



WYCOMBIENSIA 1997



# The Wycombiensian

1997

The Magazine of the  
Royal Grammar School  
High Wycombe

Editor: Dr M J Smith  
Art Editor: Mr R P Stevens  
Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr M W Cook

## Staff Leavers

### Mr Michael Moffatt

Michael Moffatt arrived at the RGS in 1968 from Lancaster to become Head of the Geography Department, and after building up the Geography Department was appointed Deputy Head in 1973. In this capacity he has loyally served three Headmasters until finally this summer he has decided to lay aside his academic gown.

Mike has been involved in so much that it is not possible to refer to everything. He has successfully worked on the intricacies of the timetable year after year using coloured bits of Lego as an aid for the highly complex option scheme; has for many years represented teachers on the Bucks Education Committee, and its various subcommittees and panels; taught Geography with great enthusiasm for certain topics, with his Year 8 and 9 classes having, I understand, many more lessons on rocks than any other class; he also taught Games and PSHE; led Geography Field Trips and a party to the USA; played for staff soccer, hockey, cricket and rugby teams (thank goodness no more Staff v Boys rugby matches!); participated in the Staff Revue, a feature of the RGS in the early 1980's; masterminded the PA Raffle and its other functions; learnt the latest Health and Safety regulations; refereed and coached rugby, coached cricket, athletics and shooting; guided the Governors through the latest developments in education such as the introduction of the 11+ intake and planning new School buildings. The list is endless.

But it is not for all that he did that we shall remember Michael. It is the jovial, avuncular, man who has seen all the changes in education come and go, with that calm, relaxed air that has indicated a very safe pair of hands. He has defused many a difficult situation with a quiet word, or a light-hearted remark. He very rarely shows the sign of tetchiness that most of us show. He will be much missed for his wisdom, friendliness and support, and of course for his highly-coloured socks, his West Country timbre and his Assembly stories.



*Michael and Meg Moffatt.*

He leaves us to spend more time with his wife, Meg, and his grandchildren, enjoy good food and wine, travel, and, I hope, watch Wycombe Wanderers with me. Many thanks Mike, and all the very best for your retirement.

I.R.C.

## Mr Michael Darby

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Michael Darby came to us in 1991, taking on the challenge of teaching under the Licensed Teacher Scheme after a highly distinguished career with the RAF. He left them with the rank of Air Commodore and the award of the MRVO. Initially he taught Physics and Maths but latterly concentrated on Maths teaching. His engineering background was invaluable and it brought to life his explanations. He was very concerned for the progress of his pupils and could often be found at lunch times helping those who found the subjects difficult. At A Level he has contributed to mechanics teaching with a thoroughness and determination that his pupils should understand the principles as well as complete the exam papers. His authoritative approach makes him unwilling to sit down when teaching a class. One can always tell that Mike has been teaching in a room from his habit of removing the teacher's chair from behind the desk. Many of us have come near to attempting to sit on an absent chair. Those that have actually done so (to the delight of the class) are not admitting the fact.

Over the years he has made an outstanding contribution to the School's Cadet Force. He has been in command of the RAF Section which he has built up to be one of the best, if not the best, in the country. This he has done by using his own brand of leadership to motivate and enthuse successive generations of cadet NCOs. A full appreciation appears in the OC's report on the CCF, further on in the magazine.

Latterly Mike has been teaching part-time; he now retires completely and we wish him and his wife Maggie an enjoyable retirement.

D.M.B.

## Mr James McKellar

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James McKellar joined the school in 1994 from Salford University and has taken a full part in the life of the School. His foremost job was of course to teach Maths and this he has done for three years to all ages in the school, with lively participation from the junior forms. Also he has helped with routine administration within the department.

In addition to teaching Maths he has contributed to boarding, games and the CCF. In the Games department he has been a valued member of the team, looking after the U16 XV and 3rd XV in winter and a junior cricket team in summer. Whenever there has been a gap to fill James has volunteered or been press-ganged into service and we shall miss the time that he has given to extra-curricular activities.

In the CCF he has been involved in the activities of the Army Section both on camps and with the week by week training of new recruits. In boarding he has acted as a non-resident tutor helping with all that that entails.

He goes with our good wishes to join the staff of the Maths department of St John's School, Leatherhead.

D.M.B.

## Mr John Neal

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John Neal joined the staff on a part time basis in 1989 after having taken early retirement because of ill health. He had been the head of Science at the John Lyon School in Harrow and taught Physics there. He taught Maths here, mainly in the Sixth Form, and brought his Physics expertise to the teaching of mechanics. He has a deep knowledge and love of cricket and was often to be seen with his 'headset', a combined cap and radio to enable him to listen to 'Test Match Special'. There was plenty of material for the study of projectiles (and statistics). John has a dry sense of humour and one of his best lines referred to Mr Ratcliffe – 'of course Garth is much quieter than he used to be'. We have the chaplain to thank for John's employment here. They had been colleagues in a previous job and RGR suggested that he apply for the vacancy. He was a supportive and well-liked colleague until he finally retired in July 1996 and I am sure that we all wish him and his wife Gillian well in their retirement.

D.M.B.

## Mrs Meg Moffatt

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Meg Moffatt started teaching at RGS three years ago and brought with her many years of experience after retiring from William Ramsay School.

In the relatively short time she has spent with us Meg has thrown herself into everything she had the time to become involved with. Meg's initial teaching at the RGS took place within the Geography department and then shortly afterwards she put her talents and experience into the planning and teaching of PSHE and Careers. Meg could always be relied upon to take any of the more challenging subjects in PSHE and make an interesting and thought provoking lesson.

During her time at the RGS Meg has become a well liked and respected teacher both by the boys she has taught and by her colleagues.

Both staff and pupils will very much miss Meg's cheery and friendly character around the school. We all wish her all the very best in her retirement years.

S.P.H.W.

## Miss Jane Costigan

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Jane joined the Geography department in September 1995 and quickly established herself as a thoroughly committed and professional member of staff. She readily imparted her obvious love of and enthusiasm for her subject at all levels whilst also finding extra time to both support boys with difficulties and push those at the top in Oxbridge lessons. She also found time to arrange day trips to the East End and Docklands and serve on the IT committee.

She was involved in many areas of the school including being a form tutor, PSHE teacher and helping with the RAF Section of the CCF. She will be remembered as adding style, charm and an extra incentive to field exercises where she was the quarry or the invalid to be bandaged up.

We will miss her energy and enthusiasm, but would like to congratulate her on the birth of Thomas and wish her well in the future.

J.O.

## Mrs Margaret Royal

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Margaret, or our 'lady in red', was my first appointment to the Biology department and proved to be very popular with both colleagues and boys. Always willing to help with department field trips and lecture visits, Margaret played a full part in the department. A very sound classroom teacher who gave her pupils great encouragement, many boys from her GCSE classes chose to take A Level Biology as a result of her thorough and stimulating teaching.

Margaret braved the mini-bus driving test in order to take boys to Wales on our Ecology Field Trip and her sense of humour was appreciated by the boys as they watched a rather large rock being hidden within my rucksack. Despite three years of having her tea bags 'stolen' by myself, Margaret was a supportive colleague and friend and we were all surprised and saddened by her decision to leave teaching in order to set up her own business. We wish Margaret all the best for this new venture and thank her for all the time and effort she put into her teaching during her all too brief three years.

E.J.W.

## Miss Pam Blackwell

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Pam Blackwell's service to the Royal Grammar School counts among the most epic in the school's history – here for approaching 30 years, working for three different Headmasters and, in so doing, serving 60% of the school's total 20th Century management.

In all that time Pam served RGS with unstinting hard work, tact and attention to detail. It is a mark of her approach to the job that she is someone still universally welcomed on site when she returns now for her weekly sortie into the RGS CCF.

The Headmaster's Secretary is a strange mixture of administration, public relations and detailed, often confidential, report or letter production. Belonging to the old school of discretion, she combined this with meticulous administration. Pam had mastery of it all and not even the computer era flummoxed her.

Popular with colleagues, she organised a termly Ladies' Luncheon for staff and woe betide anyone who failed to attend or organised a rival occasion. Miss Blackwell's wrath was not to be taken lightly.

RGS has not said goodbye to Pam and we regard her service to the RGS as invaluable. All three Headmasters, Malcolm Smith, Rowland Brown and myself, together with many generations of boys and staff, should thank Pam Blackwell for her positive contribution to RGS.

D.R.L.

## Mrs Judith Grieve

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Mrs Judith Grieve came to RGS in November 1987 from Brunel University where she had held senior administrative posts – as Assistant Registrar and as Faculty Officer to the Dean of the Science Faculty. Her knowledge of universities, especially their admissions procedures and policies, was invaluable for the school, and meant she was a 'key resource' in the Careers Department. Not only did she have wide and expert experience of universities, but rapidly an equally good knowledge of RGS boys, their requirements, strengths and weaknesses. Her administrative skills enabled her to run the increasingly complex work shadowing and work experience schemes, and much more besides, from her Careers Room office.

But her main job was in the School Library. Until her arrival, the Library – then in two locations – was run by a member of the teaching staff in free periods, and by Sixth Formers at lunch-time and Thursday afternoons. Judith was the first permanent presence in the Library, who was able to pounce on those who tried to slip by without checking their books out, to chase up overdue books, and to perform all those vital duties that enable a library to run smoothly for its users.

Perhaps her finest hour was masterminding the move from the two old libraries to the new Library, opened in June 1991 by the Princess of Wales. The new library actually had to be cleaned after the builders left, and the books were not without a few grains of dust. So, as well as employing Messrs. Chuter and Mitchell and numerous boys as porters and overseers thereof, packing books into numbered boxes, installing them on the correct shelves, and improvising new arrangements when the theory seemed not quite to work in practice, Judith had to hold the fort in the interregnum after Mrs Evans' departure and before Mrs Philpot's arrival.

The RGS has every reason to be grateful for Judith's professional approach to everything she did at school, for her readiness to go way beyond the call of duty on behalf of boys and staff, and for her unfailing sense of humour in the face of a library full of Upper Sixth, whose idea of private study was to have a quiet chat 'round the corner' with their friends.

We wish her well in her new post as Librarian at Piper's Corner School. At least the *clientèle* in the library will be better looking!

J.I.M.

## Mr John Ashworth

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John Ashworth came to this school, after a degree and PGCE at Bristol, to teach Politics and also Economics in September 1993, leaving in July 1996. Not a Politics specialist, he worked at the subject with enthusiasm and commitment. Later at the school's behest he developed his skills to cover Business Studies as well, showing commendable flexibility. He particularly enjoyed his teacher-pupil relationships as these developed during his time here and gave up extra hours to run highly successful quiz teams. A notable member of the staff soccer team, apparently impervious to pain since he wore no shin guards as his opponents noticed, his absences were on occasion as noticeable as his presence. He hit a golf ball with power, direction and little preamble. Ever master of the devastating question to jaw drop his colleagues, he always would be relied on to identify the emperor's absence of attire if that was the case; and we remember him with affection as a concerned and caring personality aiding Christian Forum, and wish him well for the future.

T.J.N.C.

## Mrs Dee Batchelor

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Dee joined us in 1992 as an Assistant Secretary and during that time took on a considerable variety of tasks efficiently and quickly, including word processing (for many staff and of course those UCAS forms!), running the Box-Office, ordering Stationery, School Photographs and answering the telephone etc. etc. We shall remember her in particular for the never-failing cheerfulness and friendliness, and her play in the Staff Golf Tournament – she proudly displayed her gold 'trophy' in the Resources Centre one year.

Dee leaves us to become the Head's Secretary at Godstowe School, and we wish her all the best there.

I.R.C.

# University Entry 1996–97

## OXFORD

**Atkins, OJ** University: Engineering & Computing Science  
**Borysiewicz, CM** Jesus: Philosophy, Politics & Economics  
**Brinn, JD** University: Modern History  
**Crawford-Phillips, JA** Keble: Psychology with Philosophy  
**Gledhill, JM** LMH: Modern History  
**Gooding, MJ** Merton: Mechanical Engineering  
**Manktelow, AP** Magdalen: Modern History  
**Roberts, M** Pembroke: Computation  
**Sermon, TA** St John's: Biological Sciences  
**Sleeman, MC** Lincoln: Chemistry (97)  
**Wells, SP** Pembroke: Physics  
**Whitfield, TPB** Trinity: Chemistry  
**Wyman, WG** Worcester: Philosophy, Politics & Economics

## CAMBRIDGE

**Bennet, BP** Queens': Mathematics, Pure & Applied  
**Bounds, RG** Churchill: Engineering  
**Butterfield, CJ** Emmanuel: Law (97)  
**Cockburn, DG** Pembroke: Natural Sciences  
**Daugherty, N** Pembroke: History  
**Davidson, M** St Catherine's: Law (97)  
**Griffin, XL** Caius: Medical Sciences  
**Hogwood, AE** Fitzwilliam: Natural Sciences  
**Maxmin, JW** Fitzwilliam: History  
**Meyer, JY** Downing: Natural Sciences (97)  
**Patterson, MN** Jesus: Medical Sciences  
**Richards, MA** Christ's: History  
**Sinclair, NS** Fitzwilliam: Philosophy  
**Village, WL** Trinity Hall: Music  
**Wainman, AJ** Sidney Sussex: Natural Sciences  
**Worland, CG** Pembroke: Land Economy (97)

## OTHER UNIVERSITIES

**Akhtar, K** Imperial College London: Medicine  
**Al-Dhahir, H** Imperial College London: Computing  
**Allan, JR** Bristol: French & German  
**Allom, RJ** St George's London: Medicine  
**Andrews, RG** Manchester: Geography & Archaeology  
**Angel, L** Bath: Business Administration  
**Arundel, TW** Durham: Japanese with European Languages  
**Baldwin, MJ** Manchester: Spanish/Italian  
**Barksfield, R** Southampton: Archaeology (97)  
**Barlow, PJ** Bristol: Archaeology  
**Barnes, DEW** London School of Economics; Government (97)  
**Bedingfield, TE** Nottingham Trent: History (97)  
**Beecroft, BG** Southampton: Physiology & Pharmacology  
**Benstock, RD** Lancaster: Primary Education with Movement Studies  
**Biddle, SA** Loughborough: Science & Engineering Foundation  
**Brickwood, AM** Manchester: Dentistry  
**Burgess, PJ** Swansea: English  
**Cameron, SCE** York: English  
**Carter, TCS** Southampton: Environmental Sciences (97)  
**Clarke, TJ** Bristol: Microbiology  
**Coakley, SR** Bath: International Management with French  
**Coleman, PG** Leicester: Economics & Law  
**Connell, AR** Nottingham: Latin & Theology  
**Coutts, RAD** Sheffield: Structural Engineering & Architecture

**Cox, OS** Birmingham: Geography  
**Credland, BP** Royal Holloway College London: Medieval & Modern History  
**Crompton, TM** University College London: History  
**Cummins, J** Leeds Metropolitan: Hospitality Business Management  
**Curry, I** Cardiff: Communication (97)  
**Day, SM** Southampton: Economics & Politics  
**Dudley, RA** Kingston: Property Planning & Development  
**Dutton, CRH** Leicester: American Studies  
**East, G** Buckingham College: Business & Finance  
**Eaves, M** Nottingham: Hispanic Studies  
**Fawell, SJK** Queen Mary & Westfield College London: Law  
**Fletcher, TM** Birmingham: Mechanical Engineering  
**Flower, JDG** Keele: Psychology & Ancient History  
**Francis, NJD** Bristol: Economics  
**Garidis, SJD** Birmingham: Medieval and Modern History  
**Garland, MJK** Bath: Aerospace Engineering  
**Garrard, MJ** Nottingham Trent: Social Sciences (97)  
**Gibbon, MIJ** Essex: History  
**Gilbert-Davies, S** Bristol: French & German  
**Gillett, S** Leeds: French & Portuguese  
**Girnary, ZMA** Bristol: Economics  
**Grant, S** Aberystwyth: European Languages  
**Graveley, AC** Birmingham: Mechanical & Materials Engineering  
**Greenhill, KJ** Bristol: Aeronautical Engineering  
**Guha, K** Leeds: Chemistry  
**Haroon, R** City University: Banking & International Finance  
**Hart, RA** Southampton: Electronic Engineering (97)  
**Harte, NJ** Cardiff: Education  
**Hayat, JO** Imperial College London: Medicine  
**Hobbs, PA** Southampton: Economics with Actuarial Studies  
**Holland, RG** Newcastle Upon Tyne: Law  
**Hooker, J** Manchester: Computer Science  
**Horridge, JA** Loughborough: Business Economics & Finance  
**Hunter, M** Warwick: Computer Science & Business Studies  
**Hussain, AF** Liverpool John Moores: Computer Studies  
**Hussain, M** South Bank: Computer Studies  
**Hussain, M** School of Pharmacy, London: Pharmacy  
**Hyland, AJ** Southampton: History  
**Iqbal, H** UMIST: Integrated Engineering  
**Irwin, N** Birmingham: Economics & Modern Economic History  
**Jackman, PND** Warwick: Computer Science  
**Jagger, A** University College London: Economics  
**James, IH** Coventry: Automotive Engineering Design  
**Jandu, L** Kingston: Aerospace Engineering  
**Jarrett, PA** Edinburgh: Chemical Engineering with European Studies  
**Jefferies, M** Surrey: Music  
**Justice, CT** Bristol: Psychology  
**Kemp, OBH** Essex: Philosophy & Politics  
**Kent, DJ** Southampton: Mechanical Engineering  
**Khera, MS** London Guildhall: Accounting  
**King, JS** Birmingham: Biochemistry, Medical  
**Knox, AJ** Manchester: Psychology (European Programme)  
**Leftwich, MA** Bournemouth: Business Studies  
**Lu, LH** Southampton: Civil Engineering  
**Luscombe, MJ** Warwick: Computer Science & Business Studies  
**Marshall, RJ** Durham: Engineering  
**Mason, ARG** Royal Veterinary College, London: Veterinary Medicine

**Mawhood, PB** Sheffield Hallam; International Business Studies with Languages

**McDonald, K** Southampton; Philosophy

**McNaughton, R** Nottingham; Psychology & Philosophy

**Millward, N** Bournemouth; Business Studies

**Milne, AD** Southampton; Mechanical Engineering

**Moore, D** Swansea; Spanish (with Business Studies)

**Moorhouse, L** Loughborough; Materials Engineering

**Nickols, SC** Bristol; Physics & Philosophy

**Norburn, G** Nottingham; Ancient History & History

**Parkinson, SJG** Birmingham; Biochemistry, Medical

**Pember, AS** Plymouth; International Business with French

**Persson, BM** Birmingham; African Studies

**Phelps, RJ** Southampton; Biochemistry

**Phipps, GP** Nottingham; French & German

**Pickering, JD** Anglia Polytechnic; English & Music

**Plummer, JG** Swansea; German (with Business Studies)

**Priestley, AHJ** Birmingham; Medieval Studies

**Prior, NJ** Nottingham; Chemistry (MSci)

**Richardson, MJ** Warwick; German & Business Studies

**Rogers, SM** Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh;

Business Organisation

**Royce, RA** Birmingham; Philosophy

**Rysdale, WS** Queen Mary & Westfield College London;

Modern & Contemporary History

**Sapsed, PR** Bristol; Biochemistry with Medical

Biochemistry

**Saunders, KMT** Leeds, Trinity & All Saints; Spanish-Media

**Saw, M** King's College London; Mechatronics &

Manufacturing Systems

**Scarff, NR** Queen Mary & Westfield College London;

Geography

**Scholes, T** Birmingham; Mathematics & Artificial

Intelligence

**Seys Llewellyn, OH** Cardiff; German/French

**Sharp, R** Brighton; Business & Finance

**Shelley, TPB** Lancaster; Accounting & Finance

**Sheraton, MD** Bournemouth; Business Information

Technology (97)

**Shuttlewood, JJ** Exeter; Economics & Social History

**Simpson, J** Warwick; Biological Sciences

**Smaje, BC** Birmingham; Law (97)

**Smet, KJ** Leeds Metropolitan; Business Information Management

**Smith, JA** Manchester Metropolitan; Business in Europe with French

**Smyth, M** Southampton; Environmental Engineering

**Staines, DB** Reading; Intelligent Systems

**Stammers, DP** Kingston; Music

**Stattersfield, RJ** Birmingham; Philosophy

**Steiner, JE** De Montfort; Business Studies

**Stopp, MP** Manchester; Chemistry

**Sweetman, JM** East London; Anthropology (97)

**Taylor, DDA** Reading; Computer Science & Cybernetics

**Tester, PD** Durham; Engineering

**Thakrar, S** City University; Computer Science

**Thorne, NL** Leeds; Psychology

**Ullah, I** Surrey; Business Economics with Computing

**Upton, MS** Birmingham; Electronic Engineering (97)

**Walker, MD** Leeds; Pharmacology-Physiology

**Walter, TS** York; Biochemistry

**Walton, GB** Leeds; Mineral Industry Environmental Engineering

**Warfield, NA** Birmingham; Physiotherapy

**Washbourne, NL** Leeds; Sociology

**Weaver, RP** Southampton; Geology with Physical

Geography

**Webb, J** Warwick; Management Sciences

**Weedon, K** Royal Holloway College London; English

**Wheaton, RMD** King's College London; European Studies

**Whelan, JD** Imperial College London; Electrical &

Electronic Engineering with Management

**Whiteside, JP** Birmingham; Electronic Engineering

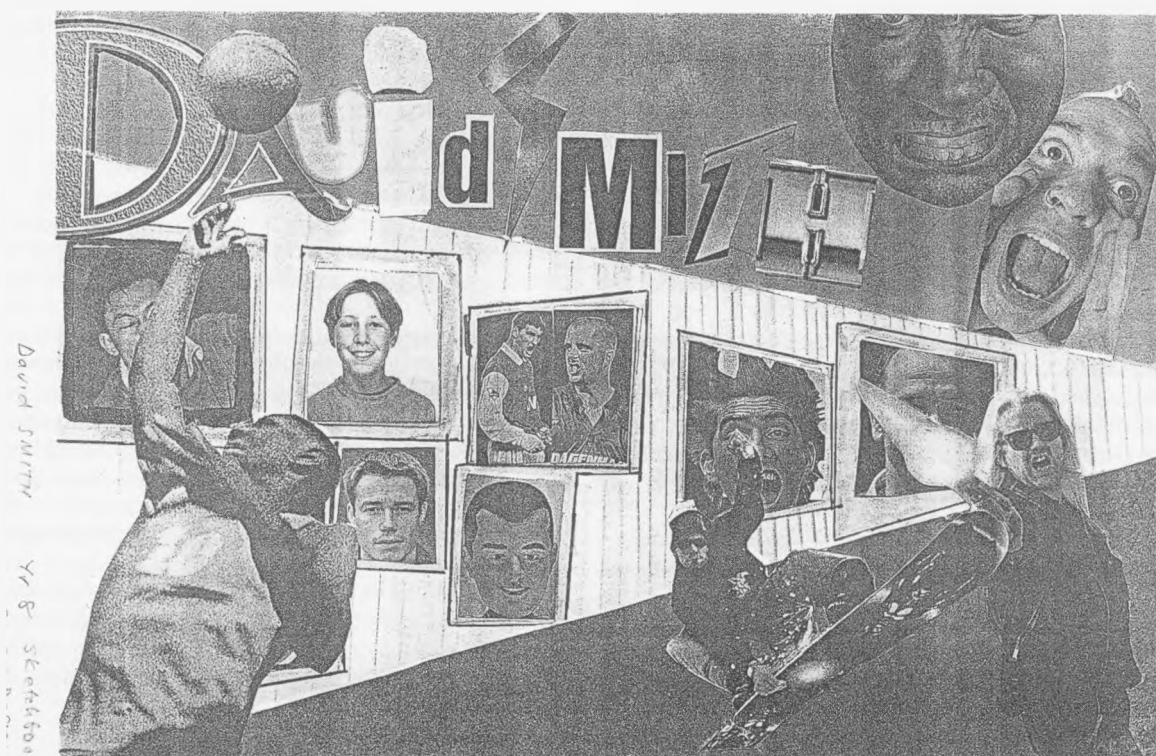
**Wood, RJ** Birmingham; Philosophy & Political Science

**Woodbridge, CC** Bristol; French & Spanish (97)

**Woodward, DJ** Southampton; Medicine

**Wright, CW** Bath; International Management & German

**Yunus, I** Leicester; Economics



David Smith  
Year 8  
Sketchbook cover design

# OPEN HOUSE

## The RGS in the 1930s

*In this final extract from his autobiography, 'Morning shows the Day: the making of a priest', Stanley Hoffman describes the RGS of sixty years ago.*

Though the Grammar schools were in theory 'selective', the scope of ability in the yearly intake was very wide, ranging from boys who would be capable in the final year of their schooling of obtaining University scholarships, to boys who would fail a number of 'School Certificate' subjects, later called 'O' (ordinary) Levels and now GCSEs.

