

The Wycombiensian

2003

The Magazine of the
Royal Grammar School
High Wycombe

Editor: Dr M J Smith

Art Editor: Mr R P Stevens

Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr T C Williams

STAFF LEAVERS

Mr Ian Blyth

Ian Blyth first came to RGS as a boy in 1954. In common with other boys he only took four years to complete the O Level course, thus allowing extra time in the Sixth Form after A Levels, to take Oxford or Cambridge entrance examinations. By the age of eighteen he seems to have read more than most people read in a lifetime, and in 1961 he won an exhibition in English to Lincoln College, Oxford.

He made his mark at the school in a year when there were many other able boys — eight others won open scholarships, including Roger Scruton, the philosopher. Ian was a prefect, Head Librarian, Treasurer of the Dramatic Society, and a fearsome CSM in the CCF Army Section.

In 1965 he was invited back by A.C. Hills, Senior English Master, to teach English, and since then many generations of boys have benefited from his attention to their spelling, syntax, and the highways and byways of English Literature. He wears his tremendous erudition with deceptive lightness, and has a detailed knowledge of the widest range of literature, from Chaucer to Chandler, and beyond.

For his colleagues in the English department, Ian's greatest asset has been his jokes, which have helped us through many a grim week. The English department saved gallons of red ink when he taught them to simply write 'eh?' against a

baffling paragraph in a pupil's essay. The horrendous task of marking the comprehensions of the whole of Year 9 was made bearable when the 137th script was in Ian's unmistakable handwriting, and was answered in the style of Damon Runyon.

During the 1990s 'teacher appraisal' entered our classrooms, and I had the privilege of assessing many of my colleagues' lessons. Ian Blyth's lessons were — especially at Sixth Form level — always enhanced by the wit (sometimes lost on the boys) and the breadth as well as the depth of knowledge of the man at the front. He has always been willing to help weaker boys if they were prepared to help themselves, but the lazy and incompetent were unlikely to be in any doubt of sir's attitude to such a situation.

Although the essence of our work is in the classroom, in schools like RGS a huge amount of effort is put into extra-curricular matters. Here mention must be made of rowing and Staff Revues.

Ian was in charge of rowing from the 1960s until the end of the century! In that period a huge amount of time, effort and skill exercised by the coach led to successes at regattas up and down the country. It may well be that some of the more colourful abusive epithets were coined or polished on the tow paths of England — 'twassocks' and 'wazzocks', they knew who they were.

Over the last thirty years Staff Revues have been master-minded and largely written by, as well as produced by, Ian Blyth. Staff are more difficult to organise than boys — they have even greater difficulty in getting to rehearsals, learning lines and remembering moves. It must be something to do with age. Out of disparate material, Ian managed to entertain boys and parents packed into the Queen's Hall, bringing such stars as Messrs White-Taylor, Moffatt and Gamester, not to mention the ladies, before the incredulous public. Who will take up the mantle he has now laid down?

Ian has also produced Shakespeare in the Queen's Hall, including a fine *Macbeth*, and his short public statements in staff meetings as Chairman of the Common Room have included wonderfully brisk hatchet-jobs on colleagues who 'borrow' newspapers, or can't be bothered to return coffee cups.

All present members of the school, and many past generations, have reason to be glad they have known a valued colleague, a devoted classroom teacher, and a loyal son of the school. We will miss his sense of fun and his boundless general knowledge (which made him a pillar of the staff quiz team), but we wish him a long and happy retirement.



Luke Phillips
Year 12
Pen and ink study

Mr Colin Tattersall

Colin Tattersall joined the RGS back in 1984 to teach Physical Education, having graduated from St Luke's College, Exeter, and having previously taught at Verulam School, St Albans. Colin is most noted for his work with the rugby teams but has also helped teams to reach national finals in swimming, cricket and athletics.

Colin has been instrumental in the school's growth from a good rugby playing school in the county to the top rugby playing state school in the country, no fewer than seven of the sides that Colin has been involved with having gone on to play at Twickenham in the *Daily Mail* Final. Over the past four years Colin has also coached the England U16 side, having coached both the South West and London Divisions at this age group.

Tatts, as he is known by the senior rugby players (amongst other less savoury names, depending upon selection), has also helped launch the successful FRORGS, and thanks to this Colin has led major tours to both South Africa and Australia. Former old boy Matt Dawson (Northampton, England and British Lion) came to the Sportsman's Dinner 2003 to pay tribute to Colin and the hard work that he has put in over the last 19 years. No fewer than 30 RGS boys have achieved international honours at differing age groups in this period of time. He is famous for his safe and slow driving of the school minibuses and perhaps should be reminded of his trip to Twickenham to a national final with a full squad of players and no shirts.

Tatts will be sorely missed and those staff and boys who have travelled to South Africa, Australia, or the far reaches of Ipswich on a wet weekend in October will all wish him well. Colin will be recuperating over the summer after an operation on his ankle, and I have no doubt that whatever the future holds Tatts will be a regular visitor to cheer on the 1st XV, particularly as a certain Simon Tattersall should figure prominently in next year's senior side.

J.I.S.



Benjamin Skevington
Year 9
Drawing 'Camouflage design'

Commander Mike Jones

Mike, who left us in August 2002, joined the school as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors in 1991 after a successful career in the Royal Navy, the culmination of which was to be the Captain of HMS *Renown*, a Polaris submarine.

Mike quickly adopted his new ship, messing in with everyone in classic lower deck fashion. Almost as soon as he arrived, his first task was to oversee the impending visit of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales. He responded magnificently, giving us an early indication of his consummate skills in organisation. Every detail was attended to and I recall him willingly clearing the gutters and drains so that everything was perfect.

Mike's first year was a real baptism of fire, particularly for someone new to the educational world. Not only did he have to oversee the retirement of the long serving Headmaster, Rowland Brown, and the appointment of his successor, but also to guide the school into the independent financial world of Grant Maintained Status. This he achieved with much aplomb and barely a ripple. These were halcyon years where we were able to be masters of our own destiny in so many ways, and Mike's input into the projects accomplished during this time were crucial to their success. He managed the finance admirably, but contributed so much more to the projects, always fully involved and characteristically prepared to go the extra mile. In successive years, the school built the new John Prior Language College, refurbished the Science Block and provided new facilities for Biology.

The refurbishing of the Science Block brings back particular memories. There can be no doubt that Mike's expertise with water was invaluable! One Sunday morning, he telephoned me as he stood alone on the bridge of the Science Block roof, knee deep in water, surveying the damage caused by a freak storm that had literally washed out the whole of the building. Not one to be fazed by such impending disasters, Mike played a leading part in establishing a most effective recovery and short term emergency plan so that the school was largely able to continue with its teaching programme.

The decision of the Governors to build a new Boarding House was embraced by Mike with enthusiasm and a determination to see the project through, despite numerous planning and construction difficulties. His perseverance has proved to be totally worthwhile as the school now has a magnificent facility, much appreciated by staff and boys, as well as being admired by other boarding schools.

In addition to these special projects, Mike gave invaluable service to the Governors as their Clerk, often chauffeuring them to and from meetings. His meticulous attention to detail proved invaluable in organising the many meetings that Governors have, as well as ensuring they were given the appropriate papers well in advance of the meetings. Once again, Mike managed the many changes to the governance of schools imposed by the Government over the last decade with consummate skill, patience and tact.

Mike's prime role was, of course, to manage the complex and ever decreasing funds allocated to the school by the Government and Local Education Authority. Every year, setting the budget became more complicated as the source of funds available to the school became more ambiguous. Mike was never fazed by this and, almost by magic, we never failed to produce a balanced budget. This was a real testament to Mike's management of the school finances.

We all wish Mike and his wife Daphne, who has been a loyal supporter of the school, a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement. We are all delighted that they have become grandparents and we look forward to seeing them as they continue to attend school functions. A warm welcome can be assured to them, should they ever find the time to drop in for a cup of coffee.

R.M.P.

Mr Colin Howe

Colin Howe first joined the RGS in 1988, when he became the school's Head of Design and Technology. He brought with him a passion for engineering, problem solving and an ability to devise interesting projects that have inspired hundreds of boys over the past fifteen years.

The energy and enthusiasm that he put into teaching his subject also went into other areas of school life too. He established the school's Karting Club, which in addition to seeing many drivers compete at national level has also given many boys the thrill of being part of the pit crew. A keen skier, Colin also organised many of the school's ski trips until 2001.

His many merits as a teacher and a form master can only be matched by his ability to lose things continually. Missing items have ranged from car keys and glasses to rather more important items such as a piece of GCSE coursework! Colin is equally forgetful too. He recently drove the entire Karting Club (and the kart) to an important meeting in Crawley only to find that they had turned up a week early.

Perhaps Colin's most notable quality is the way in which he works with others. Whether as a student or as a teacher, you are instantly aware of his respectful, kind and disarming personality. Sylvia, his wife, also retires from the RGS this year. They have many hobbies including skiing, tennis, cycling and squash. Their main passion is, however, for their children and grandson, who will no doubt soon enjoy much more of their time. For years to come, I suspect many grown men will look nostalgically at their old Desk Tidies, Motion Alarms and Electronic Organs, and remember Colin.

D.P.M.

Mrs Mary Ames

Mary Ames arrived at RGS in 1993, having previously distinguished herself at Dr Challoner's High School. An excellent linguist, teaching both French and Spanish, Mary quickly became established as a valued and supportive colleague. She took a particular interest in the welfare of the language assistants, many of whom have been grateful for Mary's considerate and sensitive involvement in their life in High Wycombe. Though part-time, her contribution to the academic life of the school has been substantial, ranging over the full gamut of language teaching. It also extended to accompanying the Year 9 French/History trip to northern France and, more recently, undertaking SENCO duties. Patient and painstaking with her pupils, her quiet, self-effacing manner was nevertheless belied by an unexpectedly acerbic wit and sense of humour which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by her fellow linguists, even when they found themselves on the receiving end! She was always capable of surprising and delighting us and, though we naturally wish her very well in the future, we will greatly miss her.

A.K.T.

Mr Duncan Rudge

Duncan Rudge joined the Physical Education department at the RGS in 2000. Predominantly a highly qualified hockey coach, Duncan took over the responsibility of running the RGS hockey teams for the next two years. An able PE teacher, Duncan taught at all levels throughout his time at the school. Duncan left in the summer of 2002 to join Linslade Middle School, and we wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his time and efforts at the school.

I.R.G.

Mr Adrian Bond

Adrian Bond joined the Chemistry department in September 2002 from the Kuwait English School, where he had been Head of Chemistry. We are very fortunate to have had someone with Adrian's vast experience in the department. His knowledge of Grignard Reagents is legendary. For various reasons he has had a timetable in which he taught half the junior school (9 classes or 288 boys!). However, his organisational skills and meticulous approach have meant that these boys have been given a most thorough grounding in Chemistry, albeit behind closed doors.

Adrian plays a mean guitar: actually it's a Fender Jazz, and he is a follower of Eric Clapton and Brian May rather than Graham Hill and Eileen Ramsden. He formed a Staff/Blues band who after their *début* at the *Staff Revue* were asked by Tim Vennell, Director of Music, to perform at the Winter Concert.

As a colleague we shall miss his wicked sense of humour, his one-liners, his unflustered approach to any local difficulties, and above all listening to his concerns for the future of Rock and Roll at the school.

We are reluctant to lose him and thank him for all his hard work. Understandably he wants to spend more time with his family in Hampshire and we wish him every success.

R.J.D.

Mr Alex Smith

Last summer we reluctantly said farewell to Alex Smith who left the RGS after 2 years in the English department. He has moved to Dartford Grammar School where he is combining the duties of Assistant Head of Sixth Form with his English teaching. This is a well-deserved promotion and we wish Alex every success in the post.

Alex came to the RGS from Caterham School and before that Durham University. His energy and attention to detail soon established him as a fine teacher. It seems strange going home in the evening, walking past his classroom and not seeing him supervising a detention or offering pupils some 'compulsory' assistance with work that had not been completed to his satisfaction. He worked hard to encourage his students to develop accurate language skills.

His tireless input into lessons was particularly appreciated by his Sixth Form students who have expressed their disappointment at his departure. Alex illustrates one of the sad anomalies of the education system — excellent classroom practitioners having to move out of the classroom for promotion.



Year 7
'Art from art'

As well as being a popular classroom teacher Alex contributed significantly to the extra-mural life of the school. He coached the U15 'B' rugby team and supervised Sixth Form badminton. He is also a keen badminton player out of school. Unfortunately his football skills do not match up to his badminton skills, as last year's 11AS will testify. As Lt Smith he was a highly effective CCF officer, spending a year with the RN Section and a year with the Army Section. He led parties of cadets on adventure training and military exercises. His skills include assault courses, .22 range and hill walking.

These outdoor skills were tested in Kyrgyzstan when he led one of the four teams on a World Challenge expedition in the summer of 2001. They coped admirably with the hostile terrain — the country is 90% mountainous — and everyone profited from the work done by the teams in underprivileged schools.

Alex is a confident young man who is shaping his own future. His wit and dry sense of humour will be missed in the English office and our best wishes go with him for a successful life and career.

J.L.H.

Mr Louis du Toit

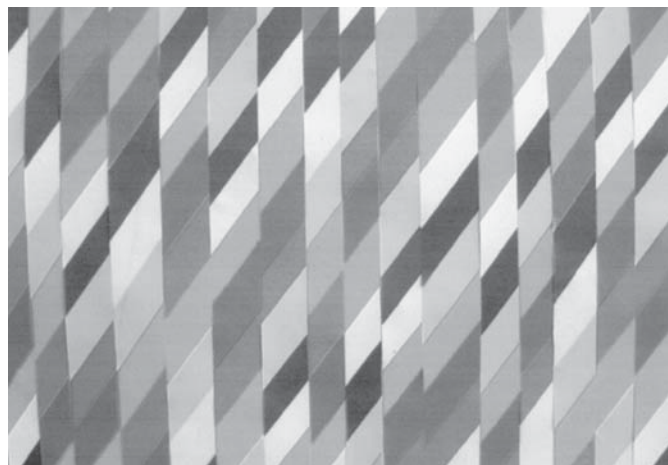
Louis du Toit, who left us last summer, joined the Chemistry department in September 2001 from Langley Park School when he finally heard that Garth Ratcliffe had retired. Louis enjoyed the opportunity to teach able pupils and had a genuine enthusiasm for the subject. This was evident when he started an after school Chemistry Club for Years 7 and 8. He played bridge and chess, but his main interest was horse racing. This meant that after 33 years on the staff Malcolm Cook at last had a colleague who knew that a Monkey was not an animal, a Yankee was not a person, and a Heinz was not a bean.

We shall miss his sartorial elegance, his very white lab coat and his heart rending accounts of life in Uplyme. Louis decided to return to Kent and teach at Dartford Grammar School for Girls. He left with our best wishes.

R.J.D.



*Matthew Jackson
Year 7
'Op' art*



*Thomas McGirr
Year 7
Painting 'After Bridget Riley'*

Mrs Carmen Webb

Carmen is an RGS parent, with one son in the school who is currently in Year 10. During his time in Year 8, a request was made in Assembly for parents to contact the school if they knew of any available teachers of ICT. Carmen volunteered, and committed herself to several hours each week, for about half of the 2000—2001 academic year.

Although not a trained teacher, she had extensive experience and contemporary knowledge of the subject, and proved a very useful addition to the team led by Ray Lovell. The following year, Ray left the school, and was succeeded as Head of Department by Richard Shreeve. Carmen agreed to undertake a fractional full-time post, and began initial teacher training while working.

She made a useful contribution, complementing the work done by Richard Shreeve and Joan Allen. Towards the end of the 2001—2002 year, when Joan's health deteriorated, Carmen stepped in and took a full-time role for many weeks. At the end of that year, Carmen decided to return to industry, to renew her teleworking role with f international. We were sorry to see her go, remembering her attention to detail, comprehensive comments on marked homework, and the excellent worksheets that she prepared and used in the lower school.

R.I.S.

Miss Jenny Ramsden

Miss Ramsden joined us from Wycombe Abbey School in 2001 and immediately took a full part in the life of the school. She is a highly talented mathematician, and was very active in the promotion and organisation of the various challenges and competitions that members of the school take part in. In addition she was highly respected in her teaching of Further Maths and other classes. She was also active in leading and training the school shooting team.

Unfortunately ill health meant that she felt that she was unable to continue in teaching; we wish her well in her new career.

D.M.B.

Mr Russel Everett

Russel, who retired at the end of last summer term, died on 1 May 2003. An obituary notice is included in the Old Wycombiensians' Club section at the back of the magazine. We hope to publish a fuller tribute in next year's issue.

