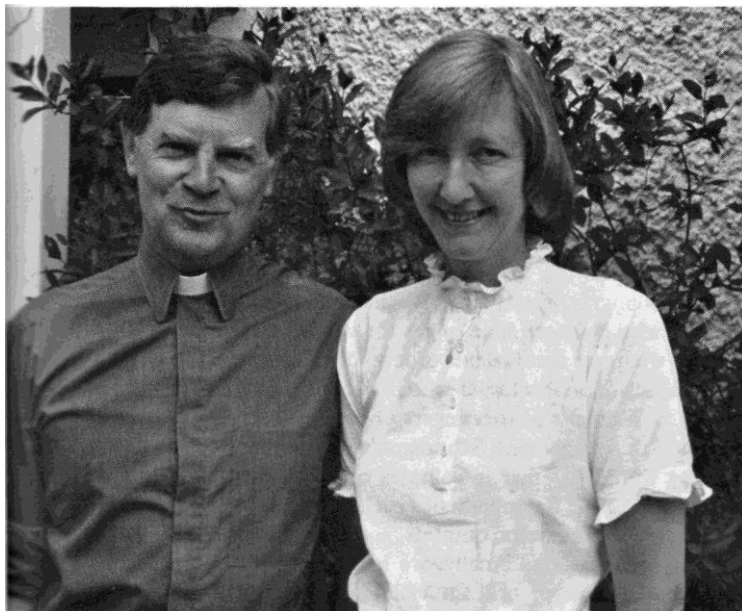
**Richard Dunwoody** on Free Choice



## The Revd. Trevor Oldroyd

It seems that four years is becoming the regulation span for our Chaplain! In 1978, Bill Hussey left after four years: John Heales left us in 1982 and now we are to lose Trevor and Margaret after what seems to be a very short four-year span.

During Trevor's time here as Chaplain to the College and Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St Peter's, Rendcomb, there have been several major changes. The Sunday services have been rearranged to remove the previous Junior-Senior split: now there are all ages at each service. The earlier Communion Service now takes nearly one third of the pupils and, to cope with the large number of communicants, Trevor arranged for two members of staff to be licensed to administer the chalice. Morning Prayers has now been transferred to the Church, and so it is now used by the College on five days each week.



**Trevor and Margaret Oldroyd**

*C. J. Wood*

As well as initiating these changes, Trevor has also furthered the links between the College and the local parishes through Community Service and annual events such as the Harvest Supper and the St Peterstide tea at the Rectory.

Trevor, Margaret and family leave us for Wrekin College, Shropshire. We hope they will settle there as quickly as they did at Rendcomb and we send our warmest good wishes for the future in their new home.

D. A. H.

## Mrs Marian Campbell

Mrs Campbell came to Rendcomb seven years ago as Junior House Matron. She envisaged the post as being a kind of semi-retirement, but of course many jobs would seem like that to somebody who has brought up four children and driven during the war from the Normandy beaches to Berlin. Not many of her 'Rectory boys' will have realised that the hands which clutched the wheel of the Morris Minor had driven a tank transporter. She would be the first to admit that her job in the Junior House was for most of the time a very routine one; when a serious matter arose she could rely on the professional support of the School Matron in medical matters and of Kaye Knapp in pastoral ones. It was entirely appropriate that it was Mr Knapp who made the presentations at her farewell party in March and took the opportunity to express his warm appreciation of her work and commitment. Many boys have cause to be grateful for her experience and her ability to see beyond the routine and recognise when something is wrong.



**Marian Campbell**

*C. J. Wood*

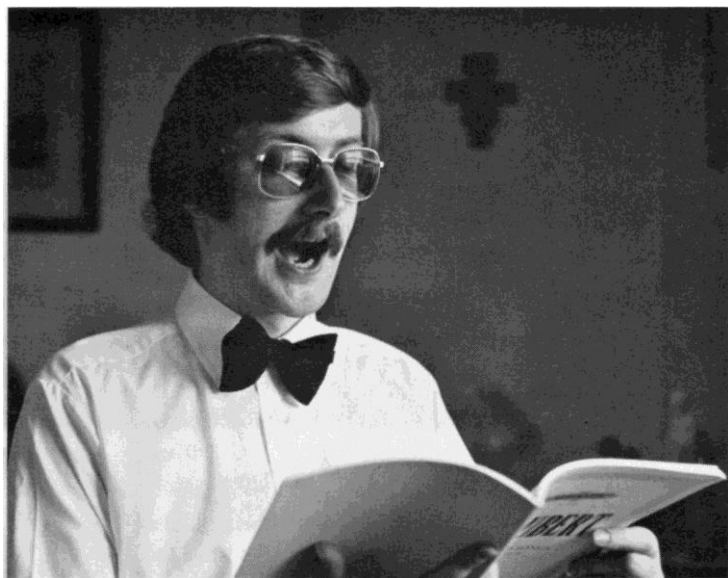
Mrs Campbell describes her retirement as being like a rocket taking off: all the things that have had to wait, for lack of time, are now happening! She draws, plays bowls, goes rambling, cycles, swims, in fact leads a more physically active life than many a school pupil. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

G. R. B.



## Graham Ball

When Graham Ball, an Exhibitioner and Choral Exhibitioner of Jesus College, Cambridge, came to Rendcomb in 1982 as an assistant French Master, little did we know how many other aspects of the College life he was to enter into and to influence. The task of taking over the French Department a year later and of maintaining the high standards of scholarship and achievement set by his predecessor, David Sells, was in itself a formidable one. Nevertheless, with his vigour and enthusiasm, Graham's own individual approach to Language teaching soon became evident. Posters depicting the most attractive aspects of French life and culture transformed the French Room into a street cafe, a vineyard and a cheese market. Illustrations and sketches started to appear on the board in the Language Lab., the new lab. which Graham helped to install and has been so adept in maintaining especially when the Gremlins play tricks in it. He is a very able and versatile teacher. While setting and expecting a high level of achievement, Graham has the rare gift of stretching the intellect of the potential Oxford scholar and at the same time of showing kindness and understanding to the less able pupil, struggling to pass an 'O' level.



Graham Ball

C. J. Wood

When he leaves at the end of this term to take up his appointment as the Head of Modern Languages at Ellesmere College we will all have our own memories of him. Some will remember him for his strong Christian faith and for his help in administering the Chalice at the early service on Sundays. Others will recall the outstanding contribution he has made to the music in the school with his fine alto voice in his solo performances of Purcell, a Bach Cantata and lute songs. Many will never forget his rendering of the Lord Chancellor's song in 'Iolanthe' at the Christmas Party and his brief but hilarious appearance as an 'Aunt' in HMS Pinafore. As the Assistant Housemaster of the Senior House, as a Tutor, as an Assistant Careers Master and as organiser of the D. of E., he has exercised considerable influence.

He will be missed too in the Common Room, particularly for his efficient running of the bar and for his efforts as a member of the Staff Cricket and Basket-ball teams.

I personally will remember Graham for his courtesy, thoughtfulness, reliability and his dry sense of humour, and I am grateful to him for his loyal support over the past four years.

In his new appointment we offer sincere congratulations and good wishes for a happy and satisfying career.

C. A. H.

## Lesley Hunt

Dvorak's Eighth Symphony, unexpectedly, contains a short but tricky passage for violin solo. We were preparing the work for a performance in 1980, but our violin teacher at the time was unable to attend one of the final rehearsals and he asked Lesley Hunt to come and help us out for the afternoon. The rehearsal proceeded unremarkably until the solo passage. Then the orchestra failed to restart playing, and after a moment's stunned silence we burst into a round of applause. So a year later, when we needed a new violin teacher, an urgent plea went straight to Lesley and fortunately she accepted the job.

Thus the last five years have been the golden years of string playing at Rendcomb. We have had an inspired teacher who has been able to get the very best from her pupils, whatever their talents or level of achievement; an outstanding orchestra leader who has got us through such works as Wagner's Mastersingers Overture, Beethoven's 5th and 7th Symphonies, Schumann's Rhenish, as well as holding things together in complex concerto and choral accompaniments; a sympathetic coach of chamber music, playing with us quartets, quintets, and sextets by many of the classical masters. Finally, we have, of course, been treated to a feast of brilliant violin playing, which has wholly fulfilled the promise of that first magic moment. In last year's magazine, in a note about Rose Leathard, I wrote that their performance together of Bach's Violin and Oboe Concerto in 1982 was the finest single musical performance I could recall in nearly twenty years at Rendcomb, and I see no cause to change that view, though Lesley's performances of the Bach Double Violin Concerto with Adrian Lewers in 1983, and of The Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in 1984 were scarcely less good.

Lesley's recent marriage to Chris Senior has, unhappily for us, meant that she is no longer able to come all the way over from Gloucester twice a week, but she will be remembered by all who learnt from her, played with her, or just heard her, with the utmost gratitude, admiration, and affection.

J. W.

# College Officers

<i>Head Prefect:</i>	K. Knight
<i>Head Girl:</i>	C. Ellis
<i>Prefects:</i>	N. Badcott C. Carroll C. Faircloth J. Healey C. Jones R. Khosrowshahi R. Moss T. Robinson D. Scarlett P. Spackman G. Veale N. Webb A. Hayes A. Pallant J. Quick K. Elderfield.
<i>Church Ushers:</i>	K. Knight C. Jones M. Stitt L. Roseblade J. Rosa N. Newell C. Hoare M. Rann M. Croft B. Branston M. Gill C. Moody M. Reid I. Whittaker
<i>Magazine Editors:</i>	J. Healey T. Branston G. Veale N. Webb
<i>Rugby Captain:</i>	N. Paterson-Fox
<i>Rugby Secretary:</i>	I. Whittaker
<i>Hockey Captain:</i>	K. Knight
<i>Vice-Captain:</i>	G. Veale
<i>Cricket Captain:</i>	
<i>Cricket Secretary:</i>	
<i>Tennis Captain:</i>	
<i>Squash Captain:</i>	

## Meeting Liaison Committee\*:

A. Hayes  
M. Faulkner  
T. Robinson  
M. Reynolds

## Debating Society\*:

M. Hayes  
J. Quick  
J. Larroucau  
T. Burns  
M. Houseman  
D. Paton  
A. Bedford

## Entertainments Committee:

N. Paterson-Fox  
M. Reynolds  
T. Branston  
B. Branston

## Community Service Committee\*:

J. Larroucau  
C. Carroll  
M. Reynolds  
M. Faulkner  
T. Branston

## Christmas Party Committee:

N. Paterson-Fox  
D. Edwin  
M. Reynolds  
N. Wharmby  
K. Raffael

## Snooker Committee\*:

T. Burns  
A. Cayton  
M. Astill

## Dance Committee\*:

T. Needham  
T. Branston  
J. Valentine  
M. Reynolds  
N. Paterson-Fox  
C. Eldridge  
A. Trowern  
D. Edwin  
I. Whittaker  
G. Carter  
S. Tate

## Food Committee\*:

K. Mallindine  
A. Bedford  
J. Gregory  
G. Carter

## Newspaper Committee:

## Breakages Man:

## Broom Warden:

A. Bedford

\*elected annually

# Meeting Officers

## Christmas Term 1985

<i>Chairman:</i>	M. Reynolds
<i>Secretary:</i>	M. Reid
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	A. Hayes
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	B. Branston
<i>Nominations Committee:</i>	M. Stitt C. Faircloth M. Reynolds A. Trowern M. Astill A. Breal

## Easter Term 1986

<i>Chairman:</i>	T. Robinson
<i>Secretary:</i>	I. Whittaker
<i>Meeting Banker:</i>	A. Hayes
<i>Boys' Banker:</i>	R. Draper
<i>Nominations Committee:</i>	M. Reynolds M. Stitt C. Faircloth A. Trowern M. Astill A. Breal



*Entertainments Committee:*

N. Paterson-Fox  
T. Branston  
M. Reynolds  
B. Branston

*Newspaper Committee:*

T. Burns  
J. Carter  
A. Bell  
S. Banks

*Breakages Man:*

R. Johnston

*Broom Warden:*

P. Wilson

**Summer Term 1986**

*Chairman:*

I. Whittaker

*Secretary:*

P. Griffiths

*Meeting Banker:*

C. Moody

*Boys' Banker:*

N. Wharmby

*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

*Snooker Committee:*

M. Rann  
J. McMonigall  
D. Kenney

*Food Committee:*

T. Holden  
M. Houseman  
L. Wallace  
G. Carter  
P. Wilson

*Newspaper Committee:*

M. Waddington  
J. Barnett  
A. Powell

*Breakages Man:*

M. Larroucau

*Broom Warden:*

M. Faircloth

## Valete

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

Nicholas Badcott, Mark Bailey, Amanda Baker, Nicholas Blackshaw, Alistair Brain, Thomas Branston, Sarra Butler, Charlotte Carroll, Katherine Conway, Matthew Cordeux, Rachel Daniels, Darren Denby, Alan Doyle, David Edwin, Kevin Elderfield, Caroline Eldridge, Claire Ellis, Kristin Ewing, Catherine Faircloth, Myles Faulkner, Mark Hammond, Sarah Hassall, Alex Hayes, John Healey, Simon Jenkins, Christopher Jones, Reza Khosrowshahi, Darryl King, Karl Knight, Jane Larroucau, Duncan MacDonald, John Marland, Richard Moss, Timothy Needham, Adam Pallant, Neil Paterson- Fox, Jonathan Quick, Mary Reynolds, Timothy Robinson, Louisa Roseblade, Eleanor Rowe, Dominic Scarlett, Paul Spackman, Martin Stitt, Mark Thompson, Edwina Thring, Angus Trowern, Jane Valentine, Graeme Veale, Katrina Walsh, Nicholas Webb, Simon Bird, Mark Croft, Edward Crowther, Christopher Eames, Alan Edwards, Rupert Martin, David Paton, Marcus Rann, Andrew Watson.

## Salvete

We welcome the following:

**September 1985** - Gillian Bell, Fiona Carlisle, Pollyana Cochrane, Theresa Anne Fox, Melanie Gill, Juliet Hasler, Annalisa Heal, Tanya Holden, Raquel Hughes, Susan Maton, Amanda Moore, Nicola Newell, Polly Nicholls, Henrietta Rothman, Susanna van Moyland, Rachel Waddington, Lisa Wallace.

Stephane Banks, Alexander Bell, Damien Blackshaw, Oliver Boatfield, James Dowson, Benjamin Gallagher, Peter Grimsdale, Jolyon Hammond, Arwyn Jones, Henry Le Fleming, David Pearce, Shridar Phalke, Carl Reens, Robert Tate, James Thraves, Matthew Waddington, Guy Waller, Steven Whiting.

Hamish Auld, Graham Bennett, Gareth Davies, James Grafton, Nathan Houseman, Paul Irving, Graham Lawton, Julian Madeley, Matthew Norman, Antony Palin, Andrew Pollard, Henry Pugh, Jonathan Roney, Christopher Scarlett, James Sleeman, Nicholas Smith, Paul Sumsion, John Turnham, Timothy Underwood, James Ursell, Scott Vernon, John Wheeler.

**September 1986** - Kate Ellis, Claire Flanagan, Alexandra Fletcher, Karen Harman, Jane Kelly, Esther McNeile, Sophia Michaelides, Samantha Perkins, Christina Rowe, Emma Smith, Ann Speakman, Emma Sprawson, Lucy Stringer, Anne Waddington, Jane Wakeham.

Paul Bartlett, Daniel Bowerman, David Chapman, Martin Digby, Andrew Digney, Piers Gorman, Richard Hughes, William King, Richard Milner, Paul Neve, Thomas Shillington-Balfour, Jonathan Tomsett, Neil Walmsley, Nicholas Workman.

Simon Barrett, Alexander Beales, Christopher Carmichael, Hugh Costelloe, William Croft, Nigel Fischer, Matthew Giggs, Alastair Graham, Timothy Haine, William Hunter- Smart, Richard Hutson, Gareth Jenkins, James Lowe, James MacKinnon, Patrick Morgan, Andrew Platt, Theo Ramsden-Hare, Mark Sansome, William Smalley, John Talbot, Paul Williams, Jethro Woodcraft.

# Charles Cospatrick Douglas-Home

Governor, 1981-1985

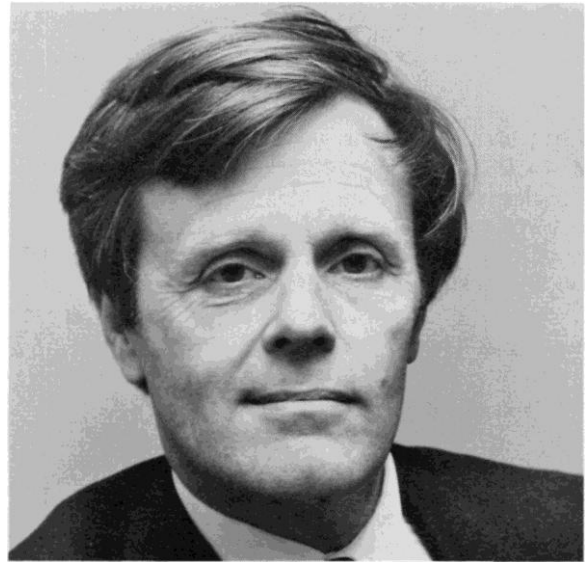
Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly writes:

I first met Charles Douglas-Home some 25 years ago. He had been a King's Scholar at Eton but, on leaving school, he preferred to go straight into the Army for his National Service rather than to University. And after two years he became ADC to the Governor of Kenya. From that post he went as a 'cub' crime reporter to Glasgow and then joined the *Daily Express*, initially as Military Correspondent and then as Political and Diplomatic Correspondent. In 1965 he joined the staff of *The Times* where he was to remain for the rest of his all too short life.

It was as Defence Correspondent in the 1967 Israeli War that he first made his name. *The Times* has always had good Military and Defence Correspondents, and Charlie (as by then he was always known to high and low) was certainly no exception. The following year found him in the thick of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and it was here that his determination to get to the root of what was happening led to his arrest by the Russian forces. But by then he was already a marked man in the profession of journalism and he became, in succession, Features Editor, Home Editor, Foreign Editor and Deputy Editor of *The Times*.

I cannot remember exactly when it was that, with the enthusiastic assent of the then Chairman of Trustees, Sir David Wills, I asked Charlie to become a Governor of Rendcomb, knowing of his deep love of the Cotswolds and that his home was not far away at Quenington. But it was just as he became (or just after) Editor of *The Times*, and I recall that he was very hesitant. *The Times*, after a year of enforced 'hibernation' was sinking fast in the circulation stakes, and he knew that he had a major battle on his hands to halt and then to reverse the decline, something that in the next two or three years he was so magnificently to achieve. Because he was always so very interested in young people and in the development of the individual, I knew that he wanted to be a Governor but feared that his preoccupations in London would prevent his attending Governors' Meetings. So I pressed him, assuring him that he could have permanent 'Leave of Absence' provided he received papers and would allow me to visit him in Gray's Inn Road (as I so often did when in need of advice), from where he changed the fortunes of his newspaper despite vicious and cruel criticisms from many quarters.

Then, suddenly, disaster struck and he heard that his life was to be measured in months or, at the most, in a year or two. That it was the latter rather than the former was due to his extraordinary moral and physical courage and to the support of his wife and two sons. But few of us outside his close circle of family and friends realised the strength of the reserves on which he could call to keep going.



*The Times*

The skill of the doctors was great but his courage and bubbling sense of humour were greater still, sustained as it was by the total trust of the proprietor of *The Times*, Rupert Murdoch, and the help of his deputy, Charles Wilson, who has succeeded him.

As the former said at Charlie's funeral when someone mentioned that trust, "When you've got the best, why change him? "

Besides the official and very perceptive obituary there were several other notable ones by the President of the United States and by Sir Laurens Van der Post. The latter wrote:

"One is often tempted to think that, if the illness from which he died had not assailed him almost from the moment he became Editor of *The Times*, it would have made him an even greater Editor, but, on reflection, the fact that an illness, which on many occasions over the last three years seemed to take him over the frontier of life, gave what he did an edge and a depth which no normal health and career could have done...

In the vast Cathedral of St Paul's where so many of the great, including the Prince of Wales and countless Ambassadors and political leaders, assembled and even more of the not so great in their hundreds, the Dean in his Bidding spoke these words:

"We are gathered here today in memory of Charles Douglas-Home. His life was dedicated privately to his family and publicly to the profession of journalism, especially in his work for *The Times*. In this service in St Paul's we honour and commend to Almighty God that life and that devoted service, blessed by faith without fear. We offer our thanks for his gifts to us all, and our prayers that at the end of his own painful way of the Cross he has found peace, the reward of true courage, religion and virtue."



*P. J. Reason*

## John Benton Fell

### Staff, 1934-1973

Jack Fell's sudden death last December caused great shock and sadness among all of us who knew him. We are grateful to Bill White for permission to print here the address he gave to a large congregation of Jack's family and friends at his funeral service on 6th December:

I am very honoured to be asked to say a few words about Jack Fell but, although I had known him since 1961, I know that some of you here today have known him longer than I have. So I would ask you all to add to my remarks your own particular personal memories of Jack.

I should like to say a few words first about Jack as a schoolmaster, for it was his appointment to the College in 1934 that began his long connection with Rendcomb. He came here straight from Cambridge, where he was a scholar of Emmanuel College, with a first-class degree in the Natural Sciences Tripos. I cannot help thinking that for such a small school to have obtained such a highly qualified scientist must even then have been a remarkable 'coup'. Many Rendcombians have been indebted to him for his patient and scholarly teaching, his ability to inspire the talented and his sympathetic urging on of the less proficient, and for the hours he spent working with them on projects in his and their free time. The outstanding results in Physics and Chemistry, the awards at Oxford and Cambridge, bear witness to Jack's skill as a teacher.

But, great as was Jack's contribution in the laboratory, it was perhaps because this was combined with a remarkable contribution to other aspects of College life that it has earned him our particular respect as a schoolmaster. Today, when you go into the Stable Block Courtyard, it is perhaps hard to visualise it as an overgrown wilderness, with piles of rubble, with most of the 'stables' unconverted and such teaching accommodation as there was of a primitive nature. One of Jack's great achievements was the transformation of the stables into a Science Department: it was a legacy from which hundreds of Rendcombians have benefited and will continue to. The pre-war and immediate post-war years were a time of self-help: there was little money, and development depended on individual skill and effort. To have had a person of Jack's resourcefulness at Rendcomb was exceptional. For Jack was not simply an outstanding scholar; he was also an immensely able practical man and craftsman. So it was from his designs and expertise that the Stable Block was gradually converted into classrooms and laboratories, and not only was much of the conversion done under Jack's supervision but also benches, cupboards and much apparatus were made by his hands. Those may have been more leisurely days, there may have been more free time, fewer pressures, but such an undertaking also demanded hours of hard physical labour from Jack himself and from his helpers. Nor should we forget that this included the planting of the trees and shrubs that still make the courtyard attractive. It was an exceptional contribution from a man of exceptional talents. I like to think that, just as many Old Rendcombians are indebted to Jack for their scientific

education, so many too in later life have been grateful for the practical skills of building, joinery and design to which he introduced them in many other schemes at the College, apart from the Stable Block - the steps up towards the outdoor stage are a simple example. I have dwelt at length on Jack's career at Rendcomb because I feel it is important that such a unique contribution should not be forgotten by the passing of time - and that this is the right moment to recall it.

I must now turn to Jack as a person, and here again, on reflection, I find that Jack was remarkable - remarkable because, unlike most of us, he was always the same whenever you met him. There was about him a warm friendliness which, coupled with a gentleness and courteous manner, immediately earned him the respect and affection of all those he met - whether in the classroom, in the Staff Common Room, in the village on Parish Councils or at home. You instantly felt that here was someone of real humanity and sympathy, someone to trust, whose advice and help were always available and always based on sound common sense and understanding, qualities so much valued when he was Second Master.

He was by nature a quiet and retiring man, with a gentle sense of humour, a man of great modesty who disliked any form of ostentation, a man of deep loyalty and integrity, and yet someone who, when the occasion demanded, could express himself in forthright terms. It was these qualities that won him a place in the hearts of all who met him.

He was, too, a devoted family man. During his distinguished War service in the RAF he met Vera in Washington, and after they were married they returned to set up their first home in the Stable Flat in 1946. In Vera Jack had found a perfect partner, and the happiness he found in life and spread to others sprang without doubt from the great support he had from Vera and from the many interests they so obviously shared. His love of family life, his devotion to his children and grandchildren, were understood all the more by those of us who shared in the generous hospitality which Jack and Vera have always given to friends, colleagues, prefects and 6th Formers alike. No-one who visited Wilderness House and went round their marvellous garden could fail to be struck by the depth of Jack's love for his home and by the devotion of Jack and Vera to each other and to their family.

Lastly, I must mention Jack's connection with the village. Both Jack and Vera have been mainstays of village life for many years. Jack's familiar figure striding down the village street with a cheery wave and word to all whom he met had become part of the Rendcomb scene. He enjoyed living in Rendcomb and joining in village activities. To those of us who knew him in more recent years it may be slightly difficult to envisage him as the pianist at the village dances in the Old Hut under the walnut tree before the war; more natural perhaps to remember him as a supervisor at the Jumble Sales or joining in a Whist Drive, although card-playing was not something with which he felt at ease. For many years he was on the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, a representative of the PCC on the Deanery Synod, but perhaps it is as a Church



warden that he will be best remembered. His love for Rendcomb church, his meticulous attention to his duties at services, his work on the fabric of the church and the time he devoted to all kinds of church administration gave him great pleasure; it was his service as a deeply committed Christian. I do not say his work was taken for granted; it certainly was not; but it will certainly be hard to find a replacement.

I hope I have said a few of the things you wanted said about Jack; I know much has been left unsaid. In conclusion I should like to express the sympathy of all of us

## Old Rendcombian Society

### Marriages

**Robin Webb** (1974-81) to **Rebecca Norman** (1979-81) at Rendcomb, July 1985.

**Robert Weston** (1968-75) to Kari Barnard, August 1985.

**Ian Taylor** (1968-75) to Janie Pothier, August 1985.

**Paul Harris** (1972-77) to Christine Whitaker, Sept 1985.

Michael Bailey to **Victoria Powell** (1977-79) June 1985.

Norberto Da Luz to **Danielle Shrimpton** (1976-78) in Portugal, October 1985.

**Kevin Barraclough** (1969-76) to Jennifer du Toit, January 1986.

Adam Roake to **Caroline Brett** (1972-74) June 1984.

**Neil Lumby** (1968-73) to Victoria Edmondson, February 1983.

Nick Vivian to **Dawn Mackonochie** (1974-76) October 1985.

**Peter Walton** (1969-76) to Victoria Groome, 5th July 1986.

### Births

To Anne and **Fraser Glennie** (1959-67) a daughter, Alexandra Diana, August 1985 - a sister for Sarah Victoria. To **Elaine** (nee Finney, 1972-74) and **Nick Roberts** (1969-74) a son Christopher Layard, July 1985.

To Ruth and **Bob Edy** (1959-67) a daughter, Charlotte.

To Rosie and **Andrew Stafford** (1966-71), a daughter, Emma, May 1985.

To Lesley and **Owen Rhys** (1964-70), a son, Thomas, June 1985.

To Anne and **Richard Pearce** (1966-72) a daughter, Emma, July 1985, a sister for Claire Victoria.

To Helen and **Peter Little** (1960-67) a son, Angus Stafford, November 1984.

To Bridget and **David Mackonochie** (1967-72) a son, Christopher, April 1985.

To Victoria and **Neil Lumby** (1968-73) a son, Thomas, September, 1984.

To Helen and **Martin Jones** (1956-62), a daughter, Annabel Fleur Angharad, November 1985.

### Deaths

On 25th January 1985, Angus Little, baby son of Helen and **Peter Little** (1960-67), suddenly, aged nine weeks. On 16th June 1986, **William Stanley Morgan** (1921-27), whose name is the first on the Honours Board in the Front Hall and who went on from Queens' College, Cambridge, to a distinguished career in the Colonial Administrative

here - and many who are not - to Vera, to Judith and Geoffrey, who have been such a tower of strength, and to Rosemary and Arthur. We have all lost a good friend for whom we had deep affection, and whose qualities we admired. We are numbed by the shock and suddenness of Jack's death, but I do not believe that Jack would want us to end on a sad note - but rather to remember him as he was to the end - a warm, cheerful, family man who had enjoyed living at Rendcomb, enjoyed his career and enjoyed his life to the full. He was an example to us all.

Service in Malaya, Sierra Leone and Mauritius. Our sympathy goes to his widow, Mrs Joan Morgan, who writes: 'My husband remained grateful always for his schooldays at Rendcomb and asked especially that I should write to you'.

## News of Old Rendcombians

**Duncan Taylor** (1972-79) is in the Meat Marketing business in Halifax.

**Christopher Higgins** (1967-73) is Senior Lecturer in Farm Management at Derbyshire College of Agriculture.

**Nicholas Prowse** (1983-85) is studying History, Law and Geography at 'A' level at King James College, Henley.

**J. C. Beck** (1939-43) moved to Banbury on his retirement, following his time in Ottawa on the Staff of the British High Commission (1982-84).

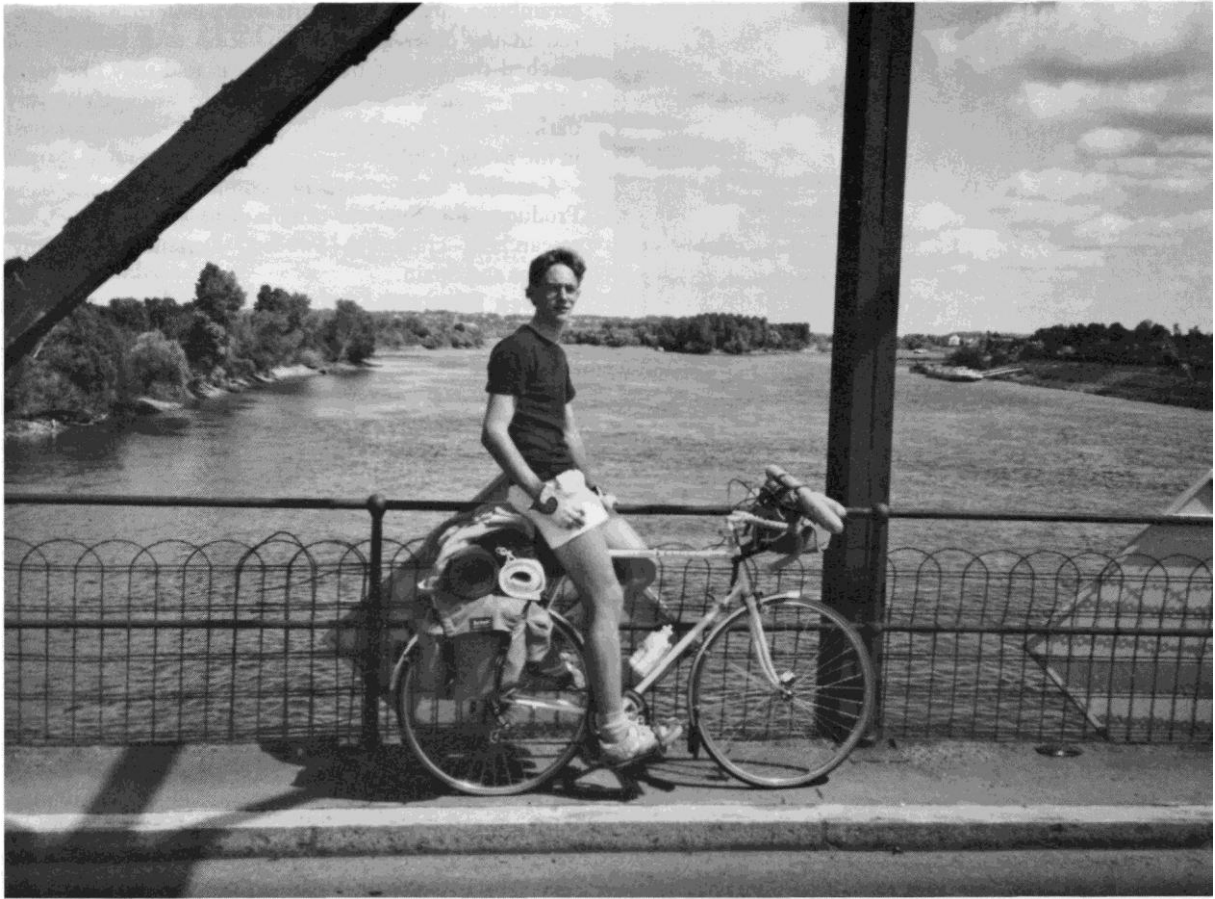
**Brian Hembry** (Staff 1974-79) is currently on a year's secondment to Reading University for a degree in Education and Society.

**Richard Pitt** (1981-84) started at the Royal Agricultural College in October last year.

**Joanna Hobbs** (1978-80) is now a Teacher of the Deaf in Rotherham. She trained at Manchester University where she studied English, Drama, Audiology and Education of the Deaf.

**Richard Perrett** (1976-81) went to Welbeck College after taking his 'O' levels. From there he went on to RMA Sandhurst in 1983 and was commissioned in 1984. He joined the REME Training Battalion and Depot at Arborfield as Recruit Platoon Commander. After a short spell in Cyprus, he is now at RMCS Shrivenham studying Electrical Engineering.

**Tim Longworth** (1969-76) graduated in Political Science in 1980 at Birmingham University and is now working in the Political Science Faculty at the University of Catania, Sicily, as a language assistant. He says he is particularly enjoying the political science slant to English language teaching at an Italian University and 'la dolce vita' in general! His cousin **Dawn Mackonochie** (1974-76) gained an HND in Hotel and Catering Administration at S. Devon Technical College. In 1979 she left to work at the Regent Palace Hotel as Employment Officer in the Personnel Department, where she met her future husband. She was promoted to Assistant Manager, Personnel and Training at the Hampstead Post House. Following a robbery in which she was threatened with a machete, she decided on a change of career and joined Fidelity PLC., as Customer Services Manager. She was married in October and her husband is Deputy Manager of the Pengethley Hotel, Ross-on-Wye.



Matthew Cordeux (O.R. Travel Bursary)

**Matthew Cragoe** (1972-77) left Carmarthen Grammar School in 1978 without taking 'A' levels and, after a succession of ill-paid jobs, joined the local Museum on a Government scheme. He was persuaded by the Curator to take 'A' levels and try for University entrance. Last year he graduated at the Royal Holloway College where he met **Jon Portch** (1972-79) and **Nigel Hall** (1972-79). He had intended to do a Ph.D. in Welsh History but did not qualify for a British Academy grant (he got a 2:1 instead of the required 1st) and so is studying for an M. A., at Swansea with a projected thesis of 'Borough politics in Carmarthen 1802-21'.

**Nick Miles** (1975-80) is now with the British Bank of the Middle East in Dubai. He expects to be there for two years.

**Simon Badcott** (1977-84) is at London University of Pharmacy.

**Fiona Comrie** (1980-82) graduated at Leeds in 1985 with a degree in Mathematics and Operational Research. She is now a trainee actuary with Mercantile and General in Cheltenham.