Geography was a matter of learning the names of the rivers and mountains and cities from a map drawn in outline on the blackboard. The master, Sam Morgan, would indicate with a pointer a particular dot on his map and say 'what town is that?' or a line representing a river: 'what river is that?' then we would try to reproduce the facts in our exercise books.

Music was taught by a visiting master, F N Crute, who ran the school choir, to which I belonged. He did this very well and we were in demand at Christmas time in local churches and we gave a yearly concert in the Hall for parents and friends, but teaching in class was pathetic. The blackboard was used to teach us the tonic solfa and other basics, and gramophone records of classical music were used to help us pick out the distinctive sounds of the instruments of the orchestra, but we played no instruments, we were taught nothing about opera, nothing about the great instrumental and vocal soloists of the day, nothing of the lives of the great composers. We were not taken to concerts as children are today. We were not even given a list of musical terms so that we might know what 'allegro' or 'lento' meant, though I do remember his efforts to teach us about breves and semi-breves, minims and crotchets, quavers and semi-quavers. The idea of a 'hemidemisemiquaver' appealed to me, as one sixty-fourth of a semi-breve! I can still remember how badly behaved and unruly poor Mr Crute's classes were. Yet, like so many masters who could not keep order or interest us in their subjects, he was a very pleasant and friendly man who had not been taught how to teach.

We were taught English by W Bicknell who was well versed in his subject and later became a Headmaster. With him we studied Shakespeare – *Macbeth* in full, and bits of *Twelfth Night*, *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *Henry 4th Part 1*, and *King Lear*. This was an unusual and heavy programme and it did not make me 'hate' Shakespeare. There is one boy among my contemporaries who I am certain became a hater of Shakespeare. He was the one who in class reading had to say: 'Hark, I hear horses!' It came out as 'Ark, I 'ear 'orses!' Poor fellow. A Grammar School boy who dropped his aspirates? Yes indeed. Many did. He was teased unmercifully for years afterwards. The earliest text we studied was Chaucer's *Nun's Priests Tale*, then we did Wordsworth's *Sonnets* and Milton's *Odes*, and Keats and Shelley and the other classic poets. We all hated Spenser's *Faerie Queen*. Of moderns we were introduced to Masfield, but surprisingly not to T S Eliot. He had written *The Waste Land* in 1922 and *The Hollow Men* in 1925, and in 1930 *Ash Wednesday* which marked his conversion to Anglicanism. He had been, for a brief period, a master at the school, so we should have been introduced to his work.

Among the pre-Victorian and Victorian novelists (no others were studied!) we were introduced to Jane Austen, Thackeray, Dickens and the Brontës, George Eliot,

and Stevenson, whose *Travels With A Donkey In The Pyrenees* was a delight. But why were we not introduced to Hardy, Kipling, Wells, Galsworthy, or those who began writing in the twenties? – Priestley, Hughes, Huxley, Greene, all men, or the women of the same era – Bowen, Macaulay, Lehmann? And again, why no other dramatists of the modern age?

History has been one of my abiding interests and it was covered by Captain J C Milner TD. He was in charge of the Officers' Training Corps but had been too young, I think, to see active service in the Great War. He was a big man with heavy jowls and was nicknamed, not very originally, 'Tiny'. History then was a matter of dates and battles, Empires and statesmen. For us in the twenties and thirties it was chopped into blocks of dates, 1603–1649, 1789–1815, and was centred on great generals, politicians and prime ministers. Wars and treaties. Benn's *Sixpennies* were popular 'cribs' or handbooks because they summarised in a few pages all one needed to know about battles and prime ministers. Arthur Mee's *Children's Encyclopaedia* was a much maligned source of invaluable additional information. I used to claim that I got through English and History from reading and re-reading its articles.

During this time I became Vice Captain of my House, House House of all the absurd names! The School had only three houses for most of my time, East, West and House. Later, more sense prevailed, and names were given – Arnison, Disraeli and such like.

It was a very small sixth form in those days, not more than seventeen of us, of whom only four went to University. In the year before me, Frank Essex went to Reading University, and I was the first for many years to go to Oxford. The school had no proper Library in the 1930's and the sixth form met in what was called 'the Library'. Because of its connections with the Disraeli family, the most prominent books were large leather bound copies, dozens of them it seemed, of Benjamin Disraeli's novels, *Vivian Grey*, *Sybil*, *Coningsby*, *Tancred* and the rest. When a new Headmaster succeeded George Arnison, E R Tucker of Jesus College Oxford, the school expanded and improved greatly academically.

To the chagrin of two of my fellows who had come up through the School with me, Tucker made me Head Boy. I had no prowess at Games but I suppose I had been an efficient and loyal prefect and had a respectable examination record. Family who remember me at this time remark how ridiculous the school cap looked upon my head – we still had to wear school uniform and the cap, even at eighteen.

The Headmaster, Tucker, and I probably saw more of each other than most of my contemporaries because he tried in individual sessions in his study, to teach me Greek. He would also, surely an unprecedented thing for a Head to do in those days, consult me about people and happenings in the School. He would not at that time have been more than twelve years older than me, and he spent a large part of his time out of the school at various educational committees and meetings.

When I left High Wycombe to go to Oxford the Headmaster gave me a glowing written testimonial. He said 'you may read what I have said, but don't believe it!' I guessed what he meant. Humility has never been one of my virtues.

*Stanley Hoffman's 'Morning shows the Day: the making of a priest' is published by the Minerva Press, price £7.99, ISBN 1 85863 480 6.*



## Reunion

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An 80th birthday for Uncle Clyde,  
His family comes from far and wide,  
Some haven't even met before,  
As the relatives arrive at Uncle's door.

'Do come in' the host declares,  
As people meet with puzzled stares;  
'Who's he?', 'Who's that?' the whispers come,  
'Oh, that's Robert ... thingy's son.'

Nervous laughter, falsified smiles,  
As we queue for the food in single file.  
'Hasn't he grown?' and 'Isn't he tall?',  
Cry Auntie Betty and Uncle Paul.

How much longer must I hold this facade?  
They're meaningless names from Christmas cards.  
A fiver here, a fountain pen there  
Is all that they send me. I really don't care.

My cousin Martyn is violently ill;  
Poor old Uncle's window-sill.  
His stomach pains are something chronic;  
Excess glasses of Gin and Tonic.

The tension begins to fade away,  
As the sun goes down; the end of a day.  
But in the corner, beer by the side,  
Is a quiet and lonely Uncle Clyde.

By ten o'clock, the party's on fire,  
Just faint yawns as the children tire.  
The adults ignore them and carry on playing,  
'Bring back my youth' they seem to be saying.

But youth has gone for one old man;  
Final breath taken by empty beer cans.  
For the next time this family would collide  
Would be at the funeral of Uncle Clyde.

Andrew Fanko 11WT

## Mosi Oa Tunya

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A glistening veil of foam pervades the air,  
Raining droplets saturate the forest.  
Cascading waters crashing on rocks laid bare,  
Catapulted onwards, destined not to rest.  
Sunlight spears the spray, colours spilling  
Into dancing rainbows, they shute across its chasms  
Carved through time by waters ever forging.  
Curling downwards into tumultuous fathoms.

Majestic columns of frothing waters thrown  
From terrific heights that will never wane.  
One of the world's most beautiful natural wonders,  
For its amazing splendour and breadth renowned.  
Rushing, roaring waters that proclaim  
This is Victoria Falls: 'the smoke that thunders'.

Steven Brown 11H



*A Chinese cyclist collects polystyrene from a rubbish tip for re-use.*

## My Three Years in China: an Oriental Experience

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Life, as I knew it, changed considerably back in 1993, when I moved from a quiet country village in south east England, to one of the most crowded and polluted cities in the whole world: Shanghai, in the People's Republic of China. Why China of all places? Well, my father had been asked to set-up and run a new Ovaltine factory for the 1.2 billion people living in China. So, with the British pioneering spirit we went.

When we got there we quickly learned the meaning of culture shock. If we went anywhere we would be followed by curious Shanghainese. Many had never clapped eyes on a foreigner. They were especially fond of my 'lovely' red hair. We would also be pestered by illegal money changers who hung around the hotels. (At this time in China there were two currencies, RMB for the Chinese and FEC for the foreigners. FEC has now been abolished.) It was funny watching them scarper or look nonchalant, when a member of the gong-an (police) turned up.

While in China I went to the Shanghai American School. 49 different nationalities were represented at that school. I made a lot of friends there and they are now dotted all over the world. The expatriate population increased dramatically because the school had 252 pupils in '93 and 454 in '96 when I left!

Believe it or not there are 14-16 million people crammed into Shanghai. That is about half the population of the whole of England. Most people speak the local dialect of Shanghainese, but the country's official language is Mandarin. As you may or may not know China has a one child policy to combat its rapidly expanding population. So each child is treated like a little Emperor or Empress. The pressure to do well is enormous.

The special celebration times like New Year are very exciting. Fireworks are freely available to anyone and this is evident at festival times when the whole city seems to go crackers.

The Shanghainese eat some very exotic foods, and not just the things you can get at the local take-away. A walk through a market reveals an abundance of cheap, plastic bowls filled with bullfrogs, turtles, snakes, and scorpions all very much alive! They also have various other animal parts you wouldn't even dream of eating. The worst had to be chicken's feet. I won't go any further into that. I myself never summed up enough courage to try any of them, but



my father has had the 'pleasure' of sampling most of them, including drinking snake's blood. Not to do so would have meant 'losing face', which is of paramount importance in Chinese society.

If I ever wrote a guide to Shanghai the first rule would be: *Never, ever, get a public bus.* They are old, decrepit, and filthy. They belch fumes, and are usually so crowded people hang out the windows to breathe the so-called 'fresh air'. This leads me on to an expatriate gentleman, who on returning to the USA went for a routine medical check-up. He was told to stop smoking immediately, as the chest X-ray of his lungs was so awful. He had never smoked a cigarette in his life!

The most popular form of transport in Shanghai is the taxi. They are extremely cheap, and reliable if you speak the language.

The markets are one of the most interesting things about Shanghai. The variety of things to buy is amazing. Bartering for antiques and clothes was good fun. The rule is don't buy anything for more than half the starting price. I thought it weird that nearly all the china and antiques were Ming Dynasty.

**MARKET TALK**

- Top Quality  
Your Chinese is excellent!  
  
50 RMB
- Export Reject.  
– I know that wasn't English but I've no idea what you said.  
– I paid 10 for this and locals pay no more than 20.

**CONCLUSION**

After the initial culture shock, and the lack of sports, old friends, shops, cinema, television, and fresh air, I actually thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years in China, and was very sorry to leave. Zai jian (Goodbye!).

James Burke 8GA

**File Past**

*From the Wycombiensian of 1921:*

**THE WAR SAVINGS ASSOCIATION**

The R.G.S.W.S.A. commenced its activities in October 1916, under Scheme 2a of the National War Savings Association. Under this scheme the Association had a successful career for three years, when the interest began to wane, and Scheme 2a was changed to Scheme 7 in January 1920.

During the period, exclusive of the 'Feed the Guns' campaign, the amount contributed by the 274 members was £725 12s., representing 936 Certificates. The 'Feed the Guns' campaign resulted in the sum of £2068 11s. 3d. being invested in Certificates and War Bonds.

There remained £3 4s. 6d. in hand on the closing of the Scheme, representing unclaimed balances, which must be returned to the Secretary of the N.W.S.A.

After much licking of stamps during the first six months of 1920, the Association ceased its activities and was finally wound up, all interest having lapsed.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1933:*

**O.T.C. ANNUAL INSPECTION**

The Report of the Inspecting Officer reads as follows:-

**DRILL.**

March Past was well carried out. Arms drill good. Battle drill satisfactory.

**WEAPON TRAINING.**

Satisfactory. Leaders appeared to have had a good grounding and gave out their orders well.

**MANOEUVRE.**

Section commanders had good control of their sections. Field work was well and energetically carried out. Fire control and fire discipline good.

**DISCIPLINE.**

Good. The Cadets appeared keen and were well turned out.

**TURN OUT.**

Very good.

**ARMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Were in good order.

**RECOMMENDATIONS.**

The combined Armoury and Store-room is very small. It is strongly recommended that better accommodation is provided.

**GENERAL REMARKS**

A good Contingent. Unfortunately 2nd Lieutenant Eastman is leaving and so far Captain Milner has found no one to assist him. Training appears to be carried out on sound lines. A band has recently been started and gave a creditable show.

Dated at the War Office, July 14th, 1933.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1979:*

**THE R.G.S. BOVVER BOY CLUB, 1977/78**

This year the club has enjoyed an unusually full fixture list. Altogether 1977/78 has proved a not unsuccessful season and with a bit more experience in some positions and more height and weight in the second line of attack, the team could prove even more formidable in the coming years. As it was, the enthusiasm and aggression of our 1st team has paid high dividends, as our record shows.

Played 20; Won 18; Drawn 2; Lost 0.  
Casualties for 1077: Against 2.

The hardest of our matches was an away fixture at Old Trafford. The home side proved considerable opposition, with their speciality mob-attacks catching our less experienced team off guard. Nevertheless the match was an honourable draw with two casualties for each side; all occurring in the second half.

P.A. Kibasher (Capt.)

## Haiku: Kitchen utensils

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1. Once hot but now cold,  
Water flows, the button pressed  
And once more boiling.
2. The mixture is poured,  
The formation is now set.  
The solution's cooled.
3. Sparkling, shiny, sharp,  
Slicing shuddering dead friends,  
of the weeping cheese.
4. A turn of the knob,  
The face now glowing bright red,  
The dinner is cooked.
5. Like a J.C.B.,  
With its unique concave groove,  
Helps us during lunch.
6. Once open now closed,  
Its jaws clasped on a victim  
Power rips the top.
7. The screw pierces skin,  
The arms pull in unison  
And out the stop pops.

*Answers: 1. Kettle, 2. Jelly mould, 3. Grater, 4. Cooker,  
5. Spoon, 6. Can opener, 7. Cork-screw*

Jonathan Lamb 8CP

## Lost in the Jungle

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Darkness, a living incarnation of hell. Silence, a curse yet worse, for by now there would normally be a whole medley of noises spreading through the night as a wave upon which the mind may surf, or cower under in the realm of fear. For in everyone there is a darkness where no light can penetrate, and it is this darkness that drives men to become murderers and thieves, and to start wars, a blight from which there will never be release on this earth until the end of the world. There is something strange about the night. It is too quiet tonight, as if hell really has risen amid fire and brimstone, to take its rightful place, not of chaos or burning, but terror. For that is what I am now, terrified beyond belief. There is only so much fear that a man can stand before his inner darkness consumes him. It is the same with me. I am suddenly creeping through the vines, which clutch at me no longer, as if they know that I am now on the hunt, and must not be hindered. For my inner darkness had broken through my defences of sanity, leaving an empty body for it to occupy and use for its purpose. For the thing that has been hunting me all day is now the hunted.

How many hours of crawling through the jungle, I know not. But the area might as well have been a plain for all the notice I take of the trees. I do not, can not, feel the pain of a sharp thorn in my foot, now bare and raw, as is its partner, with yesterday's walking. I am an animal, whose basic instincts have taken over its soul and the lust for warm blood has become more valid in my mind than the qualms of conscience. Whenever I lift my head, I see visions

of the thing which has been following me, and which now runs from me, no longer a sentient being, but another animal living off instincts. Yet I knew what would happen, for if it was alive at daybreak, I would once again become the hunted, as my sanity returned. I knew. I would run its adrenaline supplies dry, until it could no longer run, except as futilely as a snail from a blackbird. However it, unlike a snail, had no shell and would not, could not, resist the pressure of my death grip. It would die a horrible death. All this I know, and yet can not catch it, try as I might.

I get to my feet, and run on after it. It is my only chance of catching it. Suddenly a clearing. The moon comes out, catching dust motes settling on the bush in which I suppose the thing to be hiding. A rustle. The dust motes rise from the bush. I know it is there now. Then a scream from behind. I turn in time to throw myself aside as the howling monstrosity charges past me. It knows it has missed, and that I am aware and dangerous, so it continues onto the bush where my opponent lies. Shouting I know not what, I throw myself at the creature, it must not taste his blood in its mouth. The prey is mine. There is a loud, sharp noise. My brain recognises it, but will not tell me what it is as the shape of the creature slumps to the ground. Then I know. It means danger. It means a gun. Now I know the nature of my prey. It is another human, but not like me. His inner darkness is weak, and easily overcome. Through my red vision, I hear the words, yet my ears will not let on to the brain exactly what they are. I throw myself to one side and stop. I think. The words register. 'And now you. Your turn to die', they say. So now he will hunt me with his gun, like a coward, will he? So he thinks that his technology can live up to nature's plan for animals and humans alike, to that substance called adrenaline, that runs in the blood of the hunted and the hunters, but not in humans in their normal state.

I remember once, when I was young. There were lots of people. It was a fair. There was a roller-coaster. I went on it. A long climb to the top, a downwards rush, screams, an upside-down loop, a corkscrew, adrenaline again. But that was nothing to this present work.

Suddenly I am afraid again. My darkness is receding. Then the moon disappears behind clouds and I know that I must finish it, must end this feud, and once again crave for this man's blood. I charge forward at him, lunging from side to side as he shoots again and again. Then I am on him, teeth on throat, and though they are not sharp, they cut his windpipe with sheer force. My hand, having strayed to my knife hilt, now recoils from the touch of that vile instrument that humans use to defend themselves. If ever man is savage, he should use the tools nature gave him. Doing so, I lash out with hands that are hardened into claws. As I strike out, I feel as if this has happened before, as if I am striking down the ages, as my animal ancestors had, centuries, millenniums ago. I know as I slit his wrist all the way round, that I have returned, and that I am now master of this jungle. And yet my life blood is almost spent, though I know it not. Two bullets have hit me, one in the arm, one in the neck. And I am dying, though I know it not. As I bathe my head in warm blood, the moon looks down in anguish and immediately hides herself again. For a split second my darkness recedes and I am alone, lost in the jungle. Then it completely conquers me, and as though on cue, I know that I must do this. I lift my head and howl. The clouds disappear, as though blown away by the force of this sound, and as I howl the second time, the moon shows her bright edge. As I howl for the last time, the moon is bright and full and I know I may die in peace. My soul will live to hunt these forests, it is eternally master of this tract of land that was intended for it, and the animals watching in hiding amongst the trees will not desecrate my body, or let

vultures land on it, but will obey all that I stood for, their inner darkness will conquer them too, and they will hunt any intruder alongside my spirit, and kill under the moon and stars.

Alistair McNicoll 10CO

## A Ballad

I don't like writing poems,  
I haven't got the time,  
To mix and rearrange the words,  
Just to make them rhyme.

I drag my pen across the page,  
In loops and lines and whirls,  
I don't like writing poems,  
'Cause poems are for girls.

I like to save the forests,  
And that is why I think,  
That poems are a waste of all  
The paper and the ink.

I showed my poem to a friend,  
He looked at me and said,  
'What the hell's the point of this,  
When poetry is dead?'

I don't like writing poems,  
I haven't got the time,  
To mix and rearrange the words,  
Just to make them rhyme.

Guy Griffiths 11WT

## Another Moment

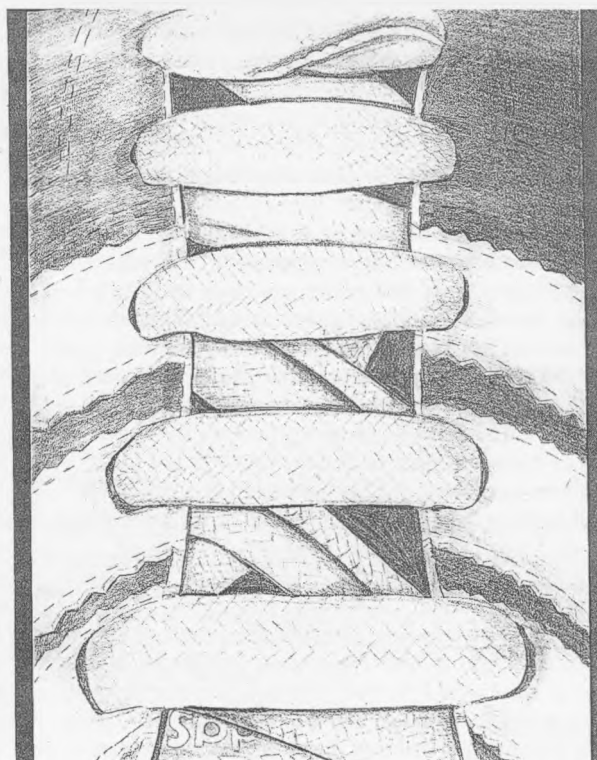
Another night another place.  
The tail ender of the week,  
Marked by fruitless travel,  
To find that pub or bar,  
Which we all covertly seek.

Another seat another pint,  
In just another house.  
And some unknown friends,  
Are lost in the throbbing crowd,  
Which, again, fails to arouse.

Another club another tune.  
Slabs of meat gyrate,  
Beneath 'tronic wizardry.  
Competing for that moment,  
For some eternity.

Another moment another time.  
The weekend feeling,  
Comes around again,  
Another empty evening,  
So go and find your own Eden ...

John Punter 6E<sub>1</sub>



Dominic Harris  
Year 10



# SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

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## Model Railway Club

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The club's first year under new management has gone very well. A completely new set of boards has been installed, and a large new layout has been laid. At present the control systems have not yet been completed, although we hope to complete this before long, as funding permits. We have successfully constructed our own workbenches, although most modelling of scenery is at present carried out at the members' homes.

Currently the club is full to capacity, especially now that our waist-high layout is using much of our floor space.

Sometime in the near future we hope to hold an exhibition, in conjunction with the Chiltern Model Railway Association. You may receive details of this event in due course.

Many thanks are due to Mr Lovell for his continued support throughout this year

Nicholas Lay 9J and Adam Scrivener 9J

completely incomprehensible, I found French TV quite entertaining. Watching 'Clark et Lois' (Superman) and whatever 'The Outer Limits' is in French, dubbed, successfully destroyed any acting talent that had existed previously, as all the long, staring silences were in the wrong places.

Weekdays were spent with the school group, and all the expected tourist sites were visited, including the Louvre, Notre Dame, the Musée d'Orsay, Montmartre and the Palace of Versailles. One new and improved visit was to La Villette, a newish science and technology park. We saw a film at La Géode, a spherical cinema, of a man's epic quest through the Alps after a plane crash. The picture was 180° wide, the sound of the highest quality ... but the film was a bit naf. The museum was a huge, new, expensive and possibly fashionable version of the science museum, only with more buttons to press.

The trip was enjoyable, successful and entertaining, and thanks to the leadership expertise of Mesdames Edmunds, Taplin and Cruz nobody ended up underneath a metro train. And we did learn *some* French.