UNIVERSITY ENTRY 2002 – 03

OXFORD

Allfrey, C University; Modern History
Bargate, C St Catherine's; Law
Coutts, R New; Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Dorehill, P Lady Margaret Hall; Engineering
Houston, J New; Engineering, Economics and Management
Lamb, J Keble; Economics and Management
Perry, R Merton; Economics and Management
Ray, J Worcester; Chemistry
Salter, P Merton; Physics
Stewart, A Magdalen; Engineering

CAMBRIDGE

Appleton, M Magdalene; Law
Burke, J St John's; Oriental Studies (03)
Cassel, S Pembroke; Natural Sciences
Crease, J Queens'; Mathematics
Gilbert, A Fitzwilliam; Land Economy
Griffiths, R Jesus; Natural Sciences
Hicks, S Robinson; Engineering
Ogino, T St Catharine's; Geography
Sharp, E Robinson; Engineering

OTHER UNIVERSITIES

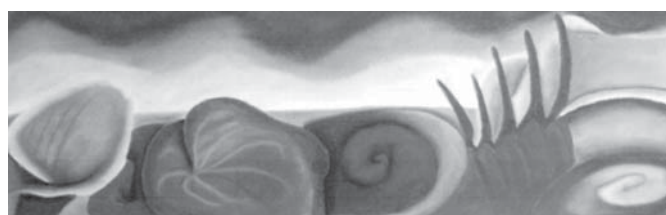
Adi, P Durham; Economics with French
Aitken, A Leeds; Mechatronics
Ala, K University College, London; Biomedical Sciences
Alden, J Reading; Mathematics
Appleton, R Nottingham; Management Studies with French
Arora, M UMIST; Chemistry (03)

Arquati, D Imperial College, London; Biochemistry
Atherton, M Manchester; French Studies
Bacon, N Birmingham; Philosophy
Barltrop, R York; Avionics
Barnes, M Southampton; Political Communication and Media Management
Barnes, N Loughborough; Management Sciences
Barrow, M Sheffield; Architecture
Barrow, O Cheltenham & Gloucester; Business Management and Sport and Exercise Science
Bassett, C Imperial College, London; Biology with Microbiology
Beanland, R Bristol; Philosophy and Psychology
Beech, C Reading; History
Beecroft, D Leeds; French and Management Studies
Bell, P King's College, London; Philosophy
Benford, C Warwick; Maths and Economics
Bennett, D Bath; Automotive Engineering
Bhasin, T Birmingham; Medical Science
Body, S Nottingham Trent; Social Sciences
Bowen, R Southampton; Electronic Engineering
Box, N Bristol; Geography
Bramhill, G Warwick; Physics
Brightwell, M Southampton; Geography
Brooks, P Leeds; Biology
Burton, J UWE, Bristol; International Business Studies
Burwell, T Loughborough; Politics with Communication and Media Studies
Busby, J Nottingham; Chemistry and Management Studies
Butcher, S Birmingham; French Studies (03)
Cheeseman, G Lancaster; Marketing
Clark, P Nottingham; History
Clark, S Bath; International Management and French (03)



*Stephen Reid, Tom Davies, Ben Smith, Mark Devine and Graeme McKenzie celebrate their GCSE results, 22 August 2002.
Photograph: courtesy of the Bucks Free Press*

Cowen, J Birmingham; Law with French
Crook, R Manchester; Politics and Modern History
Curry, G Luton; Modular Arts (03)
Dance, A Nottingham; Philosophy
Dance, P Sheffield; French with Business Studies
Davey, J Exeter; Biological Sciences
Davies, R Nottingham; Architecture
Daya, S University College, London; Theoretical Physics
Dean, A University of East Anglia; Philosophy
Dearlove, S Birmingham; Physics and Astrophysics
Deeley, A Sheffield Hallam; Sport and Exercise Science
Devlin, L Birmingham; Geography
Devlin, N Cheltenham & Gloucester; Marketing
Dobson, S Birmingham; Law and Business Studies
Farmer, C Portsmouth; Human Geography
Fleet, S Bath; International Management and Modern Languages
Ford, C St Andrew's; English Language and Literature
Fraser, J Cardiff; Economics
Frost, C Aberystwyth; Film and Television Studies
Galvin, W Nottingham; Finance, Accounting and Management
Garcia, A Loughborough; Banking, Finance and Management
Gardiner, M Liverpool; Philosophy
Gnana-Pragasam, S Brunel; Mechanical Engineering with Automotive Design
Goodchild, A Leicester; Psychology
Green, S Kingston; Business Studies
Greenhill, S Bath; International Management and German
Grierson, N Aberystwyth; International Politics and Intelligence Studies
Gurney, S Manchester; Law with Politics
Hadley, J Birmingham; Engineering with Business Management
Hakim, A Liverpool; Biological and Medical Sciences
Halim, W Nottingham Trent; International Business
Harding, R Birmingham; Geography
Hazell, M Northampton; Geography
Heywood, J Southampton; Oceanography with Marine Biology
Hill, R Southampton; Mechanical Engineering
Ho, KH Kingston; Business Studies
Holdaway, O Leeds; Political Studies
Hughes, T University College, London; Medicine
Hussain, I Kingston; Accounting and Finance
Ing, M Manchester; Computer Science
Jeal, M Birmingham; Geography
Jenner, J Central England, Birmingham; Music Technology
Jones, N Bath; Mathematics
Kahn, S Leeds; Physics with Astrophysics
Kelly, C Manchester; European Studies and Spanish
Kepetzis, A Swansea; Psychology
Kitson, G Manchester; French and German
Lever, D Leeds; Environment and Business
Lewis, J Bristol; Classics
Lewis, K Birmingham; Computer Interactive Systems
Lewis, P Nottingham; Ancient History and Archaeology
Lindsley, D Imperial College, London; Mechanical Engineering
Luff, T Bristol; Medicine
Lynch, D York; Computer Science (03)
Mann, N Nottingham; Archaeology
Marshall, G Warwick; Mathematics and Physics
Miller, A Cardiff; Business Administration
Miller, J Manchester; Philosophy
Moore, John Leeds; Philosophy
Moore, Jonathan Leeds; Philosophy
Morrin, R Birmingham; Law and Business Studies
Munir, S King's College, London; Computer Science
Muzika, A Lancaster; Natural Sciences
Muzika, J Durham; Natural Sciences
Myint, O Kingston; Business Studies
Neill, M Nottingham; Management Studies with French
Nicholas, K Bath; Economics
Niven, T Southampton; Mathematics and Philosophy
O'Brien, E Loughborough; Publishing with English
Openshaw, T Birmingham; Economics with Spanish
Owen, C Birmingham; Public Policy, Government and Management
Owen, M Birmingham; Commerce with Spanish
Parkinson, G Durham; History
Parnis, D College of St Mark & St John; Sports Science and Coaching with Education Studies (03)
Parvizian, E Bath; Aerospace Engineering
Payne, C Swansea; History
Peach, T Warwick; English and French
Peacock, J Bristol; Aeronautical Engineering
Pickles, A Cheltenham & Gloucester; Business Management with Sports Development
Platt, T Exeter; Exercise and Sport Science
Proudfoot, L Nottingham; English Studies and Philosophy
Purkiss, R Sheffield Hallam; Sport and Exercise Science
Ramsay, M Birmingham; Theoretical Physics
Reading, J Leeds; French and Management Studies
Roberts, S Bristol; Geography (03)
Robinson, S Birmingham; Electronic and Software Engineering
Sawyer, M Bath; Psychology and Communications Engineering
Sayer, D Sheffield; Law with Spanish
Sayers, A Bristol; Physics
Scobie, A St Andrew's; Modern History
Scurr, P Bristol; Mathematics with Statistics
Seagrief, J Nottingham; Archaeology
Shallow, J Birmingham; History, Medieval and Modern
Shanmuganathan, M Imperial College, London; Medicine
Sheikh, R Aston; Business Administration and French
Smith, David Cardiff; History
Smith, Duncan University College, London; Medicine
Smith, M Leeds; Geography
Smith, O Royal Holloway, London; History
Snoxell, C Birmingham; Biological Sciences
Sparks, C York; History
Spicer, N Leeds; Geography
Spill, D University College, London; Computer Science
Stannard, T Exeter; French
Tang, P Kingston; Sociology
Todd, C Birmingham; Technology
Tough, R Oxford Brookes; Business
Tyrell, J Edinburgh; Computer Science
Unsworth, C Birmingham; International Studies with Economics
Vince, S King's College, London; Biomedical Science
Wall, C Essex; Law
Webb, L Leeds; Philosophy
Whaley, J Manchester; Business and Management and French
Williams, J Liverpool; Architecture
Williamson, C Edinburgh; Astrophysics
Winn C Sheffield; Hispanic Studies and Business Studies



Carl Svasti-Salee
Year 10
Painting

LITERARY SECTION

The RGS in 1918

John Taylor was at the RGS between 1918 and 1923, and was therefore present at the school on Armistice Day, Monday 11 November 1918. Recently Ian Clark, Secretary to the Old Wycombiensians' Club, met Mr Taylor and listened to his reminiscences about the RGS over eight decades ago. This article is adapted from the transcript of their talk.

To get to school I had a bike and came up from Hatters Lane, where I lived, and then went across fields on a footpath past our games fields at Redfords, and across Amersham Hill to the school. I had one stile to climb over, I think. Other boys — Morris from Handy Cross Farm and the Reddings from Reddings Farm near where the ski lift is now — came by pony. The ponies would spend the day grazing on the school field. Of course in those days you had to wear your cap and if you were caught without it you would be given 50 lines. I'd always fold mine and stuff it in my pocket. Another thing you had to do was to raise your cap if you saw a master. To touch it was not enough. If you didn't, that too was worth 50 lines. Manners were very important in those days. You mustn't walk down the hill more than two abreast. I think manners were much better then than nowadays.

I remember the entrance from Amersham Hill. That was where the boarders built an enormous barricade when there was a massive snowfall, and bombarded the dayboys as they arrived at school. There were railings at the Amersham Hill entrance, but I do not have a very clear memory of it all. What I do remember was a great mass of yellow flowers at the front of the main building. I think they are called hypericum, and I have never liked them since I left school, as they reminded me of the return to school in September, when they were in full bloom.

In Assembly the Headmaster would enter wearing his gown and mortarboard, the teachers wearing their gowns. They also wore them to teach. The Head Boy always read the lesson and we would sing a hymn. There was no formal address, just a few routine announcements by the Headmaster, the names of naughty boys and so on. Assembly was absolutely compulsory. George Ray, Percy Cutler and I would often sneak in late. You did not get into trouble, as long as you were there before the end.

After assembly I think we had two forty-minute lessons, then a ten-minute break, two more lessons, then a long lunch break. We could either eat lunch with the boarders in the Headmaster's House or eat our sandwiches in a cloakroom. We were not allowed to go inside the classrooms. All the windows were thrown open. Amison was a great fresh air fan. Everybody had a locker with a key to it and you put your shoes and anything else in that. Whenever you came in the



*Armistice Day observance,
11.00 a.m. Monday 11 November 2002*

School Building you had to change into slippers, unless you were a prefect. I suppose that that was a real advantage of being a Prefect. If a boy stole anything from your locker because it was unlocked, he would get six of the best for stealing and you would get six for carelessness.

Everybody had to take five compulsory subjects and you had to pass all five in order to get your School Certificate: English, French or German, Arithmetic, Maths and Science. If you got Credit in all five subjects you got exemption from Matriculation. A chap called Grant brought the standard of Art to a very high level. Each year every boy had to take a drawing exam set by the Royal Drawing Society. I used to pass it, though goodness knows how. There were some who were very good at Art: Ellford who went to the Royal Academy, and Victor Bennett who later went to the USA. He remained a very good friend of mine until his death. Grant also taught woodwork. I remember him getting us to try to make a round ruler out of a square piece of wood. He was a very nice man, but he always set us the same homework. Every day we used to have three subjects, thirty minutes each subject. In Art we always had to produce a painting or drawing on a small piece of paper. There was never much paper for us to use in those days. Anyway Victor Bennett painted a wonderful red rose for which he got ten out of ten. Grant used to mark the work with a very soft pencil. Victor gave me the piece of paper with the rose on it. I rubbed out the mark and handed it in as my piece of work three times, but I never got more than eight for it!

I had one or two brushes with Arnison, the Headmaster. I remember that when our numbers were increased to about 270, we went upstairs to what was called the Art room for some reason or other (not that I ever saw any Art taught there) for our Music lessons. I was no chorister, and indeed my wife tells me now not to sing whenever we go to funerals. The Music teacher, who used to teach singing down in High Wycombe, couldn't keep order at all. So we all fooled around, and among other things sang some pretty ribald songs, adapting the words of what we should have been singing. I was told to go down to see the Headmaster for the stick. I went into his room and said, 'Mr Britnell has told me to come here for the stick, sir.'

Mr Arnison asked, 'What did Mr Britnell want the stick for!'

I replied, 'For cheek, sir'.

He was a man of some sense, for he decided that, rather than use the cane, I should do eight 'tots'. These were eight sums, with twelve figures each way, and you had to get them all right. Unfortunately, and I was good at Arithmetic, it took me three visits before I got them all right, because you were never told which one you had got wrong. It was a much worse punishment than if I had had the cane.

However, discipline was generally very good. One or two couldn't keep order, but the vast majority could. Brand, the Sports Master, was very easy; he often gave lines, but did not always remember to ask for them. I remember Berry. He was a very good disciplinarian. He was the parson at Terriers Church, a very tall man. I suppose some people today would suggest, quite wrongly, that his habit of slapping our legs indicated latent paedophile tendencies. You wore short trousers then and when you'd go up to his desk for him to look at your work, for no apparent reason he would give you half a dozen slaps on the knee. I suppose it must have given him some sort of pleasure. I remember my best teacher, J.E. John. He taught English, and was a charming little Welshman who never had to raise his voice. The reason was that he made the lessons so interesting. Most of the teachers didn't. Berry taught History. I don't think that he knew much History, at least that was the impression he gave. He also taught what was called Religious Knowledge, although we

called it Religious Ignorance. That seemed a better name for it.

I arrived at the school two months before the War ended, and there were then two women teachers, both charming individuals. Miss Herbertson taught us English, had a cast in one eye and was a pretty good disciplinarian. The other one taught us French and had the appearance of being French with what looked like a ginger bird's nest on her head. We had a lame parson who lasted just a term, who was called Thomas. There was a teacher who taught a Year 2 form on the bottom floor, who started a lesson with 30 boys in the class and ended with about eight. Some had been given permission to go to the toilet and never returned, others had climbed out of the window without being spotted. A very good friend of mine, who was something of a delinquent, was very good at that.

For sport, there was soccer, and in the last two years rugby was introduced. A Chemistry teacher called Scotby was in charge of the rugby, and of course shortly afterwards some Old Boys formed the Old Wycombiensians' Rugby Club, which was later to become the Wycombe Rugby Club. There were players like George Eyles, John Walker and Norman Barnes. I was too small for rugby (indeed I was the smallest boy but one in the OTC) and played hockey. After I left school, Wycombe Hockey Club consisted almost entirely of RGS Old Boys. There was the School Field to play on, and round about that time it was extended towards Terriers. We also used a field that was on the other side of the Amersham Road behind Terriers Church, called Redfords. The fives courts, erected about 1921, as a memorial to Old Boys who had been killed in the War, were very popular. We had games every Tuesday, and for those who were not in the OTC also on Thursday. There was instruction for those in the School Team. For those who weren't, the afternoon games were merely recreation. The matches against other schools were on Saturday afternoons after we had lessons in the morning. Those of us who were not playing had to watch, or at least we had to watch until we got ourselves registered on the touchline. Once we had done that we used to rush off to Wycombe Wanderers, or something like that.

The OTC was voluntary, and we did all the usual things, like drill, map reading, shooting, and three-mile long route marches. The drill stood me in very good stead, when I joined the RAF, where among other things, I became the Officer responsible for Ceremonial Drill. Generally speaking it was the active ones who joined the OTC, the ones who liked games, and the ones we called 'swots' who didn't. The 'swots' tried to get out of games too. There were school plays. I remember I actually got a part in *Pickwick Papers*. Berry was Sergeant Buzfuz and Jimmy Hearn Sam Weller. It was put on in the School Hall and the poor parents were expected to turn up and watch. There were no bands or orchestras when I was at the RGS. There were no clubs either, apart from the Hobbies Club, which Grant started just after I left. It was Tucker who started the clubs later on.

After school you'd go down Amersham Hill on your bike and the girls from the High School would go down Priory Hill and you would meet them in the High Street. But Sunday evening in the Wycombe High Street was the big occasion. Everyone would turn up there. There was no traffic on Sunday evenings in those days through the High Street, and you'd walk up and down with your bowler hat, walking stick, kid gloves, and with a bit of luck you might by about nine o'clock strike up a conversation with a girl.

Amersham Hill was just a narrow lane in those days with two very steep bits and a more level piece in between. It was not tarmacked, because the steamroller could not get over the railway bridge. In any case it probably could not have got up the hill. There was much more horse traffic than motor cars then. I remember about twenty horse vans each day assembling at about nine o'clock in the evening, ready to take all the chairs made that day up to London. Of course the railway coming to Wycombe made a difference. I remember

being taken by my father to the Cemetery to see the memorial put up for the twelve or so men killed when the tunnel they were making between here and Beaconsfield collapsed.

