

Wycombiensian

1998

REGIA

SCHOLA

GRAMMATICA



The Wycombiensian

1998

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 Derek White-Taylor

July 1997 saw the retirement after 30 years at RGS of a living legend – Derek 'Del' White-Taylor. Surely no school-master has ever expended so much energy in the quest to drill Modern Languages into the brains of young people. Derek had a unique teaching style of quick-fire questions and answers, and mountains of meticulously prepared, yet indecipherable, lesson plans.

One of Derek's first moves when appointed in 1967 was to agree to become master i/c the Aeronautical Society, though his knowledge of things aeronautical didn't extend beyond knowing the German word for an aeroplane. Similarly he was i/c badminton for a decade but confesses to never having been able to fathom the rules.

From 1972–82 DWT was House Tutor in School House, and he has also notched up ten German Exchanges to Osnabrück. When pressed, Derek will admit to two hangovers in his life: one after a staff party, and one after an evening in the Grüner Jäger in Osnabrück. Many a German student can identify with that.

In 1988 Derek became Tuck Shop manager, and has dedicated himself whole-heartedly to making it as efficient as possible. In recent times a computer has appeared in the Tuck Shop, and I am reliably informed by First Lieutenant Marcus that Derek is often to be heard talking to it, thanking it and even apologizing to it. DWT's first brush with the 20th century was in the 60s, when he attempted to teach a lesson in the Language Lab. As he failed to make any piece of equipment work at all, he never set foot in that lab again.

Derek has been a leading light in Staff Revues and at staff parties, with his amazing talent as a mimic and raconteur. I will be forever grateful to Derek, for his ability to see the bright side of life in the terrapins, where sub-zero temperatures, loose door-frames, leaning ceilings, plastic sheeting for windows, paraffin fumes, falling wall-panels and even decomposing dogs have been a way of life.

All those of us who have had the privilege of working with Derek, and hearing him teach, whether in his classroom, or an adjacent classroom, or the science block, or three streets away, will miss him greatly, and we wish him a very long and happy retirement. Alles Gute, mon vieux!

A.R.Y.

Mr John Mitchell

'Some are born great; some achieve greatness; and some have greatness thrust upon them.'

[*Twelfth Night*]

The image many people will retain of John Mitchell is of a lone, often dripping, cyclist, battling through the traffic from Penn every morning; save for the rare occasion when he could be seen emerging from an enviably 'classic' Rover. (Only recently has he forced himself behind the wheel of modern motoring.) And that, in many ways, is symbolic of John: his own man, following his own beliefs, irrespective of common trends.

John Mitchell came to the RGS in 1972, to be No. 2 in the English Department, to teach some History in his (spare) time, and to run the library, at that time housed in what is now humorously known as the 'Arts' Centre. Shortly after his arrival, he had greatness thrust upon him forcefully, by the serious illness of Charles Hills, at that time Head of Department. While Charles recovered from a serious heart-attack, John served as acting Head of Department for what probably seemed like an age. So it was no surprise that, when Charles retired, John officially achieved greatness, and replaced him, where he has reigned ever since. Many Old Boys will no doubt testify to his insistence on 'rigour' in work and behaviour, and also to his acid wit; for John, when required, does not suffer fools gladly, in or out of Room 26.

He has combined a wide knowledge and a deep love of literature, with close involvement with all things cultural. His long contribution to 'Vulture' speaks for itself on that, while we long-serving members of staff remember his productions of *The Tempest*, and *Macbeth*. (As co-producer of the latter, I recall it especially vividly.) There was Dennis Smith's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, too, where the 'rude mechanicals' were played by staff, and which featured John as 'Flute, the bellows-mender'. The *real* aesthetes on the staff will also remember John's uninhibited contributions to several Staff Revues – less mechanical, but ruder.

Of late, like all of us, he has had to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous National Curriculums, bearing up bravely under several hundredweight of official documents, each one an offence to the English language. Unsurprisingly, he has decided enough is enough. So we can only wish John and Mary all the best, in every way. (Except, of course, when the RGS needs a supply teacher to cover for the English Department while they moderate endless Year 11 coursework folders. Stay by the phone.)

I.A.B.

Mr Tim Claye

Tim Claye, who left last July, came to RGS in 1978 as Head of Economics and Business Studies. He is a fire-ball of enthusiasm and a man of ideas. Tim has thrown himself into so many areas of school life that it is difficult to name all of them. A highly successful expedition to Bolivia in 1993 was followed in 1997 by a visit to Tanzania. Very many YHA trips, skiing holidays and exchange groups to America and France have been enriched by Tim's energy and sense of fun. A successful production of *O What A Lovely War* was another highlight of his career. He is madly keen on the theatre and drama.

In the Economics Department, Tim has held together a team, some of whom have been unusual characters. He has always encouraged them to develop their own ideas and to teach in the way that they think is most effective. Tim has been one of the great personalities of RGS. Stories about him are legion – and many of them are true. It is true, for example, that Tim, armed with a smoke-gun and dressed from head to foot in a bee-keeper's gear, invaded the classroom of a colleague, bringing the lesson to an abrupt halt. An alarmed former Headmaster emerged from his room into a cloud of smoke. Tim was as always unperturbed. He is unforgettable and we shall think of him with affection. Our warmest and best wishes go with him.

R.G.R.



Art Room Display

Mrs Jeanette Zerny

Jeanette joined the RGS as a part-time teacher of Art in September 1995. Her teaching experience included work in both the primary and secondary sector, in a Private School as Head of Art, and as art tutor in adult education.

She is a perfectionist and has worked tirelessly at school and at home to help pupils develop their perceptual, intellectual and practical skills. She particularly enjoyed teaching GCSE and A Level pupils, where her knowledge of art history and contemporary debate was keenly received by her pupils.

Her quiet, caring manner will be recognised and missed by many on the staff, and in particular by the Art Department who will also remember her joy and enthusiasm on the international art trips.

Jeanette is leaving to devote herself to being a full-time professional painter/sculptor and we all wish her every success at being one of those who 'can and do'.

R.P.S.

Mr Patrick Gazard

'Gazza', 'Mr. G.', 'Pat', 'Badger', 'Mr Jazz', 'Chef' – just some of the names by which Patrick Gazard came to be known in his six years at RGS, and an indication, perhaps, of the semi-cult status he achieved in that time. Coming to RGS after just a year's teaching experience, PDG quickly established himself as one of the more colourful members of the Common Room. Frequently teased for his prematurely greying hair, rarely seen in the colder months without both his jacket and his anorak, PDG was not a personality to blend into the background. His overriding enthusiasm for jazz, particularly in the form of the RGS Jazz Orchestra, of which he was justifiably proud, directed much of his thinking and his activity, and is undoubtedly the hallmark of his time here.

However, PDG's contribution to RGS was not restricted to the music scene. He was employed to teach some junior English, and also games. He will be remembered with gratitude by the hockey fraternity for his contribution to their sport, and remembered by many in the present school for their Year 8 English lessons, an area of his teaching which he took very seriously. PDG had a particular love of drama, initiating and directing a junior play in his third year (*Bottom's Dream*), and, more recently, directing an exciting production of *The Merchant of Venice* for the 1997 senior play. In his Music teaching, he was rigorous and whole-hearted, never accepting sub-standard work, but always encouraging where appropriate. In the Music Department as a whole, he was very active, always keen to impress upon people that he was as much at home with classical music as with jazz. He conducted the First Orchestra in a memorable performance of Holst's 'Mars', from the *Planets* suite, in Wycombe Parish Church.

But it is inevitably his tremendous love and enthusiasm for jazz which captured the imaginations of the boys who worked with him closely in the Jazz Band, and many is the time he organised or encouraged trips to jazz concerts, or NYJO rehearsals. He was particularly pleased with the *Daily Telegraph* jazz award for innovative repertoire, and worked very hard at home arranging new material for the band to play. It was fitting, therefore, that the RGS Jazz Orchestra finally made it to the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Festival Hall in PDG's last term, following a successful jazz band tour to Geneva in the Easter holiday (1997).

PDG has moved on to higher things, becoming Director of Music at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School in

September 1997. We wish him well there, and, indeed, at home, as he begins his new role as a family man.

T.P.V.

Mr Andrew Jamieson

Sadly, Andy Jamieson left us last July to move, with his wife Kaye and son Charlie, to Singapore where he is still teaching. Andy took over the RE Department from Barry Kempson. He brought to the job his relaxed, good humoured style, which made him easy to talk to and unthreatening as a communicator of religious ideas. Andy was a talented games player himself and a good coach. He was in charge of the middle school rugby team that triumphed at Twickenham in 1996.

We valued Andy for his warmth of character, deep sincerity and genuine faith. We remember him with real affection and miss him greatly.

R.G.R.

Mr Lee Hunter

Lee Hunter joined the RGS in September 1994 after teaching at the British School in Milan. This transfer was made under the Bosman ruling as the Headmaster refused to pay a fee.

Lee was appointed as No. 2 in the Department and quickly directed his energy, enthusiasm and organisational skills into the smooth running of the Department. This was not surprising as the J in LJH actually stands for Joules. He wrote many of the work and mark schemes, devised many a difficult Sixth Form test and never seemed to relax.

Lee also made a full contribution to school sport. His enthusiasm for rowing was boundless and his new post allows him to spend more time on the river, and I quote: 'whilst I won't be as good as Sir Michael Redgrave at least I shall be fit for staff sport.'

In staff soccer Lee was our midfield dynamo and his two goals in three seasons were a major factor in our success. In staff cricket whilst fielding at mid-off he genuinely seemed to enjoy covering for Mr Chamberlain in the slips.

This summer Lee is to marry Bettina in France despite the fact that she still can't get any World Cup tickets. We wish him well in marriage and as Head of Science at Tiffin Girls'. In the immortal words of Guy de Maupassant, 'Bon chance mon ami', which apparently means 'good luck my friend'. (Tr. H. Munday.)

R.J.D.

Mr Garry Collinson

Garry Collinson came to the RGS as a newly qualified teacher in September 1996. He was part of the Chemistry Department's new youth policy as he could easily empathise with the boys, some of whom were older than him.

Garry's strength is in the laboratory and he is proving to be an excellent teacher of Chemistry. One was always impressed with his ability to handle the wind-up merchants of the Sixth Form so early in his career. He tried to introduce Apple Mac into a Department which until his arrival thought that this was just another fast food dessert.

Outside school Garry is a keen cyclist. He is often seen riding around Wycombe looking for the other Apple Mac user in South Bucks. He played for the staff soccer team and regularly gave a very good impression of Gareth



*Laurence Green
Year 12
Drawing in Space
Wire sculpture*

Southgate taking a penalty. He was also active in U14 rugby, and a valued House Tutor in the boarding houses.

Garry is moving to the International School in Vienna, principally to get as far away from Garth Ratcliffe as possible. However, when told that Garth's identical twin Rasputin Ratcliffe, another mad chaplain, resides in a nearby Viennese sanatorium, Garry shrugged his shoulders and slipped away to the Orchard. We wish him well.

R.J.D.

Mrs Cleone Cruz

Cleone, who left us last summer, joined the Modern Languages Department in September 1995, and quickly established herself as a thoroughly committed and professional member of staff. Her love of languages, both French and Spanish, was always evident and she always found time to support the work of the Department. With great enthusiasm, she successfully led the Year 10 exchange to St Germain.

We will miss her companionship and wish her every success in her new job at Headington Girls' School.

H.R.M.

Mr Zak Jones

Zak Jones leaves the RGS this summer to go to hotter climes. He will be representing Wales at Hockey in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September, with a view to playing and travelling around Australia and New Zealand immediately following the Games. On his return to England he is aiming to be part of the Great Britain squad for the Sydney Olympics in 2000. We wish him the very best of luck and freedom from injury. During his two years at the RGS Zak has been fully committed to teaching and coaching a whole range of sports within the timetable and extra-curricularly, all to a high level. His particular forte is, of course, hockey where his knowledge and ability have been plain to see. The technical development that all the teams have made will give his replacement a wonderful base from which to work.

Zak has always given freely of his time and has had a cheerful manner, and he will be missed by many.

P.R.M./C.C.T.

University Entry 1997–98

OXFORD

Edwards, NL Jesus; Geography (98)
Gerrard, AM University; Physics
Hoyle, AJ Pembroke; Theology
Khan, AI Balliol; Chemistry
Kirk, D University; Classics
Pilgerstorfer, MJ St John's; Law with Law Studies in Europe
Siddiqui, MF Brasenose; Modern History
Yates, JR St John's; Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry

CAMBRIDGE

Arnold, DG Queens'; Natural Sciences
Hadi, M Trinity Hall; Natural Sciences (98)
Harris, P Emmanuel; Engineering
Haynes, AD Downing; Natural Sciences
Lawrence, RJ Fitzwilliam; Classics
Markanday, A Downing; Law
O'Shea, J Robinson; Modern Languages
Palmer, MJ Sidney Sussex; Natural Sciences
Rider, JH Fitzwilliam; Engineering
Watts, G Pembroke; Economics
Winston, GP Caius; Medical Sciences

OTHER UNIVERSITIES

Adams, S University College London; Medicine
Afshar, R University College London; Economics and History
Akhtar, A Leicester; Economic and Social History
Ali, RA University College London; Medicinal Chemistry
Allen, MJ University College London; History
Anderson, IRD Leicester; Physics with Space Science and Technology
Andrew, RC Buckinghamshire College; Film and Media with Video Production
Antoine, MMJ Hertfordshire; International Business Studies
Arif, R SOPH (London); Pharmacy
Astbury, MJP Nottingham Trent; Humanities
Authwall, S Westminster; Computing
Beesley, MS Imperial College London; Mechanical Engineering (98)
Bentall, AJ Birmingham; Medicine (98)
Betteley, AD Birmingham; Electronic and Software Engineering (98)
Blackwell, G Edinburgh; Modern European Languages
Bond, AD Imperial College London; Mechanical Engineering (98)
Brice, T Cardiff; Music
Brocklehurst, JM Surrey; Hotel and Catering Management (98)
Brown, JJ Liverpool; Geology and Physical Geography (98)
Brown, PJ Leicester; Chemistry
Brown, RE Birmingham; Psychology (98)
Burden, JIF Southampton; Chemistry
Burnette, AJP East Anglia; Law
Burrell, RH Royal Holloway; Physics
Cannon, RW University College London; Architecture
Collier, TP East Anglia; American and English Literature
Cooke, PM Durham; Anthropology
Cookson, CJ Warwick; Computer Science
Cooper, M Reading; Accounting and Economics
Coster, ME Reading; Psychology and Zoology
Cotgreave, JH Bath; Chemistry

Cox, RA Nottingham; Medicine (98)
Crompton, J Salford; French/Spanish
Crompton, JP King's College London; LLB with European Legal Studies (98)
Curtis, DR Durham; Engineering (Electronics) (98)
Davies, RD UMIST; Management
Day, SP Brunel; American Studies
De Sybel, D Warwick; Computer Science
Devoy, MAJ Southampton; Philosophy (98)
Dhillon, T Royal Holloway; Economics with Management Studies
Dickson, MJ Nottingham; Manufacturing Engineering and Management with French
Ditta, MS University College London; Law
Dodds, OJ Salford; Spanish/Arabic
Drinkwater, MVG Sheffield; Law with Spanish
Dunstan, I Leicester; Physics with Astrophysics
Eade, G Reading; Cybernetics and Control Engineering
Edmondson, JFM Leicester; BEng Degree with Integrated Foundation
Elliot, JPM Southampton; Electronic Engineering
Fagan, JA Durham; Politics and History
Fallaize, M Reading; Biological Sciences
Farmer, MA University College London; Geography
Finch, NJ St Andrew's; European Integration Studies
Ford, PJ Bristol; Microbiology
Gallagher, T Loughborough; Management Sciences
Gardner, T Birmingham; Biochemistry
Garner, RPJ Southampton; Management Sciences and Accounting
Gerrard, WS Manchester; Pharmacy
Gilbert, BF Loughborough; Computing and Management (98)
Ginn, MJ Cardiff; Business Administration with French
Goodchild, GNF Birmingham; Geography
Grant, SJ Oxford Brookes; Languages for Business: Spanish/French
Graveley, ND Coventry; Transport Design
Guttfeld, RW University College London; Law
Hameed, T King's College London; Law
Hammersley, JCD Bath; Chemical Engineering and Environmental Management
Hay, JD Warwick; Philosophy
Haynes, CJ Imperial College London; Mechanical Engineering
Hayward, PD Leeds; French/Spanish
Heaps, AG Bristol; Microbiology
Heath, N Central Lancashire; Combined Honours programme
Hicks, SJC Warwick; Computer Science
Hill, PS Nottingham; Molecular Cell Biology (98)
Hinchy, MF Coventry; Business Studies
Hunter, BA Surrey; Retail Management
Hussain, I Greenwich; Business Studies
Hussain, R Hertfordshire; Business Economics
Hyland, DA Cardiff; History
Ilyas, A Birmingham; Biochemistry, Medical
Iqbal, MA North London; Computing and Mathematical Sciences
Irvine, DRT Cardiff; Law
Johnson, JD Dundee; Law
Jones, GM Warwick; French and History
King, RE Birmingham; Biological Sciences
Langdon, N Royal Holloway; French and Management Studies
Large, D Queen Mary & Westfield College, London; History and Politics

- Lau, FKW** Southampton; Accounting and Law

Lawrence, CR Queen Mary & Westfield College, London; Medicine

Lehal, A Staffordshire; International Business Management

Leighton, N Swansea; Law and Economics

Ling, JA Newcastle; Law with French (98)

Lloyd, AM UMIST; Civil Engineering with N American Studies (MEng)

MacGregor, JG London School of Economics; History

Mannering, R Nottingham Trent; Business Administration

Markanday, N University College London; Law

Marsh, GA Leeds; International Studies (98)

Marshall, O Southampton; Archaeology

Martin, J De Montfort; Business Administration

Mason, AJ Imperial College, London; Geological Sciences (MSci)

Mavers, CP Coventry; Geography

McCallion, SJ Cardiff; Politics and Modern History

McConnel, NB Reading; Art and Modern History

Merkley, A Leeds; Food Science

Moore, AJ Kent; Computer Science (98)

Moore, BJ Warwick; German and Business Studies

Musk, S Surrey; Psychology

Newham, PS Bristol; Aeronautical Engineering (MEng) (98)

Noakes, TJ London Guildhall; Modular Programme

Palekar, FZ Coventry; Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Parrett, RMS Durham; European Studies with Spanish

Parsons, BA Bristol; Medicine

Parsons, DC Bath; Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Patanapongpibul, LB King's College London; Computer System and Electronics

Peake, STC Imperial College London; Medicine

Peck, D Southampton Institute; Media Technology

Pegrum, JR Salford; Quality Management

Pepper, LCK Bath; Architectural Studies

Perkins, MR Guy's and St Thomas's; Dentistry

Phipps, DA Nottingham; French Studies (98)

Pilkington, AJ De Montfort; Physical Education Secondary (98)

Quinn, OJ Manchester Metropolitan; Geography

Richards, MD Cranfield; Command and Control, Communications and Info Systems

Robins, MC Royal Holloway; Mathematics with Economics and Management

Rouse, WJ Loughborough; Geography with Economics (98)

Routledge, AT Bangor; Linguistics

Ryan, MD Keele; Neuroscience and Computer Science

Sanders, SJK Nottingham; Medicine (98)

Sandhu, M Westminster; Town Planning

Shafi, A St George's Medical School; Medicine

Sidhu, SJS London School of Economics; Law

Skeggs, RA Loughborough; Management Sciences

Slocombe, OJ Reading; Ancient History

Smaje, DJR Brunel; Business and Finance

Smart, CD Imperial College London; Aeronautical Engineering (98)

Smith, PJ Birmingham; Law with French

Spragg, MA Nottingham; Molecular Cell Biology

Stacey, DH Nottingham; Archaeology (98)

Stagg, GI Sussex; History in English and American Studies

Stanton, AAJ Southampton; Aerospace Engineering (98)

Taylor, AC Imperial College London; Computing

Tegala, P Birmingham; Philosophy

Tobler, P Lancaster; Chemistry with Polymer Science

Townsend, W Birmingham; Medicine (98)

Ullah, J Exeter; Educational Studies (Sec) and Biology/Sci Ed

Urquhart, DJ Coventry; Industrial Product Design

Wallwork, M Portsmouth; Business Economics

Walters, BAC Leeds; Geography

Ward, J Birmingham; Psychology

Ware, JGA Reading; History

Weedon, A Bradford; Technology and Management

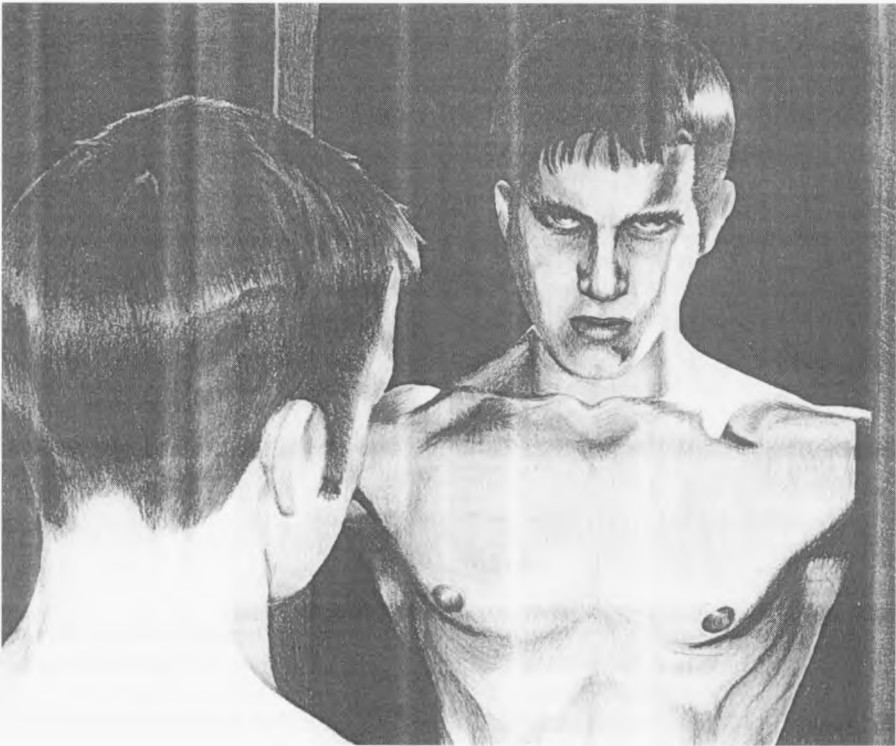
Westbrook, SD Coventry; Law/Business Law/Criminal Law

Wilson, DP Manchester; Economics

Wood, JEA Bristol; Philosophy (98)

Woods, GS Warwick; Computer Science

Zahl, A Bangor; Psychology



Thomas Spindlow

Year 11

Pencil Crayon Drawing

OPEN HOUSE

English

Let's face it: English is a crazy language. There is no egg in an eggplant or ham in a hamburger; neither apple nor pine in a pineapple.