Jonathan Kahn 10WP

## Year 10 French Exchange to St Germain-en-Laye

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After receiving our correspondents for ten days in England, 32 Year 10s (at least, that was the count when we got back) from the RGS and WHS travelled to St Germain in the outskirts of Paris for a ten day exchange. As soon as we arrived we met our French equivalents and spent the entire weekend with them. I, always one to make a good first impression, asked mine what we were going to do yesterday. At least I made an effort.

We had been told to watch as much TV as possible, as it would supposedly improve our French comprehension. This is possibly the only time in the history of the Earth that teachers have commended television. Although

## Osnabrück Exchange April 1997

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On Monday 7 April a group of Sixth Formers left on a mission to seek out the darkside (Germany). We were accompanied by around 20 Year Tens and 25 Ewoks from the neighbouring WHS who turned out very elegantly, sporting a wide variety of very tasteful 'Giorgio' tops.

On arrival we were greeted by our hosts, with whom we were to stay for eleven whole days!

Travels through the land included visits to Münster, Cologne and Bremen. Münster was a little on the cold side and adverse weather conditions prevented us from sailing the 'See'. However a Bratwurst was equally enjoyable.



*Collecting signs in shop windows in Germany.*

The lingo was improving slowly but surely – often we mistook fellow comrades (Benjy Meyer) for Germans! Rye bread, Würste and sauerkraut kept energy levels up, and Monday was our visit to Cologne – a three and a half hour journey! Jabba the hut (Harry) was a little confused as to where the cathedral was situated (one of the biggest in the world). He asked a lady ‘auf Deutsch’, ‘where is the cathedral please?’ He was standing five meters in front of the main entrance! Having found the cathedral, attempts were made to climb to the top – although some failed! On return from Cologne, Mr Wolton entertained a passing coach on the autobahn by placing a paper bag on top of his head and impersonating a dog like creature.

Tuesday was a day at school, where old acquaintances – ‘wahoo baby’ – were not forgotten! A talk from the Direktor of the Ratsgymnasium proved once again extremely interesting and worthwhile, and the rest of the day was spent in town, visiting various establishments.

The evening session – Eurodisco was a Great Success!! Dave Dunn particularly enjoying himself with something resembling ...?

The coach journey to Bremen was a lot to be endured, but Bremen gave us some pleasant weather – we stroked donkeys’ legs, looked at dead bodies and listened to bells being rung.

Friday was goodbye and possibly see you again. Our thanks to Mr Yeates and Mr Wolton.

The Sixth Form Germanists

## Parents’ Association

Founded by the previous Headmaster, Rowland Brown, there has been a Parents’ Association (PA) at the RGS for many years. What many readers may not know is the variety and extent of the contribution that the PA makes to the life of the school.

Every parent is invited to join the PA when their son joins the school and receives regular information about the work of the PA. Organised by a committee of 18 parents (3 representing each year of the school) the PA hosts a number of social and fund raising activities attended by parents, members of staff and occasionally boys as well. The social activities include a welcome wine and cheese evening for the parents of new boys attending the school, an Autumn Ball, a Christmas Party, a Quiz Evening (usually won by the staff!), a Barn Dance, and a Summer Theme Evening.

We constantly strive to improve each event and to look for new ideas. Other activities include a biennial Show Day (soon to be a Gala Day for Parents and Boys and Old Boys who would like to join in), a biennial Auction of Pledges, sponsorship of other school society events, and Treasure hunts, Car Boot Sales etc.

Other fund raising activities include a Christmas Draw, a ‘500’ club monthly lottery, and a Supermarket voucher scheme.

For at least the past 6 years the PA has raised an average of £18,000 to £20,000 per year. The funds are distributed according to the requests received from various clubs, societies and other projects which cannot gain funds from other sources. We try to ensure that the boys involved raised some funds through their own efforts which we then match or exceed. We also ensure that as many different causes as possible benefit from the funds we raise. To this end we provide the school with a new minibus virtually every other year. Here are some of the other donations made in the past year:

Stage refurbishment, curtains and rostra	£6,000
Old Master Prints (hung in School)	£400
Hymn Books	£2,000
Climbing Wall upgrade	£1,010
Romanian Orphanage Appeal	£230
Role Play Club	£50
Rowing Club	£600
Boarders’ Leisure equipment	£300
Basketball Kit	£200
Prize Giving	£350
Art Department	£700
Jazz Band	£500
Go-Kart Club	£600
Biology Department	£35

As with many other aspects of school life we couldn’t function effectively without the continuing efforts of the staff of the school Resources Centre who act as the focus for our communications with parents.

Eric Steenson  
Chairman  
RGS Parents’ Association

Thank you to parents and friends who have donated equipment, furniture, stationery and supplies during the year:

M. Atherton  
M. Handley – (McBRIDE PLC)  
D. Keating  
P. Mansell – (TANDEM SERVICES LTD)  
S. Lane – (BREPOLS LTD)

M.J.M.

## The School Chaplain

The School Chaplain runs a number of activities including Sixth Form Supper Parties and trips to a Christian Youth Centre on the Isle of Wight.

He is also available to any member of the school who wishes to talk to him either privately or in groups with other pupils.

## Sixth Form Supper Parties

All Sixth Formers are invited to join in these supper parties which are held every term. There is always a visiting speaker and a time for questions. In the Autumn term we met in the house of a parent in Beaconsfield. In the Spring term, Mr and Mrs Jamieson were our hosts. The speaker on both occasions was Steve Crabtree, Deputy Head of a large school in Hampshire and also an Anglican Minister. He spoke well on a range of issues concerning the Christian faith. First he had to face a barrage of jokes at his expense from Mr Ratcliffe. Steve Crabtree effectively returned fire later. Steve was comfortable fielding the many questions that followed.

A very pleasant buffet supper followed and everyone enjoyed the informal atmosphere. Both meetings were well attended by members of both Sixth Form years. Thanks go to the hosts of both evenings whose permission to use their houses we still suspect that Mr Ratcliffe did not obtain.

Rodger Heeley 6ER<sub>2</sub>

## Sixth Form Isle of Wight Trip

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On 17 February a group of Sixth Formers were scheduled to leave RGS at 9.30 am. Robert Ogden arrived at 9.45 am claiming that he could not find the minibus. (Robert lives within 200 yards of the school.) We set off and after 15 minutes Mr Ratcliffe managed to pull out onto the Amersham Road. The crossing from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight was 'ferry' pleasant (a joke which Mr Ratcliffe thought was extremely funny. He repeated it often!). We arrived at the Westbrook Centre in pouring rain. Chris Biggs thought it was perfect weather for a round of golf on Westbrook's well maintained excuse for a half decent golf course.

During the holiday we made good use of the ice-rink in Ryde and the Leisure Centre in Sandown. Whilst at the latter, Robert Ogden suggested that we took part in an aerobics class. This is when our complete lack of co-ordination was put on show. After being embarrassed by the locals and Mr Ratcliffe, many of us moved on to water aerobics. It was here that Mr Ratcliffe felt very much at home with fellow pensioners.

Everyone enjoyed the holiday and the evening sessions encouraged a great deal of team work. Discussion groups on a Christian theme were followed one night by an excursion to a bowling alley and on another by an elaborate, candle-lit, Indian supper.

Thanks are due to Garth Ratcliffe and Roger Pantridge for a successful holiday and to everyone else for mixing so well as a group.

Craige Makinson 6EC<sub>1</sub> and Chris Biggs 6ER<sub>1</sub>

## Year Nine Isle of Wight Trip

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It all sounded so convincing, during Mr Jamieson's RE lesson, when Mr Ratcliffe invaded to tell us that without a doubt, we were the worst form in the RGS. But the look of horror on the faces of the boys was met with a loud bark of laughter not normally associated with our usually straight faced and *sober* Chaplain. It was then that he informed us that he and Mr Jamieson were organising a trip to the Isle of Wight at the start of the summer holidays.

He told us that we had been invited on this trip to a centre run by the Crusaders, where we would be able to participate in many activities and excursions. We jumped at the chance and on the first day of the holidays we went off by coach to Portsmouth, and then boarded the hovercraft to Ryde where we would meet a bus to take us to our destination. After the journey and finding our rooms we could start our activities.

During our stay the weather was hot and sunny and we were able to go bowling in Ryde and went on journeys to the Black Gang Chine Theme Park and Sandown. Back at the centre we were able to play golf on a small course, go swimming, play football and enjoy a wide game. The centre was also close to the beach and we were able to go there to play football.

During the evenings there were short talks and discussions for about half an hour on various subjects connected with what a Christian believes, which stimulated some discussion. After the talks, it was on with games. These were usually of the silly but hilarious variety most probably thought up by Mr Ratcliffe but no doubt abetted by Mr Jamieson.

Thank you Mr Ratcliffe, Mr Jamieson and the three Sixth Formers for giving up part of your holiday to take us away.

We all enjoyed ourselves, and are grateful for the time that you gave up.

Richard Barksfield 10RS

## Benevolent Fund

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This report gives details of the fund for the year 1995/96 and the first two terms of 1996/97.

During 1995/96, £2,214 was raised. £817 went to the Romanian Fund and £117 to Marie Curie Cancer Care. Other donations (£200 each) were made to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Quest Cancer Care, Wycombe Special Care Baby Unit, Foundation for Children with Leukaemia, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Christian Aid. Letters of thanks were received from all of these charities.

The fund continues to be collected each Wednesday morning, and I am grateful to the form representatives who week by week 'chivvy' their form-mates and bring their contributions along. Between September 1996 and Easter 1997, the amount contributed has been £2,321, and the following gifts have already been allocated: £305 to Heritage House Special School (Chesham) for their hydrotherapy pool appeal, £106 to St Augustine's Church (High Wycombe) for their project for needy children in Nairobi, £300 to the Tanzanian project, £100 to Barnardo's, and £400 to the Marie Curie Fund. At the end of this term, the form representatives will vote upon how they would like the main fund to be allocated.

A glance at the records of the Benevolent Fund shows some interesting facts. Originally, it was levied at 1d per boy per week, and was a fund to help 'less-well-off children'.

The accounts for September 1966 – Easter 1967 show that the amount raised was £166 7s.11d. (ask the older teachers to translate and maybe help you to decide whether today you are more generous, or less).

C.S.H.

## Christian Union

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The CU's main purpose is for Christians to meet together in school, to grow in their relationship with God and to have fun at the same time. In September I began my time of leading this dynamic group and ever since I have been well supported by increasing numbers of enthusiastic Christians. Not only lads, but Mrs Hesslegrave has helped enormously by getting guest speakers to come and by providing lunch which ensures that our bodies are nourished as well as our spirits! We've had many outside speakers come to talk to us including a couple of people from the Toybox charity who help street children in Guatemala. Outside of school we have been to London to see two plays by the Marylebone Christian Arts Group. Soon, we will be starting up a CU library and this has been made possible because Gold Hill Baptist Church have given us a £40 book token to spend.

It has been a brilliant year and I would encourage Christians to come but anyone is most welcome to come along and sample the delights of Mrs Hesslegrave's Welsh cakes.

Daniel Flint 6HR<sub>1</sub>



## IT Centre

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This year has seen a quiet and stable year in the IT Centre, with much frantic planning going on behind the scenes. Our two-server system has been working well (although the older server likes to take an occasional break from duties). The best development has been a memory upgrade for all the remaining machines, so that we now run Microsoft Office the way Bill Gates intended, instead of watching the hour-glass for long stretches.

Hope for the future has appeared in the form of Language College status, and the first gift from the gods was a set of six Pentium workstations. Their main function is training and Internet development, but Sixth Formers in study periods can now get from 0 to 60 fairly swiftly.

The result has been an increase in serious academic activity, as well as the beginnings of an Intranet which may eventually take over the school. We didn't install two telephone lines in the IT Centre for nothing, and access is now regular, with our snappy pages (at <http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rgsgiwyc>) also being installed on the main file servers.

Negotiations for finance are (of course) in continual progress, but dramatic developments are imminent. The *plan* is to install a state-of-the-art, speed-of-light network in the new Language Building (bricks being laid around the new IT room even as I write), and connect it across to the Library block with a fibre-optic link. The *dream* is that the whole shooting-match switches to 100 megabit (tenfold increase in speed!) networking very soon. With as many new workstations as we can afford, we should then be running multimedia across the network, and Year Eight will be live on-line to California (or Holmer Green, if they prefer).

Thanks go, as always, to Mrs Briggs for her immense skill in keeping the whole thing afloat, and to our remarkably civilised users whose high-level talents are a delight to watch. When the new toys arrive I expect remarkable things to happen ...

P.M.A.G.

## Computer Club

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When I first encountered room 30, I laughed; how they could call it a computing lab was beyond me. All it consisted of was a room full of 286s and a 486 server running Novell 3.12. The years went by and a few 486s and even, dare I say, a couple of Pentiums arrived. Then came the 'pride' of the network, the speedy HP LaserJet 4M Plus printer.

Last year I became assistant network manager in the Lower Sixth. At that time rumours had already been circling as to the acquisition of some new 'equipment', but how much? Of what? And more importantly when? Mr Lovell, when questioned, would only say 'It may be some time'. After that things went quiet, that was until the start of this year. I arrived at the start of term to find a room full of 20 Pentium 100s each with 800MB hard drives and 16MB of RAM and with their own stand alone version of Microsoft Office 4.3. Then the server, a Pentium 166 with 64MB of RAM and two 4GB SCSI hard drives. Our hopes were dashed though, when Mr Lovell pointed out that there was still a 'No Games' rule. There was new software too, including Visual C++ (Microsoft and Borland), Visual Basic 4 and Visual Pascal as well as some CAD packages and Electronics tutors.

At this point the question arises 'what happened to the old equipment?'. In fact it has been transferred to

Mr Everett's Electronics Lab. With extensive work by both Mr Everett and Mr Lovell the Electronics Lab is now rid of BBCs and replaced with the old stations, providing greater flexibility. The year has gone smoothly with Michael Hazelden doing a good job as the assistant network manager. However, the new equipment did not just stop there. A SCSI tape drive and two SCSI 8x CD-ROM drives were added to the server as well as an uninterrupted power supply. A new flat bed 600dpi full colour scanner, HP ScanJet 4C Pro, and a digital camera also arrived. The operating system has been progressively upgraded to Novell 4.11 and even a copy of Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Server and BackOffice has recently arrived for the compatibility with the new language block. Could the future really be Microsoft?

Whatever happens, I wish to thank Mr Lovell for his running of the network and imparting all his knowledge. As he always says 'I taught him everything I know'. Good luck to Michael Hazelden and Mr Lovell for the next year.

Alex Moore 6CL<sub>2</sub>

## Philosophy Society

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Taking over from the firm foundations of Messrs. Crawford-Phillips, Nickols, Stattersfield etc., and aided with the strong guidance of Mr Gibson, the Philosophy Society progressed into its second, fruitful, flourishing term of office. It soon became apparent that the society would split into two factions: the Loony Left, led by the crazy James Johnson and Mad Iain; and the 'right' Right, comprised of everyone else.

Despite this, outstanding philosophy flowed fluently throughout, and some noteworthy talks ensued. The Philosophy Society broke out with 'War', instigated by Edward Hall. Controversy sparked when Mr Moffatt, under the supreme influence of the publicity chief, advertised Malcolm Devoy's 'scandalous' moral question, 'Is it all right to eat people?' Despite some apparent misgivings, it resulted in the highest attendance of the year. Other notable talks included Praag 'Ricki Lake' Tegala's 'Responsibility' talk which adopted a new American chat-show style approach, and his later 'Montel Williams' 'Freedom' debate, which achieved universal acclaim. The first talk given by the Loony Left was James Johnson's 'Does God Exist?' culminating in his famously blasphemous remark 'God is a Rabbit'.

A mental duel was fought between Edward 'Edwards' Hall, and Malcolm Devoy, on the traditional Relativism/Absolutism debate. Edward, although stating 'I refuse to have a battle of wits with an unarmed man', stood for relativism (until Malcolm gave up and demanded to switch sides, as a result of Hall's superb dialectical skills).

Mr Levin organised our only guest speaker of this year: Dr Martin Wilkinson, who spoke on the topic of 'Immigration/Emigration'. This entertaining talk gathered a large crowd.

After the successful guest speaker, the society began its 'philosophers on philosophers' series, commencing with a talk 'You're Gorgias' (the philosopher who tried to prove that nothing exists), followed by applaudable talks on Plato, Mill, Kant, and Descartes, the latter given by James 'Teddy Ruxpin' Louttit, the first talk given by a Lower Sixth former.

The year climaxed in the first ever Philosophy Society awards, 'The Neechars', which gave an enviable insight into the future of RGS's brightest philosophers. Among the

results were as follows:

Best Meeting: 'Cannibalism' by Malcolm Devoy.

Best Quote of the Week: 'Everybody should be able to sit down and discuss world dominations over a cup of tea and a Bourbon biscuit' by Praag Tegala in 'War'.

Best use of Diagrams in a Meeting: 'Equality' by Jon Hay.

Best upcoming Philosophical Lower Sixth Former: James 'Ted' Louttit.

Best Speakers: Malcolm Devoy and Praag Tegala.

Malcolm Devoy 6HK<sub>2</sub>, Edward Hall 6HK<sub>2</sub> and  
Praag Tegala 6ER<sub>2</sub>

## Music Society

The new RGS Music Society, formed last year to promote and encourage music at RGS at both summer school and professional level, has had an encouraging year. At the end of the summer term of 1996, it organised a highly successful outdoor musical extravaganza, complete with bar and barbecue, featuring the Jazz Band, and backed up with assorted contributions from the First Wind Band, a string quartet, a madrigal group, a barbershop group, and a 'Blues Brothers Megamix' as a grand finale, complete with costume and choreography. In November 1996 we welcomed the Holywell Ensemble, who provided us with a superb evening of late 19th/early 20th century chamber music. Sadly, the size of the audience did not do justice to the quality of the playing, or the occasion as a whole, which was hugely enjoyed by those present. In February, a pleasingly large audience welcomed the internationally renowned trumpeter Crispian Steele Perkins, who gave us an entertaining and brilliantly executed evening of trumpet playing and chat, demonstrating about twenty different trumpets, ranging from biblical types through to the various instruments used today. He preceded this in the afternoon with an excellent masterclass for some of the best trumpeters in the Wycombe area, including our own Kieran Shipley.

A huge thank you should go to the members of the committee, who have given their time and energy so unstintingly throughout the year. Thanks to them, the initial project of raising funds for a new grand piano in the Queen's Hall is well on the way.

T.P.V.

## Close Harmony

Yes, we do have our own report now! The Close Harmony Barbershop group began lethargically back in September but has moved from strength to strength since. With the introduction of our very own 'scatman' in Nick Heath, concerts never knew such toned entertainment. Jon Wood continued to sing better than all of us but that never stopped us pushing him to harmonize while we stole the tune.

The Lion Sleeps Tonight and Homeless were two of our more challenging pieces. Jon 'Basthandayo' Ling reigned supreme and Iain 'Crocodile Clips' Kyle hit falsetto with worrying regularity. Graham 'Barry White' Blackwell set a

firm bass while Mr V. formed a habit of smiling through the off-key improves! Next year will continue to produce surprises with recent recruitments such as Ross 'Typecast' Howlett hitting the scene. It's been brilliant fun and well done for remembering rehearsals everybody, and you Robin! Doo, doo, doo-wop.

N.A. Heath 6EH<sub>2</sub>

## RGS Jazz Orchestra – 'The European Tour'

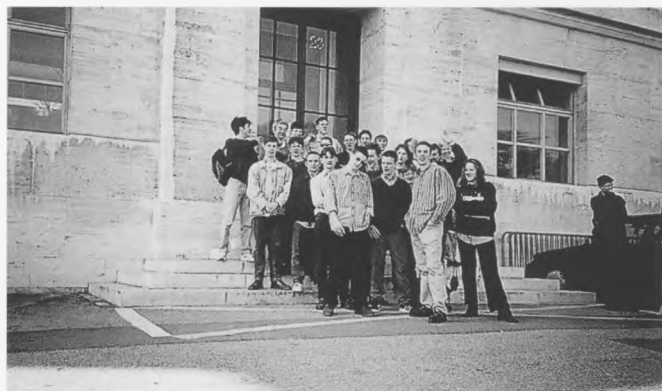
During the Easter holiday the nationally renowned Jazz Orchestra spread its wings on a tour of France and Switzerland to secure an international reputation, accompanied by the dulcet tones of the school singing group 'Singers Limited'. Following a twelve hour coach journey, with entertainment comprising videos, the hilarious coach drivers Roger and Aidey and a superb karioke rendition of 'I'll be there' by Ricky 'Bongo' Lawrence, we arrived at the youth hostel and location of our first gig in Thonon, France. The week's stay included various 'educational' excursions, rehearsals and four gigs in Thonon, Geneva, Evian and Geneva again. The large audiences enjoyed the show thoroughly, especially the skilful Conga performed by certain shy members of the band during the singer's section. The final gig was loved by the 450 International School Students and some of us learned the joys of having a fan club of 14 year old girls (just like Boyzone)!

Although the bus drivers soon became an integral part of the group, certain Concert Tours employees didn't, but this did not have too much of an effect on our enjoyment of the holiday. Patrick 'Ravanelli' Gazard and Tim 'Mr Muscle' Venvell did us proud, and we must thank Mrs Francis for looking after the female members of the group, Emma Williams and Vicky Boyle.

The standard of playing was superb, probably helped by the intensive regime, and some audience members left thinking we were a national band. The language barrier was successfully scaled with Mr Gazard using a Barry White voice and accurate translations by Matt Ginn, Ricky Lawrence and Jon Crompton on behalf of the singers.

Overall the tour was a huge success and a very good time was had by all. If you would like to hear the now internationally renowned RGS Jazz Orchestra we will be playing at the School Summer Concert and the Open Air Concert on 13 July. Thanks to everyone involved (especially the participants in the cricket match!).

Richard Lawrence 6SD<sub>2</sub> and Matthew Ginn 6BG<sub>2</sub>



*The Jazz Band storms the UN building in Geneva.*

## Music Report

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The Autumn Recital, the first school concert in several years organised without the help of William Village, went smoothly, slightly more so than the main concert of the term, 'Shades of Blue'. The highlight of the evening was Robin McKenzie's dazzling rendition of Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' – despite a late withdrawal and subsequent substitution in the orchestra ...

The Carol Concert was as rousing as ever, and Robin McKenzie was in the centre of things again when Jonathan Wood lost his voice and handed over his solo responsibilities. Also worth noting is that this year, the post-service hospitality was extended to the whole audience.

The Jazz Band, so often the highlight of our concerts, had to deal with the absences of the drummer and bass player in the Spring Recital. However, Mr Gazard was able to prove that he's not just a pretty face, by picking up his sticks, and the show went on (unfortunately England lost to Italy anyway).

As usual, several RGS boys were involved in the annual Orpheus Music Competition in March, including Philip Harris, Tim Jacks and Jonathan Wood who each won their respective classes. Oddly enough, Philip Harris (along with Robin McKenzie) was awarded Colours for Music a second time – a remarkable achievement!

Congratulations should go to the RGS Trebles for being asked to sing at the renowned Wooburn Singers' performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion in High Wycombe parish church. The following week, the joint WHS/RGS concert took place. The audience came from miles around to enjoy Elgar's elegiac cello concerto, beautifully played by soloist Patrick Watson. The other half of the concert featured a stirring performance of Mozart's Requiem as the combined choir and orchestra of Wycombe High and RGS raised the roof of the church. The whole evening was highly enjoyable and they were dancing on the streets of Wycombe late into the night.

RGS can rightly be proud of its Jazz Band who, after recording an album in the autumn, have been on a very successful tour to Lake Geneva and have now been asked to play the Royal Festival Hall on 11 July. This performance will be as prizewinners in the National Festival of Music for Youth, a contest featuring some of the best musicians in the country. The school's elite jazz group, 'The Jazz Seven', has also recorded an album and has at least ten professional bookings outside school for this summer.