I eventually went into the Sixth Form, which numbered only about 12 at the time. It was good in the Sixth Form, because you had free Study Periods and could play fives or read novels or something. I was only in the Sixth Form for a term, because my uncle died at the end of it, and I had to go into the family business at the age of sixteen. I thus avoided the usual leaving talk from Arnison, telling you not to eat mustard, because it stimulated your sex-drive, and that kind of thing.

Was I happy at the RGS? Very happy indeed. I never did any work and I managed to bamboozle my parents about it. So yes, I thoroughly enjoyed myself!

John Taylor

Society

A rugged brown desert of unwound thread,
Intricate and jagged, blank and lifeless,
Wrapped high and cold in a leaf green folder,
Naught stirs.

Then, a spark, and again and again,
A miniscule patter - an army of feet,
Deep, deep down in the depths of the structure
From within.

Lines! Swirling and flowing black lines!
From every crack and knot stream lines,
Spilling from all nooks, one by one,
Ants and Ants.

Leading, following, marching, carrying,
Storing, supporting, saving, slaving,
Turning, twirling, talking, taking
The strain.

Huge burdens held high in labour, self sacrificing,
For the greater good, scrimping and hoarding,
Efficient, comradely unit,
Friends at work.

Size irrelevant, achievement complete,
Tiny specks combine in force of power immense,
Greater than *any* one being can be,
Save the Lord.

Terrain covered by sticking together,
Back, back to the holes from whence they came,
Less complaining, more action:
Perfect Society.

David Maunder 8IW

File Past

From the Wycombiensian of 1923:

For the first time for very many years, the School was closed for eight days this term owing to a mild outbreak of scarlet fever. The drastic action of closing the School proved completely effective, and apart from the original case, there were no other cases among the day boys. The boarders were not so fortunate, and eight cases in all were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Booker.

Mr C.W. Raffety has added to his many generous gifts to the School by establishing a fund for an essay competition, with a view to encouraging the qualities of citizenship in the rising generation. He has invested a sum of money, to be

administered by the Head Master of the Royal Grammar School and the Head Mistress of the County High School for Girls, as joint trustees, the interest from which is to provide a prize to be competed for, in alternate years, by the boys or girls of the two Schools. The prize is to be awarded 'to the boy or girl who writes the best essay on some subject connected with the past history or future development of High Wycombe and the district thereof.' The Fund is to be known as the Raffety Prize Fund. We wish to express our gratitude to Mr Raffety for his further proof of his interest in the cause of education in his native town.

From the Wycombiensian of 1945:

SUPREME COURT IN THE LIBRARY.

An Old-Time Prefects' Meeting.

Once the tables have been re-arranged on a Friday afternoon, and the home of the sixth form has been transformed from play-room to courtroom, an air of dignity permeates the place. Books are picked up from odd corners where they have been thrown and are stacked on to the nearest shelf. Caps and football shirts are hauled down from cornices and lampshades and are hastily hidden. Facetious notices are removed from bookcase ends; and all windows are carefully closed at the bottom. Prefects break off games of twopenny-ha'penny football, check themselves at the height of some intriguing conversation, quickly swallow the remains of half a dozen buns, or tear themselves away with the greatest reluctance from some absorbing problem of the higher mathematics. Duty calls. Justice, not blindfold, and with curly black hair, carrying not scales, but a sceptre of cane, commands: 'All non-prefects outside! Buck up and take your seats, gentlemen!' and the prefects, instantly magistrates with faces full of frozen gravity, cram into the chairs around the three-sided square. Someone says, 'I hope we've got a lot of victims!' and the spectacle of impartiality is complete.

Hats off, strangers! The court of Prefects is in session.

From the Wycombiensian of 1962:

One is never quite certain how to consider the School's ever-growing numbers, which are bringing with them a few minor problems. In a large community some effort must be made to preserve a kind of spirit, otherwise the members will slide into apathy. A system which works well in the traditional Public Schools is regarded with apathy here: increasing the number of Houses three years ago has solved no problem, because any temporary gain has been swept away by the 13% increase in the School's numbers. The Houses are too large for there to be any House 'feeling' here, and nothing is done to encourage it. House meetings are so infrequent as to be considered a curiosity, and the inclusion of certain events in the House Championship make it farcical, for instance Chess, Badminton, Fives and Shooting: two of these are cliques (and almost impenetrable ones at that), one is little played as a regular School game, and Chess can hardly be thought of as a sport.

Pictorial History of the RGS

At the start of the summer term, Tempus Publishing brought out a new, pictorial history of the RGS in its *Images of England* series. This shows the story of the RGS in prints and photographs, most of which have not been published before, from its foundation in the 16th century to the achievements of the new millennium.

Copies bought through the school can be purchased for £8.50, which is at a discount to the publisher's price of £11.99. If interested, please contact the Resources Centre.

Down in the coal mine

In you go to the coal mine,
Down the deep, black hole.
Down you go, down the coal mine,
Hoping to bring out coal.

Down in the mine it's airless and dark.
You've got to be careful — don't make a spark!

The soot gets in your mouth and nose,
In every part of your soot-black clothes.

Your bones all ache from working away,
You long to see the light of day.

Drills still ringing in your ears,
You go back up to the light.
After the blackness of the mine
You see the sun — too bright!

Joseph May 7C



Bryan Conway
Year 12
Pen and ink study

Otter

Swishing, swerving through cold water,
Nose up, tail down — where's my prey?

Search, scout — follow the current,
Duckweed, lilies, banks to hinder and puzzle.

Straying, resting in a brook, hunger gnawing at my belly.
South to the stream, North to the river.

Plunge, slip into the stream, see a pike, chase and lose,
Spin, dive to the gravel bed, up, hit the frog spawn.

Down there a sliver glint — carp near the surface,
Down, bite, claw, catch, done.

Eastward, back — home to the holt,
My burrow, my home, curl up and sleep.

Christopher Finn 8IW

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

Music Review

Every year seems to take on a certain shape, and sometimes it is not at all clear until afterwards what that shape will be. Undoubtedly the event from this year that will loom largest on everyone's horizon is the visit in March of the top London orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia, founded by OW Richard Hickox. But the bread and butter music-making of a school Music department is what really makes the eye-catching events possible, and without doubt there has been some terrific performing from a large number of boys this year.

The end of the summer term 2002 ended with the usual rush of events, including a memorable Open Air Concert on 14 July — memorable for some exuberant playing from the various Jazz and Wind Bands involved, but also for the spectacular finale, featuring our own Alan Lewis, complete with bandanna, as a mega rock star of hitherto inconceivable proportions! Those privileged enough to be there will, I am sure, look at Alan in a new light for evermore!

The Autumn Recital in October contained many outstanding performances, but the highlight for me was hearing Bach's immense unaccompanied *Chaconne in d minor*, transcribed for classical guitar, played with exquisite musicianship by the multi-talented David Johnson. To hear Bach played with such musicianship and authority by a 17-year-old was an extraordinary experience. David then followed this up with the last movement of Bach's *Italian Concerto*, for solo keyboard instrument, in the second half! Both, I might add, from memory!

The November Concert was a wonderful assortment of RGS music-making, as it usually is, but again, a couple of things stood out. The First Wind Band has been in excellent form this year (we have just heard that the band, along with the Close Harmony Group, have been selected to go to the Festival Hall in July to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth) and got the concert off to a fantastic start with a selection from *Les Misérables* and an exciting *Ovation Overture* by Husay. The second half started in memorable fashion with Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, played in the bathroom acoustics of the stairwell outside the Queen's Hall doors. But the most talked about item this year was the Close Harmony Group, who sang Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* with such style and panache, complete with woolly hats and actions, that they completely stole the show. A memorable evening!

The middle term was dominated by the visit of the CLS, but meanwhile rehearsals went on for events later in the year. This year's joint venture with the High School was an orchestral concert, featuring our outstanding trumpeter Huw Grange, along with three girls, in Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*. The main event of the second half of the concert was Dvorak's *8th Symphony*, which is one of the most exuberant and tuneful of 19th century works, and was tackled with great commitment and zest by the young players.

The school year was rounded off with the Summer Concert, which this year took place in Wycombe Parish Church, and climaxed in a performance of Rutter's *Gloria*, for which the school's choir and senior brass group was joined by the Parents' Choir, ever eager to be involved. Once again, the parental support of the Music department, particularly in the shape of the Music Society Committee, has been terrific this year, especially in arranging the visit of the CLS, and I would like to thank them all for their immense efforts. I would also like to thank my new young colleague, Ben Sampler, for his support in the department. He has already made a great contribution to the department in his running of the Jazz Band and the Second Wind Band, among other things, since his arrival in September, and we look forward to

his future association with the activities of the department. And finally, I would like to thank all the young men who have given such pleasure in their many performances this year for all their commitment to RGS Music, and in particular, those in a talented Upper Sixth. They have given many hours to the school's music-making over the years, particularly this year, and have done so with great good humour. It has been a pleasure to lead them onwards and hopefully upwards, and I wish them well for the future.

T.P.V.



Alastair Mitchell
Year 10
Painting

Writers' Bloc

Each Monday lunchtime, a group of Year 8 boys comes together with their packed lunches and blank sheets of A4 to write. This has proved a suitably interactive, purposeful and supportive place in which to foster their creative powers. Already avid writers of sci-fi or fantasy in their own time, the boys have been addressing the more subtle matters of style and tone and how to extend their generic range. Guided by *Poetry in the Making* — the text of Ted Hughes' classic 1960s radio programmes for schools — these gentlemen of letters launched their literary careers with the production of animal poems.

Revelatory of the secrets of the natural world, animal studies are also a good way for children to tap their own, usually (still) latent, inner experience. Very quickly, the class realized that good writing — particularly poetry — comes from intensive drafting and re-drafting — something the restraints of the English curriculum rarely permit. With nothing more inspiring than a grainy black and white photograph of a suburban bridge as our starting point, we then turned our attention to fiction and narrative. Our public *début* came in a Christmas assembly where each boy presented a little fable or sketch of his own invention about the real, more socially-aware message of the season. Year 9 was particularly impressed with this entertaining and thought-provoking work.

Rare flurries of snow and fleeting glimpses of ice-clad hills inspired some captivating landscape poetry in January. The boys revelled in arranging their images across the page in particularly free verse, and in capturing what Virginia Woolf termed 'moments of being' within the syllabic discipline of the haiku.

Finally, inspired by the dazzling array of characters in *Great Expectations* and by the inconsistencies and failings of its lovable hero, Pip, the boys embarked upon their own characterization of someone known, in the first instance, to them. Watch out friends, relations and teachers: you could find that you have formed the subject of the latest RGS short story! An enterprising year from a group of talented young writers.

R.G.L.

Stage Lighting Team

This year has been another whirlwind of events for the team, with the highlight being the *Staff Revue*. This featured the biggest lighting rig we have ever created and was a tremendous experience for all who were involved. It was in many ways a landmark production, allowing us to experiment with the flashes and bangs of pyrotechnics, the smoke machine, and use our Miniscan HPE lanterns to their full potential. Six Parcan lanterns were donated for the show bringing our total up to 22, and with 8 more hired, 30 Parcans were featured in the performances! Additional equipment used for the first time in the *Staff Revue* were 4 lighting bars attached to the side of the stage. Through Mr Balaam's vision (and a new drill he had been desperate to test!) these poles sprang up over night and really contributed to the 3D-modelling of actors during the show (and believe me, some of the staff needed it!). I am sure these will add an exciting extra dimension when lighting future productions.

The other big event for the team was the school play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Although less demanding than the *Staff Revue* in terms of lighting effects and requirements, younger members of the team, involved in their first school production, came together to give the show technical support at an impressively professional level.

Throughout the year the team have been active in many of the concerts and I have been continually impressed with the amount of original and creative ideas that have been invented and implemented for these events. One aspect of the team's responsibilities, which is often forgotten amongst the big shows and concerts, is the amount of effort that is put in to help with assemblies... especially slide projections! There was a consecutive 3-week period of these set-ups, and working with the uncooperative metal box that dims the auditorium lights is never to be underestimated!

Special thanks must go to Mr Balaam for his extreme dedication throughout the year and the time he manages to find to make possible all that we do (not to mention the greatly appreciated provision of biscuits during concert intervals for exhausted lighting operators and the legendary chip shop runs!). Thanks must also go to the parents for all their support with transport of team members.

Finally, congratulations and thanks to the team for all their efforts throughout the year. It has been an immense pleasure to work with them and may they continue to maintain the 'bouncetastic' standards they have achieved into next year!

Alex Drofiak 6MB₁



Christopher Hayhurst
Year 9
Drawing for a clay sculpture

Sound Team

This year has seen many changes for the sound team, the most notable of which being the departure of Mr Everett, who manned it with dedication for 20 years, and the arrival of Mr Marshall, the current team leader. Three new members have also joined, bringing the total to eight, and it is hoped that they will fulfil their potential over the coming months.

The team started the year off on a high note with the success of the Music Society Jazz Evening, at which its presence greatly enhanced an already impressive event. On Remembrance Day, the team's contribution allowed the Headmaster's service to be heard throughout the school quadrangle.

December saw the year's biggest event for the team, the *Staff Revue*, take place, for which it provided various sound effects, music and microphones for the many live acts performed during the production. Sound effects and microphones were also provided for the recent school play, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. In addition to these, the team continued to contribute to many smaller-scale concerts and other music events at the school as well as numerous talks and presentations taking place in the hall.

On the equipment side of things, the team has permanently acquired a high quality 12-channel Amek BCII mixer and also an Alesis Microverb 4 effects unit on long term loan from the Music department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Marshall and all team members for their continued support and hard work throughout the year.

Andrew Davey 6LY₁

Killington USA 2003

A mild Wycombe morning was the beginning of a voyage for 40 boys and 4 teachers, as they departed on a trip that would be filled with sun, snow and a lack of sleep.

If there is one word to sum up the ski quality at Killington, it is 'magnificent'. The RGS boys took to the slopes — bar a few who were untangling themselves from tree branches — on the first afternoon. It also has to be said, we were given a great bunch of instructors. Whether they were 'yanks' or 'aussies', they all taught us a trick or two by the end of our trip. A good time was enjoyed by all, either skiing the double black diamonds or watching others crash. This was the case with Mr Stubbs, who was constantly removing snow from his jacket and watching Mr Gould whizz past him. However, while Mr Gould excelled in skiing, he lacked in Maths' skills, as we eventually found out having been entertained by him on numerous yellow bus journeys to and from the hotel.

The *après-ski* was fantastic. You wouldn't come back from the mall empty handed, and you wouldn't come back from the cinema feeling clean. The dollar shop proved to be a great find if shaving foam and toy rifles tickled your fancy.

For some the skiing was not the main highlight of the trip; instead it was the visit to a group of outlet stores where the clothes prices were considerably cheaper than over here. Most people's wallets boarded the coach a great deal lighter, I can tell you.

A relaxing meal at the Boston hard rock café, and a thrilling trip to the Six Flags theme park, where many of us braved the heights of 'Superman: man of steel', capped off a truly brilliant trip to the USA.

I am very sure all of the boys would like to thank the staff who tolerated us: Mr Stubbs, Mr Pearson, Mr Gould and especially the well-organised Mr Scourfield.

Paul Kang 6GA₁

School Chaplaincy

It has been encouraging this year to see more and more pupils finding out about the Christian faith by going along to some of the wide variety of meetings on offer. The Christian Union is growing into one of the largest extra-curricular groups in the school and the Chaplaincy events remain popular. Many boys have been challenged to consider the good news of Christianity and to live a life of faith in Jesus Christ.

The Chaplaincy is interdenominational and seeks to explain the Christian Faith to boys of all year groups in the school. Mr Toller is the School Chaplain and Mr Ratcliffe is the Associate Chaplain. We are available to any members of the school community who wish to speak to us — either as individuals or as groups. We are very grateful for the support of a committed group of parents who pray for the school on a regular basis.

P.S.T.

Year 10 and 11 Lunchtime Talks

Since the start of the spring term 2003, Mr Ratcliffe has been running a series of talks with Mr Toller on the Christian faith. At first most people were attracted to the Friday lunchtime talks by the fact that there were cakes and drinks on offer. However, this is not the feeling shared by the majority now as Mr Ratcliffe delivered some very interesting thoughts and views that have changed a lot of people's thoughts about Christianity. He did this by using his great sense of humour and his vast knowledge of the subject. So I would urge those that haven't been to one of the talks to come along sometime and be enlightened, fed and watered.

Barney Collins 10B

Heatseeker

Heatseeker is a Christian meeting exclusively for Year 7 pupils at the RGS. It comprises lots of food, lots of fun, and a bit of God mixed in. The aim is to give the boys a fun time, whilst teaching them a little about Christianity. Each week has a theme, the most popular of which is probably the Pringle Parties, although others have included mince-pies at Christmas, sweets and most recently an Easter Egg Fest. A common feature of all the meetings is large quantities of Coca-Cola.

Heatseeker runs every two weeks on Thursday lunchtime in L13. The format is generally a time of eating and drinking followed by a games time, and then a talk about the Christian faith. It is led by Mr Potter, who continually wows us with the games he thinks up, and he is helped by a group of senior school boys. Mr Toller sometimes lends a hand, and there are about 45 Year 7s on the books, of whom about 30 come each week. The format is very accessible, and the stories are made easy to understand, either through some 'audience participation' or a modern day analogy.