English muffins were not invented in England, nor were french fries invented in France. Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one moose, 2 meese? One index, two indices? Is cheese the plural of choose?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

In what language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

When a house burns up, it burns down. You fill in a form by filling it out and an alarm clock goes off by going on.

When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it?

Now I know why I flunked my English. It's not my fault – the language doesn't quite know whether it's coming or going.

Adnan Ali 6SE₁

The most famous person in the world

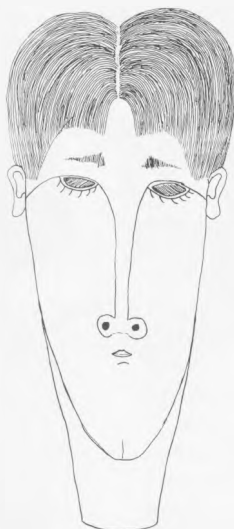
Not very long ago
The most famous person in the world died.
She was young and beautiful
Had two sons.
What a waste, They said.

In an expensive car,
Wearing an expensive dress,
She left an expensive hotel
Too fast.
Blame the press, They said.

In a few seconds
The entire world knew.
Everything stopped
Everyone was shocked.
It's a tragedy, They said.

The tabloids
Held their 'Di and Dodi' specials.
They wrote pages and pages
Full of respect.
We loved her really, They said.

The people
Were amazed, bewildered, confused;



'African Influence'
Self-Portrait drawing
Matthew de Looze
Year 8

The fairy tale was over.
They had read the 'Di and Dodi' specials
But they loved her too, They said.

Everyone knew
She gave to charity.
As they paid £9 a head
To buy her flowers that she would never see.
It's our last token of respect, They said.

On that day
On the 11th page of the Guardian,
A paragraph
At the bottom, in small print.
'Other news', it said.

A man
Had been found in his car
In a lay-by
Shot dead.
He was a Sikh, it said.

He was
British, middle aged
Maybe he had kids;
Murdered.
But They didn't care.

At the end
Of the television news
They managed to fit in
Another story.
Much less important, They said.

The quick announcement
Was that 300 people had died in a plane
crash.
All dead.
How trivial.
But They didn't care.

A week or so later
Someone else famous died.
She did get a mention in the papers.
After all, she had devoted her life to helping
others.
But They didn't care.

A senior
Christian official
Showed how sensitive the English can be.
How nice it was for the most famous person
in the world
To have Teresa for company, he said.

So why
did they not care
For the Sikh, the Saint and the 300?
Was the most famous person in the world
Better than the others?

Did the others
Not have lives, families, parents, children?
Were they not as good as, were they not as
special as
The most famous person in the world?
They don't think about that kind of thing.

Did the press-inspired
‘Public outpouring of grief’
Show a caring, compassionate, loving society
Who really care?
Or did it show a society who only care about
make believe?

The most famous person in the world
Was not a real person to Them.
However many pages They print, however
many flowers They buy,
However much They claim to have loved her
All They want is a fairy tale of a beautiful
Princess.

Because They don’t really care.

Jonathan Kahn 11E

File Past

From the Wycombiensian of 1915:

LANTERN LECTURE

Airships and Aeroplanes

On Friday, March 12th, Mr. W. H. Marsh treated us to a most enjoyable lecture, illustrated by excellent photographic slides. Airships were discussed from the first fire balloon of the Brothers Montgolfier to the last erected Zeppelins. The comparative uselessness of airships in a climate subject to sudden and violent atmospheric changes, was insisted upon, and their unwieldy bulk was graphically demonstrated.

Mr Marsh carefully pointed out the differences between German aeroplanes and British, and told his audience that, if suspicious aircraft were seen, it was the duty of the observer to inform the authorities immediately. The matter of a few minutes’ warning might make all the difference in dealing effectually with such foes.

From the Wycombiensian of 1929:

OLD BOYS’ CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the Wellington Room, Red Lion Hotel, High Wycombe. The chair was taken by Mr. P. C. Raffety, whose qualifications are unique, for he is, we believe, the only Old Boy, for many years at least, who has been a Governor of the School. The Chairman was supported by Alderman J. G. Peace and Councillor W. R. Butler, Governors, and by the Headmaster.

The Chairman, giving the toast of ‘The King,’ said he was sure they would all wish to honour it with special loyalty and sincerity; and they took the opportunity of expressing their sincere sympathy with His Majesty, and hoped he might soon be restored to normal health.

The National Anthem was then sung.

From the Wycombiensian of 1962:

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES

St. Andrew’s

I came up to University just in time for the celebrations of the 550th Anniversary of the foundation. I was also able to take part in the Rectorial Elections, and witnessed C. P. Snow installed as Rector. The Rectorials provide an excuse for festivities: they also provide one of the occasions when

the tradition and colour of St. Andrew’s percolates across the Tay to Queen’s College.

I was amazed by the licence granted by the civic and legal authorities to the students’ high-spirited activities—but even they objected when a student who owned an unconverted hearse selected, as his permanent parking place, the entrance to the most exclusive golf club in St. Andrew’s.

P. B. Newitt.

Sunset Memory

The last notes of the bugle faded away, and we stood in the enveloping silence, sheltered from the rays of the setting sun by the vast bulk of the ‘gate’. There was no urgency among the crowd to move away, for we were content to remain in that curious unity of silence which was broken only by the gentle sobbing of a young man who stood near me. I wondered for whom he wept: an unknown grandfather from that long-ago war? Or a friend lost in more recent battles? Or maybe he just felt the overwhelming emotion of the place and the music.

The gate in whose shadow we stood was the Menin Gate in the Belgian town of Ieper, and we had just witnessed the sounding of the ‘Last Post’ which has taken place there at eight o’clock every evening since November 11th 1929. We had read some of the names carved into the many surfaces, which provide the only memorial for more than 54,000 British and allied soldiers who have no known grave, but who fought at Ieper during the horrific days of the First World War. Although I had no relative listed there, I felt myself profoundly moved, and overwhelmed with gratitude for what those soldiers had been prepared to do to halt the advance of aggression. No gate stood on this site during those days, but it is said that, as the troops marched to the front through this cutting, the shout ‘Last man through, shut the Menin Gate’ was coined. The Gate itself was erected as a memorial in 1927.

As eight o’clock approached, we stood quietly waiting for the moment when the policemen would step into the road to halt the traffic which, at all other hours of the day and night passes under that archway. An air of expectancy prevailed as, the traffic now stilled, we awaited the clear notes of the bugle to complete the kind of pilgrimage we had made in the town that day. I had expected to feel moved by the occasion, but I didn’t realise that every future hearing of the ‘Last Post’ would send my thoughts winging back to those few remarkable moments spent under the Menin Gate that summer evening.

The town is known by different names to different people. To the Flemish-speaking inhabitants of West Flanders Province it is Ieper, to the French it is Ypres, and to thousands of serving British soldiers it was ‘Wipers’, a name immortalised in the *Wipers Times*, a remarkable newspaper which had its birth in the war-torn trenches of the time, and is now among the exhibits in the museum in the Cloth Hall. It is a beautiful town which retains the air of an ancient place, though it was all but destroyed during the First World War.

During the day we had walked around the town on the ramparts, trying to imagine the scenes of long ago, though imagination alone could not possibly conjure up the true horror of that place, nor give any idea of the heroism of those who had fought for freedom there. We paused for a time of quietness in the Ramoarts Cemetery, beautifully tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and we realised that there would have been few such moments during the days which made Ieper’s name famous throughout the World.

There are many places of interest in the town, among them the beautiful Church of St George, where everything is a memorial to a unit or an individual. To enter through its doors is to step aside from the bustle of the street and into a restful and hopeful place. The lightness and simplicity of the interior save it from being a place of despair and lift one onto a level of intense gratitude. But, we had asked ourselves time and again during that day, how does one really say 'Thank you' for freedom, except by considering the cost of it and the conditions that prevail when freedom is absent? We said our own 'thank you' there before stepping out again into the noisy activity of a remarkable town which has perhaps experienced a grief deeper and more prolonged than most.

Yet Ieper is not a depressing place to visit because, alongside the reminders of those dark days, the town offers the present in the form of fascinating architecture, interesting small shops, and countless cafés where it is possible to sit on the 'Terras' enjoying coffee and a wide selection of tempting dishes. Its people, too, both Flemish and French speaking, are welcoming and friendly.

So many lovely memories come flooding back as I remember that day, and yet, for me, the very essence of the place will always be unalterably represented by that simple and consistent nightly tribute, when the buglers of the Belgian Fire Service step forward to play in the shadow of the Menin Gate.

C.S.H.

My Grandmother

A chair sits in a room.
It is old, frayed.
The fabric is peeling away at the sides.
The wood is rotten, held together by
A single thread of substance.
This chair is old.

A figure sits in this chair, in this room.
It too is old, frayed.
Its skin creased, wrinkling all over.
The body is decrepit, held together by
A single thread of being.
This figure is old.

This is being old.
Sitting in a cold chair, in a cold room,
In a cold house, with the cold knowledge
That you are alone and old.
Everything around you is old.
It is your life that surrounds you.

It all comes down to the same thing,
You are old, you hate yourself for being old,
You hate the things around you for being old.
You wish to be young again.
Yet silently you sit, growing old.

We see you now, but do you see us?
You talk, make idle chat, but you do not
See us, you can not see us.
We are what you were.
It makes you think about yourself.
You know what you don't want to know, the truth.
You are alone.
You are old.
One day, you will die.

A chair sits in a room.
It is old, frayed.
The fabric is peeling away at the sides.
The wood is rotten, held together by
A single thread of substance.
This chair is still old.

Christopher Kowalski 10F

A Special Person

The one person who has influenced my life the most is my Grandmother. She would be 82 now. Everyone loved her – nobody had a bad word against her. I used to go into her annexe on the side of our house, knowing that in the corner would be a loving, caring Grandmother, sitting in her armchair with a smile on her face. She had been in hospital so many times that she could only count the number of visits she had paid by means of a list (which was filled up on both sides of a piece of paper, with about seven visits scrunched up per inch), stating why she had been in each time. She never gave up her fighting spirit. When she was in hospital, no matter how slim a chance the doctors gave her of survival, she always talked of coming out, and always came out. Always apart from one time.

My Grandmother was on 23 tablets per day, had had nearly every disease going, but never, ever, once complained. She never asked why she had to have 23 tablets per day and oxygen cylinders at her bedside. That is how she has influenced me – 'There's always someone worse off than yourself' she would say.

Whenever people mention the name Mollie Sinnatt, they will always think of that loving, caring person who was always there for you. I will always think of her as that loving, caring person in the corner of her room with the heating on full blast.

I will never forget that black January day as long as I live. Friday, 24 January, 1997. The worst day of my life. Finally, I realised that no longer could I go in to see her and talk about anything. No longer would I go in with her cup of tea in the morning.

When I go into her annexe now, it is cold. My loving Grandmother is no longer there. I still cry at night for her, but I know that she won't come back. I don't know if I will ever come to terms with her death.

I will always remember my last day at primary school. I came home sad as I would miss my friends, and she comforted me. Sometimes I would talk to her about my Grandad (her husband) who died before I was born. I could tell that talking about him made her sad, so I tried not to do it a lot. I miss her. I miss her a lot.

Tim Peach 9J

Labour's Day

It was a lovely sunny day; the sun winking off the cameras watching the children at play. The richly coloured green grass supporting the fleeing robotic fox, it was a lovely sunny day.

The small path leading to the pavement on the street, past the shops with cows on the front but no beef at the back (or T-bone, tongue and rack); it was a lovely sunny day.

The ice-cream van with musical play, selling its wares to the hot children meeting their thirsty prayers; whilst gifting them sleep: it was a lovely sunny day.



*Robin Eade
Year 13
Acrylic on board*



*Robin Eade
Year 13
Pencil drawing*

Down by the park seeing the horses with the bright red men on top chasing the everlasting fox: it was a lovely sunny day.

Then finding a bright red bench next to the old man with quivering jaw and hands: it was a lovely sunny day.

Watching the children slowly doze off after their government creams and seeing the local bobby checking his watch and calling the parents to retrieve the curfewed lot: it was a lovely sunny day.

Then seeing the horses tire and stop, the red men looking at cameras with the satisfied blank smiles of a chase morally forgot: it was a lovely sunny day.

As the man with the wavering hands inhales the scent of some dried, rolled grass to leave his body steady as brass: it was a lovely sunny day.

Looking around at the trees blairing out banners with their pictures of a face's broad smiled sincerity. And seeing the light bounce off the bobby's hat as he questions the man with steady hands about his ability to so easily cure his malady: it was a lovely sunny day.

It was a lovely summer's day, the drugged children so happily asleep, the danger-free meat, the safe-inducing cameras, the pervading smiles, the futility of a robotic chase, the toothy grin containing the bite of a government at its height, the bobby to care for the old man now in cuffs.

It was a lovely sunny day, as I lay on the grass happy to know I have no morally important choices to make. Licking my ice-cream drowsing away whilst hearing the slight refrain:

'...We are the party of the people...
...We are the party of the people...'

John Punter 6EF₂

Of Death and Time

If Death was a place,
What would it be?
Would it be wondrous,
Would we be free?

Do we all go to heaven,
Where unicorns fly?
Or are we condemned,
By the Father of Time?

Is time on our side,
Does it really exist?
Or are we all lost,
In a circle of mist?

Time in an hour glass,
Trapped in the past,
If it was smashed,
Would we be free at last?

Anthony Motyka 10PT

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

Versailles Internet Day

On Tuesday the 11th day of the 11th month 1997, thousands of school children sat at computer terminals around the country trying to decide what should be done with Germany after the first World War.

The Versailles Internet day was organised by a Yorkshire publishing company. The object was to redesign the Treaty of Versailles (the treaty was drawn up by the major World Powers after peace was declared in order to strip Germany and the other 'losing' countries of their power) so that it did not have the consequences – namely World War II – that it did.

The day was structured into roughly three parts. Firstly, a research period in which the participants were able to find information pertaining to Versailles and the events leading up to World War II. Secondly, there was an opportunity to chat online with other students representing other countries in order to find out their objectives. Lastly we had to compile an essay in which the general changes that we would make to the Versailles Treaty were outlined.

This was a very useful and enjoyable experience. It also benefited the school library, as we located and printed a complete copy of the original Treaty of Versailles.

David Bath 10PT and Claude Warnick 10H

Music Department Report

Last year saw the departure of Mr Patrick Gazard who said his goodbyes at the now annual Gala Evening, where members of the Music Department are given a chance to air some of their hidden talents. This concluded with Mr G's soulful performance of 'Try a Little Tenderness', backed by the 'Commitments', which left the audience so amazed they knew not whether to laugh or cry.

So with the new school year came a new and youthful Music Department with matching assistant Director of Music. Mr Alan Lewis, an Old Boy of the school, came to reap his revenge, taking charge of, among other things, the Jazz Band he had once been a member of. He also brought the opportunity for the school to offer an AS Level in Music Technology, a major part of modern-day music.

The year began with the Autumn Recital, which revealed a promising supply of new talent including a performance by the Trebles, the all new Jazz Band, and many excellent soloists.

The Christmas Season was, as usual, a busy one with the Christmas Concert in November, and the Carol Concert at Wycombe Parish Church at the end of the term. Both were of the high standard we've come to expect with highlights such as performances of Vivaldi's *Gloria* by the School Choir, and Bernstein's *Candide Overture* by the First Wind Band, a fiendishly difficult but rewarding piece with more time changes than a Virgin Timetable!

After the Christmas break, 1998 kicked off with the Spring Recital which, once again, demonstrated the talents of even more extremely good soloists and one of the



Andrew Bassett
Year 8
Soft Pastel

Huw Grange
Year 8
Soft Pastel

school's more recent additions, the Brass Ensemble, playing a *Suite for Brass* by Samuel Scheidt. The Trebles continued to establish themselves as a major part of the concert repertoire, with a performance of Richard Strauss' *Alphorn* for soprano, horn and piano, accompanied by Robin Harris and Mr Lewis.

The Close Harmony Group and Jazz Septet continued to perform outside bookings all year round and are still available to provide unsurpassably professional entertainment at a very reasonable rate (plug!).

As well as all these group achievements, many of the school's musicians entered the Wycombe Orpheus Competition where successes came in the form of 1st Prizes for Kieran Shipley, Kevin Fawell (Senior Brass and Woodwind respectively) and Huw Grange (Junior Brass), and 3rd Prizes for Aidan Shaw and Robin Harris (Senior Piano and Brass respectively).

The Spring Term came to a triumphant conclusion with an epic performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*. This, the second of the school's joint music-theatre ventures with Wycombe High School in the last three years, was a feast for all the senses with a cast of around 50, and a supporting team of another 70 including a full orchestra and talented sound and lighting team.

And here we must leave the RGS Music Department, preparing for three more concerts before the end of the Summer Term plus performances at the Gala Day. Stay tuned.

Edward Arnold 6EF₁

Music Society

The 'new' RGS Music Society has continued to flourish, now in its third year of existence in its present form. The academic year 1996-7 was rounded off with a second hugely successful outdoor Musical Extravaganza with barbecue, at which PDG delighted the large crowd with his own valedictory, show-stopping vocal number!

The new academic year began with the AGM (29 September) at which the committee said goodbye to some (special thanks to Mike Winston and Jim and Mary Curtis for their contribution as founder members) and welcomed new members. Once again, the Close Harmony Group provided the entertainment.

The Autumn Term's major event was to have been 'An Evening with Jack Brymer'. Unfortunately, the 82-year old doyen of the classical clarinet world had to pull out, due to ill-health, a week before, but he provided us with David Campbell instead, who proved a more than worthy substitute. Mr Campbell's master-class in the afternoon of 12 November was very helpful and stimulating to those participating and watching, and his evening recital, leavened with some entertaining chat, was much enjoyed by the substantial audience.

The Spring Term, 1998, was dominated by *The Pirates of Penzance*, so it seemed most appropriate to welcome an opera singer for our February concert (4th) – and what an opera singer! Jonathan Veira, international bass-baritone, proved to be not 'just' an opera singer, but a supreme entertainer, with a tremendous sense of comic timing, an amazing ability to 'ad lib' his way out of anything, and, of course, a rich, beautiful, voice. His one-man show in the evening was a tremendous success, hugely enjoyed by the large audience, but his opera workshop in the afternoon, with the cast of *Pirates*, was no less successful. In one riveting two-hour session, he de-mystified opera, brought out the full dramatic potential of the scenes in rehearsal, and gave all the members of the cast, from

the Major-General to the 16th pirate, a tremendous insight into the whole *raison-d'être* of music-drama. A truly great day!

T.P.V.



They came from Outer New York State!

USA Ski Trip – Lake Placid

On Friday 13 February 1998 a motley crew of RGS boys accompanied by four members of staff (and a policeman, just in case) set off to America.

We arrived in Boston and passed through immigration (the official was a definite Elton John look alike – enough to scare anybody). A long coach trip followed to Lake Placid. Unfortunately too many Year 10s had been on the orange juice and Mr Howe was required to calm everyone down.

Eventually we came to the Ledge Rock Motel, right opposite Whiteface Mountain. This was to be home for the next week. We were woken up at a ridiculously early time next morning. Various cereals, cakes and fruit were rushed down in preparation of a hard day's skiing.

Boots, skis, poles and snowboards were hired, lift passes issued and we hit the slopes. It was cold, mind numbingly at times. With an extra fleecy beanie, face mask and a quadruple layer of thermals, nothing could stop us. Then before you know it, the sun was out and it was almost T-shirt weather. The beginner skiers both made good progress taking on the chairlifts and green runs. Then back to the hotel for a long forty winks.

Next day we met our mad Danish ski rep: 'Friege'. Yes, I couldn't pronounce his name either. The day passed smoothly enough with the more adventurous heading up the mountain. In the evening we headed to the ice rink. This was the official Olympic speed skating rink. This was not the only attraction as the rest of our group gawped at the local high school girls.

On Monday, my snowboard set got 'taught' by Will Garrow, one of the most famous boarders in the world. He has been clocked at 76 mph, appears in the snowboarding videos and magazines and could definitely catch wicked air. The snow fell and we carved it up. Glow in the dark bowling was the evening activity. That was cool except for the fact we were bombarded with Blues and Country music all night; worse than Room 101.

Unfortunately Wednesday saw Owen Holdaway let loose in the snowboard park. Oh dear! Misty flips and 1080° grabs were attempted. Nick Stannard had a bit more realism in pulling off a sweet 180°. Meanwhile two

irresponsible Sixth Formers decided to do as many spins moving down the piste as possible, causing havoc to others. I think they reached 22, before collapsing.

The money came out on Thursday, with people spending hundreds of dollars on Levi, Tommy Hillfiger and Ralph Lauren. Tom Jordan, after spending \$250 on himself, brought his sister a great \$2 water bottle. She was so pleased. That night we went to see the Harlem Globetrotters; they had style and could jam.

At the end everyone was knackered. We all slept on the plane.

Lake Placid was a great resort, with loads of activities. Whiteface was a brilliant mountain. Thanks to Mr Howe for putting up with me and Peter Dolphin all holiday. Anyone considering going next year, go!

Brian Peers 6C₁

Astronomy Club

Over the last two years the Astronomy Club has doubled its members. Some of our older members are now taking GCSEs in astronomy under the leadership of Mr Glendining, the teacher responsible for the Astronomy Club. The GCSE work is done separately so that it won't interfere with other things that we are doing although some parts of it are explained to the whole group. We have several telescopes which we use whenever the weather permits. If, however, it is too cloudy, we have a wide range of astronomy magazines and books which we can use in our frequent discussions about the progress of space programmes and significant new discoveries.

We meet at 3.50pm in P2 on Mondays for forty-five minutes but sometimes return later if the weather is good so that we can use the telescopes to look at the stars, planets and other things that can be seen in the night's sky. We also have a camera which can be fitted to a telescope



Jack Morgan
Year 10
Pen & Ink Drawing

and used to take photos of the planets or anything else that is reasonably bright. Unfortunately, there is a lot of light pollution in High Wycombe which limits what we can see, and the weather in Britain is not very good for astronomers which means that we can't use the telescopes as often as we would like.

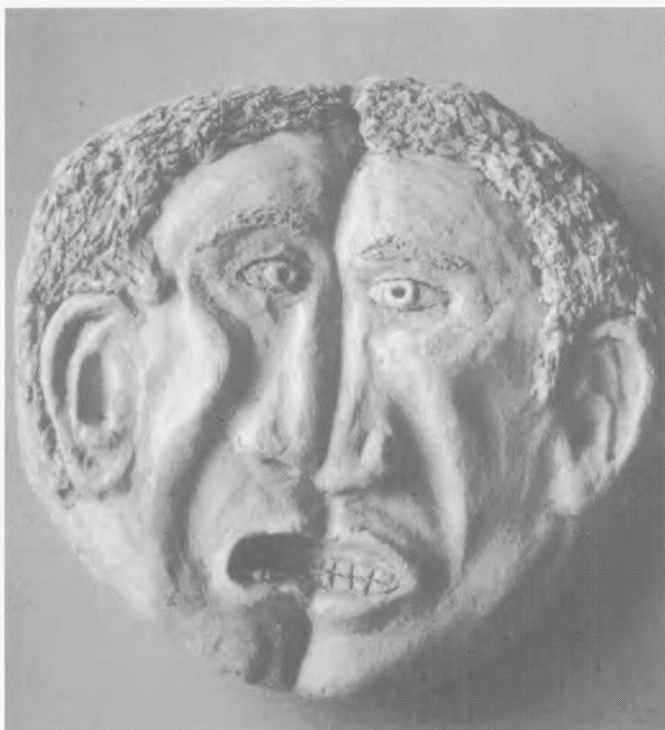
Because of the work done by Mr Glendining, D Anderson (the president) and J Larkin (the secretary), the Astronomy Club has improved and therefore attracted many new members. If you would like to join, please speak to Mr Glendining.