**Steve** (1969-76) and **Tessa** (1974-76) **Hicks** now live at Wittering near Peterborough. Steve is on a Harrier Conversion Course, which he is thoroughly enjoying. Tessa is still working with computers, running a Hewlett Packard machine for a local company, who manufacture carbon paper, typing ribbons, etc. They expect to move again later this year.

**Paul Smith** (1971-74) is running Crown Timber Merchants on the Cirencester Industrial Estate. The firm caters for every user of timber from DIY amateurs to full-scale construction projects. In its short life the firm has achieved a reputation for the quality of its products, expertise of its advice and promptness in fulfilling orders.

**Miles Thompson** (1939-43) has just retired after six years with the United Nations in New York. He has been appointed Secretary and Administrative Director of the SDP. His son, Roland (1961-66), a Major with BAOR, is married with three children.

**Stephen Hewitt** (1971-77) has moved to Hadlow College of Agriculture, Tonbridge, after four years at the Hertfordshire College of Agriculture. He is a course tutor for the National Diploma Course, and also a warden, so he and his wife live on the Campus and are very involved in the College life.

**Sean Hughes** (1975-82) recently took part in the Cambridge University Coral Survey based in Manila.



**Christopher Morshead** (1974-77) receiving his Bachelor of Engineering Degree from Admiral of the Fleet **Sir John Fieldhouse**, Chief of Defence Staff.

**Michael Richards** (1947-56) is still teaching and researching in Physics at the University of Sussex.

**Claire Comrie** (1978-80) writes: "After graduating from Durham in 1983, I worked for a year at Debenhams as Assistant Personnel Manager. Then in 1984 I changed jobs and now work for BUPA as Assistant Personnel Officer. I have recently bought a house in south-west London and am embarking on restoring all the rotten floorboards. By the time the next Newsletter is published, I might have finished decorating."

**Paul Harris** (1972-77) is an agricultural engineer fitter at R. A. Lister, Cirencester. He was married last September.

**Andrew Stafford** (1966-71) came to Rendcomb last summer on a visit to England from Prague where he is first secretary at the Embassy. He was accompanied by his wife and young daughter.

**Robert McIntyre** (1978-85) is at Bangor University. He writes: "The University is very small, about 3,000, and the town has only 15,000 inhabitants. The main problem is that every piece of literature or notice in the University or Student Union must be in English and Welsh, as well as all the local signposts. I am impressed by the quality of equipment here; most of the labs have several cameras and video screens. I am spending more time in lectures and practicals than I did at Rendcomb. The only mistake in the first weeks was in joining the sea fishing club. I had not realised that they were an unofficial branch of the mountaineering club, spending most of their time

scrambling up and down cliffs with a lantern in one hand, rod in the other and a rucksack on their backs! As I reached the base of the cliff, I was told they like night fishing - ten hours later (11.30 p.m. ) when it was very dark, we had to climb back!" He has also become involved in the Bridge Club!

**Caroline Brett** (1972-74) continues to work as a Producer for Survival Anglia Ltd. She spent 1984 researching cranes in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France and Spain.

**Owen Rhys** (1964-70) has moved with his wife and young son to Perthshire to join Innovation Scotland Ltd. Describing his new job, he writes. "In essence, we have set up a small company with the aim of providing another mechanism for the transfer of new ideas from Universities into manufacturing industry. It is an attempt to stop some of our better ideas going overseas, and to encourage improvements in the Scottish industrial base. It's easy to say, but somewhat more difficult to effect! Nevertheless, it is right up my particular street, and I'm enjoying it immensely."

**Andrew Pitt** (1974-81) is now reading for a D. Phil. in Chemistry at Pembroke College, Oxford.

**Richard Pearce** (1966-72) has moved from Hereford to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital where, as he says, he has the glorified title of Chief Medical Laboratory Scientist. He writes. "I am in charge of the Coagulation section of the Haematology Department. The main part of the job is testing patients who are on anticoagulants to make sure they are taking the correct drugs. My section also tests for such various conditions as sickle cell anaemia and iron and vitamin B12 deficiency." He is married and has two daughters aged two and one. He says he hasn't seen anyone from Rendcomb for a long time; if contemporary OR's are in Shrewsbury, they will know where to find him!

**Julian Campbell** (1971-78) after graduating at Oxford, Julian went on to take an M. Sc. in Systems Engineering at Surrey University. His present occupation is in research and development at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

**Ben Almond** (1978-85) is greatly enjoying the combined French and Latin Course at Bristol University. He also plays Bridge regularly and has taken part in a production of Aristophanes' 'Lysistrata'.

**Sally Patterson** (nee Blyth) (1973-75) lives in Hong Kong. She is a news reporter for the local TV and Radio Station. She presents the main evening news (a half-hour programme) on radio; it is the equivalent of Radio Four's 'PM'. **Teta and Norman Crowe** (1968-75) stayed with them last year and **Ian Forrest** (1972-77) was going to be there at Christmas. They returned to the UK in January to go skiing with **Sarah Oughton** (1973-75). They also see **Paul** (1970-77) and **Edwina Curtis-Hayward** and **Rory Thompson** (1969-75), as well as **Taryn Nixon** (1975-77).

**Angus Waddell** (1977-84) is now studying Medicine at Charing Cross and Westminster Hospital; he began an engineering course at City University and then retook his 'A' levels to qualify to read medicine.

**Ian Bishop** (1978-83) has changed from the Dentistry Course at Birmingham University to Medicine.

*The Editors are grateful to the Old Rendcombian Society for permission to reprint extracts from their 1986 Newsletter.*

# News of Recent Leavers

**Darrell Adshead**

Bournemouth College - Photography

**Karen Alder**

Queen's College, Cambridge - Engineering, 1986

**Benjamin Almond**

Bristol University - French and Latin

**Vanessa Andreis**

Southampton University - Modern Languages

**Paul Attwood**

Sheffield University - Environmental Studies, 1986

**John Awdry**

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 1986

**Alexandra Aylott**

Training as make-up artist with the BBC

**Claire Richard**

St. Hugh's College, Oxford - Biochemistry

**Mark Binder**

Practical farming before Royal Agricultural College

**Duncan Brown**

Geneva University - Modern Languages

**Jeremy Butling**

University College, London - Physiology, 1986

**Christopher Carpenter**

Portsmouth Polytechnic - Applied Chemistry

**Samantha Evans**

Leeds University - International History & Politics '86

**Victoria Finney**

Southampton University - English

**Beverley Foote**

University College, London - Law

**David George**

Birmingham University - German

**Andrew Hall**

RAF entry candidate

**Colin Harris**

Seal Hayne Agricultural College

**Barnaby Hatcher**

Plymouth Polytechnic - Business studies, 1986

**Sara Hawkswell**

Royal Holloway College - Biological Studies

**Michael Hicks**

Cheltenham College of Art

**Nicholas Hoare**

Coventry Polytechnic - Geography

**Marcus Holland**

Amersham Technical College - Travel

**Fiona Howard**

Durham University - Psychology

**Blaise Jenkins**

Exeter University - Biological Sciences

**James Kinch**

Exeter College, Oxford - Chemistry

**Juliette Loehry**

Keele University-Arts, 1986

**Justine Loehry**

Bournemouth College - Business Studies

**Robert McIntyre**

Bangor University - Marine Biology

**Stewart McIntyre**

Banking



Form 1: September 1985

*C. J. Wood*

**Jonathan Morris**

Merton College, Oxford - Philosophy and French

**Stuart Newell**

Birmingham University - Law

**Matthew Newman**

Working on family farm

**Simon Noyes**

Maidstone College of Art, 1986

**Paul Partridge**

Birmingham University-Psychology, 1986

**Jane Perkins**

Royal Holloway College - History

**Robert Prynne**

Trinity College, Oxford - Metallurgy

**Kathryn Rowe**

Surrey School of Hotel and Catering

Administration

**Sophie Rutherford**

Keele University - Philosophy and Greek Studies

**Diane Sercovich**

University of St. Louis - Medicine

**William Tong**

St. Anne's College, Oxford - Engineering

**Benedict Uglov**

Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford - P.P.P.

**Suzanne Whybrow**

St. Hilda's College, Oxford - Geology

**David Wilson**

Watford College - Printing & Packaging

Technology

**James Kook**

Westwood's Grammar School

**Adrian Lamb**

East Devon Technical College

**Nicholas Prowse**

Henley Sixth Form College

**Matthew Lynton**

Middlesex Polytechnic - Hotel Management

**Daniel Appleton**

Seal Hayne Agricultural College

**Simon Barrow**

Bristol Polytechnic - Micro-electronics

**Richard Hayward**

Trainee Manager - Nationwide Building Society

**Robert Wakeham**

Trainee Accountant - Walker Johnson & Partners

**Andrew Payne**

Thames Polytechnic Estate Management

**Toby Brealy**

Working for Boots, Chemists

**Charles Carroll**

Huddersfield Polytechnic - Engineering



## The Friends of Rendcomb

Last February Sir Louis Le Bailly relinquished the Chairmanship of the Friends' Trustees, remaining as a Trustee. After recording a most cordial vote of thanks to Sir Louis for all his services to the Friends, the Trustees elected in his place Mr David Jenks, a Governor of the College and a very generous benefactor to the Trust Fund.

We are very sorry that Mrs P. A. Hughes Hallett has had to resign as a Trustee, owing to the pressure of other commitments. In her place the Trustees have recruited Mr John Webb (OR 1954-63).

At a meeting on 10th February the Trustees voted unanimously to call the next Friends' scholarship the 'Jack Fell Scholarship'. This proposal was then put to Vera Fell who, with her family, approved it. We have decided to offer this scholarship next Spring, so that from then on there will always be a Jack Fell Scholar at the school. I am sure that this step will meet with whole-hearted approval from all who knew Jack.

On 12th July the Trustees gave a luncheon, inviting all Old Rendcombians who left between 1957 and 1976 and a number of others who are already Friends. Some 45 people attended a very pleasant occasion and met the new Chairman. The Headmaster outlined briefly the aims of the Friends, and a number of the guests joined the roll.

We now have £30,000 invested for income and capital growth and rather over £3,000 on deposit. With the basic rate of income tax already trembling at the onset of election fever, it is hard to calculate the future value of covenants; at the present basic rate our total of funds received and promised is just over £70,000.

We hope to increase these assets considerably during the coming year and to acquire a number of new Friends. A list of those who became Friends during the past year is given below.

The fact that for next September only two Gloucestershire Foundation Places were taken up by the County Council underlines the prime necessity of the Friends' work in preserving the Founder's aim and the unique character of the school; I would urge all those who value them to join us.

D. de G. Sells, Trustee

### New Friends 1985/86

Mr P. G. Auden  
Major J. C. Beck, OBE  
Mr F. Bolton-King  
Mr & Mrs J. K. Comrie  
Mrs J. B. Fell  
Mr & Mrs B. G. Fisher  
Mr & Mrs P. N. H. Gibbs  
Mr & Mrs N. J. Green  
Mr A. N. Hill  
Mr & Mrs C. D. Horton  
Mr & Mrs M. C. Jones  
Mr & Mrs J. C. Maslin  
Mr & Mrs T. P. A. Norman  
Mr A. F. Noyes  
Mr E. G. Taylor  
Mr J. L. Watson  
Mr J. M. Webb  
Mr W. J. D. White  
Mr & Mrs C. J. Wood



*D. M. Beales*

# Founder's Day

## Chairman's Speech

May 24th, 1986

Sir Patrick and Lady Nairne, Headmaster, fellow Governors, members of staff, pupils, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Founder's Day at Rendcomb College. Since last year I am sorry to advise you of the retirement of Lord Wigram as a Governor. Neville Wigram has been a wonderful friend to the school and a great support both to my predecessor Sir Louis and myself. We were all very sad when he decided, after no less than 27 years, to retire and we shall miss him very much. I would like to place on record our thanks for his help and wise advice over such a long period.

I would also like to mention the fine achievement of one of my fellow Governors, David Vaisey, in being appointed the Bodleian Librarian at Oxford. This follows his fine work as Keeper of Western Manuscripts, and we are proud of an old Rendcombian's earning a post of such distinction.

Another old Rendcombian Governor, Stephen Merrett, is also in the news. Having snared his two satellites which failed to go into orbit last year, he is now on the point of selling them and it looks as though they will finally reach their proper orbits on the top of Chinese rockets!

Let nobody say Rendcomb isn't in the forefront of both academic and space age achievements - and I hope all of you who are struggling with 'O' Level and 'A' Level preparations will be inspired to look upon these examinations as steps towards any - literally any - achievement you put your mind to.

I don't feel qualified to make the kind of inspirational speech at which Sir Louis was so adept and the Headmaster will, I know, be covering many of the developments that have occurred during the year. But 1985 and 1986 have seen a number of improvements to the school.

The new computer centre is proving a valuable new facility. You will recall that we built this on the recommendation of Lord Swann's academic advisory board, and the work was completed in less than 18 months. Since our lives are becoming ruled by computers, I hope that all of you who can will take the opportunity of inspecting them.

After an uncertain start, Fairfields have found us a first-class caterer, and the quality and variety of the food have greatly improved. During the summer holidays we shall build on this success by installing a full self-service system which we believe will give even more variety and a further improvement in quality.

I know that the Headmaster will be saying something about sport, but I would like to mention that Landage field below the Stable Courtyard is now ready for use and looking very fine. The stone seat overlooking it has been installed as a memorial to our benefactor, Mrs Sinclair. And I am sure that this will also remind us of our Founder, Noel Wills, whose memory we honour today.

In talking about how nice the school is looking, we have to thank not only the seemingly endless rain but the fine efforts of Tony Partridge and his team and David Essenhigh. One of that team, Fred Tombs, who has worked here for 25 years, has now retired - I've known



The Headmaster, Mr T. P. A. Norman (Chairman of Governors),  
Sir Patrick and Lady Naime and Maj. M. T. N. H. Wills (Chairman of Trustees)

*Wilts. & Glos. Standard*

Fred well for most of that time and I'm delighted to say he will be joining Frank Fry who, although he retired 8 years ago, after 26 years service to the school, continues to do a great deal for us. They both deserve our thanks.

The past year has been one of intense activity behind the scenes, in that we have put in hand a fundamental review of how we would like to develop the school in every sense to fit it for the later years of the 20th century and into the 21st. The seeds of this work go back to the parental survey, to which you kindly contributed four years ago. It took strong root following the first full meeting between Governors and Staff, which the Headmaster and I organised last September. It has been undertaken under the inspired and dedicated leadership of Gordon Dunstan and his Future Policy Working Party. I can't say how grateful I am to Gordon for all that he is doing for the school. For a man who might well be contemplating retirement, he is a power-house of activity on our behalf.

A Staff Committee under the able chairmanship of Kaye Knapp has also spent many hours discussing ways in which Rendcomb can offer an even better educational experience in the future than it has in the past. This has involved many hours of voluntary work, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. I have seen the draft report, which is a fine piece of work; we shall keep you fully informed of any important decisions.

The Future Policy Working Party has also been looking into the academic review arrangements for the school. In this we have had the particular help of Keith Anderson, who as you know combines his role as Governor with the full-time job of Gloucestershire's Chief Education Officer.

Up to now Lord Swann, with Keith's support and that of other distinguished academics, has come down to the school every two years to discuss with the Headmaster and Senior Staff all the aspects of the academic life of the school. This has been a valuable and worthwhile exercise and has brought us many benefits.

However, after careful thought we believe that a different approach will now suit us better. We want a panel under a well qualified chairman - possibly an ex-member of Her Majesty's Schools Inspectorate who can advise in a different way. The new panel will meet regularly with the staff, not only the senior staff, advise the Headmaster and report regularly to the Governors, so that together with the Headmaster we can keep policy under continued and active review. We live in a changing world, particularly in the educational sense, and two years between reviews seemed too long to be effective.

I would like at this stage to pay a tribute to our teaching staff. In spite of the inordinate delay in the Burnham rates' being agreed, the pressures consequent on the introduction of the new GCSE exams next year, and with a number of extra jobs, such as the Development Committee Work, they have done extremely well, and on behalf of the Governors and all of us I would like to thank the Headmaster and all the teaching staff for their fine work, both in school and also in the many extracurricular activities they undertake, which are a particular feature of life at Rendcomb.

I hope you won't mind if I remind us all of the scarcity of resources with which we have to run

and develop the school. All our plans for the future, the necessity to attract the best staff and to do our best for them in a competitive environment, the mere maintenance of the school, the expansion of our scholarships and bursaries, and all the day-to-day expenses require the most careful use and control of our funds and the most rigorous selection of priorities. Noel Gibbs as Chairman of our Finance and General Purposes Committee, supported by his committee members and with the capable help of the Bursar, does a tremendous job for the school, and I would like on all our behalves to thank him for his unremitting efforts.

The generous endowment by the Wills family, now in the charge of the Chairman of Trustees, Tom Wills, has so far enabled the books to balance and at the same time allow us (though you may find this hard to believe) to hold the fees several hundred pounds below those of comparable schools. When our development studies are complete, we shall have to see how - and over what period - funds will be available to realise our plans. What is sure is that on all sides there is a firm determination to continue the work of developing Rendcomb which Noel Wills started.

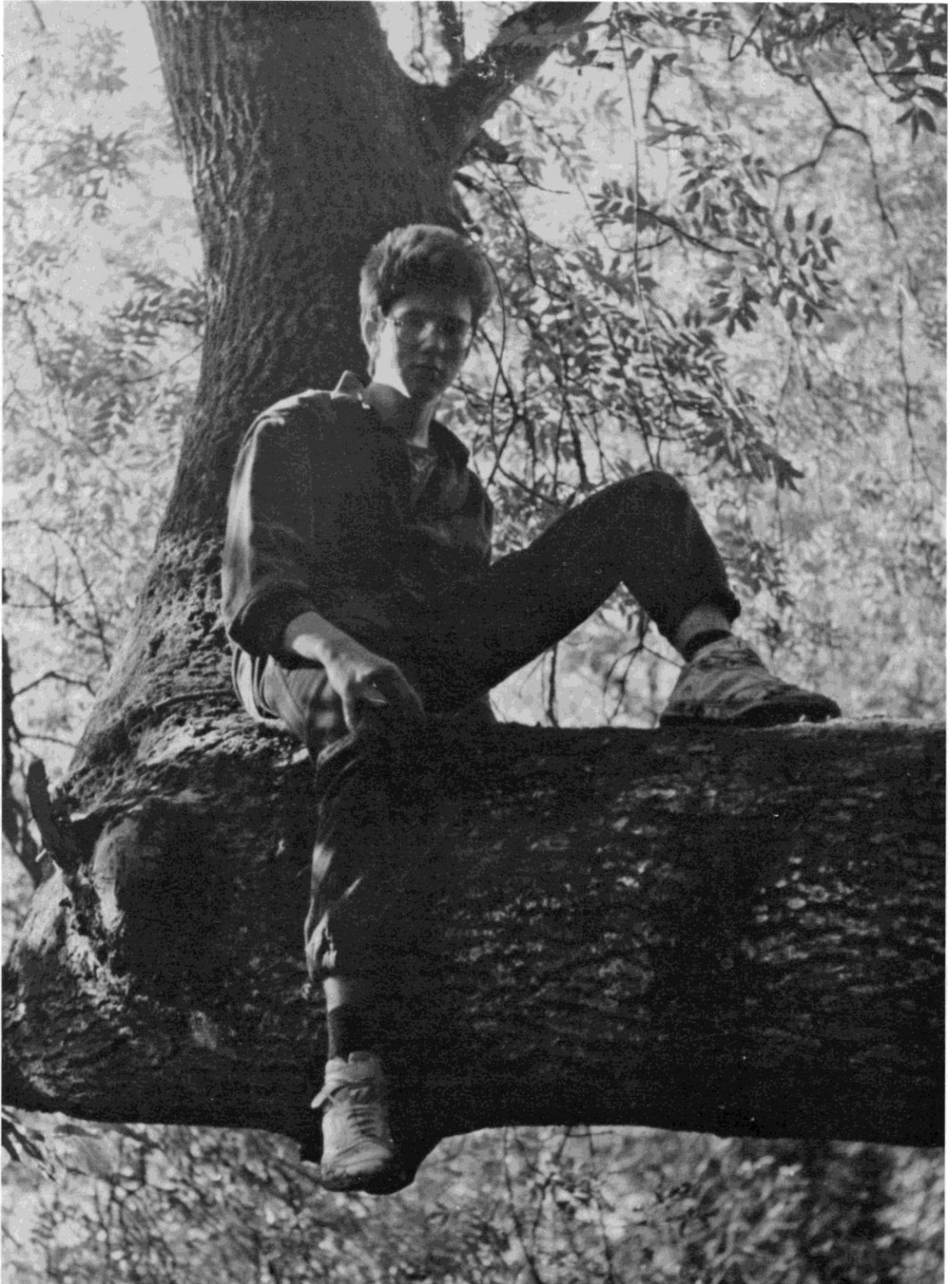
Before closing, I would like to make just one comment of a general nature. I wrote down a remark which Bob Geldof made on a television programme about the cynicism of politicians and others with whom he had to deal in his fund-raising activities for the famine-struck peoples of Africa. What he said was "Cynicism is part of the intellectual baggage we are forced to carry around with us in the 20th century". Often this seems only too true. But I want to say to you that I have never found a scrap of cynicism in any dealings which I have had with anyone at Rendcomb - only hard work and enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm seems to me to make us capable of doing almost anything. Hard work as an end in itself, as a kind of Victorian ethos, has limited merit. But hard work because of inspiration and enthusiasm isn't work at all. I know in my own job how refreshing it is to see someone going after something with enthusiasm. It makes one want to help it along. If someone says of my own work 'He is always so enthusiastic', it seems the finest compliment.

Bob Geldof's drive and enthusiasm in inspiring Live Aid and then Band Aid and now Sports Aid has raised many tens of millions of pounds for those in desperate need. But even more important: it has raised the hearts and minds of people all over the world above the horizon of their day-to-day lives and has shown yet again that enthusiasm and inspiration for a particular cause can truly achieve miracles.

To those of you who already feel that the world, or anything else, is in a dreadful state, and who are beginning to view it cynically - don't - it's up to you to try and change it, and I'm sure you understand that you can. Don't succumb to apathy; do whatever you do with real energy and enthusiasm.

I wish you a happy half-term, and to those taking exams - very good luck.



Daniel Beales

*D. M. Beales*



# The Headmaster's Report

A warm welcome to you all, and especially I welcome on your behalf our Guest of honour, Sir Patrick Nairne. It's the Chairman's privilege to introduce the main speaker, but I did note that Sir Patrick's distinguished career in the Civil Service has concluded with the Mastership of ST Catherine's College, Oxford, and I must confess that the irreverent thought of 'Yes, Minister' and the Master of Bailey College flashed across my mind. Could it really be like that in the corridors of power? I haven't yet had the chance to ask, but I hope to do so.

At least I'm glad to say that our last candidate entering St Catherine's gained a good degree in a subject particularly appropriate for Industry Year 1986 - Engineering and Management.

The weather map of public education in Britain this year can be briefly summarised: 'A deep depression occupies the whole area. It is centred over the Secondary School system, but its effects are being felt throughout further and higher education. Little immediate improvement is forecast'.

We all know the causes: falling numbers, falling resources, falling morale.

Independent schools may be enjoying a brief interlude, with numbers holding up, reasonable resources available and therefore morale steady, but with the profession to which we all belong under attack and under-valued as it is, we are in no mood to be smug. It would be hard to find more dedicated staff than here at Rendcomb, but we claim no monopoly of dedicated teachers, and a large majority of those who have been in dispute simply wanted to achieve a fair settlement and get back to work. Opinions will vary on the methods adopted to achieve that settlement, and on those I make no comment. But people will work for either love or money; deprived of both, they lose heart.

I would like to express our feeling of solidarity with our colleagues in the Maintained Sector, perhaps especially because we have always drawn a large part of our support from Primary Schools in Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties, as well as maintaining friendly relations and valuable links with our neighbouring Grammar and Comprehensive Schools.

What comfort can we draw from the present situation? My knowledge of Chinese is strictly limited, but I understand that they use the same word for crisis and opportunity. And if I may strike a topical note, the motto chosen for Miss Sarah Ferguson's coat of arms with 'Ex adversis felicitas crescit'. 'From adversity, happiness grows'.

Let's hope that the discussions on a new professional salary structure will be successfully concluded this summer so that the examinations, about which there has been such dissension, can go ahead with everyone wholeheartedly behind them. I spoke in support of the GCSE last year and at that stage members of staff may well have muttered 'all right for him, he hasn't got to teach it'.

But now, all heads of departments have attended two-day courses and, in spite of some reservations and understandable anxieties, the general response to the ideas behind the new papers has been favourable.

There will be extra demands on time, and especially so to start with, but the courses should offer more in the way of breadth, relevance, projects and practical work. The increased emphasis on oral work is not entirely new; Socrates disliked the written word - he said it made for inflexibility of thought.

He would have approved of Professor Joad who, as an undergraduate in a philosophy exam, was asked to write for three hours on the question 'Can a good man be happy on the rack?'. He walked out after 1½ minutes having written: 'If he is a very good man and it is a very bad rack, yes. Otherwise not'. For which he was awarded an alpha.

Inflexibility or not, nobody would deny the vital need for writing clear, accurate English, though you'd be surprised at the difficulty we had in gaining entrance to Cambridge last year for a girl who was an outstanding scholar but had chosen to study English, with Maths and Physics. Eventually they conceded the need for literate engineers, more especially as she had gained a valuable engineering sponsorship against intense competition.

But there is a greater need nowadays to be not only literate and numerate but articulate.

Things are done less by order or fiat and more by discussion and persuasion.

A distinguished historian once said, 'Britain has been saved not by her statesmen, but by the committee sense of her people'. Perhaps this is another way of describing the British genius for compromise, but there's no doubt that today, and even more in the 1990s, running a country, or a company or a school, will require these skills. And what better place to acquire them than in a boarding school where you learn to respect, or at least to tolerate other people's views even if you disagree strongly, rather than shouting them down, as in the deplorable scenes recently reported at a great University not far from here.

And, as I've mentioned boarding and the nation, let me suggest two important things that you do learn in a community such as ours.

First, to be responsible for your own actions and to be held accountable for them; and following on from that, secondly, to recognise that a free society depends not just upon laws or school rules, but also largely upon unspoken assumptions. As Edmund Burke put it: 'Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more there has to be without'.

Schools are often blamed for the ills of society, but more truly, I think, they reflect them, and I believe that this learning about democracy, this learning about 'obedience to the unenforceable' is as vital to our country as it is to any school.

Now to academic results, and first 'O' levels. We gained our usual average of 8 passes, but I confess to a slight disappointment about the quality. A few able boys underperformed, and I would say to all candidates: 'Don't underestimate the importance that Universities and employers attach to these results'.

In the 'A' levels also, one or two people were short on personal motivation, but overall it was a very respectable performance, with more than half the passes at A or B.



Junior House Swallows  
C. J. Wood

grade and a good sprinkling of Distinctions and Merits in the Special papers.

Finally a comment on the Oxford and Cambridge examinations. The previous year's record number of eleven places clearly encouraged a spirit of optimism, and I'm reminded of the man being interviewed who, when asked 'Are you optimistic about the future?' answered 'Yes'. 'Then why are you looking so gloomy?' asked the Chairman. He replied 'Because my optimism is ill-founded'.

I'm sure that those candidates who entered did gain from the experience of working really flat out. On the last day of term I spoke to a girl I'd been teaching who looked positively grey with fatigue: "Have a good sleep in the car on the way home", I suggested. "Well" she said, "I'm driving". "In that case, I replied, "Don't".

But here, as in other aspects of school life, we do need to strike a balance between encouragement and realism when we advise candidates whether to make the attempt or not.

Many of you will have seen some of the work in the new Computer Room. Until recently I would have sympathised with the caterpillar who, looking up at a butterfly, said to another caterpillar: 'You'll never get *me* up in one of those'. But we have to move with the times, and it was while I was trying to word-process a letter that Mr Hawkswell said to me: "There's always something new; I'm learning all the time. If someone has a problem in physics, I explain it; if in computers I'll often say: 'Why not ask J., he'll help you' ". It's not that he doesn't know the answer, but that in some aspects of this expanding subject both master and pupil are exploring new areas together.

Perhaps you noted the arrangements of the screens, facing sideways and boys working in pairs. When I was at school the master was on a raised platform at one end - not just so that he could spot the boy dozing at the back, but as a symbol of authority. He was also wearing a gown - not only to keep the chalk dust off his jacket, but as a symbol of learning. Now, raised dais and chalk have gone as the emphasis is switching from teaching to learning. Of course teachers still teach, especially in the early years, but more

and more we are, and shall be, engaged in helping boys and girls to learn for themselves. Hence the new emphasis on project work. Choose your topic, research it, write it up; we'll advise, help, guide and assess, but it's your own ... exciting!

A recent article in a paper asked: 'What is the most popular recreation in Britain?' The answer wasn't fishing or football, it was going for a walk.

We started the year by going for a walk, a sponsored one of 20 miles - or a little over for some of us. There was a halt for lunch at 12 miles for those who had had enough, but those with stronger legs or stouter hearts completed the course, and I'd like to congratulate particularly the younger members of the school and some of the girls, who set their elders an example in doing something worthwhile. Nearly £2, 000 was raised, mainly for the Behala Boys' Home in Calcutta. I think we should do this more often, perhaps every two years. It brings everybody together early in the school year, with many parents as well, and makes a challenging and satisfying day out. Admittedly, it takes its toll of older participants and, as I staggered home with one of my main bearings almost seized up and my right elbow already malfunctioning from playing squash with the school team, I wondered whether I could claim for industrial injury.

At least I hadn't got it by inflicting corporal punishment, unlike Dr Heath, Headmaster of Eton, who, in 1796, after giving 70 boys ten strokes of the cane, retired to bed for a week with strained ligaments and muscles.

But now to other energetic pursuits:

I counted 13 different sports on the go this term and I've probably missed some, but I make no apology for concentrating on our main games and for two reasons:

1. I think there's a zest and spirit about playing for a school team which you never quite recapture in later life unless you play at the highest level.
2. Team games are for enjoyment, but look at the demands they make: organisation, decision making, discipline, loyalty, determination.

Aren't these exactly the qualities needed in any worthwhile enterprise involving other people? And that's without mentioning physical courage and fitness.

Certainly our fine rugby teams showed these qualities throughout the season.

The coach for the American Olympic hockey team gave us an intensive practice session at the start of term, and this contributed to one of our best sides in recent years. Sadly, they had to wait nearly seven weeks through that bitter frost and illness before they could demonstrate their quality. It's years since we had as many as 70 people at a time out of action. But they came good in the end, beating our strongest opponents, and the girls' XI had their triumph too. You'll also note from your programme that, as in other sports, we are well represented at County level, with some talented younger players coming on.

A sad opening to the national cricket season this year after the debacle in the West Indies.

But, as though to make an ironic comment, the death of those great stalwarts Jim Laker and Bill Edrich reminded us of some golden days. What a pleasure to see a flashback of Laker taking all ten Australian wickets - and, by aiming to remove the batsman's bails and not his head, which seems to be the idea nowadays.

I'm glad to say that here the spirit of the game is unchanged. We now have no less than three national coaches on the staff, strongly supported by others no less experienced and armed with the fine bowling machine given by the Parents' Association. I can confidently claim that you would not find better coaching anywhere in the country. Whether we'll get a chance to prove it remains to be seen. So far six matches have been played, 12 cancelled.

Finally three sports I must mention which have received a boost this year. We now have a four-hole, practice, 9 to 5 golf course in the Park, the numbers referring not to the clock, but the clubs required. Par for the course is 12, but if anyone refers to it as pitch and putt, I challenge him to land on the 3rd green in one - downhill, but a couple of hundred yards into the prevailing wind.

Then the swimming pool has been newly heated, and has been enjoyed right from the beginning of term in spite of wind and rain.

Lastly riding, not only because it has given a lot of pleasure for fourteen years, but because it was at Rendcomb that Richard Dunwoody, the winner of the Grand National, had some of his early riding lessons.

This has been a memorable year for music and drama, but I have time to mention only two highlights besides the very successful pop concert two nights ago. Only three weeks into the Christmas term we had the rare pleasure of a Mozart piano concerto and a Mendelssohn violin concerto, performed by very recent Old Boys accompanied by the School Orchestra. I wish you could all have been there. Then at the end of term music and drama came together in our first Gilbert & Sullivan. Fifty performers, supported by all the stage and electrical experts, played, acted and sang their heads off - a really exuberant evening, as many enthusiastic parents testified.

Art, craft, design and woodwork continue to flourish, as you may have seen from the display, with three candidates into Art School this year. My one anxiety at present is how we are to tackle the new subject, Craft, Design & Technology, without damaging the long tradition of

Rendcomb Woodwork which is agreed on all sides to be quite outstanding; discussions have started, but decisions will not be rushed.

Next I'd like to thank the committee members of the Parents' Association for their work during this second year. We have had a number of helpful meetings sometimes lasting up to three hours, and on one occasion, to escape from the locked building, I had to climb out of a window to get home to bed. We shall continue to welcome help with careers conventions and mock interviews, and conversely I've been asked to provide closer guidance on tricky points like clothing regulations and haircuts. On these matters where fashion holds sway it's easy for problems to arise with informal school dress. At least, with our new exeat system, we don't have to import a barber into the school and line everyone up as we used to. I still sometimes get the excuse that the unisex hair person was to blame. You may have heard of the tired executive who went for a trim and when asked how he would like it cut replied: 'I'd like it cut like Prince Charles please'. Awakening from slumber in a quarter of an hour and surveying the wreckage on top of his head, he exclaimed 'This isn't the kind of haircut Prince Charles has', to which the barber replied 'He would if he came here'.

To be serious though, I would very much like parents and school to work a little more closely on the question of appearance. Second-hand tramp coats are just not acceptable; young people are not always the best judges about how they look to others, and a bit of firm, common-sense parental advice is most helpful; don't pay too much heed to the siren voice which claims: 'everybody's wearing them'; and it's worth remembering that, when trying for a job in these difficult days, it's no good having a heart of gold if you've got feet of clay. Appearances may be deceptive but they do matter.

Two last appeals, one on behalf of the Parents' Committee and one on my own. First, don't miss your chance to buy a ticket for the Summer Ball on August 30th. Perhaps it's worth mentioning in the year of the Queen's 60th birthday that Queen Elizabeth I slept here at Rendcomb. Whether Sir Richard Berkely gave a summer ball for her on September 8th 1592 is not recorded, but he may well have done. In any case it should be a marvellous evening, and you won't find better value anywhere, nor better company.

Second, the best way of ensuring that Rendcomb remains as full as it has been for years is to encourage your friends and acquaintances to visit us, either privately or on our regular Open Day - this year on Saturday October 11th.

Last September Mr White decided that after twelve years as Second Master he would step down. I'm grateful to him for all his help and advice during this time and I'm glad that he is continuing to plan the timetable. Mr Knapp, after nineteen years running the Junior House, was just looking forward to a slightly easier year, but he willingly agreed to take over, and in no time at all found himself running the school in my absence.

We say goodbye this term to Mr Ball and Mr Oldroyd. Mr Ball has proved an excellent Head of French, in addition to all the help he has provided with boarding duties, music and other school activities. He goes to Ellesmere College as Head of Modern Languages.