Patrick Watson 6C<sub>2</sub> and Jonathan Wood 6EH<sub>2</sub>

## Medieval History Trip to Burgundy July 1996

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On Friday 20 July twelve students and two teachers set off from school. Our mission: to help with the restoration of a medieval chateau. The long journey through France included a stop to admire the cathedral at Reims. We finally arrived at the chateau on Saturday afternoon and were warmly welcomed by its owners, Monsieur and Madame Borsotti. Next morning, after a fascinating tour of the chateau, we set about constructing a stone pavement in the medieval style, to cover the whole courtyard from the keep to the gatehouse. As this took shape, we spread our attention to clearing a mass of rubble from the gatehouse. Most of us quickly got to grips with the tools, although the pick axes proved a problem for some. We were entertained

the whole time by our music system, and 'Clank' by Spooky became the anthem of the trip. It was fortunate there was electricity because although we brought some batteries, we found they had gone in no time.

It was not all work however. Evenings were spent enjoying a drink with the young French people in the village. We also managed to take trips to the town and to mingle with the delightful local people at their lake. Another pleasant afternoon was spent kayaking down a river, which helped develop a real group spirit.

Our main trip out involved a mini-pilgrimage around Burgundy, visiting an ancient hospice at Beaune and cathedrals at Autun and Vézelay. We also stopped at Cîteaux to look at the historic monastery where the Cistercian order was founded and still found time to indulge in a 'dégustation' much to the chagrin of the poor villager who was forced to let us all sample his finest bottles of red wine. Despite some scrapes, with Mr Claye's driving and a low fuel gauge causing scares, we completed a memorable 700 km round trip successfully.

We celebrated the last day by roasting a pig on a spit in the middle of the courtyard. This gave Mme Borsotti a rest after she had prepared delicious French cuisine every day. Owen Marshall had previously managed to coax the pig into bed and could not bear to watch us eat it. In the evening Phil Priestley entertained us with a fine acoustic performance of Blur songs, a highlight of the trip for everyone. It provided a recovery of esteem after he had fallen off a bar stool earlier.

The trip was well documented, filmed by Mr Claye with his own quirky sense of humour. Thanks go to Mr Roebuck for his safe driving which got us through the trip, and also to Mr Claye for his amusing array of hats.

Graham Stagg 6HR<sub>2</sub>

## Geography Field Trip April 1997

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We should have realised beforehand that after a few weeks of brilliant weather, it was bound to be useless during our field trip to Dorchester where we were outside for a lot of the time. It was!

Although the conditions were quite tough over the weekend (it rained all day Friday and Saturday), everyone seemed to cope well and made the most of it.

Our activities over the weekend were varied and included looking at a sand dune complex at Studland and a shingle beach at Chesil. After being chased across a field by a herd of cows, we also had to spend time standing in a river and collecting data. This was supposed to involve among other things, the throwing of an orange into a river and being caught somewhere downstream in order to measure the speed of the river but it actually involved the throwing of the orange at the other people in your group until it burst. Just a note to next year's group: waders protect you from the water better when NOT filled with water, as was discovered by Neil Luscombe who could not understand why he got his feet wet.

I am sure everyone who went will join me in saying a big thank you to Miss Outhwaite and Mr Pantridge for putting up with us over the weekend and for making us get up at 8.15 on a Sunday morning. Cheers!

Trevor Hall 6E<sub>1</sub>



## A Year Out After 'A' Levels – With GAP in China

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I have decided to take a year out between 'A' Levels and university because it would probably be the only time I will have to travel the world.

My interest in the GAP organisation, as a vehicle to allow me to take a year out, began last September when I attended a 'Year Out' day at the Wycombe Library. There I spoke to a representative of the GAP Activity Projects. GAP is a charity organisation that sends students all around the globe, teaching English, helping the disabled and assisting in other activities. A placement in China particularly appealed to me and this was the first of my 5 choices on the application form. I was delighted to be one of 32 chosen for China, out of 300 applicants, following my interview at GAP House in Reading. The interview itself was conducted by two people who asked questions about my life up to date, my knowledge of China and why I was a suitable candidate for such a placement.

My placement with other GAP volunteers will last for 5 months, teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) at a pilot training college near Guangzhou, South China. I shall be undertaking a 4 day TEFL course in London, after my 'A' Levels, before taking off for the Far East in September. Part of the package which I will receive from GAP is an open-ended travel ticket and insurance which will allow me to see as much of the world as possible after my placement has finished. All in all, a very exciting year ahead!

Adam Stanton 6SE<sub>2</sub>

## Work Exchange to Kelkheim, Germany

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A group of five Sixth Formers went to Kelkheim in Germany to do a work exchange. The trip was recommended to us by Marcus Pilgerstorfer who had taken part in the exchange the previous time and also joined us on this year's trip. Kelkheim is twinned with High Wycombe, therefore there were already the links in place for us to find work placements. Each of us had an exchange partner in Kelkheim who will visit us in July. We were to work in German companies where very little if any English was to be spoken. All our placements were suitable as to what we felt we wanted to be in the future. Two of us were placed at a lawyer's firm, one at a bank, one working in an office shadowing the father of his exchange partners, and one working in the export office of a large pharmaceutical company.

The time at these work placements was hugely beneficial in terms of our being totally immersed in a foreign language and society, and in seeing how people operate in a different working environment. Added to this were the benefits from living with a German family for two weeks, who were all very friendly and accommodating. Socially it was good as Kelkheim was quite a large town with a large variety of things to do in the evening, from playing pool to going to the cinema. Also it was easy for us to go out independently from our families as we all lived quite near to each other and Marcus had been given a car for his own personal use. At the weekend we were able to go to Frankfurt, a large town about thirty minutes' train journey away.

Overall the trip was very enjoyable and is highly recommended to all those doing German at A-Level and those who have done it at GCSE. It is great fun and is

extremely helpful, both in improving your German and in showing you what a different working environment can be like. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

David Haynes 6LY<sub>1</sub> and Daniel Jorgensen 6LY<sub>1</sub>

## French and Spanish Work Experience

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As I am studying French, Spanish and Economics, I thought it would be interesting and very relevant to undertake work shadowing abroad, and it proved relatively easy to arrange two placements.

I spent part of February half-term in an office in Paris, shadowing the marketing director of a division of an international company which supplies chauffeurs and limousines to the French government, visiting dignitaries and top media personalities. I was involved in putting together a presentation dossier for the company's international clients and to do this, I used the French version of 'Windows 95' which was an experience in itself. I was also included in manning the company's stand at a tourist exhibition held at the Louvre.

For my second placement I went to Marks and Spencer in Valencia for a few days at Easter. I shadowed the assistant manager, and was included in his meetings, negotiations etc. which were conducted in Spanish. I was involved in the annual Head Office audit visit and presentation, which went very smoothly. I was encouraged to offer my ideas and comments and the management was very friendly and accessible. It was very interesting to see behind the scenes of such a 'household' name.

These two diverse experiences have shown me that it is a very interesting option for a linguist to work in international business.

Oliver Pearson 6LM<sub>1</sub>

## Young Enterprise

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This year's Young Enterprise company, Horse Power, began with great enthusiasm and a group of 19 'Achievers' was formed.

The group decided to manufacture rolled candles as its main product but also made calendars and speciality cards, and set up a trade-in shop for the exchange of books, CDs and video games.

The company raised £190 in share capital and made a small profit before tax. Unfortunately VAT had to be subtracted from this total, making a small loss. The company was left with £20 worth of closing stock.

The production team was active and the procurement of raw materials was never a problem. Due to the poor turnout at the last of the craft fairs demand was less than expected, leading to an excess of candles which the company 'Achievers' were unable to sell privately before the closing date.

Despite the disappointment of the final loss the general feeling of the group was positive and all 'Achievers' felt they had learned much about the running of a business.

The company went into liquidation as of 19 March and is currently calculating share returns. As Managing Director I would like to thank everyone involved in Horse Power, especially our expert Advisor from Axa Equity and Law.

Rodger Heeley 6ER<sub>1</sub>

## Astronomy Club

Since being set up two years ago as a club after school, usually ending up talking about something completely irrelevant, this year it has exploded into action and the membership has doubled in size. Thanks to the help of Mr Glendining we are now taking a GCSE in Astronomy. This should give the hopeful future astronomer a head start and lead to living in Hawaii earning a six figure sum!

The GCSE needs observation for course work, and so we have had success watching the partial eclipse and the comet Hale-Bopp, using the club's 8 inch reflector telescope. Soon we should be able to produce good, clear pictures after we have had some experience.

The members will be taking the GCSE in May 1998 and anybody wanting to join is welcome. Members usually meet on the Physics floor on Monday at 3.40 pm for 50 minutes, so why not come along or talk to me, the Club President, or James Larkin, the secretary?

David Anderson 10CO

## The Environment Group (TAA)

A group of year 10s met in the autumn term undertaking a wide variety of activities at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, and locally with Wycombe District Council Ranger, Ian Butterfield, including dead hedge laying, dormouse nest boxes (construction), path laying, herb garden construction, and fencing. A plan has been produced for financing and creating an Environmental Area within the school grounds towards the bottom of Uplyme field, but this will require continued managing and adult recruitment as well as a TAA volunteer team to put it into action.

T.J.N.C.

## Video Unit (TAA)

This continues in the spring and summer terms having acquired a second hand editing machine. Shooting is easy. It is editing that takes the time and expertise.

T.J.N.C.

## Chess Club

It has been another active season on the chess board. The 1st team has certainly done well in Division 2 of the Bucks League and could well gain promotion to Division 1. The 2nd team has had a number of very keen young players who have learnt a lot this season. The *Sunday Times* team did very well indeed to reach the Final of the Zone and draw 3-3 with Haberdashers', one of the strongest teams in the country, only to lose the match on board count.

None of the four Junior teams has performed with real distinction this year. I hope that some of the players will show more commitment next season.

Half colours have been awarded to Ashley Cox and Praag Tegala.

Andrew Bentall 6SD<sub>2</sub>

My profuse thanks to Andrew Bentall for all he has done for the Chess Club over many years, and also to Ashley Cox, 2nd team captain, and those who have helped run the Chess Club and the Inter-Form Competitions. My thanks

too to Mrs Smalley for encouraging and coaching the young players.

I.R.C.

## School General Election 1 May 1997

Total no. of boys registered = 1,005

Total no. of staff registered = 109

Total number of boys voted = 714 = 71%

Total number of staff voted = 26 = 27%

Percentage of total electorate voted = 66%

Result (Valid votes cast)

Thomas Bennett (Labour) = 100 (13.9%)

Jonathan Crompton (British Sovereignty Party) = 20 (2.8%)\*

James Darbyshire (Referendum Party) = 37 (5.1%)

James Johnson (British Asylum Party) = 265 (36.8%)

Nicholas Lay (Conservative) = 176 (24.4%)

Tom Payne (Liberal Democrats) = 122 (16.9%)

\* = lost deposit.

*Commentary*

As usual, the silly party won (but with a much smaller share of the poll than usual), and as usual was chased home by the Conservatives, followed by the Liberal Democrats. The key feature was the relatively narrow gap: Labour (previous best 17) gained 100 votes. 215 members of the school chose to vote in the Newsround national poll for schools electronically.

T.J.N.C.

## Biology Field Trip

On the morning of 21 March, 43 (enthusiastic?) RGS Biology students and two members of staff set off on the long journey to the Drapers' Field Centre, Betws-y-Coed in North Wales. There they were to spend six intensive days learning practical ecology skills and theory.

The bulk of the teaching was field based with daily excursions to sites of special interest such as polluted streams, rocky shores, oak woodland, sand dunes (a National Nature Reserve) and upland conservation areas.

Practical skills learnt included sampling techniques for the four different environments studied. Back in the field centre work included statistical analysis of the data



*While Stephan Yogic flies up the mountain, the rest of us walk.*

collected and lectures on the theory behind ecology. A day was spent studying conservation issues in the United Kingdom today.

Whilst extremely tiring, the week was thoroughly enjoyable and all the students returned feeling that they had gained a valuable insight into the study of ecology.

We would like to thank Mrs Catling and Dr Philpott for organising the Field Trip and for accompanying us.

James Yates 6BW<sub>2</sub> and Martin Coster 6MBE<sub>2</sub>

## Kart Club

The many changes to teaching Design and Technology have meant a considerable reduction in our karting activities, and for the first time in many years we did not come home with any trophies last season. The School is running one kart, currently driven by Dominick O'Connell and Mark Breakspear (Y9), using the ultra reliable Honda four stroke engine with a number of 'old' boys preparing and racing their own outfits. Craig Saunders 6<sub>1</sub>, James Blanch 6<sub>1</sub> and Chris Smart 6<sub>2</sub> all entered the very fast and expensive class 8. Peter Shaw 6<sub>1</sub> runs his own class 9 125cc kart but for various reasons it has spent much of last and this season in his father's workshop!

A very generous donation from the PA means we can afford a good quality rolling chassis to mate with one of our two existing Comer engines. This will mean another three driver vacancies in the near future and I shall be looking to recruit some light and fast Year 8 pilots.

We are now on the Internet via the School web site, giving information about current meetings and race results.

C.W.H.

## Jeremy Paxman Society

The Paxman Society continued with another successful year, with more speakers than ever before. Our first was George Walden, former Minister for Higher Education, who gave an enlightening talk about the crisis in our education system.

The spring term had two themes of talk. Dr Roderick Jaques gave a speech about the health of the Olympic team in Atlanta, followed by Will Matthew, who swam the Channel one day, cycled Dover-Birmingham the next, and ran a Marathon the day after!

The election campaign soon took over. The three main local candidates were invited to rally support for their parties and to answer questions. This all led up to one of two mock elections in the Summer Term. The first, held by 'Newsround', and conducted over the Internet, proved to be a Conservative landslide, but they didn't do as well in the internal mock election, which was won by James Johnson and his British (lunatic) Asylum Party.

Breaking away from election fever, Mr Levin invited the Hon. Mrs Justice Arden DBE, chairman of the Law Commission, who gave an informative talk on modernising the law.

Nicholas Langdon 6AT<sub>2</sub>

## Stage Lighting and Sound

The year got off to a slow, but none the less, good start, with the new members of the team settling in well. The usual array of concerts and general functions flowed well with few problems. There was even a purchase of two brand new lanterns, Pin Spots. The fact that they looked like a baked bean can with a bulb in was beside the point. They serve their dedicated purpose, namely lighting the mirror ball. We also acquired a nice new heavy duty mic stand and goose neck, and even a whole new set of rostra and curtains.

Then ... the play. 'A Shakespeare, piece of cake' we thought. That was until we spoke to Mr Gazard, the director, who has a very vivid imagination. Luckily for us, Mr Everett designed the lighting rig, but that was where the help ended. The appropriate members of the team were issued with scripts and battle commenced. The first rounds, rigging, went well with all the equipment being set up smoothly. Thanks at this point must go to the riggers who proved invaluable. Then the technical weekend. First a long Saturday, sans actors, of wondering what we'd let ourselves in for. Then Sunday, 8:30 was an early start, but we wanted to be ready when the thespians arrived. When everyone was assembled there was a pre-tech meeting and we were off. That was until we needed to dim the house lights, the first cue. Ross Aitken fumbled at the first hurdle when cued for this simple task. However after Mr Everett calmly demonstrated the correct operation, we began.

Mr Gazard raced through the first half and all was going well by the first break. That was until problem number one. Sitting on the front of the stage I was supervising repatching of colour wheels, when the cry of 'Smoke's coming out, ah!'. Oh dear I thought, as images of a burnt out school flashed through my mind. However, after a lengthy exchange of expletives with Daniel Haworth (colour wheel controller) Mr Everett arrived to save the day, and had the wheels up and running within the hour. So, second half, a breeze, that was until problem number two. While shuffling papers Nick happened to tap the 'Break' key on the computer control system, losing all but the raw cue states, the whole day's work ... gone. After a few minutes of panic, I informed Mr Everett and we stopped for an hour and a half while we speedily reprogrammed. A full run through progressed in the evening, with amazingly few problems. And that was it, until one channel on the dreaded pack number three started sparking. At this point thanks must go to the now demi-god Anton Machacek, who during a brief visit traced and fixed the problem (which has stumped the team for the last three years). After that the show went smoothly. Thanks to all those involved including: David 'Cans Silence Please!!!' Green – Stage Manager, Mark 'Sound Man' Jones – i/c Sound, Adam 'Alice' Burroughs – i/c Gallery, Andrew 'Lard' Stone – Cans, James 'I have a sister!' Larkin – Deputy Stage Manager and Michael 'Honorary Member' Hazelden – What did you do Michael?

David Green and David Walker take over next year. We're sure that they will be competent prefects and wish them the best of luck.

Thanks, as always, go to Mr Everett and Mr Moore, for providing us with experience and knowledge in return for little or no return for themselves.

Nick Langdon 6AT<sub>2</sub> and Alex Moore 6CL<sub>2</sub>





*At White-Taylor's it's service with a smile – whatever the weather.*

## Tuck Shop Report

This academic year has been a big one for the tuck shop. Not only has it seen two of our most successful promotions (with their natural consequence of handing out large prizes to many many customers) but also the launch of 'White-Taylor's On-Line Tuck Shop' on the Internet and the processing of our first international order. This achievement made front page news in the *Bucks Free Press* on 22 November 1996.

Christmas was celebrated in style with our 'Right Fine Pud' promotion. This took the fun of the festive season and the chance to win giant rewards and crammed them into two action packed weeks at the close of the autumn term. At Easter Helga, our mechanical prize egg-laying hen, aided customers in the winning of more prizes than ever before. Mr White-Taylor, the manager, later said 'The promotions were very good indeed. We like giving away prizes and there has been a lot of that going on. I would like to congratulate all winners and thank all who took part'.

The tuck shop wouldn't be able to run without the unfaltering dedication of many people. This year the sales team consisted of Mr Derek White-Taylor (manager), Marcus Pilgerstorfer (assistant manager), Richard Lawrence, Hormoz Ala, Lee Biddle, Tim Palmer, Andrew Hutchings and Matthew Locke. On the door were Alex Haynes, Nick Langdon and Martin Farmer. With this having been my last year, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr White-Taylor for putting up with me for so long and for all his hard work and extra hours he regularly puts in so that the shop functions so smoothly each and every day.

White-Taylor's remains a confectioner of the very highest quality selling only the world's finest products. We would like to thank all patrons for their custom and wish you all a very pleasant summer holiday.

Marcus Pilgerstorfer 6LY<sub>2</sub>

## Year 8 Inter-Form Football

The six form teams were split up into two groups of three. The first group had 8C, 8CP and 8GA in it. The second group had 8GL, 8H and 8W. All the teams in each group played each other once. The winners from each group played each other, the second place teams from each group played each other and the losers from each group played each other.

In the overall winner's final 8C beat 8H 5-0. In the third place final 8CP beat 8W 6-3 and in the fifth place final 8GA beat 8GL ... The winners of the competition were 8C, second were 8H, third were 8CP, fourth were 8W, fifth were 8GA, and the sixth and final team were 8GL.

It was good fun, but still quite hard work. A lot of forms were playing for fun, but many for their pride!

Rory Morrin 8W

## Senior Culture

This season's choice of visits continued the tradition of being informative, amusing and enjoyable. The performances were pleasingly diverse and all to the highest standards, characteristics we have become used to over the past years.

The first visit of the season was to see Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya'. The strong cast (including Derek Jacobi) and the simple but appropriate scenery lent itself perfectly to providing the atmosphere suitable to this masterpiece. Jacobi as Vanya skilfully portrayed the character, combining Vanya's darkly serious side with the triviality and pettiness caused by years of frustrating and unchallenging work. Vanya became believable and alive. The rest of the cast were successful in demonstrating the fraught and strained relationships and the circumstances and beliefs that inevitably push Chekhov's characters to the state of anguish. The perceptive and ironic humour of the work was played up, adding to the demonstration of the frustrations and pain of the characters.

Later in the Autumn term we saw *Rigoletto* at the Wycombe Swan, a witty and lively performance with an interesting set. The next trip was not until the last half of the Spring Term when we went to see the film 'Shine' in London after a quick visit to the National Gallery. The film, the true story of an Australian pianist, was enjoyed by all. The biography was amusing, tempered by sympathy and sadness which was accompanied by superb music and wonderful acting. No stone was left unturned in building up the troubled character of the musician; from first to last we understood and felt for him.

The final trip of the season was to see the much acclaimed play 'Art' at Wyndhams Theatre in London. We were privileged to have good seats in the stalls, the same evening that both Rory Bremner and John Cleese were also in the audience. This recent play was brilliantly written and acted. It portrays the deterioration of the relationships of three friends which was brought to a head by the purchase by one of them of a totally white painting for a small fortune. The reaction to the work of art causes a collision in the relationship as all their concealed prejudices, resentment and beliefs surface and meet, demonstrating full realisation of conventional social solipsism. The play was extremely amusing – hilarious in places and perfectly timed. It asked important questions about modern art and our perception of the identity of others.

All the members of Culture are extremely grateful to Mr Mitchell, Mr Cowburn, Mrs Frost and Mr Keysell for organising the trips.

Ben Wilson 6C<sub>1</sub>



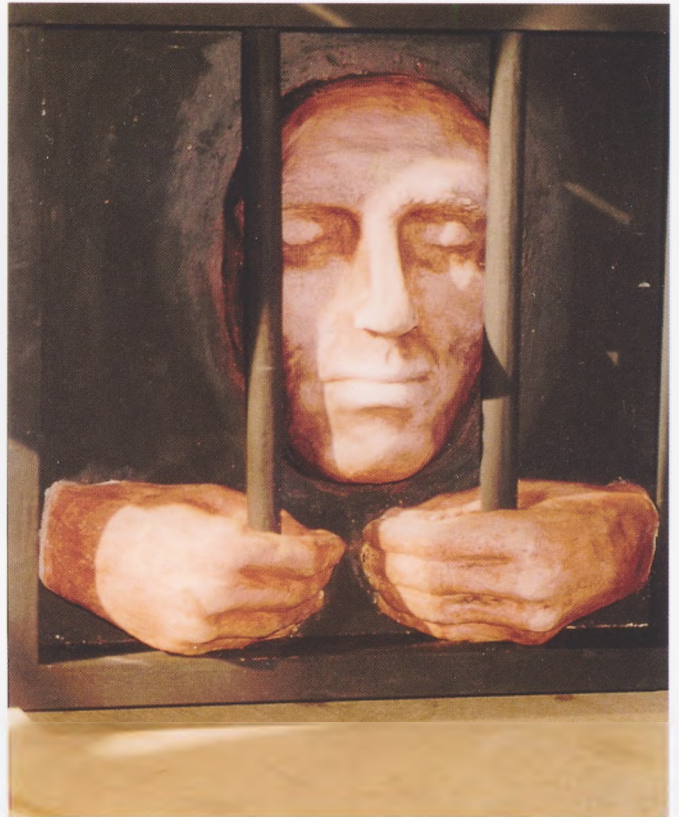
*Now for that pound of flesh ...*

## The Merchant of Venice

'Shakespeare still has a place in the nineties,' said the Director on the Last Night. His production was cogent evidence (if any were needed) that this is true. A talented and energetic cast who delivered their lines with total assurance and great clarity, originality and imagination in the staging, superbly effective lighting, and well-chosen incidental music all combined to enthrall and entertain four highly appreciative audiences.

In Patrick Gizard's hands, the action was never confined within the traditional proscenium arch. An apron stage on various levels was created using the new Queen's Hall rostra. Rapid switching between Venice and Belmont was made possible by using different acting areas, delineated by curtains and lights and signalled by music (of which more later). Actors came and left by every available door in the hall. The trial scene was a *tour de force*, with actors at three different levels: the onlookers high on a scaffold above the stage, the defendant and the judge at normal stage level, and the learned counsel for the prosecution and defence thrust out in front, almost in the audience. The tense, climactic moment of the attempted taking of the pound of flesh, caught in sharp silhouette against a blood-red background, left the audience holding its breath.