George Marshall 9G

Parents' Association

Each year the Parents' Association at the Royal Grammar School organises a series of events to provide a social focus for parents of boys at the school. The social events include Wine and Cheese evenings for the parents of new arrivals, an Autumn Ball, Christmas Party and Draw, a Quiz Evening (usually won by the staff!!) and a Barn Dance. In alternating summer terms, the PA organises a Gala Day and an Auction of Pledges. All these events raise funds to support a wide variety of Clubs, Societies and School activities that cannot be financed from the main education budget. On average, we raise about £20,000 each year.

For example, all the school Mini-Buses, which are used to transport boys to sports fixtures and other events, have been bought by PA funds. During the past two years the PA Funds have also been used to: refurbish the stage and curtains in the Queen's Hall, replace the Hymn Books used in assembly each day, buy additional TV and Video equipment, provide lighting outside the Cricket Pavilion and the School Car Park. In addition, numerous donations have been made to help clubs and societies buy new equipment or support expeditions.



Mark Rogers
Year 11
Clay Sculpture



Adam Wishney
Year 12
Self portrait
'Grisaille' painting

The PA committee of 18 parents constantly strives to improve existing events and to look for new ideas for fundraising. Any help that Old Boys can give will be most welcome. Offers can be made via the School Resources Centre or the Chairman of the Old Wycombiensians' Club.

Senior Vulture

Having never been a member of Senior or Junior Vulture before, I had no previous experience upon which to base my expectations for this year's excursions. My expectations were exceeded by three entertaining and thought-provoking trips, all of cultural significance to anyone with a broad interest in performance based arts.

The first of these came around early in the Winter Term with a trip to the Criterion Theatre to see the *Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged* by the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Perhaps best described as a 'comical appraisal', this consisted of three idiosyncratic American scholars/actors taking us on a crash course through all of Shakespeare's plays. Whether the Bard would have approved or not was unimportant when the plays were given a dose of modern irony and rushed through in slapstick style that was never in danger of becoming scathing. The brash comedy and audience participation were able to keep even the most short attentions focused and the original slant entertained all ardent Shakespeare fans.

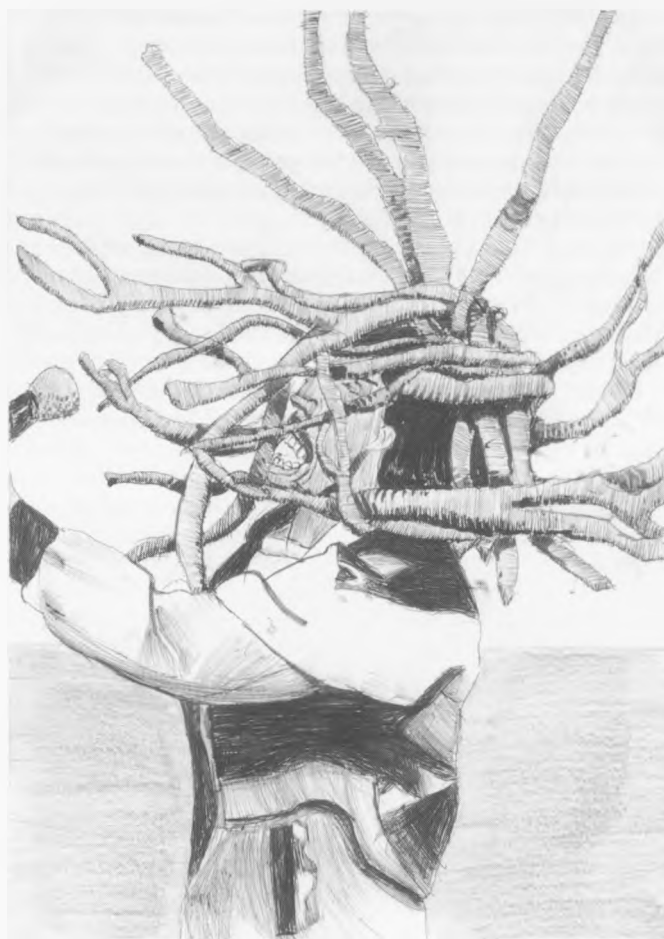
As Christmas neared, we were taken to a performance of *Chips With Everything* by Arnold Wesker at the National Theatre. This play addressed the issue of class-divisions, set

against the backdrop of a strict military training camp. The bourgeois attitude towards the working-class was shown effectively if somewhat exaggeratedly by being in a military context. The play reached a suitable climax as the middle-class hero tried to shake off the expectations that his background laid upon him, and his working-class comrades realised the inevitability of their futures.

The final and for me most memorable trip came in March with a showing of Gillies MacKinnon's film adaption of Pat Barker's World War One novel *Regeneration*, set in a Scottish hospital for the shell-shocked situated in Craiglockhart Castle. It featured the characters of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. While powerfully documenting the recovery of Wilfred Owen and fictional character Billy Prior (played by Jonny Lee Miller), the film also showed the deterioration of Dr Rivers as he helped these men deal with the horrors of trench warfare. Most importantly, however, it showed Sassoon's futile protest against the leadership of the troops in what he saw as 'no longer a war of resistance but a war of aggression'. The audience cannot help but be moved as Sassoon has to choose between his ideology and a more pragmatic alternative. As well as being of obvious interest to History students, the presence of the war poets and the scenes in which Wilfred Owen develops *Dulce et Decorum Est* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth* into literary masterpieces, was of special interest to those studying English.

On behalf of all Senior Vulture members I would like to thank Mr Keysell, Mr Cowburn and Mrs Frost for organising the trips.

Toby Roebuck 6HK₁



Michael Cole-Johnson
Year 11

Junior Vulture

So far, this year has been an eventful one for the members of Junior Vulture. We have covered many aspects of the arts in our visits, ranging from the world of television and radio broadcasting to 18th Century farce.

We have enjoyed three trips. The first, last Autumn, was a tour of the National Gallery followed by a performance of the ballet *Cinderella* by the company, Adventures in Motion Pictures. When we arrived at the gallery we split into two groups for guided tours of selected paintings, discussing each in detail. After a brief packed lunch we walked the short distance to the theatre to watch an innovative production of *Cinderella* set in Britain during the Second World War. It was interesting to see how the company interpreted the fairytale story line and combined it in the ballet with the problems that everyday people faced during the war. Although I don't always enjoy ballet, I liked this production a great deal and found the change of setting an interesting addition to a traditional production.

The next excursion to be announced in December was to 'The BBC Experience' at Broadcasting House, with a visit to the British Museum afterwards. The 'BBC Experience' is an interactive, walk-through exhibition telling the story of the BBC from its very first days of radio broadcasts to modern radio and television, culminating in a display of its present day technology. I found this thought-provoking insight into the history of the broadcasting industry a very interesting one which I thoroughly enjoyed. In the afternoon we visited the British Museum where we saw the Egyptian mummies and the Elgin Marbles. Mr Cowburn and Mr Keysell gave us a tour of some displays and whetted our appetites for a return visit. The hour or two that we did spend there proved to be very informative.

The third trip was to the local Swan Theatre, in March, to see a production of Molière's comic farce *Tartuffe*. The comedy concerns a confidence trickster who bluffs his way into a household and proceeds to take their money, but good triumphs over evil and the villain is arrested. Among the cast were several famous television comedy actors and together they produced an extremely funny play that everyone enjoyed greatly.

The final trip of the year is to be a visit to one of the 'historical sights' in London followed by a performance at the new Shakespeare Globe Theatre on the South Bank. Many, including me, are looking forward to it and it should be an enjoyable climax to the year's visits.

Finally, everyone in Junior Vulture must thank the staff: Mr Cowburn, Mrs Frost, Mr Keysell, Mr Mitchell and

Matron. They organise and run these group trips. Some of these activities are just not available to the public at large. They make performances and museums more accessible to the boys of RGS.

Rodrick Griffiths 9C

Role Playing Games Club

The Role Playing Club has continued steadily throughout the year, with numbers remaining constant during the move from room 25 to room 5 in the Junior Block. The club is privately funded, the members bringing their own games and accessories.

Magic: The Gathering (a collectable card game) is still increasing in popularity and is now played almost to the exclusion of everything else. The highlight of the year was a Tempest sealed deck tournament with entrants from all years which was jointly won by Paul Dorehill and Phil Tang after five weeks of play.

Thank you to Mr Earl for being Master in Charge, and to Mr Blyth and Mr Glendining whose rooms we have used.

Matthew Laycock 6SE₂

Public Speaking

After 1997's fallow period (the first year for over a decade in which the RGS did not win a prize), 1998 saw a return to form in the 'Youth Speaks' competition run by the Rotary Clubs of High Wycombe, Marlow and Princes Risborough.

The school entered two teams. The Senior team was composed of chairman William Howe, speaker Brian Lacy, and vote of thanks Sam Jahanshahi, and chose as their subject 'Second Thoughts'. The message was that people should not be judged solely by their external appearance; and in addition to their usual verbal dexterity, the team deployed Brian as a visual aid to make the point. Walking on as a seemingly scruffy, shades-wearing, Coke-swilling, Mafia 'hit-man', his appearance belied the reality beneath, when Brian revealed to the audience that he was in fact a timid person suffering from conjunctivitis and a sore throat. The team's smoothly polished performance got the warmest reception from the audience, and the judges indicated that, had the rules allowed, the team would have come joint top. As it was, they won second prize, narrowly beaten by Wycombe Abbey, and were the only boys' school team to win a prize in their section.

The Junior team – entering the competition for the first time and therefore requiring not only verbal fluency but a degree of courage as well – was composed of chairman Nicholas Jones, speaker Matthew Appleton, and vote of thanks Christopher Payne. Their topic was 'The United Kingdom – are we?', which dwelt on our country's essential unity in the face of challenges such as devolution and the ever-present European menace. With examples ranging from bagpipes to Blair, and with Matthew displaying an impressively detailed knowledge of the Spice Girls, the team demonstrated that Britain not only would, but should, survive. They put on a confident performance that would have done credit to a more experienced team, and came top – again the only boys' school to win a prize in their section. They went on to the zone final, where they were narrowly displaced by Gayhurst school.

M.J.S.



Simon Lower
Year 10
Conté Drawing

School Chaplaincy

The School Chaplain is available to talk to any pupils privately or in groups. The Chaplaincy also organises a number of activities including holidays at a youth centre on the Isle of Wight, discussion groups for Sixth Forms, and dinners at an Oxford College where a visiting speaker gives an after-dinner talk about the Christian Faith. Three such dinners have been arranged this year. Through the good offices of Mr Toller, we have been able to use Pembroke College each time.

R.G.R.

1997 Year 10 Isle of Wight Trip

A bunch of Year 10 boys, four Sixth Form helpers, and Mr Ratcliffe invaded the Isle of Wight last July to visit the Westbrook Centre. Boys enjoyed the heated and floodlit outdoor swimming pool and the centre's nine hole pitch and putt golf course. Pool, table tennis and football were also popular. Excursions to a fun fair at Sandown (where many were soaked to the skin on the bomber boats) and to L.A. Bowlin Ryde made the short holiday great fun and very memorable.

Matthew Embrey 6ER₂

1998 Sixth Form Isle of Wight Trip

The drive down to the Isle of Wight was itself quite an experience. How can anyone lose their way to Portsmouth?

After an eternity of ferry jokes and incomprehensible chat, we arrived at the Westbrook Centre.

A flowing game of quality football was engaged in before the onslaught began (eggs, water, shaving foam and insults, unbelievable as it might seem, were all part of Mr Ratcliffe's repertoire).

Religious meetings were attended daily which enabled people to share their views on the topics discussed, providing Ross Howlett ever finished speaking.

Meals were enjoyed by all despite vulgar behaviour from certain members of a guest family.

Entertainment during the day involved a huge variety of sports or, if preferred, revision for upcoming exams. A trip to the Sandown leisure centre provided the ideal opportunity to relax or work out and deserved the welcome treat of a Chinese takeaway in the evening. However, whilst seemingly intelligent members of the Sixth Form, including two unnamed staff members (Mr Ratcliffe and Mr Toller), tried to find a Chinese takeaway outlet, it became apparent (as was the case last year) that all such outlets were closed. A settlement was agreed upon – Indian and fish and chips. We later learned that the reason for the journey being prolonged was because the police were searching for an escaped baboon from the local zoo.

Thanks must go to all that made the trip a success. Special thanks must go to Mr Ratcliffe and Mr Toller whose extreme courage in agreeing to look after Ross Howlett for a few days is to be commended as action beyond the normal call of duty.

Craige Makinson 6EA₂ and Christopher Biggs 6ER₂

Oxford Dinners

On three occasions this year, Mr Ratcliffe and Mr Toller have taken parties of thirty Sixth Formers to Pembroke College, Oxford. The purpose of these informal evenings was to hear a talk given by Rev. Vaughan Roberts concerning the Christian faith – with an opportunity to discuss matters.

The evenings included a pleasant three-course dinner, during which some of the less cultured members of the party experienced for the first time the novelty of coffee and mints. Comments such as: 'Which knife do we use this time?' testified to the high quality service being provided. At this point, the speaker would begin his talk. On each occasion, the message was clearly delivered by a young man who knew how to relate to students of our age. Vaughan spoke for a short period and then allowed the party to interrogate him with some very searching and sometimes insistent questioning. This intimidating behaviour (what else can be expected from RGS pupils?) was dealt with honestly and admirably by Vaughan, and provided many with some thought-provoking ideas to take home with them. Everybody present left with something positive, even if it was only the skill of how to negotiate Headington Roundabout during rush hour!

Thanks to all members of staff concerned for organising three entertaining and fulfilling evenings and also to Rev. Vaughan Roberts for his time and interest.

Nicholas Parkinson 6GO₁

Dialogue

The tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the unprecedented depth of public sorrow, expressed on a scale never seen before in this country, was the background to the first meeting of *Dialogue* last autumn. It showed so clearly that people need more than money and pleasures to be happy. Princess Diana had royalty, beauty and wealth; but what made her so special was the fact that, with all that, she could relate warmly to ordinary people, and especially to the poor and needy, making them feel that to her they mattered.

To me this is a picture of what the Christian message is about: the Son of God, the immeasurably rich Creator, coming right down into the world, not to seek out the important people, but to bring joy and relief to the poor, the sick, the sinful and oppressed; and ultimately to submit to the utmost degradation and suffering in order to rescue us from our sin and all its bitter consequences.

This message is unique in history; and has a unique power to transform lives when it is heartily believed.

I said something like the above at our first meeting of *Dialogue*. Occasionally I introduce a topic, but mostly it's up to the boys who come to raise issues or ask questions. *Dialogue* meets at 1.40 pm each Wednesday in room 3. If you are at all interested by the question 'What is life really all about?' then do come along – you will be very welcome.

C.W.P.

Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund continues to provide a weekly opportunity for boys to give money to a variety of charities: local, national and international. It is encouraging that most forms are now giving on a regular basis, with some healthy competition at the top of the 'Giving League'.

The main time for distributing the money is at the end of the summer term. In the summer of 1997 we shared £1,100 among 13 selected charities, the amounts ranging from £30 to £200. We also hold special collections at different times throughout the year, and two of these have helped boys of the school with particular projects: Simon Hicks who will be attending the World Scout Jamboree in South America at the end of this year, and Andrew Bentall, at present working with Latin Link (also in South America).

We have continued to support the Tanzanian village project, and have provided diabetic foods and medicines for a little girl whom Mr Jamieson and Mr Webber met on their visit to Romania.

There was an excellent response for the Diana, Princess of Wales fund, when £400 was donated.

You may feel that you can only give a small amount each week, but it is the regular small amounts which make the Benevolent Fund worthwhile, and which have amounted to over £3,500 between April 1997 and April 1998.

C.S.H.

Christian Union

The Christian Union is made up of a group of lads from all years in the school who all believe in the reality of Jesus in their lives and are prepared to rise to the challenge of his teachings and lifestyle. We meet every Tuesday lunchtime and during the year have seen a large increase in numbers, reflecting a greater awareness and interest in Jesus Christ this year. As well as the lunchtime meetings, where we have had lads giving talks and guest speakers coming in, we have had regular prayer meetings where we have prayed for our school and its people. Socially we have enjoyed going to London a couple of times to see plays (thanks Mrs Hesslegrave!). A high point of the year was the weekend away with CU groups from five other schools in the Wycombe area. We had a superb time playing football, eating good food and taking part in a classy version of Blind Date! However, the main focus of the weekend was to spend time getting to know God and for some it was an amazing new revelation of the reality of the living God. Since then we have been inspired to take time to walk round the school praying for certain areas and problems associated with life within the school.

We appreciate the support we have been given from Mrs Hesslegrave, Dr Puritz and Mr Toller in running 'Dialogue' and 'Gospel', the two discussion groups that took place alongside CU throughout the year. And we appreciate also another recent gift from Gold Hill Bookshop, which will enable us to add to our CU library.

If you have been questioning where your life is heading and what human life is really all about, come along and check it out.

Daniel Flint 6HR₂

Daniel has led the CU for the past two years, doing an excellent job in organising the Tuesday meetings and other events. We thank him for that, but the thing at which he has excelled has been the ability to relate to boys of all ages and (effortlessly, it seemed) to gain their highest regard. We really thank you for that, Daniel, and maybe that is what CU will miss most of all. As for the ability to cope with Mr Ratcliffe's jokes ... well, you did pretty well there, too!

We wish you well as you leave the RGS.

C.S.H.

RGS World Challenge Expedition to Tanzania 1997

Last summer 33 boys from school finally arrived in Africa after months of training, fund raising and lots of injections. Arriving in Dar es Salaam we were immediately confronted with a radically different culture. A culture which had buses which drove down the middle of the road swerving to try and hit the occasional car, billboards proclaiming the wonders of TOSS, JIZ and CLIMAX (later discovered to be washing powders), and hundreds of salesmen for the Bob Marley Cigarette Co. Knowing only basic Swahili (*Jambo!* – Hi!, and *Hakuna matata!* – No problem!), we managed to arrange transport, proving the old adage that money talks.

The first part of the expedition was undertaken in a small village on the slopes of Kilimanjaro, where our group installed a water pipe to provide the school with running water and, under the guidance of Mr Webber, painted a mural. The other group built a kitchen for the school and did more painting. Many of us also spent a considerable time teaching the children English, and were amazed by how good they were already (aged 8–10). Maths was attempted but soon abandoned when we realised they were better than us (and we had a calculator).

On the safari stage we were able to see elephants, giraffes, lions and many others at close quarters and in their natural habitats. Unfortunately our visit to Ngoronogoro Crater heralded the start of a diarrhoea epidemic – I was the first to erupt.

The assault on Mt Kilimanjaro was the highlight of the trip for many, and certainly the most physically challenging phase. Despite exhaustion from the long treks and altitude sickness, everybody on the expedition reached the top of Africa's highest mountain, and made it down again!

Last stop was the tropical island of Zanzibar where we all enjoyed a well-earned rest. Some of the team still had enough energy to go snorkelling on a coral reef, and swimming with dolphins, whilst others just laid on the beach. The natural delights of the island were enhanced by the local bar, and Jamal's curry house. Some team members were attacked by Sea Leopards, but that was after a Milo session so probably doesn't count.

Finally on behalf of all the Tanzanian Team I wish everyone involved in next year's expedition all the best – I hope you have as much fun as we did!

Ross Monro 6BC₂

Biology Field Trip

On 25 March 1998, Mr Wolton, Dr Burford and a group of intrepid Upper Sixth Form Biologists set off for Pembrokeshire, South Wales, and the Dale Fort Field Centre (or 'open prison', as it became known) for a week of intensive ecology studies.

The weather was dull, as was free-time, with all but members of staff barred from public houses. The work was both beneficial and informative, but also hard, with the climax of the week being a project of our own, with many students choosing to study winkles.

There was little to do in the evenings, so we organised our own activities and thank C. Middleton for taking a leading role in this. S. Egan enhanced inter-school relations, keeping it up all week, even with new schools arriving as others left.

On a different note, the only injury of the week was sustained by a certain member of staff, returning late one evening from a village sight seeing tour, and encountering a ditch!

The final day and long journey home was made more interesting by it being 1 April.

Many thanks to Mr Wolton, Dr Burford and the Field Centre Staff, who provided varied tuition on many exciting topics.

Charles Middleton 6BP₂

Chess Club

So many of the senior players had other commitments, with the results that we were only able to field one team in Division 3 of the Bucks League. This should finish about half-way. The team lost early on in the National Times competition. We bid farewell to David Haynes and Colin Hobbs after many years of playing school chess, and also to David Greenhill who has been a reliable team captain. Stephen Clark and Koichi Nicholas continue to play at a very high level outside school.

At the Junior level, things have gone better. Thanks to the encouragement of Mrs Smalley and Mr Wilson, many have played in one of our three Junior teams, entered tournaments, and showed a pleasing improvement over the season. The 2nd and 3rd Junior teams should win their division. This augurs well for the future.

Several of our players entered the UK Chess Challenge this year. Koichi Nicholas, Stephen Clark, Steven Greenhill and David Greenhill have reached the regional finals which take place at Aylesbury Grammar School in May. We wish them well in this competition. Through the tournament, money was raised by sponsorship for 'Save the Children'. Thank you to the boys for their efforts with this and to those who supported them.

My thanks to my colleagues for all they have done.

I.R.C.

Model Railway Club

Due to circumstances beyond club control, the club was suspended at the end of last academic year. Attempts to re-open the club have been unsuccessful as the former club premises are now in everyday use as a workshop for essential school maintenance. It is hoped that the club will re-open when suitable accommodation is found.

Nicholas Lay 10V



Thomas Greene
Year 12
Oil on Canvas

Islamic Society

This was the fifth year of the Islamic Society and hence it has become a regular and established fixture for discussing the religion of Islam.

This year's objective was to raise the awareness of Islam within the school and society. This I feel was achieved by holding fortnightly meetings between the Islamic Society and Christian Union, to discuss issues concerning both religions. Also during the month of Ramadan, assemblies were taken for a week by a Junior and myself to inform the school about fasting and its implications.

We have had a good attendance this year with many people of varying religious backgrounds attending, with the intention of understanding more about the religion of Islam.

Many thanks to Mr Crease for allowing us the use of his room, and also to Mr Wolton who has continued to help and maintain the Society.