Mr Oldroyd is also going north to Shropshire. He has

been appointed Chaplain of Wrekin College. His pastoral and teaching work for four years here has been very much appreciated, and he and his wife will be much missed from the school and the village. We wish them every success and happiness in their new home.

One final valedictory word: it's with great sadness and warm appreciation that I record the death of Mr Jack Fell, who after many years teaching at Rendcomb continued to live in the village, greatly valued as President of the Old Rendcombian Society, Churchwarden, friend of the school and neighbour to all.

And now it only remains for me to thank you Ladies and Gentlemen, both parents and pupils, for your continuing support for the school, and may I, in conclusion, quote a short letter printed in a recent copy of the *Times* from a Mrs Susan Wood: "Sir, new exams, a revised syllabus, more direct-grant schools, a revamped voucher system - the ideas are endless in an effort to improve the educational standards of this country.

For *my* children, I am looking for a school with an adequate number of dedicated and highly motivated staff, well qualified, highly respected and highly paid. Without this foundation, all the rest will crumble".

That rings true to me as a parent and as a headmaster. So I ask you to join with me, if you will, in my whole-hearted appreciation for the staff and for all who work at Rendcomb.

## Address by Sir Patrick Nairne, GCB, MC, MA

I went to a school where, in my day, there was no prize giving, and also no speech making. It was a let-off for the Headmaster, and certainly a let-off for the School. I am not sure about the parents; I suspect that most of them would have welcomed an annual Headmaster's Report of the stimulating kind we have heard this morning. But, now that you have heard that report, and some agreeable words from the Chairman, and are waiting expectantly, my heart slightly bleeds for you - the same heart that sank when Sir David Wills coaxed me last year into accepting an invitation to address you.

But I could not refuse Sir David. I have clocked up school attendance hours in the hospitable surroundings of his other educational establishment, Ditchley Park. Nor could I refuse the Chairman, when I realised that he was the successor to my old friend Admiral Louis Le Bailly, having stepped in to the Chair when another remarkable and talented friend and colleague from my Admiralty days, Admiral Dick Clayton, was so tragically killed. And I quickly found out that we had had several Rendcomb students over the years, including Julian Campbell who achieved a splendid First nine years ago.

Besides, I cannot readily resist the Cotswolds. They took me by surprise when I was a boy at school and unexpectedly introduced to the Windrush Valley on a glorious Spring day nearly 50 years ago. Over 40 years ago I spent a few weeks training at the infantry battle school of the 51st Highland Division on the other side of Cirencester;

I can remember the Cameron Highlander Commanding Officer welcoming us with the words "The best pubs are in Cirencester, but you won't have time to go to them. I call it Cirencester; some of you toffee-nosed subalterns who have been at Oxford or Cambridge may call it Cister or Corinium, but let me tell you that those who live here call it 'Ziren'."

Be that as it may, I thought of the past as my wife and I walked round this beautiful place and saw something of the College's activities and realised that I am only one year off the same age as Rendcomb. Rendcomb and I have shared over six decades of an enthralling period of history.

We devote a good deal of effort to thinking about, perhaps planning, the future; but we often neglect reflecting on the past - an activity quite distinct from learning history in the classroom. The pace of change has bewildered us. As I stand here, I am inclined to wonder what has *not* changed. I suggest three things to you at Rendcomb: the entrancing countryside of Gloucestershire; human nature; and (that comfort of my schooldays) the Mars Bar, an ageless and agreeable invention during my childhood.

So I shall briefly reflect....

*My first reflection* is that we are perhaps learning never to be over-confident about the effectiveness and reliability of scientific and technological developments. We can easily discount the undetected or ignored frailties of the machine; and they are undetected or ignored because of the frailties of ourselves. Last year's experience of air disaster, the horrifying failure of the Challenger space vehicle and the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe bear this out. But we must not take fright. The sinking of the Titanic, to take that horrific disaster as an example, did not deter the developments of the great Atlantic liners, the Queen Mary or the Queen Elizabeth, which used to sail down the Solent, passing the dormitory windows of my school.

*My second reflection* is that it is a more dangerous world than when I was young. You are living in, or growing up in, a more difficult society - the society of terrorism, racial strife, danger in the streets - and the achievements of science and technology cannot do much to help you (and can sometimes add to the dangers). During Rendcomb's sixty years scientists and engineers have solved many technological problems - and the speed of your car, the scope of your travel and the potential of the computer bear witness; but the problems of our society - the degree of violence, the barren prospects of the inner city, the failures of education in many places - have proved more difficult to solve, or to prevent. And the media - the press, radio and television - are always on hand - to an extent that they were not in Rendcomb's (and my own) earlier years - to extract the maximum drama from our disasters and difficulties.

But, again, we must take heart. *For my last reflection* is that we are still free. Rendcomb has grown up in freedom, but the College and I are old enough to remember vividly when our political freedom as a country was threatened. In my first term at Oxford - the 20th year of Rendcomb's life - I saw the survivors of Dunkirk crowding the pavements with their faces burnt black from the sun on the beaches. I can recall the placards at Carfax announcing the fall of Paris to the Germans. Our homes were directly open to air



attack and invasion. If the school stayed here, as it probably did, there would have been fire-watchers at night on the roof, alert for the sound of German bombers en route to Bristol, and members of the staff in the local Gloucestershire Home Guard, believing that they could be a target for German invasion.

I cannot help reflecting today that we may be taking our political freedom for granted; that we may too easily forget that the preservation of that freedom depends on our understanding the lesson that my generation, and my father's generation, but *not* your generation, had to learn - the lesson of collective military strength, not for making war, but for preventing it by deterring those who might threaten us again. For us it is a free world. We are still blessed with a free society that you will not find only a few hundreds of miles away in Eastern Europe (or in Russia, which some may have visited in the School trip of recent years). It is a freedom that rests on an alliance with our friends - and, in particular, with our American friends, who may not always be right, but whom some are too quick to criticise. This blessing of freedom is like the gift of sleep: you cannot appreciate its value fully until you find that you have lost it.

Well, perhaps you who are here at Rendcomb do not feel entirely free. Those who are facing 'O' levels, 'A' levels or the new GCSE, or are expected to get a University place, feel imprisoned within the pressures of what is expected of them by their school or by their parents or (not least) by themselves. That is certainly true of a University like Oxford where a student does not feel free if he fails to cope with the pressures of his life. I am sure that many of you have woken up to the fact that, while blessed with this gift called freedom, what it means for each of us depends on where we are, on what we wish, or have the will, to do, and on what we can do.

Most of us are not physically free to swim the Channel or to climb one of the peaks in the Alps: we have not acquired the physical capacity. Most of us cannot travel where we would like: we are (for one thing) restricted by what we can afford to do. You still have the freedom to make what you like of your careers when you leave Rendcomb; but what you are able to make of them will depend very largely upon the qualifications, academic and professional, that you have the ability and determination to acquire. Your (always) demanding and (sometimes) dull days at school are widening, or are restricting, your freedom of choice when you leave it.

Perhaps that sounds a little threatening, or at least daunting - the message only for the golden boy or girl, the elitist? *Not so* - as Rendcomb's own admirable principle of developing the individual potential can illustrate. There are many ways - and some are not always apparent while you are at school - in which each of us can use his or her freedom to develop his or her individual capacities and gifts.

I would like to put it to you this morning that there is one particular freedom that is available to us all, and is all too often neglected. It sounds very simple. *The freedom to think for ourselves.*

You probably *think* that you do think for yourself. But do you? The radio, television and the newspapers press *their* thinking on us day in day out. It requires a positive effort of will to avoid allowing it to soak into our consciousness and capture our minds. You have to train

yourself to stop and think: what do *I* think about this or about that? *Not* just what have I heard or read about this or that, but do I *think* about it myself?

Years ago one of my old schoolmasters said to me: "Thinking is like drinking. You have to take to it young in order to acquire a good head. Look around you and you will see and hear - in the newspapers, at home and around you at school - people who have *not* learned to think and are talking", he said, "as if they were totally *thunk*. Your education is meant to save you from thunkeness!"

So acquire a good head for thinking! It needs practice - and sometimes moral courage.

There is no better test of your ability to think clearly than to make yourself write plainly - putting plainly on paper *not* what you have remembered from a text book or a newspaper but what you think *yourself* - and not a jumble of jargon, but straightforward English words. It is a difficult craft. To draft, as a Civil Servant, a memorandum for the Cabinet which will - in plain words and not more than two or three sides of paper - analyse a complicated problem, sort out the different policy factors (economic, administrative, technical and political), present the policy choices, and advise what looks like the best choice, amounts to a skill of thinking straight and writing clearly in the Olympic gold medal class.

You may know the old saying, a cry of protest - which we prefer to apply to others rather than to ourselves:

"But I do not *know* what I think until I hear what I say!" We should take as our own model one of the characters in a novel by Jane Austen:

"She was not", wrote Jane Austen, "a woman of many words, for unlike people in general, she proportioned them to the number of her ideas."

Civil Servants and Oxford dons, I have to admit, are often people 'of many words'. And some of them, especially the lawyers, the economists, and the Whitehall bureaucrats are deeply infected with gobbledygook and jargon. To assist with a cure, the Civil Service had a special book - called 'Plain Words' - written for it, published nearly 40 years ago (and, I believe, recently re-published). The message of that book, 'Plain Words', was this: what often appears to be a sloppy or meaningless use of *words* may well be a correct use of words to express sloppy or meaningless *thinking*.

To show what he meant by straight thinking and plain words, the author, Sir Ernest Gowers, quoted with approval a school essay by a small boy. Perhaps you have heard the essay before. It goes like this:

"The bird I am going to write about is the owl. The owl cannot see at all by day and at night is as blind as a bat.

I do not know much about the owl, so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mammal. It has six sides - right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with, and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell; one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country.

The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much, but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is full up with grass. ' That would not quite do for the Cabinet or for your English essays; but it is a splendid lesson in simple writing. The trouble is that what *looks* simple is not always easy. Art to conceal art. Think of the concert pianist. Watch a Gooch, Gower or Gatting at the wicket and it looks as easy as pie. But we all know that we, for our part, have to work hard if we are to improve our own skill - and that what looks plain and straightforward can often conceal subtleties and complexities.

My favourite school story illustrates the point - and this is more a story for the staff than the boys.

The English master at a school went down with 'flu, and the Headmaster had to find another member of staff to take his form. He picked on the physics master, who happened to have the right periods free. "It is all right", the Headmaster reassured him, "The form is simply reading aloud round the class Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice', and all that you have to do is to preside and keep control while the class gets on with it".

All went well for the physics master until the reading of the play brought the form to the famous passage in which Portia says: "The quality of mercy is not strained, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven..." A boy then put up his hand and said, "Please, Sir, what does 'strained' mean? Does it mean strained as in tea-strainer or strained like you strain a muscle at football?"

The physics master woke up sharply and felt completely stumped. Even if he knew Portia's speech, he had never thought about it. He decided to deal with the question firmly and (as a good physics master) scientifically.

"Look here, boy" he said, "that is not a sensible question, there is no need to look for the *meaning* of 'strained' in Portia's speech: that is of no importance or relevance, since what Shakespeare is making clear through the lips of Portia is that the quality of mercy is '*not* strained!'."

I shall strain your patience if I do not end. What I have been saying is this. If you reflect on the last 50-60 years, the mind boggles at the scientific inventiveness of the human race; but the race *is* human - exposed to the risk of catastrophe, often man-made, and still deficient in the science of living happily with each other across the world. But *all* of us who are still blessed with the gift of freedom, should cherish it - as an element as essential as the air we breathe.

And we should reflect from time to time on what freedom is for. It is not unlimited, but we are blessed with it more abundantly than will be found in many parts of the world; and we need to use it, as individuals in the spirit of Rendcomb, starting with the freedom to think for ourselves.

What we think, leading to what we do, add up to the rent we pay for our lives. I came across this year a bright spark of wisdom, on which I would like to end. It is this: "Remember - if you yourself can just push one good and valuable stone into the stream of life and make it stick, you will, in time, change the whole course of the river."

## Speech of Thanks

by the Head Prefect, Karl Knight

Chairman of the Governors, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure this year to thank our guest speaker for such an interesting and stimulating speech, and I'm sure you will agree that the freedom we experience and our ability to think and choose for ourselves in Great Britain is something that we all take for granted.

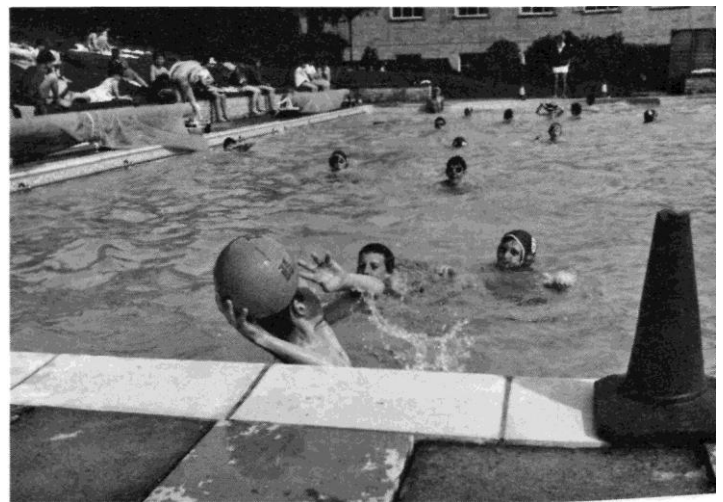
Before I ask you to show your appreciation to Sir Patrick for coming here today I would like to speak briefly about my lasting impressions of Rendcomb.

It is only when you return to Rendcomb for your last term that you suddenly start to recall many of the events which have taken place during your stay here, and you ask yourself what you have actually achieved. Many of us will hope to leave with good 'O' or 'A' level results, which will lead to successful careers. Many will have played in school teams, sung in the choir, played in the orchestra, held meeting offices or engaged in numerous other activities; the list is in fact endless.

However in all these there are a few recurring factors which are essential to life, both here and in the outside world. They all involve teamwork, determination and loyalty. This leads me directly into what I'd like to finish with today, and that is the quality which links all of the above - Friendship.

It is only through my friends' encouragement and support that I have had the courage to stand up here today, performing what seems to me to be one of the most daunting tasks that a head boy has to face. I think that in the future, when I remember Rendcomb, it will not be the good or bad decisions that I made as Head Prefect, the school, or even any particular event that I will remember. Instead it will be the friends that I have made and the people of all ages that I have grown up and matured with. And so, it is for their friendship and advice in particular that I convey my sincere thanks for today, and it is to them that I attribute whatever success I may have achieved.

Once again, Sir Patrick, very many thanks for coming here today.



# Academic Results

## Honours

We congratulate the following:

Kevin Barraclough (1969-76)	1st Class Honours, Medical Sciences, London University
Olivia Hanscombe (1980-82)	Exhibition, Brasenose College, Oxford, Biochemistry
Mark Burchell (1974-81)	1st Class Honours, Geology, Oxford
Andrew Pitt (1974-81)	1st Class Honours, Chemistry, Bristol
Richard Stibbard (1975-82)	Exeter University Scholarship for further studies in Germany
Simon Wormleighton (1968-75)	Ph. D., Exeter University

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Karen Harman (King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds)	Girl's Scholarship
William Hunter-Smart (Ingleside School)	Major Scholarship
Patrick Morgan (The Preparatory School, Newbury)	Major Scholarship
William King (Oakley Hall School)	Minor Scholarship
James Lowe (Hartpur Primary School)	Minor Scholarship
Thomas Shillington-Balfour (Winterfold House School)	Minor Scholarship
Jonathan Tomsett (Amestrey School)	Minor Scholarship
Piers Gorman (Amestrey School)	Music Scholarship
David Chapman (Prior Park Preparatory School)	Art Scholarship
Martin Digby (Duke of Kent School, Ewhurst)	HM Forces Bursary
Mark Sansome (Thornlow Junior School)	HM Forces Bursary
Paul Williams (Glenfall Primary School)	HM Forces Bursary
Richard Hutson (Harewood Junior School)	Rendcomb Foundation Scholarship

Gloucestershire Foundation Places:

- Alexander Beales (Powell's Church of England School)
- John Talbot (Longlevens Primary School)

## ‘A’ Level

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

Nicholas Badcott - English, History, Geography  
 Amanda Baker - English, History, Public Affairs  
 Nicholas Blackshaw - English, History, Public Affairs  
 Alistair Brain - Biology, Public Affairs  
 Thomas Branston - Mathematics, Chemistry, Art  
 Sarra Butler - English, Geography, Biology  
 Charlotte Carroll - Mathematics, Chemistry  
 Katherine Conway - English, Geography\*, German  
 Matthew Cordeux - English, French (M),  
 German Rachel Daniels - Physics, Chemistry, Biology\*  
 Darren Denby - Chemistry, Biology  
 Alan Doyle-Physics, Chemistry, Biology\*  
 David Edwin - Chemistry, Biology  
 Kevin Elderfield - English, French, German  
 Caroline Eldridge - Geography, Art\*  
 Claire Ellis - Mathematics\*, Physics, Chemistry\*  
 Kristin Ewing - English, History, French  
 Catherine Faircloth - English, History, Public Affairs  
 Mark Hammond - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry  
 Sarah Hassall - English, History  
 Alex Hayes - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry  
 John Healey - English, History, Public Affairs  
 Simon Jenkins - Geography  
 Christopher Jones - History\* (M), French, Mathematics\*  
 Reza Khosrowshahi - English, History, French  
 Darryl King - English, Geography  
 Karl Knight - English, Public Affairs  
 Jane Larroucau - Chemistry, Biology  
 Duncan MacDonald - Biology  
 Richard Moss - Geography, Chemistry, Biology  
 Timothy Needham - Geography, Biology, Art  
 Adam Pallant - French\*, Chemistry\* (M), Biology\* (D)  
 Neil Paterson-Fox - English, French, German  
 Jonathan Quick - Geography, Biology, Art  
 Mary Reynolds - History, Public Affairs  
 Timothy Robinson- English\*, History, Public Affairs (M)  
 Louisa Roseblade - Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry  
 Eleanor Rowe - English\*, Geography, Biology  
 Paul Spackman —Geography, Mathematics, Chemistry  
 Martin Stitt - Physics, Chemistry (D), Biology\* (M)  
 Mark Thompson - Geography  
 Edwina Thring - English, French  
 Angus Trowern - Geography, Chemistry, Biology  
 Jane Valentine - English, History, French  
 Graeme Veale - English, History, Public Affairs (M)  
 Katrina Walsh - English, Music  
 Nicholas Webb - Geography

Key: \* - ‘A’ Grade, (D) Distinction in Special Paper (M) Merit in Special Paper

## ‘O’ Level

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

Daniel Beales - CT  
 Gillian Bell-CT\*  
 Dominic Clark - CS\*, CT  
 Giles Davies - AM  
 Robert Draper - AM  
 Ian Ford - F, AM, CT  
 Theresa Fox - CS, ct  
 Melanie Gill - LL  
 Roderick Hill - CS  
 Tanya Holden - CT  
 Raquel Hughes - CT  
 Darren John - F, CT  
 Simon Kingscote - CS  
 Kerry Mallindine - CS  
 James Mann - CS, I  
 Christopher Moody - CS, CT  
 Philip Moore - cs, CT  
 Polly Nicholls - GN  
 Justin Noyce - f, A  
 Julian Odell - CT  
 James Penneck - CS, CT  
 Christopher Pope - F, CS  
 Timothy Prince - CT  
 Simon Reichwald - CT\*  
 Angus Rollo - CT  
 Justin Rosa - m, CT  
 Mark Walters - CS, CT  
 Nicholas Wharmby - CS  
 Iain Whittaker - CS, AM  
 Stephen Young - b  
 Alexander Andreis - e, EL, H, L, F\*, GN, M\*, P, C  
 Michael Attwood - e, EL, H\*, L, F, GN, M, P, c  
 John Barnett - E\* EL\*, H\*, L\*, F\* GN\*, M\*, P\*, C\*  
 Michael Bews- E\*, EL\*, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 Adam Binder - e, EL, h, f, W  
 Simon Bird - E, h, G, f, m, b  
 Piers Bowley - E, EL, H, G, F, M, p, b  
 Giles Carter - E, EL, H, G, f, m, b  
 Jonathan Chappelle - E\*, EL, H, G\*, F, M\*, P, C, B  
 Mark Croft - E, EL\*, H\*, L\*, F, M\*, P, C\*, B\*  
 John Delaney - E, EL, H, L, F\*, GN, M\*, P, C  
 Christopher Eames - E, EL\*, H\*, L\*, F, GN, M\*, P\*, C\*  
 Alan Edwards - E, G, m, W  
 Julian Fellows - E, EL, G, M, b  
 Stephen Green - E\*, EL\*, H\*, L\* F, GN, M, P, C  
 Paul Griffiths - E, EL, H\*, G\*, f, M, P, C, B  
 Warren Hammond - E, EL, H, L\*, F\*, M\*, P, C\*, B  
 Mark Hastings - E, EL, H, G, F, GN, M\*, P, C  
 David Hauton - E, EL, H, G\*, f, M, P\*, C, B  
 Christopher Hoare - E\*, EL, H, L\*, F\*, M\*, P\*, C\*, B\*,  
 Rory Johnston - E\*, el, h, G, f, p, b  
 David Kenney - E, el, H, G, F, GN, M\*, P, C  
 Richard Kolb - E\*, EL, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Mark Larroucau - E, el, H, G, F, M, P, C, B  
 Julian Leigh - E, EL, H, G, M, P, C, B  
 Robert Matson - E, EL, H\*, G\*, F, M\*, P\*, C\*, B\*  
 James McMonigall - E, el, H, G

Ian McMurtrie - E, EL, H, G, F, GN, M, P, C  
 David Paton - e, h, g, b  
 Marcus Rann - E, EL, H, L, F, M, P, C, B  
 Benjamin Rees - e, EL, H, g, f, M, P, C, B  
 Richard Reichwald - el, h, l, f, m, p, c  
 Colin Sainsbury - E\*, EL, H, G, F, M\*, P\*, C\*, B  
 Andrew Satterthwaite - E, EL, H, G, M, P, C, B  
 John Shaw - E, el, H, G, M, p, b, W  
 Hari Swami-Nathan - E, el, H, g, F, M\*, P, C, b  
 Edward Webb - E\* EL\*, H\*, L\*, F\*, GN\*, M\*, P\*, C\*  
 James Williamson - E, EL, H, G, f, M, P, C, B  
 Colin Bannister - R  
 Anthony Bedford - mu  
 Geoffrey Broomfield - R  
 Robert Bugden - r  
 Jason Carter - r, A  
 Angus Cochrane - R  
 Guy Cowie - r  
 Thomas Eastham - r, a  
 Matthew Faircloth - mu  
 Richard Hardy - a  
 Christopher Hauton - R, A  
 Nicholas Hett - A  
 Daniel Houseman - R  
 Christopher Huck - a  
 Grant Hughes r, A  
 Andrew Kinch - r, a  
 Jonathan Lutwyche - MU  
 Roland Martin - R  
 William Matson - r  
 Julian Norbury - R, a  
 David Norton - R, A  
 Russell Ogden - r  
 Aubrey Powell - R\*, A  
 Simon Scott-White - r, A  
 William Sherwood - r  
 Jonathan Slattery - R  
 Nicholas Suffolk - R  
 Sean Tate - r  
 Vaughan Tredwell - R  
 Jason Vernon - mu  
 Christopher Wood - R  
 Richard Wooster - r

Capital letters denote a pass at Grade A-C; small letters denote a pass at Grade D-E. \* = Grade A.

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



# Reports

## Bursar's Report

This year has seen the longest, coldest winter for many a moon, and as a result both the new playing field on Landage, now to be known as the Sinclair Field, and the Golf Course have been brought into use later than we hoped. At the time of writing, however, both are looking very attractive, with good growths of grass. On the subject of Landage, Major Tom Wills, the Chairman of Trustees has very kindly presented an attractive modern-looking seat in Cotswold stone, which overlooks the field. Major Wills is also taking a keen interest in our forestry, and we have a five-year plan for the maintenance and preservation of our trees. Continuing on the outside theme, we have had one or two exceptional gales this year. Two years ago a gale managed to remove the groundsman's aged tool shed, which was a blessing in disguise because we now have a much bigger and better implements shed; this year one or two of the trees in exposed positions looked very shaky, and we had to fell them to avoid potential damage. The lovely old sycamore in front of the Headmaster's house is now causing considerable concern, but to fell it now would be like losing an old friend.

I am glad to say that we have now been able to repair the bridge over the road by the stables, and this will be most useful in creating a one-way system for parents collecting their offspring at exeats, half-terms and ends of term. The idea for those going to the main building will be to come in through the main entrance, collect

your chap in front of the building and drive out past the back of the arts block, down past the headmaster's house, turning either left over the bridge and back through the stable block on to the village road, or right out through the Cheltenham drive. This will, I hope, avoid the frustrating congestion that materialises on these occasions in the little road between the church and the junior house.

A milestone this year has been the retirement of Fred Tombs, who has worked on the outdoor staff for the past 25 years. He has been a tower of strength and reliability and, I am glad to say, is continuing to serve the school in a part-time capacity. Whilst on the subject of people, I should add that we have now completed the transition of kitchen staff to Messrs. Fairfields and, after a slow start, we now have an excellent new Caterer who has improved the quality of the meals and is full of ideas. We shall be installing the self-service system of catering during the summer holidays, and I hope that as a result the quality will improve still further. There will be choice for everyone (it is extremely difficult to satisfy the tastes of 11-18 year old boys and 16-18 year old girls with the same meal) and far less wastage. I am conscious that this will create quite an upheaval in the domestic life of the school and hope that we shall very soon settle down to the new system, which is now in use in most independent schools.

I should also like, if I may, to pay tribute to the domestic staff who have each day, in a comparatively short space of

Frank Fry, Emily Fry and Fred Tombs

*C. J. Wood*



time, to get the school cleaned from top to toe. It must be extremely frustrating for them at times not to be able to gain access to classrooms and other areas when they want to, but they carry out their tasks with unfailingly cheerful spirit and are much valued and respected by all of us.

The new computer classroom is now in full swing and a number of the staff were given a short course in playing with these magical toys by Mr Hawswell during the Christmas holidays; even the Bursar took part and managed to play 'roulette' quite successfully without mortgaging any of the school's finances!

Lest it be thought that everything in the Bursar's department comes to a grinding halt at the end of the Summer Term, we have one week to prepare for the arrival of 'The Christians' as they are affectionately called by all who come into contact with them. This is a locally organised group which rents part of the school for three weeks during the summer holidays, to accommodate about 120 people each week. They provide holidays for parents, families and friends, most of whom are known to

each other, and their pattern of life is to spend the mornings in worship and discussions and the rest of the day enjoying the wide facilities of the place. They always seem to enjoy themselves thoroughly and have hardly caused me any headaches. This year we also have a group of Japanese students with their English teachers renting five of the classrooms in the stable block for a further three weeks.

During all the summer holidays Tony Partridge and his men have to visit each study bedroom, study, common room and dormitory in the buildings to repair and maintain all the fittings and furniture, a very time consuming task. Painters are painting (this year the dining room, servery and part of the outside of the main building), maintainers are maintaining (boilers, fire alarms (!), electrics etc. ), builders are building (accommodation for new teaching staff and installing new servery) and all the routine work around the place carries on. The Bursar tries to pull all the threads together and retain a sense of humour.

E. T. T.

Bridge Reinforcement

*H. A. G. Auld*



## Chaplain's Notes

*Services.* We have continued to be blessed in the variety and interest of our visiting preachers this past year. Talking to pupils last week I noted that most of them remembered the visit of Alan Charters, Headmaster of The King's School, Gloucester, who involved several junior members of the congregation in the starting off of a jar of home-made wine. Having provided the demi-john, grape juice and yeast himself, he admitted that he was glad not to be a visiting preacher too many Sundays in the year!

Memorable too was the visit of Christopher Hutton, a former pupil of Cheltenham College. After completing 'A' level he joined a scheme run by Bishop Peter Ball called 'Give a year to God'. Living extremely simply together, the 'schemers' share in study, work and prayer, following the framework of the monastic communities. Christopher had never before spoken in public about this year away, and all who heard him share what the experience had meant to him were deeply touched by his sincerity, conviction and vision.

At the end of May we had a weekend visit from seven members of the Lee Abbey Community in North Devon. Established in 1945 as part of a wider movement concerned for spiritual renewal in the Church, it is now 'home' for some seventy people, including several families. Most of them are young, aged between nineteen and twenty-five, Christians from different denominations, backgrounds and countries. They usually spend a year at Lee Abbey, sharing a common life of worship, prayer and work, living under a simple rule.

Their work is primarily to care for the guests staying in the house and for the 160-acre estate, which includes a small dairy farm. Each year over 7,000 people, from this country and abroad, come and stay for conferences, retreats, teaching weeks, training weekends, or just for a holiday.

The seven members of the group provided a very full programme: an evening of music, drama, mime and story in the Dulverton Hall on the Saturday, with a chance to talk to the members of Park House in the bar later on. On Sunday morning they took the services in Church, where again mime, personal story and solo singing featured. Their joy, enthusiasm and dedication caught all who met them, and many members of the school sought an opportunity to talk with them and question them.

It was one of the highlights of the year.

In a very different way, one of my own special memories of the year is of the daily intercessions which many of the school shared during the critical days after Brian Stockford's accident. Brian is the son of Maggie and Alan Stockford who served us in the dining hall. Last summer Brian had a very serious motor-cycle accident, suffering severe head injuries and multiple fractures. It was two weeks before he recovered consciousness, and over that month we held daily times of silent prayer for him and his family. They were very special times for all of us who shared in them.

For the last six months we have celebrated midweek Saints' Days and Festivals with a Holy Communion Service before breakfast instead of in the evenings, and the change seems to have been welcomed. St Barnabas's

Day saw the highest turnout, occasioned by several friends who accompanied a member of 6B whose name day it was!

*Confirmation.* The Confirmation Service took place on 16th March and was conducted by the Bishop of Gloucester. Those confirmed were: John Carroll, Christopher Daniels, Patrick Evans, Peter Grimsdale, Daniel Houseman, Arwyn Jones, Alexander Laine, Mark Nicholls, Julian Norbury, Charles Paine, Kingsley Raffael, Robert Tate, James Thraves and Steven Whiting.

*Thanks:* - to the Ushers, under the leadership of Alex Hayes: Louisa Roseblade, Alan Doyle, Kevin Elderfield, Adam Pallant and Jonathan Quick. The new team for next year is: Raquel Hughes, Susan Maton, Daniel Beales, Alex Breal, Dominic Clark, Giles Davies and Kevin Hewston;

- to Marcus Rann and Richard Reichwald who have been an enormous assistance as sacristans, preparing for the Sunday Communion Service;

- to Roland Martin and Jason Vernon, who offered to wash Communion vessels and clear up and put away each Sunday;

- to Paul Sumsion, who has looked after the Church candles;

- to the choir, not only for the lead they have given to the singing of the Services, but especially for the Anthems, Sunday by Sunday. To me personally these have always been an unfailing source of pleasure, and on occasions inspiring;

- to those who have been so ready to read the lessons Sunday by Sunday, sometimes at short notice.

Finally, I would like to thank the school congregation as a whole for the courtesy with which they accept the Services. I know from discussion with various groups that many of you, given free choice, would not be in church so often. I shall miss you. I have enjoyed your openness, your frankness and your friendship.

God bless you.

TREVOR OLDROYD

## Public Work

The recent restructuring of Public Work has made the organising and running of it much smoother than in the past, but the success of any such activity remains dependent on the person running it and the enthusiasm he can generate. There are limits to the amount that the three PW men can achieve merely by chasing up absentees.

The principal activities, community service in Cirencester, repairing and moving furniture, librarianship, gardening, estate work and so on remain as before. However, it is pleasing to know that over £100 was raised for church funds by the sale of paper salvage and that we now have a four-hole golf course from the efforts of PW.

Public work remains a major communal activity which enables all, whatever their abilities, to contribute to the well-being of the school and those outside it.

G. J. S.

## Careers

1986 was designated 'Industry Year' with the intention that all secondary schools throughout the country should foster links with local industry. It was very rewarding to be congratulated by an ICI training manager as being amongst the leading schools involved in industrial liaison. Regular readers of this magazine will recall the extensive programme of work experience available to fifth-formers and the recent biennial Industrial Society Conference, which will be repeated next year.

One new departure, which also has connections with industry, was our first set of 'Morrisby Tests'. These consist of a three-hour series of short tests of intellectual ability, personality and practical skill, with a questionnaire about attainments and interests. The results are processed by computer, and a report is produced dealing with the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and suggesting areas for further study, the level of achievement that can be hoped for and which career areas would seem to suit each candidate best. The test was originally designed to assist the career development of people already working in industry, but it has been successfully adapted to the needs of fifth-formers. The newly available computer processing of the results has brought the cost of the test within the means of those not subsidised by a company. Ten fifth-formers took the test and then discussed the outcome with Mr Ball or with me; they and their parents were generally impressed by the thoroughness and realism of the final report. One strange fact emerges: the report never seems to recommend anybody's becoming a teacher!

In addition to these tests, mock interviews and the annual Careers Convention, there was a seminar attended by the 6th Form entitled 'Management and Marketing'. This examined a multinational company and analysed the reasons for its increased profitability in an area of fierce international competition.

To come slightly more down to earth, the 5th Form completed its school year by descending on Cirencester to sample the work scene from a less academic angle. With an increasing difficulty in securing places for work experience because of companies' involvement in government training schemes, it is most important that participants in work experience take full advantage of the opportunities so generously offered and maintain the excellent relationship we have with our sponsors. Accounts of the experience of some of this year's fifth-formers follow.

R. K.

## Work Experience

### A. Estate Agent

When I arrived at Messrs Jackson-Stops I was welcomed by Mr Fitch, who showed me around; then I set to work preparing 'particulars', details of houses, shops and factories, with accompanying photos.

I was taught how to use the photocopier and used it widely to copy reports, files and documents, arranging them in files on houses. After lunch Mr Coulter, the property manager, took me to see some properties in

Cirencester which he manages, explaining how he deals with problems that arise. We then visited the Love Lane Industrial Estate to view some warehouses under Mr Coulter's charge, and he explained to me the intricacies of the architecture and design of industrial properties.

The following day I attended a meeting between Mr Coulter, a client and an insurance investigator about a claim for damage to a field of crops caused by a faulty manufacturing process. Mr Fitch then asked if I would like to go with him to evaluate some properties, one for Jackson-Stops and Staff and three others for the Britannia Building Society. I was introduced to many different types of building and shown how these investigations take place: measurements, assessment of wall type, filling in of forms etc. We then returned to the office and to some more 'particulars'.

The next day was a heavy office day, involving preparing commercial sales prospectuses for an extensive review of shops, offices and warehouse areas. I then went with Mr Martindale to measure and review plans for a shop and outbuildings area. The afternoon again consisted of prospectus work and delivering post to various places in Cirencester, dealing with the mass posting of 150 prospectuses for the evening post. I visited a field and helped Mr Martindale in preparing a review of the plans.