The character of Shylock is the key to any contemporary interpretation of *The Merchant*. If the play's view of him is seen as stereotypically anti-Semitic then the horrifying events of the middle of this century have added a resonance far beyond anything that Shakespeare could ever have dreamt of. Clearly we can no longer accept Shylock as the



*Rhys Holdaway  
Year 11  
"Clay sculpture"*



*Rodrick Griffiths  
Year 8*

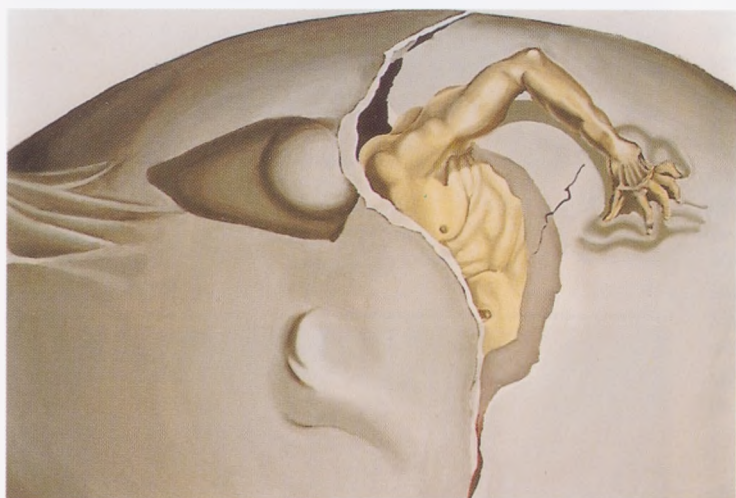


*Christopher Davidson  
Year 12*

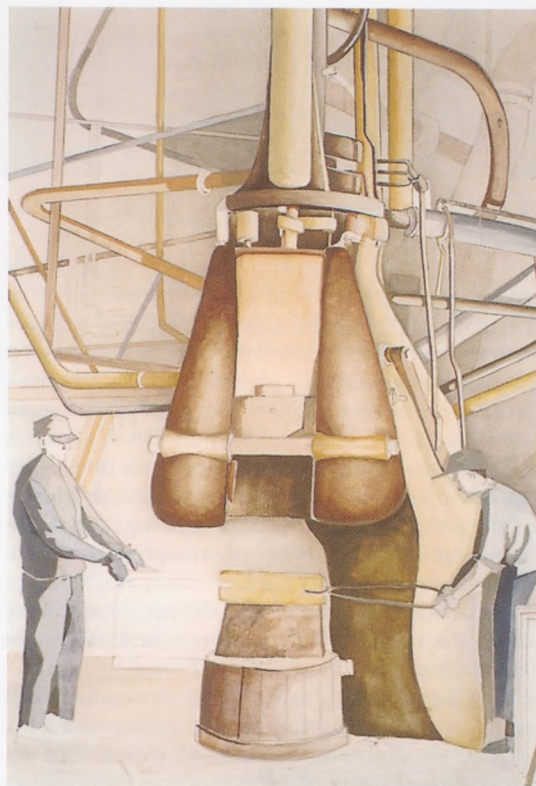




Lynton Pepper  
Year 13



Adam Stewart-Wallace  
Year 12



Alex Durell  
Year 13



Nathan McConnel  
Year 13





*Lynton Pepper  
Year 13  
'Plaster sculpture'*



*Dale Batham  
Year 12*



*Lynton Pepper  
Year 12*



*Jon Hay  
Year 12*



*Lynton Pepper  
Year 13*



pantomime villain, whom we boo and hiss at every appearance, as the groundlings at the Globe might perhaps have done. Perhaps we should see him rather as a foil to the dark side of the Christian characters, in a society in which there is ultimately no right and wrong, just winners and losers. In this production, Graham Blackwell's Shylock was the prosperous merchant banker, with big desk, lap-top and anglepoise – there was a nice bit of business using this in the money-lending scene, when it was turned, interrogation-style, upon Antonio. A proud man, the outsider who has made good against the odds, full of controlled rage, his tirade against his maltreatment in Venice never became a rant. His dignity made the jibes of the young Venetians seem merely snide and puerile. We could sympathise. We could almost overlook his priggishness and his selfish dismay at the material losses that came along with the loss of his daughter. Thus the casual callousness and hollow triumphalism of his humiliation at the end of the trial left us as sorry for him as we were glad for Antonio's salvation.

The male leads were all sharp-suited (or, in Gratiano's case, lime-green-suited) young men about town. Jon Crompton's Antonio was convincingly noble. (The unfortunate accident which left him limping with a walking-stick for three out of four nights in no way detracted from his performance; indeed, if anything, it added a certain *gravitas*.) Bassanio, who can seem a bit wet, was given the full *matinée-idol* treatment by Robin McKenzie, and emerged as a man capable of inspiring both loyalty unto death in Antonio, and swooning passion in Portia. Ross Howlett's lovably roguish Gratiano nudged and winked his way into Nerissa's affections – their scene in dumb-show was a very amusing idea, carried off with great verve.

From the moment that Sophie Garland's Portia appeared, hair wet from the shower, it was clear that this was a young woman of the nineties. She commanded the stage: a lady of independent means, knowing her own mind, no mere victim of her father's perverse sense of humour, not afraid to show her feelings, but almost openly contemptuous of her aristocratic suitors while staying just within the bounds of politeness. Her transformation to 'wise judge' involved no great stretch of the imagination; only the cross-dressing, essential to the plot, seemed anachronistic. Bassanio was on his knees before her in the last scene, and one could well suppose that it might not be for the last time. Nerissa appeared as friend and confidante to Portia rather than mere maidservant. Amy Miller made the most of her



David Miller  
Year 12



Lewis Proudfoot  
Year 8



James Locke-Hart  
Year 13



*'Is it my line or yours?'*

smaller role, in the same vein as Portia, taking the lead in the relationship with Gratiano, and gently relishing his come-uppance at the end.

Alex Thomas, bearing an uncanny likeness to a well-known ex-D.J. (I sincerely hope that that hair is not copyright) was hilariously manic as Launcelot Gobbo. His first surprise appearance through the curtains, at a seemingly impossible height, head and shoulders only in the spotlight, with his friend (or should that be 'fiend'?) Gordon the Gopher was another of the production's deftly witty touches.

In the casket scenes Robert Bowen (pompously noble as Morocco) and James Wood (arrogantly posturing as Arragon) were gorgeously costumed skittles to be knocked down.

Among the large supporting cast, Fred Guttfeld and Dale Batham threw themselves with great gusto into the parts of Salerio and Solanio. Edward Arnold was suitably gruff as the Duke. Chris Gurney made the most of his cameo as Old Gobbo. It was also good to see so many juniors in 'spear-carrying' roles: their turn in the limelight will come.

As for the incidental music, the choice of brash, busy John Adams and dreamy Debussy to symbolise Venice and Belmont respectively was most effective; and the floating soprano saxophone in Philip Glass' *Façades* coupled with beautiful lighting made the moonlight scene magical for the sensitive playing of Chris Lambert and Sarah Jarvis as the two young lovers, Lorenzo and Jessica. The poignant setting by the Director of 'Where is fancy bred?', exquisitely performed by Jonathan Wood, Iain Kyle and Adrian Breakspear, was not allowed to be the show-stopper it deserved to be. The expertly executed original fanfares (also by PDG) suitably punctuated the casket scenes.

The Lighting and Sound Teams, led by Nick Langdon and Mark Jones respectively, and directed by Russel Everett, did their usual immaculate job, as ever concealing the immense amount of work involved in designing and setting up the rig by flawless operation of it. Rob Stevens' bold and effective set has already been described. David Green was Stage Manager; and a highly efficient team led by Diana Hazard dealt with props and some frighteningly rapid major scene-changes in full view of the audience.

This was a first-rate production, in the long and noble RGS dramatic tradition. Space precludes mentioning everyone by name, but all involved, in whatever way, should feel proud of what they achieved.

J.P.E.

## Uplyme House

The Uplyme boarding house had a major clear-out at the end of the last academic year; since September 1996 it has housed 12 (sometimes 13) Year 8 boys, and 4 (sometimes 5) Upper Sixth Formers. Indeed, even the housemaster has changed.

The house was therefore new to all but two of the Sixth Formers and the Residential House Tutor, Mr Edwards. There was no doubt trepidation all round as the new academic year and, for most of our boys, a new school approached.

I may be biased (in fact, I know that I am totally biased) but I think that we have a talented bunch of boys here, most of whom have represented the school in the course of the year: 5 of our boys regularly play U13 rugby, 4 of them are in the junior choir, and James Penn has already represented the senior cross-country team; he also holds the record for the least number of minutes spent in his own study during prep time. It is a record he is proud of and one he works on most evenings.

The Juniors have a busy schedule after school. They have this year been involved as a group with aeromodelling, IT, badminton, basketball, indoor football, indoor cricket, pottery and bridge. My thanks to Tony Chamberlain, Mrs Briggs, Mr Stevens and Mr Gamester for organising and supervising sessions for the boys; they have all in their different ways proved popular.

Our Upper Sixth Form boys have provided a healthy balance in the house, and the mix of ages has had a positive influence. Jon, Rayez, David and Andrew have practised hard all year for their years ahead at University – though precisely which skills they have concentrated on vary between them. They have all been good to have around and we certainly wish them every success as they move out and on to better things.

As for the Juniors, as they approach the end of their first year at the RGS, I have been pleased by the way they have gelled together. Much of the credit for the happy atmosphere in the house must go to them for being such a positive, friendly bunch of lads.

This report would not be complete without a special mention of our two cleaning ladies, Sue and Linda; we do greatly appreciate their efforts to keep us in order.

And a special thank you to Mr Edwards who, after 12 years of residency, has decided enough is enough and will leave Uplyme at the end of this year, in search of a little more peace and tranquillity. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him every happiness in his new home.

S.J.N.

## Role Playing Club

Two teams from the RGS were entered into this year's National Advanced Dungeons and Dragons Tournament, with the Senior Team achieving a respectable 4th position in the regional finals, although the standard of this year's competition meant that there was very little difference in score between the first 4 teams. The Junior Team was not ranked.

The lunch time sessions in room 25 were well attended and several events were held during the year, including a 'Magic: The Gathering' tournament (a popular trading card game) and a 'Dragonlance 5th Age' campaign (a fantasy roleplaying game). In between these events, many smaller games were played, including 'Paranoia', 'Vampire: The Eternal Struggle' and 'Dungeons and Dragons'.



Goodbye to Upper Sixth members William Gerrard, Iain Anderson, Andrew Bond and Alex Taylor, and thank you to Mr Earl for being our Master in Charge, and for driving us to the 'Dungeons and Dragons' tournament.

Chairman: William Gerrard  
Master in Charge: Mr Earl

Alex Taylor 6SE<sub>2</sub>

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

I started this scheme at the earliest possible age, 14, intent on swiftly passing through Bronze and Silver and securing the Gold before leaving the school. I am currently half way through doing my Gold. As I am now in the Lower Sixth this goal seems achievable, although you can continue doing the scheme until you are 23.

The scheme has taken up a lot of my time, roughly three hours a week when I am doing all three sections (service, skills and physical recreation) at the same time. However, for skills and service at least, I was doing the activity anyway and so it did not actually take up any more time in using it as part of the scheme. However, as you can not always use activities you are already doing the scheme does encourage people to try new activities and thus broaden their abilities and knowledge.

The expedition section is particularly enjoyable, although it can cost quite a bit of money for the longer distance ones required for Gold, e.g. the Lake District. They generally involve groups of four to six people hiking across the English countryside, camping out and cooking their own meals on stoves. I say generally, because there is the possibility of doing the expedition in canoes or on bicycles, and for the Gold there might exist the possibility of doing the expedition abroad, e.g. South Africa. These expeditions build up team-work and physical fitness and are highly rewarding.

Groups tend to be made up from people from the same school wherever possible although mixed groups often occur. Although it is difficult to start with, as no one really knows each other, the group quickly become friends and develops into an effective team. Expeditions take up a lot of time due to all the training, practices and planning that are needed. This is especially the case for practices which can take up whole weekends. This presents the possibility for difficulties if homework is set for the weekend. However, teachers appreciate this situation and often give extra time to complete such work.

As well as broadening your skills and experiences, the scheme looks impressive on CVs as it proves that you can be committed, hard working and reliable. The attraction of the scheme can be shown by the 50+ people currently doing the award at the school.

If interested in joining the scheme please see Mrs N Catling.

David Greenhill 6LY<sub>1</sub>



## Snowboarding Trip to Crested Butte, Colorado

The first ever RGS Snowboarding trip left for the USA on 1 April. There was a distinct lack of April Fool's jokes, apart from Richard Lawrence's efforts with his hair. We originally thought Richard Gamble had the best joke until we discovered that he was quite serious in bringing his skateboard.

The journey lasted about 25 hours including a 4 hour wait at Toronto for a connection to Denver where we managed to convince US Customs that we were neither inclined to espionage nor had been members of the SS or Nazi party during the last war. The tediousness of travel was alleviated by the great sense of anticipation shared by all.

Having been encouraged to 'Have a hoot' by the locals, everyone followed the advice. The week's snowboarding was, I think, considered by all to be superb. Unseasonable snow falls and runs suitable for everyone made it perfect for all standards. Those who had made use of the dry slopes found themselves able to tackle the steeper slopes very quickly and everyone progressed within the six days.

Those used to the crowded Alps were pleasantly surprised by the slopes which were virtually deserted by midday. The American skiers were very friendly – more than willing to chat or provide you with anything you desired. The peaceful and awe-inspiring mountains provided the perfect backdrop to an exhilarating holiday.

The possibility of jumping in a snowboarding park was greatly enjoyed. Some 'fat air' was achieved by most, Nicholas Lunn demonstrating perfect landings with magnificent aplomb. By the middle of the week everyone was quite literally in Paradise (the name of a ski run).

The last day was the most entertaining. Alex Nicholls, Colm McGinley, Tom Openshaw and friends conquered the notorious North Face, whilst a few took advantage of the health services due to last minute injuries. Later in the evening Gamble amazed many with his reckless skateboarding skills at the suggestion of the Sixth Form.

Crested Butte was a quiet and tranquil spot so the best night-life was found in the hotel rooms. We managed to watch two films at the cinema as well as the excellent selection at the hotel.

Thanks from all the boys go to Mr and Mrs Howe, Mr Miles, Mr Chuter and especially Mr and Mrs Henderson for organising an excellent holiday and providing an enjoyable birthday for me.

Ben 'The Squire' Wilson 6C<sub>1</sub>

## Rugby

It has been another wonderful year for rugby at the RGS. The school created its own piece of rugby history when once again the U15 XV reached the *Daily Mail* Cup Final at Twickenham, becoming the first school in the history of the competition to reach three finals at the U15 level. To win 29–13 was a dream come true as RGS became the first ever school to retain the Trophy at this level. The day was made even more special as 1st XV captain Daniel Smaje gained his U18 England cap in a match against France which followed the cup final.

Simon Gilbert, having already gained international basketball honours this year, became the first RGS pupil to become a double international when he played for England U16 XV against Portugal and Wales. At long last former pupil Nick Beal gained a thoroughly deserved first full international cap at full back for England v Argentina. Both he and Matthew Dawson have been selected to play for the British Lions in South Africa this summer, whilst Daniel Smaje has been selected for the England U18 XV tour to Australia. We wish them all every success.

A Vice President's section of the Rugby Club was launched with two successful lunches, and new block fixtures with Millfield and Eton College were undertaken. The second Sportsman's Dinner, with guests Willie John McBride, Gareth Chilcott, Derek White and Stephen Jones, was another huge success thanks to the efforts of the FRORGS committee. The funds raised will help pay towards next year's transport costs, thus easing the burden on the school budget. My sincere thanks to everybody who has helped make the season such a success, in particular to all the parents for their help and support.

C.C.T.

### 1st XV

Faced with an improved fixture list the 1st XV were always going to struggle in a period of rebuilding. Apart from one position the spine of the team was filled by senior players and they provided good leadership and inspiration for inexperienced players around them. Captain Daniel Smaje, and vice-captain David Wilson, always led by example and they were ably supported by Olly Quinn, Nick Edwards, Will Rouse, and Owen Marshall.

The final tally of ten victories and ten defeats did not fully reflect the season and the team should be proud of their achievements. Seven out of ten defeats were by a single score and the team will inevitably look back and ponder 'if only'.

Having beaten Stowe 21–15, missed opportunities resulted in a home cup defeat by Pangbourne. High points in the early part of the season included a convincing victory over RGS Guildford and excellent performance in the 'Lion's Den' at Millfield, losing 21–22 in the final minutes of the game. A previously unbeaten Eton College team lost their record as RGS recorded a pleasing 25–19 victory.

At St Joseph's, victories over Sedbergh, Marlborough and Campbell College, Belfast, put RGS through to the main cup competition, and in one of the hardest matches of the tournament RGS drew with Colstons. RGS were unlucky to have a try disallowed in the final minute and Colstons went on to win the competition.

Victories over Abingdon and Solihull followed the half term break but the Berkhamsted forwards denied RGS possession as the team slipped to a single score defeat. QES Barnet were defeated 53–5 in an open game remarkable for substitute wing Matthew Jones scoring 5 tries in the second half. Aylesbury were dispatched 39–11 by an understrength RGS XV in the midweek encounter, and a hard fought contest with Watford resulted in a 10–5 victory. Bedford Modern overwhelmed the side suffering from injuries and illness in the last game before Christmas 5–32.

Refreshed from the Christmas break the team produced some good rugby to defeat Tiffin 20–11, but in the South West U18 Divisional trial injuries to key players had an impact on the team for the rest of the season. A huge Wimbledon College pack ensured victory for their team 0–27. A very young RGS team played well at Reigate before two silly errors allowed the opposition a 7–17 victory. The final game of the season was at St Benedict's and once again RGS produced a display of open flowing rugby led by Daniel Smaje who scored three tries and helped himself to 21 points, and ensured a final victory 36–12. How fitting that he was to gain U18 international honours and selection for the England summer tour to Australia. Others to gain representative honours included D Wilson, O Quinn, W Rouse, D Amiras, and N Edwards, who were all selected for Divisional U18 trials. A Melrose, S Crompton, B Coakley and S Gilbert played in the Divisional U16 trials with Melrose going on to captain the Division and Simon Gilbert gaining international honours at lock forward.

My thanks go to all the senior players who leave this year for their hard work and loyalty. I look forward to following their progress in the ever changing world of professional rugby.

C.C.T.

### 2nd XV

**Played 18   Won 13   Lost 5   For 506   Against 241**

The 2nd XV started the first match of the season against Hampton lacking in match fitness but not in enthusiasm. An emphatic victory followed as we all got back into the swing of things.

The very demanding fixture list, which included St Edward's, Millfield and Eton before the half term break, helped focus the mind on fitness and skills training. The team fielded against St Edward's included a number of talented 2nd XV players from last year who provided the backbone of the team. This was one of the performances of the season as the team came of age with an excellent and committed display eventually winning 16–10.

RGS Guildford followed and were duly beaten 32–12. An exceptionally well-drilled Millfield XV were our next hurdle. Unfortunately our display was well below par and we were soundly beaten. The following Saturday Eton stepped out on to pitch 2 to experience an RGS backlash. A highly motivated team came within a single point of a famous scalp (losing 17–18). The team rounded off the half-term with a 26–18 victory at Warwick.

Two massive victories followed against Abingdon (55–0) and Solihull (60–7) before we were narrowly beaten away to Berkhamsted. A fired up team took to the field at Radley but once again were narrowly beaten by public



school opposition (15–13). QES Barnet was next up and were dispatched with consummate ease (86–0) in a game which included five tries from winger Chris Biggs. Unfortunately the term ended on a low note with defeat at Bedford Modern.

We soon found our feet after the Christmas break in a narrow 23–20 victory over Tiffin. The next match was against Wimbledon College, a team we had not met before. In this game we gave another stunning performance to win by 20–0. During this match the team's great spirit and determination became apparent, and demonstrated just how talented a XV we were when fully committed. However, we soon lost our way, losing to Reigate, but in the last game of the season the departing Upper Sixth players signed off in some style overwhelming St Benedict's (35–5) with our traditionally uninhibited style of play.

Thanks must go to everyone who attended the training sessions, come rain or shine, and Mr Taylor, who once again gave up every Saturday to offer us his guidance, support, words of advice and oranges!

Oliver Pearson and Patrick Watson  
2nd XV captains

### 3rd XV

What can be said about the 3rd XV season this year? We played in the true spirit of the game – playing only for the love of Rugby – not for the supposed glory that comes with winning.

Unfortunately we lost every match but one – a glorious victory against the forever subservient Aylesbury under the temporary captaincy of James Burden.

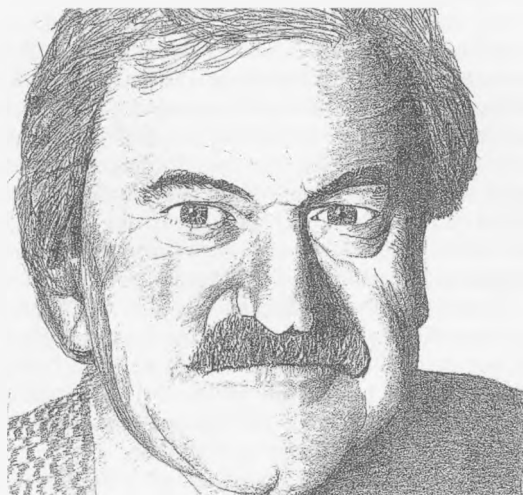
Whilst the 1st and 2nd XVs were lamenting their losses, the 3rd XV, having already experienced failure too much to worry, were off to drown their sorrows.

Notable shows of courage and bravery in the face of defeat came from Billy and his kicking boots; Phil Andrews – a true driving force in the team – and James McGregor marshalling the backs.

There were no star players in our team, those that were already having been taken into the 2nd XV fold.

Thanks go to all who played for the 3rd XV resulting in an enjoyable season despite disappointing training turnout. Thanks also to Mr Yeates for being a supportive coach.

Jonathan Ling 6EH<sub>2</sub>



Richard Peake  
Year 11

### U16 XV

The season for the team was always going to be difficult as the *Daily Mail* Champions, and it didn't start well as various key members of the pack went down with long term injuries. With selections for the 1st team, the rest of the squad got regular playing time. A very good opening win against St Edward's was the highlight of the team. As the season wore on, the injuries mounted and backs were called on to play some odd positions, together with seeing all of Southern England with a spell of six away games on the trot. As Christmas approached the return of B. Coakley to the front row gave the team a much needed boost of self confidence; and with all the matches left at home the team of old started to return, with a one point win against Watford GS, a last minute charge down of a conversion in front of the posts by S Gilbert. The 100% record at home was cruelly taken from the boys with a last second try by Reigate's fullback.

The Sevens season upon us, and with a fully fit squad and the 1st teamers back in the fold, the best result was produced at Guildford, losing annoyingly to Wellington in the final after some excellent results. The other highlight of the term was the entry into the Rosslyn Park National Sevens, an excellent first day producing nearly 100 points for and 0 points against. The Quarter-Final match proved to be a very difficult one and the boys tried hard but were beaten by Millfield, the eventual winners.

The season has been a learning experience and opportunity for individual improvement with A Wishney filling in very capably and being the most improved player of the season. The team were rewarded for the success of the last year by being named Bucks 'Team of the Year' and Wycombe and Marlow Area Sports Council 'Team of the Year', accolades they thoroughly deserved.

J. McK./C.C.T.

### U15 XV

This was a season which began with high hopes of emulating last year's team by playing at Twickenham. The season began with the team below full strength due to injuries to many key players. Despite this, the team started very well with an impressive 60 point victory over Hampton School, followed by a superb 52–10 victory over a strong St Edward's side. With further injuries being incurred, a last gasp win over RGS Guildford was followed by a narrow defeat at the hands of Millfield. Further losses against Radley and Eton brought with it a feeling of despair as the *Daily Mail* Cup Competition was looming. However, the term ended on a high note with a 50 point victory over The Coopers' School. Over the Christmas period, Marlow Rugby Club made its facilities available to the team in order to ensure that physical fitness was maintained as well as working towards producing a more cohesive team spirit.