Part of the eventual aim is that some of the boys come along to the whole-school CU, as a few have already started to. Whether or not they make this step, though, it is great to see them all enjoying themselves at Heatseeker.

There is also now a Year 8 Heatseeker group which has followed on from last year. Every Monday lunchtime, a small group of Year 8 pupils have a meeting where we talk about Christianity. Sixth former John Mark Cheffy runs the group with Mr Toller. We begin with some cake and squash. Then we pray before looking up verses from the Bible and talking about what they mean. The topics discussed are about everyday life. They are very interesting and, with a few jokes, everyone enjoys themselves.

Ben D. Saunders 6HK₁ and Matthew Nally 8DW



Members of staff attending the Deconsecration of the Chapel, 12 March 2003



*Daniel Waters takes aim at the championship.
Photograph: courtesy of the Bucks Free Press*

World Field Archery Championships Arndean 2002

For those of you who don't know, field archery, in which I compete, is different to straightforward 'target archery' in that it is normally a course of 28 targets out in the open, and you shoot 4 arrows at each. The world championships consist of 5 days of shooting at 3 different target types (field, hunter and big-game), and records can be claimed in each. The championships take place every 2 years in varying locations. This is an open competition in which anyone can compete but most countries select a squad of about 20 of their best archers and sponsor them to do well.

England squad selection is based on those archers who perform consistently well and who will be good ambassadors for the sport. I was the only under 18 to have been chosen for the squad in 2002 and was the youngest squad member the country had ever seen.

On arrival in Scotland it may sound trivial but I was very surprised by their accents, which were a lot more Scottish than I had imagined! We were shown around our lodging to the sound of bagpipes and we soon discovered amateur bagpipe lessons were going on literally right outside the door.

Prior to the competition we had to go through bow inspections to make sure we weren't cheating, and then proceeded around the town with our countries to hear the welcome speech in 3 languages and be bombarded with brochures. The local people put on several productions and invited world-class archers to show off their comic side (one unfortunate person had to dress up in pre-Roman Scottish armour, and join in a re-enacted battle), whilst others just had a great time watching.

After a long time searching we found the course ready for the first day of shooting. There were 4 courses and on each day I had to shoot on a different one (complicating finding my way around), and they were all extremely steep and muddy. Shooting on some of the targets was impossible without literally digging yourself into the muddy

embankment, and as well as this it is a nightmare having to lean at 45° to shoot the target and maintain balance. I shot round in almost the same group on every day and we had some laughs along with the reality of inter-national rivalry (there wasn't really much of this to any extent!).

The local people held productions during the week in a very typical Scottish style. On the evening of the third day they held an event called the Ceilidh (apparently pronounced kay-ley) where they displayed traditional national dancing, the blessing of the haggis, and again our favourite re-enactment society was also there. This was also where they gave out the specially brewed 'archers' ale' to celebrate the event.

The award ceremony on the 6th day went on for what seemed like a painstakingly long time. It began at around 10.30 p.m. and lasted until 1.00 a.m. in the following morning, which would have taken half the time if they were a bit more organised. I only got 4 hours' sleep before I had to wake up the following morning but the memories and the records were well worth it. I won my class in both the European and World categories, broke two European records, and hope to defend my title in the 2004 championships which take place in the USA.

Daniel Waters 9B

Enterprising Maths 2002

In order to qualify for the regional finals in London, our team, consisting of Chris Mason, Tim Jackson, Robert Hird and Carl Svasti-Salee, had to complete a preliminary round consisting of ten structured questions. We passed through this to secure our place in the regional final held in King's College, London, in May, at which Matthew Price kindly substituted for the temporarily unavailable Robert Hird.

In this heat, involving 40 teams, the first round involved answering ten questions within one hour, and working as a team we solved most of these. The second round, the speed round, involved having to complete eight puzzles that covered various aspects of maths. The tasks ranged from code breaking using sequences of numbers to the building of towers with blocks using diagrams to help, and from tangram puzzles to jigsaw puzzles. Each puzzle had a strict time limit and was worth 30 points, so our score of 164 was pretty good. The relay round was the last one. The team was split into two pairs. The first pair answered the first question, returned their answer to a teacher, received the next question for the other pair, and so on. In the available time we answered enough questions to earn roughly 100 points. As the team's positions were read out, we heard 4th and 5th places and we knew we had beaten their scores. 'Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe' was the next team read out — we had reached the national final in Glasgow!

In July, with Robert Hird back in the team, we travelled to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow for the Enterprising Maths 2002 national final. A massive 80 teams took part. The competition took the same format as the regional rounds but with the addition of a Swiss Round. In this round team members played one-on-one games against other teams. We played well, but unfortunately we only scored 50 from a possible 160 due to some confusion about the rules. This was too much to recover from, so from being 14th at the half way point we eventually finished in 21st position. The Princess Royal presented the top three prizes and spoke to some pupils and staff as she toured the hall. It was an excellent day out and a good experience for all those who took part. We would like to thank Mr Pearson for all his hard work and for getting us to Glasgow.

Carl Svasti-Salee 10RS, Robert Hird 9H
Chris Mason 9B, Tim Jackson 10W

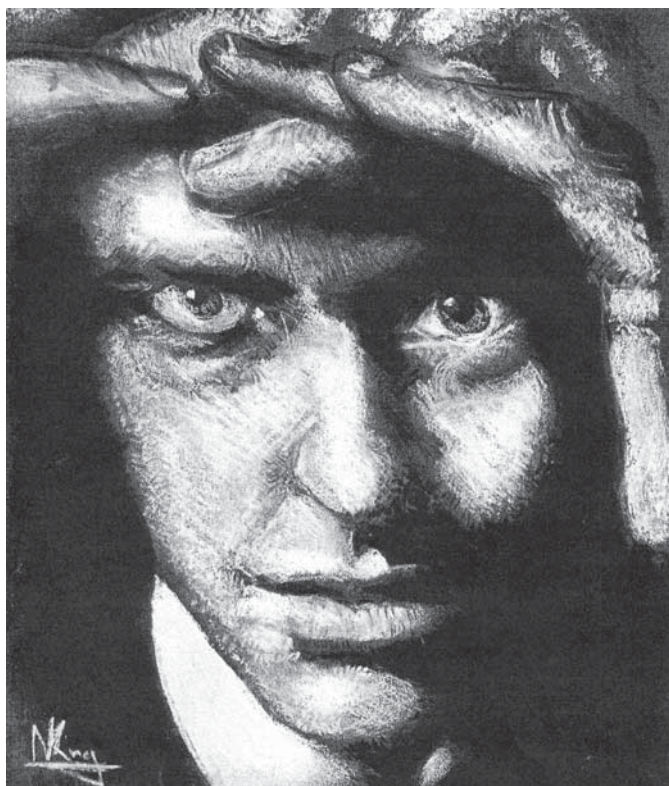
Christian Union

This year the Christian Union has gone from strength to strength, with many interesting talks and discussions. The strong leadership and continued support from the Chaplaincy has been a great encouragement. Interest in the CU has grown and we now have around thirty students who attend regularly on Thursday break time. Since the start of the year we have established two further meetings: Tuesday break for a time of prayer and reflection, and Friday break for a Bible study, where we openly discuss the issues raised by the set passage for the week.

The fellowship within the group continues to grow and the Christian Union leadership team meet regularly (over tea and cakes!) to discuss how to improve further the CU.

The Christian Union is open to any pupil in any year who wishes to come along and learn a little more each week about life as a Christian and to have a good time.

Jon Overton 6HR₁ and Sam Gower 6EB₁



Nicholas King
Year 12
Chalk drawing

Chaplains' Oxford Dinners

The Oxford Dinners, organised by the School Chaplaincy, have been thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended this year. The dinners take place once every half term at Pembroke College, mixing together a three-course meal with a talk on the Christian faith by a guest speaker. With the dining room placed right above the college bar, there have been a few humorous encounters when classic songs such as *Yellow Submarine* by the Beatles wafted up during the talk. This only added to the relaxed atmosphere that made the evenings so enjoyable. Tough questions were hurled at the guest speakers during the discussion time, which were answered confidently. The Oxford Dinners are always wonderful occasions and a must for every Sixth Former.

Luc Mastenbroek 6LY₁

Islamic Society

For the past year, the Islamic Society has been run by Imadul Islam, Faisal Siddiq, Mubeen Yousuf and Amand Arif. The *raison d'être* of the Society was to make Islamic concepts available within the school environment, and provide an open forum of discussion in which all members of the student body would be able to discuss Islam, openly and freely, as a comprehensive ideology for mankind.

The Islamic Society convened on a daily basis in the Cricket Pavilion where, during the course of the school year, the compulsory prayers were offered, in addition to the rational basis of Islamic beliefs being discussed.

The Society was also able to deliver a week of assemblies to both junior and senior members of the school. The theme of the talks was the Divine Message of the Prophets Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, and how without exception they were sent with the message that there is only One God. The keynote address delivered at the end of the week expounded upon Muhammad being the Final Messenger sent to humanity with a complete ideology, and also explained how during the glorious Islamic history, when Islam ruled in all aspects of life, Islam proved to be a just system under which all citizens, both Muslim and non-Muslim, were protected equally and in which human progress thrived.

Also, the Society organized a debate on the theory of evolution to which an outside speaker, Dr Abdullah Robin, was invited. All members of the school community were invited to the debate in the Queen's Hall where there was a good turn-out and, thanks to the contribution of Mr Wolton, a good standard of discourse. We hope that we will hold further enlightening discussions in the future so that Islamic ideas may be discussed in a rational and informative manner.

With the presence of the Society, it has been possible to project Islam and its concepts in a manner that its adherents understand. We pray that in the coming years, the Islamic Society will continue to progress. Many thanks go to Mr Wolton for the help and support that he afforded the Society.

Imadul Islam 6C₁

Work Experience

Work experience is a valuable part of every RGS student's time at school. It offers the chance to gain a real insight into an area of work requiring skills, knowledge and experience, beyond that already encountered. Often work shadowing/experience is crucial in investigating a career involving a high level of responsibility, skill or knowledge. Typical examples would include managers, doctors, vets, engineers or lawyers.

Shadowing can be a stimulating experience, allowing you to reflect on the skills required in a particular job, to improve understanding of business, industry or commerce, and to identify the suitability of a particular career. It is an important inclusion on UCAS forms and *curriculum vitae*.

Present Year 11 and Lower Sixth, you are the target groups for taking this opportunity to broaden your horizons and improve your chances, when applying for further education or jobs. Year 11 may use the summer holiday which stretches before them; others, often the majority, wait until the Lower Sixth when the Education Business Partnership offers a placement service.

Please see the handouts issued to Year 11 before Easter for further details and contact Mrs N.J.G. Catling for any additional information.

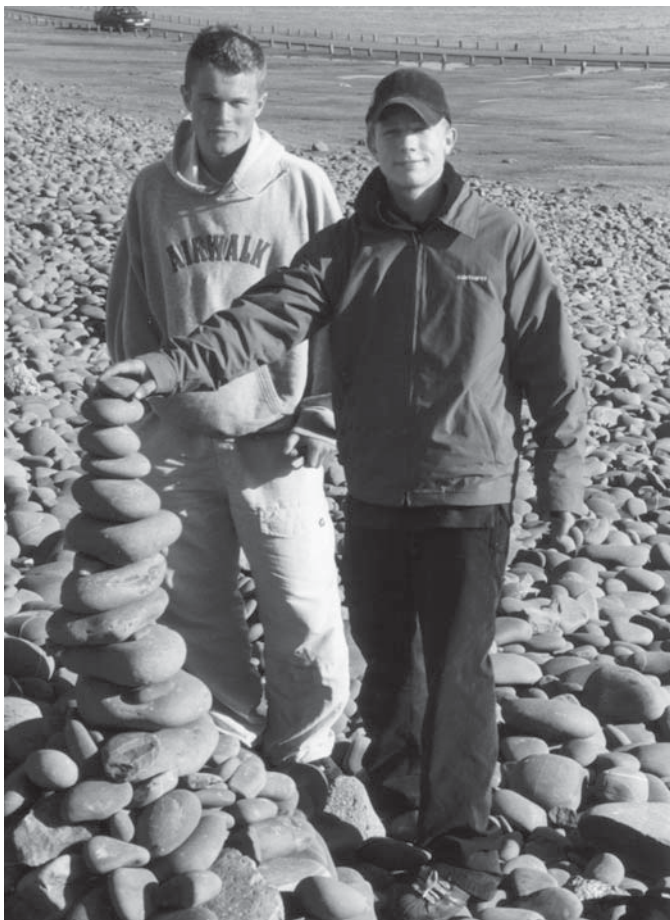
N.J.G.C. Work Experience Co-ordinator

Lower Sixth Geography Field Trip

During October half term 26 pupils studying AS Geography went to the Hallsannery Field Centre in North Devon, accompanied by Mr Ashby and Miss Dodds. We set off early and travelled to Exmoor by coach. When we arrived, we were met by two of the instructors from Hallsannery and a very lost foxhound who had become detached from a hunt up on Exmoor. We went to different sites along the upper course of the West Lyn River and measured different river processes, such as velocity. We then continued to Lynmouth (the site of terrible flooding in August 1952) and were told about the flood prevention schemes that had been put in place after the flood. We also had some time to look around this very pleasant seaside town, set in an impressive steep sided valley.

On the second day we studied settlement hierarchies in North Devon. We drove through several villages in our coach recording land uses such as post boxes, low order good shops and other such enthralling things. We then went to Barnstaple, the largest town in the area, where we went around in groups doing questionnaires, asking people where they came from to buy different types of goods. We also did land use tally charts for the town. We then went to Bideford and continued with the land use tally charts for comparison.

The next day we went firstly to Westward Ho! which has a pebble ridge facing the sea. We learnt about things that had been done to try to protect the coast as well as doing a profile of the spit and measuring pebble sizes on it. We then spent some time in Westward Ho! going to its amusement arcades and losing our mobile phones (no names mentioned). We then travelled to Hartland Quay, where we looked at and sketched the amazing folding of the cliffs and the impressive tunnel slab.



*'Counting the dewy pebbles, fix'd in thought'
(Tennyson, 'The Passing of Arthur').*

Christopher Murphy and Oliver North at Westward Ho!

For us, Sunday was one of the best days of the trip. We went to Branton Burrows, a sand dune ecosystem. It was incredibly windy and the wind was whipping off the dunes. At first we looked at how the plants changed on dunes and slacks. However, we then found some wonderful sand dune slopes to throw ourselves off which, although slightly painful, was really fun. On the final morning we looked at soils around the Hallsannery site and saw the effect of leaching on soil texture and colour.

To conclude, this was a very rewarding working five days. We worked hard and got a lot out of it. Thank you very much to Mr Ashby and Miss Dodds and the instructors at Hallsannery for all the time and hard work they put in.

Neil Kelleher 6GD₁ and Chris Poynter 6GD₁



*Joseph Chapman
Year 10
Painting*

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is a national programme sponsored by major organisations such as the Department for Trade and Industry, HSBC, and Cadbury-Schweppes. The aim is to raise awareness of the world of business, by encouraging young people to set up and run businesses. Each company is supported by two advisers with entrepreneurial experience. These advisers come to school for two hours each week, helping their 'achievers' (students on the scheme) with various business roles, such as marketing, personnel management, finance and sales. During the year there are various competitions and an optional written examination. At the RGS our achievers are from the Lower Sixth form, and all students are given the opportunity to participate. This year we have had three companies, with 40 boys participating.

All of the companies have had their successes and failures. 'Gyp' started the year manufacturing slime, as a stress relief product, but had to spend many hours perfecting their production methods in order to achieve the right consistency. Almost by accident they started to provide parking for Wycombe's home games and this has made more money than their other ventures. At the Wycombe Area Board competition they were highly commended.

'Unlimited' started the year as a well-organised group who were unable to find a product. Another group had a very good product idea but poor organisation. When this group folded and a number of their directors joined 'Unlimited', and took their product with them, success quickly followed. They were rewarded with the innovation prize at the Wycombe Area Board competition and since then have organised a very profitable disco, the success of which they hope to repeat in the summer.

'Sharp Service Waiters' have had a spectacular year, winning the area competition and showing themselves to be a group of well organised, dedicated young men. Their service is of a high quality and they are currently working hard on their presentation skills in preparation for the county final.

As always we are indebted to our advisers who have provided dedication and enthusiasm to support all those taking part.

L.E.T.

Viaje escolar a Barcelona

El 26 de marzo del 2003, un grupo de estudiantes del año 10, fue a España con Señores Villatoro y Page. Salimos de RGS muy temprano — a las cinco y cuarto de la mañana. Decimos adiós a nuestros padres, y fuimos al aeropuerto de Heathrow para coger el avión.