During my work hours I dealt extensively with 'particulars' for various houses, shops and offices: taking the stencil, running it through the photocopier, changing the sheets from a head sheet to plain pieces, using different colours of ink and sizes of paper, stapling them together and sticking photos in place, then mailing them to the right address.

By Thursday I had more or less adjusted myself to the rigours of office life; I was used by now to the odd hiccups of the photocopier and the various tasks of running errands. I visited some more properties with Mr Fitch in the morning and early afternoon and then continued with the office work, being introduced to a new job, stamping records and addressing envelopes, as well as franking them.

Mr Fitch had explained to me the intricacies of various locus mortgages, so I was able to follow his work more easily and understand his various conversations with clients as we went along.

I was also shown extensively how a large, well-run office works, even though a large amount of time is spent investigating various properties around the area and drawing up plans for the work on reports.

I thoroughly enjoyed my week at Jackson-Stops and Staff, and I am very grateful to all those with whom I had the pleasure of working.

JAMES MCMONIGALL

### B. Corinium Museum

I really had no idea what to expect from my week at the Corinium Museum. There were two opinions of what it would be like: one idea was that of tomb-like silence and skeletons being dusted by creaky old men, nearly ancient enough to be exhibits themselves, and the other, opposite idea was of hordes of screaming kids rampaging through the building and converging on the reception desk to demand badges and pencils.

Neither idea proved to be correct, although the second was nearer the truth. There were hordes of kids, but on the whole they neither screamed nor rampaged. Anyway I spent very little time in the Museum itself and so escaped. In fact, I discovered, the majority of museum work is in administration and record-keeping, and this is what I spent a lot of the week doing.

The first day was unusual in that I did not actually work at the Corinium Museum. Instead I was taken to The Cotswold Countryside Collection at Northleach. This was my first visit to this museum, and I was extremely lucky in that not only did I get in free, but I was given a guided tour by the Assistant Curator - a rare privilege! Having discovered a little of what goes on behind the scenes in a new and developing museum, I was given my first real job of the week. All objects in a museum must be marked with an accession number so as to be easily identifiable. For each object there is also a file giving information about the object. My job was to fill in a description of several objects on the file cards and to mark the objects with their accession numbers. After lunch we went to see some vet's tools which had been offered to the museum. They were being offered by a retired vet, whose family had been vets in the area for generations. We bought some of the tools, but only after hearing some of his many unusual experiences during his years as a vet. I finished off the afternoon helping in the museum shop.

I spent the second day at Corinium Museum helping with labelling photos and other filing work. I made sure I had a look round the museum store at one point and also did a little manual labour in the shape of moving bundles of maps and plans en route to the District Council. On Wednesday I finally met my boss, Assistant Curator of the Museum Stephen Clews, who set me to work checking through accession files for missing cards and incorrect entries. Later in the day I started sorting 'Small Finds' from a local excavation. On Thursday I continued with my task of checking accession files (roll on, automation!) and sorting small objects. Finally I actually did some work in the display area, helping set up labels in a display of recent acquisitions of dairy equipment. On Friday I completed the sorting of objects in the store. I spent a lot of the week just looking through files I was interested in or asking questions, and found out a lot about the way a museum runs and about the local area. It was good training in the running of an office and good experience of working with people.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who made this week possible, especially to Steve and all the staff, who have been very helpful, friendly and patient. I wish both museums many successful years.

EDWARD WEBB



Work Experience

C. J. Wood

## The General Meeting

There has been a great deal of speculation concerning the usefulness and effectiveness of the Meeting. Many of the Meeting offices have in the past been discharged apathetically, leading to the stagnancy so often criticised in recent years. This year contains one or two achievements that signpost the coming of a new era.

Notable in the Christmas term was the work of the Christmas Party Committee; the party requires a mixture of licence and diplomacy and, despite one or two setbacks, it was a very enjoyable evening for members of the school, although the future of the sketches remains uncertain.

Perhaps the singularly most important event was the meeting of the school with several governors to discuss the future of the dining-room arrangements and the possible implementation of a self-service system. The members of the school were absolutely unanimous in their opinion that they did not want self-service; it became increasingly apparent that the decision to go for self-service had already been taken. Many people felt snubbed by the whole affair, but it is important to remember that this is the closest to achieving its potential that the Meeting has come for a long time: it marked a motivation to be involved in the running of the system, even though it required the emotional issue of self-service to respark the flagging Meeting and though its efforts were ultimately in vain.

However, one of the ideas behind the founding of the Meeting was for it to be a voice for the pupils in the running of the school and, although action may not result from its deliberations, the opportunity of expressing one's opinion is essential. The Meeting had become emasculated to the benign level at which its sole purpose seemed to be the upkeep of the Park House stereo system and the purchase of snooker cues. The future looks more promising, as Meeting offices become filled with new faces and new vigour. We hope to return the Meeting to a level of effectiveness and to bring the governors closer to it, enabling them to assimilate the grass-roots opinion of the school.

Evidence of the Meeting's renewed stimulation appeared in the Summer term: some committees merit mention. The Community Service Committee, under Simon Kingscote won a prize of £100 from the Nat-West 'Project Response'. The Food Committee established a close two-way relationship between pupils and caterers,



the feedback of which should be beneficial. The Entertainments Committee successfully organised activities for the junior forms. At times the Meeting becomes sixth-form oriented, and it is important to remember that it should extend its concern to the silent masses of the younger pupils!

IAIN WHITTAKER

## Parents' Association

The Parents' Association has had an active year planning social events and liaising with the Headmaster over matters concerning the welfare of the pupils. The following parents have held office: Mr P. Satterthwaite (Chairman), Sqn. Ldr. J. Williams (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A. Cooper (Treasurer), Mrs D. Binder (Gen. Secretary), Mrs H. Kolb (Minutes Secretary), Mr M. Paine, Mr B. Vernon and Mr M. Maton.

In the year following the A. G. M. in October 1985, we have had one Mid-Term Meeting, and seven Committee Meetings.

During the Michaelmas Term, we organised wine receptions before each of the three very successful performances of 'H. M. S. Pinafore'. These receptions proved very enjoyable and well-attended.

The Association holds a list of all parents' addresses and has been able to put parents who are experiencing difficulty with travel to and from school in touch with other parents able to help.

We have also written suggestions for an 'Advice Pamphlet to Parents' on subjects such as teenage parties, smoking, drugs, etc., some ideas of which have already been used by the Headmaster this year in a letter to 5th form parents. The Association has also had discussions with the Headmaster on the subjects of the boys' haircuts and the pupils' uniforms.

The Committee has tried to help the Careers Master by encouraging parents to volunteer to assist with Mock Interviews and at the Careers Convention. Also the question has been raised of considerate parking by parents when collecting and delivering pupils to school.

The Association has presented the School with a Bowling Machine, which has been used a great deal for cricket practice this Summer. Also we have donated prizes for the Parent/Pupil Tennis Tournament organised by the School.

The highlight of the year's activities will be the Summer Ball, organised by the Association on 30th August, which we hope will be a tremendous success. An excellent band has been booked, and a delicious menu planned by the school caterers. The College setting will be perfect for the occasion, and we just hope for fine weather to make a perfect summer's evening.

Finally, the third A. G. M. will take place on 25th October 1986, and we hope it will be well supported by all parents. New names for election to the Committee are welcome, and should reach the Secretary at least two weeks before the A. G. M.

HAZEL KOLB, MINUTES  
SECRETARY



The Bowling Machine

C. J. Wood

## Junior House Report

In September 1985 the twentieth year of the House began with a new Housemaster, 22 new boys and a refurbished Common Room. This last item gives each boy a locker, bookshelf and notice board, leaving a spare island unit free to be used for a snooker table base. Snooker has proved such a popular pastime (not, we hope, the basis of a misspent youth) that a tournament was held before Christmas, won by Paul Irving of Form I.



Greenwich Meridian

J. T. Sleeman

On the second Sunday of the Christmas term the House visited the Greenwich area, including the Thames Barrier, the 'Cutty Sark' and the National Maritime Museum. This visit and our return to Greenwich in the summer are reported elsewhere. Later in the Christmas term the boys went skating with Hatherop Castle girls at the Link Centre in Swindon, and the speed at which most learned to skate was surprising... even the Housemaster could propel himself unaided by the end of the visit! Later in the year parents were invited to join us at the Link Centre, when more of the extensive facilities were used.

There was excellent support from parents for the two walking events of the year, which the boys tackled with great enthusiasm. At the sponsored event in September all boys in the House walked the twelve miles to the lunch stop, and some continued to complete the twenty-mile course, raising an astounding £615 in total. In the summer term groups of boys were dropped at selected spots in Gloucestershire for the 'Walkabout' in which they used maps to make their way back to Rendcomb, investigating three places or objects en route. The Roman Villa, the disused railway and the World War II airfield at Chedworth were probably the most popular places visited, and miraculously everyone arrived back in time for tea.

Fond farewells were said at the end of the Lent term when Mrs Campbell, the House Matron, retired; for many the phrase 'have you pinned your socks?' will be indelibly marked on their memory. Fortunately a new matron was quickly found, and Mrs Pasmore is now checking behind those ears and inspecting the beds!

The library, ably managed by Alex Hall, was fortunate to receive many new books from the school bookshop, and a set of new easy chairs has upgraded this very popular resting place.

In the Christmas term the boys' pocket money was transferred into Leeds Permanent Building Society accounts, and the House became a sub-branch of the Society. 11 members of Form II acted as bankers and perfected the skills of entering transactions in books, keeping records and balancing the till each week. When the Society ran a competition called 'Pop Quest', many boys entered, and Peter Smithson was fortunate enough to win a Sony personal stereo, which was presented to him by the Cirencester branch manager.

During the Lent term the House had to be isolated because of a case of measles, and it was at this time that personal computers began to be used in the games room. This was so successful that the room was then properly wired to avoid extension leads crossing corridors, and now many more aliens can be killed each day! This facility will prove extremely useful when the juniors have computer lessons in the coming year.

The new heating system for the pool made swimming a very popular activity in the summer term, and many boys significantly improved their skill. Gareth Davis represented Cheltenham Swimming Club on several occasions during the year. Tennis also was very popular, and the Form II tournament held in the last week was won by Richard Rowlatt and Daniel Maslen.

In June Form II visited RAF Fairford, which is used by the US Air Force. The boys saw a film about in-flight refuelling and were then allowed to look over a KC-135A aircraft, which had recently come from Plattsburgh Base near New York. The crew were very friendly and most willing to explain things in great detail, several boys receiving lengthy instruction in navigational techniques. There followed a tour of the highly specialised fire station, which would certainly be put to the test if a fully-laden 'stratotanker' crashed on take-off.

Finally, Philip Moore and Simon Kingscote, of VIB, deserve the highest praise for organising a most successful Sports Day for the House, as well as arranging matters here when girls from Hatherop Castle came for tea, games and swimming.

A. J. W.



Visit to R. A. F. Fairford

C. J. Wood

# Talks

## Michael Wills Memorial Lecture

This year's lecture was given by Dr J. K. White, a civil engineer from King's College, London. He is particularly interested in hydrology, and spoke on 'The Problem of Unwanted Water'.

After a short personal introduction, Dr White showed a selection of slides of India, Iran and Nepal, which illustrated their problem of lack of water and also the best available solution, a communal water supply in a marketplace or other public area. He pointed out the contrast with the situation in the United Kingdom, where there is not enough water in some places and too much in others. A slide of the rainfall pattern of the UK showed it to be high in the west but relatively low in East Anglia, which could eventually become a desert if it did not receive a 'transfusion' from the west. Since water is moved about the country by pipeline and often purified and recycled, the water we drink in Gloucestershire may be second or third-hand, and that in London anything up to seventh-hand.

Moving on from this general background, Dr White described specific problems with which he had been involved. In Cyprus, for example, the rain falls on the mountains but is needed elsewhere. It is therefore transferred and stored in reservoirs. But these reservoirs are not mere holes in the ground: a special impermeable clay is used to line them, and an ingenious device called a 'flip-bucket' is used to combat the problem of the conversion of potential energy to kinetic, caused by falling water in a flood. The flip-bucket idea was also used in a 'shaft spillway' in Hong Kong. He himself had designed those, testing a series of models modified progressively with plywood and Plasticine until a successful configuration was found.

The next problem he described was that of water interfering with the foundations of buildings. The solution to this involves either drilling wells on either side to extract the water and lower the water table, or using a horizontal drain which has to be cut with a heavy-duty machine saw. An alternative method of cutting was researched and tested by Toby Roberts, an Old Rendcombian and currently a student of Dr White. This method involved the use of a water jet; the idea was sound in theory but unfortunately needed too much water for it to be economically viable.

The other idea which was new to the audience was that of 'sand islands'. These are made of large bags filled with sand and placed under water, in such a way that the pressure inside is balanced against the pressure outside. These islands could be used, for instance, round the piers of a bridge, to act as a buffer. Though simple in conception, the execution of this idea involved very complex calculations of pressure and design, and also extensive testing. The bags had been made by Dunlop, and a slide showed their enormous size. After lengthy planning, the world's first sand island had been positioned in the Solent. It was a success from a technical point of view, but strike action following an inter-union dispute had prevented



Toby Roberts O. R. (left) Prof. White

prompt completion of the construction, and the island had been washed away in a freak storm.

At the end of the talk the Headmaster thanked Dr White warmly, speaking for all present in describing it as fascinating and as having introduced the audience to new and memorable ideas.

DOMINIC CLARK  
TANYA HOLDEN

## 'Hamlet' Workshop

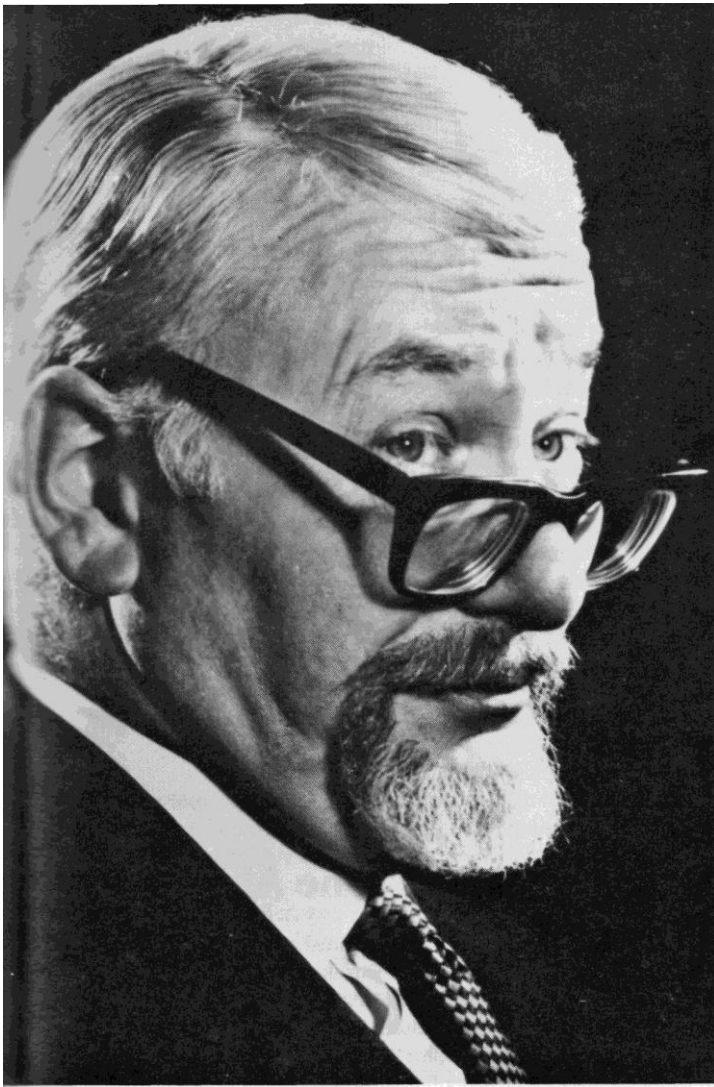
On 21st May the Workshop Company produced a compact yet detailed analysis, lasting just over an hour and a half, of one of Shakespeare's longest plays, 'Hamlet'. In a witty, exciting and thought-provoking fashion the team of four produced both conflicting and complementary versions of a selection of important cameo exchanges in the play. Their performance showed the way in which the significance of a piece of writing can be changed simply by the way in which it is spoken or acted.

The leader of the group liaised directly with the interested audience, spicing his speech with racy humour and maintaining an instantly intimate and co-operative rapport with the spectators. He and his contemporaries acted out with consummate skill and obvious enjoyment a series of vital scenes, and then involved the audience in a technical and literary criticism of the performance.

The company offered a number of interesting and original theories about characterisation and dramatic intention, making the production relevant to examination study as well as providing entertainment for the layman. The performers were skilled actors and public speakers, oozing self-confidence and extremely versatile and adaptable in their modes of expression. Furthermore, they put the audience immediately at ease, transporting inspiration across the hall and encouraging many astute remarks and questions from the floor.

Such informality and friendly ease make fertile ground for positive speculation and genuine gains in the understanding of the work to which the players devoted themselves so well. Dressed simply and using a minimal number of props, they used no lighting, make-up or sound effects, save for the convenient severity of the weather outside. However, the feeling of spontaneity and ease did not take away any of the professionalism, and the extent to which the performers knew their lines emphasised their genuine comprehension and knowledge of their subject.

TIM ROBINSON



David Kossoff

## ‘Late Great Paul’

On 2nd March David Kossoff gave his dramatic presentation ‘Late Great Paul’ in the Dulverton Hall. There follow two impressions of this very sad story.

A ‘Dramatic Performance’, what does that mean?

Enter the hall, nod at Rod, majestic behind his banks of lighting and sound controls. He is in his element, feeling the music flowing around and engulfing all those people, transfixed. Some people, I think, are going to get pretty sick of this music. Me, I love it.

Enter Kossoff, back of audience: a grizzled old man carrying a suitcase. He shuffles slowly but surely on to his drawing-room stage. The story-telling begins. The soft, lilting classical melodies of the child give way to lonely, wailing, mournful guitar solos, long and precise in their articulation. As I stare agape at the cracked blackboard picture of Paul, he seems to move. I can just see Paul Kossoff, bending each note, grimacing with sheer involvement and joy as the crowds cheer and clamour at his every move. His desire to be loved by the people is betrayed as the ‘Backstreet Crawlers’ dissolve his mind and destroy his future. They know where he’s been, and they know he has to return. Resurrected from the dead, he is, as they say

nowadays, ‘screwed up’. His life falls away from him once more.

Then there is father, reflecting, melancholic, sad. He mimes his lost son. It is not his real son - he died with the first needle-push. This is the other Paul Kossoff: sluggish, pathetic, he is like a crippled beggar, useless, hopeless, devoid of his senses and remarkable co-ordination. David narrates - bitter, angry, bereft. It is a catharsis for him, washing away his grief, loving the truly moving and brilliant music of his late son. His soft, pleasant voice is suddenly changed as his Epilogue drums on. Bitterness and anger strike me in the face, stinging, hurting: ‘I HATE WASTE!’ He calms himself, returns to gentleness; I feel I could cry for this man, so brilliant in his continual tribute to his son, his education of others. He does it not for himself, but for the music and soul of his late, great Paul.

Stunned, I leave, to more of that direful, sad guitar, so eloquently expressed, so naturally plucked, as Kossoff Jnr squeezes emotions from his life, his guitar.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY

This was the tale of a talented young man who became a tragic victim of drugs. It could simply have been told by any person about any victim. However, it moved, shocked and left a great impression on all those present because, for one thing, the teller was a renowned dramatist and, most importantly, the young man’s father.

It was presented in a dramatic form with interludes of music, mainly the electric blues played by his son. The presence of David Kossoff was powerful and filled the entire room. He told the story, as far as the words go, in an impersonal way, as if just telling a short story of any description. However, underlying this story was a presentation of sorrow, respect and seriousness. The portrait of his son Paul sat on the stage to Kossoff’s left, and one’s eyes were drawn unerringly towards it; it seemed to demand nearly as much attention as the story-teller. The broken picture of such a superb guitarist seemed to say it all: in his prime of life and skill Paul Kossoff was broken, torn apart by his experiment with, and finally addiction to one thing: drugs!

As David Kossoff said at the end, it was not simply a gentle chat from the sad father of a lost son; it had a more poignant message and impact - it showed a horrific example of what was summed up by Kossoff in one word: ‘waste!’ Waste of a great guitarist but, more importantly, waste of a good human being.

Kossoff’s performance demanded attentiveness, and that is what it got. It also commanded great respect for his courage, for his respect and love for his son. Kossoff, never a man to tolerate waste, uses the impact of his own son’s death to good effect upon others, to warn and prevent their waste.

Striking and superb performance. Respect, deep, for the man.

Message - understood!

MARK WALTERS

## **‘Taking Risks’**

This talk by Dr Martyn Gay for the Sixth Form was unlike any given at Rendcomb before. Preferring to sit on a table rather than on the chair we had carefully set out for him, Dr Gay immediately established an informal atmosphere. Nobody really knew what to expect from a psychiatrist, and so what followed was a pleasant surprise.

He launched at once into such personal subjects as depression, self-image, suicide, body language and psychological differences between the sexes. His accurate and often amusing analysis of our behaviour (our posture told him all he needed to know about how we were feeling! ) caused a slight tension: people began fidgeting nervously, afraid of being caught out by what he was going to say next. Never before had we been so worried about whether our arms were crossed - indicating boredom - or our ankles also - a sure sign of nervousness - as we were that evening!

The question of ‘taking risks’ was discussed with some fascinating ideas about human nature: apparently people watch and enjoy dangerous sports purely to gain a sexual thrill, whether consciously or subconsciously!

Dr Gay incorporated a practical experiment into his talk, designed to show people’s differing conceptions of the passage of time: with our eyes closed, we had to put our right hand on to our neighbour’s knee ‘when we believed a minute had gone by. Most people did this after only 45 seconds.

He finished his talk by telling us a little about the experience he has had in dealing with young people and their problems in and around Bristol. Comments varied in profundity from ‘Really great!’ to ‘An interesting experience’. We hope that Dr Gay will return soon to give more pupils the benefit of his insight into human behaviour and motivation.

MELANIE GILL  
CHRIS MOODY  
BARNEY BRANSTON

## **‘The Healing Process’**

### **A Talk by John Czarkowski**

Mr Czarkowski held us all enraptured for over 45 minutes on the extremely controversial subject of ‘Healing with the Mind’. His talk began with an interesting idea: that if one concentrates on an object for a length of time one becomes part of this object. He showed that this helps to heal, as a healer will concentrate on an injured part of a person, and so become part of that person and ease his pain.

Mr Czarkowski then proceeded to carry out a number of demonstrations with a pair of copper rods. It is widely believed that all objects have an energy body surrounding them and, using two rods made of any substance, this can be shown. He carried out the experiment on a number of objects (including two third-formers! ), and indeed the rods did part before they reached them. He finally came to a photocopy of a picture of the cover of a ‘Radio Times’

which showed the face of Jesus on the Turin shroud. This photocopy’s energy body was far in excess of that of the other objects; it was found to be over 15 feet away. The energy body could also be reflected from a mirror, although the distance was then diminished. Mr Czarkowski emphasised that the ability to do this lay in faith and one’s respect for religion.

After this followed question time, and one of the first questions asked was ‘Could we use the rods?’ Mr Czarkowski agreed at once, but the questioner refused to use them. Eventually someone else volunteered, and the rods did not work. Another volunteer tried and found, much to the sceptics’ surprise, that he could detect the energy body. A number of other interesting questions were asked, and finally the Headmaster thanked Mr Czarkowski on behalf of us all.

IAN FORD

## **Ballooning Over The Alps**

On 10th November Forms I to IV attended an interesting lecture by Mr Tom Sage, balloonist extraordinary. He began by explaining the rudimentary techniques of balloon flying and an outline history of his career: starting off as an interested photographer of balloons and going on to become a successful balloon manufacturer.

After taking part in an RAF display, recording it in pictures, he was offered the chance of ballooning over the Alps. This event took place in 1967 and was to celebrate the anniversary of ‘Hedges and Butler’, whose founder was a famous balloonist. They started off from Muhren in a cage measuring two feet eight square and finished in the Aosta valley.

This was a dramatic experience, including a near collision with the Matterhorn and a crash from which they had to be rescued by nearby Italian villagers!

Mr Sage then went on to describe the weird and wonderful balloons of all shapes and sizes, including a giant pair of jeans and a French chateau, manufactured by his company.

This was an intriguing talk, accompanied by excellent slides.

ROLAND MARTIN  
VAUGHAN TREDWELL



# Outings

## The Sponsored Walk

In 1984 the Behala Boys came to the College as one of their stops on a musical tour. They were children from deprived families, struggling to survive each day in Calcutta.

The parents of these boys are exceptionally poor and cannot afford to pay for any education for their sons. They are being taught a fairly reasonable trade by the monks who run their school, so that when they leave they can return to their families and start up a business.

On 22nd September we held a sponsored walk to raise money to help the boys. The morning was warm and clear and, half asleep, we were all looking for our most comfortable pair of walking shoes. Breakfast seemed to last forever, but at last it ended and everyone left the junior dining-room with great enthusiasm and bulging pockets full of food for the journey. At ten past eight an eager crowd gathered outside the Old Rectory, raring to go. At last we got going; some shot ahead, but most got into a comfortable walking pace which they could keep up for the whole journey. For the first mile or so walking was considerably easy, but as we got to Withington Woods we changed track and turned across country. Here the ground got muddier, and already people started to drop behind quite noticeably.

The day was beautiful, and the sun shone brightly on the picturesque scenery; this beauty in some ways numbed the pain of blisters and corns we had already acquired. The big groups we had started off in were fractured into ones, twos and threes; those that had started off quickly were tiring and lagging back. Shoes were getting muddier, and people weren't complaining about blisters any more; instead everyone was thirsty.

Now we were near the lunch stop but, to all those who were thirsty, this seemed the longest part of the walk. Some crushed elderberries and blackberries and drank their juice, but this only made them more thirsty.

Most people walked the last mile the long way round, but those who were fortunate enough to have met Mr Hannaford were told a short cut. Although I only did twelve miles (struggling with great pains), on the whole I think I enjoyed it.

DANIEL MASLEN

The following letter of thanks has been received by the Headmaster from the Revd. Theodore Mathieson of the Brotherhood of the Epiphany:

This is a monstrously delayed letter of thanks to everyone at Rendcomb College for the biggest single gift I can remember receiving for the work at Behala, and to say how thrilled and grateful we are to receive it.

At all the fifty-five performances the boys gave during their forty-four days in England, they were received with unimaginable love and affection. During the months of preparation for the visit, I often had wild visions of all the concerts' being a flop. But such was the welcome we received that the boys responded with a kind of total self-giving as their way of returning the love they received.

It would be unwise and ungrateful for me to select one visit, and suggest that it was more memorable than the

others, but I must confess that I still look back to our visit to the College on November 8th, 1984 as being a time of unforgettable euphoria. And I imagine that the boys may have been even more overwhelmed than I was myself, but I have hardly dared to ask them.

So it must seem very strange that we have taken so long to express our gratitude for a further manifestation of love - which must have involved much physical sacrifice as well as being an enormous tangible sign of that love.

The money in fact took some time to reach India, and find its way into our Behala account; and the amount of the gift was not disclosed to me until I was just leaving for furlough.

We all thank you all for such a marvellous gift. The very thought of it makes us want to play and sing and dance with the greatest joy and exuberance.

Thank you VERY much.

## 6B Spring Biology Field Trip

Having cruised down the M5 for three hours, and after numerous 'only five minutes to go' assurances, we arrived at Nettlecombe Court, the Leonard Wills Field Centre, near Minehead. We unloaded the minibus (a lengthy process, due to the girls' wardrobes), and made ourselves at home. We were then introduced to the Warden of the centre and to our tutor, Dr Crothers, who warned us of the fire dangers of living in a wooden building.

After a pleasant meal - the food was surprisingly good - we then began what we were to do in the week ahead - work. Our average day began with breakfast at the respectable hour of 8.00 a.m., followed by a couple of hours of general instruction. We then left for a day 'in the field', returning at approximately 4.30 p.m.

We braved howling gales on very exposed shores, freezing rain on sheltered beaches and hail blizzards on Exmoor. Some people got even wetter, due to the unexpected movement of certain streams in the middle of the moor. All this just to get a few results on a soggy piece of paper! However, back at the Field Centre the importance of our efforts soon became clear. By this time everyone, exhausted from a hard day or perhaps lack of sleep, gave signs of wanting rest - but no, field work must be tabulated and conclusions drawn.

We spent three days on various shores, studying differences in the distribution and abundance patterns of animals and plants. This involved counting species within an area of the beach, drawing grids and graphs to discover whether patterns could be found. Many limpets and dog-whelks were measured, if any could be found. Finally we spent two days on Exmoor looking at the abundance and growth-rate of heather, and studying a small stream by finding out what lived under the rocks in its freezing waters.

However doubtful it seems, and despite the weather, we had a very comfortable and enlightening week at Nettlecombe. It was difficult *not* to learn as we 'went along', and all agreed that the course was invaluable to our biological studies. It remains to thank Mr Hannaford for his help, advice and courage in embarking on this trip.

ANNALISA HEAL  
IAN FORD



The Thames Barrier

*C. J. Wood*

## Junior House Trip to London

The Junior House visit to London took place on the first Sunday of the Autumn term. We arrived at the Thames Barrier and went into the exhibition hall where we saw an impressive audio-visual presentation, which told us about the real need for a barrier and about its construction. The boat trip through the Barrier gave us a much better idea of the size of the project.

We had lunch on the banks of the River Thames, in view of the Barrier. We then visited the nineteenth-century tea clipper, *Cutty Sark*, at Greenwich and were introduced to the various parts of the ship, filling in a work sheet. Only extreme tidiness and cleanliness could have made the crew's cramped quarters bearable on a voyage which might have lasted six months!

With a little time left, we paid a fleeting visit to the National Maritime Museum, which was extremely well laid out. In particular, we looked at the Cook gallery and learned much about his famous voyages across the world, when he discovered and accurately charted many of the islands in the South Pacific.

It was an enjoyable, if tiring, day out.

GRAHAM LAWTON  
JULIAN MADELEY

## 'Greenwich II'

The Junior House returned to the National Maritime Museum in May to investigate this year's special exhibition, 'Spaceworks'. With extravagant use of available space, a clear and colourful introduction to our solar system filled the first corridor, and this was followed by many interactive displays concerning the design, orbits and uses of satellites. There was particular emphasis on the satellite Giotto, which had successfully encountered Halley's Comet in March, and a bulletin board showed some of the colour images relayed back to earth before it was damaged by the comet.

The Old Royal Observatory, situated up the hill from the Maritime Museum, has a fine display of telescopes and clocks, and the Greenwich Meridian of Longitude, as adopted by an international conference in 1884, passes through one of the buildings. It was interesting to observe the world's first visual time signal, a large red ball on the staff of Flamsteed House. This ball has been hoisted halfway up the mast at 12.55, to the top at 12.58, and dropped at precisely 1.00 p.m. daily since 1833.

A special planetarium presentation was given to the boys on the subject of time, seasons and the calendar. Although this required great concentration, it was interesting both historically and scientifically, and at one point the operator, with the help of sound effects, took us into space in a rocket and left everyone with the difficult problem of deciding whether he was rotating or whether the stars were moving.

*C. J. W.*



Cutty Sark

*C. J. Wood*

## **‘The Tempest’ - Bath, February 86**

Travelling through the twilight in a coach often disorients one’s sense of time and place; this state of mind is ideal for an introduction to ‘The Tempest’, ‘one of the most original and perfect of Shakespeare’s productions’. It was written in 1611 or 1612, during the final phase of Shakespeare’s writing, and it is also one of his shortest plays, exploring new themes in a style similar only to ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’.

Even before the performance began an indication of its style was given by the open stage and the absence of elaborate mechanical or technically stunning scenery. This consisted in the most part of two disfigured tree-like objects, sequences of long and vaguely transparent curtains and plain scaffolding. The first scene alone employed more traditional devices, visually and audibly making full use of the stage direction ‘A Tempestuous Noise of Thunder and Lightning heard’.

The action of the first scene was replaced by a more passive and sedate procession of scenes and characters, stimulating the audience by the words rather than by visual display. Nevertheless, the pace of the play was maintained throughout, never relaxing the tension until the climax.

The lack of spectacular scenery enabled more emphasis to be laid upon the characters, most of whom were dressed in Victorian fashion. The costumes were evidently intended to symbolise the personality of the characters: Antonio wearing dinner clothes (a tailcoat) and carrying a cane with a hidden sword, affectations of an apparently corrupt, civilised man; Miranda wearing a long white shirt, signifying unsullied, dignified virginity and an open conscience; and Caliban a dirty blanket. This interpretation was aptly set in the nineteenth century, when the debate concerning the State of Nature was current, and missionaries were confidently converting the heathens to civilising Christianity. One of the main themes of ‘The Tempest’ is the question of nature and nurture, fully treated by this production.

Antony Quayle’s Prospero was both inspired and professional, and characteristic of the style of understatement and innuendo used by many elderly actors. This mixture of subdued emotion and serene confidence perfectly conveyed the temperament of the magician. Clive Francis’s Caliban was steady and consistent rather than dynamic, and he made little use of the soliloquy ‘Be not afraid, the isle is full of noises’ to give a glimmer of a more developed human mind.

The Bath production depended on the conflicting psychologies of the protagonists and the clear use of the language, rejecting the superfluities of a set that tends to eclipse the plot. The curtains disappear; the illusions dissolve, and Prospero faces the audience from an empty, deserted stage, pleading not to ‘dwell in this bare island by your spell’. This image recurred in my mind as the coach left behind the glimmering lights of Bath for the darkness and the real, mundane world. The performance well justified Mr Holt’s choice, and we were all grateful to him.

NICOLAS BLACKSHAW

# Geography Field Trips

## In Search of the Perfect Geography Candidate

The year has seen a mixed bag of field trips. The 1st Form visited a local farm, and several local pieces of work were undertaken on and under the College grounds. From the 6th Form trips this year the woeful inadequacies of the average Rendcomb 'A' level candidate became apparent. The search is on: can you find a beast to match the requirements of the 1986 Geographer?

First he/she requires a thick, fatty layer to the skin, with a fur coat. This is essential for the sub-zero temperatures and horizontal snow blizzard experienced in the Berwyn mountains of mid-Wales. Hands the size of a small JCB would help with sample collecting of samples of pebbles from rivers or soil from the Ercoll hills near Craven Arms. Also needed are: webbed feet and gills to cope with hydrological studies of the River Severn, long levers to both arms and legs to drag unwilling bodies above 2,000 feet and on ten-mile treks, a brain the size of a football to cope with the information thrown at him/her from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. daily, ears the size of a small Jodrell Bank dish and compound eyes, to allow one to see and hear all things at all times; all these would help a great deal!

In short, the 6th Form trip to Preston Montford was a great success, with a mass of new ideas gleaned for possible application to projects. Additional trips to the Wye Valley, Swindon and the villages of the Cotswolds proved invaluable in providing detailed examples for the 'A' level examination.