Adnan Ali 6SE₁

Spanish Work Experience

For those of you put off by the words 'work experience' I would have to say that whilst my recent visit to Madrid did entail some work, it resulted also in a great experience of this city and its people. Although our partners were older, varying in age from 19 to 21, they were so accommodating and friendly that the age gap was not noticed, and this helped to make our visit such a success.

The Spanish day is structured in line with that found in many Latin countries – be in work by 7.30, finish at 3.00, home for a small siesta and dinner and then out in the bars and cafés until the early hours – not a lifestyle particularly conducive to work. Only four of us went on the exchange, unaccompanied, and we were split into companies involving telecommunications and insurance. Learning the aspects of 'business Spanish', as opposed to colloquial Spanish, in a real situation was a great benefit which I would hope to enhance in the future. The firms were very hospitable and I can advocate the benefits of a working day finishing at three o'clock.

On the more leisurely side Madrid's excellent metro system enabled easy access to most parts of the city. A visit to the most famous Bernabeu stadium, home of the mighty Real Madrid, was organised to see them play rivals Athletic Bilbao. For those of us with more cultural

pretensions the Museo del Prado art museum and Botanic Gardens were visited and notes taken copiously. Madrid's excellent, cheap nightlife is also to be recommended although behaviour was in keeping with the normal high standards found amongst RGS holidaymakers.

For anyone studying Spanish next year it is a superb opportunity to enhance your language whilst also having a great time in an interesting and varied city. Although I am only doing AS Level and prior to my visit was worried that my Spanish was barely comprehensible, let alone conversational, twelve days immersed in the language has improved it beyond belief.

Thanks must go to Dr Philpott and Mrs Allen, whose hours of research and contacts enabled us to enjoy such a superb experience.

Duncan Lewin 6HK₁

German Work Experience

Only two people did this exchange this year, but in my opinion the trip was a success nevertheless. The placement Brendan Boyce and I got was surprisingly laid-back in approach, and none of the work done was too taxing in itself. I think the more stimulating aspect of our stay in tranquil Kelkheim was the language – before the end of the fortnight, we both admitted to often thinking in German, and even said German words in the course of English conversation. I'd highly recommend foreign work experience from this point of view because for many hours a day you are isolated with native speakers, forced to improve your speaking and listening in a situation when cop-out English conversation isn't possible. Maybe that doesn't appeal to some, but for raw language improvement it's excellent.

We stayed for a week in the town hall, and were in no danger of monotony as we were allocated to a different worker for each day. Most days the work I did was not too serious, but one day I was particularly bombarded with insight into different aspects of the running of a town (such as canals, roads, street-lighting, playgrounds) and was then taken on a tour of the roads to see first hand what improvements were needed, before visiting a Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross) building and then going out with a worker there to walk an old women with a brain tumour.

The next week three days were spent in a school and I observed three lessons (two English, one French), and helped pose English sentences which the class had to complete.

Our partners and their friends were also really cool, so the evenings were good fun too, plus we attended a huge carnival at which the atmosphere was great (though I think we were tiring after six hours there). So overall the Kelkheim exchange was greatly beneficial as regards experience of culture, language development and general enjoyment.

James Claridge 6LY₁

French Work Experience

After a gruelling 20 hour coach journey to Toulouse in the south-west of France the last thing I expected was for my host family to tell me that the next day I was starting my five day work experience at the 'Clinique des Pryénées'. Nevertheless the next day, bright and early, I arrived at the hospital, armed with my French dictionary. Firstly I met the director of the hospital who kitted me out with a knee length white coat and sent me to physiotherapy where I helped deal with patients' problems and making bookings. After lunch however I was sent to the wards. Here I helped the nurses in their general chores and watched them undertake tasks such as changing of bandages and such like. The next day I arrived at the clinique expecting to do much the same work, but to my surprise I was taken by a nurse to the operating theatres where I was told to put a surgical uniform. I was led to one of the operating rooms where I watched a knee operation. This is where I spent the next three days of my work experience because it interested me so much. I saw a wide range of operations ranging from face-lifts and varicose vein removals to hip replacements. The surgeons always took the time to explain to me what they were doing and why.

My period of work experience in France was very advantageous to me in a great number of ways. It helped my French tenfold, which is not very difficult, and improved my accent to coherency. I also had the chance to see into a prospective career in medicine and what it would entail, and finally I had a sample of real French culture and life.

Ian Reucassel 6BP₁

Osnabrück Exchange

At the crack o' dawn on Tuesday 14 April, a group of some 20 odd Year 10s, plus a handful of Sixth Formers, set off for Osnabrück, North Germany, for the second leg of this well-established exchange. For the first time in recent years, the exchange was without the accompaniment of neighbouring Wycombe High and this left the journey with a distinct lack of bite.

The coach pulled up at the Osnabrück Hauptbahnhof (train station) at a surprisingly sociable hour where we were welcomed well by our host families.

The first two days saw us visiting the nearby towns of Hameln (as in Pied Piper thereof) and Münster.

On Friday we returned to the cheerily refurbished bowling alley and the friendly antics of the staff. After a slow start an unknown German dark horse surged into second place.

The weekend was free time to be spent with the families, and a few people spent possibly the longest hours of their lives water-skiing.

A day at the Ratsgymnasium school followed on the Monday where RGS lads got a taste of German school life.

Tuesday was notable for our first ever excursion to Bremen, a very large city 1½ hours from Osnabrück. Along with Köln on Wednesday, this was accompanied by Poles. Chris Orsman et al. toughed it out to get to the top of Köln Cathedral, returning looking a rather fetching beetroot colour.

The trip was wrapped up on Thursday with a day in Osnabrück during which we were introduced to the sights and sounds of the town by the resident tour guides, Mr Crease and Mr Yeates.

After an elongated yet nippy journey we arrived home on the Saturday morning after a very enjoyable exchange.

Many thanks to Herr 'Hasselhof' Landwehr, Herr 'upside-down' Brune, Herr 'less-than-reputable' Crease and Herr 'We've all done it' Yeates.

James Claridge 6LY₁

Year 10 and Lower Sixth Spanish Exchange to Granada March 1998

The aim of this visit was to provide the Spanish students of both the RGS and Beaconsfield High School with an opportunity to practise their language skills with native speakers. It was also intended to show the students the differences between the Spanish and British cultures by staying with Spanish host families.

We set off on our journey on Thursday morning and arrived in Granada late that night.

The Friday was spent in school with our exchange partners, and the night exploring the town centre and sampling the local way of life. Then over the weekend we were free to do as we wished, and so the majority of us made the most of this opportunity to broaden our Spanish vocabulary by talking to our partners and their friends.

During the week we all met up every morning at the school and visited various tourist attractions across the south of the country. These included a day out to the Sierra Nevada, a trip to the magnificent Alhambra Palace, and day visits to Cordoba and Seville. Every day on these excursions we were given some free time to explore over lunch and were all pleased to discover the cheapness of all the local products.

Even though the Andalucian people had different accents to those which we had been taught we managed to overcome the differences and learnt a lot about the Spanish history and culture and managed to discover the true meaning of the word 'resaca'.

Finally, we would like to thank all the staff at both of the schools who helped to organise a great holiday which benefited us enormously and will leave us with many great memories.

Jamie Reeve 6LM₁ and Matthew Law 6AT₁

Jeremy Paxman Society

Our first speaker was Charlotte Ashby, producer of 'Beyond the Clouds', an award-winning documentary on rural China, who spent over a year living in a central Chinese village acquainting herself with people before filming the activities (including crime and a murder) over a five month period. Charlotte was educated at Wycombe Abbey and some 20 Abbey girls joined 40 Sixth Form RGS boys for a special Wednesday evening lecture including an extended explanation from the original video TV film.

Paul Coleman, One World First, spoke about the environmental challenges of the 21st Century. He had walked from Alaska to the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro to publicise the dangerous ecological state of our planet. He gave a sombre report to about 30 concerned RGS environmental activists.

Lord Griffiths, former Head of the Downing Street Policy Unit under Mrs Margaret Thatcher, gave an informative and intriguing insight into the daily routine of Government at the highest level. The talk was given under Chatham House rules enabling Lord Griffiths to relate some fascinating insights into the mechanics of Government decision-making.

Nicholas Molden, an Old Boy and recent Oxford graduate, briefed the Society on how a local radio station is launched and financed. Aspirant media tycoons were appraised of the bureaucratic difficulties. Nicholas took three years to gain his broadcasting licence and this was a record for early approval!

Andrew Adonis, former Deputy Editor of the *Observer* and recently appointed as a member of the Downing Street Unit with responsibility for Education, gave an address on the lottery, its origins and the thesis that it was the most accepted regressive tax this Century. The poor paid while the great and the good spent the proceeds on the interests of the rich and 'cultured'. Provocative, yet well researched, Andrew's talk elicited a spirited discussion.

Dr Eric Anderson, Rector of Lincoln College and former HM of Eton, spoke to a Paxman Society meeting opened to all the Grammar Schools of Buckinghamshire, and Wycombe Abbey. Some 165 pupils and staff listened with fascination as Dr Anderson explained the Admissions procedure to Oxford and outlined the do's and don'ts of applying with colourful illustrations! Again interest was high with some twenty questions being fired at Dr Anderson over a 30 minute question and answer session.

Robbie Fidler and Andy Gibbs, both full time professional rugby players with Gloucester RFC, spoke about the training schedule, diet and dangers of League Rugby.

Two further visits have been arranged for the Summer Term. Hugh Leach, soldier, diplomat and explorer, will give a slide presentation on the Hindu Kush entitled 'Across the Roof of the World', which will be of particular interest to the 1999 World Challenge Expeditioners, and Adam Turner, one of the most successful head-hunters in the IT industry, will be giving away the black secrets of his art!

Finally we hope Jeremy Paxman himself may return to RGS to speak about his new book and review the progress of the Society named after him.

D.R.L.

Tuck Shop Report

This year has been an exhausting one for the Tuck Shop. It has seen the somewhat sad departure of three of its most valued staff members – Matthew Locke, Andrew Hutchings, and Marcus Pilgerstorfer. All three have contributed immensely to the smooth running of the Tuck Shop, especially Marcus. He had been with the Tuck Shop since 1993, and has provided us with some of the most memorable seasonal promotions ever. He also launched the Tuck Shop onto the World Wide Web, providing us with our very own web page which can be found on the RGS Internet site. We here at the Tuck Shop owe a great deal to him, and we wish him well at Oxford University.

With Marcus gone, I have been given the task to continue the running of the Promotions. Bearing this in mind, this year has seen two of the most successful promotions ever (with the natural consequence of handing out bigger and better prizes than ever before). The first of these was the Christmas 'It's a Cracker!!!' Promotion. It has proved to be the biggest promotion ever, with more prizes given away than before, with the overall winner being Oliver Clark 8C. Then towards the end of the Spring term, we had our Easter 'How DO You Eat Yours?' Promotion, and Helgar, our mechanical prize egg-laying hen, aided customers in the winning of more prizes. The two Big Prize Draw winners were Andrew Muzika 9F, and Ashley Richardson 11W. Mr White-Taylor, the manager, commented later, 'The promotions were very good indeed, and very exciting. We



'We'll serve absolutely anybody at White-Taylor's!'

like giving away prizes, and there has been a lot of that going on. I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank all who took part.'

The Tuck Shop would be nothing without the constant hard work and dedication of many people. This year's sales team consisted of Mr Derek White-Taylor (Manager), Lee Biddle (Assistant Manager), Hormoz Ala (Prefect in charge), Richard Lawrence, Tim Palmer, Andrew Henderson, Alex Turner and Kamran Ala. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr White-Taylor for all his hard work and the extra hours he regularly puts in so that the Tuck 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.

Lee Biddle 6EF₁

Young Enterprise

Board? were formed in September 1997 to participate in Young Enterprise, a national competition where 16–18 year olds learn how to run a business and gain an insight into the field. There are eight members of the company who all occupy directorial positions: Jack Grover, Finance Director; Andrew Fanko, Marketing Director; Scott Fitzgibbon, Sales Director; Steve Pain, I.T. Director; Marc Jones, Operations Director; Richard Gallagher, Personnel Director; Lee Biddle, Company Secretary and finally myself Chris Tague, the Managing Director of Board?

There are two products currently available from Board?. The first, Roll-A-Goal, is a football dice game retailing at £2.99. The second product, Counter Attack, is a small football board game retailing at £4.99. So far sales have been very good with total sales of over £1,500 and profit is over £500.

However, the main success of Board? has come in the competition stage of Young Enterprise. In the High Wycombe Area Final Board? won best company report, best trade stand and second place in the presentations, resulting in us winning the 'best overall company' award. In early June, we will participate in the Bucks Area Final where we hope to have similar success. In the meantime we will look to continue sales and extend our profit margins and to maintain the high levels our company has already reached in all aspects of the business.

Chris Tague 6GA₁

IT projects at the RGS

This year the school has been involved in three major international projects. Firstly, a *Comenius* Project on teleworking and migration within Europe, partially sponsored by the EU. RGS is linked to three partner schools in Mannheim, Toulon, and Milan. The project is set to run for three years. The partners communicate by Email, video-conferencing and a regular Friday 'chat' session via the internet. Secondly, a Mathematics project with Year 10 pupils at RGS and the Ratsgymnasium, Osnabrück. This requires collaboration on questionnaires, data collection and subsequent analysis and publication. Mr Head is the co-ordinating teacher. Finally, a careers teaching project with the Ratsgymnasium, Osnabrück. Present and former pupils at both schools are surveyed using questionnaires jointly developed by the partner schools. The main area of research is to investigate whether careers teaching/advice in school is an adequate preparation for future careers and whether school sufficiently prepares pupils for higher education. Dr Philpott has been responsible for organising this project. She has been ably assisted by David Hamlyn and Daniel Kolb.

A.S.C.

Internet Group

The development of the School's Web site has continued during the year with several innovations. Indeed, large portions of the last two years of this magazine are available, including the artwork. Also, a selection of articles from the back issues has been made available with Adam Sefton 6ER, working on this project.

Other notable developments during the year include a much increased coverage of the academic life of the school and its many clubs and societies. Steven Brown 6MBA₁ is developing this section and it would be good to extend the scope to other societies. These are invited to contribute – either with ready created pages or information that we can process. The Maths Department has got its pages, created by Mark Jones 6MBe₁, and Nicholas Lay of 10V is working on an extensive and creative set of pages for the Art Department.

An increasing number of school documents is available including the current school calendar, Headmaster's letters and the school prospectus. Commerce is not forgotten. After the Tuck Shop's successes, the two Young Enterprise companies for this year have advertised their services with pages created by Mark Jones for Board? and Andrew Lloyd 6GA₁ for Vortek International.

Contributions and suggestions for the development of the site are always welcome. Please send them to me at the school or by email at dmberry1@aol.com.

The current site is available on the school's internal network and at the following address:
www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rgshiwyc/

D.M.B.

The Pirates of Penzance

My experience of Gilbert and Sullivan productions has always been limited to school productions. Indeed, the last time I saw *Pirates of Penzance* was as a Sixth Former at my own school. Having witnessed my first RGS production, I see no need to experience G&S anywhere else, when it is clear that there is such a wealth of talent and expertise on our own doorstep, performing to a very high standard indeed.

In my own school production, it was the performance of the comic policemen which I particularly remember and Edward Arnold has obviously found his vocation in life, performing with enthusiasm and wit as the Sergeant of Police. He was ably supported by his fellow P.C.s who were all very convincing in their uniforms. They seemed genuinely to enjoy their beat!

A strong and resonant voice and some intriguing choreography led to a flamboyant performance from Andrew Henderson as the Pirate King – clearly a role he relished. His Lieutenant, Paul Arthur, looked particularly manly with his freshly grown whiskers and the two of them were a convincing pair of pirates about town.

I've always believed that Alex Thomas has an old head on young shoulders and it was no surprise to me that he played the ageing Major-General with considerable ease and assurance. He moved about the stage convincingly and seemed to relish every note and word he sang, particularly those reworded with such skill by Ian Blyth.

Somehow I wasn't as convinced by Freddie's innocence as the other young ladies in Penzance! His 'tongue in cheek' performance was witty and amusing and Andrew Jackson coped with an enormous amount of singing during the performance.

The singing excellence continued with the able and often humorous performances of Estelle Buckridge and Rebecca Vince as Mabel and Ruth respectively. I was impressed to see not a ringlet out of place among the Major-General's daughters, whose appearance and carriage contrasted superbly with the dastardly pirates, many of whom looked quite at home in an 'unshaven' and unkempt state.

It is all too easy to remember a performance purely for those who performed for the eye. However, the ear received a treat in this performance. The musical quality was excellent, largely the work of Tim Venvell and Alan Lewis whose attention to detail produced a professional and assured performance from the orchestra.

There were some clever and witty paint effects employed in Rob Stevens' sets, and Grace Dodds and Janet Pearson excelled in the costume department. The student crew who worked backstage did so with considerable expertise and



'I am the very model of a modern RGS boy.'

should be congratulated on their professional support of the actors on stage.

The success achieved by the directors, Jeff Walker and Pat Joy, goes without saying. They, like all those involved, clearly devoted huge amounts of time and energy to ensure the overwhelming quality and success of this production. Above all, there was a real and true sense that all those involved were genuinely enthusiastic and were enjoying every minute of it. It only remains to say that their enthusiasm and enjoyment was infectious and I look forward to future dramatic performances in the Queen's Hall.

L.F.



Graham Lee
Year 12
Mixed Media Drawing



Mabel refuses to marry anyone wearing silly trousers.



*Robin Blackmore
Year 13
Oil on Canvas*



*Adam Sawyer
Year 10
Fired Clay Sculpture*



*Paul Astbury
Year 12
Oil on Canvas*

Alex Cox
Year 13
Acrylic on Board



Matthew Wilson
Year 11
Acrylic on Board



Philip Lawlor
Year 10
Conté Drawing



Display in Art 1

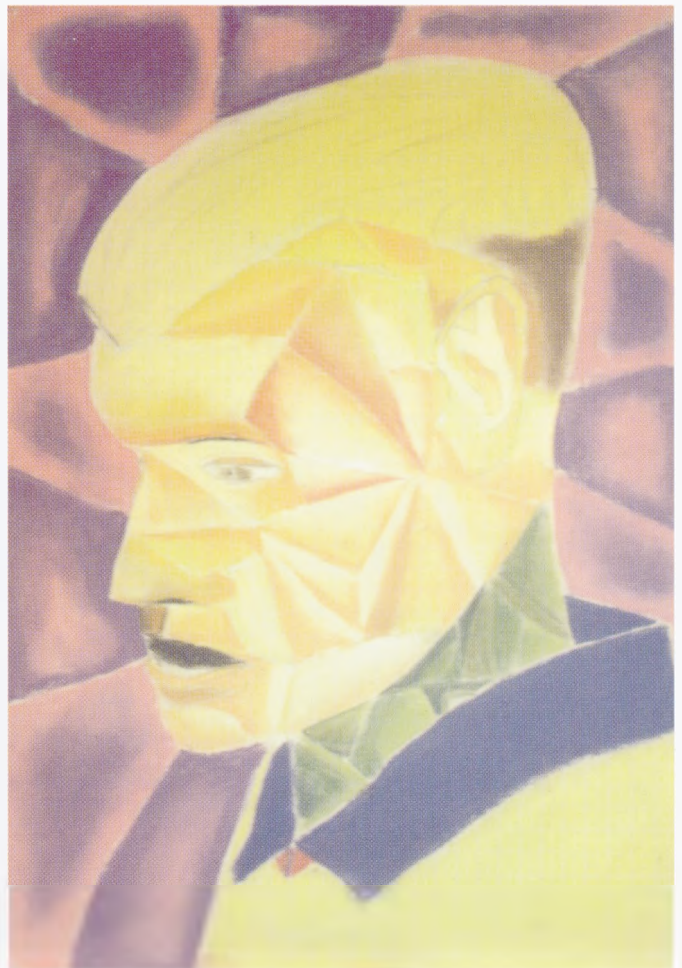
Philosophy Society

The Philosophy society opted for a minimalist attendance policy in keeping with its strict Buddhist principles. Occasional lapses into activity included a very well received talk by Dr Puritz on Creationism which attracted an audience from several year groups. Talks by members covered topics such as Personal Identity (Alex Nicholls), Socialism (Ben Wilson), Kantian Aesthetics and the existence of nothing (Adam Stewart-Wallace).

Special congratulations must go to Rhys Holdaway upon whom is bestowed the honour of 'the most promising Lower Sixth Former society member'. The only challenge to his superiority was offered by Brian Lacy for his coffee making prowess. Rhys endangered his title ambitions at the late stage in the contest by committing the cardinal sin of attending the society. Lacy, however, effectively handed the title to Holdaway when he failed to buy any replacement coffee.

Adam Stewart-Wallace 6AT₂ and Ben Wilson 6C₂

P.S. Where's our money Brian?



*Year 8
Soft Pastel*

RGS Network (previously the Computer Club and IT Centre User Group)

I recently read the Computer Club's *Wycombiensian* report from 1983. In that article the school proudly proclaimed the acquisition of two new PCs and the school's first new printer.

Fifteen years on, the Computer Club is no more; the school's newly-reformed Computing/IT Department acts as an improved combination of the school's previous networks (the Computing Laboratory network – including the Electronics Room at the IT Centre).

In an effort to remedy one of OFSTED's comments concerning the RGS, the Computing/IT Department has embarked on its first major upgrade to the school's computing capability in over half a decade.

This year's renovation of the school's computer resources has brought vast improvements. Now students are able to access any data or resource from any networked workstation in the school (of which there are currently just over 100). In addition to the benefits of centralisation, the school's computer system has been overhauled with a brand new style of network. This includes upgrades to the network infrastructure enabling data transfer rates to be up to ten times as fast as was previously achievable. Also, new fibre-optic links from the school's new fileserver (the network's 'heart' located in the school's new Modern Language Block) to most of the school's major on-site buildings increase speed and multiple ISDN links to allow for access to off-site resources (such as the Internet and various other WANs and Intranets).

The Computing/IT Department has also purchased more than 20 new Pentium MMX machines as well as the aforementioned dual Pentium II server with a total on-line storage capacity of 54 Gigabytes. This specification far outstrips the machines of 1996–97. We have also acquired four new printers, a new flatbed scanner, a new video-conferencing system and a new range of software, including the introduction of the highly popular Windows 95 operating environment, Office 97 suite, Visual Basic 5 and, very shortly, Java.

In consequence the RGS now has three major computing centres which are located in the Computing Laboratory, Electronics Room and IT Centre as well as a number of machines in other departments around the school (all year 2000 compliant if you were wondering). This is not the end of the changes. Next year, when the new Modern Language Block comes fully on-line, we will have yet another set of new computers, as well as new software, new machines in existing departments and further upgrades to infrastructure and the actual workstations.

With this upgrade, the RGS reaffirms its position as a leading light of technological excellence in Buckinghamshire, on a par with some universities and at the cutting edge of today's technology.

Thanks to Michael Hazelden, Paul Cooper, Jonathan Wilson and anyone else who helped with the running of the school network this year.

Alex Mitchell 6CL₂
Network Manager 1996–98

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Boys at the RGS have long been able to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Many have heard of the Scheme but are unaware of what is actually involved. That said, I am pleased to report that since the beginning of this academic year the number of participants in school has swelled considerably.