Cuando llegamos a España, estuvimos muy cansadas, pero fuimos al Museo Marítimo y a la Pedrera. ¡La visita a La Pedrera fue fenomenal! Fue diseñado por Antoni Gaudí y no es solo un edificio sino también una obra de arte. Del tejado tuvimos una vista estupenda de Barcelona. De allí cogimos el autocar u nos fuimos a Rubí a conocer a nuestras familias españolas.

El jueves visitamos la Sagrada Familia que es una iglesia enorme. Se empezó a construir a principios del siglo XX y todavía no se ha terminado y el Parc Güell. Ambos fueron diseñados por Gaudí también. Gaudí murió antes de concluir la construcción de la catedral. En el Parc Güell vimos las tres cruces y el dragón famoso que es una fuente también.

El viernes fuimos al Parc Zoo que es muy famoso porque tiene el único gorila blanco del mundo — que se llama Copito de Nieve o Snowflake en inglés — y al acuario. Por la noche, comimos mucho. Comimos salchichas con lechuga y tortilla española. Los otros días comimos pollo, unas sopas y mucha ensalada. El desayuno no era tan fuerte como en Inglaterra pero para el almuerzo siempre había mucha comida.

El sábado fuimos a un gran parque de atracciones, Port Aventura a una hora y media de Barcelona. El Parque está dividido en cuatro zonas incluyendo la zona oriental donde se encuentra la atracción más famosa, el Dragón Khan. Era un lugar muy divertido con muchos espectáculos a ver.

Cada noche, íbamos a la plaza cercana. Todos los jóvenes en España salen hasta las nueve o las diez de la noche aunque haya colegio al día siguiente.

El último día llegamos a la parada de autobús a las diez de la mañana para salir. El viaje a Inglaterra no era malo pero no me gustó la comida en el avión. Volvimos al instituto a las cinco. Estuvimos muy cansados pero en total era una excursión muy divertida: Hablamos y aprendimos mucho español y vimos algo de la cultura española. También ¡nos divertimos a la misma vez! Quisiera decir ‘muchas gracias’ a Señor Page por ir con nosotros y a Señor Villatoro por organizar esta excursión fenomenal. Recomendaría el viaje a todos los estudiantes de español el año que viene.

Carl Svasti-Salee 10RS

World Scout Jamboree

After 2 years of non-stop camps and meetings, the final experience had now come. Yes, that's right, the 2003 World Scout Jamboree, this year being held in the exotic country of Thailand. The flight to Thailand was a long haul with 14 hrs of Super Mario Brothers, courtesy of Singapore Airlines. However after finally arriving in Thailand, all of these minor problems were forgotten, with all the scouts suddenly realising that they were going to spend the next 3 weeks in temperatures of 40°C. The first five days were spent acclimatizing in a luxury hotel, claimed to be the second largest in the world. Having left for Thailand on 23 December, Christmas Day was going to be spent in Thailand. And this was no ordinary Christmas Day, for a surprise dinner and party had been arranged for all the scouts, and to top it all off, all British scouts received a jamboree stocking from Santa Claus. The remainder of the days staying in the hotel were spent visiting some wonderful sights in Thailand, including the Reclining Buddha and many famous Wats.

Soon, however, our days staying lavishly in Thailand had ended and it was time to revert to the usual camping style.

However this was no ordinary camping style, for this type of camping involved living with 30,000 scouts from all over the world with the jamboree site reaching the size of a small town. We arrived at the jamboree site in air-conditioned coaches and savoured our last moment of air conditioning before battling the heat and insects. In addition, the sheer size of the jamboree site dilated the scouts' pupils for the weeks to come. The next day or so was spent getting used to the jamboree atmosphere and I even managed to get myself on Thai TV talking about the feel of the event. After this came the hardcore activities arranged for all the scouts, including orienteering in jungles, windsurfing and virtual cycling. However, for me, the best part of the whole jamboree was meeting the thousands of different people from around the world and it was thoroughly understood by my leaders why Swedish camps remained at the top of the lists. There was also a fair amount of community work involved and we ended up going to a Thai school and rebuilding and cleaning their drainage system, a scary job at the start but very rewarding by the finish, which brought a lot of smiles not only to the Thai children's faces but also to our faces.

Throughout the jamboree there were two main ceremonies, which were the Opening and the Closing Ceremony. Both involved the gathering of all the scouts and leaders in a central arena the size of Wembley Stadium. They displayed the vast array of cultures scattered throughout the jamboree from the Thai to the German, and there was a show from the hosts (who were the Thai people) as well as from each country taking part, a splendid sight to watch. However the end of the jamboree was fast approaching and within a matter of a few days the site would be returned to its normal state, a Thai naval base, deserted but still carrying the scent of the jamboree. Hence, after making a thousand friends and making 5 appearances on Thai TV, it was finally time to go home, back to Britain. The last goodbyes were said to our leaders, e-mails were noted and tears were shed. Nevertheless before going back, we had the privilege of going to Singapore for 5 days, most of which were spent relaxing and shopping. But the 'once in a lifetime' part of our experience had most certainly already been fulfilled, and we all arrived home safely in happy spirits.

Jitin Verma 11P



Nicholas King
Year 12
Pen and ink study

The City of London Sinfonia at the RGS

On 4 March 2003, some of the finest music I have ever heard in the Queen's Hall thrilled and delighted a packed house. Directed in the absence of Richard Hickox by their Associate Conductor, Douglas Boyd, the City of London Sinfonia showed us musicality fired with raw passion and enthusiasm in a series of showcase performances.

First off was Maurice Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* (In Memory of Couperin) in its 4 movement orchestral version, each movement being dedicated to one of the composer's friends who died in the Great War. The Sinfonia's performance mixed polish, wit and undertones of profundity, paying full justice to Ravel's brilliant orchestral flair.

Next we were given a rare treat: hearing our own grand piano played as never before in the hands of a virtuoso performer. Accompanied by the Sinfonia, Susan Tomes poured technical brilliance, passion and sheer professionalism into a stunning performance of Beethoven's *4th Piano Concerto*. As she neared the end of the final movement with its optimistic and lyrical finish, I could sense that the audience was so won over by her playing that ecstatic applause was inevitable, and I was not proved wrong.

We came back from the interval to find the orchestra swelled to nearly double its size. 17 very privileged RGS boys and 13 equally privileged Wycombe High School girls had joined the Sinfonia, each youngster sitting next to his or her instrumental mentor. Earlier in the day members of the Sinfonia had generously given of their time, experience and skills in coaching our young musicians, and performing with such consummate professionals marked for them the climax of an unforgettable experience. As the first chords of the short but striking *Gavotta* from Sergei Prokofiev's *First Symphony* rang out we were electrified. I had half expected at least some diminution in quality but what we got instead was a massive sound, full of musicality, tone and colour: a bigger Sinfonia with the same musical standards but with more resources and power. The second combined offering confirmed our impressions. The delightful *Nocturne* from Felix Mendelssohn's incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* flowed serenely along, accurately pitched strings vying for attention with the sonorous woodwind, and with Neil Cottrell's polished solo horn work at the beginning and end amply rewarded with generous acknowledgement from the conductor and prolonged applause from the packed audience. A reprise of the Prokofiev put the icing on the cake, leaving a memory of our youngsters performing as they had never done before, providing us with unparalleled entertainment and revelling in the experience.



Year 8
Colour study

The finale was magical. Douglas Boyd, now conducting just the Sinfonia, showed us all why his reputation as a distinguished conductor is so richly deserved. It was clear from the start of the concert that the orchestra relished his energetic, dynamic leadership and for Mozart's last symphony, *No. 41 in C*, he was at his most inspiring. The godlike assurance and sweep of the first movement demonstrated why the nickname 'Jupiter', which emerged some 30 years after Mozart's death, is so apposite. And in the final movement, with its six themes combining in an extraordinary feat of compositional skill, Douglas Boyd plumbed the very depths of the orchestra, raising performers to heights of passion and emotion that did full justice to the genius of the composer.

This gala performance was truly inspired. Thanks to hard work by Tim Venvell and Ian Duncalf (Chairman of the Music Society) and a host of others no less vital to success, the evening will go down as one of the most memorable in the history of the Royal Grammar School. We who were there, and especially the girls and boys who took part in the music-making, will be forever grateful for the opportunity to share with Douglas Boyd, Susan Tomes and the City of London Sinfonia a rare and unforgettable experience.

Peter Johnson
RGS Governor

Model European Parliament

Between 12 and 20 October Sixth Form students Matthew de Looze and Howard Hoare represented the United Kingdom at the 16th Model European Parliament. They, along with nine other British students, joined ten students from each of the fifteen EU states. It was the first time in the short history of the Model European Parliament that students from Poland and Slovenia, two nations waiting to join the EU in 2004, would participate.

On the Monday morning there was the opening ceremony, held in the former Irish House of Lords, where we were addressed by Mary Harney TD, Noel Dempsey TD (Minister for Education) and the Danish ambassador Erik Tygesen. We then moved on to join our committees to debate our questions. Matthew was on the committee for 'Regional Policy' whose resolution was to deal with the question of developing disadvantaged regions, both in the EU member states and in the applicant countries. I was on the committee for Culture, which was to answer the question of causes and consequences of the disaffection of young people in Europe for politics. This would occupy Monday afternoon, the whole of Tuesday and Wednesday morning, as well as further deliberation over several pints.

Again on the Saturday we started at nine in the morning but this time we had Matthew's resolution to begin the proceedings. In what could have been a difficult slot the committee for 'Regional Policy' skilfully debated their way through the questions to have their resolution passed by the General Assembly by a huge majority of eighty-six (the largest majority ever!). Then came the turn of the committee for Culture. Despite the best efforts of the French delegation who produced a speech against the resolution there was to be no stopping us as I took the opportunity to make a five minute speech in the Irish Parliament (a nerve-racking but incredible experience). The resolution passed with a large majority of forty-five. This wasn't the end as everyone said their farewells at what had become the unofficial UK headquarters, the Punchbowl pub.

After what had been an incredible week we still await the results of the European Parliament's deliberations where our resolutions had been sent.

Howard Hoare 6C₂

Benevolent Fund

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the Benevolent Fund since September. With £6,000 collected already, it has been another amazing year.

Jeans for Genes, Children in Need, Book Aid, Hazlemere JAM, Comic Relief, Scannappeal and the Marinyin Secondary School in Kenya are just a few of the local, national and international charities and organizations that have received donations from our weekly collections.

At Christmas I caused consternation at a local bank when I deposited a holdall containing £1,246.78 in cash on the counter! This was the proceeds from the Carol Service retiring collection and a special BF collection for Concern, to help them with their work in Afghanistan. If it is any consolation to the bank clerk it took a lot longer to count than to pay in!

Which brings me to the most important member of the BF team, our prefect Barry Philpot 6HK₂. His work has been invaluable and I wish him all the best in his exams and in his future.

L.W.

Photography

Another year having passed, we have all gained in ability and appreciation for this art. The year was spent brushing up our skills, as well as experimenting with different concepts. Hopefully you can see scattered throughout this magazine some pictures taken on our excursions to London, or some taken as experimental shots. Some of you may have seen some of last year's 'Leavers' Ball' photographs, which we also did, and hopefully you may see this year's too.

Unfortunately this year we were hard pressed for time, splitting our Tuesday afternoons between certain GCSE after-school sessions and Duke of Edinburgh training, both of which occurred at the same time as the Photographic Society. Subsequently we changed our schedule, and now meet on Monday afternoons.

It is always good to see new talent — we've welcomed several newcomers lately and under the right guidance they should gain an aptitude for photography. Anyone curious about photography should contact Mr Willmot for more information.

William Carter 11P



William Carter
Year 11
Photograph

Kart Club

This will probably be my last entry in this prestigious publication as I am due to retire from teaching in August 2003. This does not mean, however, that the Kart Club will die. Andrew Brant, who has helped me over more years than he or I care to remember, has foolishly agreed to operate the club with regards to organizing the paper work. He will not be available for any repair work on drivers' karts. The club will operate as it has over the last few seasons where anyone interested in racing for the school must first own a suitable racing outfit and be responsible for the upkeep and transporting of said kart to race meetings. Andrew will invariably be at most meetings for help and advice as he is a qualified MSA Marshal and a member of the National Schools' Karting Association Committee.

I have been involved in schools' karting since 1982 and have made many friends from staff, parents and pupils, during this period. I would like to pay tribute to the many organizers of countless race meetings over these years, who have given freely of their own time to introduce hundreds of pupils to the sport that is the nursery for many of today's top racing drivers and engineers, with little to no sponsorship and a safety record second to none.

I have started a new venture which you may have seen on the school web site. This is GreenPower electric car racing and we made the national finals last season at the famous Goodwood race track. We are hoping to do better this year with our Mk. 2 car. If we make the finals again in September I will probably come out of retirement to run the team!

Good luck next season to our current kart team of Robert May, Michael Zywinia and Phil Tarry

C.W.H.



Giants of Yesteryear:

*Mr Howe with the Kart Club of 1990-91. Left to right:
David Senior, Ian Danby, Michael Spraggon, Jake Conway,
Robert Beever, Craig Fines-Allin and Jonathan Tarry*

Role-Playing Club

This year at the Role-Playing Club has been very successful and active for our 15-odd regular attendees, as we have slain dragons, routed orcs, and generally made a nuisance of ourselves in a vaguely heroic way. All is fun of course — no mythical beasts were harmed in the making of this year's 'Dungeons and Dragons' campaigns. Aside from this, we have also run a small 'Magic: the Gathering' tournament, which has yet to produce an eventual winner. It has also been gratifying to note the continued interest of the lower school (most of our members are currently in Year 11 or above) in the serious business of role-playing. We hope for another successful and prosperous year, and until then, may the badgers be with you.

Alex Betteridge 11E

Royal Geographical Society Lecture

This was the annual lecture hosted by the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers at the RGS. The lecturer this January was Dr Kenneth Lynch from Kingston University who talked about 'Population, Resources and Food'.

Dr Lynch's research has mainly been in sub-Saharan Africa and his two case studies, Tanzania and Nigeria, highlighted problems of the needs of urban and rural populations and solutions to the balance between them.

In Tanzania food is mainly produced in rural areas and transported to the cities. Dr Lynch's research shows that the main problems are in communication, with farmers trying to find out about markets, and in transportation links. He pointed out that families in rural areas may, at times, support relatives in the city, contrary to popular perception, which assumes urban parts of the family are sending financial support back to rural areas.

In some sub-Saharan African cities there is now a trend towards farming for food within the city boundaries and this was illustrated by a case study of Kano in northern Nigeria. The farms are small plots rather like allotments, but can be used intensively, fertilized by recycled rubbish, and from which several crops can be grown in one year. One problem highlighted was the competition for land between agriculture and housing. A particular case was a farm on the floodplain of a river on which a crop of rice could be grown in the rainy season but which is under threat from urban development.

From this last point parallels can be drawn with our own country, and the building of houses on floodplains with occasional disastrous consequences. Dr Lynch also highlighted the connection between what we buy and the effect that it could have on the farmers of sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. Geography may be disregarded by some as a peripheral subject but in actual fact it provides an insightful and important role in the world today as Dr Lynch brilliantly exposed. This was a really useful evening for all who attended and thank you to Dr Lynch for taking the time to come to RGS.

Neil Kelleher 6GD₁ and Chris Poynter 6GD₁

German Exchange

Imagine this: a school where girls walk the corridors and sit in lessons; where pupils don't wear uniforms; where there is no daily form period, no assembly, no hymn singing; where older pupils may puff their fags in a smokers' area on the school playground; where school ends at half past one each day... where is this other Eden, this demi-paradise?

Well, it's the Ratsgymnasium in Osnabrück actually, and in the week before the Easter vacation 35 pupils from Years 9 and 10 travelled there on the return leg of this year's German exchange.

The Ratsgymnasium is a grammar school of roughly the same size as RGS but as pointed out above, life is not quite as we know it. What did the RGS guys make of it all? We did a little survey and the results were not quite predictable.

Girls, and no afternoon school, were predictably popular: 81% favoured co-education and 87% supported the 'continental day'. The benefits of abandoning school uniform were not so widely appreciated, attracting only 67% support, and 75% were opposed to the creation of a 'smokers' area' at school.

We also had the opportunity to travel to some neighbouring towns and cities. We enjoyed guided cultural tours and German language practising activities in Bremen, Hamlin and Münster.

A.S.C.

Munich Trip, July 2002

In July last year, shortly after the end of term, 4 RGS German scholars left for Munich, Germany, on a trip sponsored by BAE Systems to visit factories and offices in Germany, learn about their work practices, and brush up on our German.

Chris Greenwood, Tim Hoult, Sebastian Burton and I teamed up with students from Aylesbury Grammar and Farnborough College and flew off to Munich, where we stayed at the Haus International youth hostel.

All meals were paid for — as were the flights and accommodation, leaving us free to spend any money on whatever we wanted to.