Early in the Spring term, the team were drawn against the favourites for the cup, Wellington College. Leading by only a score at half-time, the team were under intense pressure from the start of the second half and it was only heroic defending that kept Wellington at bay. The team's nerve held and in the end our superior fitness told as we scored two breakaway tries late on. From then on the team never looked back. An away victory over Cornish champions Wadebridge was followed by a quarter final victory over old rivals RGS Guildford and a place in the semi-final at Castlecroft, where a spirited second half



*The victorious Daily Mail Cup U15 XV team.*

performance against Leeds Grammar School ensured us a place in the final at Twickenham against Whitgift School. Here, some well worked tries and strong defence led to a resounding 29–13 victory.

Many hours of celebrating capped off what turned out to be a highly successful season for which everyone involved should be very proud. Congratulations should go to Mr Tattersall and Mr Jamieson for taking the U15's to Twickenham for the second time in two years. Well done to all squad members!

Matthew Honeyben 10WP/A.T.J.

## U14 XV

Following last year's success at 7's, there was a mood of optimism within the squad at the start of the season. This feeling was well founded as the team went on to lose only one match at XV a side throughout the season, including a very successful tour to Minehead, where we emerged as eventual winners of the main competition without conceding a point. This was a good tour/holiday for the team who hammered home the advantage against QES Barnet, who appeared until then to be the rival of the RGS.

Other undoubted highlights of the season include our very convincing win over Radley School and a narrow loss to Millfield School. This was after a 4 hour long journey and was the only blemish in a very good season.

The 7's tournaments proved to be very hard going with many players missing due to *Daily Mail Cup* commitments and injury. A full strength team was put out at the Sherborne tournament and gave a good account of itself

with a loss to Millfield in the semi's. At the other two tournaments a below strength squad was put out but nonetheless they played with spirit and determination with a resounding win over Wellington School.

The style in which the team played was adventurous to say the least. Spreading the ball wide, we scored some memorable tries with the dynamic running of Jamie Astbury and the classy play of Neil Mann, our most improved player of the season. Up front, the brute force of Adam Gilbert and the other pack members meant that our forward play was dominant at all times with quick rucking which allowed the half-backs, Mark Honeyben and Edward Garrow, to create plenty of gaps for the tries.

Throughout the season the team has continued to develop and make good progress and we hope to take this with us through to next year. We hope to continue the school's success in the *Daily Mail Cup* competition and this should be helped by the playing experience gained by Adam Gilbert and Jamie Astbury, both of whom participated in this year's final.

Many thanks to Mr Phelan who coached us well and who motivated us during some of the more difficult times.

Mark Honeyben 9B

## U13 'A' XV

The U13 'A' team started the season in a blur. Not only did they start their fixture list a week early but a squad had to be assembled to go on a tour to Minehead. The boys arrived in the South West unbeaten, having dispatched Eton and Warwick in earlier games. During the week away

# Hockey

## 1st XI

The exodus to University of last year's very powerful team left us with a largely inexperienced group of players led by the new captain Richard Lawrence.

The season started with an unimpressive draw with Dr Challoner's GS but team spirit grew with an excellent 6-1 win over Reading Blue Coat School. Outstanding commitment enabled us to draw with the powerful Kingston GS. This team has just qualified for the National finals (last 8 in country).

Matches after Christmas were slightly disappointing with 4-3 defeats against Hitchin and Watford GS, but we recovered to draw with Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree.

In the competitions the indoor tournament started well but Kingston GS were convincing winners. The St. George's 6-a-side tournament began with a run of wins but defeats in our last two pool games gave us entry to the plate competition only. In the outdoor National Competition we played well to score more goals against Dr Challoner's GS than Borlase's had. Knowing that a draw was sufficient for RGS to win the tournament we took a 1-0 lead but conceded twice in the last ten minutes to finish second.

Several individuals have been selected at county level. Sukhpreet Authwall played for Middlesex U21. Martin Gibson, Daniel Grant, Richard Lawrence, Andrew Merkley and Michael Spragg were all selected for Bucks U21, and Gurpreet Labana for Middlesex U18.

The team was pleased to welcome Mr Jones as its new coach. He comes into the PE department from Loughborough and received the distinction of being selected for the Wales National team in a qualifying tournament for the World Cup.

Recent Old Wycombiensians continue to do well in representative hockey. The 1995 captain Tim Parr played for Cambridge University in a 2-0 defeat of Oxford. Olympian Jonathan Wyatt and Scott Ashdown (both at Reading HC) have won the Premier League, were awarded silver medals in the European Cup-Winners' Cup and travel out to Germany at the end of May with England. At the end of the season the following awards were made:

Full Colours: Graham Blackwell, Andrew Burnette, Daniel Grant, Martin Gibson, Nicholas Finch, Craig Makinson, Sam Musk and Michael Spragg.

Half Colours: Sunil Adams, Peter Brown, Ashley Cox, Jamie Cotgreave, Chris Mavers, Oliver Slocombe.

D.G.S.

## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI had a season of mixed fortunes. The season started well with a string of good results: a 2-0 win against Reading Blue Coat, a 1-1 draw with Kingston and a 5-0 win against John Hampden. The team then encountered a bad spell as Graham 'the Cat' Blackwell's goalkeeping went from the sublime to the ridiculous and we lost 3 games on the trot (playing with only ten men on several occasions did not help matters).

An away game at Warwick which we played with only 9 players due to injuries looked like a lost cause but team spirit and a fine performance meant that we came out on top.

everyone worked very hard and quite soon the team began to take shape. They finished runners up in the tournament, only missing out on the number of tries scored. One factor, though, that was to hinder the team also became clear, namely that the squad was, in comparison to other years at RGS, very small. Despite this hindrance, on many occasions they showed an immense amount of promise. Scores of over 50 points against Solihull, Hampton and Reigate showed what could be achieved when the team worked together. More often than not whatever the result the RGS played the better rugby, particularly amongst the forwards with Justin Davey and Andrew Scobie always taking the lead. Full credit to the backs who, whenever possible (and sometimes impossible!), kept the ball in their hands. Unfortunately though the tackling occasionally let them down. How many games were lost as a result of one too many missed tackles?

Nevertheless by the time the Sevens season had arrived a great deal had obviously been learnt. The tackling improved greatly and the boys ran at opponents at pace. Despite not winning any silverware the side got better and better and the highlight for the coach occurred when Bradford GS were dispatched by 42-0 at Rosslyn Park.

This was a testing season, but there is the technique and ability for them to do very well in the future.

P.R.M.

## U13 'B' XV

The U13 'B' team had a very impressive unbeaten season. The team consistently worked well together and many sides were beaten convincingly despite having a size advantage. Throughout the entire season the team had to play against sides with bigger and stronger individuals. Nevertheless the forwards worked closely together and provided quick rucked ball for the three quarters to use. The handling of the backs was generally very good and resulted in many a try being scored by the wingers. Special mention must go to Jarmola, Benford, Proudfoot, Neill the captain, Lever and Downing, who all performed consistently well throughout the season and provided a platform for others to play.

On occasions the side had to be changed due to injuries or players going into the 'A' team, but there was always a replacement to fill any gaps. They showed a lot of strength in depth and all bodes well for the future.

Many thanks to Mr Glendining who worked tirelessly throughout the season and become the only master in charge of a team to be unbeaten.

M.N./P.R.M.



Thomas Spindlow  
Year 10

Countless scoring draws were secured away from home and overall it was an enjoyable and successful season.

Thanks must go to Mr Webber and to the rest of the team: G Blackwell, C Middleton, D Flint, O Slocombe, A Cox, B Meyer, J Cotgreave, S Adams, S Vassib, P Brown, P Channon, R Ali, M Ginn and C Irvine.

Jamie Cotgreave 2nd XI captain.

Well done to everyone for their superb effort throughout the year. A special thanks to Jamie Cotgreave for his help with the organisation of the 2nd XI and for his good captaincy of the team.

S.P.H.W.

## U16 XI

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It is always a problem for this year group to find fixtures. In many schools the 'games' afternoon coincides with the 6th form and players are naturally selected on a regular basis for 1st and 2nd teams.

Many of the players have developed well by joining the local High Wycombe Hockey Club. The colts team qualified for the quarter finals of the Southern Counties' League, narrowly losing 1-0 to East Grinstead in a fine match.

Several matches were arranged on Tuesday afternoons and there were good competitive games with Dr Challoner's GS and Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree.

The school became Bucks Champions by winning a triangular tournament with Dr Challoner's and Aylesbury HC and went forward to play in the South-East England finals. All the matches were closely contested but an injury to our centre forward ten minutes into the first game seriously handicapped us in front of goal. We lost games we should have won.

There were very promising performances from several year 10 pupils: Vishal Bij, Edward Harrison, Nicholas Rochowski, James Cremin, Charles Young and Andrew Hutchings.

Very significant contributions came from Jonathan Davies (Capt.) and Scott Fitzgibbon who both played regularly for Bucks. It was a bonus when Nicholas Duncombe (England U16) was free from rugby commitments and able to play for us. David Cox and Charles Gunn showed considerable improvement over the season. Tim Jarrett, Lee Biddle and Oliver Britnell were all enthusiastic team members, together with Simon Pearce, Daniel Keating and Ross Hendry.

All the above should be selected for senior teams next season.

D.G.S.

## U15 XI

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This has been a very successful year for a team which is still only in its second season. We have only lost one game to Hitchin Boys' School who were a physically strong and well coached team. We played a close match against Windsor Boys' School and drew 2-2, and drew with Watford Grammar school 5-5. A sign of our improvement was our major victory against Kingston Grammar School, 5-1, after drawing with them 2-2 at the beginning of the season. We produced excellent performances against Reading school (7-0) and Haberdashers' Aske's (7-2) and ended the season on a high note defeating close rivals John Hampden 2-1.

Edward Harrison represented the U15 South East Divisional team and in the national tournament in Bristol they achieved a worthy position. Nicholas Rochowski performed well in the county U15 trials and was selected to play in the Bucks County Team. The new arrival to the side this year was Vishal Bij who was a great asset to our team and was also selected to play for the Middlesex county team.

The potential shown in the previous year has been developed this season and holds well for the years ahead for us as a team.

The U15 'B' side played some entertaining matches and have proved to be a reliable 'back-up' team to be called upon by the 'A' side.

*U15 Hockey side:* Sam Grace, James Cremin, Jonathan Dosser, Ashley Stuart, Nicholas Rochowski (C), Edward Harrison (D), Charles Young (C), Vishal Bij (C), Andrew Hutchings, Mark Kerridge, Craig Gibson, David Anderson, Paul Smythe.

Edward Harrison 10MS

## U14 XI

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With a core of keen and talented players this season has been a successful one for the U14s. For many of the boys this season was their first experience of competitive hockey and it was pleasing to see that the U14 squad had great team spirit and strength in depth. Though the season did not start too brightly with the team losing their first two games, the squad quickly pulled together and by the end of the season they were playing exciting, free-flowing hockey which bodes extremely well for the future.

A measure of the U14s' development this season was the difference in results at the beginning and end of the season. In the early season the U14s lost 6-1 to Kingston Grammar School and 4-0 to Dr Challoner's. However, by the end of the season these results had been turned around with a 4-3 victory over Kingston and a 1-0 victory over a Dr Challoner's side full of county U14 players.

Z.D.J.

## Cricket

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### 1st XI

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This was a season which promised much and eventually delivered. The team about which Mike Davies and I often worried was settled, and whilst often showing flashes of potential in early games, was too often bowled out cheaply which left our bowlers little to work with. However once the team 'clicked' there was no turning back.

After slow beginnings, the team played two excellent games of cricket in a row with ties against Dr Challoner's and Aylesbury, yet it was not until the summer really warmed up that the wickets truly sorted our array of both bowling and batting. Against an accomplished Latymer Upper side and looking considerably out-classed, the team suddenly found the spirit which can change cricket matches and saw the last six wickets drop for five runs. Through the captaincy of Geoff Watts, supported by K Guha and D Moore, the younger players grew in confidence and it was from this springboard that they played with verve and tenacity.



This can evidently be seen with the match against the MCC with our bowlers on the receiving end from West Indian test star, K.L.T. Arthurton (136). They showed great sport, to fight back against a score of 242 for 1 declared. Geoff Watts completed the hard work of Bentall (41), Guha (50) and Royce (54) by hitting eleven runs off Arthurton in the last over, particularly satisfying for Geoff who had been on the receiving end for much of the day.

It was this spirit of tenacity that the squad took to the Royal Grammar School festival in Guildford hoping to dispel both our previous poor showings and Mr Davies' concerns in 'other' matters. By the time Mr Davies had left for his brief leave of absence we had 'sliced' through Colchester and were well on the way to 'cutting' out any opposition from Guildford. The sternest test was Worcester, traditionally the strongest side, but with superb work from Guha (64) and a 4th wicket partnership between Pembroke (39) and Wilson (27) Worcester were beaten quite easily, much to the Headmaster's delight! When Newcastle had been overcome and victory taken we were all very proud of what the boys had achieved.

The bowling of A Moore, D Moore, S Musk and, of course, G Watts was good, and at times outstanding. Each had the potential to turn a match, which is a rare commodity in four team players.

Dark, Moore, Royce and Wilson all made particularly valuable contributions with the bat yet it was in the guise of Guha and Pembroke that success came at the festival. At all times this was a 'team' ably led by G Watts who coped well with the difficult task of captaincy.

Thanks to Mr Davies and we wish him well at Haberdashers' Aske's.

W.M.P.

## 2nd XI

Despite the loss of four Upper Sixth formers early in the season, the 2nd XI still managed to end the season with a record of played 10, won 8, lost 2. Consistent batting displays from McCallion, Ginn and Siddiqui meant that RGS usually scored in excess of 160. In the bowling stakes Ali and Westerholm's opening partnership was always fruitful, and when combined with the guile and strike-power of Marsh, the 2nd XI usually succeeded in bowling the opposition out. Special mention must also go to Pilkington for his wicket-keeping and Tommy Payne for his fielding.

Simon McCallion 6EH2

## U15 XI

The 1996 cricket squad was certainly one of the most talented in recent memory, yet the story of the season was one of unfulfilled promise. Maybe with so much talent, players didn't feel under pressure to perform. The adjustment from 20 over club matches to a school game where a side can often bat for 50 overs, proved too taxing for the concentration of some.

The exception was Aidan Shaw, who played a number of vital innings, and who hates getting out even more than Geoffrey Boycott. James Bayless and Jonathan Pearce also played a number of very good innings when the team needed them.

Ross Deering proved to be a genuine strike bowler, and the vast majority of his victims were clean bowled. Richard Arundel also beat the bat on countless occasions

and was unlucky not to take more wickets.

My hope for this squad is that the many hours of practice will bear fruit, as they go on to form the backbone of some strong serious squads. As ever I am indebted to Dr Barker for his staunch support.

A.R.Y.

## U14 XI

**Played 14 Won 9 Drawn 1 Lost 4**

As the results show this was a very promising season which finished with a 21 run victory over Stowe, in the final of the Bucks round of the Lord's Taverners' Competition.

On no occasion was the team bowled out. The four defeats resulted when schools batting second reached their run target and it was only in the Oratory match when the team was well beaten. They made 159-1 to win by 9 wickets.

Hugo Matcham and Matthew Honeyben (Capt.) were the leading run scorers with 300 and 273 at averages of 33.3 and 39 respectively. Robert Bentall and David Dunne made good fifties and Ross Coull made a fine 38 to hold the innings together against Stowe. Bobby Dix, Tim Woodstock, David Tang, James Wright and Matthew Farr all showed that they had some ability with the bat.

The wickets were shared equally between the opening bowlers Assam Saeed, James Nicholas, support bowlers Robert Bentall, Matthew Honeyben and the off-spinner Bobby Dix. James Wright and Andrew Fleming both showed some promise as leg spinners.

The team improved its fielding and really enjoyed its cricket. Nets were well attended and several players on the fringe of selection worked hard and improved considerably.

Prospects for next season are very encouraging.

D.G.S./J.McK.

## U13 XI

A very keen and enthusiastic squad of players made a most promising start to their cricket careers at school this year. The year group had strength in depth, and selection proved difficult and many players were rotated. The season started with a very exciting game at Hampton in which everybody except the wicket keeper bowled. Hampton eventually reached 157-9 declared with Milton 3-32, the pick of the ten RGS bowlers. In a great run chase RGS finished three short at 154-7 with Mayne 38 and Honeyben 47 not out. The result a most enjoyable draw. Two limited over victories against John Hampden GS and Desborough followed with Bowry, Myerscough, Dighton and Honeyben all getting good scores.

The team was brought down to earth by the hostile seam bowling of St. Benedict's Ealing, being skittled out for 51 and losing by six wickets. Another thrilling match with Latymer Upper followed, as RGS secured a one wicket win thanks to man of the match Mahood 3-28 as Latymer were bowled out for 105 and 23 runs as RGS reached 106-9.

Abingdon were completely outclassed at 46 all out thanks to the accurate bowling of Mahood 3-6 and T Whitehouse 3-14, and RGS romped to a 7 wicket win. The U13 'B' XI put up a spirited performance against Sir William Borlase's before losing by 25 runs in a limited over game, whilst the 'A' XI completed their season with a drawn game against Dr Challoner's.

Overall this was a most enjoyable season. Let us hope the squad will show the same enthusiasm and commitment next year.

C.C.T./P.G.

## Basketball

### U19

After an injury hit start to the season, which led to an early exit from the National Cup, the U19s developed into a cohesive team who became a force to be reckoned with. Led by Captain Pilkington and the powerful Gilbert brothers, the team beat all comers in the Hertfordshire league with deficits as large as 104–66 and 106–40. Unfortunately a three point loss (66–63) to Simon Balle School may turn out to be a defeat that decides the final league placings in the opposition's favour, but that should not tarnish what has been a superb season. The team have produced good spirit and understanding and have played a fast, exciting style of basketball which has run the opposition off the court. Credit must also go to the defensive play, and in particular Hopkins, who in partnership with Pilkington produced a large number of steals.

Finally, congratulations to Simon Gilbert, who was selected to play for the England Schools' Basketball team in a Home Nations tournament and other internationals. He has also worked hard for the team, scoring countless points inside and taken important rebounds at both ends of the court along with older brother Ben – and of course there was that dunk!

Andrew Pilkington 6LM<sub>2</sub>

### U16

The U16 Basketball team had a very difficult start to the season with a number of key players being injured, not least Simon Gilbert who broke his ankle before a game was played.

Despite these early set backs the team had some good results and showed that there is a great deal of talent in the year. Unfortunately though, the side never really gelled together which resulted in a number of losses to teams with perhaps less ability. However, things look good for next year and it is hoped that with a little more discipline and structure to their play, this team will enjoy success in future.

Notable results from this season include an exciting 112–107 win against Hemel Hempstead and an impressive 64–21 win against Beaumont. Finally, finishing on a high note – congratulations to Simon Gilbert, a member of both the U16 and U19 Basketball teams who represented England at U17 level in this year's Home Nations tournament.

P.R.M./Z.D.J.

### U15

Despite a poor start in the National Cup, the U15 team has managed to record an overall successful and enjoyable season. Not qualifying for the later rounds of this tournament, more likely due to the absence of key players,

the team was inspired to redeem themselves in the local Bucks Cup. And they certainly did this, beating Sir William Ramsay, St. Bernard's and Chalfont in the qualifying stages, averaging 80 points a game and often holding opponents to a mere 30.

We then had an inspired performance in the final against Aylesbury Grammar, again winning by 60 points. The team would like to thank the coach, Mr Miles, for his hard work throughout the season; and Mr Jones for his refereeing and additional coaching. And of course, thanks must go to the entire squad as all players contributed to the season, and the success of the Bucks Cup. Congratulations must go to James Fletcher who has just been selected for the South West.

Ross Coull 10M

## Cross Country

This year was an improvement on last year in commitment from RGS runners despite the continued absence of two of the potentially fastest in 6<sub>2</sub>. The Watford Grammar friendly relay was again won in warm September weather, the District Championship was regained at Junior level, successfully defended at Middle School level, and James Penn ran for the County Schools Team at Junior with Tim Gardner being selected at Senior level but not running owing to injury throughout the Spring term. However he came first in a number of races before Christmas (Watford and St Alban's friendlies), the King's Trophy (KCS Wimbledon), and third in the Dr Challoner's Relay.

We ran in good spirit and good fellowship in our races but at senior level we did not compete. We have plenty of potential at Junior level, good competition locally and a



*Tim Gardner 6BC<sub>2</sub> running for Wales. Photograph courtesy of Peter Reed.*

provisional plan to raise the profile of our performance long term, but to work this will require commitment and backing at relevant levels.

Matthew Hickman is an enthusiastic Captain overall next season, with Chris Williams assisted by Matthew Luff, Captain in the Middle School, and Alex Deeley assisted by Daniel Beecroft, Captain in the Junior School.

T.J.N.C.

## Athletics

With the departure of Mr Mike Davies it was 'all change' on the RGS Athletics front this year. The main aim of this season was to provide more opportunities for our athletes and thus increase both interest and motivation. RGS Athletics club training has now begun in earnest. Training takes place for anyone interested, three times a week with Tuesday evening given to sprinters, Wednesday to throwers and Thursday to the middle and long distance runners.

So far the only meet this season has been the Dr Challoner's Relays, where a below full strength team had limited success. However, an enjoyable time was had by all with some notable performances, for example the junior 100m team reaching their final, the senior 100m team finishing 4th in their final and the senior 400m and 800m teams finishing 2nd in their respective finals.

Future meets include the Bucks individual Championships at Milton Keynes on 10 May in which twelve boys will be competing, and the TSB Schools Cup 1st round on 20 May at High Wycombe. This is a competition at which the school has enjoyed much success, last year reaching the regional finals at U13 level. It is hoped that with the current crop of athletes we can again perform well.

Z.D.J.

## Fencing

The RGS fencing team has, once again, enjoyed a highly successful season. The team has remained unbeaten in school matches, for the seventh consecutive year, with victories over Eton, Marlborough, Bradfield, Wellington (twice) and Harrow.

In individual competitions, fencers, once again, enjoyed success in both local and national competitions. At the Southern Section Championships, Chris de Looze and Chris Hopkins won the U14 épée and U18 sabre titles respectively. Richard Lawrence and Toby Roebuck picked up the 2nd and 3rd place medals in the U18 sabre and join Chris Hopkins in being selected to fence in the Cadet Winton Cup team for the section.

At the Bucks, Berks and Oxon competitions, two fencers gained 1st place medals: Richard Lawrence (U18 sabre) and Daniel Kübler (U16 épée). Other good results were achieved in the U14 sabre with James Alleyne 2nd and Oliver Blaiklock 3rd, and in the U14 foil with Ben Pygall 2nd and Giles Parkinson of Year 8, 6th.

As this year's National Finals were held in Edinburgh, the number of RGS fencers competing was down on previous years. The best result achieved was in the U18 sabre where Richard Lawrence finished 9th. At the Junior British Épée Championships held at Whitgift School, Toby Roebuck came 5th (U17) and Alastair Gerrard came 2nd (U20).

The season culminated with an excellent team performance at the Public Schools' Championships at Crystal Palace. Alastair Gerrard achieved 2nd places in both Senior Foil and Senior Épée, which gave him the Champion at Arms trophy for the best results over the three weapons, while Richard Lawrence gained a finalist's medal for finishing 6th in the Senior Sabre. John Benham and David Pitt also fenced well, finishing in the last 16 in both Junior Foil and Junior Épée. The performance by the whole team was outstanding allowing us to retain the Jack Wheeler trophy for third place school overall.

On behalf of all the fencers I would like to thank Mr Roebuck and our coach Mr Harry Jones for their invaluable organisation, training and encouragement. I should also like to give thanks to the vice-captains Jon Crompton and Richard Lawrence and to everyone who has been involved in school fencing this last year.