Introduced by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, to encourage and stimulate the enthusiasms and energies of young people, the Scheme presents a tailor made programme of challenging activities open to all young people between 14 and 25 years of age.

For the uninitiated, there are three separate Awards – Bronze, Silver and Gold. For each Award the participant must fulfil the requirements of the four Sections in the Scheme (five in the case of the Gold Award):

Service – to encourage service to others.

Expeditions – to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery.

Skills – to encourage the discovery and development of personal interests and social and practical skills.

Physical Recreation – to encourage participation in physical recreation and improvement of performance.

The Residential Project – to broaden experience through involvement with others in a residential setting (Gold Award only).

Participants follow their chosen activities, selected from a truly varied list of qualifying pursuits in each Section, largely in their own time with guidance from responsible persons knowledgeable in each of the chosen activities. Minimum standards of achievement are laid down and when these are met participants qualify for an Award.

The Scheme is not competitive since each boy is assessed on his own progress, perseverance and achievements. Thus, the Awards are within the reach of all. Boys may take part individually, or together with others of their own age.

An increasing number of boys have recently chosen to take up the unique challenge that the Awards present, including a number in the Sixth Form who recognise that the Award is highly regarded by employers and University Admissions Tutors alike. At the other end of the school, there has been considerable interest from Year 8 boys, 26 eagerly waiting to reach the qualifying age. Throughout the school almost 90 boys have expressed an interest in joining the Scheme in the near future. So if you haven't already, come and see what all the fuss is about!

Interested boys should see me (in the Chemistry Department) for further information. You will be most welcome.

Dr G A Doyle
Master i/c The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme



Rodrick Griffiths
Year 9
Plaster Sculpture

Stage Lighting and Sound Team

Let's start this report with the activity that takes up more technical time than any other in our regular calendar...the RGS school play: in this case, *The Pirates of Penzance*. During the performance the Sound Team hired in an impressive array of equipment including eight radio microphones to complement the amplifier and speakers...They wanted to be heard!

The lighting rig was a large-scale affair as well, comprising some 78 lanterns, and some 74 cues. This made a relatively large team inevitable, which increases the probability of what are technically termed 'Cock-ups'. These, however, failed to materialise. The entire team worked extremely well throughout the rehearsals, and during the performances themselves barely made an error, making the awarding of the traditional 'Wooden Spoon (Wally Of The Play)' a very difficult decision. In the end it was Andrew Stone who had this *great honour* bestowed upon him for inadvertently sparking accusations of theft and pillage when a rather highly valued lead was used to provide backstage communications to Lucy Moorcraft (our temporary recruitment as I/C Radio Microphones). Lucy did her job so well that it was easy to forget how vital she was to the successful running of the play (Thanks, Lucy!). Congratulations are also due to the backstage communications system, which, for the first time in living memory, held out for the entire production.

Thanks are also due to Mr Stevens, without whom we would have had nothing to make our effects look good on...

Other major Sound Team activities this year included the rewiring of the school projection-line system for use during Gala Day, the setting up of four permanent microphone extension leads above the stage and auditorium in the Queen's Hall, the extended sound system for this year's Rugby Dinner, the successful obliteration of the 'orchestra light' by David Walker and James Bell whilst moving the tower to the back of the hall, and the novel and creative interpretation of Mr Everett's instructions.

On the lighting side, our year was started well with the kind donation of two long lighting bars – an expensive gift – from a parent: these are much appreciated, and will be put to good use over the coming years. The team was also graced with some new lanterns, which were put to good use in *Pirates*.

Good luck to those who take over next year.

David Green 6CL₂ and David Walker 6SW₂



Nicholas Bacon
Year 9
Sketchbook cover
design winner



Michael Lavers
Year 8
Personal logo

Rugby

Last season finished with the exciting news that Old Boys Nick Beal and Matthew Dawson had been picked for the British Lions tour to South Africa. Both gained places in rugby folklore, Nick for his man-of-the-match three tries against the Emerging Springboks, and Matt for his schoolboy dummy which fooled the South African defence and led to his try which helped the Lions to their victory in the First Test. He scored again in the Third Test and the Lions won the series 2-1.

Back at school yet another amazing rugby season started. The rugby success in recent seasons with the winning of the *Daily Mail* U15 Cup in 1996 and the retention of the Cup in 1997 has not come easily. Much hard work in time and effort is given by players and staff and this can be easily taken for granted. Yet the efforts this season seem to have surpassed even those of previous years as RGS climbed to new heights. The 1st XV started the year winning the Douai Festival defeating *Daily Mail* Cup Champions, Colstons. At half term they won the Plate Final at the St Joseph's, Ipswich, Festival and their improving team play took them to the *Daily Mail* Cup Final at Twickenham. Here they were joined by the U15 XV, reaching a Twickenham final for the third successive year, as RGS created yet another piece of rugby history by being the first school to have teams in both finals. It was a wonderful day for the school and the town of High Wycombe.

The U14 XV and U13 XV won trophies at the Minehead Festival. Individually, Ross Coull, centre and captain, Matthew Honeyben, fly half, and David Jarvis, full back, played for the England 'A' U16 XV. David had a tremendous game in defence against Wales 'A', Matthew scored a try against Wales, and Ross scored against Scotland. 1st XV scrum half Simon Crompton scored a try for England U18 'A' XV against Wales, and also included in that squad was centre and 1st XV vice-captain Alex Melrose. Nick Duncombe was selected as scrum half for the England U16 XV and was capped against Wales at Twickenham, Portugal (when he scored two tries), and Italy. It has been a truly tremendous and memorable year.

The parental support as always has been excellent and the season has finished with yet another successful Sportsman's Dinner thanks to the hard work of the FRORGs Committee. Our main speakers and guests for the evening were Gareth Edwards and Gordon Brown. Old Boys Matthew Dawson's and Nick Beal's attendance was very much appreciated as they help to raise funds for the school and this summer's tour, which takes the year full circle as the senior squad of 36 players depart for the school's first ever tour of South Africa. Matches will be played in Cape Town, East London and Durban as the team prepares for next season.

C.C.T.

1st XV

Played 21 Won 18 Drawn 0 Lost 3 For 677 Against 201

There was an air of excitement as the season started. The team had enormous potential. The Lower Sixth pupils had won the *Daily Mail* U15 Cup in 1996 and the Upper Sixth pupils were hungry for success, but could they be gelled into a successful squad? At the Douai Festival the result



Simon Crompton attacks Colstons, Bristol, from the base of a scrum during the U18 Daily Mail Cup Final at Twickenham.

was clear as RGS dispatched old rivals Wellington College in the first game, Christ's Brecon in the semi-final and *Daily Mail* Cup holders Colstons 6-0 in the final to lift the cup. An entertaining game was lost against St Edward's, Oxford, 23-26 the following week as the team was brought down to earth, dropping a scoring chance over the try line in the final move of the game. Victory over RGS Guildford put the team back on course but another narrow defeat 20-21 to Millfield followed. During this time a very strong team was emerging, a team that would play for each other but with no superstars. Eton, Windsor and Warwick were defeated and the squad went to the St Joseph's Festival full of confidence. On the first day RGS made too many errors and their poor performance relegated them to the Plate Competition. A full and frank team meeting followed and the squad emerged to take the second day by storm, winning the plate with a display of open running rugby. It proved to be a turning point of the season. The expansive running game suited the team as they scored 83 tries in an unbeaten run of 16 games. Leading scorers were Chris Matcham and Nnamdi Obi. Key victories included a 17-12 away victory at Radley and four wins in six days in the week prior to Christmas: Watford GS 44-0, South African College School (SACS) from Capetown 21-16, Pangbourne College in the *Daily Mail* Cup 13-7 and Bedford Modern 22-12. Excitement grew as the team reached the quarter final of the *Daily Mail* Cup and a home tie against Campion School, Essex, a team which had beaten the 1st XV at Ipswich. RGS dominated the game to emerge victorious 41-10. Next stop Castlecroft and a semi-final tie with Durham School, a team full of divisional players, International trialists and Internationals. RGS had suffered a major blow in team preparation as Dimitri Amiras fell when snowboarding at half term and had to have his spleen removed. Mike Lowson who had played nearly all his rugby in junior 'B' XVs until this season emerged from the shadows to make his 1st XV debut. In 90 seconds RGS were 5-0 down, a second try followed for Durham before RGS scored through Obi and Deering. Howlett's conversion gave RGS a 12-10 half time lead. Great tackling and resolute defence together with a further penalty by Howlett gave RGS a 15-10 victory and a place in the final at Twickenham.

To play at Twickenham was a fitting climax to the season, especially for Upper Sixth players playing their final game. The whole squad had worked hard to produce one of the best ever seasons for the school. Amiras made a miraculous recovery to take the field and play a full part in his team's performance. Edward Brooks led his team out with pride and although RGS played to the best of their ability there was to be no fairy tale ending for the team. Colstons are a very talented team and deserved victory on the day.

My thanks to all the players and supporters for making it such an enjoyable year and to Lavazza, 'Italy's favourite Coffee', sponsors of the 1st XV throughout the season and of the Sportsman's Dinner. I wish the senior players every success in their rugby as they leave school and hope that they are available to play against High Wycombe RFC on Boxing Day.

C.C.T.

2nd XV

The 2nd XV started the first match of the season against St Edward's lacking in match fitness but not in enthusiasm. In difficult blustery conditions RGS threw away countless scoring opportunities and lost 19-18, mainly due to a lapse in midfield defence during the second half.

The series of tough early season fixtures had begun. Matches continued with a loss against old rivals RGS Guildford. Further losses ensued against Millfield and Eton (two strong rugby schools). However we rounded off the half term with a comprehensive beating of Warwick (31-0). This was a game which typified the team's unpredictable talent.

After the half term break RGS lost two closely-fought matches against Solihull and Berkhamsted before disposing of QE Barnet in the early evening darkness. After this morale-boosting performance Watford were soundly beaten before we lost a tight match against Bedford Modern 26-21.

To round off the season the 2nds pulled off two great performances against well respected opposition: Reigate GS and St Benedict's.

Captains Oliver Pearson and Philip Andrews always led by example and were ably supported by Andrew Scott, Matthew Thomson, Robert Ogden, and the mercurial Andrew Eagle.

Thanks must go to Mr Taylor who once again gave up every Saturday to offer us his guidance, support, and pearls of wisdom.

Oliver Pearson and Philip Andrews
2nd XV captains

3rd XV

Played 9 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 3

The 3rd XV enjoyed one of their most successful seasons in recent years, proving to be invincible in the second half of the season. The forwards played with passion and commitment throughout and the backs showed a level of handling skills that belied the rather cavalier attitude to training sessions. The first victory was a highlight, when a depleted side overcame a strong Warwick side. Matthew Embrey proved to be an inspirational captain and much of the credit for a successful season is due to him, as he led a side subjected to many changes from week to week.

Edward Turley 6SD₂

U16 XV

The U16 XV season has been characterised by individual success and a test of the strength in depth of the squad. It was obvious from very early on that the challenge of defending our position as *Daily Mail* Cup champions was going to be a tough one.

A nervous 7-3 victory against St Edward's was followed by two defeats by Millfield and RGS Guildford, in what proved to be our hardest two fixtures. The team soon returned to the winning ways to which they were accustomed, notching up handsome victories over Warwick, Eton and Berkhamsted and scoring 208 points for, whilst conceding just 7 against in these three games.

By this time though, it had become clear that each team we came up against played with a passion to win, which was at times dangerous. The prize of defeating us was much sought after and the boys learnt a great deal in these matches.

On an individual level, we enjoyed the success fully of producing nearly all of the Bucks County team, followed by several going a step further to the divisional trials and finally four boys making it through to the England U16 level trials.

All four achieved the tremendous accolade of representing their country: David Jarvis, Matthew Honeyben and Ross Coull played for England 'A', with Coull captaining the side, and Nicholas Duncombe playing for England against Wales at Twickenham following the two *Daily Mail* Cup finals. To add to this, Aidan Campbell was selected to play for the England President's XV.

All this success left the regular team struggling for players at times, but Gates coped admirably as captain, leading the team to some courageous performances against all the odds.

On the whole, the season was a challenging one, never without incident and I wish all the boys luck in their rugby careers at the school and beyond.

P.S.T.

U15 'A' XV

A successful season for RGS U15 rugby culminated with another appearance at Twickenham in the final of the *Daily Mail* Cup.

After early losses to Millfield and Eton, the U15 'A' team enjoyed an unbeaten run to the end of the season. To their credit, the players learned from the early setbacks, not only improving as individual players, but developing into a team, where members played for each other and not just for themselves.

The *Daily Mail* campaign started with good wins against local opposition. Burnham GS were dispatched within 19 minutes, RGS winning 50-0. Two victories followed against previously unbeaten sides, Kingsbridge from Devon and St Peter's, Gloucester, the win against St Peter's being cemented with an excellent interception try from Tom Lloyd. In the last sixteen, RGS were faced with the prospect of playing Wellington College, another unbeaten side. Jonathan Nelson, who was a model of consistency throughout the year, kept RGS in the competition with a last minute try. The hard work put in over half term was duly rewarded with a crushing 32-5 victory over John Fisher, Purley, another side previously unbeaten this season. Ed Garrow, Jamie Astbury and Adam Gilbert all had immense games. Ed Garrow, all eight-stones of him, tackled anything that moved, as he had done all year.

Adam Gilbert led from the front with 110% commitment, Astbury was ubiquitous during the game.

At Castlecroft, the semi-final against St Peter's, York, was a hard fought contest by two good sides. Excellent defence was the foundation for a 13-5 victory, the RGS tries being scored by Astbury and Tom Whitehouse.

The final was a tense affair, with two packs of forwards fighting for supremacy, neither team being allowed to cut loose. Queen Elizabeth GS, Wakefield, went ahead early on with a try from the forwards after a maul close to the RGS line. Both defences held firm until a period of sustained pressure from RGS was rewarded by a try for Jamie Astbury, beating five opponents before scoring in the corner. A draw had been earned and the trophy shared.

The highlight of the year? 'That dump tackle', Ed Garrow's inspirational individual try against Radley, Ben Whitehouse's try-saving tackle in the semi-final, 'the double dump', Jonathan Nelson's hat trick against Bedford Modern, Astbury's try in the final, or the sight of two teams engaging in a lap of honour together after sixty minutes of good, hard rugby. Take your pick.

Thank you for your effort and commitment this year, well done, and good luck in your future rugby careers. You'll enjoy it.

D.A.W.

U15 'B' XV

The U15 success in the *Daily Mail* Cup this year provides the icing on the cake of a successful and enjoyable season's rugby, and was founded upon the commitment of a large number of players involved. This strength in depth meant that many boys had the opportunity to play competitive rugby for the school with, on occasion, 'C' team sides being fielded as well as 'A' and 'B'.

This year's 'B' team were an adventurous and spirited unit fully convinced by the modern emphasis on a free flowing running game. This was a big team of some physical presence in the pack, combined with pace and skill in the backs, and always looked likely to score points. In defence too, this was a strong outfit.

The team enjoyed a winning season, with good performances throughout the year from Daniel Sum, Nick Bishop, Matthew Wilson and Tim Jacks. Commiserations go to Daniel Walden and Daniel Wilson who were very unlucky to miss out on a trip to Twickenham.

All in all this team was often a pleasure to coach and watch, combining a positive and sportsmanlike attitude with determination to win and to play an expansive game. They did themselves and the school much credit.

U14 'A' XV

Following last year's season in which the team only showed its full potential in parts, this season started well with two wins and then a great team performance to beat Millfield 10-7. After being beaten by a well drilled and good Eton side the squad was to be taken to Minehead at half-term. Over the week the rugby improved and in the end the team came second in the main tournament after a narrow loss against Enfield.

After the tour five more wins were recorded including convincing ones over Watford and Tiffin. But old habits die hard and the team lost three more close matches with the

margins being five points or under. As with last year, games were lost by one or two missed tackles.

The Sevens' season came around with a mood of optimism. Early on in the year at Minehead the 7s team would have won the tournament if it hadn't been for a missed conversion and the 9s team came away with the winner's trophy after an unbeatable display of running rugby. A full strength side was fielded at Sherborne, the first 7s tournament of the year. It gave a good account of itself with a resounding win over Millfield in the first round. The side reached the semi-final of the tournament and got knocked out by a very strong Wellington side. In the other tournament at Barnet the team reached the semi-final of the plate competition.

Throughout the season, whether it was a win or a loss, RGS played the better rugby with the forwards, ably led by Chris Moore, dominating for long periods of the game. They provided good ball for the backs of whom Jon Hammond and Tom Wilcox gave consistently impressive performances.

This season has seen many players develop and improve, and if the tackling and concentration could be better it would bode well for the *Daily Mail* Cup next season.

Special thanks must go to Mr Phelan who has coached us well and given up his free time for us.

Andrew Scobie 9H

U14 'B' XV

The U14 'B' squad has demonstrated this year that it can perform to a very high standard and compete with the strongest school squads on the school circuit, frequently beating the opposition by seventy points! Their most outstanding performance this year was against Millfield. Although they were narrowly defeated, the boys put on an excellent display which was full of skill and passion; the hallmarks of a good rugby team. With the 'A' side beating the Millfield 'A' side it was an outstanding performance by the entire U14 squad.

Every player should take pride in their achievements this year, as it has been team work that has earned success. The outstanding players of the year were Lewis Proudfoot and Rory Morrin in the forwards, and Phillip Downing and Matthew Brightwell in the backs, who performed with skill and consistency all year. The most improved players of the year were Grant Kübler and Nicholas Bacon, who scored numerous tries, some of which were top class, especially against Abingdon.

Congratulations to the entire squad and good luck for the future.

G.C.C.

U13 'A' XV

The first match was against Eton's U14 'D' team. At the time, beating them with a performance that saw us put our score-line well into the 80s seemed great, but looking back it was perhaps altogether the wrong way to begin a season, making us think that all games would be this easy.

They weren't!

Our next match involved a trip to Warwick. In the first 15 minutes we conceded two soft tries from lack of tackling. This effectively lost us the match even though the team fought back well in a match that we should have won.

After a match against Abingdon, a squad of 20 were entered into the Minehead Tournament, where we would

be staying in luxurious Butlin's accommodation and training on the golden sands of North Devon.

In the main 15-a-side event there were victories against most teams, but QES Barnet proved too strong for us, and we were not aided by losing an important member of the team, Matt Garrow, who broke his arm in two places, putting him out for the rest of the season.

The team came second in the main event. When the 15s had finished the squad was split and two other, smaller tournaments were played; one of 7s and one of 9s. The team entered into the 9s played well, destroying all that dared to challenge them. They went on to get first prize. Meanwhile the team playing 7s on the opposite pitch were not so successful.

Back at school, a journey up the motorway to Solihull was awaiting us in the week that we returned. The Solihull team saw us open the scoring in the first ten minutes and dominate most of the match, only to be beaten by a last minute 'try'.

Matches against Hampton and Radley were followed by a trip to our rivals QES Barnet. Unlike Minehead this match was a closely fought one and a try from both sides meant that the game ended in a very fair draw. Matches against Watford, Bedford Modern, Tiffin, Reigate GS followed up to our last match against Haberdashers' Aske's, which unfortunately was cancelled due to frozen pitches.

Since September the team has learned a great deal and a side has been developed from scratch. There are a large number of very talented individuals many of whom have not played the game before. They will no doubt develop further into a very good side in future years.

Andrew Zair 8C

Hockey

1st XI

Under the experienced captaincy of Richard Lawrence a young and inexperienced side started the season with a 6-0 win over Reading Blue Coat. However, they were brought down to earth the following week in a 0-7 defeat by Kingston. These two results reflected the mixed season to come, which saw RGS record big wins over the likes of Windsor (6-0) and Aylesbury (7-0), lose to Dr Challoner's, John Hampden and Haberdashers' and yet produce good losing performances against traditionally strong schools such as Radley 2-4, Watford 1-2, Hitchin 2-4 and Kingston 1-3 in the return.

In a generally disappointing season there were some highlights however, which bodes well for next year. In the National indoor competition the team showed promise but were not quite strong enough against good opposition. They came within a game of qualifying for the next round by finishing third in their group behind Kingston and Epsom.

In the county semi-final of the National Schools' competition they gained revenge for last year's final defeat by beating Borlase 3-1. But they were very disappointed to lose 1-0 to a resolute Dr Challoner's in the final. The team also performed extremely well in the prestigious St George's Six-a-Side Tournament. They were undefeated in their pool game and only lost at the semi-final stage to the eventual winners King Edward's. This was no mean achievement considering the team included two Year 11 boys, Ed Harrison and Vishal Bij.

The following boys represented the county at U19, U21 level or both: Richard Lawrence, Daniel Grant, Scott Fitzgibbon, Martin Gibson, Lee Biddle and Jon Davies.

Full Colours were awarded to the following boys: Paul Channon, Lee Biddle, David Cox, Jon Davies, Scott Fitzgibbon, Charles Gunn, Tim Jarrett, Chris Tague; and Ed Harrison and Vishal Bij were awarded half colours.

Finally, congratulations must go to Jon Davies who represented Wales U18 in both the Home Nations' Tournament in Dublin and a European Four Nations' Tournament in Italy.

Z.D.J.

2nd XI

Four wins were collected in a season not notable for results, but certainly for excellent team spirit. Many key injuries, particularly to Daniel Flint and Daniel Keating, did not help the cause, but a wide range of players filled in, all fitting in extremely well. The side also had to play four different goalkeepers in the season: Chris Tague, who was promoted to the 1st XI – you owe it all to us, Chris – David Smalley, Tony Lasocki, who put in a resolute performance against Radley restricting the opposition to nine goals, and in the final two matches, Ross Burton.

The side began with optimism, beating Reading Blue Coats on two occasions, but then lacked the consistency to match this early season form. A disappointing, narrow series defeat by John Hampden was followed by losses against excellent Kingston, Hitchin and Radley teams. In the first-half against Hitchin, the side played some of their best hockey of the year taking an early lead and holding the opposition to three goals. However, such effort could not be maintained in the second period and the Hitchin side proceeded to dominate.

To their credit, however, the team kept their heads up with superb morale and everybody thoroughly enjoying the season. This resulted in the year ending on a high note with successive wins in the final two matches highlighting their collective spirit and overall improvement through the course of the season. In these ultimate two games, the side played some flowing and attractive hockey, out-passing and out-manoeuvring the opposition and deserving their victories.

I am sure that the players would like to thank Mr Stone for all his effort and helpful advice, particularly his encouraging and inspiring words during half-time team talks. Everyone is looking forward to next year, hopefully with an improvement in results whilst maintaining this season's attitude. A special mention must go to Paul Whaley who was voted 'most improved player', Andy Tonks who was voted 'best newcomer' and Richard Peake who received the 'best goal' award, as well as Daniel Flint and Charlie Middleton who were both honoured with half-colours for hockey. Also, many thanks to Oliver Britnell and Richard Peake for organising the team dinner which was a great success.

Simon Pearce 6HK₁

Special mention should be made of Charles Middleton who played outstandingly well in defence and led the team by example.