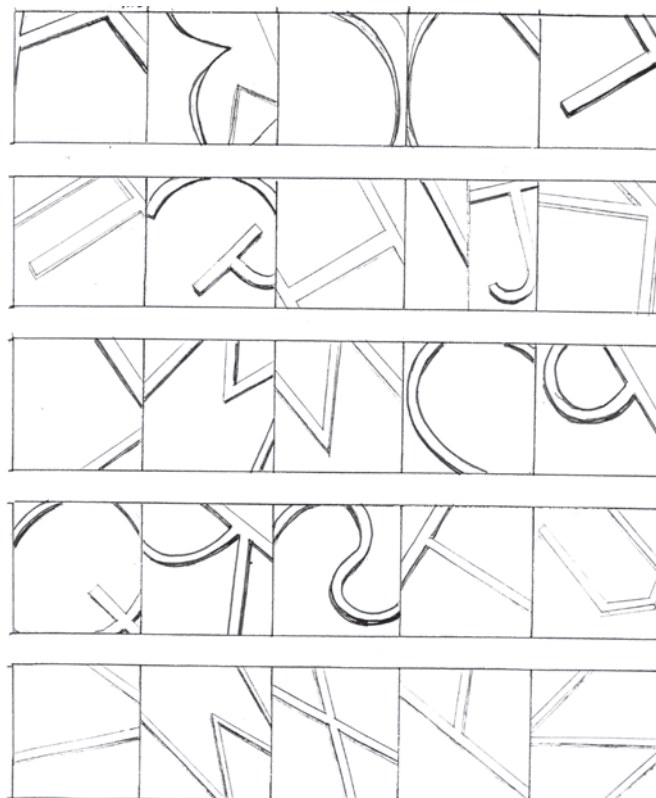
We saw Eurofighter in the process of being built, and we visited the sights of the beautiful city that is Munich, including the Olympia-Stadion, where England beat Germany 5—1, and the whole of the Olympic Park. We also visited places of historical interest including the majestic Frauenkirche or 'Lady's Church', and the Water Gardens of Salzburg.

The whole trip was very well organised, as one might expect from our German hosts! In the morning we would visit — alternately — either a factory or place of social interest. After lunch we would return, and the latter part of the afternoons belonged to us. On several occasions we made our way to a local park for an impromptu — later to become regular — game of football.

In the evenings, with the help of two trainees at BAE Systems hired to look after us, we went out in Munich, enjoying the local drinking culture (everyone 16 or upwards was permitted to join in, so no problem for us!).

In conclusion, then, a brilliant holiday, with the right balance to interest the engineers amongst us — but not bore the others — and plenty of fun elsewhere. Best wishes to those going this year. You'll have a great time!

Aled Seys Llewellyn 6LY₂



Nicholas Drofiak
Year 9
'Puzzle alphabet'

Design & Technology Tournament

In March, eight boys from Year 10 took part in the annual D&T Tournament, which involved producing a mobile crane mechanism capable of lifting, transporting and lowering a load in a tightly controlled manner. The teams were each given pulleys, a 3V motor, elastic bands, wheels and various other materials.

From being set their problem at 9.30 a.m., the team had to design and build a workable device by 2.00 p.m. Out of the twelve competing teams in their age range, the RGS team came first, winning a cheque for the D&T department of £100.

The team that won included Ben Francis, Jay Vincent, Tom Grimble and Nick Haynes. The other team, who also produced an impressive design solution, were William Taylor, Krishan Patel, George Thompson and Chris Webb.

D.P.M.



*Alex Bunn
Year 11
Acrylic painting*

Fraser-Youens House

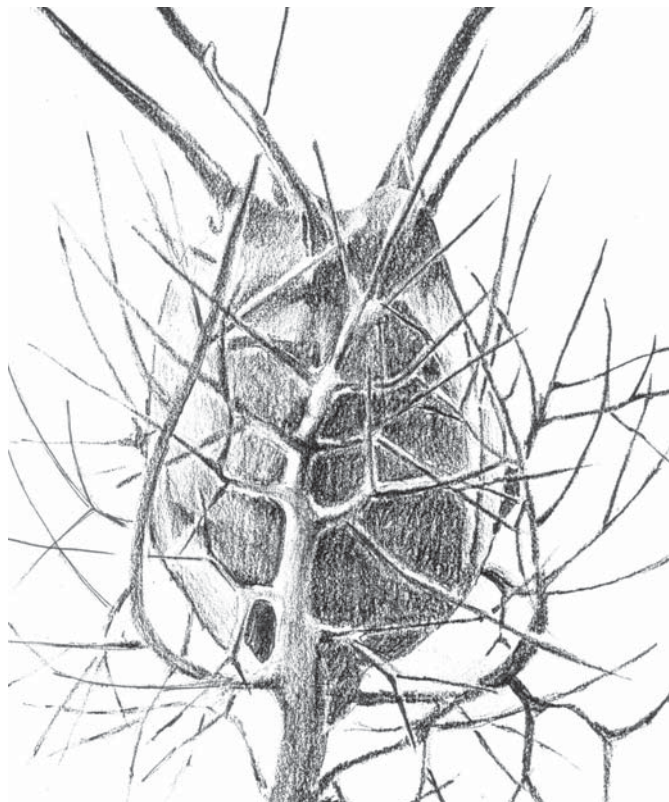
We're winding down from what has been a thoroughly enjoyable and productive year in the boarding house. With it, comes the end of an era, with the last of the old boys who experienced life in the old boarding house leaving this year.

Earlier this year, we held the annual boarding house five-a-side football tournament, which is affectionately known as the Dislocation Cup. This year's proud winners were Team Rees.

On a less positive note, we lost the services of Mr Woolliams as a house tutor. To commemorate his time in boarding, we held a staff vs boarders football tournament, with the Year 12s being eventual winners.

Congratulations to everyone in boarding for an excellent year all round!!

Pallav Shah 6BP₂



*Grahame Fischer
Year 10
Drawing*

The Man Who Came to Dinner

This year's main school dramatic production in March was Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Delightfully handled by the director, Oliver Godfrey, this comedy has to be a gift for any director, presenting as it does a smorgasbord of cameo roles giving wonderful opportunities for young actors and actresses to develop and practise their acting talents.

The play revolves around an off-stage accident in which a famous 30s radio broadcaster and critic, Sheridan Whiteside, slips and injures his hip outside the Stanley residence in a small town in Ohio. The family therefore have to put him up — and put up with him — over the Christmas period.

Alistair Cohen was magnificent in his role as the pompous, cunning and waspish Whiteside, a role that demanded not only his presence on stage for almost the entire play but also necessitated the skilful manipulation of a 30s wheelchair. Even when this chair jammed on the second night and Alistair had to rely upon some clever improvisation with Tom Ravenscroft, the male servant, the performance continued seamlessly and with true professionalism.

The house is completely taken over by Whiteside and an assortment of his wacky friends, much to the chagrin of the long suffering Mr Stanley (Creag Louttit) and his frothy headed wife, Sara Maer.

The mad Professor Metz (Jae Chul Nomura) presents Whiteside with a colony of cockroaches while the streetwise and flirtatious Banjo actually presents him with an Egyptian Mummy case. A nightmare for the props department but accomplished with absolute aplomb by Diana Hazzard.

Further complications arise when Whiteside's faithful secretary Maggie, played with flair by Georgina Strawson, falls in love with local newspaper reporter and would-be playwright Bert Jefferson (Michael Lavers). Whiteside pulls out all the stops to block the romance, including using the glamorous stage star Lorraine Sheldon (Fiona Hamilton) to divert Bert.



Alistair Cohen as 'the Man who came to Dinner', with some unusual visitors!

Jonathan Overton gave a delightful performance of the Noel Coward-inspired character Beverly Carlton, and his rendition of the Cole Porter song *What am I to do?*, written especially for the play under the pseudonym, Noel Porter, was totally appropriate for the context. The 'live' jazz quintet was inspired and ensured that the continuity between scenes was flawless and upbeat.

The Stanley children were played with appropriate innocence and vigour by Mark Penwill and Naomi Foster and their somewhat implausible rebellion and defiance of their parents was convincingly handled. The laconic Doctor Bradley (Aled Seys Llewellyn) was just right, as was a personal favourite of mine, Harriet Stanley, the eccentric sister of the master of the home whose pre-Raphaelite intensity and expert comic timing was a joy to behold.

The remaining parts are an assortment of convicts, policemen and neighbours who all contributed admirably to the drama and added just the right amount of colour and background to the proceedings.

As ever, a production is only as good as its support network and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* was no exception. Rob Stevens once again produced a stylish set with an appropriate number of entrances and exits for a farce of this nature. Andrew Balaam and his team of lighting technicians illuminated it expertly, and the sound team under the direction of David Marshall provided a faultless service of doorbells and traffic noise.

Finally the costumes, many made specially for this production by parents Sally Finn and Mary Webb, were totally appropriate for the era and complemented perfectly the style of the piece.

Add to these the people in the background, the make-up ladies, the publicity, box office and front of house, and you have a giant of a production which does credit to Oliver Godfrey, and to the two schools.

P.G.C.

Hangzhou, Summer 2002

Following the highly successful trip to Beijing in 2001, our Mandarin class were also given the opportunity last year to travel to China in July/August 2002, but this time to the southern city of Hangzhou, with a stay in Shanghai at the end of the trip. The aim of the course was to learn more about China and its people, immerse ourselves in Chinese culture and to improve our Mandarin language skills.

After a gruelling 16-hour journey on plane and coach to get to Hangzhou, most were pleasantly surprised by the standard of accommodation in the Foreign Students' Dormitory of

Zhejiang University, where we stayed, especially after having heard the horror stories from the last year. Before our lessons started in the morning, we had a session of t'ai chi, a traditional form of exercise, influenced by martial arts. Our lessons consisted of two hours of Mandarin in the morning, taught by very able and enthusiastic teachers, which improved our vocabulary and communication skills. In the afternoon we normally had a lecture on an aspect of Chinese society and culture, or an excursion.

Our meals were all provided by the University, and were all generally very good. Some complained that the food was repetitive, leading to several visits to KFC and Pizza Hut, and it was true that egg-fried rice, for example, was an invariable part of the diet. However, many Chinese dishes were served alongside the staple parts of the diet, such as beef, chicken, different fish, vegetable soup, and many others.

Hangzhou is very famous amongst the Chinese for its beauty spots, and our excursions in and around the city took in many such scenic sites, all very impressive, especially Hangzhou's main attractions, the West Lake and Lingyin Si, an elaborate temple complex in beautiful grounds. The RGS group visited Shanghai, China's biggest city, twice during the trip. On one occasion we stayed with families of pupils at Yanan School, a partner school of the RGS. This was in many ways the most daunting aspect of the visit, as we were left to rely on our Chinese (or, just as often, our partner's English), but personally I can say my hosts were very hospitable and gave a very interesting tour of Shanghai and some excellent food.

The second visit, at the end of the trip, was full of sightseeing. We visited Nanking Lu, Shanghai's main shopping street, as crowded as Oxford Street, with just as many designer stores. The city's past as a collection of colonial outposts is reflected in the impressive Western architecture on the banks of the Yangtze River, known as the Bund, which we saw illuminated at night on a river cruise. Shanghai is also home to some of the world's tallest buildings, the Jinmao Tower and the Oriental Pearl Tower, both offering stunning views over the city and both only properly visible from the other.

The trip left us all with an impression of a diverse and rapidly changing country, and above all of its welcoming, friendly people, its natural beauty and its long, varied history. I think everyone would agree it was a successful and unforgettable experience.

Jas Khera 6LY₂



David Horley, Andrew Keane and Mrs Frost eye suspiciously a bowl of shark's fin soup, garnished with quail's eggs, in Hangzhou, July 2002



Richard Hewitt
Year 11
Sculpture



Robin Price, James Rogers, Matthew Exton, Timothy Stevenson
Year 7
Mixed media



Christopher Record
Year 11
Mixed media acrylic painting



Nicholas Williams
Year 11
Direct plaster sculpture



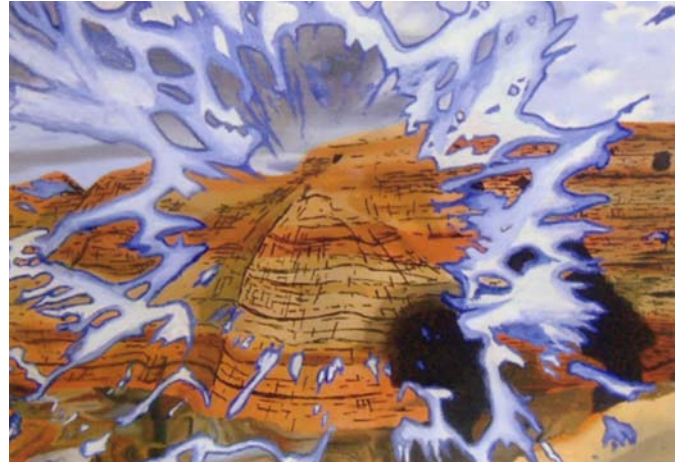
David Blair
Year 11
Plaster relief



Christopher Mayne
Year 12
Mixed media painting



*Robert Sutcliffe, Tom Wilde, Tom Vennell, David Robinson
Year 9
Mixed media*



*Edward Thompson
Year 12
Painting*



*Ben Smith
Year 12
Life drawing*



*Dorian Proudfoot
Year 12
Painting*



*Peter Shadbolt
Year 11
Mixed media painting (detail)*



*Christopher Sanderson
Year 11
Painting*



*Year 10
Pastel
Natural Forms*

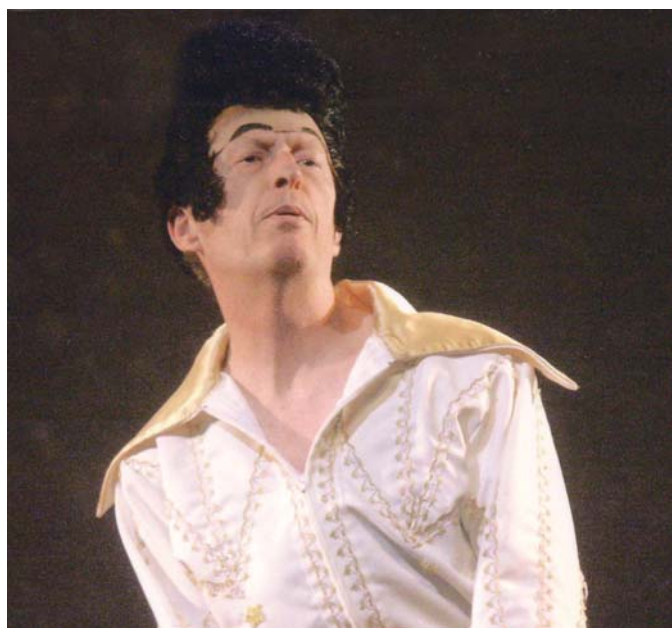
'You're Having a Staff!'

I have written in another time and place about the history of the Staff Revues: suffice it that they go back a long way. This was the last one in my time at the RGS — though I hope not the last ever. In 2000, I think that most of us felt enough was enough, but I also knew I had only two years left, without remission for good behaviour. The other three members of the Revue 'Steering Committee' agreed 'they had one more left in them', and we went from there. And anyway, Revues are addictive: after a while you get withdrawal symptoms. So if, in 2002, you noticed various teachers starting to twitch, then that was why. (Apart from the ones who always twitch, obviously. That's something different.)

So, from the performer's viewpoint, what were the highs? For the four of us who wrote/composed it, probably the 'committee meetings', where we got through several bottles of wine and a stack of totally unpublishable jokes. The downs, as always, were the technical/dress rehearsals: co-ordinating actors, lighting and sound teams, and musicians — musicians are a real pain, believe me — is not a good time. How a truly terrible evening's rehearsal turns into a triumphant first night is way beyond me, but it's happened every time since 1970. It's a tribute to the continual talent in RGS staff, and just as much to the lads in the sound gallery and the lighting gantry. Also, this year's Stage Manager, Ben Saunders, was outstanding.

Another high, for me, was the number of people who got involved: including all the musicians (I love them, really), and ushers, and all the ladies who made up the 'Ma'ams', about forty staff took part. Which I personally find amazing, but intensely gratifying. A Staff Revue is extremely time-consuming, not to mention stressful, and teachers do have enough to worry about without that, I can tell you. So I've an enormous debt to all sorts of people, without whom this revue couldn't have happened, but particularly to Sandra Purdy and Pippa Gamester, for their work with props, costumes, music, choreography, etc. etc. Pippa has choreographed revues several times now, and, trust me, it's a thankless task: not too many staff have dancing feet. (I should also mention Ed Gamester here, for teaching both Deputy Heads, and others, the latest moves from the dance floor. And not laughing ... very much.) On a purely selfish note, finally, 'You're Having a Staff' gave me a chance to be Elvis Presley. Who could ask for more?

I.A.B.



'A little less conversation and a little more action, please.'
Mr Blyth as Elvis Presley in the Staff Revue



Mr Marshall and Miss Dodds take a well-earned rest at the Hotel 'Lac D'Ifini' on the edge of the Atlas Mountains. The hotel had only one working toilet and three World Challenge Teams!