C. P. M. K.

## 6B Visit Longleat

Once we had savoured the delights of the Rendcomb weekly routine, it was decided that the newly formed 6B should take the investigations of animal behaviour further afield. Longleat Safari Park was selected as a suitable site, and so we boldly set out, on the afternoon of Sunday, 9th September, armed with packed teas and other equipment essential for our studies.

Even if an encounter with a runaway cow and the sighting of the Westbury White Horse failed to enliven the outward journey, we managed to pass the time discussing

assorted observations and opinions: by the time Longleat was reached, most of 6B were well acquainted.

As we passed through the clusters of giraffe, zebra, buffalo, antelope, decidedly haughty camels and nonchalant dromedaries, the weather, which had been markedly hostile all morning, made an attempt to be more congenial. We noted however that, while the sunlight seemed to enliven most humans, it apparently faded the animals' ferociousness, for even the monkeys, renowned for their endearingly destructive tendencies, could manage to extract the aerial from only one car before losing interest in us completely.

Gradually the tension in the coach began to mount and, as the 'Topic' wrappers were wrenched apart in anguish, the whisper went round: 'But where are the lions?' At last we were admitted to the barbed-wire sanctuary where, concealed somewhere amongst the nettles, birches and other savanna-type vegetation, the King of the beasts majestically yawned and twitched an ear in acknowledgement of our presence. The Siberian tigers proved to be equally unsociable, and so it was left to the wolves to be the prima donnas, as they paraded along the roadside, sizing up the vehicles' contents as a likely source of tea.

Once out of the safari park, we were each equipped with a ticket allowing access to all the displays. We then divided to pursue our individual investigations on foot. Wandering between the bemusingly similar privet hedges, frantically trying to reach the maze's central tower, seemed to be the most popular pursuit. However, the less determined rapidly abandoned their futile search in favour of the nostalgic delights of a steam train trip, or to test their sea legs on a voyage round Gorilla Island, paying their respects to Monty, Tess and Floss, who live there. Nostalgia could also be satisfied by the grandeur of Longleat House; Lord Bath's Bygones held their own special appeal. Meanwhile several of the more enterprising of us investigated the more commercial delights of the numerous gift shops.

6B reassembled in the growing dark, much enlightened by the discoveries made that day. They would like to thank Mr and Mrs Holdaway for arranging the trip, and they hope that there will be many future opportunities to further their researches.

GILLIAN BELL

Geography Field Work

H. K. Rothman



## **Skiing - Obergurgl**

### **Easter, 1986**

Monday, 4th April, 10.45 a.m.; an intrepid band of 48 skiers were about to become guinea-pigs. The experiment? A Rendcomb skiing party was, for the first time, to travel to its Austrian resort by coach all the way.

A very weary 26 hours later we arrived in the Tyrol region; despite tired eyes and 'coach lag', we eagerly spied the first signpost for Obergurgl. Mild panic suddenly set in; since crossing the French border, it had snowed quite heavily but now, with 12kms to go, the pastures were green! We began to relax when, with 2,000 vertical feet to go, we 'hit the white stuff', in vast quantities. The snowfall had been so heavy that even the driver was worried that we might not reach the village. When we did, the view was marvellous; vast open pistes with masses of glorious 'white stuff'. When we entered the hotel we realised it was a definite improvement on the Italian one, by at least 3 stars. The rooms were very comfortable, the Landlord and his family very hospitable, and the meals were excellent.

The following day we hit the 'piste', some of us more literally than others. The beginners had a chance to get used to their newly-acquired appendages on the gentle nursery slopes, whilst the rest of us travelled up the mountain via the typically hyper-efficient Austrian lift system. Several tentative runs later the knees were beginning to do the right things and, under the guidance of Karl, our instructor, we soon ventured on to the more difficult areas. The snow and skiing were unbelievable; by the end of the week we had carved a magnificent high-level area of Hochgurgl, run an 8km 'red' from the Festkogel to the hotel and skied powder through the trees on an exciting 'black' run.

One highlight of the week was the videoing of our party, so that we could assess our own performance and improvement by the end of the holiday; the result was a visual guide on how not to ski, although it is amazing how, when being filmed, no-one fell over (all except yours truly - twice!) and how 'poser-like' everyone looked, especially Messrs Trowern and Cordeux.

Our bowling evening proved great fun, with Matron's son Guy winning the individual competition and with it a free sweatshirt, whilst in the neighbouring room Messrs Newby and King took on all comers at table football and beat them; signs of a misspent youth?

The finale of the week was Race Day, when we all had a chance to prove our speed and ability on an official slalom course. As we stood by the electronic starting gate listening to the P. A. system describing the progress of each competitor, the adrenalin began to flow and the theme to Ski Sunday began to echo in the mind. 'Zwei-Eins-Go' and, feeling like Franz Klammer, we carved our way round the gates and over the finish line, to a well-deserved round of applause from the crowds and, in most cases, a bronze medal.

The adrenalin also flowed on the last day, as we left the resort on the homeward journey; the exodus was hampered by deep compact snow on the steep winding roads. Many vehicles had no snow chains for their tyres,

and the result was horrific; two coaches collided, blocking the road for an hour; several cars skidded into the side, and one left the edge, rolling several times into the pastures below. At one stage our coach had to take evasive action to avoid crushing a Porsche and ended up with the front perched over the edge; fortunately the gritter lorry arrived at that moment and effected a rescue. We eventually were able to relax as the coach raced across Europe to an earlier ferry, a sightseeing journey through Central London at 6.00 a.m. on Sunday and an earlier arrival at Rendcomb. As we disembarked, although we felt shattered and looked forward to a good bath, hot meal and sleep, we sported an impressive tan and had certainly had an eventful, exciting and thoroughly enjoyable week.

Many thanks go to Mr Newby and Mr King for organising the holiday; it was certainly a great success; if you need any OR helpers in future trips, please put me at the top of the list.

Oh, and the experiment? Well, the coach journey was not that bad overall, despite lack of leg-room for the taller ones and Mr King's snoring most of the way through Germany; but give me the relative luxury of a plane anytime.

TIM NEEDHAM

## **Godman House Outing**

On Sunday, 8th June, the members of Godman House visited London with Mr Holt and Mr Hawkswell.

About two and a half hours were spent travelling by coach to Greenwich, where we disembarked at about half past eleven. From Greenwich Pier we caught a sightseeing boat that took us down the Thames past Tower Bridge, arriving at Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

After eating our packed lunches on the boat among the tourists, we set off on a scenic walk, the destinations being Horseguards Parade, Downing Street and Westminster Abbey. We saw many of the mounted Horse Guards and the general preparations for Trooping the Colour, while there was plenty of scope for buying souvenir postcards and other mementos.

We went on to Westminster Abbey, passing Downing Street on the way; we saw many graves and epitaphs and marvelled at the superb architecture of the building.

We then made for our chief objective, the Imperial War Museum, where we spent the greatest amount of time. Inside there were a great many exhibits from both the World Wars, and also some from Vietnam and the Falklands. There were models of famous warships, true-to-life guns and armament, as well as some early aeroplanes such as the Spitfire, and Hitler's V2 bomb. We visited the museum cinema and saw a film about Lord Kitchener and the First World War.

All in all, the Third Form spent a highly enjoyable day, which will not leave our memories for a long time to come.

JAMES THRAVES



# Activities

## Art

The steady trickle of Rendcomb pupils into further studies in Art has again increased this year, with three students going on to Foundation and Fashion courses. Perhaps Universities will be entirely eclipsed in a couple of dozen years! Certainly some of our current fourth-year 'O' levellers seem to have already determined on a future in Art.

Again, a very strong group of 6th Form students have provided a standard for emulation throughout the school. The Sixth Form Room has been a great success this year, with very fine work from observation jostling for space with 'A' level Design projects. Outstanding pieces have included a wonderful, rather Samuel Palmer-like, landscape by Giles Branch and admirable figure and still life drawings from Polly Nicholls and David Aylott. Caroline Eldridge has continued to pour out a series of exceedingly fine and distinctive drawings and paintings, work in all kinds of media that has been the admiration of Rendcomb.

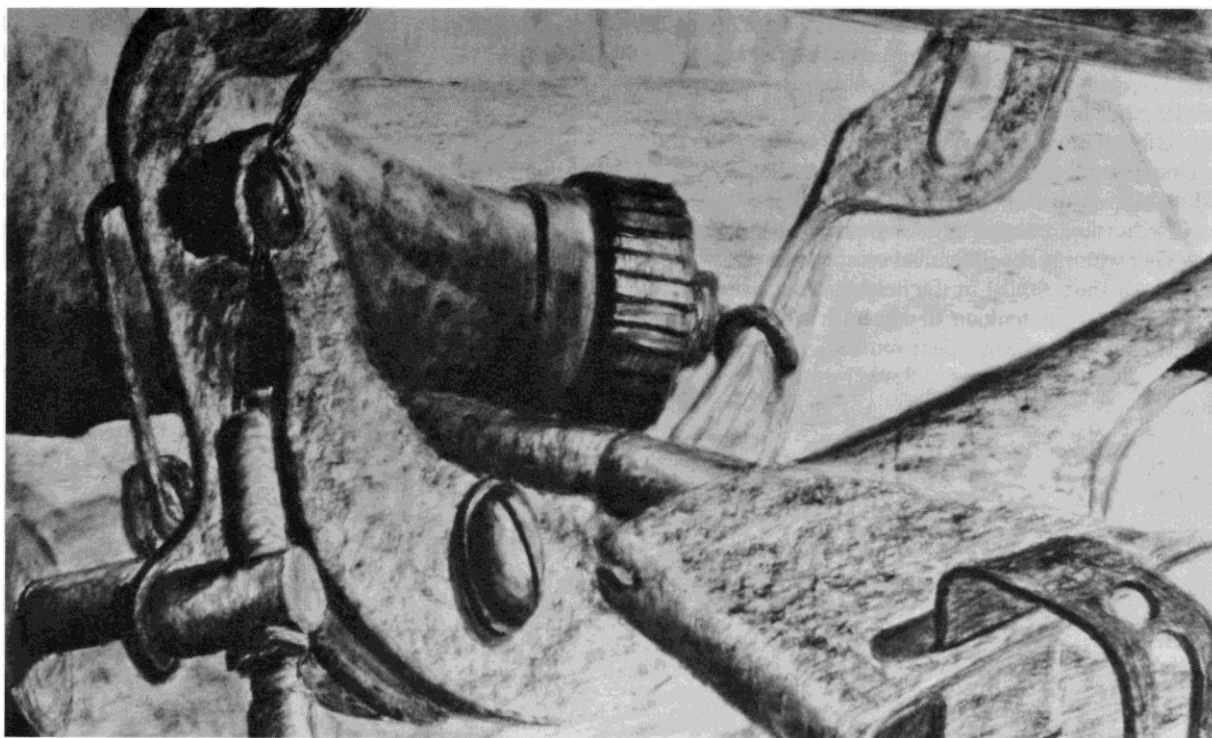
Lower down in the school we have had a tremendously committed and talented 4th Form, some of their drawings of hands, for example, being of a very high standard. In the third year one might single out Ben Maslen and Joe Nicholls as particularly strong draughtsmen.

In general, our commitment to working direct from the object, be it figure or landscape, has been the dominant aspect of Art teaching this year. Some of the Junior House boys, making a start with this kind of work, are surprised by what can be achieved. Surprises are indeed fairly commonplace in the department.

T. F. C. D.



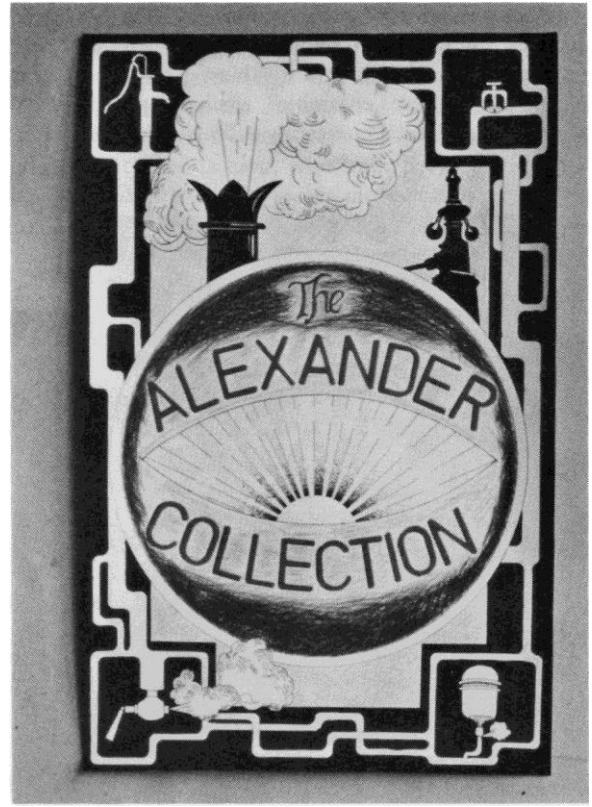
'Joe Nicholls' by Ben Maslen



'A' Level Study by Tim Needham



Self Portrait by Polly Nicholls

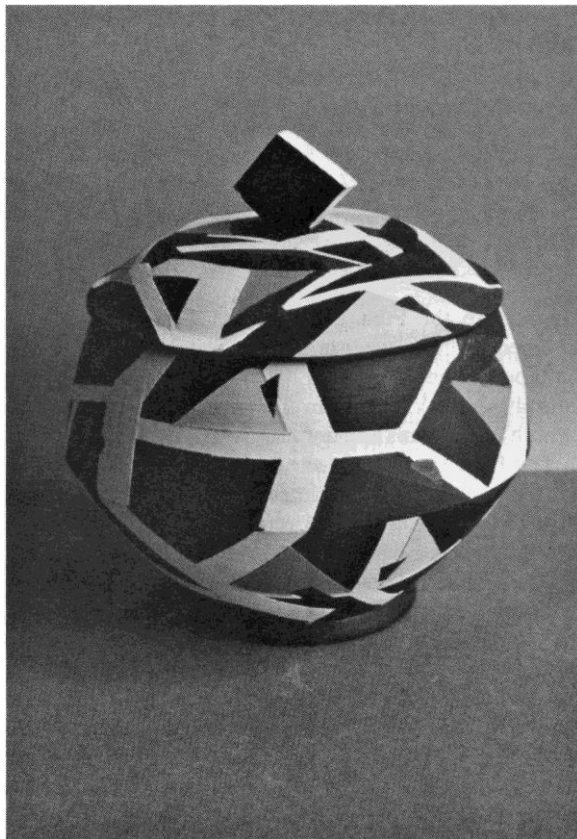


'A' Level Study by Jonathan Quick

## Pottery and Design

As the Founder's Day exhibition showed, an exceptionally wide range of work and ideas have been produced over the past year. In Pottery this range is most clearly illustrated by the contrast between Tim Needham's superbly designed and constructed teapots (an 'A' level project) and Paul Wilson's more energetic and experimental approach ('O' level work). Needham's work was technically impeccable, while Wilson's generated numerous new glazes and methods of decoration, and also some highly successful 'Raku' firings. A more equable approach was adopted by Jonathan Quick, whose excellent 'A' level pottery work combined technical skill with innovation. Other students making good progress are Geoffrey Broomfield and some members of the 6B option group, whose 'clay sandwiches' project produced some colourful work. The most successful were Henrietta Rothman (sandwich), Barney Branston (mirror frame) and Matthew Reid (coffee mug).

Design projects have ranged between Graphics and complex problem-solving questions. Excellent graphics and packaging projects were completed by the two 'A' level candidates, and the Fourth Form also developed some expertise in this area. A project to design the cover for a book called 'The War Poets' produced many successful versions, notably by David Norton and Jason Carter. My thanks go to Mr Craddock for his help with that work. Boys from the First and Second Forms produced many novel ideas and fine pieces when presenting their own names as a company logo.



Pot by Jonathan Quick

Other more complex projects have involved constructing vehicles to transport Mars bars up hills, and projecting tennis balls into dustbins. The junior forms have found these enjoyable, challenging, and have sometimes produced interesting and successful solutions.

M. S. G.



Mirror by Barnabas Branston

Teapot by Tim Needham

Snacks by Polly Cochrane and Henrietta Rothman

## Computing

In September, Computing courses will be established in all except the fifth year. Forms 1, 2 and 3 will take an introductory course, including many aspects of Information Technology, Robotics and Graphics. The fourth year will start a modular course in Computing and IT. This will be continued in the lower sixth form, when many students should qualify for the Cambridge Certificate in Information Technology. This will replace the present 'O' level examination, as the new GCSE course will not be suitable for the time we have available. By adopting a modular approach, work can be completed in shorter periods, thus allowing for the fifth form 'gap'. 6A will also use this scheme, so all pupils should leave Rendcomb with some experience in the practical side of computing, such as word-processing, data-bases, spreadsheets and view-data.

Lack of time and space will obviously inhibit many of the possibilities, as the large numbers interested in using the room are producing logistical and staffing problems. There has been some progress in the extension of the use of the room for Computer Assisted Learning: a few members of staff have shown interest, and some software is now on the network for use in teaching other subjects.

The future growth areas in new technology appear to be in Information Systems and the possibility of Interactive Video, initially linked to last year's Domesday Project.

Mrs King has been an enormous help during the last couple of years while our facilities have been growing. Many students have appreciated her enthusiasm and help. The increased teaching now required has resulted in Mrs Pogson's joining the staff to take 12 periods each week, while Mrs King returns to teaching Geography.

D. A. H.

## Stamp Club

'The king of hobbies and the hobby of kings': this is how stamp collecting has been described. Unfortunately no such accolade could be used to describe stamp collecting in Rendcomb this year. Attendance at meetings fell, and so after three meetings I decided to call off further ones.

Two of the meetings which took place were informal, while at the third two films on loan from the Post Office were shown. 'Into Another Dimension' was an invitation from famous and not so famous stamp collectors to join them for half an hour while they showed just what it was that endeared stamp collecting to them, showing it to be a hobby with something to offer all. 'The Time Line' was a documentary specially produced to accompany the stamps issued by the Post Office in 1984 to mark one hundred years of Greenwich Mean Time.

In September I intend to start the stamp club again for boys in the Junior House and include coins, postcards and teacards to give it a wider range of interest. I hope that within the smaller community a more enthusiastic and committed membership will flourish.

G. J. S.

## Film Group

Once again the Film Unit has had a busy year, and a number of the younger boys have been keen participants both behind and in front of the camera. Filming has been entirely on the VHS system and has involved scenes in the church and classrooms.

The Film Unit has finished a 15 minute video entitled 'These Sons of York', a time-change story featuring the Princes in the Tower - did you know that they were not really murdered by Richard III or Henry VII, but were beamed through time to twentieth-century Rendcomb College? 'These Sons of York' has been entered in the BBC TV competition 'Showcase '86' and it is hoped that an excerpt will be shown on BBC Television during November or December. Further video copies have been entered in the Victoria Film Festival in Australia and the Malta Film Festival. Next year it will also be entered in the International Amateur Film Festival.

The Film Unit hopes to increase its output to one film per term during the coming school year and to enter other film competitions.

## Music

Once again there has been as wide a variety of music at Rendcomb as ever - from Mozart to Genesis. At the beginning of the year we were fortunate to have two Old Rendcombians, Adrian Lewers and Andrew Rontree, return to Rendcomb to give excellent performances of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto and a Mozart Piano Concerto. Towards the end of the Autumn term we embarked on the first-ever Gilbert and Sullivan at Rendcomb, 'H. M. S. Pinafore'. This caused major upheavals to the school routine as the first night approached, but I am sure that everyone will agree that it was worth it.

The Spring term was musically a disaster - there were so many pupils ill that I did not have one choir practice with a full attendance, and consequently the intended performance of Dvorak's Mass in D had to be shelved.

The Summer term was altogether an improvement; the small ensemble groups that had worked patiently throughout the spring term were rewarded by a concert that took place on the 18th May. Despite a disappointingly small audience, I was very impressed by the vast improvement in standard, and all credit must go to the visiting music teachers who put such a lot of work into it.

Just before half-term Rendcomb history was made once again when the Rock Band gave a concert in the Dulverton Hall. As expected, the hall was full to bursting, and the performers gave their audience excellent value for money. Incidentally, it is only fair at this point to thank the parents of pupils in the band for putting up with the seemingly endless stream of rehearsals that went on in their houses during the Easter Holidays, not to mention having their cars used as removal vans to carry all the equipment from one place to another.

This year we welcomed Mrs Julia Morris to the Music Staff to teach 'cello'. We are very pleased that she has agreed to take over this job from Mr Peter Wood, who has reluctantly had to reduce his teaching to further a performing career.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Lesley Hunt remarried during the Easter Holidays. She has however decided that her teaching timetable is too great and thus, with much regret, she will be leaving at the end of the year. I am very sorry to see her go as she has been a great source of encouragement to countless Rendcomb string players, and we all wish her the very best in the future.

T. J. L.

## Concerto Concert

The major classical concert of the Christmas Term took place on Sunday, 27th September, when two Old Rendcombians, Andrew Rontree and Adrian Lewers, played the solo parts in two concertos with the college orchestra, led by Lesley Hunt and conducted by John Willson.

First the orchestra played the Overture to Mozart's 'Magic Flute', providing a rousing start to the concert,

with some stirring fortissimo chords in the brass section.

Mozart was also the composer of the piano concerto played by Andrew Rontree - No. 23 in A major - and it started in typical fashion, with some lively solo sections and spirited melody. The second movement, a very simple and plain-sounding piece, allowed Andrew to display some extra personal touches in interpretation, and his mastery of the piece was clear. The final *presto*, which seemed to get faster and faster, required great dexterity from both soloist and orchestra!

After the interval Adrian Lewers played the very difficult violin concerto in E minor by Mendelssohn. He set off at a very impressive pace, which at one point seemed perhaps a little *too* fast but, once again, the audience that filled the Dulverton Hall was held by his skill.

To end the concert, the orchestra played the Overture to the well-known opera 'Der Freischütz' by Weber, based on the German folk legend of a marksman who uses magic bullets and has to escape from the toils of the Devil. In its soft introduction Weber uses a technique frequent in his work, a french horn solo developed from simple arpeggios.

The whole evening was a great success, thanks to two excellent virtuoso performances from the soloists and well balanced playing from the orchestra, all of whom deserve congratulations for their hard work in preparing a concert of such quality in the first three weeks of term.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY

## Guitar Concert

On October 20th was held the first Guitar Concert to take place at Rendcomb for many years. This must be a tribute to Mr Philip Dunn, who after just three years of teaching here, mainly to beginners, has managed to produce a concert of soloists of this quality.

The first half opened with a number of short pieces, some well known and others less so, played by a quartet, a duo and five different soloists. Notable pieces included 'Greensleeves' played by Jason Carter; 'Scarborough Fair', a duet by Adam Binder and Paul Griffiths; 'Broon's Bane', a contemporary piece played by Roderick Hill; and three solos by Mr Dunn which dazzled the audience with their technical difficulty.

The second half was devoted mainly to Hari Nathan and Mr Dunn. Hari played a solo piece very well and then played three duets with Mr Dunn, including the famous 'Jesu, Joy of Man's desiring' by J. S. Bach. We were then treated to a rendering of 'Cavatina', followed by a performance by a pupils' band of contemporary popular music. They gave us their version of 'Stairway to Heaven', the rock classic of the 1970s, by Led Zeppelin. Justin Noyce sang a very exposed vocal line extremely well and was more than ably supported by Mark Thompson, David Aylott, Matthew Reid and Roderick Hill on guitar, bass, drums and lead guitar respectively. Congratulations go to all concerned with the concert, especially the soloists and the band, and many thanks to

Mr Dunn and Mr Lane for organising the event so well and, latterly, for supplying the band with some powerful new speakers, without which their performance would not really have been possible.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY

## The Rock Concert

### 22nd May

Being the first of its genre at Rendcomb, this concert inspired anticipation and scepticism. Indeed its success and any possibilities of a future repeat depended on many factors: NOISE, amount and quality of; CONTENT; and RECEPTION.

'The Band' as they are currently called, no name being shown on the attractive programme, submitted 18 songs of various styles to a packed Dulverton Hall. Material ranged from the Chuck Berry classic 'Johnny B. Goode' to Bruce Springsteen and Led Zeppelin, as well as three songs written by the band themselves and widely acclaimed on all sides.

A high standard of musicianship was obvious in all the performers: Rod Hill, on guitar backed up by a wide array of effects pedals, displayed great skill and variety in techniques; Dave Aylott, on bass guitar, was very impressive *and* loud, although I think maybe his part was underestimated by many of the audience; the latter also applied to Justin Noyce on keyboards who, hidden amongst speakers and at the back of the stage, had only a few moments to shine, especially in his excellent rendition of an exposed tune in 'Stairway to Heaven'; Matthew Reid on drums formed a solid base to the music, providing many effective and dextrous chimes and drumfills. Last, but certainly not least, were the vocalists, Iain Whittaker and Lisa Wallace. Both are able singers, Iain proving to be almost as good a singer as he is a stand-up comic, and Lisa, a tuneful, powerful voice climbing even over the cheers of the audience.

There were, however, some plainly noticeable hitches. Violent squeaks of feedback from the speakers, lack of clarity of words from the singers and tell-tale gaps between songs did result in the concert's losing some of its rhythm and continuity, even if they did add spontaneity. There were wrong notes, some more obvious than others, and it was unfortunate that the sound from the amplifiers had to be altered repeatedly *during* the songs, but I am told that this was purely for the audience's sake!

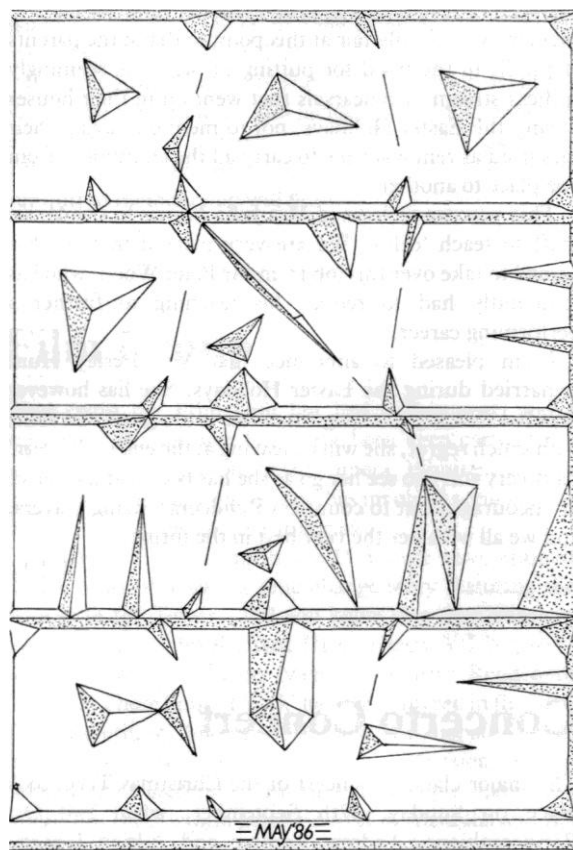
Finally, after an excellent evening's entertainment one should not forget the 'crew', lighting, lifting, listening and recording, who managed to put on such a concert, enjoyed by everyone, and which surely ought not to be the last.

CHRISTOPHER MOODY

## An Evening of Solo Lute and Lute Songs

The evening of Thursday 26th June was the occasion of an unusual but entertaining musical event at Rendcomb: a recital of lute and lute songs by Philip Dunn and Graham Ball. Before an inexperienced but appreciative audience, the performers proceeded to awaken and sustain interest in the relatively unfamiliar idioms of lute and alto voice music, drawing on a rich sixteenth and seventeenth century repertoire of pieces and songs ranging from the tragic to the laconic and frivolous. The skill of Philip Dunn on the lute and the fine colour and expressive control of Graham Ball's voice became steadily more obvious as the evening progressed. Once introduced to the style of music, the audience gradually became acquainted with the diversity and subtlety present in a genre that inevitably, at first, seems limited in its range of expression. Punctuated by Graham's crisply informative remarks, the summer's evening was both educational and entertaining. It is sad to reflect that this term sees the departure of Mr Ball and his vocal skills; and timely, perhaps, to wish that Rendcomb had made more use of the talent it has harboured for four years.

M. C. C.





## Community Service

Community service has been popular again this year, with 28 sixth-formers visiting Cirencester on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The most popular choice was Paternoster House Old People's Home, where many enjoy their weekly visits, chatting to the residents, who are happy to talk to us for an hour and to show us countless family photographs! We also visited Paternoster School for mentally handicapped children and Querns Geriatric Hospital, and four of us helped with riding for the disabled at Siddington. Some of the riders came from Paternoster School; most are competent, and one or two are very good. They have a great sense of humour and enjoy their weekly outing.

Undoubtedly one of the most satisfying achievements for those of us involved in Community Service has been the award of £100 by the National Westminster Bank earlier this year. We entered their 'Project Respond' Competition, which involved sending in detailed reports on the various Community Service activities. Six representatives collected the award at a reception at the bank's Cheltenham branch on 12th May.

The group continues to send money to Ravi and Anitha, who live in India. The funds were formerly derived from 'peasant lunches', but these have been discontinued now that we have outside caterers. The commitment is currently met from reserves accumulated over the years, but the CS committee will be looking next year for new ways to generate income, so that the future of this project can be assured.

It is thanks to the enthusiasm of all those involved that 1986 has been such a successful year. Special thanks must go to Mr Oldroyd and Mr Ball for driving the minibus and putting up with 28 noisy sixth-formers every week!

SIMON KINGSCOTE

Project Respond Award



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The following have received their certificates and lapel badges, and are to be congratulated on their perseverance:

**Silver Award:** 6A - J. Quick.

**Bronze Award:** 6B - T. Burns, R. Draper, I. Ford, J. Mann, C. Moody, J. Odell, T. Prince, S. Reichwald, A. Rollo, N. Wharmby, I. Whittaker.

5 and 5A - A. Andreis, G. Carter, J. Chappelle, M. Croft, J. Delaney, A. Edwards, J. Fellows, S. Green, P. Griffiths, D. Hutton, C. Hoare, R. Rollo, M. Larroucau, J. McMonigall, D. Paton, A. Satterthwaite, E. Webb.

A large group of fourth-formers have completed the expedition successfully and have only to pass the 'Physical Recreation' before they too will receive a bronze award. The Third Form has taken the now traditional First Aid course under the instruction of Mr Scriven, and all but two passed at the first attempt. The scheme has been going at Rendcomb since 1983 and so has now worked its way up the school. One consequence of this is that every boy above the Third Form has taken a First Aid course: a little knowledge may be dangerous, but the early inculcation of a small number of basic principles in this field may save a life one day.

Another consequence is that some senior boys are making a genuine and informed attempt to obtain a higher standard of award: a group of six have committed themselves to 'go for gold' in the expedition section.

G. R. B.



*C. J. Wood*

## Woodwork

The workshop has been less busy this year, particularly in the Spring Term owing to illness. Nevertheless, a wide range of articles have been made.

Lathework has continued to increase in popularity and formed a major part of this year's Founder's Day display. We now carry a stock of over 200 turnery blanks (discs) for bowls, in at least 20 timbers, with a good selection of burrs in oak and elm.

Table lamps are a popular item, and we have been fortunate in obtaining sound lengths of four and five-inch diameter elm and olive ash. A wide range of wood turning accessories are now stocked, such as quartz clock movements, Italian marble tiles and assorted glass inserts.

As over a thousand pounds worth of timber is purchased annually, at the end of the Summer Term remaining stocks need sorting and replenishing. Already forty blanks for 'Rendcomb stools' have been prepared for the Autumn Term.

A recent acquisition has been a 'Multico' heavy duty mortiser which will make larger projects possible.

The main task in Public Work has been the repairing of school furniture. It is hoped that some pressure can be removed from the workshop with the appointment of a part-time carpenter. This would enable projects of a more creative nature to be undertaken.

Visits have been made this year to Cirencester Workshops, the Practical Woodworking exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre and to the Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery to see a touring exhibition of

the work of Alan Peters. He is among those few furniture makers working today whose individual, innovative designs and excellence of craftsmanship have set them apart as master craftsmen.

C. C. B.

## Bridge Club

Due to renewed interest and enthusiasm this year, the Club was able to enter seven pairs in the Gloucestershire Schools' Bridge competition in November. The fifth form pairs played well, whilst the junior members gained valuable experience: the sixth form pair unfortunately suffered from a few 'local difficulties'. At the Bridge Drive at the end of the Christmas term, Mr Holt and Commander Thring, who clearly enjoyed the evening, won first prize.

The Lent term saw the team of two pairs entering the 'Daily Mail' competition; eighteen pairs played in the Cheltenham heat. The Rendcomb team came sixth, making a much-needed recovery in the second half.

Of course none of this could have happened if it had not been for Mr White's organisation and strong participation in the Club. I would like to thank him on behalf of everyone in the Club - and especially for his sense of humour which managed to put a smile on everyone's face even in the direst of situations!

The following played for the Club: C. Moody, N. Wharmby, W. Hammond, D. Kenney, M. Larroucau, R. Matson, A. Andreis, M. Attwood, S. Tate, A. Wharmby, R. Ogden, C. Bannister, M. Faircloth.

NICK WHARMBY

## Gardening

The severe weather took its toll of a number of plants and shrubs and caused many of the routine tasks usually carried out in the Spring term to be abandoned. However, in May the grounds looked attractive with a fine show of daffodils, primroses, violets and flowering trees - a compensation for the hard winter, as so often they are at their best in the holidays.

Cosmea, begonias, helichrysum, petunias and ageratum have been used for the formal bedding at the College and Old Rectory. The urns on the terrace have been planted with geraniums and petunias. An attempt has also been made to provide more colour in the Stable courtyard.

During the year much useful work has been done by the P. W. group on Tuesdays, often in trying conditions, but much necessary maintenance has been neglected as there is no longer a non-cricketer gardening group on Wednesdays as a back-up.

I would like to thank the following for their help during the year: C. Pope, R. Matson, D. Kenney, M. Larroucau, R. Bugden, G. Cowie, R. Hardy, F. Lee, M. Nicholls. I am also grateful to Mr Partridge and his staff for their work in the holidays.

W. J. D. W.

## H. M. S. Pinafore

Gilbert-and-Sullivan - hereinafter 'Gands' - is either loved, or detested. The detestation stems from reaction against either the sheer triviality of the libretto, or the sheer triviality of the music, or both. Yet such prejudice is quite mistaken, for Gands is a separate and distinct form which has no antecedents and no successors. It is essentially a visual form: it is to do with colour, wit and timing on the stage, with movement and a conspiracy with the audience. It works if it creates the pace, the lightness of touch, if it underlines the wit and the absurdity, if it plays with the mood of the audience which must both believe in, and laugh at, the sentiment and sentimentality. Consider the Rendcomb production of 'Pinafore' and apply some of these tests, concentrating on the visual: the Trio 'Never mind the why and wherefore' or the Finale 'He is an Englishman', as two instances. In the opinion of this writer and clearly of the audiences, the production passed all these tests, and provided us with an evening of great enjoyment, and moments of sheer delight.