Alastair Gerrard 6MBA<sub>2</sub>  
Fencing Captain

## Rowing

The J15s raced at Reading Town, Thames Valley Park and Totnes. They won at Reading Amateur.

The J16 squad raced an VIII at Henley Schools' Head, where they came 51st. During the summer season a four was faced at Wallingford, Coate Water Park, Reading Amateur and Reading Town. There were some very close races but no wins. With a touch more finesse and strength the season could have been very different. A scratch VIII was entered at Avon County Schools' but was soundly beaten, which wasn't surprising seeing as the crew had only had one or two outings together.

The Sixth Form club members were combined into one large squad in September. We tried to train in an VIII as much as possible, although due to illness and injury we sometimes had to reorganise our plans. In October we entered the Marlow Head. Both crews rowed their hearts out, the 2nd Four even trying to uproot a tree due to their cox's belief in their superhuman efforts! The rest of the winter season went from bad to worse – first one of our best rowers got glandular fever, then almost every Head race we entered was cancelled!

During the summer regatta season crews from the squad rowed at Marlow Spring where they did not row particularly well and consequently lost to a Leicester



*The J15 crew cast off.*

University Crew in the final. Lessons were learnt about the need to focus attention inside the boat and to relax (whilst still producing as much power as possible, obviously!). The following week we went to Avon County Schools' and won our heat, only to lose narrowly in the final to Monmouth School. Our next scheduled event was the Ball Cup in Nottingham. However, the gremlins returned to haunt us and most of the day was spent on the hard shoulder of the M40! Our next regatta was at Coate Water Park in Swindon. Unfortunately for us Radley had turned up with their best crews so we were very soon on our way back to High Wycombe!! The only success of the summer season of the Sixth Form squad came at Thames Valley Park, where a crew that had only been together for a week (having been previously occupied with a small matter of A Level exams) beat a crew from St. Paul's. At our traditional end of season weekend trip down to the West Country (Totnes Regatta) the crews did extremely well against opposition which was both older and more experienced due to a mix up on the entry information sheet. Rather than racing as J18, the Sixth Form were entered into two men's events and the J15 boys were entered into the J18 event! We went down fighting, losing in the relevant finals by extremely small distances. Probably the best performance of the year was by a completely Upper Sixth crew in the last race of the year, at Reading Town. With little or no training done for about two months and only a week to get used to this new crew, the boys produced a really gutsy performance and could be proud of their efforts in their last race for the RGS. They led an Oxford student crew for the majority of the course but their lack of stamina told over the last quarter.

## EVENT SUMMARY

All the following crews are in the order cox, stroke, 3, 2, bow:

### *Sixth Form crews*

Marlow Head: 1st IV: Garland, Jagger, Winrow, Kelly, Seys Llewellyn  
2nd IV: Smith, Ware, Barksfield, Large, Cockburn

Henley Schools' Head: Garland, Jagger, Seys Llewellyn, Large, Cockburn

Marlow Spring Regatta: 1st IV: Garland, Ware, Winrow, Jagger, Barksfield  
2nd IV: Smith, Cockburn, Seys Llewellyn, Large, Hunter

Avon County, Coate Water Regattas: Garland, Ware, Winrow, Jagger, Barksfield

Thames Valley Park: Smith, Jagger, Seys Llewellyn, Kelly, Barksfield

Totnes Regatta: Smith, Ware, Winrow, Jagger, Hunter

Reading Town Regatta: Garland, Cockburn, Seys Llewellyn, Jagger, Barksfield

### *J16 crews*

VIII: Milward, Muir, Robertson, Dailey, Steenson, Samuels, Bean, Atha/Powell, Laycock

IV: Milward, Muir, Steenson, Dailey, Robertson

### *J15 crew*

Peers, Piggott, Adcock, Tomlinson, Mawby.

## Tennis

Although not reaching the heights of last summer, this was a good season for school tennis. With all four members of the 1st team having left school the previous summer, this year's team was inevitably relatively inexperienced, and this resulted in a defeat against Dr Challoner's in the first match of the season by 4 points to 5. However, wins in the Glanvil Cup against John Colet School and Desborough School meant that we faced Abingdon School for a place in the last 16 of this National Competition. With Abingdon fielding the same strong team that reached the last 8 last year, RGS were comfortably beaten by 4½ points to 1½.

The final tournament of the season was the Youll Cup at Eton College. Good wins against Winchester College and Reigate School meant that we again faced Abingdon School for a place in the quarter-finals. With the doubles shared, the match went to a deciding singles where Daniel Hochstrasser faced the 7th ranked player in the country for his age. Despite winning the 1st set 6-4, Daniel could not maintain his form, eventually losing by 2 sets to 1.

<i>Results</i>	1st team	P7	W4	L3
	Colts	P7	W2	L5

Full colours were awarded to: Will Rouse, Daniel Hochstrasser, Gareth Jones, Tom McCarthy.

M.E.



L.J.H.

Alex Cox  
Year 12



## OC's Report

It is, I believe, the variety of activities and opportunities which makes the CCF so special. Last summer, in addition to the annual camps attended by the Army and RAF Sections, which are described later in this CCF report, the Naval Section decided to have their own sea-borne expedition. A Fleet Tender, MV Milford, was 'borrowed' from the Navy and on Monday 29 July twelve cadets together with Commander Mike Jones RN Rtd (our Bursar) and myself set sail from HMS Neptune at Faslane in Scotland. Our mission was to reach the Isle of Arran where we hoped to be able to climb the highest mountain, called Goat Fell, by a rather difficult route involving the ascent of another spectacular peak called Cir Mhor. After some testing nautical navigation in Loch Goil and through the Kyles of Bute, Arran was reached on Tuesday evening when the party disembarked with tents, food and climbing equipment to establish a base in Glen Rosa. Good weather on Wednesday allowed Goat Fell to be conquered by most of the party and after another night on the Island (with celebratory meal in the local hostelry which exhausted our funds!) we returned to MV Milford on Thursday morning. The return journey to Faslane was punctuated by 'man overboard' seamanship training and visits to Rothesay and Gourock. Before returning to High Wycombe, a brief but fascinating visit, via three layers of armed security guards, was made to see the innards of HMS Repulse, one of our remaining Polaris submarines.

Shooting has been and continues to be a popular part of CCF training which is open to members of all three Sections. Post Dunblane this has been a sensitive matter and the Government, by way of the Ministry of Defence, has given much thought to the Cadet Force shooting activities. They have come down firmly to the view that it should remain an important part of the CCF programme because our training is specifically designed to inculcate proper respect and discipline in relation to weapon handling. Safety is paramount at all times and cadets are tested on their ability to handle the rifles safely on a regular basis. Shooting, like many other sports, is a highly disciplined activity which requires a great degree of self control and concentration, and requires much practice and dedication if it is to be performed to the highest standards.

Two members of staff will be leaving the CCF this Summer. Flight Lieutenant Mike Darby (Air Commodore whilst serving with the RAF) will be retiring from the RGS after six years' service. He has made an outstanding contribution to the School's Cadet Force by building up the RAF Section to be one of the best, if not the best, in the country. Senior Cadets have been taught how to run the Section themselves by using leadership techniques which have motivated and enthused successive generations. This, coupled with a programme of activities on Thursday afternoons and out-of-school which is full of interest and demanding, has been attractive to RAF cadets throughout their CCF career. This programme has included many flying opportunities. Mike Darby has been skilful in persuading the RAF to allow RGS cadets a generous allocation of flights in powered aircraft. He has also established opportunities for gliding on many weekends throughout the year. Staff and parents are invited to participate and in so doing to share the burden of transportation and supervision. He has done all this with a quiet determination to do his very best for the boys who have chosen to join his Section. He is rightly proud of what he has achieved and his

greatest wish for the RGS is that the Section will continue to flourish.

Lieutenant James McKellar will be leaving the RGS after three years' service with the Army Section. He has assisted Captain Cunningham on Thursday afternoons especially with the training of recruits and in running the School's rifle firing range. On camps his knowledge and skills acquired whilst serving with the Territorial Army have been of great value to us and we shall miss his lively contributions. We wish him well in his new school.

A further significant staffing change has been our SSI, Mr Clive Rowland, after nine years' service with the Contingent, retired last October. He has been replaced by Mr B McCreedy, who, as the area's CCF Administrative Assistant, has been a friend of our CCF for many years. Here we have been doubly fortunate: first in having had such excellent service from Clive Rowland and second in being fortunate enough to gain someone with the enthusiasm and experience of Brian McCreedy.

The following pages give detailed reports on some of the activities that have been undertaken by members of the CCF during a very busy year. All of this activity is only possible as a result of the hard work put in by our CCF adult staff and by our cadet senior NCOs. School staff give up their 'free' time during the term and will also often spend the first week of the holidays on a CCF camp. CCF Officers, who are not members of the school's teaching staff, come on Thursday afternoons and also contribute tremendously to weekend activities and camps. Old Boys who feel they have benefited from their CCF experience come back and offer to help. Senior cadets in the Sixth Form give up time to plan and prepare activities during a year when they have many academic pressures. As I have said before, I am continually grateful to them all. Long may it continue.

Lt Colonel R G Hollingworth

## Royal Navy Section

The Royal Navy Section has had a very active year. Sixteen new cadets joined us in the autumn, and they were immediately involved in our activities at the Danesfield Sailing Club every Thursday afternoon. We are extremely fortunate to have group membership at the club. Our new recruits quickly established themselves and show great potential.

Our new cadets have also applied themselves very well to classroom tasks and competed their syllabus in record time and are to be promoted earlier than usual as a result. Our senior cadets, who act as instructors, deserve considerable credit for this. Regular activities for everyone have included orienteering, shooting, climbing, seamanship, and the assault course as well as our waterborne training.

Sub-Lieutenant Joan Henderson continues to introduce us to a variety of entertaining activities. We have made several further visits to the Jet Ski Lake at Theale near Reading and this has proved to be extremely popular with all cadets. Go-karting is also on our agenda and this appears to be in demand in the same way.

The Section has renewed its contact with HMS Blazer, which is a fast patrol boat. Several cadets enjoyed a day at sea during the summer term. They were able to practise many of the skills, for example navigation, that they had

learned at school. Our overnight accommodation was on board a destroyer, HMS Bristol.

The General Inspection was carried out at the Thames in very good weather on 13 March. All our Toppers were on the water, and the Brigadier watched leadership exercises involving bridge-building and a simulated mine-field.

Several cadets have attended courses and camps at Easter and many more are to do so in the summer. Courses chosen include diving, canoeing, leadership, power-boating and arduous training.

Our newcomers show plenty of enthusiasm and willingness, and the developing leadership skills in our senior cadets are quite evident. We are justifiably optimistic about the future of the Naval Section.

Lieutenant Ross Barker  
OC Royal Navy Section

## Army Section

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The Army Section has enjoyed a busy and successful year and attracted an encouraging number of recruits from within the school. Last year saw 33 cadets join in July and maintained the total strength of the Army Section at 61, retaining 17 new Cadets from the previous intake.

Most of the training programme on Thursday afternoons was devoted to instructing the recruits in the Army Proficiency Syllabus, and a total of 27 cadets gained their Certificates during 1996. The training programme also included use of the school climbing wall, school range, map and compass exercises in Hughenden Park, and orienteering in Wendover Woods.

The junior Cadets visited the Royal Engineers at Hawley Lake for a Raft Building exercise and this was greatly appreciated by all.

Members of the TA Unit of the Royal Green Jackets visited Booker last year and demonstrated various weapons and ran a GP .22 Conversion shooting afternoon.

The Section has taken part in a wide range of CCF activities, weekend and evening training, and camps, the majority organised by the Section and the Cadets. Last summer the camp was at Sheepstor on Dartmoor and a stretching programme of activities was accomplished by the cadets in an enthusiastic and encouraging manner. The Adventure Training Camp in March was once again based in the Peak District with battlecraft exercises carried out on the Leek Training Area, rock climbing on the Roaches, orienteering and an Initiatives afternoon. Our thanks go to Mrs Clare Cooper for her excellent catering and organisational skills at the Leek camp. The Section has also taken part during the year in the Patrol Competition, the Target Rifle Competition, the Skill at Arms Competition, all organised by HQ Aldershot Area.

Cadets have taken part in .22 shooting on our range and the CCF Shooting Club has been well supported by Army Cadets with many achieving high standards of marksmanship. Our thanks go to Lt Rysdale for his efforts here and at shooting competitions.

Other activities over the past year have included a Battlecraft Field Day, Range days, a Night Navigation exercise in the Chilterns and weekend expeditions to Snowdonia and the Black Mountains.

Senior cadets have attended Methods of Instruction courses at Bicester organised by 16 CTT and have all benefited greatly. Their expertise has aided the training of the junior cadets and been of use during camps and outside activities. Major Cooper has greatly enhanced the training

of these Senior Cadets with his expertise in teaching.

This course and our cadet training during the year owe a lot to the assistance given by the 16 Cadet Training Team from Bicester and especially Sgt Regan.

We said goodbye last year to a number of Senior NCOs and we wish them well in their future careers. U/O Xavier Griffin, RSMs Oliver Atkins and Ken Saunders were all especially helpful during their year in charge. They have been succeeded by RSM Robin McKenzie, CSMs Mark Richards and James Cotgreave and I am grateful for their help and support to me and Lt McKellar.

We rely heavily on regular support from adult instructors and former cadets and I would like to record my appreciation to Lt Stewart Henderson, Lt Jo Baguley, Alex King, Christian Hatt and Andrew Davidson.

Finally it would be unfair not to mention Lt Col Hollingworth who with his active participation in the Climbing Wall, Camps, Weekends and Shooting Competitions contributes tremendous value to complement our training programme.

Capt. C J Cunningham  
OC Army Section

## Summer Camp 1996

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On the last day of the summer term 1996, as happens every other year, the advance party left to set up the CCF Army Section 'green-field' camp. This time it was held at Sheepstor, a small village on the southern edge of Dartmoor, in Devon. When the advance party arrived, there was literally a green field, populated by a dozen young bulls and their waste, which we had to transform into a campsite with sleeping, cooking and messing tents.

However, due to administrative problems, the tents, which we were borrowing from the Army, had been sent to a depot in Surrey, rather than to Devonport. Eventually, after Lt Col Hollingworth managed to locate the tents, they were sent down to Devonport as quickly as possible, and promptly erected before the main party arrived on the afternoon of the second day.

The first activity was the training circus, held on the army training area nearby. The afternoon was spent orienteering on the same piece of training area, and the competition was won by Lt Col Hollingworth and Sgt James Crompton. Conveniently, Sgt Will Townsend turned up just in time to miss the orienteering in the Willmobile.

The highlight of the training programme was the Battlecraft Exercise, which was organised by the three senior NCOs, RSM Griffin, and CSMs Saunders and Atkins. The exercise took the form of a conflict between two sections, led by Sgt Richards and C/Sgt McKenzie. After 12 hours, the section led by Sgt Richards was declared the winner by the Directing Staff.

The next day was spent recovering from the exertions of the Battlecraft Exercise. In the morning, we took the GP rifles and went shooting on a range by the coast near Plymouth. After the shooting, the 20 cadets went for a swim in the local swimming pool.

With our feet still sore from the Battlecraft Exercise, we set out on the two-day Expedition across Dartmoor from west to east. The weather was good, and the scenery was impressive as well. We set up a camp on the eastern side of Dartmoor for one night using compo rations for food. The next day we walked roughly half as far as the day before and were met by minibuses which took us back to Sheepstor.

In the afternoon we went climbing on the pink granite of Sheep's Tor, above the village.

There was much work to be done at the end of the camp, especially taking down the tents and leaving the field exactly as we had found it.

Thanks must be given to Mrs Cooper, who provided first-class catering with only limited resources in the cooking tent, to Lt Henderson, who was with us for most of the camp, and of course to the CCF officers, Captain Cunningham, Major Cooper, and Lt Col Hollingworth for organising and running the camp.

Jonathan Brown 6BC<sub>2</sub>

## CCF Adventure Training Camp – Leek 1997

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The advance party left on 27 March and arrived (having experienced a little travel sickness along the way) to find a deserted but immaculately clean village hall. All was peaceful in the village of Butterton; that was until the main party arrived.

Forget what you read last year; this year's battlecraft exercise was certainly the best I have ever been on! This was thanks largely to Lt McKellar and Lt Baguley but also to the Platoon Commander Shipley and the Platoon Sergeant Jagger. Sgt Shipley controlled the platoon very well on the first day thanks to a very comprehensive briefing. He 'died' miserably in the night phase when CSM Richards and Lt McKellar infiltrated the platoon's camp. The second day brought Sgt Jagger into the fray as Platoon Commander, a job which (having just come back from UKLF) he did adequately. The battlecraft ended in a win for the platoon, claiming only one POW – Sgt King.

The Kinderscout trek followed, after some serious planning the night before. We set out from the hall in the morning in a variety of minibuses and rally cars to get to the start of the walk. A good day's walking was had by all. The senior team got a bit lost at the start even with the help of a Global Positioning System, but still managed to get back first.

Our next day's activities were climbing and leadership tasks. In preparation and due to the absence of Lt Boreham, there was an excellent slide show from Col Hollingworth on survival and his various escapades. A new location was decided on for the ever present Dam, which always adds to the excitement of leadership tasks. After the Officers' attempt failed miserably, the NCOs had a go, and without a doubt constructed the best Dam ever recorded. As usual, the NCOs who set up the command tasks managed to cross the river without getting wet, and even Lt Baguley managed to stay dry (much to the distaste of most of the cadets!).

The camp debrief followed together with promotions. This year the Pattinson shield went to Cdt Mark Thomas.

We left the village hall as we had found it, and look forward to going again next year!

On behalf of all of the cadets who went on camp I would like to thank again all of the staff who gave up their own free time to come and help make this camp the best yet.

Mark Richards 6SB<sub>2</sub>

## CCF Snowdon Expedition October 1996

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One of the less military orientated activities available to members of the CCF is mountaineering, and on Friday 18 October, a 20-man team set forth for Snowdonia, an area which has sometimes proved to be as dangerous as it is beautiful.

We arrived in the Ogwen valley at about 22:00 hrs, and the first thing most of us noticed was how bright the stars were. The low population density results in very little light pollution. The accommodation was a barn which, unlike last year's, was free of livestock! The interior furnishing was of a minimalist approach and consisted of one large room for use as a dormitory, a smaller room for use as a kitchen, and a further room with sink and shower.

On the Saturday, we climbed the Carneddau. We split up into two teams, each with a cadet NCO in charge. It was his duty to navigate and to look after the health and happiness of each team member including the adult staff. Each team member had a chance to lead for one leg of the journey. He had to delegate a rear guard, to ensure no one was left behind, and a time keeper. Throughout the day we enjoyed spectacular scenery and reached the end just before dusk.

On the second day it rained heavily and so we did a shorter three hour walk around the lake in Cwm Idwal. This provided an opportunity for the team leaders to prove their leadership skills by trying to keep up morale! Later, to escape the rain we visited Anglesey and the famous railway station: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysliogogoch.

On the last day, Monday, we got up at 04:30 and prepared to pack up and return home. However, there was time for a final hike before we left, and so we climbed Moel Siabod. The weather was fine and this was considered by all as the best ascent.

The expedition was great fun and useful for developing navigation and leadership skills and an appreciation of the outdoors. The team would like to thank Messrs Hollingworth, Claye, Jones and Murray for providing the opportunity.

T Kenney 6E<sub>1</sub>

## RAF Section

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We have enjoyed another busy and successful year with a large number of visits and activities, and some excellent camps. Section Warrant Officer Andrew Burnette took over the reins smoothly last Easter and set about introducing many improvements to the Section's organisation and training. With his enthusiastic new team of Senior NCOs, Andrew proved an outstanding warrant officer. He has now handed over to Warrant Officer Mark Steenson to carry on the good work.

Throughout the year Andrew has been ably assisted by Flight Sergeant James Darbyshire who has devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensuring that the Section has been well organised and efficiently administered, particularly now that we have entered the age of the computer! Ross Muir who has been acting as James' deputy has now taken over as Adjutant to further develop this important function.

It is now five years since we introduced the new post of Chief Instructor with a remit to 'sort out training', and it has proved an excellent innovation. Each year the incumbent further refines our training programme and



*Powered gliding at 613 VGS.*

oversees a progressive enhancement in training standards whilst training his deputy to take over the role in the following year. This year Flight Sergeant Tom Payne has demonstrated the art of running a training programme *par excellence*! For his outstanding contribution to the work of the Section Tom was awarded the Geoffrey de Havilland Flying Foundation Medal. His able deputy John Maloney now takes up the challenge. Tom has been greatly assisted by Sergeant Philip Newnham as Training Manager. Philip has done much of the planning as well as being our IT specialist, installing the Section's computers and our very popular flight simulator. Philip also led the team that came second in the prestigious Air Squadron Trophy competition. This was a significant achievement which led to an invitation to Air Day at RAF Cranwell where the team were congratulated, entertained and flown in private aircraft of the Air Squadron – a group of senior officers and captains of the aviation industry dedicated to the future of British aviation. As we go to press we anxiously await the result of the 1997 competition!

Once again this year we have had an excellent intake of Junior Cadets. Their enthusiasm and maturity have made them a pleasure to work with and are a source of pride to their officers and SNCOs. For example, at Easter camp our cadets brought great credit to the school through their smartness, keenness and self-discipline. The Junior Cadets have been led this year by Flight Sergeant Jonathan Ware who has been a tower of strength to the Section with his unbounded enthusiasm and energy. Jonathan has shown superb leadership and will make a fine officer. Flight Sergeant Nicholas Darbyshire has taken over and made a good start in this demanding post. Flight Sergeant Nick Finch has done well training our Senior Cadets this year, ably assisted by Sergeants Richard Garner, who is one of the country's best glider pilots for his age, and Andrew Zahl who has also done a splendid job as our first-aid instructor. Flight Sergeant Charles Blanch is Nick's worthy successor to lead the Senior Cadets next year. We have been well served by Sergeant Elliot Bambury as the SNCI i/c Weapons, and are specially grateful to Sergeant James Yates for his hard work and efficient organisation as SNCO i/c Logistics. Sergeant Mike Beesley has been a great strength as 'A' Flight Commander and as our SNCO i/c Gliding; he has shown exceptional leadership in both roles and will be a hard man to replace. 'B' and 'C' Flights of Junior Cadets were well led by Adam Stanton and Ben Markham. Adam has gained one of a number of Flying Scholarships awarded to the Section this year, but unfortunately Ben, a young man of great courage and character, is in hospital at the time of writing. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery. This year's Senior NCOs

have been an exceptionally good team, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. We all wish them good luck with their examinations and in their future careers.

All of us in the RAF Section are very much aware of the generous support we are given from many quarters. Our grateful thanks go to Squadron Leader Mike Neil and his pilots of No 6 Air Experience Flight for the Bulldog flying that the cadets so greatly appreciate at RAF Benson. Also to Squadron Leader John Brebner and his colleagues of No 613 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Halton for the powered gliding our cadets have enjoyed over the last year. Once again our thanks go to Flt Lt Barry Fryett and FS Andy Waddell of our RAF Liaison staff for their highly professional support. Andy has now retired and left the organisation. He was one of the RAF's great characters, and has been an enormous help to Fg Off Seymour and me over the years – we won't forget him in a hurry. Andy has been replaced by Campbell Walters, a canny Scot, who is already proving invaluable to the Section. Fg Off Iain Brown has given generously of his time and knowledge for several years but is no longer able to do so for business and domestic reasons. We are greatly indebted to him for all his assistance, as well as to Flt Lt Tony Sollars, Lt Geoff Rysdale and all the others who have given so willingly of their free time.