First Challenge: Morocco 2002

During the 2002 summer holidays, a team of 16 boys from Years 7 and 8, accompanied by Miss Dodds and Mr Marshall, took part in the First Challenge Expedition to Morocco. We arrived in Marrakesh, after changing flights at Casablanca, in the early hours of Saturday morning. Thirsty, hungry and sleepy, we tried to get a few hours' rest at the Hotel Ali.

The next morning we were awake and ready to go. Mini-buses took us from Marrakesh to the Café Lac D'Ifini, our base for the next few days. We arrived at midday in blistering hot sunshine and settled down for the afternoon after being briefed on such issues as hygiene and water.

On Sunday the group began the acclimatisation trek. The weather was hot and the terrain was steep, proving for some boys to be quite a challenge. We reached our base and were able to reflect on the day's trek and what we had learnt. That night our hosts managed to play a few tricks on us which either resulted in getting wet, hit on the head with a spoon, or, as in our teachers' case, being tied up together.

On Monday we left early for the first half of our main trek, leading up to a camper's refuge. It was a long, challenging day of climbing although we still managed to see some great views along the way. That night we slept well, preparing for our ascent of Mount Toubkal, one of the highest peaks in the High Atlas Mountains.

On Tuesday morning we awoke at 6 a.m. only to find that the wind was too harsh to attempt the summit, so it was decided that our group should try a nearer, slightly less challenging peak of 12,500 feet. Our group returned to the camp at midday having been successful.

Upon arrival at Marrakesh we were able to go into the souks to practise haggling. Some were very good at it while others were fairly awful. We returned to the Hotel Ali, very pleased with our souvenirs and later that evening, celebrated the birthday of one of our team members, James Dawkins.

Despite a seven-hour delay at Casablanca Airport on the return journey, the expedition turned out to be a very memorable, exciting and enjoyable experience.

Russell Bailey 9B

Bar National Mock Trials

Despite enjoying eight weeks' less preparation time than other teams, 15 members of RGS Upper Sixth travelled to last November's Bar National Mock Trial Competition in Oxford's Crown Courts with optimism. The set up of the competition was designed to be as realistic as possible. We were given two cases and had to prepare two advocates to defend and prosecute both cases working together, as well as provide a jury, witnesses, a court clerk, jury bailiff, usher and even court reporter. The venue and judges were even real! We were awarded marks from the judge on everything from the quality of our advocates' examinations and cross-examinations, how well our witnesses knew their statements, the accuracy of our court staff and even our observance of court etiquette, all the time abiding by rules of evidence and conduct. The judge decided who won (the outcome of the trials were irrelevant).

The first three rounds were in a league system; we first defended in a road traffic accident case. The case went well with our advocates portraying the complainer as a reckless student in a hurry home, who didn't look when he crossed the road! Our witnesses played the defendant and one of her friends convincingly, and didn't give much to the other advocates. We also had to defend for this case, meaning our advocates had to know both sides of the argument and we had to provide defence witnesses.

Next, we were prosecuting an alleged assault case on a student by a member of staff at a hockey match! In each of the three rounds, the judge decided that our team was the strongest and so, unexpectedly, we ended up as finalists!



M'learned friends, Max Guttfield, Imran Afzal and Ross Sanderson, senior partners in the law firm Sue, Grabbit and Run

For the final we were prosecuting in the assault case. The case started as is customary with the usher opening the door for the judge and shouting 'Court rise!' Having already had a run through in the previous round, we were slightly more spontaneous this time and our witnesses knew exactly what to say when we examined them. However they had to face tough cross-examinations and their witnesses were also very 'difficult', in particular the defendant who when cross-examined proved very difficult to crack! The courtroom was tense, as it would have been in a real trial; both teams knew that the result would be close. When the advocates delivered their closing speeches and the jury was led out, no one knew who the judge would award the most points to. The jury found the defendant not guilty, maintaining our faith in the legal system! The judge was led back into the courtroom and,

after saying that he thought there was little difference between the final and a real courtroom, announced that the other team had won by only 3 points! Although we missed out on the opportunity to go to Edinburgh for the national final, the whole team did extremely well and no one expected us to reach the final after so little preparation time. Congratulations must go to the whole team, and thanks to all who assisted us, not least Mrs Allfrey.

Ross Sanderson 6BP₂



*Alex Berry
Year 11
Sculpture*

Public Speaking

January at Wycombe Abbey saw RGS achieve its customary domination of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition, winning half the prizes.

In the Senior Section, an Upper Sixth team composed of Imran Afzal, Nivraj Bhambher, and Max Guttfield, spoke on 'Style or Substance?', analyzing our contemporary obsession with youth, glamour, and attractiveness, in preference to more valuable qualities. Despite this being their first — and only — appearance in the competition, the team did spectacularly well against stiff competition to secure second prize. The Year 11 team, Byron Thomas, Guy Burkitt, Philip O'Hagan, spoke on 'Hot coffee — hot water', a critique of society's increasing litigiousness and risk-aversion. Unfortunately, though the team had won prizes two years in a row, and turned in a fine performance, the judges unaccountably failed to reward their merits — but they will seek vindication next year.

In the Junior Section both teams, drawn from Years 8 and 9, were newcomers to the competition. The David Maunder, Jordan Anderson, Martyn Smith team spoke on 'Heroism', dissecting the qualities heroes should possess and how we might allow such people to influence us in our ordinary lives. The judges awarded them third prize for this thought-provoking — and rhetorical — exposition. Stars of the evening were the Jack Merriman, Matthew Dawes, and Christopher Finn team, whose presentation on 'The generation gap' concluded that there was, in the end, no such thing, as everything comes back into vogue sooner or later. The team won top prize — a remarkable success for first-timers.

We look forward to further success next year. My thanks to Dr Ling for doing such a good job coaching the junior teams.

M.J.S.

Junior Vulture

As a newcomer to Junior Vulture, I can now say, having been on the trips, that it was a good decision to join.

Our first excursion this year was to see the thriller *Sleuth* at the Apollo Theatre in London. This is one of my favourite plays — it was really exciting with a complicated and clever storyline and some hilarious scenes that left us in stitches! I would enjoy seeing this production again as the combination of great comedy and thrilling suspense has made it one of the best pieces of theatre I have seen! Even more impressive when you realise it had a cast of just two actors! On the same excursion we also visited the National Gallery, where we have professional tour guide Mrs Whalley to thank for an informative and very interesting tour of some fascinating impressionist paintings.

Our next trip was to the Millennium Wheel and to see *The Nutcracker* at Sadler's Wells. The Millennium Wheel was great and thankfully the clouds had for once obeyed the weatherman and the sky was clear — we could see all over London! The highlight of the trip was, of course, Tchaikovsky's fantastic, if pleasantly insane, ballet, in a new and much hyped production by Matthew Bourne. The 'Nutcracker' was all it was 'cracked' up to be and was a cracking production (pardon the awful puns). The costumes and set designed by Anthony Ward were fantastic, imaginative and original — a grand day out was had by all.

Our third trip was to the Courtauld Institute, and the highly acclaimed *My Fair Lady*. The Courtauld Institute was one of those places you visit, then wonder why you had never been there before! It has a great art collection including works by Manet, Van Gogh, Picasso, Kandinsky and Barbara Hepworth. There was also a huge square in the centre of the buildings, which was about eight times the size of the RGS Quadrangle, with a giant fountain system in the middle — projecting about a hundred high jets of water, a huge version of the fountains at Frogmoor in Wycombe! *My Fair Lady* was a jolly musical and although the good Mr Cowburn tried to frighten us with stories of ghosts in the theatre, I think everyone enjoyed it.

In the summer term we look forward to our fourth and final trip of the year when we visit the Globe Theatre in London, which is famous for being open-air with the audience standing to watch the performance as they would have done in Shakespeare's day. I hope the weather is fine and dry for the occasion!

Thanks go to Mr Cowburn, Mrs Whalley, Mrs Frost and Matron for giving up their time and arranging all of our brilliant trips.

Nicholas Drofiak 9S



Harry Bugden
Year 12
Ink and wash study



Christopher Sanders
Year 9
Pencil 'Puzzle Alphabet'

Senior Vulture

From ballets to comedies via hit musicals, Senior Vulture members have been treated to the finest West End theatre once again this year.

We began our whistle-stop cultural tour at the Garrick Theatre with the Olivier Award winning *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, a typically black Irish comedy set in Northern Ireland. Martin McDonagh's play damns the culture of violence by highlighting its absurdity through an excess of both human and feline death — hilarious, shocking and explicitly violent.

In contrast, our next visit was a more classical choice, to the National Ballet's production of *Swan Lake*. Tchaikovsky's fantastic score was beautifully performed and our seats not only allowed us to appreciate this but also the lovingly restored Royal Opera House. Although the ballet was not to everyone's taste we all enjoyed the new experience and unique atmosphere.

Salman Rushdie's kaleidoscopic epic *Midnight's Children* was next to be subjected to the Vultures' critical gaze. Adapted from the Booker Prize winning novel, the play starts off during the partition of India in 1947, and interweaves one man's and one nation's history. Visually and technically stunning, the scope and complexity of the novel were difficult to cram into such a short performance.

We finished our year at the crowd pleasing musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi. Recently adapted into an Oscar winning film, it is the story of two showgirls in a Chicago jail searching for fame and freedom. This frenzy of exhilarating dance and toe-tapping music left us all breathless and we all agreed it was better in the flesh than on the screen.

All Vulture members would like to thank Mrs Frost and Mr Cowburn for another stimulating year, sadly for some of us our last.

Philip Chandler 6LM₂

Global Young Leaders' Conference, July 2002

In July 2002, five RGS boys (Edward Thompson, Robert Moore, Dominic Wisdom, Tim Norris and I) as well as one other boy from John Hampden (Tommy Brookes) embarked on what was going to be a memorable trip. This unique trip allowed us to experience the inside of the UN Headquarters in New York and the Department of State in Washington, which wouldn't be available on your average trip to the US.

After arriving at the George Washington University in DC we had little time to relax and talk to other students before getting into a very hectic schedule. A first step was to assign each one of us to a certain country which we would represent in various international simulations over the subsequent two weeks.

The simulations played an important part in the course as they enabled the students to develop their communication and analytical skills, and seek solutions to problems. Examples of simulations included solving international trade disputes with the World Trade Organisation, and articulating UN resolutions when an aggressor attacked another country. The main simulation at the end took place at the UN in New York. This was a mock Global Summit whereby the students represented the country they had been assigned to. The students had to come up with resolutions concerning issues such as weapons of mass destruction, the environment and war crimes. At the Global Summit, students had to decide what resolutions should pass.

In addition to the various simulations that took place, we attended many speeches during the day which discussed various current affairs issues. The speeches covered subjects such as bio-terrorism, human rights, the world environment and the world economy — this latter one took place at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. One of the most interesting speeches was by James Mawdsley, someone who'd spent the last five years of his life in a Burmese prison. He talked about his experiences and the terrible human rights atrocities that take place in the country. What amazed me the most about this man was his sheer determination to fight for what is right, even if it meant spending time in prison.

However, the best part of this trip was the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. For example, America, the UAE and Norway were some of the countries represented. During the time we shared our experiences of different cultures — something that was quite an eye-opener. For example, one of my room mates from Mauritius told me that his education system made him do his A Levels in February and so he'd spent the last six months up until the conference just partying — not a bad life. I believe that this course gave me a new outlook on leadership as well as allowing me to make friends who I would never forget. I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone contemplating going.

Jasdeep Hunjan 6SF₂



Our future global leaders holding a calm and rational discussion

Parents' Association

We have a very active Parents' Association, which raises around £20,000 a year — and has great fun doing so! The funds we raise are used to provide a variety of items and equipment for boys and staff. During the past two years PA funds have provided a new kitchen adjacent to the Queen's Hall. As well as being used for PA functions, the kitchen is also hired out to other RGS societies and outside companies for their fund raising events. The PA has also provided new lighting for the Queen's Hall, a photo ID machine for the boys' 'smartcards', a digital camera for school use, new hymn books and water fountains. We are currently saving for a minibus, which we hope to be able to buy early next year. The money is raised through various events, starting with a social evening for parents of new boys in September. This is followed by the Autumn Ball, Xmas Party, the very popular Quiz Night and one other event. This year we held an Antiques Valuation Day/Craft Fair, which was a great success. We also offer help at the Carol Service and the annual school prize giving.

Mark Stewart

Chess

This has been another solid year for the RGS Chess squad under the continued leadership of Mr Booth, and in the acquisition of new blood in Year 7, two of whom have gone straight into the 1st team.

Unfortunately, in the *Times* National Chess Championships we lost in the first round yet again to Dr Challoner's Grammar School by a 4—2 score. However, the two RGS players who won their matches were Edward Basham of 7P and Christie Goodman of 7C. These players have continued to show much potential throughout the season.

In the Buckinghamshire Youth Chess League, thankfully, we have had better results. RGS 1, consisting of Adam Bailey (captain), Jon Stock, Alex Niedzwiedski, Sean Hale, Edward Basham and Christie Goodman, performed creditably, winning versus Sir William Borlase, Hamilton School, and Caldicott. Unfortunately, they suffered yet another annual round of savage beatings at the hands of Dr Challoner's Grammar School, who subsequently went on to win the league. Special recognition, however, ought to go to Edward Basham and Christie Goodman for their achievements in the first team, rivalling some of our most experienced players.

In Division Two of the Bucks Youth Chess League, RGS 2, mostly consisting of Mark Snaith (captain), Alex Fryer, James Ralphs, Jonathan Ooi, Matthew Plato and Michael Ball, won the division, with victories in all four of their matches versus Gateway, Ridgeway, Caldicott, and Chalfont Chess Club. Congratulations to all those involved.

Last, but by no means least, the UK Chess Challenge is currently underway. 18 players — a record number for the RGS — are taking part, and it appears that a healthy number will qualify for the 'Regional Megafinal', and maybe some will go even further to the 'National Gigafinal', as did Adam Bailey, Jon Stock, and Sean Hale last year. Special mention should go, once again, to Edward Basham for, at the time of going to press, he may well be on course for an unbeaten run of 7 wins in the RGS leg of this event, an occurrence which has not happened in several years.

Congratulations to all those involved, and the very best of luck for next year!

Full colours were awarded to Jonathan Stock; half colours were awarded to Sean Hale; junior colours were awarded to Mark Snaith, Alex Fryer, James Ralphs, Edward Basham, and Christie Goodman.

Jonathan Stock 6HR₁

Rugby

1st XV

Played 18 Won 15 Drawn 0 Lost 3 For 431 Against 172

For the 1st XV to be recognised as the National School Team of the Month in the April edition of *Rugby World* was a fitting tribute for a team that had produced a much better season than I had expected. Yet they will know in their hearts that if only they had had a ruthless edge both on and off the field, they could have really reached their potential.

The season started at the end of July as 36 boys and staff made their way to South Africa for a three-week tour. Matches were won and lost, new friendships made, and significantly we all gained in knowledge, particularly by visiting and playing in a black township, which is a humbling experience. Everywhere we went we were made to feel welcome. It is a wonderful country and I am sure that many of our party will return one day.

Returning home our opening match was a feast of running rugby as we defeated John Fisher 40—23. Victory in the 'lion's den' at Millfield 12—5 showed that the team had a real spirit when it wanted, but a lacklustre performance at Harrow 10—36 brought reality back to the season. The team regrouped and cut loose with an outstanding display in a new fixture away at Bedford School 51—3. Colston's again showed why they are the best schoolboy team in England by beating us at home 11—16 in a fiercely contested game. Victories over Abingdon and Windsor (*Daily Mail* Cup) gave the squad confidence for the St Joseph's Festival.

Defeat against Blackrock College, Ireland, 3—6 having had the opportunities to win the game was a disappointment, but good wins over Brighton College and Campion took us into the main competition on Sunday. The first day had taken its toll of injuries and the squad was going to be severely tested. In adversity, perhaps, the squad found its real strength, and all pulled together for a magnificent victory over Wellington College 15—0. Despite a good win over Bradford GS, Colston's were again to be our stumbling block as they defeated us on their way to winning the competition.

Returning to the season Cheltenham College were beaten 10—0 in a new fixture and Bromsgrove lost their unbeaten record 28—5 as RGS scored 5 tries. In the cup Claires Court fell 55—5 and Portsmouth GS 39—5 as the team started to put a string of victories together. Another new fixture saw Uppingham visit us for the first time and leave defeated 22—10, and further victories against Bedford Modern and Hampton followed.

The problems of exams now really impinge on the spring term rugby calendar. Having reached the last 16 of the *Daily Mail* Cup, team preparation was extremely difficult. In a repeat of last year's fixture at this stage RGS again visited Downside School, Bath, who were unbeaten. With an outstanding display of forward dominance, combined with their best defensive performance of the season, RGS came away 22—0 victors. St Olave's were beaten before the team had to face Campion in the quarter-finals of the *Daily Mail* Cup away from home on a waterlogged pitch in mid February. The 1st XV had not been beaten for four months, but on the day in difficult conditions the spark had vanished, silly mistakes were made and they lost 0—7. They will always ponder the question 'if only' or 'what if?'