D.G.S.

U16 XI

After playing as a team for three consecutive years with only one or two enforced changes, the squad has now gained a good understanding. At the start of the season Dr Challoner's were defeated convincingly. The victory that really showed how much the team had improved was against a strong Hitchin Boys' School (4-3) after defeats by large margins in previous years.

In the Bucks Cup a very positive performance earned a 3-1 win against Milton Keynes HC. The final against Aylesbury HC was lost narrowly 1-0 in a match which was disappointing.

Towards the end of the season a very good undefeated run was enjoyed and a clear sign of the improvement made came from the 2-1 win over Kingston GS which reversed the 3-0 defeat in September.

The indoor team played some quality hockey in the South of England Indoor tournament but a couple of below par early matches just prevented us from qualifying for the semi-finals.

During the season Edward Harrison and Oscar Webb played for Bucks U16s, Vishal Bij for Middlesex and Charles Young for Berkshire.

With further commitment and practice there is much potential for success as the players move into the Sixth Form.

Team: Sam Grace, Jonathan Dosser, Richard Gamble, Nicholas Rochowski, James Cremin, Charles Young, Edward Harrison, Vishal Bij, Andrew Hutchings, Oscar Webb and Daniel Knight.

Edward Harrison/D.G.S.

U15 XI

The standard of the hockey played by this year's U15s cannot be told from the results, as it is a team of inexperienced players who have only taken up the sport a few years ago. However, a large amount of talent has already arisen and a lot of good hockey has been played. More and more players are now playing club hockey and reaching good levels which will be useful for next season.

The season started with a loss to Kingston GS who are always a well drilled, tough side but things got better with a 2-2 draw to John Hampden and a narrow 2-1 defeat to Dr Challoner's, a side filled with county players, who snatched victory in the dying moments. We then suffered a series of defeats to several much more experienced teams, but the standard of hockey was always good and we made each team work for every single goal.

Our first victory came at Bisham Abbey against Reading where despite going down in the opening 10 minutes we managed to come back and win 5-1. Towards the end of the season we also managed to beat a more experienced Haberdashers' side 8-1.

Asa Joseph, Sebastian Walsh and Owen Francis all reached high standards of hockey, and were selected to play for the U16s, and there was also some good hockey in the team from Toby North, Mark Austin, and Russell Bowry.

Although the results were a little disappointing, the overall standard was good and we can look forward to much better results next season. Our thanks to Mr Clarke.

U15 Hockey Side: Asa Joseph, Owen Francis, Mark Austin, Toby North, Sebastian Walsh, Tom Godfrey (c), Stuart Gray, Russell Bowry, Geoffrey Davies, Alex Gibson, Joshua Monteiro, Alex Molden, David O'Donnell, Tim Edwards, Simon Parnell.

U14 XI

For the second season in succession the U14s have had an excellent season. They recorded good wins over the likes of Dr Challoner's 6-1, Desborough 3-1, a Dutch touring side 1-0 and put on a spirited display in a 2-5 defeat by Bethnal Green High School who were in the last sixteen of the National competition. Again this year there is strength in depth, the whole squad having shown outstanding commitment throughout the year. The season started brightly with a narrow 2-1 loss to a strong Stowe team and a solid 3-0 victory over Merchant Taylors'. Both the 'A' and 'B' teams have played excellent attacking hockey very much as a team throughout the year.

The 'A's put together an excellent run in the U14 National competition, losing in the final of the county round to a more experienced Borlase team 1-3.

Though many of the players have only been playing for less than a year, the talent could clearly be seen not only in the results but also by the success of a number of individuals. There were no less than eight individuals attending county training, Chris Allfrey, Jon Whaley and Stephen Butcher being selected to represent Bucks, and Chris Allfrey and Stephen Butcher making the final South East trial.

Three Year 8 boys also represented the school and county at U14 and U13 levels respectively. They were Seb Malti, Alex Topsfield and Stuart Penman. Finally, I would like to thank the boys for all their hard work and enthusiasm and hope to see some of them playing at county level and above in years to come.

Z.D.J.

Cricket

1st XI

Played 19 Won 9 Drawn 6 Lost 3 Abandoned 1

The 1st XI began their pre-season training before Christmas with a great deal of enthusiasm. This enthusiasm was maintained throughout the entire season, reflected in what was an excellent record. The season started with a weekend tour to East Anglia. Despite losing both games it was very clear that the side did not lack talent and, more importantly, excellent team spirit. Sam Musk (6 for 35 against St Joseph's College, Ipswich) and Daniel Grant (6 for 14 against Colchester RGS) showed that the side had the ability to bowl sides out. Alongside this the team was never short of runs which were spread throughout the team from openers Chris Dark and Aidan Shaw, through the middle order of Dave Wilson, Matt Honeyben, Alex Melrose, Andrew Bentall and Sam Musk, all of whom scored over 200 runs each.

Led by Captain Andrew Bentall the team always played positively even in the most dire of situations. At 37 for 6 against St Benedict's, RGS managed a total of 152, Sam Musk scoring 60. St Benedict's were then bowled out for 90, Sam Musk doing the damage with 7 for 20 and four catches. This comeback reflected the will to win and maturity in a young side.

The highlight of the season was once again the RGS cricket festival, this year hosted by Worcester. We arrived hoping to repeat the successes of the previous year. In the first game, although Newcastle scored 213 for 6, RGS were never overawed and sailed to victory with four overs to spare (Alex Melrose 75, Aidan Shaw 47). Next came

Colchester who were kept to 151, despite a slight middle order collapse. Chris Dark's 75 secured another victory. The sternest test of the season was against hosts Worcester. We managed 158 (Andy Bentall 38) which was never enough against a very strong side with two England batsmen, who cruised to victory in 24 overs. Nevertheless RGS bounced back on the next day to defeat Guildford in the last over in a thrilling game.

Thanks must go to Andrew Bentall who captained the side admirably, and indeed to the Bentall clan for their support. A special mention to Sam Musk who was one of only two bowlers in the country to take over 50 wickets. Well done! Finally, thanks also to scorer Peter Hayward who was always at his unflappable best in the score box.

P.R.M.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI was dogged by an inability to put out a side of either consistency or numbers throughout the season. This obviously hampered the captain, Simon McCallion, as well as Mr Miles and me, and we were continually ringing around at a late hour to find a side. This is a sad state of affairs.

However, when we did play and perform well, such as in the fine thrashing of St Benedict's, Ealing, the effort was worth it. Having got the opposition all out for 110 the RGS were led romping to victory by a triumphant McCallion who had also secured a hat-trick earlier in the game. A remarkable achievement.

Boys must realise that enjoying team games like cricket is an integral part of school life and that to forgo them does not leave more time for revision, but less time for vital constructive relaxation.

I hope cricket will bounce back from what was a disappointing lack of commitment.

W.M.P.

U15 XI

Played 11 Won 7 Drawn 3 Lost 1

As the results show this was a team with considerable ability and by the end of the season seven players had achieved selection for the 1st XI.

Success in a tense Lord's Taverners' County final against Stowe the previous year led to matches in the National Competition.

A convincing defeat of Latymer Upper by eight wickets gave the school a second round match at Eton. The opposition made 195-5 in 40 overs with Asham Saeed having figures of 8-2-20-1, and innings of 37 from David Dunne, 40 from Matthew Honeyben and 30 from Robert Bentall were not quite sufficient to take RGS to the required total, finishing on 181-8.

The team was never bowled out. Hugo Matcham scored consistently well early in the season and other contributions came from David Dunne, Robert Bentall, Ross Coull and Bobby Dix.

The bowling was led by the pace of Asham Saeed, controlled seam bowling of James Nicholas, the much improved Tanveer Yaqoob and several spinners. Robert Bentall, Bobby Dix, Jack Dawson and James Wright all contributed with very promising performances.

Several other players practised regularly, with Tim Woodstock, Matthew Farr and David Tang all having

success with the bat, and David Anderson impressed with 3-33 against Dr Challoner's GS.

The team played excellent positive cricket and all players have the potential to develop.

D.G.S.

U14 XI

Played 10 Won 6 Drawn 1 Lost 3

In 1997 there was a very large and talented squad of cricketers, who didn't always play to their full potential, especially when batting. This was particularly evident in the Lord's Taverners' County Final against Dr Challoner's. In a game most notable for the excellent standard of fielding by both teams, RGS were coasting, having limited Dr Challoner's to 129 all out, and being 45-0 in reply. A series of poor shots and two careless run outs saw the RGS collapse to 99 all out.

Throughout the season the batsmen largely flattered to deceive, though William Bentall, Mark Austin and Robert Dighton all scored half centuries. Mark Honeyben, Jon Nelson, Russell Bowry, Angus Mayne and Jamie Astbury also made useful contributions.

The bulk of the wickets were taken by Jon Mahood (19), William Bentall (17), Angus Mayne (16), and Mark Austin (10). Jon Mahood recorded the best figures of the season with 6-12 against QE Barnet, closely followed by William Bentall with 6-12 against St Benedict's. Angus Mayne proved to be the golden arm, as he took a wicket as soon as he was put on in most games. Jon Nelson showed the way in the field with many superb fielding displays.

If the batsmen can be more consistent, then 1998 could be a memorable year.

A.R.Y.

U13 XI

The U13 team played a mixture of limited overs and full afternoon games, resulting in five wins and three defeats. The opening two limited over matches were closely fought but lost. The third against Desborough resulted in a deserved victory for RGS by eight runs. Allfrey, 61 not out, and Roberts, 25 not out, gave RGS the start they wanted 97-0. The bowlers restricted Desborough to 89. The afternoon game against St Benedict's was bizarre. Winning the toss, RGS asked St Benedict's to bat on a drying wicket. Stannard with five wickets and Fletcher with four wickets bowled Benedict's out for 16. RGS reached 17 for the loss of six wickets, declared and allowed St Benedict's to bat again. This time St Benedict's were bowled out for 29 with Jarmola, three wickets, and Roberts, four wickets, doing the damage. RGS raced to 31-4 to win by seven wickets.

At Latymer Upper the team had done all the hard work in bowling the opposition out for 83 but crashed to a 10 run defeat when they in turn were bowled out for 73. Sir William Borlase's, Dr Challoner's and QES Barnet were all beaten at the end of the season as Chris Allfrey discovered some of his best batting form of the season. As captain of the team he had always led by example. He was well supported by Tom Stannard's strike bowling, the spin of Nick Fletcher, and the overall play of Sam Roberts. The team has much potential and should progress in the 1998 season.

Chris Allfrey should be congratulated on gaining a place on the South England U14 tour to the West Indies.

C.C.T.

Basketball

U19

Played 8 Won 7 Lost 1

This team was very strong with an immense amount of talent, and with a little more dedication, particularly as far as practising was concerned, could have got further in the Nationals' Cup. They won all their first round Nationals' Cup matches, at times playing attractive offensive and defensive basketball. Disappointment came in the next round where a below par performance saw them lose against a less talented but more disciplined team. In the Herts County League they won a number of games convincingly, none more so than the match against Hemel Hempstead where hard work, cool heads and team basketball led to a 95-71 win.

The team was captained by Guy Hopkins who led by example with hard defence, encouragement, and cooling down heated moments. There was a nucleus of 6² players who have formed the backbone of this team for a number of years who are leaving the school at the end of this year, and we wish them very good luck in their playing careers. They are Guy Hopkins, Edward Williams, whose outstanding rebounding will be missed, George Stothart, and Jonathan Stewart, whose hard defence was a pleasure to watch.

The above players leave behind a group of very talented players who played an important role in this season's team. They are Simon Gilbert, Dominic David, Chris Watson, Andrew Eagle, Adam Gilbert, James Fletcher, Paul Harding, and Richard Dobson. I am sure with dedication, hard work and the right attitude these players will be able to build upon the success of this season's team.

Many thanks must go to Paul Miles for his support, fixture arranging and chauffeuring, and to Colin Tattersall and Anne Howarth for 'manning' the score table. Thanks also go to the parents who have turned up to support the team.

N. M. Adriano
Coach

U16

Played 5 Won 4 Lost 1

This team has had an indifferent season, mainly due to the inability to field a full strength side throughout the season, and due to a lack of commitment by many players to practise or to commit themselves to after school fixtures. This is a very talented side which had the ability to produce a very successful season. Many of the players next season can help to form a very strong U19 team if they want to commit themselves. I must thank those players who did turn up regularly to practice: Adam Gilbert, James Fletcher, Adam Gates and Ross Coull. Other players who participated this season include Nick Stannard, Geoff Huson, David Dunne, Craig Gibson, David Tang, and Richard Tough.

Many thanks must go to Paul Miles for his support, fixture arranging, chauffeuring, coaching, and to Colin Tattersall and Anne Howarth for 'manning' the score table. Thanks also go to any parents who have turned up to support the team.

Congratulations to Adam Gilbert for his selection to the England Basketball Squad.

N. M. Adriano
Assistant coach

U15

The U15s had a disappointing start to the season, being beaten 72-35 in the National Schools' competition by a very powerful and well drilled Bohunt side. Despite this and a lack of fixtures in the county cup competition, the boys produced some reasonable results, beating Dr Challoner's 56-50 and putting together a good team performance to beat Chesham 67-56 without England international Adam Gilbert. However, if they are to emulate this year's U16 team, they will need to be more committed and learn to play with more discipline. Finally, congratulations go to Adam Gilbert who has represented England at both U15 and U16 levels this season.

Z.D.J.

Swimming

The intermediate and junior boys' team represented the school at the highly competitive Division 10 swimming championships this year. The intermediate team of Cormac McFarlane, Andrew Hutchings, James Palmer and Philip Wideson acquitted themselves very well, finishing third and second in the freestyle and medley relays respectively. The junior team of Paul Clark, Chris Nisbet, Mike Worthington and Anthony Peck showed a great deal of talent, achieving a first and second place in their relays. Sadly neither team qualified for the finals although the junior boys only missed out by less than a second. This and the fact that three of the quartet were competing a year young bodes well for next year.

P.R.M.

Cross Country

The cross-country team enjoyed mixed fortunes this season. It was largely left up to the captain, Matthew Hickman, to organise the teams and train up the new Year 8s by taking them out two lunchtimes every week to get a good team going.

We had a good number of new boys come into the squad and they nearly all turned out to be very keen runners. Duncan Au and Edward Collins especially showed (and still are showing) great potential. Our first junior race of this season, at Dr Challoner's, went tremendously well. Not only did we win the race by a huge margin, we nearly broke the track record and Duncan Au and Edward Collins got first and third fastest times respectively; and all this with a very inexperienced team in a Year 8 and 9 race! We look forward to smashing the course record next year! After this excellent start the junior team then turned their sights to the TSB cup. We qualified from the first round comfortably, winning by another large margin, with Duncan coming second and Edward third. That done we then had the arduous mini-bus journey to King's Lynn, where we had high hopes of qualifying to the national finals. Unfortunately bad directions meant that the leading eight runners were diverted the wrong way, and our two best runners were in that pack! However, as recompense, the organisers invited us to the finals along with some of the other teams that were also unfortunate. The finals in Crawley should have been to the team's liking. It was a short, quite flat course and therefore very fast. However, we unfortunately got off to a poor start, and the team finished up in 21st place out of 28 teams, despite good performances from Duncan (21st also) and Ed (26th).

At the local level we maintained the tradition of winning the district championships with ease. Congratulations to all of the junior team – Duncan, Ed, Ben Chapman, Mark Edwards and Ross Sanderson (as well as Ben Akesson and Edward Harris of Year 8 and Alexis Deeley and James Penn of Year 9). Duncan also came fifth in the County Championships at Stowe and thus represented Bucks in the Nationals, where he finished around the 250 mark.

The senior team only managed to get one race all season, which was also at Dr Challoner's. Here we fielded two weak teams, both finishing in mediocre positions. Kieran Shipley recorded the fastest time there, just beating Matt Hickman by a couple of seconds.

Many many thanks are owed to Mr Wilson and Mr Miles, who took the junior team far and wide to their races. For myself, my final year at the school has been a rewarding one; despite not winning anything personally I did get the satisfaction of seeing an excellent junior team run brilliant cross-country, considering their age and inexperience. Thanks to all runners (especially Chris Williams and Matt Luff who came and helped me on cold, wet lunchtimes while we stood getting wet, staring at a stopwatch) who have made my year as captain so enjoyable!

Matthew Hickman 6GO₂
(Captain)

Rowing

To begin with, the season of '97 looked promising on paper. The club had two Sixth Form 4s with reasonable experience, and a J16 crew who had shown considerable potential in their J15 year. Coxes were in short supply, but James Bowman from the J15 squad found himself in the fast lane, and acquitted himself well. However, the Head of the River races proved frustrating for the coaches: several combinations of oarsmen were tried, and failed to produce an effective 8. It was at this point that we could see the vital flaw in both year groups: a lack of aggression and power. The Schools' Head (rowed on part of the Boat Race course) was the most disappointing day, where a 1st IV/J16 combo rowed neatly, but finished well down the field, losing to, among others, a girls' school crew. This isn't something they like being reminded of, and Mr Hunter's temper wasn't improved much, either.

The summer regattas were a mixed bag: we won both Senior and Junior Ball Cups, the J16s taking the latter by about 14 lengths. The 1st IV took J18's at Stratford with embarrassing ease. (The opposition had only been rowing a matter of weeks!) At Totnes, our annual raid on the West Country, the 1st IV again won J18's, and the J16s won J16 4's, but both crews failed to stamp any authority on the events. Whenever the 1st crew came up against competent Senior 3 opposition, they lacked the snap and pace required at this level, losing to a variety of mediocre club crews. The J16s, in their turn, demonstrated what happens when commitment is lacking: some members tended to train inadequately, others refused to accept advice from coaches. As a result, we drew a veil over a series of disastrous regattas. The fact that three of the crew left the RGS immediately afterwards has no connection, I am told. R.I.P.

Looking forward to 1998, which is upon us as I write, we have a small group of competitive oarsmen – the 'new generation', or last year's J15 squad. James Bowman coxed last season's 1st crew several times, gaining valuable experience, while Elliot Cole rowed with the J16s at Totnes, at very short notice, and did very well. This year's 'A' crew is currently showing the commitment referred to above, and are recording times comparable to past 1st

crews. So, as always, we look forward to sun, success and silverware – maybe not in vain, this time.

1997 crews: 1st IV: Ross Muir, Mark Steenson, Jamie Robertson, Jon Ware, Alex Dailey. (James Bowman and Brian Peers shared the coxing.)
J16s: Simon Adcock, Edward Mawby, Philip Tomlinson, Nick Piggott, Brian Peers.

I.A.B.

Fencing

Yet another great season for the RGS Fencing team with good matches and competitions, a large and enthusiastic junior entry at the beginning of the year and some new, badly needed kit, including team t-shirts!

Our season of matches saw some outstanding performances all round in some tough matches. The less experienced fencers were drafted in and gave some fine displays, while the presence of 'Cheese' was a major factor in our high level of confidence.

With victories against Wellington College (33–12), Eton (33–12), Marlborough (34–11), Bloxham (27–6), Wellington (29–16) and Harrow (17–10), our unbeaten record now stands at eight consecutive seasons.

In external competitions the RGS was well represented. Southern Section results as follows: James Alleyne 1st in U16 sabre with Dan Kübler 3rd; Dan Kübler 2nd in U16 foil. In U18 sabre Dave Pitt came 1st with Toby Roebuck 2nd, in the foil Dave came 2nd and Toby 3rd, and in the épée Toby was 2nd and Dave 4th. Toby and Dave shared the Champion-At-Arms prize for best results in all three weapons.

In the Bucks, Berks and Oxon Championships Toby Roebuck won all three weapons at U18 level. Ben 'Tiger' Pygall won the U16 épée and Oliver Blaiklock won the U16 sabre. In the National épée finals Toby Roebuck managed to finish 11th in the U18 and 16th in the U20 competitions.

The end of our season is always the highly enjoyable three day tournament, the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace. Best individual results were as follows: Dave Pitt 31st in Senior épée; Toby Roebuck 21st and Dave Pitt 22nd in Senior foil; Duncan Greengrass 15th and Chris Hopkins 22nd in Senior sabre; Ben Pygall 12th in Junior épée; Ben Pygall 21st and James Alleyne 22nd in Junior foil; James Alleyne 11th, Dan Kübler 21st and Oliver Blaiklock 24th in Junior sabre; Giles Parkinson 15th and Andrew Waterfall 18th in Mount-Haes (U14) Foil.

Overall, we finished in third place (out of 54) and again took home the Jack Wheeler Cup, which we have all become very attached to!

I would like to thank all of the fencers (including Cheese, Princess, Pierre, Gangsta Backup, Yoda, Tiger, Big Ear etc. – you all know who you are!), the other schools we have fought, that bloke at the Public Schools', Tim Whitfield, Jack Wheeler, Alastair and Colin Gerrard, Mr Levin and anyone else who has helped us out or watched us with interest at any time, because fencing needs public interest.

Final thanks go to our trusty coach, Harry Jones, whose continued support of the team is always appreciated; and also to our Fencing Master, Mr Roebuck, without whom there would be no fencing team. We all get a lot of enjoyment out of fencing and appreciate all the help we get to enable us to do so.

Christopher Hopkins 6BC₂

OC's Report

CCF stands for **Combined** Cadet Force and as in previous years I have endeavoured to encourage the combined aspect of CCF training where cadets from all three Sections come together to participate in events. Adventure training activities and the inter-school competitions are areas where this applies.

I was therefore pleased that the expedition to Snowdonia last October was well supported by all three Sections when a record number of 22 cadets took part. Following a long drive, we reached Capel Curig at about 2300 hrs where we quickly settled into the primitive accommodation provided by an old barn. Three mountain walks were completed including the classic Snowdon Horseshoe with the exciting traverse of the knife-edge ridge leading to Crib Goch. A brief, but exciting, period of rock climbing was included during the Saturday evening when Mark Thomas put up a new route which set a standard for others to emulate. This they did until it was too dark to see.

The Range Days were also supported by cadets from all three Sections, as was the Night Navigation exercise held at the end of January when the long nights allow a start shortly after the end of school. As in recent years, this saw a strong Naval presence when their recruits showed that successful navigation over land was not the sole preserve of the Army and RAF.

The following pages give detailed reports on the activities that have been undertaken by the three CCF Sections 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 come on recces during a year when they have many academic pressures. I am grateful to all of them. Long may it continue.

As I reported last year, Flight Lieutenant Mike Darby (Air Commodore retired) ceased to be OC RAF Section from last July when he retired from teaching at the school. He was an outstanding CCF Officer and built up the RAF Section to be second to none. Flight Lieutenant Gregory Head has taken over and I very much welcome his vigour and enthusiasm which I am sure will take the Section from strength to strength.

I shall look forward, therefore, to the start of a new CCF year when we welcome new recruits from Year 9. I hope many will join and enjoy the experience of their first year in the CCF. They will need to take part in the range of activities, with enthusiasm, to get the most from it. I hope that many of the current Year 10 cadets will choose to stay on and to work towards the challenge of becoming an NCO. It is then that those coveted leadership skills are really developed.