Rave reviews in school magazines look a trifle absurd a year after the event, an embarrassment to the readers who missed the show. The audience consisted of multitudinous sisters and cousins and aunts, all well-wishers not out for an evening's enjoyment as such, but anxious to encourage, to applaud, to praise their own and other people's offspring. If a voice is a little forced, why, whoever would have thought that they would get him actually singing on the stage? In front of an audience! If an instrument misses the note, why, she's only been learning for two-and-a-half years, you know; I think they've done wonderfully well, considering. And so they have. But 'Pinafore' has done more. It has provided an evening's entertainment *in its own right* which would have delighted an audience of Bristol theatre-goers (let alone one of Cheltenham theatre-goers) who knew nothing of the cast or the producers. In short, we did not have to make allowances.

Of course, all this, as they say, is down to Michael Craddock and Tim Lane, the one by establishing the movement and the colour of the production, the other by enthusing his orchestra into bold, assured, witty playing which held to its happy course with (to these ears) never a false note. (What, never? Well, hardly ever... ). Just how skilful the production was would not be apparent to anyone who did not know the impossibility of the pocket-handkerchief stage and the postage-stamp wings; to get that enormous cast on and off, to focus the attention on the principals at all times while providing a bubbling, chattering background of movement - these features deserve a rave review to themselves. And the Producer himself would lead the applause to Colin Burden and Tom Denny and their teams whose set provided not a background so much as an opportunity to the production to set the mood.

We just had time to think of a few epithets for Sir Arthur's music (trite, banal, jejune? ) when the overture was ended, and Buttercup appeared, pert and vivacious, it is true, rather than middle-aged and dumpy. But the beginning is everything. Lisa Wallace carried us straight and unresisting into the absurd world of Gands, with her certainty of timing and her clear, piping, no-nonsense

voice. We are running short of space, so we must content ourselves with advice: if you are a betting person, put a lot of money on Lisa, for this is a talent to watch.

As to the other principals, Katrina Walsh, Barney and Tom Branston and Dom Scarlett: each had a clear, authoritative contribution. Katrina hit the middle of every note, and moved with calm assurance as Josephine; and if we single out Katrina for a special word, it is to underline the merits of them all, for they all worked for the success of each other. The audience loved their performances, again, in their own right, for they supplied the wit, vivacity and joie-de-vivre of the production.

We have written above of the enormous cast. This refers, of course, to the numbers of the cast. The chorus of sailors, marines, and sisters, cousins and aunts were all tuneful, witty, vivacious and full of joie-de-vivre as well, and strong/lithe and radiantly beautiful as appropriate. Were these the same people, we wondered, who stare at us bleary-eyed, looking, as Dylan Thomas put it, 'like an unmade bed' on a rainy morning in 'S' Room? The answer, we conclude, is no: they were people transformed by enthusiasm, by the glamour, by the costumes (what marvellous dresses, Mrs Scarlett! ) to the magic world of Gands.

Which is the right note on which to end, except to say this, that Rendcomb is lucky to have such a depth of ability that it can have such talented singers and performers as Kris Ewing, Justin Noyce, David Edwin and Robert Draper in minor roles. Messrs. King, Newby and Ball did not have to act much, but contributed immensely to the fun. And fun was what it was about. It is no good looking for eternal truths from the words of Gilbert, nor seeking to be moved to spiritual insights from the music of Sullivan. But Gands, as 'Pinafore' showed us, is something else: it is entertainment, inspired entertainment.

D. S. J. P.

Mrs J. Barclay



## ‘Oliver Twist’

The Junior Play often takes its principal actors from the 4th Form. When it became known that Michael Craddock had decided to put on ‘Oliver Twist’ it was felt in the Common Room that he had made a very apt choice. When the cast list appeared, the conviction was confirmed that here was the potential for a truly atmospheric production that would conjure up the menace and degradation of the nineteenth century inner city, even in the unlikely surroundings of a converted conservatory in rural, tweedy Gloucestershire.

So it was a cause of great disappointment when the scheduled performances had to be cancelled owing to rampant ill-health in the Lent Term. But new dates were fixed, and at last the lights were lowered.

The assured and immaculately attired figure of Oliver (Sean Tate) stepped forward and began to tell us his story with an admirable clarity of diction that was to distinguish this production. Mr Bumble (Matthew Waddington) was delightfully pompous and inflected his voice distinctively, to show who was in command. The Board was suitably self-righteous, leaving the audience in no doubt that the pathetic, yet courageous and honest, young Oliver (Vaughan Tredwell) was truly and wickedly oppressed. The formidable Mrs Sowerberry (Julian Head), though she seemed to be frightening her husband (Jonathan Slattery) more than she frightened Oliver, was another worthy adversary for our hero, who escaped to the front of the curtain only to be met by the Artful Dodger (Geoffrey Broomfield), holding out the hand of friendship.

Fagin’s lair, luridly lit, was from now on the setting around which the action revolved. Fagin himself (David Norton) reminded me irresistibly of Roland Rat, with his heavy-breathing cockney accent, but here was far more real evil than mere roguishness. Bill Sykes (Roland Martin) was very unlucky with his entry, having a deal of trouble with a lamp, but he swiftly recovered his composure and implacability.

The scene shifted briefly to the cosy dwelling of the amiable Mr Brownlow (Julian Norbury) and his eccentric but punctilious servant (William Sherwood), and then it was over: an enormous undertaking, lasting about three times as long as the previous junior play!

The first-night audience forgave a few heavy pauses as inexperienced actors froze on their lines but, as is often the case, those with most to learn needed least prompting. On the second night the performers were less tense and gave of their best, showing the audience what can be achieved with enthusiasm and teamwork. Congratulations to all concerned.

G. R. B.

## Arts Society

After a quiet period, the arrival of Mr Craddock as Chairman has brought the Society back to life. At the beginning of the year a new committee was formed and has met regularly, arranging a number of activities. Amongst the most successful of the events have been the showing of videos, followed by discussions in the Library. The film ‘1984’ provoked an especially enthusiastic response and a thoughtful debate. In the Summer Term a creative writing session was held and enjoyed by those participating, not just for some fine entries but also because of the discussions prompted by the issues and ideas explored.

Next year guest speakers are to be invited, and it is hoped that the accent can shift even further towards members’ participation and contributions.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee, and especially Mr Craddock, for spending time and effort to make the society a success.

SIMON REICHWALD

## Bell Ringing

Three of our regular ringers left at the end of last year, and so we have not been able to ring on Sundays for much of this year. However, five juniors and a couple of seniors are now almost at a level competent for Sunday ringing. Therefore next year I see a hopeful future for bell ringing, as many ringers are in the lower forms and will not be leaving in the near future. We offer many thanks to Mrs Godwin for her continued teaching on Wednesday evenings.

JONATHAN QUICK

*M. Bews*





Ironbridge

*M. Bews*



# Viewpoints



Reg Tarrant

C. J. Wood

## The Changing Face of Rendcomb

In the 1980s, when our inner cities are threatened with dereliction, it is worth considering also the changes that have recently occurred in rural life; one can say recently, because village life has undergone more radical change in the last 80 years than in the previous 800. To explore this theme Juliet Hasler and Nick Wharmby interviewed Mr Reg Tarrant, who has lived in the village since early in the century and who kindly gave up his time to explain how things used to be.

The Tarrants had been blacksmiths at Rendcomb since the 1700s. This meant that Mr Tarrant did not play as direct a part in the upkeep of the Rendcomb estate as did most of the villagers, but his father's and grandfather's skills were vital to society. Farm work and transport were entirely dependent on the forge for shoeing horses and making tools and carriage and cart wheels.

The blacksmith had to pay bills for his materials twice yearly, at the May and November fairs held in Cirencester. This meant his going round local farmers at the fairs to gather in the money owing to him, so that he could meet his bills. The fee for shoeing a horse was five shillings; it is now in the region of £23.

Mr Tarrant's father possessed the first penny-farthing bicycle seen in the village, which had solid tyres. Later he bought a pneumatic-tyred cycle and then several more, which he hired out to villagers for the then considerable sum of two and sixpence per weekend. It was the advent of the bicycle which allowed the young men of the village to look a little further afield when choosing a wife.

Lady Taylor of Rendcomb House, as it was called,

employed fourteen men simply to run the estate gardens, and at least twenty-five servants indoors to run the house. All these people were supplied by the village.

It was a self-sufficient community. Mr Tarrant attended the village school, now the shop and post office, until the age of fourteen. Not much emphasis was placed on his general education, as he was destined from the day he was born to follow his father's trade.

All commodities were available from within the village and estate, and villagers would consider walking to Cirencester only once or twice a year. The village pub, the 'Guise Arms', known locally as the 'Blue Boy's' closed at the end of the last century. It was on the right-hand side of the main road to Cirencester, almost opposite the lodge, and the remnants of it still stand. Clothes were bought from a Mr Gegg, who attended at the pub, took orders and brought the garments out from Cirencester on approval in his cart. A great deal of handing down of garments within families went on, and all the women were expert at sewing, converting and patching.

Butcher, baker and shoemaker lived within the village, and groceries were brought round in a cart once a month. Milk and butter were obtained from the home farm, now Clifffordine House. This was also the site of the estate sawmill, a 'pit-saw' manned by two sawyers, one at the bottom of a pit and the other at ground level. An ice-house for storing ice was built into the ground near the Estate Steward's house, now called Rendcomb Manor. The first village shop was established in Kennel Bottom, and then later in Post Office Farm.



The stables were, of course, in the present science block, with the coach house occupying the present junior physics lab and the computer room.

Rendcomb has been remarkably privileged in that for well over a century it has had its own doctor. His house and surgery were in what is now Captain Wills's house, remaining there until Dr Gladstone's retirement in 1962.

The village also had its own fire service. Two previous mansions having been destroyed by fire, a large reservoir was constructed under the hill leading up to the playing fields, water from which is still used for filling the swimming pool. The service had a horse-drawn engine and an eight-man fire cart. Ben Heywood, who lived at No. 18, Mr King's present house, combined his duties as fire constable with the care of the conservatory, now the Dulverton Hall, and lighting the oil lamps along the village street.

The village pump was its sole water supply until the late 1950s, fed by gravity, as was the College supply, from springs on the hill below Eycot House. When the College was founded, demands on this supply increased so much that the pumping station in Kennel Bottom, below Green Meadows Farmhouse, had to be used to supplement the supply. Maintenance of the pump was the office of the Tarrant family; apart from mechanical defects, it often froze in winter and had to be thawed with buckets of hot water. In the summer of 1955 severe drought dried up supplies to both College and Village, and a large-scale PW operation was mounted by the Headmaster to dig out the

Ben Heywood



springs on the Eycot hill. As a result of this experience Rendcomb converted to mains water the following year.

The villagers made their own amusements. The Rector organised an annual concert in the village school. Everyone attended, and all did their expected and traditional turns. The Tarrants were a musical family and at one time had seven of its members in the concert party. The flat at the end of the Rectory, now being converted for staff use, contained the village 'Reading Room'. Not much reading went on, but cards, draughts and dominoes were very popular. A Ball was held once a year at the House for all the villagers.

Crime, as we know it today, must have been relatively rare; Mr Tarrant's grandfather was Village Constable (not a member of the police force proper), and one night when a man living in one of the three cottages in Kennel Bottom murdered his wife, he had to arrest him and then *walk* him into Cirencester to be locked up. The police record of 'The Kennel Bottom Murder' still exists.

When travelling gypsies and clothing salesmen visited the village, Mr Tarrant's mother used to hang the Constable's Staff in the hall, to act as a deterrent if need be.

During the First World War the family housed two RFC pilots using the Whiteway airfield. The family has a vivid memory of a plane's crashing nearby and of the narrow escape of the crew.

The foundation of the College was naturally frowned on at first by the conservative villagers, but they quickly realised its potential: the money brought in by the Wills family and by the boys saved both church and village from falling into dereliction.

In the 1930s the College electricity generator broke down and mains electricity was installed. This led to the village's receiving it earlier than most in the Cotswolds. Each house was offered *three* lights for an installation charge of ten shillings.

In the early days the relationship between College and Village was close. Mr Tarrant nostalgically recalled how two boys played for the village cricket and football teams. He owned a car at this time and used to take the college boys to matches and drive lecturers and staff to and from Chedworth and Cirencester stations. . . .

It was, as the French say, another country, with other customs. We are very grateful to Mr Tarrant for allowing us to share his memories.

## Prisoner of Conscience

I'm here for good now.

This is no holiday, no 'trial run'; there wasn't even any warning.

But I suppose it was on the cards,

Though I still rage over the injustice of it all, inwardly;  
I can show no angry tears.

I learned at birth how to hold life and to keep it;

Then I wanted to live as I thought was right.

This imprisonment, total subjection, is like a painful,  
time-consuming death,

Terrified screams at night hitting blank walls,

A second womb.

They demanded, and got, my submission.

What could I do?

Now I'm where they want me, although once I  
believed, thought I was right.

Now there's no more persuading, campaigning,

Concealment, explaining,

Fighting the fear and guilt.

My life is a blank page - they fill it how they choose;

You threaten when you don't comply -

The blood-red stain, on the white sheet.

And you can bet they'll work their hardest

To erase you too; they'll push you down,

But don't blame me; my face is turned to the wall.

MELANIE GILL

## The Unwilling Birth

It must be four years now since I died. I remember it well. It was a common accident - I had been hit by a speeding car and was seriously injured. The first thing I remembered after being hit by the car was immense pain, a pain that was beyond hurting but was always there.

I have no memory of my transition on to a hospital theatre table but I remember vividly those bright, searing lights gazing intensely at me, accusing me of some great sin. I fashioned them into beings of a time gone by, inquisitive creatures willing to learn my thoughts and pains, but afraid of me all the same.

They just stared relentlessly at me, never blinking, just assuming the situation as experimental: I was their prisoner until such time as I could pull myself from their bondage.

I gazed back at them; the effect was hypnotic. I relaxed; then all of a sudden something slumped inside my body and I was sinking into myself. There was no pain now, no mutilated body groaning for sanctuary - and then I was looking at myself. I was out of my body and floating in the air, looking down on my former self and the doctors desperately trying to bring me to life again.

I took one last look at them and then I gazed upwards, along that mysterious black tunnel at the end of which was a bright, glistening fluorescence, and, as I floated up this tunnel, past memories of my life flashed up upon the walls: my childhood, my first day at school, my elations and disappointments, my father's death, my seclusion from

the pains of the real world; my own mind was beginning to hate my body for all that was going on around it. Looking upon my life in this fashion led me to believe that I would have tried to end this madness very close to my 'death' anyway. I was grateful that someone else had done it for me. But then the walls flickered into action again, and then there were scenes that I did not recognise, that meant nothing to me. There was a marriage, my marriage. Then there was a child, crying, laughter, joy and then finally a gravestone - mine. This was my intended future, but was now my past.

My eyes left the walls and gazed ahead; the bright light was straight in front of me. I stepped into it. I was stunned for several seconds, but eventually got control of my somewhat erring mind.

I was mesmerised; everything about me was in a shade of blue. The trees were blue, the horizon blue, even the grass - blue. And ahead of me were multitudes of hands beckoning me this way and that; it was as though they were pulling me but not touching me.

My body just willed itself forward, not really moving in any intended direction; it was just moving - it was a compulsive action; I was nearing the swarm of hands and, as I neared them, they seemed to part for me, brushing past either side of my bewildered body, and then there were none, just a lone figure standing there, seemingly tranquil, invitingly calm.

I approached, warily at first, for I could not see the face clearly. Then a pair of hands reached out for me, his hands. I jumped back - what else was I to do, I did not know him. He looked offended, for I could now see his face. He repeated the motion, but I did not go forward. His head dropped, as did his hands, and he turned in a motion that seemed to bid me farewell. Then as I gazed at him I felt a tugging at my shirt; I looked around - nothing. I turned to the weird man again; he stood motionless. Then the tugging got more and more frantic and forceful; it was dragging me back; I was being returned. Panic struck me. I felt like shouting to the now diminishing figure 'wait, let me explain - I didn't mean it'. But nothing came out. Now there was no hope: I was to return to the world I had known and hated for so long. We, the force and I, travelled back down the 'tunnel', but there were none of my depictions upon the walls - only those of mocking, jeering faces.

We entered the room, and I suddenly felt free. The force was no longer imprisoning me. I turned to run up the tunnel; it was not there. There was only one thing for it: I had to return to my slimy, loathsome body, that I now so despised. It was at that moment that I resolved to make sure once and for all that I reached my secret goal - the light at the end of the tunnel.

PHILIP MOORE

## Politics

A lonely, dismal, dank prison.  
The weary prisoners stare all day  
At the four walls encompassing  
them.  
Occasionally a glance at the high, barred windows,  
At the cold Siberian snow-fields.  
The greyness of life is overpowering,  
The dreary, stodgy gruel,  
The endless succession of night and day,  
The grinding toil in the featureless salt-mines.  
All because they didn't believe;  
They didn't believe in what others believed.  
'A bit more freedom, ' they'd say quietly.  
An insignificant, harmless protest, a chat here and  
there, One or two banners, nothing much,  
Just a small parading of one's hopes.  
Then, noiselessly in the night,  
A few quick words, two silent figures,  
A sudden awakening, the escort down to the  
street Where the black car with no headlights  
is purring And slides smoothly away into the  
night.  
No protests, no recriminations, nothing.

ALEXANDER BELL

## Westrek

I moved off immediately after lunch, with the sun high up behind me. The walk across the windswept plain before me was going to be much easier than I had expected. Before lunch, the area I had been walking across had been rough and stony, with cracks and holes in the dried mud and among the rocks, threatening to trap feet and ankles like matchsticks at every step. Yet before me lay four or five miles of flat, undulating plain, stretching as far as the eye could see. The sun-bleached grass was yellow in colour, but amongst it were tiny white and yellow flowers, their colour breaking through to the sunlight.

I quickened my pace and before long I was in the midst of a vast patch of bracken and prickly gorse bushes up to my waist. Again, yellow flowers grew on the gorse bushes, making their uncomfortable bunches of thorns appear harmless. The ground was dry and powdery under foot, and it was not long before my boots and lower legs were covered in a rust-red dust, so thick that the garments' natural colours were hidden. Clouds of dust flew up behind me and blew away in the light breeze. I was grateful for the drop in temperature - a contrast to the unbearable heat of the morning.

After an hour or so the ground began to head downhill, indicating the need to check the map once again. There, down in the valley below, was the vast woodland that I was heading for. In the distance I could see the sea, as well as the town of Porlock, small pockmarks of grey and black indicating the houses through the trees. I could distinguish a thin track and beside it a river, so I wasted no time in strolling downhill to the valley bottom. The descent proved more difficult. Large piles of stones and dead branches and bracken lay in front of me and all around me. The stones were somewhat unsteady, causing me to stumble twice, grazing my hands. After moving

through another band of thick bracken, I entered the woods. The sun instantly disappeared from sight, allowing me to cool off in the shade of the vast trees surrounding me.

My burden was becoming heavier because of the heat, and so I agreed that a rest at the river would be a good idea. Flies buzzed lazily in circles above my head, but few became victims of my useless swatting. My feet ached, my hands stung and my face itched. I would have enjoyed the walk a great deal more had I had a couple more hours in which to complete it. As it was, however, I was to meet the rest of the group on time, as arranged.

On arriving at the river I took off my heavy pack, the back of which had become black from sweat. I took out a canteen and drank some of the fresh, cool water within. Since I was there and had the opportunity, I bathed my feet in the wonderfully cool water of the river. I had entered a small clearing and noticed that the sun had started to sink lower. A quick glance at the watch told me that it was, to my regret, time to move. I put my boots on again, munched a biscuit and then hoisted my pack to my shoulders. As I stood up my shadow stretched far off, as if I were on stilts. Looking to my right I could make out the line of the pathway, winding along beside the river, disappearing into the wood. I trudged onwards, admiring the beauty of the area I was in. All around me was a thick, green wall of leaves, each a different shade of green. It was hard to see further than two or three feet into the wood. The path in front of me was easily distinguished, although stinging nettles and cow parsley were overhanging and brushed aside as I walked through them.

The ground underfoot was cool and damp. There were no boulders, gorse bushes or bracken patches to fight my way through, and the gentle gradient of the footpath made the walking pleasant. The river gurgled onwards, although the cow parsley had become so tall that I could barely hear it. Soon the ground dropped in front of me, and the footpath disappeared into the river. From where I stood I could see that pebbles and stones covered the river bed, whilst at the foot of the high banks brown, muddy tree-roots and dead branches were overshadowed by yet more thick, flourishing stinging nettles. Looking about, I noticed some man-made stepping-stones about twenty feet downstream. To reach these it was necessary to wade through the river. Instead of removing my boots, I found a suitable spot and stepped into the cool water, and immediately my foot was swept away by the surprising force of the current. I regained my footing, but the water came up to my thighs, soaking my trousers as I carefully moved towards the stepping-stones.

The sunlight filtered softly through the tree tops, and shafts of light fell on to the surface, sending reflections and rainbows bouncing out in every direction. The pure water gleamed like diamonds as it swept past me. Clouds of midges hovered above the river, causing several trout to rise and surface from the deep, dark pools of brown water. Gentle splashings were audible as the fish surfaced, sending ripples to the edges of the pools.

As I carefully stepped on to a dry, rounded stepping-stone and stood up, a blue dragon-fly zipped out of nowhere to hover inquisitively in front of me. A gentle and

very faint flitting noise from its wings could be heard, and I watched it, mesmerised by its rapid movements a mere yard from my face. Two enormous eyes glared passively at me, and then, with a twitch, it was gone. The dragon-fly swerved off to one side and flew backwards down and across the river, where it soon settled on a small bough.

I had no time to lose, and so hurried on my way. According to the map I should cross the river again at its last junction before it flowed on towards Horner, a small village above Porlock. Darkness was drawing on, and the sounds around me became more intense. Rooks squawked and squabbled above me, whilst grasshoppers clicked endlessly in the long, green grass at my ankles. Grass seeds and pollen blew off and covered my trousers and boots, and I began to brush out bits of leaf and wood from my hair, gathered whilst climbing up the bank of the river.

As I continued along the path, the woods thinned out to my right and, after crossing the river again and walking a further seven miles or so, the trees had thinned so much that I could just make out hundreds of bluebells covering the slopes. The scent of many kinds of flowers, shrubs and trees, mingled with the pungent smell of wild garlic, was wonderful.

On reaching a small wooden signpost, curiously marked 'Granny's Footpath', I stopped, weary from my walk. I had been given some instructions to follow from this sign and, as I set a bearing on the compass, I noticed how dark and cool it had become. The luminous dots on my compass stared up at me like tiny, green eyes as I set off uphill on the final leg of a very long yet enjoyable walk over some of the roughest terrain that the Exmoor National Park had to offer.

CORRIN ADSHEAD

## The Walls

The sands of time sink lower.

The cold interior of my hour-glass, now exposed, is slippery, slanting.

Inescapable, like the sweating plaster of the walls around.

The walls: my explosive protestations will never break them now.

They have long since hardened to my crying.

And like the world outside, these four walls have no ears.

They have no compassion.

I believed differently from those outside: I believed in truth.

Truth: the elusive mystic who casts speckled over humanity

The warmth of my old country's smiles in the summer.

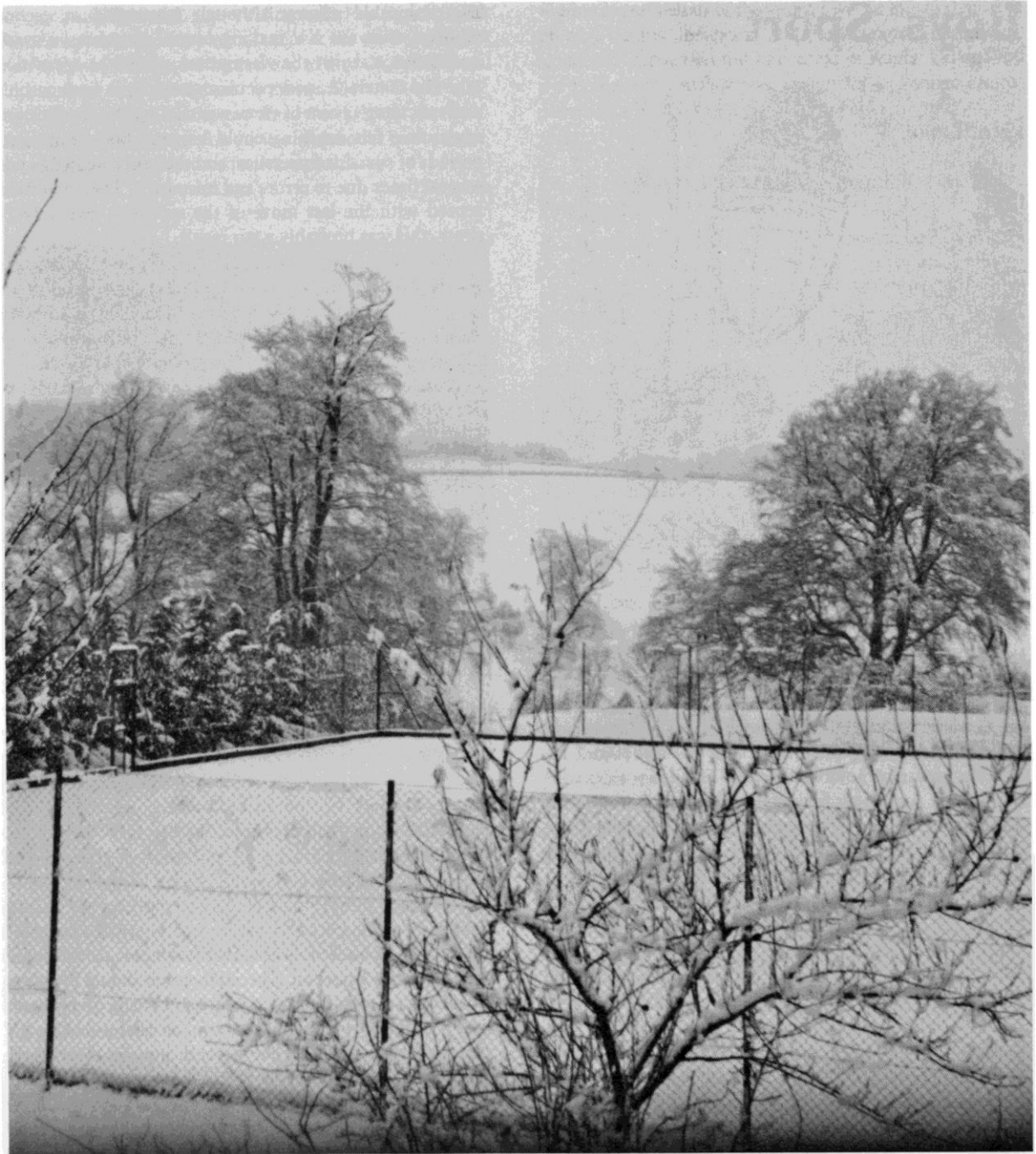
I suppose that truth has survived somewhere over the years;

It may journey here, but my guilty captors would have it thrown

Into the next dark cell, to stare at the walls.

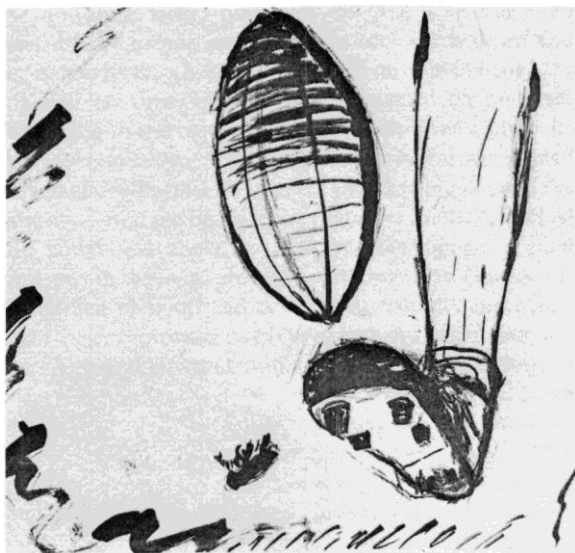
The sands of time sink lower.

POLLY NICHOLLS



*C. Faircloth*

# Boys' Sport



## Rugby Football

1985 proved to be a successful year across the board, with all age groups making good use of the kind weather and full fixture list. The Under 15 group under Mr Burden and Mr Graham produced some impressive performances, while the talented Under 14s under Mr Sykes and Mr Griffiths had some notable victories. The junior sides were involved in some new fixtures and developed well as the season went on, while the senior XV's had a packed diary, with Mr Haslett in his first year at Rendcomb doing an excellent job with the 3rd XV and Mr King back 'on games', this year coaching the 2nd XV to an impressive record.

The 1st XV had a particularly good season under the able captaincy of John Healey; not only was their record first-rate but the attitude and style in which they played was admirable. The opening match of the season against an experienced and strong Dean Close side was disastrous; although our XV's mobile and highly motivated pack won 90% of second-phase ball, a sequence of errors in the three-quarters led to several break-away tries for the opponents. A radical change in the team, with John Healey moving from outside half to full-back, Simon Jenkins moving from No. 8 to centre three-quarter and some new faces appearing on the wings, gave the backs more size and attacking 'beef'. The effect was dramatic in the next match, against Rednock, where only tenacious defensive play by the opposition prevented a cricket score. The enjoyable victories were against Whitefriars, a new and well received fixture, Wycliffe where a weakened XV took the field but came through magnificently and, of course, the Old Boys' match where a willingness on both sides to 'throw the ball around' led to an excellent game with the School's superior team work and fitness helping them to a fine win. In the last match an impressive record was established by the XV's captain as he scored over 100 points in the season. The matches against Kingswood, Monkton Coombe and Bloxham were as usual hard-fought and enjoyable

affairs, although frustrating in certain respects with the XV making crucial mistakes in attack and defence at just the wrong time, to let the opposition take the match. A most peculiar game, from both coach's and spectator's point of view, was that against Dauntsey's, where one felt anything could happen; both teams had periods of sustained pressure, and the lead changed hands several times due to errors and mismoves. The opposition scored with the last move of the match to give a 24-24 draw; this was probably a fair result.

The XV showed considerable ability in both forward and back divisions; the former, although suffering from the perennial Rendcomb problem of lacking in size and weight, became well-disciplined and technically very sound in the set piece, whilst mobility and aggression were their hall-mark in loose play, especially in rucking. Scrummage technique and variations became very efficient, thanks to our new scrummage machine and our very effective front row of Christopher Jones, David Edwin and Iain Whittaker, who were a match for any opponents. In line-outs the XV often dominated, helped by the outstanding jumping of locks Dominic Scarlett and Mark Astill. The industry and aggression of the back row, Richard Moss, Nicholas Badcott, Simon Kingscote and Nicholas Hannaford, led so ably 'from the front' by pack leader and Vice Captain Angus Trowern, put considerable pressure on opposition in attack and defence.

The backs developed into a skilful and hard-running unit, making full use of the ample possession gained by the forwards, scoring almost 70% of the team's tries. A major strength came with the presence of old campaigner Nicholas Webb; as scrum half he provided great attacking power, helped by his natural speed, aggression and consistent long delivery from the base of the scrum. Outside half Alex Brealy developed in confidence and all-round performance as the season went on, while beyond him the centres, Neil Paterson-Fox and Simon Jenkins, demonstrated great handling fluidity and running flair, backed up ably by the wingers David Aylott and Barnabas Branston. Special mention should of course be made of Kevin Elderfield who had to hang up his boots only a couple of weeks into the term; an established 1st XV three-quarter, he suffered several injuries over three seasons which kept him out of the side.

One pleasing fact about this season was that, whenever the 2nd XV players were called upon to cover for injury/ absence in the XV, they always played with total commitment and never looked out of place, reflecting the depth of talent in the present 6A.

Great tribute must of course be paid to J. M. Healey; as Captain of Rugby he was reliable, organised and well respected by club members. His determination and commitment in matches were exemplary qualities which, along with his natural running, handling and kicking talents and his ability to assess objectively situations and performances, made him an excellent leader. My personal thanks to John for making it a most enjoyable season.

I would also like to thank David Essenhigh for maintaining the pitches in their usual excellent condition, and the kitchen staff, not only for their work throughout the term but for the magnificent spread that they put on for the 2nd Annual Dinner, an occasion that was successful and thoroughly enjoyed by players and guests



alike. I am grateful also to Stephen Hawkswell, Old Rendcombian, for stepping in to cover the coaching of the Under 13s, a job that he carried out with great enthusiasm and success. Finally thanks to all members of the rugby staff for the long hours and hard work spent on their teams; you can put your whistles and boots back in the bottom drawer for another twelve months.

M. J. N.



*G. K. Johnston*

### 1st XV

This was a most enjoyable and, above all, successful season, this year's 1st XV being the only one in Rendcomb history to remain unbeaten away. Although one or two fixtures were cancelled, this does not detract from the memorable performances at Rednock, Dauntsey's and Whitefriars.

The team played consistently well throughout the term, excepting a slight hiccup against Monkton Combe. The pack showed great character and talent, especially in the loose, and they held their own in the set-piece against considerably larger opposition. The backs were used to full effect this year, scoring 22 out of the 34 tries. Natural speed and power helped to build the confidence needed to run with conviction, whether in attack or defence.

A special mention must be made of the 'old men' in the side: Angus Trowern, David Edwin, Nick Webb, Dave Aylott and Simon Jenkins all provided encouragement and inspiration to the younger members, who responded with great enthusiasm. This all bubbled into a tremendous team spirit, which was sustained throughout the season.

Finally, on behalf of the team, I would like to thank Mr Newby for his dedication and perseverance. His professionalism (somewhat out of context in Rugby Union) and wit helped to create such a delightful and warm atmosphere, in which it was a pleasure to play.

JOHN HEALEY

Played 14; Won 9; Lost 4; Drew 1; Points for 235;  
Points against 145.

v. Dean Close School (H)	Lost	6-33
v. Rednock School (H)	Won	22-0
v. Kingswood School (H)	Lost	7-20
v. Wycliffe College 2nd XV (H)	Won	7-0
v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)	Won	14-4
v. Dauntsey's School (A)	Drew	24-24
v. Bloxham School (H)	Lost	9-12
v. Monkton Combe School (H)	Lost	4-14
v. Cokethorpe School (A)	Won	27-9
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	25-0
v. Kingham Hill School (H)	Won	17-0
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School	Won	19-7
v. Whitefriars School (A)	Won	21-11
v. Old Rendcombians (H)	Won	33-11

Team from: J. Healey (Capt. ), A. Trowern (Vice Capt. ), M. Astill, D. Aylott, N. Badcott, A. Brain, B. Branston, T. Branston, A. Brealy, R. Draper, D. Edwin, K. Elderfield, N. Hannaford, S. Jenkins, C. Jones, S. Kingscote, D. MacDonald, R. Moss, T. Needham, N. Paterson-Fox, D. Scarlett, M. Stitt, N. Webb, N. Wharmby, I. Whittaker.