Flt Lt M C Darby  
OC RAF Section

## International Air Cadet Exchange – Canada 1996

Last July saw the 50th anniversary of one of the most exciting events a CCF cadet can enjoy. The International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) began in 1946 with an exchange of air cadets between the UK and Canada. Nowadays the exchange involves cadets from countries all around the world including Hong Kong, Israel, Australia, USA and many European countries. It is all paid for by the host countries and everything is done to help you enjoy your time abroad. I was fortunate enough to be one of the 87 cadets selected to represent the UK on the exchange last Summer, and particularly lucky to be one of the party of 25 which visited Canada.

We arrived in Montreal in one of the warmest summers in Canadian history and proceeded to tour Ontario and Quebec, staying with host families and on Canadian Air Force bases. Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto were all visited and many historical, cultural and exciting places were seen and experienced. I will never forget sailing at the foot of the magnificent Niagara Falls; standing on a glass floor at the top of the world's tallest free-standing structure – the CN tower; rushing down rapids whilst white water rafting; and soaring like a bird in clear blue sun-lit skies seated in a Schweizer glider.

I could write a book about the glorious memories I have of that wonderful trip: the friendships, the sights, the fun and adventures. The exchange provided us with the most unforgettable experiences I have ever had and hope that others will have the chance to participate in future International Air Cadet Exchanges in years to come.\*

Paul Tester  
Cadet Warrant Officer (Retired!)

\* Flight Sergeant Tom Payne has been selected to visit the USA this Summer as part of IACE 97.

M.C.D.



## Novice to Solo Pilot in Six Days!!

The RAF offers Basic Gliding Training (BGT) courses which enable a number of cadets to learn to fly gliders to solo standard. The flying is completely free with only a nominal charge for food and lodging. I was lucky enough to attend one of these BGT courses at RAF Sealand, near Chester, at the end of last year's summer holiday.

Although Sealand is only a small airfield by military and civilian standards, it was a hive of activity throughout the whole summer. The Volunteer Gliding School at Sealand, 631 VGS, had six gliders to train ten cadets, including myself, in a week. Unfortunately poor weather limited the amount of time available for flying, so when the weather was good we were hard at work making the most of it. Apart from the actual flying and ground-school, this involved constant activity as we ran around the airfield collecting gliders that had landed, and pulling them back to the launch point to start the launch process over again.

The flying was far better than anything I had experienced before – gliding is a pure form of flying which is greatly affected by rising or sinking air. When working a thermal to gain altitude, I found that on some occasions a bird was doing the same thing in the same thermal. The flying was very intensive, with a new skill being learnt or practised on each flight – which made it all the more demanding. The launch – a climb to over 1000 feet at a 60 degree angle – is an amazing experience at the start of every flight.

By the end of the week I was already for my first solo. The unforgettable thrill of flying solo is difficult to explain, but it was one of the most valuable experiences in my life to date.

Flight Sergeant James Darbyshire



*'Pure' gliding at the Chilterns.*

## RAF Section Gliding Club

Now in its second year of existence, the RAF Section Gliding Club has had another hugely successful year. Last summer around 15 new cadets joined the experienced old hands to participate in the unique thrill of flying 'free as a bird' with the Chilterns Gliding Club at RAF Halton, near Wendover.

In addition to providing air experience flights the excellent flying instruction offers the enthusiastic cadet an unbeatable and highly affordable opportunity to learn to glide, whether for recreation or as a step towards a career in aviation. One of our cadets has already progressed from his first glider flight to going solo, and onwards towards more advanced qualifications, entirely through the club.

Flying from Halton offers opportunities for thermal and ridge soaring as well as stunning views over the Chilterns for those with the time to enjoy them. Gliders are launched by winch and comprise a variety of dual and single seater types, mostly closed canopy, some open cockpit, and one of our cadets even managed a convertible!

Up to four club members may fly at Halton whenever the Chilterns Gliding Club is operating, which is virtually every weekend and Wednesday and Friday afternoons, weather (and school lessons) permitting. As well as flying, cadets learn about airfield operations, the weather and the general running of the club. There is also plenty of opportunity to socialise with the instructors – whether over an excellent cooked brunch available on the club bus, out on the airfield, or in the clubhouse after flying has ended for the day.

The continued success of the club and the fantastic opportunity which it offers depends entirely on the help, not only of the instructors, but also of those staff and parents who provide transport and supervision at the airfield. To them all we are more indebted than we can possibly say.

Corporal Ian Harman  
Cpl i/c Gliding



*Art Exhibition in Library Reading Room*



*Alex Cox  
Year 12*

# OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

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## Annual General Meeting – Saturday 22 March 1997

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Twelve Old Wycombiensians were present for the AGM. The minutes were read, agreed and signed. There were no matters arising. The Hon. Auditor, John Read, gave the *financial report*. He reported a deficit on the year of £211, far less than last year's deficit of £2,299, due to the discontinuance of sending the School Magazine free to all members. 54 new life members joined the Club helping to give a balance of £11,191 to be carried forward at the end of the year.

*Election of Officers.* All were re-elected with the addition of R. H. Wynands (1944–50), who was elected to the committee.

*President's Comments.* The school now had Language College Status and a new block was in the process of being built with three new classrooms and an IT room. To help with funding business had come abroad: HSBC, British Aerospace, Vickers and Rolls Royce had representatives on the Governing Body. Funding still remained a problem and without help the school could quickly deteriorate into being just another state school. The President hoped that Old Boys could take a more pro-active role.

*Any other business.* The Old Boys' Directory has now been published. To thank Sheila Mawhood for all her hard work it was proposed that she be made an Honorary Old Wycombiensian. This was carried unanimously.

## Annual Dinner 1997

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This year's Guest of Honour was David Morton (1960–67). David has worked for Shell and since 1974 for the BBC. He has produced various programmes such as *The World at One* and *Analysis*. At present he is Head of Region for the former Soviet Union and SW Asia, BBC World Service. After being introduced by the Hon. Secretary he gave an interesting talk on his working life. David Merriman (1969–76) proposed the toast to the School and Club, to which the President responded.

## Obituaries

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**EMERY, R F** (1927–33) died in London on 31 January 1997, aged 81. Ron fulfilled his ambition of returning to the School, where he had excelled in most sporting activities, and it was in 1946 that he was appointed sports and PT master. He left in 1949 to join the family building business. After leaving the RGS as a student in 1933, he gained a place at Culham College, a teacher training establishment, and was subsequently sports and PT master at the then new Mill End school. It was here that he met Enid (Paddy) Moulton, who was to become his wife. Ron joined the Royal Air Force in 1939, and was an enthusiastic PT instructor, both in the UK and in South Africa. He transferred to aircrew in 1943, and was shot down over Frankfurt in March 1944 – the only crew survivor. He was badly injured, and even after the war ended, it was a long while before he fully recovered. Ron was mighty in stature and achievement – a true and worthy sportsman.

**STONE, M G** (1928–1934) died on 31 December 1996 in Wycombe Hospital aged 80 years.

After planning a career in accountancy following the war, Maurice took over the family business R.A. Stone and Co (Cycles) in West Wycombe Road on the death of his father.

The business was sold in the mid 1970's when the projected road improvement plans were announced.

Since retiring Maurice assisted with the local Conservative party. He was also a committed member of the Pastures Church and was responsible for maintaining the PA system and distributing tapes of services to older members unable to attend church.

He served as a Governor of Tinkers Wood School and also helped with school activities including teaching about electricity and electronics to older children.

Only illness in the last few years prevented him from carrying on with the activities he so enjoyed.

He was always proud of his link with the RGS and was a regular attendee of Old Wycombiensian dinners. His links were also maintained through his three sons who each attended the school.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, and sons David (1964–71), Mike (1966–73) and Tim (1970–77).

**VERE, R F S** (1952–58) Roger Vere died on 22 August 1996 after a very private fight against cancer. He was a Wycombiensian who put his life to the service of his town. With his brother Derek (1958–63) he was joint managing director of the family-owned furniture firm of Verco. It is rare in the business world to find someone so widely liked, admired and respected by all who came into contact with him, as was Roger.

He began his school life (like hundreds – or is it thousands?) with Mervyn Davies in IIC. After a modest start he developed academically to leave with a very good set of 'O' Level results. He was a keen disciple of Monsieur Bur and a winder-up of TVS. He may have helped put his car (sideways-on) into the Fives court.

Roger was an enthusiast in everything he did. His support for Wycombe Wanderers – both personal and through Verco's sponsorship – was legendary. His involvement as a Governor of Wycombe High School, where his three daughters had been educated, was a very active one. Strong Christian principles always guided his approach to life, something commented on by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife Rosemary and daughters Marion, Joanne and Caroline.

M J Moffatt

## Old Boys' Notes

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**ALLAN, J** (1989–95) recently moved to Bristol University to read French and German. Prior to that he worked for Northern Telecom in marketing, looking after the BT business.

**BALDWIN, T** (1950–55) although modest regarding his academic success, he did make a great contribution to the musical side of his school days. Yum Yum in the 1950 'Mikado', Sam in 'The Pirates of Penzance', and Sir Despard in 'Ruddigore', to name but a few! He has lost his collection of 78rpm records of The Messiah (1950/51). Any copies out there?

**BOLTON, A C H** (1965–70) Asst Chief Constable Howlett Bolton of the Northamptonshire Police has an active and varied career, including a recent radio interview, stating that there would be an inquiry into procedure after two police cars had failed to find an accident on a foggy night.

**BURNS, J** (1970–75) In April 1996 he became electronics supervisor for Mobil's fleet of 29 tankers, having been with Mobil Shipping since leaving School. He earned his Second Mates' Certificate before coming ashore to be involved in fleet manning, followed by computer systems.

**CONNOR, N** (1972–79) currently living in Whitchurch, Hants, working for Digital and selling IT to the Government. A hip injury sustained whilst playing for Wycombe Presidents' XV in 1995 has curtailed his turn out for Basingstoke. Still sees SPEED C P and STINCHCOMBE P.

**DICKINSON, A P** (1960–67) Alan has returned from north of the border, and now lives in East Sussex. He is currently Director, Corporate and Commercial Banking, The Royal Bank of Scotland, based in London.

**DRAPER, J** (1978–82) is now employed in the IT industry, dealing in LAN'S & WAN'S(?). He left School at 5th level to join parents in USA, and attended University of Iowa 1984/7 studying business and communications.

**DUNLOP, R** (1981–87) now at Warwick University developing low cost tooling techniques for auto and aerospace companies. On leaving School he completed a HND in aerospace engineering, was with Rolls Royce for 4 years, and then completed a MSc in manufacturing systems at Nottingham. He hopes to finish EngD this year then move to Canada.

**FLETCHER, P** (1960–62) Peter called in briefly to view the School, but has since returned to Australia, where he is regional manager at the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, in Brisbane.

**GOODING, M** (1990–96) currently reading MEng at Merton, and would be happy to assist any OB wishing to bid for Oxford.

**GRAYLING, C S** (1974–80) was the unsuccessful Conservative candidate defending a small majority in the Warrington South constituency in the General Election in May.

**GREEN, P A D** (1947–51) Paddy is a graphological consultant, and lives in Weston-super-Mare. He will be producing an article for the next issue of the OB magazine, and is currently in contact with BANHAM M J, HARMAN R D, GILLARD P B, HORTIN C L, and WESTNEY K J P.

**GREENE, A A** (1975–81) Sup'td Alan Greene of the Greater Manchester Police has tasks ranging from dealing with the bombing of the city centre to giving an interview after the Queen's car was pelted with eggs on her recent visit to the area.

**HADDON, J** (1943–47) Jim hopes to visit the School again in the not too distant future: last time was in 1987, but it is a long way from Queensland, Australia. He retired from mining in Papua New Guinea in 1993, and now enjoys his involvement in religious science, a preserved steam

engine on a railway (entertaining tourists) and his large garden with exotic fruit trees.

**HARDING, R** (1929–36) remembers the last time he visited the School was in 1942, as a bomber pilot just back from Egypt, giving a talk to the RAF section of the CCF. He had captained the 1st XV 1935/6 and was pleased at the recent success of the U15s. He enquires about the various Houses having been the first Captain of the newly-formed Arnison House in 1935, teaming up with P L Jones! He is enjoying retirement.

**HARGREAVES, S** (1975–81) Simon read civil engineering at Birmingham University, graduated in 1985 with a first, and won an Institute of Civil Engineering prize. He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1988, and is now finance director Vanco Euronet, providers of pan European network services. He is married to Karen, and lives in Wokingham.

**HARRIS, O E** (1933–38) Owen is chairman of the Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, and he reports that it is on the final step to University status. A high-tech lecture theatre complex has been named after him, and he has been awarded the first Hon. MBA.

**HAZLEWOOD, I N** (1969–76) Read mechanical engineering at Bristol University, but found truck business did not offer good prospects, so travelled widely before joining Shell. Has had many international postings, and now in Sarawak as CEng MIMechE responsible for developing new gas fields.

**HENRY, A** (1980–86) now working for Oxford Molecular after studying for a degree and PhD in biochemistry at Bath University. Married Tasmin in October 1996.

**HODSON, T** (1982–88) is living in Bristol, although currently with a firm in London WC2. See *Who's Who* for full details.

**HOLLINGWORTH, P** (1967–74) is back in Chalfont St Peter after 22 years away, and is now Finance Director of Tetra Pak UK. Had a reunion recently with TRENDALL W, ANDREWS S, WORLEY D, and LILLEY G, but PAGE M and PETER E unable to attend.

**HUGHES, J C** (1957–64) wrote the songs for new musical 'The Best Kept Planet Competition', and has sent a poster of this well-received show. He wonders if there are any OBs involved in Drama/Musical groups who would be interested in the shortened version.

**JARVIS, A** (1976–82) graduated 1st class from Gonville & Caius, Cambridge. Has been with Unilever for 10 years and now senior strategy analyst with them in Rotterdam. Married to Alison (Née Haworth) and they have 3 sons. Provides news of brother Robert (1979–85) who graduated in human sciences (he thinks!) from Worcester College, Oxford. Then qualified as a doctor and now in first Houseman year, Rugby.

**JOHNSON, R J S** (1977–81) Richard won the £20,000 big prize on the ITV programme 'Wheel of Fortune' transmitted 3 January 1997.

**JOUHAR, K** (1969–76) is working for Morgan Stanley, trading options in the Forex markets. Lives in Beaconsfield with his 2 daughters, and unwinds with motorsports.

**KENDALL. C** (1981–87) is with the European Commission in Brussels, working mainly on automotive sector issues. He was married in July 1996. Is still in touch with a few OBs, and wonders whether others are in his patch.

**KNOX. A** (1978–84) lives in France, and is offering to set up an OB 'French Connection'.

**LAMB. N** (1988–94) working for his BSc in computer science at Southampton University.

**LANGDON. B** (1981) a recent report in the *Guardian* identifies him as MD of the London office of McCann Erickson, one of the world's largest advertising agencies. He read modern history at Jesus College, Oxford, and after a short while as a bond trader in a bank, worked for a number of international agencies.

**LAWTON. M** (1989–95) currently at Southampton University studying Medicine.

**LEONARD. A** (1974–80) works in Maidenhead as a senior IS consultant for a software house. He is also involved with High Wycombe Musical Entertainments Society, and occasionally performs at the Swan Theatre.

**LEWIS. E H** (1978–84) Simon completed his PhD at London University in 1993, and is now a lecturer in physical geography at Cheltenham and Gloucester College. He continues to work on a number of research projects, and resides in Evesham.

**LEWIS. J** (1974–80) Achieved a BSc in electronic engineering at London University, and is now MD (and co-founder) of Oxford Semiconductor Ltd, based in Abingdon. Has a new product on the market – standard integrated circuits – which he hopes will be a world-wide success.

**MACHACEK. A** (1987–93) is on a 4 year physics course at Trinity, Oxford. Happy to help any OB considering Oxford for studies.

**MARTIN. W** (1979–85) is senior chemistry technician at Halesowen College, W Midlands. He is also in final project year for a part time MSc in information systems engineering.

**McLAUGHLIN. I** (1989–95) was one of 6 players awarded a new rugby scholarship, by Quins and Surrey University. He will train with top clubs and study Russian & Economics.

**MENNIE. P** (1986–92) is now a business analyst with Datamonitor Strategic Consultants.

**MILWARD. T** (1986–92) is working in the psychology department at Oxford on neural networks – maths and computer simulations. He enjoys working on invariant object recognition, and spends much time getting the most out of mathematics.

**MOLDEN. N** (1986–92) graduated from Christ Church, Oxford in 1995, and is now celebrating the first award of a student radio licence for his Oxygen FM station in Oxford. With 5 full time staff and 200 student volunteers, he had to fight off strong competition, and hopes to reach an audience of 23,000 on 107.9 FM.

**MOORCROFT. J** (1971–78) is a partner in the local firm of Cannon Moorcroft, chartered accountants. He is chairman of Wycombe Business Forum, and is concerned with the welfare of small businesses.

**MOORE. B J** (1980–86) completed a ND at Amersham College, and a HND at Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design. Since then he has been in the field of design, both teaching and industrial, and has travelled extensively worldwide. He hopes to continue part time teaching and commercial design. Would like PAGE and GAMESTER to know that he has done 'alright'!

**MOORE. D G** (1983–89) After studying for a MPhil at Trinity College, Dublin, he remained in Eire, producing arts and technology articles for the *Irish Times*. He also works as a multimedia writer for a software company.

**MOORE. D J** (1963–69) is now senior partner of Rodgers Burton, solicitors in Barnes, London. He is also a FCI Arb and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, and wonders if any other OBs are in the Livery or the Institute. He lives close to the School, and his son is now at the RGS.

**MUNDAY. S J** (1984–90) Studied law at Birmingham University, and is now on his second visit to Japan, working at a high school in Kanazawa-Shi; also involved in a Christian mission there. Brother Paul (1986–92) is with the DRA in Malvern, having completed a degree in electronic engineering and communications at Bristol University.

**NEWPORT. P J** (1975–81) Philip is now approaching the veteran stage in his cricket career with Worcestershire. His 1996 season was marred by achilles tendon damage, but an operation should get him fit and ready to go for next season. After recent bowling failures by England, he could be recalled to add to his three test caps.

**PARKER. S J** (1969–76) has spent the past 2½ years back in Hong Kong with Holiday Inn, and awaits the advent of the transfer of power to China (with interest!). His 2 daughters are learning Mandarin, in addition to swimming and piano. Has met up with SWEETING C (1958–63), who is the publisher of a successful travel magazine.

**READ. J N** (1986–92) After achieving a 2:1 honours degree in computer science at So'ton, he is currently in the 2nd year of a PhD in computer supported cooperative work. Several of his publications are available from most electronics retailers.

**RICHARDSON. A** (1988–90). Andrew was one of the Bisham tennis boys, who were chosen to receive special coaching at Bisham Abbey and received their education at the RGS. In April he was plucked from the obscurity of the Indoor Satellite circuit to represent his country in a vital Davis Cup tie. He was plunged in against a big-match specialist ranked more than 200 places higher than him – and beat him in five sets.

**RICHMOND. K** (1969–76) is now assistant editor of *Woman's Own*, following 10 years as a news reporter, feature writer, showbiz editor and theatre reviewer on the *Sunday Mirror*. He is the author of 'The Musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber', and recently wrote an appreciation in 'Applause', on the 25th anniversary of 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.



**RUSSELL, G J** (1982–88) had a post-School break of 1 year in Australia, followed by 3 years' zoology at New College, Oxford, and then 4 years pursuing a PhD in ecology at the University of Tennessee. He is currently a post-doctoral researcher in Santa Barbara CA and spends 4 months of each year at Imperial College's Centre for Population Biology, Ascot. He would be happy to give advice on ecology or biology careers, or information on New College or US studies.

**SADDLER, A J** (1947–54) writes at length on fond memories of his days at the School, and having recently retired as headmaster of the Read School, Drax, after 36 years' teaching, now has time for reflection! Apart from his classical studies, thoughts of rugby and boxing encounters, the G&S operas, and the fact that he still has his caps for 1st XI cricket and prefecture (complete with yellow tassle!), help to keep those memories alive.

**SAMPSON, E H** (1927–33) Writes from Thornton Cleveleys, Lancs, to say how much he enjoyed Stanley Hoffman's memories of the School in the 1930's – his own era.

**SAUNDERS, J** (1963–70) enjoys reading RGS pages on the web site. He studied in Cambridge, spent 2 years TEFL in Barcelona and on return to UK joined the civil service as a programmer at the Chessington Computer Centre. He is now their contracts manager. He is married, lives in Kingston-upon-Thames and is still involved with chess, which has brought him into contact with other OBs – CARLESS D (based in Hong Kong), and STEVENSON D (1964–70) who lives in Hudson, Ohio. Brother Neil (1957–64) is head of modern languages at a school in Southport. John would like to hear from classics/chess colleagues from late '60s.

**SCRUTON, R V** (1954–61) a long and detailed article in *Sunday Telegraph* magazine of 24 Nov 1996, described Roger as a 'Renaissance Man', gravitas incarnate, and Britain's most famous philosopher! A double first and professorship led to a varied life – barrister, novelist, opera composer, journalist, author of 20 academic books, as well as a church organist. He is being compared with Russell and Ayer – honour indeed.

**SINNATT, B** (1946–53) read history at Cambridge, did National Service, then spent 32 years with Shell in various overseas posts before returning to London. He retired over 4 years ago, and often recalls the debt he owes to the School and individual masters, and the real value of the education received. He sends best wishes for continued success at the RGS.

**STEVENS, D** (1933–40) Professor D Stevens has recently written a book entitled 'Early Music', published as one of the Yehudi Menuhin music guides. Denis was co-founder of the Ambrosian Singers, and along with two distinguished professorships in the USA, has devoted many years to pre-classical music. He was a senior producer at the BBC, and continues to advocate greater use of the organ in the music of Vivaldi and his contemporaries. He was made

a CBE in 1984 in recognition of his work and research. He merits an entry in the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Music, and was the subject of an interesting article in a recent edition of the *Saga* magazine. He mentions Richard HICKOX, who won a Royal Society's prize for conducting.

**STINCHCOMBE, P D** (1972–80) was elected Labour MP for Wellingborough at the general election in May, defeating Old Boy Sir Peter Fry by 187 votes.

**SWINHOE-STANDEN, C** (1971–78) is now a senior consultant with Sequent Computer Systems.

**THOMAS, H M** (1969–76) is the Chief Executive of Sale Rugby Football Club, who reached the Pilkington Cup Final this last season.

**WALLER, W R** (1954–60) writes from New Malden to advise of the death of his father, Horace William Ashton WALLER aged 81, an OB during the 1920's.

**WALTERS, S** (1987–93) is at Nottingham University studying European law, although now enjoying a 1 year placement at Leiden, Holland. Engaged to Sarah Bramhall, also a Nottingham graduate.

**WARE, G J** (1978–84) is currently working in Germany for an electronics firm, travelling worldwide for the business. Visits the USA twice yearly to start up his Harley Davidson!, but would like to work permanently there.

**WOOD, D J** (1943–50) David confesses that he has been out of touch with the School and OBs for many years, but will now make amends and join the Club! He recalls the days when captain of the very successful X-Country team, and stays in touch with WHY C J (1942–50).

**WYATT J** (1987–91) went to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta fresh from his Part 2 in chemistry at Corpus Christi. He played right back for the England hockey team in all matches. The schedules were hectic, but he had a great time and relished the experience.

**ZERNY, A M** (1988–94) will be graduating from Exeter University this summer. He has been in contact with KEMBLE S K (1988–94) and WALDRON C J (1988–94) who is at present considering a move to Colchester to run a book company, and regrets losing contact with LAMB N J, RYAN N A and FORREST D J.

Old Boys who are able to look in at the RGS pages on the Internet, will find the contact available as follows: <http://www.rmple.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rgshiwyw/index.html>. You are asked to send brief details of yourselves, and other OBs with whom you are in contact, so that we can list them in the next issue. The Email number is RMP.9045404.D4W@DIALNET.CO.UK. Feel free to use the old 'steam' post if you have articles and photos which will be of interest.

The *Who's Who*, just published, will have the details of numerous OBs, and should be good for a few hours' browse.

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