Lt Colonel R G Hollingworth

Royal Navy Section

The Royal Navy Section has had a typically active year. Twenty-one new cadets chose to join us in September, and they took part straight away in our Thursday afternoon activities at the RAF Sailing Club, which is at Danesfield, near Medmenham. We go there each week from Easter until the end of September, and no-one could dispute that we get excellent value for money from our group membership. The newcomers to the Section quickly found their feet, and it was quite obvious that a good proportion of them have both initiative and sound common sense, a combination which augurs well for the future, when they themselves will be senior cadets taking charge of activities.

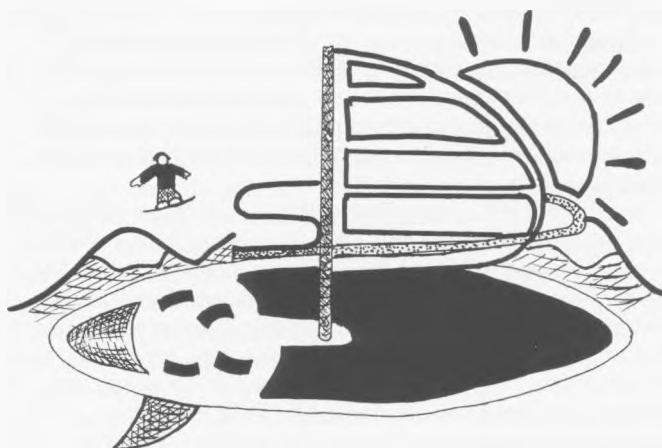
From October, these new recruits studied hard in the classroom on a variety of important topics, including the role of the Navy. All passed and will now be promoted to Able Seaman. Meanwhile, our previous year's intake worked hard at navigation with similar success. Senior cadets, especially our Cox'n Chris Dark, and Petty Officers Andrew Price, Karl Green and John Hogwood, acted as instructors and set a fine example. They supervised a wide range of junior cadet activities, including seamanship training, climbing, orienteering, and shooting. Outdoor personal leadership tasks, of the type used by the Royal Navy for officer selection, were also used to good effect.

We have continued to visit the Jet-Ski Lake at Theale, near Reading, as an end-of-term 'fun' activity, and Sub-Lieutenant Joan Henderson has plenty of further ideas on these lines. It is a pity that our go-karting has come to a temporary halt since the closure of the track in Maidenhead.

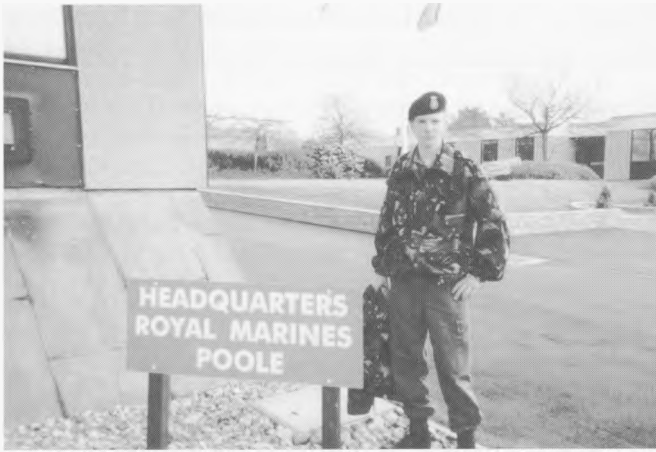
Several cadets have attended courses and camps at Easter and many more are to do so in the summer. Courses chosen include sailing, power boating, arduous training, adventure training, canoeing, general Royal Navy camp, diving, submarine acquaint, air acquaint and parachuting. These courses have always been found to be first-rate.

Our new cadets are particularly enthusiastic and are ready to participate in all our activities. Many of them show significant leadership potential, and we feel justified in believing that the Naval Section is a very worthwhile organisation.

Lieutenant Ross Barker
OC Royal Navy Section



Stephen Phillips
Year 8
Windsurfers and snowboards



PO ASJ Markwick at Royal Marines Poole.

CCF RN/RM Courses – A Royal Marines Experience

Since gaining an interest in a career in the Royal Marines, I decided that I would apply to take part in the courses offered to CCFs throughout the country.

The first of my courses took place in early July at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines at Lympstone, in Devon. One's first visit to the Junior rates mess is rather daunting; you're surrounded by men who are being trained to kill as an instinct. They look at you fiercely, as most cadets will stand out a mile with their long untidy hair and scruffy clothes. This is a time when it's good news to have a 'skin head', just to feel a little more comfortable and perhaps even 'fit in'. Wearing tracksuit bottoms to eat in isn't recommended unless you want to take five minutes of verbal abuse shouted in your face in front of 200 recruits, by one of the duty chefs, as happened to some. But it's all good experience and discipline.

Once the worries of settling in are overcome, it's time to crack on with the course. I had chosen to do a climbing course. All the faces attempted were at least E1 (extreme) standard, and very tricky. The first took place at Chudleigh and the others on Dartmoor. As an inexperienced climber, I felt proud of completing the three climbs. It is made easier by the fact that you are being urged on by three PTIs to 'move your a***'. We set up river crossings across the Plym and enjoyed some excellent abseiling.

Apart from the climbing, we were given an extensive canoeing session, swimming drills and several five-a-side soccer matches against different teams of recruits. The course also completed the assault and endurance courses and we were made to do press ups in the mudflats of the river Exe.

In March 1998, I travelled to RM Poole, home of the SBS and the RM Landing Craft base. The Amphibious training course was more intense than at Lympstone, although the atmosphere of the camp was more pleasant. Early morning swimming drills set you up for the day: swimming lengths before jumping out and doing ten press-ups, ten times, takes it out of you, but when you have to repeat the same for sit-ups, you feel like collapsing. The PTIs are very reasonable and promise before you start the exercise, that if you're caught cheating you will have 'your f***** head ripped off'. Everyone is made to dive off the top (30 ft) diving board to finish off, before being told that you're all 'b***** useless!'

Lessons on fieldcraft, shooting, first aid and amphibiousness proved very interesting and provided us with a deserved rest. Throughout the five days we were introduced to all the landing craft used by the Royal Marines. We had races to assemble Gemini inflatables before practising capsizing drills in the somewhat cool sea water. Once we were 'happy' with capsizing we could practise beach drills. We did these in both the Gemini craft and the Mk 3 Rigid Raiders, which travel fairly rapidly.

The highlight of the course is on the last morning when they promise to 'make you bleed', by scaring you to death. It was time to experience the RIBs, used by the SBS. A 'blow up' 28 ft long boat, powered by twin 200 hp engines, can worry you, even looking at it. But this was the most exhilarating thing I'd ever done. You are flung around by the G force, take off when you hit big waves at 55 knots and become severely bruised by merely holding on to the safety rope.

In May I hope to compete my first parachute jump on the CCF parachute course at RM SPA.

These courses have taught me a lot, given me great pleasure and provided me with an excellent insight into the Royal Marines. I would recommend them to anyone who's fit, determined, has a sense of humour and who's willing to give anything a go. I'd like to thank Sub Lt Henderson for the help in submitting the applications and Lt Colonel Hollingworth for issuing the rail warrants.

PO ASJ Markwick

Army Section

The Army Section has enjoyed a busy and successful year and attracted an encouraging number of recruits from within the school. Last year saw 29 cadets join in July and maintained the total strength of the Army Section at 62.

Most of the training programme on Thursday afternoons was devoted to instructing the recruits in the Army Proficiency Syllabus and a total of 15 cadets gained their Certificates during 1997. 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.

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 Cadets were attached to a Regular Army unit, 7 Para RHA at Otterburn Camp, and enjoyed a very successful week culminating in joining in the last two days of a regular exercise consisting of 3,000 troops.

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 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, and the Skill at Arms Competition, 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. Cadets in the club have also taken part in National Competitions.

Other activities over the past year have included Battlecraft Field Days, Range days, a Night Navigation

exercise in the Chilterns and weekend expeditions to Snowdonia and the Black Mountains.

Senior cadets attended Methods of Instruction courses at Bicester organised by 16 CTT and all have benefited greatly. Their expertise has aided the training of the junior cadets and been of use during camps and outside activities. Major Cooper has 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 Cadet Training Team from Bicester and especially Sgt Regan who has now left us.

We said goodbye last year to a number of Senior NCOs and we wish them well in their future careers: U/O Robin MacKenzie, RSMs Jamie Cotgreave, Mark Richards and James Crompton were all especially helpful during their year in charge. They have been succeeded by RSM Edward Jagger, CSMs David George, Tom Kenney, Jonathan King and Kieran Shipley, and I am grateful for their help and support to me.

We rely heavily on regular support from adult instructors and former cadets and I would like to record my appreciation to Lt Stuart Henderson and Lt Joe Baguley for their support on Field days and at the Camps.

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

Captain C J Cunningham
OC Army Section

Otterburn Camp Summer 1997

This summer we were hosted by 7 Para RHA, who, for the summer, were based at Otterburn Camp near the Scottish Border. After the eight hour journey we were introduced to the staff of 7 Para, and informed of admin for the camp and its facilities.

An early start, with an Assault Course, set the pace for Sunday's activities which involved a relatively simple orienteering exercise, followed by an afternoon of leisure using the facilities of the YMCA. These included canoeing on the lake, and literally in the lake for some, and also a death slide which was about 30 ft high and 50 m long!

A nine mile hike over the Northumbrian hills, with a full bergen (we were spared rifles and other kit due to abnormal weather conditions for Scotland – it was very hot), was on the menu for Monday. To end the hike we were allowed to relax in a small river, only to be given a warning that our transport was leaving in exactly one minute, in which we had to get all kit and ourselves on to the truck, otherwise we would have to hike back to the camp (another five miles).

Tuesday morning we were given the opportunity to do some rock climbing followed by abseiling off the edge of a 40 ft high bridge – great fun!! The afternoon was then spent doing a mock battle to practise for the highlight of the week.

A 4 am start on Wednesday to catch a helicopter flight ended in vain when we were informed on arrival that the flight had been cancelled due to high wind speeds. However, events due to unfold during the rest of the day made up for the early start. The morning was spent in the company of Regular Army Soldiers who were firing light guns, with live ammunition, which were not so light because they were 12 ft long and 6 ft wide and had a range of up to 17 km. We were then airlifted out in the previously promised Chinooks and taken on an exhilarating ride

through the amazing Scottish Hills, to our drop zone. From here we were transported by truck to the enemy positions that we were going to spring a surprise attack on, as the Regular Paras were expecting a Regular unit to attack them. Both attacks went well (and resulted in a new slogan about Paras, and that is all I will say!).

The final day involved shooting on the rather small range and *surprisingly* everybody walked away as a Marksman.

After a major clean up operation, we left the camp with many midge bites, one jarred knee, many sore feet, a good tan, a few stripes here and there, and last but not least Out-of-Action Jackson.

Overall, apart from the arduous PT involving five mile runs, Iron Man Competitions, and assault courses to name but a few, everybody had a great and memorable week (especially the then RSM McKenzie!).

A big thanks to all 7 Para staff, and Lt Henderson and Capt. Cunningham.

Cpl Adnan Ali

Leek Camp Easter 1998

The Peak District has been the location of the Easter Adventure training camp for more than 30 years, and once again Butterton Village Hall was put at our disposal. Rapidly it was overtaken and transformed by RGS cadets, much of it through the hard work of the advance party.

The first two days provided an opportunity for new skills to be learnt, and others revised, which could be called into practice on the 36 hour battlecraft exercise.

Once again we were fortunate enough to have the assistance of Lt Baguley, an Old Boy, whose expertise provided a level of professionalism to the exercise.

The Platoon Commander, Sgt Dobson, gave a briefing to the Platoon, with the use of excellent visual aides, which ensured every cadet knew what they would be doing, and what to take.

Having led the first day, including a final attack that was very memorable for some (!), Sgt Dobson was shot in an ambush on the morning of day two. He was replaced by Sgt Sanders who led the slightly re-structured platoon through the second day, culminating in a decisive final attack.

The superb exercise was over all too soon, leaving a great deal of kit to be cleaned and packed away by an exhausted but enthusiastic group of cadets.

That evening saw a slide show of his mountaineering exploits by Lt Colonel Hollingworth, followed by a briefing on rock climbing. This was given by Lt Boreham who frightened all Leek veterans by producing notes!

The final morning saw the cadets climbing on the granite Roaches, while some of the NCOs set off to construct the afternoon's command tasks.

The cadets tackled the tasks, half of which involved a dammed river, with impressive determination. However, their good humour was definitely tested by a rather muddy task, whose creator was not very popular.

For the new cadets, the camp allowed all that they had learnt to be put into practice, and on the last night, they learnt that even a well planned attack can be easily thwarted by a strong defence.

The Pattinson Shield for the best new cadet went to Bradley Smith.

All in all it was an excellent camp with many memorable moments. We would like to thank all the officers, Mrs Cooper, Dr Doyle and Sgt MacDermot who made the camp possible.

Sgt Brian Lacy

RAF Section

The Section has undergone many changes since the last edition of this magazine was published. Flight Lieutenant Mike Darby retired in July '97 and I took up the reins as Section OC in September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike, on behalf of the Section, for his considerable commitment to its success over the years and for the time and effort that he put in to ensure a seamless hand-over.

This year has been busy and successful with a large number of activities being undertaken by cadets, including competitions, adventurous training, gliding and flying, and excellent camps at RAF Brize Norton and RAF Cosford.

Section Warrant Officer Mark Steenson took over from Andrew Burnette in April '97 and has continued the good work started by Andrew. Mark has been responsible for the day to day running of the Section including all aspects of its administration and training. He has been ably assisted in the running of the section by a number of Senior NCOs including Flight Sergeant Ross Muir (Adjutant), Flight Sergeant John Maloney (Training Manager), and Flight Sergeant Nick Darbyshire (Special Projects). Each of these NCOs has devoted a great deal of time and effort to ensure that their areas of responsibility run smoothly and efficiently. Flight Sergeants Ben Full and Charles Blanch have been responsible for the supervision and training of the junior and senior cadets respectively. Charles's presence on the parade ground will be particularly missed next year!

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the NCOs who are leaving this year for their commitment, loyalty and contributions to the Section this year. The cadets run the Section and its continuing success can be directly attributed to their efforts.

To assist with the management of the Section and to provide a vehicle for flight simulator training we recently purchased a Pentium engined computer. In addition to flying it, cadets will be using the computer to assist with such tasks as the production of lecture materials and the Section's Web site.

We have continued to make full use of the flying and gliding facilities that are available to us. Bulldog (twin seater powered aircraft) flying at RAF Benson has been available on Thursday afternoons and some Sunday mornings. The Section has block membership of the Chilterns Gliding Club at RAF Halton and many cadets fly from there on Saturdays and Sundays.

A larger than normal number of Year 11 cadets have elected to remain with the Section when they move to the Sixth Form and this has afforded us the opportunity to tackle a number of different projects. Whilst maintaining the normal training activities we will be adding radar and radio communications (including morse code!) and radio navigation aids to the training syllabus and developing a Section Web site. Furthermore we intend to concentrate on preparing for competitions such as the Ground Training Competition under the guidance of Sergeant Ian Harman.

The Ground Training Competition is an annual event which involves RAF Sections of CCFs from schools all over the country competing in a range of exercises including orienteering, swimming, RAF knowledge, shooting, leadership tasks and drill. In last September's competition our team came a very creditable fifth out of 10 participating schools. This is an exceptional result considering that most of the schools who take part are from the independent sector and as such have much more time to prepare for such events than we do.

We have been fortunate this year in being offered a larger than usual number of places on the Air Training Corps Easter Camp to RAF Akrotiri Cyprus. Four senior

cadets, Cadet Warrant Officer Ben Garrow, and Sergeants Nick Spearing, David Anderson and Ian Harman were selected to attend. Judging by the depth of their sun tans we guess that a good time was had by all!

Flight Sergeant Mark Jones has won, amidst considerable competition, the opportunity to represent United Kingdom Air Cadets as part of the International Air Cadet Exchange. This award will enable Mark to visit Belgium for two weeks during the summer break as a guest of the Belgian Air Force.

It would not be possible to offer the RAF Section cadets the wide range of activities without the assistance of a number of people. Our thanks go to Squadron Leader Mike Reep at Headquarters Air Cadets and his staff for their administrative support. We are most grateful to Flight Lieutenant Barry Fryett and Flight Sergeant Campbell Walters from the Central Region CCF Liaison Office who have provided us with a very professional on-site advice and support service. Barry has recently retired from the RAF and we wish him well in his new career in publishing. Our grateful thanks also go to Squadron Leader Mike Neil and his pilots of No 6 Air Experience Flight at RAF Benson for the Bulldog flying that the cadets so greatly appreciate.

Two people deserve my personal special thanks. Flying Officer Vivien Seymour has served the Section for a number of years and has continued to support it regularly. Her experience, commitment and patience have been of considerable help to me during my first year. Mrs Jenny Holt regularly supervises activities and provides administrative support. It would be impossible to provide the range of activities for cadets without their contribution.

Flight Lieutenant Gregory Head
OC RAF Section

Cyprus Camp 1998

On 31 March, four NCOs from the RAF Section left Heathrow for a two week camp at RAF Akrotiri, run by the Air Training Corps.

After an uneventful journey we arrived at the base in the early morning, to be divided into flights of 16 cadets, most of whom we had not met before. Some of us had been to Akrotiri before, but for most of the propel from the RGS the next fortnight promised to be a new experience.

The Easter Camps run at RAF Akrotiri were different to most other RAF Camps because the emphasis is less on the military and more to do with recreation (less time in uniform and more time down the beach!).

The days fell quickly into a standard routine. In the morning would be visits around the various parts of the station, learning what they do, and how they work, and after lunch we would have a more recreational activity, for example go-karting, sports, or possibly a trip to one of the nearby towns. In the evening we were free to do as we wished.

Whilst at Akrotiri we were fortunate to have the opportunity to see many new sights, and to take part in many new activities. There are too many to mention, but the chance to stand at the end of the runway and witness a Red Arrows display from literally a few feet away, to get covered in mud thanks to the RAF Regiment in the turret of a Saxon armoured car, and riding with the maritime sailors of 417 Maritime Patrol Troop in their high-speed motor-boat, were some of the highlights. There were also other things, such as the UN tour around the 'Green Line' area of Cyprus' capital Nicosia, basically a chance to walk around a war zone between Greece and Turkey (lucky us!).

Overall, Cyprus was one of the best RAF Camps I have been on and the relaxed atmosphere, brilliant weather, great people and fantastic experiences made the camp something I will look back on with pleasure. I came away from Cyprus with many memories which I will treasure, several that I will be laughing at for years to come, and one in particular that I would love to forget! If I get the chance.

Sergeant David Anderson

BGT Gliding Course

On Thursday 9 April 1998, I began by Basic Glider Training Course at RNAS Predannack in Cornwall. The course was designed to get new pilots to solo standard so that they can fly one circuit without an instructor in the back of the glider.

The course started very slowly with the first three and a half days not being suitable for flying. I personally had done quite a lot of gliding, but it had all been by aerotow and at Predannack they used a winch. I hadn't flown for a good six months, so on the Sunday evening when the winds died down I had my first winch launch. Wow, with aerotows you get a sluggish, slightly bumpy ride to 2,000 ft, but not with a winch. It is a relatively smooth ride that only goes to 1,000 ft or so, but you are there within one minute. It was absolutely fantastic, because with a winch launch the glider becomes the fastest accelerating aircraft in the world!

We had our first day of gliding on the Monday and on my twenty-first flight I went solo and completed the BGT course. I had previously spoken to the CO of the gliding club and asked if I would be able to go on and complete my AGT course (Advanced Glider Training). The following day was also flyable, so after three check flights I was able to sign out a glider and complete five solos, which were absolutely amazing. The airfield is surrounded on three sides by sea and on the Tuesday we were on runway 28,

which meant part of the circuit went over the sea. On all of my five solos I had to circle out over the Atlantic ocean. This was something I had never done before and don't particularly want to do again, as there is no lift over water, so down is the only way you can go.

We then had two and half days of wind, rain and hail. On the Friday evening the winds eased enough to allow the two of us who were doing our AGTs to fly. That was a real evening to remember as I had my first go at flying from the back seat of a glider. The winch launch felt so steep and the landing is more difficult as you can't see as much but I had so much fun. Then after my sixteenth flight I completed my AGT. We had one more day of flying but this was spent getting other cadets through the course.

That was certainly a week to remember.

Cadet Warrant Officer M Steenson

Easter Camp at RAF Cosford

Sixteen RAF section cadets went to RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, where we were joined by 20 other cadets from Haberdashers' and Merchant Taylors' schools. The camp was split into four flights of nine cadets and we each carried out our activities in these groups.

Camp activities included go-karting, flying in Bulldog aircraft and powered gliders, shooting, swimming, walking (to the top of the Wrekin Beacon), a drill competition, ten pin bowling, a visit to the aerospace museum and orienteering. The highlight of the camp was the NITEX (Night Exercise), which was actually a whole day exercise which started off as an orienteering course earlier in the day and moved on to a simulated war situation in the late evening.

The whole camp was thoroughly enjoyable.

Sergeant Cormac McFarlane



Cadet Warrant Officer Mark Steenson and Glider at RNAS Predannack for the Basic Glider Training Course

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Old Boys' Notes

AGATE. M (1959–66) Mike reports that after 14 years as an accountant in the record industry and nine years publishing computer magazines and books, he is now self employed as a Chartered Management Accountant & Publishing Consultant based in Bourne End, Tele 01628 526456.

ARMSTRONG. S R (1968–75) played the organ in the last episode of the last series of the Vicar of Dibley.

ATKINS. O (1990–96) Oliver is reading ECS at University College, Oxford. He would be happy to give advice to any OB considering Oxford, especially Engineering.

BAGULEY. J (1985–91) Joe still lives locally and works as a Systems Consultant for a Canadian company. He is involved in most areas of Client Server IT, and spends much time gaining professional accreditations. He runs up many thousands of miles each year, and is considering writing a Guide to Motorway services! His two main interests are running the Army CF at Hatters Lane School, and as a co-driver in Special Stage Rallying. He competes with the Silkolene Team (Escort Cosworth) and is ranked No 1 in the UK U25 category.

BALDWIN. T (1950–55) Tom retired to the hills above St Tropez in 1993, after a career in the computer industry, mostly with IBM in UK, Paris and Rome.

BUTLER. D H (1937–44) still lives in High Wycombe. After some years in commerce, he entered Newlands Park and during 1974–75 obtained his BEd. He then taught in Beaconsfield from 1970 to 1985.

BUTLER. R (1930–35) writes from Ringwood that after war service with the R Berks Reg't and the RAF, he was in business in the south of England for the rest of his working life. He mentions **Geoffrey Coombes**, a great all-round sportsman, and many more lads of that era.

CARTLEDGE. W S (1983–89) gained a Medical degree from B'ham University, and is now on a GP training course in Hereford. His brother **CARTLEDGE. M** (1985–91) recently was selected for the British softball team. He is based in Marlow, working on pricing systems in the audit department of Whitbread.

COUTTS. E (1972–79) Eric is now an executive director at Goldman Sachs in London, in the Investment Banking division.