*G. K. Johnston*

## 2nd XV

It might be argued that the 2nd XV does not exist! A combination of injuries to the 1st XV and good performances by individuals leading to deserved promotion means a 2nd XV in a state of constant flux. Continuity is a luxury possessed only by our rivals, it seems. The only hope of success comes when one knows that most individuals are enthusiastic to play for the team. The nucleus of a most successful team then were Duncan MacDonald, Mark Hammond, Tim Needham, Giles Davies and the captain, Thomas Branston. As individuals were brought in, so the tactics changed. The early, expansive game, aiming to bring the wingers in at all stages, was abandoned for a more tightly controlled forward game. Injuries particularly interrupted the promising start made by James Penneck and Darren John. This apart, a few observations should be made on individuals and their performances. I congratulate Alistair Brain for his direct hard running, Duncan MacDonald for his superb hooking and inspirational attitude, Christopher Moody and Matthew Houseman for providing a front-row platform that was never bettered. Outstanding performances meant deserved promotion for Simon Kingscote and Nicholas Hannaford, both of whom gave great hope for next season. Nicholas Wharmby and Philip Moore should compete for a 1st XV place next year; both suggested they have the ability to step up a grade. The Badcott/Moss combination proved devastating when they were playing 'down with the 2nds'. Giles Carter again demonstrated his great potential, but his reluctance to develop those natural skills restricted his development. Matthew Reid, Justin Rosa and Mark Walters all played their part well when called upon. Finally, Marcus Rann and James McMonigall progressed very rapidly throughout the term and demonstrated an attitude to the game which others would do very well to imitate.

If the 2nd XV has the three aims: providing skilled players for the 1st XV when the need arises, bringing success in terms of results, enjoyment in the approach to the game, then this season was an unqualified success.

C. P. M. K.

v. Dean Close School 2nd XV (A)	Lost	7-8
v. Rednock School 2nd XV (A)	Won	28-0
v. Kingswood School 2nd XV (H)	Won	15-13
v. Wycliffe College 3rd XV (H)	Won	3-0
v. The King's School, Glos., 2nd XV (A)	Won	6-4
v. Dauntsey's School 2nd XV (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Bloxham School 2nd XV (H)	Won	6-0
v. Monkton Combe School 2nd XV (H)	Lost	0-18
v. Avonhurst School 1st XV (A)	Won	29-18
v. Kingham Hill School 2nd XV (H)	Won	43-0
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School 2nd XV (H)	Won	18-6

Team from: T. Branston (Capt.), N. Badcott, A. Brain, M. Hammond, D. MacDonald, R. Moss, T. Needham, G. Davies, G. Draper, N. Hannaford, M. Houseman, D. John, S. Kingscote, C. Moody, P. Moore, J. Penneck, M. Reid, J. Rosa, N. Wharmby, N. Walters, G. Carter, J. McMonigall, M. Rann.

## 3rd XV

Although the imbalance between matches won and lost by the 3rd XV during the season was a disappointment, there were many individual, and some team performances which give grounds for optimism in the future. The side defeated some superior-rated teams - Bredon 1st XV and Avonhurst 2nd XV among them - and lost narrowly on four occasions.

Our problem was, in fact, the perennial one afflicting all 3rd XV's: losing valuable players to the 1st and 2nd XV's when they had injuries. As a result, we were occasionally obliged to field smaller and younger sides than is perhaps desirable in senior school rugby. This, however, gave valuable experience to many players and ought to serve them well for next season.

Throughout the season the forwards played with commendable spirit and aggression, enabling us to win lots of ball against bigger and older packs. Unfortunately the backs sometimes squandered the opportunities this gave us, although this was more a result of lack of experience than of skill. I feel sure that many of this season's debutants will play an important part in a successful 3rd XV next year.

L. J. H.

Played 10; Won 4; Lost 6; Points for 103; Points against 146.

v. Dean Close School 3rd XV (A)	Lost	0-38
v. Kingswood School 3rd XV (H)	Lost	12-18
v. Wycliffe College 4th XV (H)	Won	6-0
v. The King's School, Glos, 3rd XV (H)	Won	20-0
v. Bredon School 1st XV (H)	Won	10-8
v. Dauntsey's School U16 'A' XV (A)	Lost	8-40
v. Bloxham School 3rd XV (H)	Lost	3-10
v. Monkton Combe School 3rd XV (A)	Lost	10-16
v. Bredon School 1st XV (A)	Lost	4-16
v. Avonhurst School 2nd XV (A)	Won	30-0

## 4th XV

v. Farmor's School U17 XV (H)	Lost	0-8
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Team from: T. Burns (Capt.), M. Walters, R. Hill, M. Reid, P. Moore, J. McMonigall, P. Griffiths, J. Leigh, A. Andreis, N. Wharmby, S. Reichwald, D. Beales, M. Houseman, J. Noyce, C. Pope, J. Rosa, M. Rann, C. Sainsbury, D. Hauton, T. Robinson, D. King, M. Attwood, J. Chappelle, M. Hastings, D. Paton, G. Carter.

## Under 15 XV

This was a weak Under 15 squad, which had a very poor start to the season. The first four matches were against strong sides and resulted in heavy defeats. The turning point came at King's School, Gloucester, where the team played well and gained a narrow victory in an exciting game. This gave the side confidence and, except for the Bloxham game, resulted in close matches for the remainder of the season, although more games should have been won.

The side's major weakness was its tackling, its strength the ability to dominate the line-outs in a number of matches.

Robert Matson was an excellent captain and led the team by example. Grant Hughes showed skilful touches at fly half; David Kenney's game improved with every match; William Sherwood made some powerful bursts in the centre, and Christopher Huck obtained good possession at the line-outs.

There were some encouraging signs at the end of the season, and a number of players will do well in senior rugby.

C. C. B.

Played 13; Won 6; Lost 7; Points for 199; Points against 201.

v. Dean Close School U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-38
v. Rednock School U15 XV (H)	Lost	0-22
v. Kingswood School U15 XV (A)	Lost	4-36
v. Wycliffe College U15 'B' XV (A)	Lost	0-38
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U15 XV (A)	Won	12-6
v. Bredon School U15 XV (H)	Won	62-0
v. Dauntsey's School U15 XV (H)	Won	22-0
v. Bloxham School U15 XV (A)	Lost	0-32
v. Monkton Combe School U15 'B' XV (A)	Won	28-8
v. Cokethorpe School U15 XV (A)	Won	20-4
v. Kingham Hill School U15 XV (A)	Lost	4-7
v. The King's School, Gloucester, U15 XV (A)	Lost	9-10
v. Kingshill School U15 XV (H)	Won	38-0

Team from: R. Matson (Capt. ), J- Fellows (Vice-Capt. ), R. Martin, J. Norbury, R. Kolb, C. Huck, A. Powell, G. Broomfield, J. Carter, G. Hughes, D. Kenney, J. Vernon, W. Hammond, N. Suffolk, W. Sherwood, R. Bugden, V. Tredwell, S. Tate, M. Croft, C. Bannister.

#### Under 14 XVs

It was a most encouraging season from a talented, enthusiastic side. Despite the forwards' meeting larger opposition, they won a considerable amount of possession, and the backs showed a great deal of flair and handling ability when running with the ball. The first half of the season produced some excellent, well deserved results and although the team lost its momentum after half-term, some fine matches were played. The most pleasing aspect of the season was perhaps the way players supported each other and did not rely on one or two individuals to take control. Although they still have a lot to learn tactically, by playing together for a few more years they should develop into a very useful side.

P. S.

Played 15; Won 8; Drew 1; Lost 6; Points for 166; Points against 99.

'A' v. St Edward's School, Oxford, U14 'B' XV (A)	Won	20-0
'A' v. Rednock School U14 XV (H)	Lost	12-16
'A' v. Kingswood School U14 XV (H)	Won	14-0
'A' v. Wycliffe College U14 'B' XV (A)	Won	16-0
'B' v. Wycliffe College U14 'B' XV (A)	Won	11-0
'A' v. The King's School, Gloucester, U14 XV (H)	Won	10-0
'A' v. Dauntsey's School U14 XV (H)	Won	28-8
'A' v. Bloxham School U14 XV (A)	Won	9-8
'A' v. Monkton Combe School U14 XV 'B' XV (A)	Lost	4-11
'B' v. Bloxham School U14 'B' XV (A)	Lost	0-18

'A' v. Cokethorpe School U14 XV (H)	Lost	0-4
'B' v. The King's School, Gloucester, U14 XV (H)	Lost	4-8
'A' v. Kingham Hill School U14 XV (A)	Drew	6-6
'B' v. The King's School, U14 'B' XV (A)	Won	13-4
'B' v. Bredon School U14 XV (A)	Lost	15-20

Teams from: B. Maslen (Capt. 'A'), J. Gregory (Capt. 'B'), J. Carroll, A. Waller, A. Lainé, J. Hammond, P. Grimsdale, T. Nicholls, K. Holmes, N. Hall, H. Le Fleming, J. Nicholls, D. Blackshaw, C. Hauton, A. Jones, C. Daniels, R. Tate, D. Pearce, S. Whiting.

#### Under 13 XV

The Under 13 XV enjoyed a successful season, not only through the results and quality of the rugby played, good though this was, but also due to the involvement of almost the whole of the 2nd Form in matches. This was due both to a number of injuries and to the quality in depth of the year as a whole; there have been excellent performances by those outside the original team.

All the boys played with enthusiasm, combining fun and hard work, and it would therefore seem wrong to mention individuals, but no doubt the excitement of those seeing their names in print will overcome the injustice felt by those not mentioned.

Daniel Maslen captained the side extremely sensibly and also set a captain's example on the field. The regular forwards were the centre of the success; Nigel Bayliss, Nicholas Wood, Matthew Rogers, Christopher Brown shone in particular, while Richard Herbert's support for Swindon Town was invaluable. Outside the pack Andrew Watson and Andrew Mackinnon were consistently sound.

I would like to thank all those who played in the game this term and wish them all luck in future rugby.

S. D. H.

Played 9; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 2; Points for 134; Points against 92.

v. The King's School, Glos., U13 XV (H)	Lost	0-24
v. St Hugh's School, Faringdon, U13 XV (A)	Drew	8-8
v. Dauntsey's School U13 XV (H)	Won	20-8
v. Farmor's School U13 XV (A)	Won	8-6
v. Bredon School U13 XV (H)	Won	16-8
v. Prior Park School U13 XV (A)	Lost	4-24
v. Cokethorpe School U13 XV (H)	Won	22-0
v. Kingham Hill School U13 XV (H)	Won	12-10
v. Kingshill School U13 XV (H)	Won	44-4

Team from: D. Maslen (Capt. ), N. Bayliss, C. Brown, S. Hardie, R. Herbert, S. Hett, N. McMurtrie, M. Moody, M. Rogers, R. Rowlatt, N. Smith, P. Smithson, I. Spencer, L. Thompson, N. Utting, A. Bunge, S. Williams, N. Wood, A. Mackinnon, A. Miles, C. Paine, A. Watson, G. Davies, N. Houseman, H. Pugh.

## Under 12 XV

There are many potentially good rugger players in this age group. In matches, only their ability to tackle well enabled them to hold their own against bigger and stronger opposition. As they learn to play together as a unit, they will be able to run and pass in order to pressurise opponents and make up for their lack of size.

Several boys also played for the Under 13 team, and this experience will be of great value next year. Unfortunately the group were unable to play enough rugby during the term, and this limited the time available for them to improve their technique and team play.

Gareth Davies was a good captain and played with spirit and skill. There were no real weaknesses in the team, but special mention must be made of Graham Bennett, Nathan Houseman, Graham Lawton, Neil McMurtrie and Antony Palin, who all contributed greatly to the rugby, whether in matches or in practice games.

D. A. H.

v. Prior Park School 3rd XV (H)	Lost	0-8
v. St Hughes School 2nd XV (A)	Won	4-0
v. Cheltenham College Junior School 4th XV (A)	Lost	4-28



*C. Faircloth*

## Hockey

The start of the season was blessed with excellent weather, and a great deal of useful practice took place on Top Field. Unfortunately the new pitch on Landage will not be suitable for hockey until 1987. In addition, Gavin Featherstone, who coached the United States team for the Los Angeles Olympics, gave our goalkeepers some intensive coaching in the Sports Hall. Sadly, bad weather and illness arrived before the first fixture, and very few matches took place before March. Even the all-weather surfaces did not always save the day, because the risk of spreading the recurring virus was too great, so we never inspected Marlborough's new artificial grass pitch.

The Sports Hall was used heavily, and the purchase of a pair of indoor goals, combined with correct indoor markings, sharpened everyone's skills; in particular, the goalkeepers benefited from the need for quicker reaction to a flick from about eight metres out. No senior matches were played indoors, but it was pleasing to see two junior fixtures rescued by playing indoor tournaments. When the matches began in earnest, most teams tried hard to adapt their indoor style to suit the various types of surfaces encountered. In particular, the 1st XI made an excellent job of playing Colston's School on a dusty all-weather surface, followed by a match on grass against Dean Close a few days later.

New fixtures were made with Prior Park Preparatory School and Cheltenham Bournside School, the latter requiring some alteration to the teams playing; they were very enjoyable and thoroughly worthwhile matches.

Changes in the rules included five defenders on the line at penalty corners, instead of the previous six. However, this did not appear to increase the number of goals scored, as was intended, perhaps because poor conditions made it difficult to stop the ball before shooting.

The 1st XI proved a determined and skilful side, well led by Graeme Veale. A slightly unusual formation was adopted, to make the most of David Edwin's and Simon Jenkins's talents, but in reality Edwin played sweeper

under pressure or supported the centre in attack. Mark Astill played exceptionally well as goalkeeper, and fortunately he, a back, a half and a forward remain for next season's XI, which could turn out to be a quality side, weather permitting!

In general, 1986 must be recorded as a season in which more matches were cancelled than were played, but also as a season tackled enthusiastically by the pupils and coaching staff.

Overall: Played 41; Won 20; Drew 4; Lost 17;  
Goals for 133; Goals against 84.

C. J. W.

### 1st XI

Throughout the weather-interrupted season this year's 1st XI proved to be a formidable side, capable of playing a high standard of hockey. An experimental formation was used from the start and, apart from an early upset against King Edward's, the season proved very successful. Mark Astill, the goalkeeper, showed great potential and made many important saves, including stopping a penalty flick from Dean Close. The defence proved on the whole secure, and Barnabas Branston gained invaluable experience. The four halves became the key factor in many of the matches, both Simon Jenkins and David Edwin adapting well to the required situation. This proved very important against Colston's, as the match turned from a 1-0 defeat to a 2-1 victory. By bringing Edwin back into a more defensive position and forcing Jenkins into the opposition's weak area, we were able throughout the season to gain more possession and thus score more goals. Alistair Brain and Alex Brealy both played important roles, as left and right halves respectively. The attack, although at times temperamental, showed good understanding and clever combinations, scoring some excellent goals. Philip Moore at right wing promised well and, with experience, will become important to the success of next year's XI. Nicholas Webb and Reza Khosrowshahi, inside right and left, proved very effective, combining well with Matthew Cordeux, who showed clever stickwork and agility in capitalising on many chances in front of the goal.

May I thank the team for a hundred per cent effort and support in gaining an excellent run of results in a memorable season? Many thanks go also to Mr Wood for his undying enthusiasm and patience; I wish him

Played 7; Won 5; Drew 1; Lost 1; Goals for 27; Goals against 10.

v. King Edward's School, Bath (A)	Lost	1-3
v. Colston's School (A)	Won	2-1
v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	3-2
v. Bloxham School (H)	Dre	0-0
v. The Crypt School	Won	6-1
v. The Old Rendcombian Society XI (H)	Won	4-2
v. Cheltenham Bournside School (H)	Won	11-1

Team from: G. Veale (Capt. ), N. Webb (Vice Capt.), D. Edwin, S. Jenkins, A. Brain, M. Cordeux, R. Khosrowshahi, N. Paterson-Fox, B. Branston, A. Brealy, P. Moore, M. Astill (goalkeeper).

### 2nd XI

This season's hockey was severely disrupted by appalling weather and illness. The first three matches having been cancelled, the team jumped at the opportunity of playing Colston's in Bristol. This first match was disastrous as the team was depleted, and the opposition had the advantage of having had several weeks' practice on their all-weather pitch. The whole team managed to get together by the sixth week of the term, and immediately the standard improved. The forward line began to show considerable promise, with some excellent play from the wings. The formation of 5.2.3. was occasionally used this season, to considerable advantage to our team and more than a little confusion to the oppositions' forward lines. Neil Paterson-Fox and Robert Draper played a sparkling season as halfbacks supported by Nicholas Hannaford and Mark Walters in defence. Iain Whittaker, our intrepid goal keeper complete with Canadian ice-hockey helmet, made good use of hand and stick with some very well-timed footwork. My thanks go to all the team for a successful season and to Matthew Reid for captaining the team so efficiently.

T. J. L.

Played 6; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 20;  
Goals against 15.

v. Colston's School 2nd XI (A)	Lost	0-4
v. Marling School 2nd XI (A)	Drew	2-2
v. Dean Close School 2nd XI (A)	Won	4-3
v. Bloxham School 2nd XI (H)	Won	3-1
v. Old Rendcombian Society 2nd XI (H)	Lost	3-4
v. Cheltenham Bournside School 2nd XI (H)	Won	8-1

Team from: M. Reid (Capt.), K. Hewston, T. Burns, A. Cayton, M. Bailey, D. Clark, M. Walters, R. Draper, N. Paterson-Fox, N. Hannaford, I. Whittaker, M. Thompson, D. Scarlett.

### 3rd XI

This was a very disappointing season, as far as the weather was concerned: it was March 1st before the first match was played. The side therefore missed out on practice and found that their only play came from matches. This was a shame, for the makings of a very fine side were undoubtedly there. The younger players in particular showed a lot of skill and ability, and they were well supported by the old men of 6A. The season, such as it was, was enjoyed by all the participants, who played open, attacking hockey and scored a creditable number of goals.

D. E.

Played 6; Won 4; Lost 2; Goals for 33; Goals against 6.

v. Chosen Hill School* 3rd XI (A)	Won	6-0
v. Colston's School 3rd XI (A)	Won	6-1
v. Dean Close School 3rd XI (A)	Lost	0-1
v. Bloxham School 3rd XI (A)	Lost	1-2
v. The Crypt School 3rd XI (H)	Won	7-1
v. Cheltenham Bournside School 3rd XI (A)	Won	13-1

\* Rendcomb fielded a mixed side of boys and girls.  
Team from: C. Jones (Capt.), A. Trowern, M. Thompson,

D. Scarlett, N. Badcott, J. Penneck, S. Kingscote, A. Rollo, G. Carter, J. Fellows, R. Matson, M. Hastings, J. Barnett, M. Croft, S. Green, R. Kolb.

#### 4th XI

Enthusiastically coached by David Essenhigh, the team proved keen and at times very skilled. With pressure for places from an able and sometimes willing group from the game below, they kept up a high level of performance, despite problems with the weather.

In our first match we defeated Marling 2-1, despite forgetting the offside rule. Mark Croft was much in evidence in midfield, and Giles Carter and Mark Hastings showed control and ability.

We lost by the odd goal against Dean Close when, after a fighting performance, the team ran out of steam in the last ten minutes. Nicholas Wharmby and Christopher Pope made quite an impression during the second half and, with Timothy Robinson and Nicholas Badcott always dangerous up front, Stephen Green allowed himself the luxury of a practice swing before scoring the team's only goal.

A visit to Bloxham was rewarded by a most satisfying win, Green again getting a goal. It was a strong team performance with much support from the back, especially from the goalkeeper, who by one means or another deterred the opposing attack.

Well done to all those involved.

M. S. G.

Played 3; Won 2; Lost 1; Goals for 4; Goals against 3.

v. Marling School 4th XI (H)	Won	2-1
v. Dean Close School 4th XI (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Bloxham School 4th XI (A)	Won	1-0

Team from: T. Branston (Capt. ), T. Robinson, N. Wharmby, C. Pope, T. Prince, D. John, G. Davies, D. Beales, R. Johnston, R. Kolb, S. Green, A. Binder, C. Moody, S. Kingscote, M. Croft, G. Carter, M. Hastings, N. Badcott.

#### Under 15 XI

It was a pity that the Ice Age's grip was so tight this year, since there was a fair amount of hockey skill and acumen in this group. However, numerous sessions on the Sports Hall carpet or on the Park House tennis courts, though somewhat tedious, do develop the control and flexibility of stickwork of anyone who has the enthusiasm and flair within him; we must hope that next season the benefits will thus accrue.

For the most part the defence played determinedly, without ever looking entirely solid. Andrew Kinch and Robert Tate (guest star) shared the goalkeeping; Christopher Hauton worked hard but must acquire a stronger hit; Christopher Huck would be very useful if he could control and distribute the ball a little more rapidly and not get tied up with his own legs or needless reverse- stick play (the same is true of Colin Bannister); Jason Carter had some impressive patches, but both his stick- work and positional sense lacked consistent discipline; Geoffrey Broomfield showed a lot of skill, even class, at

times and gained in constructiveness, but he hit left excessively, and too often his tackling was dangerous, illegal, and hence counter-productive. Among the forwards, Aubrey Powell, though lacking a yard of pace for this position and not always receiving enough of the ball, has reasonable skill and a grasp of a right-wing's requirements; Grant Hughes played deftly and intelligently on occasions but must work harder, cover more ground, control his passing, and grow five inches; William Sherwood, at centre-forward, could be dangerous and fast in attack but lacked stickwork and needed too long to wind up his mechanism for the shot; Nicholas Suffolk improved noticeably in both stickwork and tactical awareness, but needs to speed up and hit more fast cross passes and through balls; Jason Vernon was a perpetual threat to opposing defences with his quick, probing, outflanking runs, natural elusiveness, and stickwork, though he seemed to lack self-confidence at times.

Because of the atrocious weather only three matches, frustratingly, were played. The Wycliffe game was a disaster: on their hard pitch and against much older boys we rued lack of practice and, playing with insufficient challenge and determination, were caught fast asleep and 0-4 down by the interval. Waking up in the second half, we did much better and created some good, if spurned, chances. The Dean Close match was a close-run affair, 2-2 at half-time and 3-3 with ten minutes to go, but unfortunately we conceded a late decider after an appreciably more spirited but disciplined performance. The last game, at Bloxham, was another exciting, even contest where we won in the last two minutes with an excellent solo goal from Vernon, to whom I am grateful for his help as captain this season.

J. N. H.

Played 3; Won 1; Lost 2; Goals for 6; Goals against 12.

v. Wycliffe College XI (A)	Lost	0-6
v. Dean Close School U15 XI (H)	Lost	3-4
v. Bloxham School U15 XI (A)	Won	3-2

Team from: J. Vernon (Capt.), C. Bannister, G. Broomfield, J. Carter, C. Hauton, D. Houseman, C. Huck, G. Hughes, A. Kinch, J. Lutwyche, A. Powell, W. Sherwood, N. Suffolk, R. Tate.

#### Under 15 'B' Team

Played 3; Drew 2; Lost 1; Goals for 2; Goals against 8.

v. Bredon School U15 'B' XI (H)	Drew	1-1
v. Dean Close School U15 'B' XI (H)	Lost	0-6
v. The Crypt School U15 'B' XI (H)	Drew	1-1

Team from: R. Ogden (Capt.), D. Houseman, R. Wooster, D. Matson, D. Norton, P. Wilson, R. Hardy, V. Tredwell, M. Faircloth, J. Lutwyche, J. Norbury, C. Wood.



## Under 14 XI

In such games as they had, this talented young group showed considerable flair and played with enthusiasm and determination. The forward line is powerful in attack and Thomas Nicholls and Benjamin Maslen used the crosspass well. The defence worked well together, helped by the sound eye of Andrew Mackinnon at centre-half and the solid hitting of Kevin Holmes and Steven Whiting at back. The group is also fortunate in having three useful goalkeepers in Andrew Roney, Robert Tate and James Gregory.

Lack of practice meant that the teams were not as successful in their matches as they might have been under different conditions. In the match against Colston's, the opposition scored in quick succession in the first half while our defence were struggling to come out of hibernation: the second half was quite even. The match against Dean Close was a keenly fought and very even contest, with some moments of good hockey especially from the forwards; an equaliser scored in the last minute but disallowed by the home umpire caused much dismay in a tense atmosphere! The game against Bloxham was played in a calmer spirit: again there were some interesting movements, but there was also a considerable amount of mid-field muddle in the mud. The goal scored by Maslen was an excellent shot.

It is regrettable that this group will reach Under 15 level with so little experience of competitive hockey, but I hope that the 1987 season will be less frustrating for them and also a successful one.

W. J. D. W.

Played 3; Lost 2; Drew 1; Goals for 3; Goals against 7.

v. Colston's School U14 XI (A)	Lost	2-5
v. Dean Close School U14 XI (H)	Lost	0-1
v. Bloxham School U14 XI (H)	Drew	1-1
'B' XI v The Crypt School U14 (H)	Lost	0-1

The teams were taken from: B. Maslen (Capt.), A. Roney, S. Whiting, K. Holmes, J. Hammond, A. Mackinnon, C. Paine, J. Nicholls, J. Carroll, T. Nicholls, G. Waller, R. Tate, F. Lee, A. Clark, K. Raffael, C. Daniels, A. Watson, M. Nicholls, J. Prince, A. Miles.

## Under 13 and Under 12 XIs

1986 proved to be a rather 'different' sort of hockey season; the prolonged arctic weather meant that the number of times the juniors played on grass could virtually be counted on one hand. It was particularly frustrating because both the Under 13s and Under 12s showed considerable potential.

A predominance of indoor play improved the basic stickwork and pushing, but all players suffered on the heavy grass, where they sadly lacked hitting ability. This was reflected in the matches: in indoor tournaments the Under 12s won 2, drew 1 and lost 1, and the Under 13s won both their matches against Oakley Hall at the Cirencester Leisure Centre. The Under 12s then beat Oakley Hall on their all-weather area, but on a sticky grass pitch against a well drilled and experienced Cheltenham College Junior School side they lost heavily. The Under

13s managed a sound win against King's School, but then a failure to finish well in the circle led to a narrow defeat against Oakley Hall.

Both groups played admirably in matches, despite their lack of practice; their enthusiasm and tenacity made them difficult sides to beat. Our thanks go to Daniel Maslen, Michael Moody and Graham Lawton, who acted as captains throughout the season and who were most efficient both on and off the park.

M. J. N.

J. M.

**Under 13 XI:** Played 4; Won 3; Lost 1; Goals for 34; Goals against 15.

v. The King's School, Glos. U13 XI (H)	Won	3-2
v. Oakley Hall School U13 XI (H)	Lost	2-3

Indoor matches:

v. Oakley Hall School U13 'A' XI (A)	Won	18-8
'B' XI (A)	Won	11-2

Team from: D. Maslen and M. Moody (Capts.), C. Brown, P. Evans, R. Herbert, S. Hett, M. Rogers, M. Smith, N. Smith, P. Smithson, N. Utting, A. von Westphalen-Bunge, O. Ward, N. Wood.

**Under 12 XI:** Played 6; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 2; Goals for 13; Goals against 17.

v. Oakley Hall School U12 XI (A)	Won	2-1
v. Cheltenham College Junior School U12XI (A)	Lost	0-5

Indoor matches:

v. Prior Park School U12 'X' Team	Won	5-1
	Won	1-0
U12 'Y' Team	Drew	3-3
	Lost	2-7

Team from: G. Lawton, G. Bennett, G. Davies, J. Grafton, N. Houseman, P. Irving, J. Madeley, A. Palin, H. Pugh, J. Roney, T. Underwood, J. Ursell, J. Wheeler.

# Cricket



*Focol Studios*

The season really started for us at the beginning of the Lent Term, when all the hard indoor work is done. This year we had the added bonus of the bowling machine, a very generous donation from the Parents' Association. Without doubt this added attraction not only created more interest and enthusiasm from among the boys, but also helped tremendously from the coaching point of view.

Another innovation to the scene this year was a standard cricket sweater. In the past boys, while looking smart individually, have appeared in sweaters with various colours trimmed round the edges. To see the boys all wearing the same colours has brought favourable comments from visiting staff, parents and the boys themselves.

The start of the season proper brought a mixture of sunny days and wet days. Unfortunately a lot of our fixtures occurred on the wet days, and in the first half of term more fixtures had to be cancelled than in the previous three years. As the season progressed, however, our usual successes occurred. The U14 eleven must be congratulated on reaching the county final of the Lords Taverners competition, beating a very good Cheltenham College team on the way. Indeed, their season as a whole was very successful, and the success was well deserved; John Carroll was selected to play for the county, and a few others must have been very close. The U15 eleven was probably our most successful team, losing just one game and playing some excellent cricket throughout the year. William Sherwood and Julian Fellows were again selected for the county team. The first and second elevens between them lost only once to another school - the first time this record has been achieved for over two years.

Although the juniors will have to work hard through the winter, the middle and senior school cricket is looking very healthy indeed.

The standard of cricket that the school is producing is built on a lot of hard work, not only by the boys but also by a number of the staff. David Essenhigh produces the best wickets that the boys will have the privilege of playing on; staff in charge of various teams spend many hours coaching and umpiring; the kitchen staff produce excellent teas at all times, and the 6B girls do a tremendous job in preparing the food. I thank them all; their efforts are much appreciated.

P. S.

## **Late News:**

John Healey has been selected to play for the Gloucestershire County Under 19 XI.

On Sunday, 10th August, a match between the Gloucestershire Cricket Association and the Sussex Cricket Association Under 16 XIs was played on Top Field. The players expressed marked approval of both field and facilities.

## 1st XI

On the whole, the results were disappointing, the experienced players we had in the side not realising their true potential. However, the side showed keenness at all times, and on the whole the season was enjoyed by everyone.

Mark Astill, Iain Whittaker, Alex Brealy and Tom Burns all played in all games and showed promise, a good augury for next year; Astill scored the only hundred, a fine 132, during cricket week. Brealy had a fine all-round season, often holding the batting together, and taking some very important wickets.

The team had problems in bowling sides out; although Kevin Elderfield bowled well, we needed another spinner.

The hard work put in by Paul Sykes in the winter showed itself in an improvement in most players since last season.

I would like to thank Neil Paterson-Fox for captaining the side, the 6B girls who always made us welcome at tea, and Paul Sykes for all his hard work and for the support he gave me.

D. E.

Results for the 1st XI this summer have been similar to those achieved last year, the majority of matches ending in a draw.

Despite this, the team played well and with great spirit throughout, even when faced with defeat, and it was encouraging to see a team working well together in all kinds of conditions.

The bowling at times lacked the penetrative power needed to bowl a side out, but the three seam bowlers, Nick Webb, Alex Brealy and Neil Paterson-Fox, performed well, backed up by some excellent spin bowling from Kevin Elderfield. Although the wickets at Rendcomb are not ideally suited to bowlers, they maintained rhythm and accuracy extremely well, often in difficult weather conditions.

The batting this year saw a growth of confidence in various younger players: Mark Astill, who scored the only century of the season, Iain Whittaker and Alex Brealy, who should be very useful as the team all-rounder next season.

Although John Healey never really found his form, there were others always ready to score the runs, most notably Matthew Cordeux and Mark Astill, who developed into a very strong opening partnership.

Many of the matches had exciting finishes; thus the result does not always do justice to the proceedings. Overall, the season has been very enjoyable, and I wish the team every success next year.

Finally I must thank David Essenhig for his invaluable advice throughout the season, and Paul Sykes for all the organisation needed to make it a success.

NEIL PATERSON-FOX

Played 14; Won 2; Drew 9; Lost 2; Abandoned 1.

v. Swindon Wednesday Club (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 153 for 5 decl. (Spackman 42\*)  
Swindon 149 for 7 (Elderfield 2-29)

v. Wycliffe College (H) - Match drawn Wycliffe 98  
for 6 deck (Webb 5-44)  
Rendcomb 72 for 5 (Healey 36\*)

v. North Cerney C. C. (H) - Match drawn Rendcomb  
207 for 7 deck (Sherwood 64\*)  
North Cerney 101 for 5 (Healey 3-39)

v. Prior Park College (H) - Match drawn Prior Park  
123 for 6 deck (Paterson-Fox 4-18)  
Rendcomb 91 for 4 (Healey 27\*)

v. Cheltenham Grammar School (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 165 for 6 decl. (Cordeux 50)  
Cheltenham 157 for 4 (Brealy 3-51)

v. The King's School, Gloucester (A)-Won by 135  
runs Rendcomb 168 for 5 decl. (Cordeux 45)  
King's 33 (Paterson-Fox 6-5)

v. Cokethorpe School (A) - Match drawn Cokethorpe  
170 for 3 decl. (Huck 2-45)  
Rendcomb 166 for 8 (John 74)

v. Westwood's Grammar School (H) - Lost by 5  
wickets Rendcomb 93 (Brealy 37)  
Westwood's 95 for 5

v. Rednock School (H) - Won by 7 wickets Rednock  
94 (Brealy 6-42)  
Rendcomb 95 for 3 (Astill 31)

v. The Diocesan XI (H) - Match drawn Rendcomb  
241 for 3 decl. (Astill 132)  
Diocesan XI 82 for 8 (Webb 2-17, Paterson-Fox 2-19)

v. The XL Club (H) - Match drawn XL Club 198 for 7  
decl. (Webb 4-60)  
Rendcomb 176 for 7 (Spackman 57\*)

v. The Select XI (H) - Match drawn Select XI 142  
(Paterson-Fox 3-38)  
Rendcomb 141 for 9 (Brealy 39)

v. Old Rendcombian XI (H) - Lost by 2 wickets  
Rendcomb 160 for 8 decl. (Brealy 43)  
OR XI 164 for 8 (Webb 4-44)

Team from: N. Paterson-Fox (Capt.), M. Cordeux, M. Astill, I. Whittaker, J. Healey, P. Spackman, G. Veale, A. Brealy, T. Burns, K. Elderfield, N. Webb, M. Hammond, W. Sherwood, D. John, D. Edwin, T. Branston, C. Huck, A. Binder.

## 2nd XI

Although there were eight fixtures to be played, a combination of poor weather at the beginning of term and other schools' inability to produce a team towards the end of term meant that only four games were played. The team performed well throughout the term and maintained the 2nd XI's long unbeaten run. They were led by Tom Branston, who contributed well with both bat and ball; he must also be congratulated for giving most of the squad a chance to perform in the matches played. Adam Binder has developed his all-round capabilities well; Darren John has proved himself a very capable opening batsman, and Barnabas Branston a very dangerous strike bowler and an excellent fielder.

The squad worked well at all times, played some good cricket and, just as important, enjoyed themselves.

P. S.

Played 4; Won 2; Drew 2.

v. Wycliffe College 2nd XI (H) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 142 for 4 decl. (Edwin 82, Binder 27)  
Wycliffe 77 for 4 (T. Branston 2-9)

v. Prior Park College 2nd XI (A) - Won by 5 wickets  
Prior Park 104 (T. Branston 3-20, B. Branston 6-44)  
Rendcomb 106 for 5 (John 36, T. Branston 20)

v. Cheltenham Grammar School 2nd XI (A) - Match drawn  
Rendcomb 162 for 8 decl. (B. Branston 48\*)  
Cheltenham 102 for 4

v. The King's School, Gloucester, 2nd XI (H) - Won by 9 wickets  
King's 109 (Brain 5-16, Reichwald 3-26)  
Rendcomb 111 for 1 (Hammond 61\*, John 47)

Team from: T. Branston (Capt.), D. John, D. Edwin, A. Binder, B. Branston, M. Walters, M. Hastings, R. Reichwald, M. Rann, H. Nathan, S. Green, P. Moore, P. Griffiths, A. Brain, M. Hammond.