DARVILL. M Dr (1960–67) Mervyn is a lecturer in Medical Virology at Bristol University and Clinical Virologist at Bristol Public Health Laboratory. He is also vice-Chairman of Governors, Marlwood School, Alveston, Bristol. He is married with three children. Was in School House 1960–65.

DAVIES. M (1969–77) Mike got an Hons Degree in Applied Biology at Bath University and now works for Origin as an IT consultant. He lives in Sutton, Surrey, is married to Gail and they have a daughter Zoe.

FLEMING. A (19 -) Recently visited the School with **Paul SMITH** and **Brian HILLS**. His E- Mail address is 'afleming@worldbank.org'

FOOT. P R (1986–92) Paul went to Merton College, Oxford, and although he gives his interests in the Old Boys' Directory as hang gliding, canoeing, public speaking and stand-up comedy, it is the latter 'discipline' in which he is currently excelling! A recent interview reports him as saying that whilst reading Maths at university, he decided to have a go at the varsity comedy club, and after finishing his degree, worked his way into the professional Club circle. Some TV slots have boosted his career, and he looks forward to higher profile work and greater earnings!

FRASER. I (1933–35) Royal Navy Lt Ian Fraser VC is mentioned in a recently published book, *The Navy, 1939 to the Present Day*. His daring feat in an X-craft midget submarine is detailed, and Ian, who now lives in Wallasey, gives a vivid description of the attack on a Japanese cruiser.

FRIEND. L (1956–63) Lionel has had a very successful career in music, having studied under leading conductors. He has appeared at many major festivals and has conducted well-known orchestras on the international stage.

FRIEND. R (1976–79) Rick is now a History and Geography teacher at a High School in New York, having received his BA from University of East Anglia and his MA from the State University of New York. He is married and has two children. He recalls his time in School House during the tenure of John Skipp, and would like to hear from former House and Class colleagues.

GARRETT. T K (1929–35) writes from Hemel Hempstead and recalls the various teaching methods employed by masters of his day. After gaining certain engineering degrees, and training as an RAF apprentice, he worked in the design offices of Fairey Aviation and Austin Motor Co. Since 1971 he has been a self-employed author and journalist, working on major motoring publications.

GILLINGHAM. M (1976–82) Martin recalls his athletic successes at School, and wonders if any of his various records still stand, particularly his 6.45 m for the long jump. He ran 400 m hurdles for GB in the 1984 Olympics and the world championships in Rome in 1987. In 1989 he entered the field of journalism, first in UK and then in South Africa, where he was also a TV commentator. He lives in Cape Town, and is married to Linda.

GREEN. G E (1940–46) writes that having been 'practising' for 46 years he realised that he was now 'perfect', and has retired from the legal profession. He is therefore no longer able to give free advice to OWs! In recent years he has made contact with a number of fellow classicists from the 1940s including **C T FLETCHER** (1939–46); Dr **R J BELBIN** (1941–45); **R J FREDERICKS** (1938–45); and **B N LITTLEWOOD** (1941–47). The latter two are also retired lawyers. Littlewood went through School with G E G to the 3rd year Sixth, and has for many years lived in New Zealand, where he runs his own yachting school. He also keeps in touch with **R C HUNTLEY** (1940–46) who has been for very many years a highly successful stockbroker in USA. He lives near Clint Eastwood in Carmel, and has four children – three sons and a daughter. One son a Wall

Street lawyer, one in the LA film world, and another with Time-Warner. The daughter lives in Jo'burg where father was formerly. RCH advises that he picked up the RGS OB Directory whilst surfing the Internet recently.

HART. W J (1931–37) still retains a few memories of his days at RGS, for example, how the English class would embarrass the young master by calling for explanations of some of the naughtiest Shakespeare lines! He recalls many amusing incidents during his time at School, and spent his war in heavy anti-aircraft artillery at various locations. After the war, he had an interesting career in the nuclear field at Harwell and Aldermaston. Now retired, he lives in Hants, and is mainly interested in local village matters, Probus Club and music. Since his family is directly descended from the sister of Shakespeare, he wrote a most interesting article for the Old Boys' magazine.

HILL. D F E (1947–52) Derek read English at Leeds during the years 1953–57, followed by a Dip Ed from Oxford. He served in the RAF for 16 years, and then as a senior lecturer in communications studies at Coventry, from where he retired in 1990. He is busily enjoying his retirement, has an interest in antiques, and is a keen gardener – complete with allotment.

HILL. P (1987–93) has been named student of the year by Plymouth University. Philip won the title after completing a four years' course in Personnel Management. He is currently a personnel officer at the Bell House Hotel in Gerrards Cross, and anticipates that the award will enhance his career prospects. He wants to become a first class rugby referee.

HODSON. T (1982–88) Tim is now with a firm as consultant, specialising in quantitative analysis and software development, and was formerly with Triptych Systems Software in development relating to retail stock management systems. 1988–91 was Selwyn College instrumental award holder for the flute.

HOGGETT. C J (1970–77) is PR Manager for Barlow Handling in Maidenhead, and is still in contact with **Paul DICKINSON, Robert STEWART** and **Simon BARRETT** of that era.

JOHNSON. R J S (1977–81) Richard took part in the world's first 'Mind Sports Olympiad'. It is a competition of varied board games, and the competitors came from all around the world. Medals were duly awarded, and Richard wrote a long article on the event for the *Sunday Times* magazine.

KEELING. S (1984–90) Simon works for Wall Data, a US software company, as a technical support engineer. He graduated in modern European Studies from University College London, where he continued his interest in fencing, becoming President of the London team in 1994, gaining UCL full colours and Half Purple from UL. Currently Sea Cadet instructor on TS Guardian at Henley, where he is Unit Training Officer for many disciplines. Would welcome contact with OWs of his era.

KNOTT. J (1980–86) James was at Nottingham University 1987–90, and now works in Hong Kong for HSBC James Capel, trading equity derivatives. He gained a BSc Hons in Production and Operations Management.

KNOWLES. K (1966–72) Kevin is a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, and a lecturer at Cambridge

University in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy. At Churchill he is a Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and tutor for Admissions in Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics.

LEES. P (1975–81) Patrick is married and lives and works in Los Angeles. He has been involved in the motion picture business for the past seven years specifically dealing with sets. He has worked on many notable films. Has lost touch with School friends **Jim Lambert, Steve Sutton, Russell Hunter, Ivan Lovegrove** and **Mark Methven**. Are they out there?

LIPPIAT. J (1987–93) Jonathan has been at Leicester University since leaving School; in Pharmacology – Pfizer Central Research 1995 to 1996 gaining his PhD. He specialises in electrophysiology, ion channel research, neuroscience, with an interest in the pharmaceutical industry. Would like to hear from other OBs in a similar field, and is hoping to get in touch with former School friends.

LYON. P (1989–95) Paul went to Birmingham University and is now at University of Calif. Berkeley on a scholarship, majoring in American literature. He is chairman of Sigma Kappa (Bowles), a college fraternity, and would be happy to assist any OB considering study in the USA.

McLAUGHLIN. I (1989–95) is now playing rugby for London Irish and he has played for the Ireland U21 side. Brother **David** (1989–93) is with Midland Bank at Gerrards Cross, hoping to join the Police Force shortly.

MADLIN. R (1968–75) Richard was until recently a member of the Cabinet of Sir Leon Brittan, EC Brussels, but has been promoted to the post of Director in the Foreign Relations section of the European Commission. His brief is to enable European companies to invest in manufacturing and services activities outside Europe, and to note the impact of biotechnology on international trade and the European consumer. Brother **Philip J** (1970–77) continues to live locally to the School, and has been a negotiation and policy officer since 1985.

MALE. A D (1958–65) Anthony wrote a biography of his father Stanley, a master at the School 1946–66, for the Sydney Sussex College magazine. He was in engineering and project management for 22 years, in the field of sound mixing consoles, and is now a systems design engineer with a maker of industrial computer control systems. He is married to Janet, and they have a daughter.

MAWHOOD. A (1986–92) graduated from the University of Leeds July 1997 – BA First Class Ibero-American Studies with distinction in spoken Portuguese. He is presently working for Deloitte and Touche, Manchester, and commences a training contract with them in September 1998 with a view to qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

MERCY. E F (1940–47) 'Bill' writes from Winslow, N Bucks, to say how sad he was to learn of the death of Ron Emery, whom he describes as the real 'genial giant'. He was pleased to get news of an old School chum **TANNER. D W** and asked to be put in touch.

MERRINGTON. S (1956–63) Simon lives in Cambridge, and knows of OB **R LASKEY**, now a professor there. He also keeps in touch with **Michael Ferguson, Tony Pratt** (now Martin), and **John Harris**. They did Modern Languages.

MESENTER. J K (1947–50) spent most of his working life in food processing, initially in R&D with Unilever companies, but later in production and fish catching and processing. He moved to the Isle of Man in 1973, where he established his own shellfish processing company. Now retired, he spends time messing around with model live steam locomotives. A garden layout and an impressive array of rolling stock keeps him (and other enthusiasts) very happy! He ensures continued contact with the School and OBs by having his sister Anne married for the past 40 years to your Chairman!!

MILES. D (1983–89) David did site work for a year with Costain after School, before going on to Pembroke College, Cambridge, for a BA in Engineering. Another year in commerce before returning to Cambridge for a PhD on the problem of oil pipelines performance – helped by BP Exploration. Now in the market for a real job! Is in touch with **Darren CROWDY**, **Michael HARRISON** and **Richard SAUNDERS**.

MILWARD. S (1988–94) Simon wrote a long article in the Saturday *Telegraph* magazine on his brush with death when climbing Mont Blanc, during a weekend in which the mountain claimed seven lives.

MINCH. N (1971–78) Neal studied Science and Technology at Stirling University, and then received his MBA from University of Illinois. Now with Compaq in Houston, Texas, as Business Manager in the Consumer Product Division. He visits the UK regularly, and would welcome news of former house mates of School House, or form friends.

MOLDEN. S (1989–95) was awarded an Oxford Blue for cross-country, after being selected for the team to run against Cambridge. He is studying Geography at Christ Church, and plans further study for an MSc in Sports.

MOORE. B J (1980–86) Brendan carries the letters BA FRSA, and writes from Brighton re a change of address – still in Brighton!

MORETTO. R (1989–95) represented his Cambridge college in the 1997–98 series of University Challenge on TV.

NEWPORT. P J (1975–81) has a benefit season with Worcester County Cricket Club for the 1998 season.

NIXON. K (1988–92) Ken completed his BSc Eng Elec Degree at Witwatersrand University, South Africa, in 1996. MSc in high voltage Engineering followed, with PhD in a similar field to complete. Also involved in networking and programming. Would like to get in touch with any School pals who read this, and sends greetings to staff who remember him, for whatever reason – good or bad!

NIXON. P (1988–92) Peter is back in South Africa, studying for his Commerce Degree at Witwatersrand University, J'burg. He is on his way to becoming a Chartered Accountant.

NOYES. S J (1976–82) is Housemaster of Uplyme Boarding House at School. He was wicket keeper/batsman for the Beaconsfield team that won the Thames Valley league, 1997.

ORME. I (1963–70) Ian completed a degree in Physiology at London, then on to Wellcome for a PhD in Immunology. This was followed by a five year post-Doc in New York,

growing mycobacteria (inter alia!). Now assistant professorship at Colorado State University, and he is Prof. of Microbiology, and has published many papers on the subject of TB. He was a great sprinter at School, and is involved in coaching soccer, his active sporting career having been cut short by a broken leg at rugby. He sees **Mick Horswell** and **Andy Nichol** on his visits to High Wycombe, and **David Sandles** when visiting Canada. He travels the world giving lectures or on committees various, and enjoys life in Colorado, within reach of magnificent scenery and wonderful National Parks. Old Boys welcome at any time.

PARKER. C M (1985–87) F/O Christopher Parker passed out of Cranwell recently, having gained a post graduate C.Education from Southampton University. At the passing out parade, Chris led the colour party and received a special commendation. He is married to Elisabeth, an RGN at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

PETERSEN. T J (1976–80) giving his London address as his domestic base Cap't Petersen TD was at Polytechnic of Wales and gained BSc, ARICS. He lists many outdoor pursuits as his 'non-service' activities.

PHILLIPS. I (1989–95) Ivan went to Swansea University to study Computer Science, and is involved in many clubs and societies, fencing and badminton especially. He also runs the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Club.

POPE. M R (1980–86) After graduating from Exeter University worked for Price Waterhouse. Now in systems development with Br. Airways.

QUINNEY. S (1979–85) Stephen lives in New York, and would like to hear from School friends who remember him, via E-Mail.

RADFORD. P J (1971–78) is Financial Director for Aston Electronic Designs Ltd. He plays cricket for Knotty Green and represents them in a monthly sports quiz with **POPE. M R** and the Hon. Sec.

REAR. P E (1949–57) writes from Lichfield that he is now enjoying retirement, albeit he and his wife Susan (married nearly 37 years) are involved with voluntary organisations. He is a Fellow of the Pensions Management Inst. and has worked 35 years for a firm of Actuaries. He recalls that during his last two years at School he was on the books of Wycombe Wanderers (Did Boss Tucker know this? Ed.) and played for some local teams, as well as RAF sides whilst serving. He read Chinese whilst in the Services, and was at Leeds University. He writes of brothers **John** and **David** (now 65 and 62 respectively), and is in touch with **Allan Barwell**, **Keith Biggs**, **Jim Bedford-James**, **Tony Whitehead**, **Rod Sayer** and **Colin Rackstraw**.

ROBERTS. M (1990–96) Mike is on a Computer Science course at Pembroke College, Oxford. He would be happy to talk to any OB contemplating reading Maths or computing related courses at Oxford.

ROGERS. G W (1938–42) George retired as MD of Oxfam Trading, after a career in commerce, broken only by RAF service 1945–1948. He lives in Bicester, and is Worshipful Master of the Old Wycombiensians' Lodge. He was pleased to see many of his Lodge colleagues at the Annual Dinner in March 1998.

SADDLER. A J (1947–54) Tony retired from teaching – he had been headmaster of Read School, Drax, since 1985, and has moved south to Eastbourne. He recalls happy musical moments at RGS, particularly the G&S productions, where **Bernarr RAINBOW** as Music master and **Bernard PEATEY** as lead tenor (both sadly recently deceased) inspired him to ‘hit the top notes’.

SAMPSON. E H S (1927–33) Eric retired from production planning and lists his interests as water colour painting, choral work, and Probus Club. He continues to live in Thornton, Cleveleys, and retains happy memories of his youth at the School.

SAYER. R (1950–56) managed a degree at Leeds and then moved to Hamburg to teach English. He is grateful to Mervyn Davies for that master’s faith in teaching him German! He subsequently moved into the field of translation, and that has provided a career and living. In 1973, Britain joined the ‘Common Market’ and Rod moved to the European Parliament in Luxembourg. He was obliged, for family reasons, to return to UK, and spent 13 years freelancing, but then five years ago, he returned to Luxembourg, from where he hopes to retire in three years’ time.

SCRUTON. R V (1954–61) continues to provoke discussion and controversy, and remains one of the foremost philosophers of our day. An article in *The Times* covers his career, and he acknowledges the debt he owes to the School – in his own words ‘I went to a fantastic school, High Wycombe Royal Grammar School, which completely transformed my life...’

SHARP. D J (1959–64) Derek is a Sqn Ldr and carries AFC BSc Dip Comp RAF to his name. He still enjoys flying, and wrote a light-hearted article for the RAF Brize Norton house magazine. His 50th Birthday bash was attended by many old chums, and he writes of his twin brothers **Richard** and **Peter** (1960–66) and Dr **Ray BRADSHAW** (1957–63) who is still at Nottingham University.

SMITH. J B (1961–68) still lives in Beaconsfield, and after gaining a BSc (Hons) at Leeds University, has worked with accountancy firms and is now a tax partner.

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.

TANG. C (1987–93) Cedric finished his MEng at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and was working on ATM optical communications projects. He does see some School friends, those based in Cambridge, but would like to hear from others who remember him.

THOMSON. K (1970–77) Keith studied Engineering and German at Bath, and completed an MBA there. He now works in Connecticut as President of Measurement Systems. He is married and has two children. He really enjoys his job and where he lives.

TRENDELL. W (1967–74) Bill was in X stream, and played both rugby and cricket for the first teams. He is now Finance Director of Doeflex PLC, a quoted company under chemicals on the London SE. He lives in Guildford, is married with three children, and still plays cricket as well as coaching that and soccer. He is also Governor of the local junior school.

VOUTE. L (1976–82) Lance qualified as a vet from University in Bristol in 1988. He obtained a Cert. in equine orthopaedic surgery in 1995, whilst Resident in that discipline at London Vet School. Now at University of Cambridge.

WALKER. A (19 –) Alexander was one of six finalists in the Lloyds Bank Young Conductors’ Competition recently. Although he did not win, the experience was challenging and stimulating. He played double bass at School, and then took a Music degree at Bristol University, followed by Conducting Studies at the Guildhall School of Music. He currently studies at the State Conservatoire of St Petersburg.

WALTER. J F (1923–27) John lives near Thirsk and he is a freelance writer and photographer. His early memories of RGS rugby involve introducing Ron Emery to his first alcoholic drink – cider! At 88 he continues to enjoy good health and keeps active physically and mentally, as does his wife Mollie (née King). They walk often and visit many excellent Yorks hostels. He writes for the *Stockton and Darlington Times* and supplies photos, and is writing his autobiography, part of which brought back vivid memories of his time at RGS. He helped to start the original Old Boys’ Rugby Club, and wonders whether there are any other founder members out there! He and his wife send best wishes to all who remember him at School and in the High Wycombe area.

WILKES. N C B (1975–82) Major Wilkes, MSc RLC is at the HQ Royal Marines, and recalls his involvement at School with the CCF and the Drama Society. He passed out of RMA Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Logistics Corps.

WILLIAMS. G E (1978–84) Gary has worked for Standard Chartered Bank for the past 13 years, and is currently in the Group Audit department (international corporate) travelling regularly to various branches in Africa and the Far East. He has also had assignments in New York and the Channel Islands. Has recently seen **Doug FORBES** and **Ross DELL**.

Obituaries

Staff

MALE. S A (1946–66) Stanley was born in Sale, Cheshire. From Altrincham County School he went to Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, and gained first class honours. He declined a graduate studentship to join the teaching profession, starting as Classics master at Kent College, Canterbury. He moved on to Varndean Boys' School, Brighton, and then to Harrogate Grammar School as Senior Classical Master. He was called up to join the Army Educational Corps in 1941 and between 1942 and 1944 he spent an interesting time organising educational visits by notable local people to give talks to the men who were staffing various searchlight sites in Suffolk, and later, in Sussex. In September 1944 he was moved to Brussels to help set up an educational study centre for the British troops. In mid-1945 he joined the first British and American forces allowed into war-torn Berlin, to help set up a similar study centre there, for the use of the British Army of Occupation.

After demobilisation in 1946, Stanley resumed his teaching career at Harrogate but in September came to the RGS, where he spent 'the happiest days of my teaching career' for twenty years until semi-retirement in July 1966. He moved to Cambridge, where he taught on a half-time basis at the Boys' County School until 1970. In 1971 he gave up his examining for the London University GCE 'O' Level Latin papers, a job he had been doing for about 20 years. Stanley and his wife, Evelyn, travelled widely until her death in 1985. He was a keen gardener and liked to help people, working for Age Concern, and he supported many charities. In the 1990's his health deteriorated and he had to move to a residential home in Linton near Cambridge, where he died on 7 January 1997. He leaves a daughter, Rosemary, and a son, Anthony, and grand-daughter Alison. His brother Alan is still living in North Wales.

RAINBOW. B (1944–52) Bernarr was senior Music master at the School and was the first in this post. His musical appreciation lessons were a great delight, as was his wit and sympathetic treatment of a subject hitherto sadly neglected. His G & S enthusiasm brought light opera production to a high level of entertainment, and his term as organist and choir master at the Parish Church in High Wycombe started a trend of excellence continued by former students of the School. He held two important posts after his RGS career, and his many publications on various musical and reference works were considered to be of great importance. Articles in leading newspapers on his life and career bear witness to his success.

Old Boys

ALDRIDGE. R A (1929–34)

EVANS. J D (DON) (1940–43)

JUTSUM. B R (1931–36)

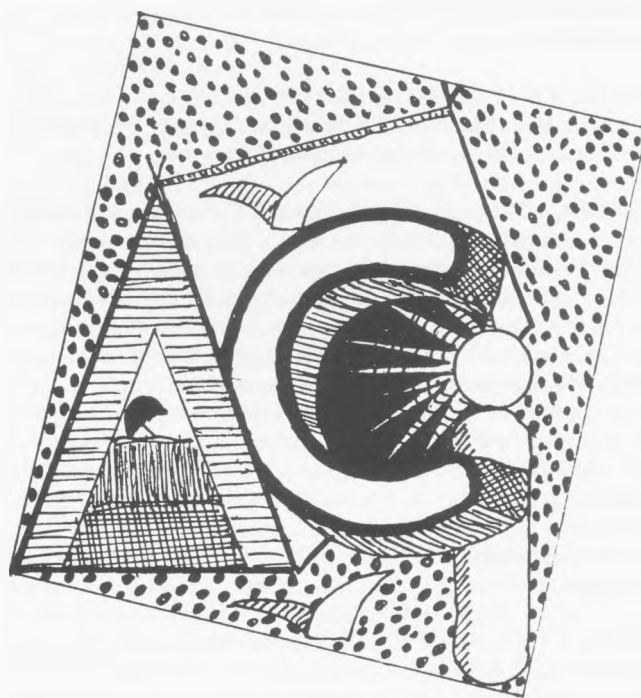
PEACE. J G (JACK) (1916–19)

PEATEY. B C (1941–49) Bernard Peatey attended the Royal Grammar School between 1941 and 1949, when he attained an Open Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, to study Classics. He gained a first in Classical Mods in 1951, going on to gain a second in Lit. Hum. in 1953. He took his MA in 1972. He did his National Service in the RAF and married Kathleen (née Sykes) in 1954. He joined the Ministry of Education and served 33 years, before retiring as a senior principal. Bernard became an authority on special educational needs and on his retirement he took full advantage of the (previously denied) freedom to go into local community life as a County Councillor, specialising in education. He was Chairman of the Managers at the Grange Pupil Referral Unit in High Wycombe, a Governor of the RGS and a Governor of Highworth Combined School at Terriers. He was instrumental in the project providing a purpose built extension to Highworth School, when it combined on one site with Terriers First School. At the Grange he played an important role in getting the unit moved from unsuitable premises to its present site on Amersham Hill. Singing was a relaxation and he was a member of the High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

He always maintained close links with the RGS and he was very pleased and honoured to be made a Foundation Governor of the School, for which he had so much love and respect. The Peatey family would like to thank the Headmaster, Staff and Governors of the RGS for their kindness and sympathy following Bernard's sudden death on 11 May 1997.

J. B. Peatey (1967–75)

PLATT. R L (1930–33)



*Huw Grange
Year 8
Camping International logo
design*

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WYCOMBIENSIAN