## Under 15 XI

The U15 XI enjoyed a most successful season, although only eight matches were completed, all those before half-term being lost due to poor weather. The most pleasing aspect of the season was the ability of the team to score runs; they were helped by hard wickets and fast outfielders. William Sherwood was the most consistent and prolific batsman, scoring 336 runs in seven innings. He was well supported by Grant Hughes, with 204 runs, Robert Matson, Christopher Huck and Nicholas Suffolk.

The bowling depended on the four seamers, no spinner being available. Colin Bannister was the most successful, with 33 wickets, more than the rest of the bowlers put together. He maintained an excellent line and length, and in one match bowled unchanged for 15 overs. The ground fielding was good at times, but far too many catches were missed.

Julian Fellows and William Sherwood were selected for the Gloucestershire Schools Cricket Association U15 XI. This involves a very heavy schedule of 14 matches in July.

There was a lot of talent this year, and a number of the players will make their mark in the 1st XI next season.

C. C. B.

Played 9; Won 5; Drew 2; Lost 1.

v. The Crypt School, Gloucester, U15 XI (H) - Abandoned

Crypt 69 for 4 (Sherwood 2-14, Bannister 2-6)

v. Prior Park College U15 XI (H) - Won by 5 wickets  
Prior Park 112 for 8 decl. (Bannister 7-21)  
Rendcomb 115 for 5 (Sherwood 25, Matson 45, Suffolk 21\*)

v. Cheltenham Grammar School U15 XI (H) - Match Drawn  
Rendcomb 171 for 5 decl. (Hughes 46, Sherwood 64, Matson 24)  
Cheltenham 163 for 7 (Bannister 3-21)

v. Cokethorpe School U15 XI (A) - Lost by 175 runs  
Cokethorpe 221 for 6 decl. Rendcomb 46 (Sherwood 21)

v. The King's School, Gloucester, U15 XI (A) - Won by 9 wickets  
King's 128 for 8 decl. (Bannister 7-26)  
Rendcomb 130 for 1 (Fellows 26\*, Sherwood 72\*)

v. Rednock School U15 XI (H) - Won by 1 wicket  
Rednock 142 (Bannister 4-51, Huck 3-40, Suffolk 3-11)  
Rendcomb 143 for 9 (Huck 36, Bannister 31)

v. Kingham Hill School U15 XI (H) - Won by 70 runs  
Rendcomb 186 for 6 decl. (Hughes 34, Sherwood 55, Huck 23)  
Kingham 112 (Huck 3-23, Bannister 3-29)

v. Thornbury C. C. U15 XI (H) - Won by 8 wickets  
Thornbury 168 for 5 decl.  
Rendcomb 172 for 2 (Hughes 55, Sherwood 82\*)

v. Marling School U15 XI (H) - Match drawn  
Marling 158 for 8 decl. (Bannister 5-49)  
Rendcomb 113 for 6 (Hughes 38, Suffolk 52\*)

Team from: J. Fellows (Capt.), R. Matson, C. Bannister, G. Broomfield, R. Hardy, N. Hett, C. Huck, G. Hughes, J. Lutwyche, W. Sherwood, N. Suffolk, V. Tredwell.

Also played: P. Grimsdale, K. Holmes, R. Tate.

### Under 14 XI

This was a term of great success. We were fortunate to have such depth of athletic talent that, when music exams, injuries or loss of form interrupted the smooth running of the team, there were plenty of enthusiasts ready to step in. The team was captained with growing confidence by Kevin Holmes; his batting was a significant feature of several matches, with a top score of 78 not out against Cheltenham Grammar School. John Carroll turned in several excellent performances, 57 not out against Churchdown and 3 for 6 against Cokethorpe being just two from the term. He is to be congratulated also for representing the county at under 14. Peter Grimsdale showed much promise as an opening bat, and Benjamin Maslen and Jolyon Hammond made runs at vital times. Arwyn Jones bowled with great pace and accuracy to collect 26 wickets at an average of 6.7 runs. Henry Le Fleming showed much promise with his off-spin, and David Pearce came into the side and bowled well on the limited occasions on which he was used. Guy Waller came into the side as the other opening partner and developed well, with a top score of 50 not out in the final match. Steven Whiting and Charles Paine formed an integral part of this enthusiastic side, and I am sure that Robert Tate will progress to make many runs in the future. Alexander Bell is a useful understudy wicket keeper, and the hard hitting of Christopher Daniels and James Gregory will also be a feature of future years. Finally, Oliver Boatfield made an invaluable contribution as scorer throughout the term.

The major success was, of course, reaching the final of the Lords Taverners County Competition. We defeated Cheltenham College in the semi-final and went on to play Rednock: nerves seemed to take over, and we did not do ourselves justice, though we lost to a good team.

This year's players should go on from success to success in future seasons, and the level of effort and application of all of them has been of particular pleasure to me.

C. P. M. K.

Played 10; Won 7; Drew 1; Lost 2.

v. Wycliffe College U14 XI (H) - Won by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 133 for 3 decl. (Carroll 40, Maslen 38\*)  
Wycliffe 54 (Jones 6-14)

v. Churchdown School U14 XI (H) - Won by 92 runs  
Rendcomb 148 for 3 decl. (Grimsdale 44, Carroll 57\*)  
Churchdown 51 (Holmes 4-5)

v. Prior Park College U14 XI (H) - Lost by 57 runs  
Prior Park 144 for 5 decl. (Le Fleming 3-41)  
Rendcomb 87

v. Cheltenham Grammar School U14 XI (A) - Match drawn  
Cheltenham 138 (Jones 4-15)  
Rendcomb 133 for 6 (Holmes 78\*)

v. The King's School, Gloucester, U14 XI (H) - Won by 7 wickets  
King's 33 (Jones 7-5)  
Rendcomb 35 for 3

v. Cokethorpe School U14 XI (A) - Won by 92 runs  
Rendcomb 130 for 7 decl. (Grimsdale 55)  
Cokethorpe 38 (Carroll 3-6, Holmes 34)

v. Cheltenham College U14 XI (A) - Won by 26 runs  
Rendcomb 111 (Le Fleming 22)  
Cheltenham 85 (Jones 5-24, Carroll 3-21)  
Lords Taverners semi-final

v. Rednock School U14 XI (A) - Lost by 7 wickets  
Rendcomb 64 (Hammond 21)  
Rednock 68 for 3 Lords Taverners Final

v. Kingham Hill School U14 XI (H) - Won by 60 runs  
Rendcomb 160 for 5 decl. (Carroll 42, Holmes 33, Maslen 35\*)  
Kingham 100 (Holmes 5-17, Le Fleming 4-15)

v. Marling School U14 XI (H) - Won by 29 runs  
Rendcomb 134 for 4 decl. (Carroll 61, Waller 50\*)  
Marling 105

Team from: K. Holmes (Capt.), J. Carroll, P. Grimsdale, R. Tate, G. Waller, B. Maslen, J. Hammond, S. Whiting, A. Bell, A. Jones, C. Paine, C. Daniels, J. Gregory, H. Le Fleming, K. Raffael.

### Under 14 B' XI

The sporting enthusiasm and ability of the 3rd Form led to the formation of an U14 'B' squad this year, a venture which was certainly successful. There proved to be considerable talent in the group, with several of them verging on the 'A' XI; this meant that, when called upon, they produced creditable performances. We were able to play two fixtures during the term, a third match, against King's, Gloucester, being cancelled at the last moment. In the first match, against Prior Park College, Kingsley Raffael produced a fiery bowling performance, with 6 wickets for 22 runs, and James Gregory played a captain's innings to score 34 runs. In the match against Kingham Hill sharp teamwork in the field proved a feature, along with an impressive opening partnership of 100 by Robert Tate and Anthony Miles.

M. J. N.

Played 2; Won 1; Lost 1.

v. Prior Park College U14 'B' XI (A) - Lost by 17 runs  
Prior Park 94 (Raffael 6-22)  
Rendcomb 77 (Gregory 34)

v. Kingham Hill School U14 'B' XI (H) - Won by 10 wickets  
Kingham 99 for 6 decl.  
Rendcomb 100 for 0 (Tate 60\*, Miles 31\*)

Team from: J. Gregory (Capt.), S. Banks, A. Bell, A. Clark, C. Daniels, A. Lainé, A. Mackinnon, A. Miles, J. Nicholls, T. Nicholls, C. Paine, S. Phalke, K. Raffael, R. Tate, M. Waddington, G. Waller.



### Under 13 XI

This year's squad of sixteen were not very talented all-rounders, but they did have certain strengths, and their determination to do well under difficult circumstances resulted in some creditable performances. Fielding could rarely be criticised, and many runs were prevented, especially early in the season, by quick reactions and safe pairs of hands. The bowlers lacked match experience, and consequently it took some of them most of the term to develop a consistent action with a smooth follow-through. Michael Moody bowled a good length at a medium pace from the start, and Nicholas Smith established an effective technique toward the end. It is to be hoped that Simon Hett will prove to be an effective leg spin bowler in the near future. Batting was the real weakness, and few appeared to benefit from the extensive practices, which included a period with the bowling machine. There was evidence that several members of the team were achieving a safer style of batting, and the effect of this season's endeavours will be realised next summer.

Nicholas Wood captained the side with the help of Daniel Maslen, and they did a good job, especially when poor batting put considerable pressure on them and other members of the team.

C. J. W.

Played 5; Drew 1; Lost 4.

v. Tockington Manor School (H) - Lost by 92 runs  
Tockington 163 for 7 decl. (Moody 3-23)  
Rendcomb 71 (N. Smith 42\*)

v. Cheltenham Grammar School U13 XI (H) - Lost by 6 wickets Rendcomb 29  
Cheltenham 30 for 4 (Moody 3-12)

v. The King's School, Gloucester, U13 XI (A) - Lost by 47 runs  
King's 86 for 4 decl. (Moody 3-12)  
Rendcomb 39

v. Rednock School U13 XI (H) - Match drawn  
Rednock 135 for 4 decl.  
Rendcomb 71 for 5 (Wood 16\*, von Westphalen Bunge 19\*)

v. Marling School U13 XI (H) - Lost by 56 runs  
Marling 106 (N. Smith 6-32)  
Rendcomb 50 (Evans 15)

Team from: N. Wood (Capt.), D. Maslen, N. Smith, M. Moody, P. Evans, N. Utting, C. Brown, P. Smithson, A. von Westphalen Bunge, R. Rowlatt, S. Hett, M. Smith, O. Ward, N. Bayliss, M. Rogers, A. Miles, K. Raffael, A. Hall (scorer).



## Boys' Squash

The decision of the organisers to reduce the number of teams in Division One of the Gloucestershire Under 19 League, together with a cancellation of one fixture, meant that the 1st V played fewer matches than usual.

Graeme Veale, Simon Jenkins, Matthew Cordeux and John Healey have given sterling service during the past two seasons, often against superior opposition. With their departure the 1st V will start next season in the Second Division, the first time since the inauguration of the Gloucestershire League ten years ago that the 1st V has not played in Division One. However, if the members of the present 2nd V give Kevin Hewston sufficient support, promotion may be possible for the second half of the season.

K. J. K.

### 1st V - Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division One

v. Cheltenham College 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Gloucester Country Club 1st V	Lost	2-3
v. Cheltenham College 1st V	Lost	0-5
v. De La Bere Country Club 1st V	Lost	1-4
v. Cheltenham College 2nd V	Won	5-0

### 2nd V - Gloucestershire Under 19 League, Division Two

v. Cheltenham College 2nd V	Lost	0-5
v. Tewkesbury Park 1st V	Lost	2-3
v. East Gloucester 1st V	Won	5-0
v. Dean Close School 1st V	Won	4-1
v. Gloucester Country Club 1st V	Lost	2-3
v. Tewkesbury Park 1st V	Won	3-2
v. Cheltenham College 3rd V	Lost	1-4

The Teams, in playing order, were:

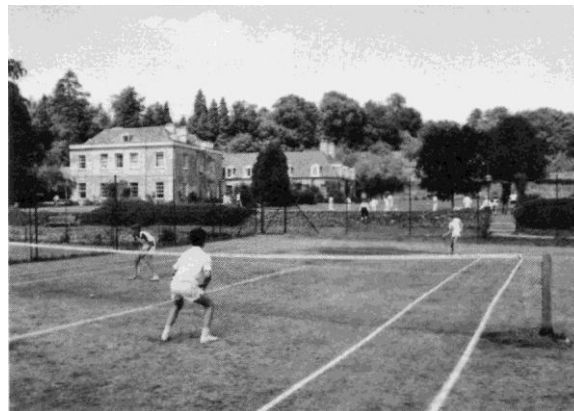
**1st V:** G. Veale (1 win out of 5), S. Jenkins 1 (5), K. Hewston 3 (3), M. Cordeux 2 (4), J. Healey 1 (5).

**2nd V:** K. Hewston 1 (1), M. Cordeux 2 (3), A. Cayton 2 (5), T. Burns 4 (6), M. Astill 2 (6), M. Hastings 4 (7), J. Fellows 1 (2).

## Boys' Tennis

With over thirty players opting for tennis and the whole of last year's 1st VI available again, this promised to be a successful, active season and so it proved. Early on the weather was unkind, however, and indeed the grass courts were not playable at all until after half-term; this confirmed the folly of trying to maintain grass courts, with all the attendant costs and labour, in our circumstances for a few meagre weeks of play annually. We very much hope that the two Old Rectory grass courts will soon become virtually maintenance-free hard courts, like the neighbouring Courts 3 and 4, and thus provide an all-the-year-round practice facility and also better conditions for school matches.

The 1st VI won all their school matches and, as indicated, were a useful combination, certainly one of the best-balanced teams we have had in recent seasons. The first pair, Andrew Cayton and Giles Carter, had



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a lot of natural ability and often dominated their opponents from the net. Needlessly extravagant shot-making and suspect concentration were their chief weaknesses but when in the mood and not conceding cheap points they were a formidable proposition. The eventual second pair were Kevin Hewston and Karl Knight, who were perhaps the most improved players of the group. Karl's forehand return of service and busy competitiveness, showing the fruit of much winter practice, combined well with Kevin's sharp volleying, and this pair had a particularly successful year. The third pair emerged as Nicholas Hannaford and Piers Bowley, who looked good earlier in the season but, for different reasons, lacked consistency and aggressive determination later on and consequently had wildly fluctuating results. John Marland and Reza Khosrowshahi, who were in the 1st VI last year, played in the opening match against Dauntsey's but could not afterwards command a team place.

We have tried to strengthen the 2nd VI platform by more matches and a number of younger boys in particular have benefited from inter-school experience. Next year we should reap the benefit, especially since three of the 1st VI look likely to be here again and many boys play regularly at home clubs.

The now well established parent-pupil doubles tournament took place in warm sunshine on Sunday, 29th June. Fourteen pairs participated and the event was voted an extremely happy success. The winning couple were Mr Cayton and Andrew, with Mr Holden and Tanya runners-up, and both these pairs received prizes kindly donated by the Rendcomb Parents' Association. Appropriately all entry fees went to the Sport Aid charity and a total of about £30 was raised for this.

The following constituted the 1st VI: Andrew Cayton, Giles Carter, Kevin Hewston, Karl Knight (captain), Nicholas Hannaford, Piers Bowley. 2nd VI: Reza Khosrowshahi, John Marland (captain), Michael Attwood, Richard Kolb, David Kenney, Mark Croft.

J. N. H.

### 1st VI:

v. Dauntsey's School 1st VI (A)	Won	5-4
v. Sir Thomas Rich's School 1st VI (A)	Cancelled	
v. Cheltenham College 2nd VI (A)	Won	8-1
v. Dean Close School 1st VI (H)	Won	5½-3½
v. Cirencester School Mixed VI (H)	Won	6-3
v. Old Rendcombians (H)	Abandoned (rain)	

### 2nd VI:

v. Dauntsey's School 2nd VI (A)	Lost	2-7
v. Cheltenham College 3rd VI (A)	Won	5½-3½
v. Dean Close School 2nd VI (H)	Lost	4-5

## Rock Climbing

This year's activities have been dominated by John Shaw who, in the final rush before the new Wintour's Leap Guide went to the printers, has led the first ascents of eleven new routes (HVS to E.2), more than any past Rendcombian.

In the book, which is due to be published later this year, the College Climbing Group's activities figure prominently. In the last ten years Rendcombians have played a part in the first ascents of over forty out of the two hundred routes on the crag, and this is duly credited in the 'Historical' section. It is hoped that the book will contain some photographs of Rendcomb climbing, as well as a set of cartoon drawings by OR Simon Noyes. The Group's good work in keeping the Nature Reserve, in which the cliff is situated, tidy and free from litter is acknowledged, as is the assistance given at various stages in the preparation of the Guide by past and present Rendcombians, Richard Hazell, Doré Green and John Shaw.

J. W.

## Judo

Rendcomb Judo Club, now in its seventeenth year, has had a successful season. In the Autumn Term there were more than 30 members, with a very welcome contingent from 6B. By the end of the Summer Term numbers had dropped to about 20, a yearly trend.

Classes are held weekly in the Sports Hall, and the mat area is sufficiently large to accommodate up to 30 players. The training session starts with a warm-up sequence, which is vitally important and increases strength and suppleness. Throwing and groundwork techniques are then demonstrated, to be practised in the free-fighting session called 'Randori'.

It has been difficult for us to attend local gradings, as they have been held either in the holidays or very early in the term. However, it is hoped that members will attend a BJA Grading on Sunday, 14th September, at Dowty Judo Club and that, early in 1987, Rendcomb will hold a grading for local clubs.

Paul Godsell, the club coach, has continued to bring members of the Cheltenham YMCA Judo Club to our training sessions; this improves standards and creates interest among the members.

We are sorry to lose Nick Webb, who has been a loyal member of the club. Visitors have been impressed by his skill, strength and determination. We are pleased to hear that Darrell Adshead, who left last year, gained his Brown Belt 2nd KYU at Poole Sports Centre in May.

With 40 boys joining the school in the Autumn, we hope our numbers will be boosted once again.

C. C. B.  
P. G.

## Girls' Sport Girls' Hockey

The girls' hockey fell victim once again to the weather, which meant that the team was rarely able to practise together. However, there was a great deal of talent in the team, coupled with enthusiasm for the game. There were no major weaknesses, although the forwards will have to learn not to panic in the circle; some clear chances were missed. Lisa Wallace played consistently well at right half, and Polly Nicholls played some excellent games on the wing.

At the end of a successful season, the team entered the Gloucestershire Schools Hockey Tournament, and we battled our way through to the final with great determination, finishing runners-up to Charlton Park.

My thanks go to the team and also to the other girls who willingly came to practices and were prepared to deputise for absent players before matches. We are grateful also to Mrs Manners, who came to practices in all weathers and helped and encouraged us.

CLAIRE ELLIS

Played 12; Won 6; Drew 1; Lost 5; Goals for 17;  
Goals against 12.

v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	4-0
v. Cirencester School (A)	Won	1-0
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Lost	1-2
v. Chosen Hill School (A)	Won	6-0
v. Westwood's Grammar School (A)	Lost	0-2
v. Charlton Park School (A)	Lost	1-3

Gloucestershire Schools Hockey Tournament: 1st Round:

v. Westwood's Grammar School	Won	1-0
v. Rednock School	Drew	1-1
v. Stroud High School	Won	1-0
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College	Lost	0-2

Semi-final

v. Chipping Campden School	Won	1-0
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Final:

v. Charlton Park School	Lost	0-2
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Team from: C. Ellis (Capt. ), M. Reynolds, R. Hughes, N. Newell, G. Bell, T. Holden, J. Larroucau, L. Wallace, E. Thring, C. Carroll, K. Conway, J. Hasler, A. Heal, P. Nicholls.

## Girls' Netball

There was a great deal of ability in both teams this year, and no particular weakness in either. In practices the teams were evenly matched, and this meant that the practice sessions were always enjoyable and competitive. The matches were played with much enthusiasm, some of them very close against tough opposition, the results often being decided in the last minutes. The most notable match was against Marlborough, always our toughest opposition, in which both our teams were unlucky to lose.

Our biggest fault was that we panicked easily and gave away goals at crucial times. However, for the 1st team Edwina Thring and Tanya Holden worked well together as shooters, and Polly Nicholls adapted well as goalkeeper. For the 2nd team Theresa Fox and Gill Bell played very solid games in defence.

At the end of the season the 1st team entered the Gloucestershire Schools Netball Tournament and, although we won one match only, we thoroughly enjoyed playing against difficult opposition. Our thanks go to Mrs Manners for her help and support.

CLAIRE ELLIS

**1st VII:** Played 10; Won 6; Lost 4.

v. Chosen Hill School	Lost	10-11
v. Stroud High School	Lost	5-10
v. Dauntsey's School	Won	22-10
v. St Clotilde's Convent School	Won	12-8
v. Cirencester School	Lost	10-12
v. Charlton Park School	Won	22-3
v. Marlborough College	Lost	10-12
v. Cirencester School	Won	24-13
v. Chosen Hill School	Won	16-14
v. Dauntsey's School	Won	12-10

Team from: C. Ellis (Capt.), P. Nicholls, L. Wallace, J. Hasler, A. Baker, E. Thring, T. Holden, J. Larroucau.

**2nd VII:** Played 7; Won 3; Drew 1; Lost 3.

v. Chosen Hill School 2nd VII	Won	11-10
v. Stroud High School 2nd VII	Lost	4-13
v. St Clotilde's Convent School 2nd VII	Won	20-4
v. Cirencester School 2nd VII	Drew	11-11
v. Charlton Park School 2nd VII	Won	9-8
v. Marlborough College 2nd VII	Lost	11-12
v. Chosen Hill School 2nd VII	Lost	5-24

Team from: A. Heal, G. Bell, M. Reynolds, T. Fox, K. Conway, M. Gill, J. Larroucau, N. Newell.

## Girls' Squash

The squash team developed well throughout the season and won matches through sheer determination and drive. Everyone improved her game considerably over the two terms, but commendations must go to Lisa Wallace and Kristin Ewing, who pulled the standard of their game up dramatically.

The team also took part in a schools' tournament at Dauntsey's where Tanya Holden reached the semi-final, losing to the eventual winner.

In general, it was a very successful season, enjoyed by everyone concerned. Our thanks go to Mrs Holdaway for all her support and encouragement.

CHARLOTTE CARROLL

Played 13; Won 8; Lost 5.

v. Marlborough College (A)	Lost	0-5
v. Dauntsey's School 'B' V (A)	Won	3-2
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (A)	Won	3-2
v. Charlton Park School (A)	Won	4-1

v. Charlton Park School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	4-1
v. Dauntsey's School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Marlborough College (H)	Won	3-2
v. Charlton Park School (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College (H)	Won	5-0
v. Cheltenham Ladies' College (H)	Lost	2-3
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	5-0
v. Cheltenham College 'B' V (H)	Won	4-1

The team was: Charlotte Carroll (Capt.), Tanya Holden, Edwina Thring, Kristin Ewing, Lisa Wallace.

## Girls' Tennis

Although the results look disappointing, all the matches were very close and exciting. It was unfortunate that some of them coincided with external exams, but 6B girls were always willing to step in. The tennis skills have much improved due to Mrs Manners's patient coaching. Thanks go to Mrs Manners and Mrs Holdaway for their enthusiastic support.

EDWINA THRING

**1st VI:**

Played 8; Won 3; Drew 2; Lost 3

v. Westwood's Grammar School	Lost	4-5
v. Dauntsey's School	Lost	4-5
v. Wycliffe College	Won	5-4
v. Cheltenham College	Drew	6-6
v. St Clotilde's Convent School	Lost	4-5
Mixed team v. Cirencester School	Won	6-3
v. Charlton Park Convent School	Won	4-2
v. Westwood's Grammar School	Drew	3-3

1st VI taken from: E. Thring (Capt. ), L. Wallace, C. Carroll, C. Ellis, T. Holden, S. Maton, S. Hassall, N. Newell.

2nd VI: S. Hassall, J. Valentine, N. Newell, C. Faircloth, M. Reynolds, K. Ewing.

# Other Sports



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## Archery

Archery this year attracted the usual mixed support of old and new hands. The move to Sinclair Field from Top helped to increase the number of interested bystanders who were eventually persuaded to participate.

A staff v. pupils tournament during the final weeks of term proved highly successful: several staff had a first taste of the sport and, with the aid of Mr Essenhigh's maths, managed simultaneously to win and lose!

Once again the Gloucestershire Archery Society will be holding a FITA Star Tournament and the County Championships at Rendcomb in August.

The archers would like to thank Mrs Essenhigh for her patience and enthusiasm.

GILLIAN BELL

## Badminton

A small but dedicated group took part in the regular Wednesday evening coaching sessions and developed their skill as the year went on. This being a minor sport, very few schools could field a team, but we were able to play four senior mixed matches on a home-and-away basis against Dean Close and Cheltenham Grammar. They proved very enjoyable affairs, and everyone learned a great deal about the subtleties and problems of match-play. A good performance by each pair gave victory in three of the matches, but a weakened team prevented our achieving an unbeaten record. My thanks go to Mr Jones and his club-mates for their time and expertise on the coaching evenings.

HARI NATHAN

Played 4; Won 3; Lost 1.

v. Dean Close School (A)	Won	6-3
v. Cheltenham Grammar School (A)	Won	6-3
v. Dean Close School (H)	Won	5-4
v. Cheltenham Grammar School (H)	Lost	4-5

Team pairs included: Christopher Jones and Hari Nathan, Richard Kolb and Alexander Andreis, Theresa Fox and Tanya Holden, Thomas Bums, Andrew Cayton.

## Fishing

One of the lesser-known pursuits indulged in by a few of the boys is dry-fly trout fishing. We are very fortunate indeed to have the Churn flowing through the grounds. There has always been a stock of 'wild' fish in the river, but many of these are poached by two-legged predators, the small boy variety and herons from the nearby heronry.

Some four years ago we took a decision to restock the river with farm-bred trout every second year.

The last two years have seen nine boys fishing the river, and a substantial number of sizeable fish have been caught; mostly they have been returned to the stream, but one enterprising fisherman formed the habit of keeping one or two and selling them to a member of the teaching staff; he should do well in business!

This year the hatch of fly was very late, but we were fortunate to have a very prolific hatch of May-fly during June, on which the fish feed avidly and are therefore easier to catch.

One of the more popular PW pastimes is weed-cutting, especially when the weather is warm, as it tends to be treated as an additional opportunity for swimming; but some useful weed-cutting has been done, which keeps the river flowing well. It has also remained high all this year, due to the very heavy rainfall in the early months.

Opportunities will be available next season for up to five pupils to join the Fishing Club, which is run by the Bursar.

E. T. T.

## Sailing

This has been a disappointing term for sailing, as the weather at the beginning was so bad. However, there has been a large increase in the number of pupils taking part, and consequently we have found ourselves short of boats. Once again the intrepid 'Graduate', owned by Robert Draper, has been the major point of discussion since, despite a complete overhaul and a total repainting, it still insists on leaking like a sieve and has caught many competent pupils unawares. The Hill family have once again very kindly lent us the 'Bosun', which has proved invaluable as a training vessel for the beginners and also a real challenge for the more advanced pupils who sail single-handed. Unfortunately we have not seen as much of Richard Kolb this year as we would have liked, since he has been involved with 'O' levels, and consequently our more daring pupils have not experienced sailing the 'Lightning' - a very fast little boat that lives up to its name.

A small group of beginners from the fourth form have taken the opportunity to learn from more experienced sixth formers and they have become quite competent crew. They are still rather clumsy when it comes to boat

handling - some still cannot figure out where the wind is coming from - but they seem to have enjoyed taking part. One of them, who shall remain nameless, even admitted to having enjoyed capsized drill, which took place right at the beginning of term when the water temperature was unbelievably cold; I shall use him as the guinea pig next year!

Once again I pass on my thanks to all parents who have lent us boats and who have also turned out regularly to help; let us hope that the weather is a little more kind next year.

T. J. L.

## Basketball

The Under 18 Griffins continued their basketball with enthusiasm this year, whilst a great deal of interest was also shown by the fourth form. We were therefore able to play two friendly matches at Under 15 level. Both squads developed their individual skills and teamwork at a remarkable rate, showing great confidence and competence in their matches.

The senior team had a good balance of taller 'under the boards' and shorter ball-handling players, with Paul Spackman, Dominic Scarlett, Mark Astill and Tom Bums rebounding well, while Nicholas Webb, Angus Trowern and Richard Moss were hard-working in defence and proved very effective on the fast-break. The best team performance was against the experienced YMCA Hawks who were runners-up in the County Senior Cup; a devastating 42 points scored by Scarlett just failed to give the College victory. The match against the Masters All-Stars proved an exciting and enjoyable affair. Thanks to a tough, somewhat physical, defence by the staff and to a mistake by the Griffins in the last seconds of the game, which allowed Mr Ball to score, the All-Stars just sneaked home as victors.

The Under 15s showed considerable skill and maturity in their play, with captain Aubrey Powell leading by example and William Sherwood showing his talents as top scorer. After a close match against a Dean Close team containing a 6' 3" post-player and two talented American ball-handlers, they went on to beat a Wycliffe College team convincingly.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Newby for his time and expertise as coach to both teams and to wish the school teams and all leavers success and enjoyment in their future basketball.

DOMINIC SCARLETT

**Griffins:** Played 4; Won 2; Lost 2.

v. YMCA Hawks (A)	Lost	68-72
	(Scarlett 42 points)	
v. YMCA Magpies (H)	Won	59-51
v. Rendcomb Staff All-Stars (H)	Lost	46-48
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	56-42

**Under 15s:** Played 2; Won 1; Lost 1.

v. Dean Close School (A)	Lost	28-33
v. Wycliffe College (A)	Won	52-36

Teams selected from:

**Griffins:** D. Scarlett (captain), M. Astill, A. Brealy, T. Burns, D. John, C. Moody, R. Moss, J. Shaw, P. Spackman, A. Trowern, N. Webb, I. Whittaker.

**Under 15s:** A. Powell (captain), C. Bannister, G. Broomfield, J. Carter, R. Hardy, D. Houseman, G. Hughes, J. Lutwyche, R. Ogden, W. Sherwood, N. Suffolk, S. Tate, V. Tredwell.

## Sport Aid

On Sunday, 31st May, as our contribution to Bob Geldof's 'Run the World' extravaganza, we held a 6-mile sponsored run and, for the non-joggers, a 30-length swim. The events were open to all pupils and, although most 'A' and 'O' level examinees did not take part, there was a pleasing turn-out of junior and senior boys, girls, staff and villagers. Despite the heat and humidity, most participants managed to complete their activity, with Graeme Veale leading the runners and most staff bringing up the rear, while in the swimming Gareth Davies achieved the quickest time.

Although shattered, all enjoyed themselves, and we were pleased to be able to contribute a total of £230 to the 'Feed the World' fund. May I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to all participants, helpers and sponsors; it was certainly a successful and worthwhile event.

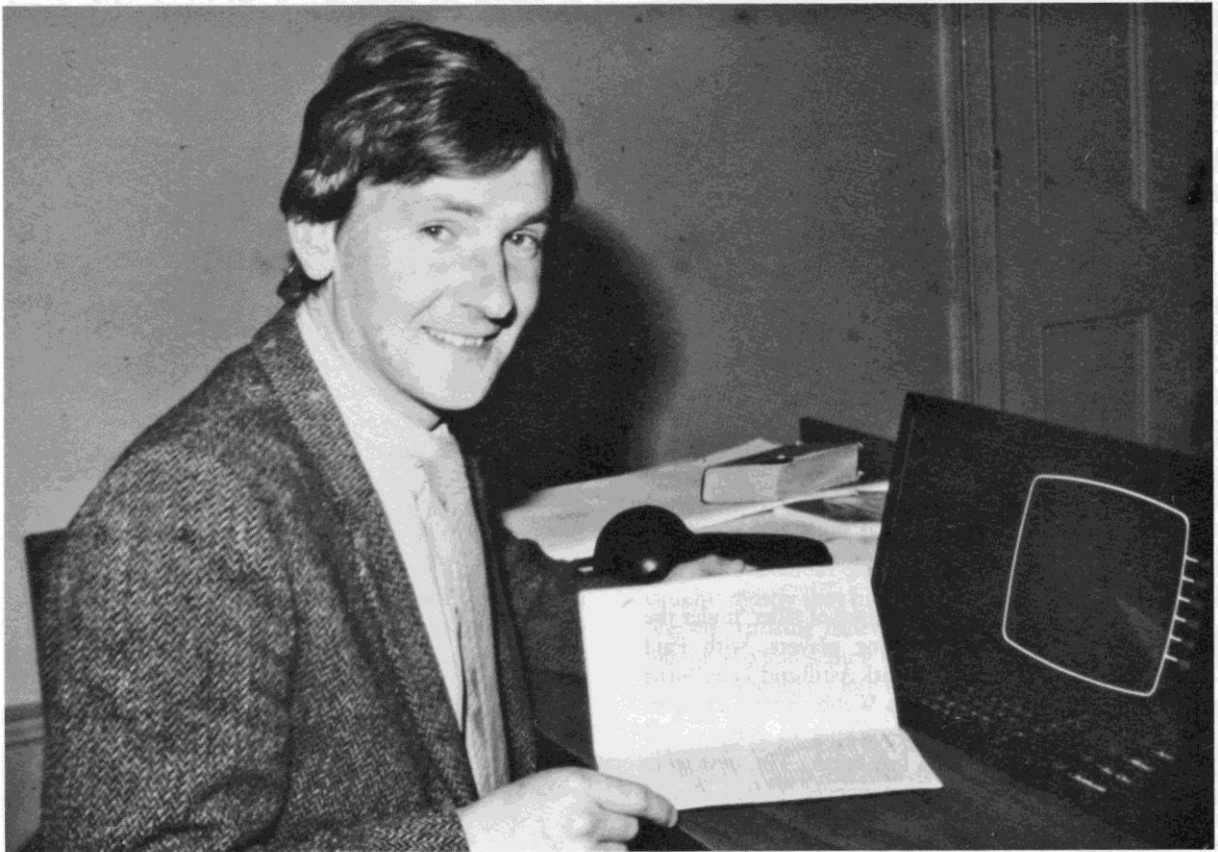
M. J. N.

## Staff Cricket

It may not be appreciated that the Staff have their own Cricket Team and play the staff of other local schools, our local village team in North Cerney and the 'Balliol Erratics', the last through the auspices of the previous master in charge of cricket who was a graduate of that august college. Last year, led by Paul Edwards, we had a very successful season, winning most of our matches, which are played in the evenings and consist of 20 overs a side. The aim is to give everybody a chance to distinguish himself either with the bat or with the ball, and some people have surprised themselves! This year, the team is being ably led by David Essenhigh; we have played three matches, lost two and won one, the last against Balliol, to our great satisfaction. In one of the matches we lost we felt the other side cheated, having an expert batsman who scored 86! We have two fixtures still to come and are much looking forward to them, and it has even been suggested that we should take on the school's 1st XI. In fact, in the flush of success against Balliol murmurs were heard of 'going on tour'!

E. T. T.

## New Staff, September, 1985



Lindsay Haslett

*C. J. Wood*

Martin Graham and Michael Craddock

*C. J. Wood*