Throughout the year the team had an inspirational captain in Tom Rees who always led by example and in most games played 'as a man amongst boys'. His selection for the England U19 World Cup squad came as no surprise, although

he and the team were disappointed that injury prevented him playing in our final games of the season. When Tom was not available Anthony Peck as vice-captain showed the class which earned him a place in the England U18 XV Sept. 1st team. Many players gained representative honours. Simon Tattersall played for the England U18 XV Jan. 1st team in an uncapped match and he also joined Andrew Daniel and James Honeyben in the England South XV.

We will miss the talents of the large numbers of boys leaving the senior squads this year and wish them well in the future. Recent months have rocked the heart of RGS rugby with the untimely deaths of David Zair and Nick Duncombe. David worked tirelessly as Chairman of the Friends of RGS Rugby, raising funds for the domestic season and tours, and rarely missing a game. From an early age Nick's talent on a rugby field was clear for everybody to see. With his cheeky grin and real zest for life England and RGS have been robbed of a real star in the making.

Finally for me it seems strange to be stepping away after 19 very enjoyable years. Ironically I have probably spent more time with other people's children than my own. I would like to thank all the staff, parents, and players who have been part of our adventure to all parts of the world, which has contributed to many memories. To the four founding members of FRORGS, and to the subsequent members of that committee who have continued their good work, there is a special thank you. Without the money generated by FRORGS the rugby programme could not be fulfilled.

In the last six years the 1st XV have won 107 out of 125 games played, which is an outstanding record. Pride is about personal responsibility in delivering excellence, and I hope that those boys who have played for the school and those that will play for the school will always remember this and keep up the traditions of RGS rugby.

Next year is a new challenge for all of us and I wish the new squad of players every success under the leadership of Jon Scourfield. They are in safe hands.

C.C.T.



Anthony Taylor
Year 8

Detail of conté and graphite drawing

2nd XV

I'd like to say well done to Mr Turner and the lads for an amazing season, and some high standard rugby. We were obviously the best team in the school this year, winning all but one of our matches. You'd best beat Colston's next year lads! Despite many difficulties, including the theft of our players by the firsts, we dominated this year's seconds matches, with noteworthy performances such as Millfield 53—0 away, and Abingdon 97—0 in 37 minutes! Well done, good luck next year boys, and thanks for a fantastic year of rugby.

Tom Oldnall 6HR₂
Captain

3rd XV

This was an excellent season for an extremely talented 3rd XV. The first training session saw 35 players competing for places and thus it is no surprise that we were never short of players and could have fielded a 4th XV on a number of occasions.

The season began with a massive victory over John Fisher, and this paved the way for similar wins over Bedford, Bromsgrove, Uppingham, Abingdon, Harrow and Hampton. The match away at Millfield was a hard fought encounter that resulted in a well-earned draw, and we suffered two defeats in close games at Colston's and John Hampden. Against John Hampden, we played very well to restrict their 1st team to an 11—0 scoreline and this new fixture, watched by a large crowd, should be repeated in future.

Inevitably, many boys represented the 3rd XV, but the constant flow of players in and out of the team did not disrupt the rhythm or high level of skill that was maintained throughout the season. We tried to play adventurous running rugby at all times. Some, notably Christian Walker and Harry Bugden, were promoted to the 2nd and held down places there. Others, for example Tom Davies, Craig Ting and Ben Masters, played regularly for the 3rd XV, but in another year would have been at least 2nd XV players. It is perhaps invidious to mention other individuals who were consistent starters for the 3rd XV, but particular stalwarts worthy of mention are Barry Philpot, Anthony Gavin, Edward Jones, Tom Power, Craig Wright and Tom Henderson.

It was a privilege to captain the 3rd XV this year, in what was a really enjoyable season and finally I would like to thank Mr Cousins to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for his dedicated coaching.

Howard Davies 6C₂

U16 XV

The U16 'A' XV faced a season of great contrast, and places were not easy to gain and keep, which meant that the team was rarely the same from week to week. Any memories of undefeated seasons had to be put aside as the team experienced more losses this year than all the previous years put together. However, it wasn't all doom and gloom as what was a small-sized side played some fantastic rugby and never lacked commitment. In the first game against John Fisher, a display of free-flowing, fast rugby resulted in an excellent 43—7 victory.

The following week left the side with 7 regular players missing, and a brave forwards' battle against Millfield resulted in a narrow loss. The next three games against Harrow, Bedford and Colston's exposed any instability and weaknesses in the team as they suffered three defeats. In each game the points margin was narrow and there's no doubt that, against each team, a win by 20 points was well within reach. In the Thursday match against Harrow RGS led by 17 points

but managed to throw away their lead as paceman Philip Rodgers broke his arm, leaving a wing exposed for a large Harrow winger to exploit. The half-term was reached on a high note with a good 44—0 win against Abingdon and a 7—7 draw with Wellington.

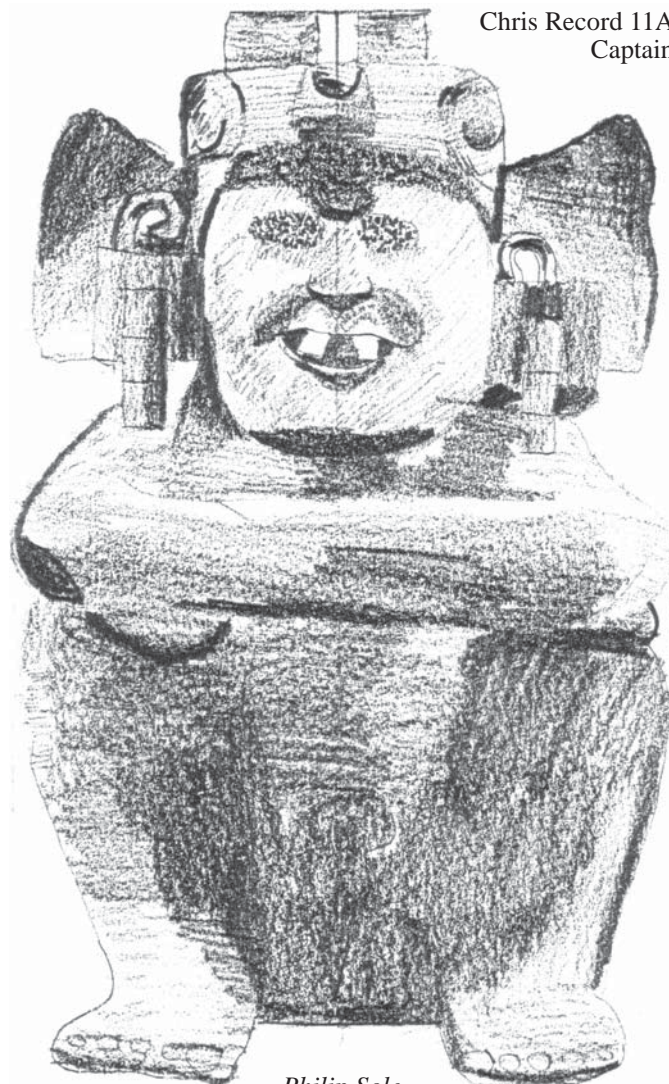
After the break there were promising victories over Cheltenham, Berkhamsted and Bedford Modern. However, the best performance of the season came in London against rivals Whitgift. Last season the fixture (a Whitgift victory) had been dominated by the ref, and the boys were eager for revenge. In a highly passionate affair, the forwards won good quick ball whilst the backs were devastating. The 39—12 victory was thoroughly deserved.

A defeat at Uppingham was perhaps the only defeat that reflected the opposition, a strong pack that was almost unstoppable.

County honours went to Kim Langley-Hunt, Chris Robinson, Michael McGonigle and James Cousins. Toby Hunt played for the South-West and vice-captain Alex Groom and Johan Escobar played for the South of England against the French. Captain Chris Record played for England 'A' against Wales.

The 'B' XV also had a mixed season with notable victories against Millfield, Cheltenham and Whitgift. Andrew Brodie, when not in the 'A' team, was lethal in the tackle and Philip Kelleher, Callum Wilkinson and captain Iain Littlemore proved to be a strong attacking combination in the backs. Two newcomers on the wings, Alex Hawes and Stephen Georgiou, both made a great impression and looked dangerous with the ball in hand.

Chris Record 11A
Captain



Philip Sole
Year 8
Drawing in pencil

U15 XV

**'A' XV Played 19 Won 16 Drawn 1 Lost 2 For 635
Against 202**

In terms of rugby this year's group is one of the hardest working in the school and gave 100% both in training and in matches.

The 'C' team were captained by Christian O'Kelly, who is a talented scrum-half, and although they had a very short season in comparison to the other teams, to end with a 50% win loss margin playing large public schools is no mean feat.

The 'B' side were without a regular coach and this hampered their progress all season. They were however ably led by Robert Beesley and finished winning more than they lost. Highlights of their season were fifty point wins over Bedford Modern and Hampton and a last minute win against Bedford School. Perhaps the game to remember was a 19—0 win over John Hampden 'A' team.

The 'A' team had lost four matches as U14s and were determined to improve on this statistic. The side has a hard working pack and some very exciting backs, and this resulted in the back line scoring almost 80 tries, with the two strong running centres Edward Dickson and Jamie Blackie scoring 36 tries between them. The captain and scrum-half André Kübler led by example, particularly in defence, and with an excellent back row led by pack leader James Turner the team often profited from quick turn-over ball. Highlights of the season included an 11 match winning streak with notable victories away at Wellington College and Bromsgrove. In fact, had it not been for the Christmas break I am convinced that the side would have reached the quarter-final of the *Daily Mail*, but after a month without a match a disappointing performance in Bristol saw the team perform below par and lose narrowly. This spurred the team to score 100 points in the last two matches and retain the London Oratory Sevens title in style. An excellent squad of players and one that I hope will continue to improve as they move towards senior rugby next year.

J.I.S.

U14 XV

**'A' XV Played 17 Won 13 Drawn 0 Lost 4 For 474
Against 189**

**'B' XV Played 16 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 4
'C' XV Played 6 Won 1 Drawn 0 Lost 5**

For the 'A' team, this was certainly a season of two halves. It's unlike an RGS team to break for the October half term having lost more games than they have won, but we found ourselves in that position. The boys were devastated, you could see it in their faces — especially after losing 10—12 to Abingdon. However, things were soon to change. Three convincing wins against Cheltenham, Berkhamsted and Bromsgrove set us up for a critical game at Whitgift. The team knew that the success of their season now depended on this match and they came out 'on fire'. A 17—10 victory showed them that they can compete with the best. Who can forget Ben Wilson's scrum-half try or Alex Mair's awesome defence?

Since that October half term, the 'A' team recorded ten straight wins which have prepared them well for next season. Victory in the Bradford Tens Tournament, if not stylish, was certainly spirited and well deserved. The U14 and Overall Competitions both came down to the last game of the day against Bradford Grammar. 0—5 down with a minute to go and David Bushrod, running a great angle, went through a gap to score under the posts. Nick Johnstone stood up under the pressure to convert the try. The team will remain heroes in

my mind for years to come. To win the cup without two of their best players shows the strength in depth of the squad.

The 'B' team have played some outstanding rugby this season. They have exceptional ball handling skills in the backs and a strong pack. No doubt some will be called up to the 'A's next year. All have the ability to play at that level. Special thanks must go to my fellow coaches Mr Pearson and Mr Ashby, who have given up their time after school and on Saturdays. I'd also like to thank the squad captain Robert Record, who has been outstanding. He has led by example and given his all, with enthusiasm, wisdom and total commitment.

It's been a pleasure to coach this wonderful group of keen rugby players. I wish them the best of luck in the *Daily Mail* Cup next year. If they play with passion and confidence and work together as a team, they'll go far.

P.S.T.

U13 XV

**'A' XV Played 14 Won 12 Drawn 0 Lost 2 For 651
Against 102**

**'B' XV Played 11 Won 10 Drawn 1 Lost 0 For 265
Against 98**

**'C' XV Played 5 Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 0 For 168
Against 32**

A successful season for the U13 squad, whose performance improved game by game throughout the year.

The 'A' team only lost the first two games of the season. The season started with a 29—12 loss to John Fisher that proved to new coach, Mr Gould, that tackling practice was required. However, one thing the team didn't lack was determination. As the season progressed the teams started to destroy opposition, on average winning by over 40 points each week, including another double thrashing of Colston's, for both the 'A' and 'B' teams. The squad trained fantastically throughout the season, providing some of the most aggressive and determined sessions ever seen at U13 level.

The 'B' team again went without losing, under the direction of Mr Glendining. There were excellent battles for places across all the teams, especially in the front row, back row and fly-half positions. Tactically the boys became much more aware and developed an excellent attacking game. The sheer size, strength and ability of the packs led to most of the tries coming from the front eight.

The Sevens season started off extremely well with the side winning the Bedford Modern Sevens. A fantastic display of skill, where the team only let in one try in the entire tournament. Unfortunately, at the prestigious Berkhamsted 7s the team met an excellent Welsh side and lost in the quarter-finals. The squad then impressed all at the National Sevens at Rosslyn Park, reaching the last 8 teams in the country before being knocked out again in the quarter-finals. An impressive Sevens season considering the 15-a-side team had been so forward dominated.

The squad size has been the strength this year, with competition for places between over 60 boys. They have worked hard on their skills and they look like promising contenders for the *Daily Mail* Cup in 2004/5.

I.R.G.

U12 XV

A promising season for the U12 rugby teams, with nearly 70 players representing the four sides over the course of the year. The U12 'A' team won five of their nine matches, drew two and were defeated by a margin of only two points in the other two games. Had the side been able to reproduce the dynamic style of rugby evident in the matches against Colston's and Bedford Modern, I suspect they would now be

reflecting on an unbeaten season. The strength of the squad was highlighted by the 'B' team, who lost only one match to a strong Whitgift side 10—7. Many boys stepped on to a rugby pitch for the first time this season, and I believe that the squad has the potential to achieve great things in future years.

Alistair Cooper led by example, performing consistently well, with his front row partner Alastair Jeal improving considerably over the course of the season. The forwards proved to be capable ball handlers, with Anish Vinayak, Neil Dale-Lace and Alex Kemp running strongly all season. In the backs, Simon Mason, Ben Farr and Lloyd Peters showed themselves to be versatile players both in attack and defence. Christian Wade picked up a rugby ball for the first time in September, and was rarely caught during the rest of the season, scoring over twenty tries in one weekend of Sevens. Some of the best performances of the season came from another of the backs, Ben Newberry; indeed, he is one of the most promising and well-rounded players I have seen at U12 level.

The side proved that they were capable Sevens players after the 15-a-side match had finished. They warmed up with a victory in the plate final at Dulwich, before finishing as runners up in the London Oratory Sevens. Having defeated a previously unbeaten Trinity College side in the semi-final, they lost out by a single conversion in the final against Wimbledon College.

I hope that the squad builds on what they have learnt this year, and goes on to achieve its true potential next season. Finally my thanks to all the parents for their support, and to Mr Woolliams for the huge amount of work he put in throughout the course of the season.

A.J.S.

Hockey

1st XI

The season started slowly with friendly matches against Kingston Grammar School and Sir William Borlase's, but soon took on a competitive edge beginning with the indoor 6-a-side. RGS gained valuable practice with a 5—5 draw against Trinity School before taking on Borlase's in the Bucks Final. This saw an exciting game finish 5—5 and go to penalty flicks, where RGS were unlucky to go out 4—3. Attention turned to the outdoor team and the Bucks Cup. RGS gained a good 3—2 win over Kingston in preparation for another final against Borlase's. This saw RGS gain revenge with an impressive 4—0 victory that put them through to the South Finals at Seaford College. A tight first match against Eastbourne saw RGS unluckily go down 2—0. RGS rallied for the second game against Merchant Taylors', including two goals from James Barrett, but a late goal saw RGS lose 3—2. This left a final match with Langley Park, the eventual winners, which saw RGS feel the effects of a long, hot day. This left the St George's six-a-side tournament as the last competitive action of the season. This saw RGS put in good performances to gain some revenge with a 1—1 draw against Langley Park, and we were unfortunate to lose 1—0 to a strong Millfield side. RGS gained victories over other sides in the group but inexperience on grass saw two goalless draws put RGS third in the group despite the single defeat. This saw RGS qualify for the plate where a 0—0 draw saw us go out after extra time. The season then saw friendly matches produce good results including a 2—2 draw with a German touring side, a 7—2 win against Desborough and (most importantly) a 7—3 win over John Hampden.

The season proved a good experience for many players, with David Horley and Robert Goodall notably improving with each game. Sebastian Malti gained a place in the South U21 squad while Stuart Penman and James Barrett represented Bucks U21. Experience was also provided by

Alex Topsfield, Barnaby Monteiro, Matthew Yates, and Ben Saunders in goal, with flair from Simon Whitelock and Patrick van Reijendam. With a good number of Lower Sixth players next season also looks promising.

I would also like to thank both Mr Clarke and Mr Atkin for their coaching, umpiring (although not the yellow cards) and support throughout the season.

This season's squad was: Ben Saunders (gk), David Horley, Robert Goodall, Stuart Penman, Barnaby Monteiro, Tom Chick, James Barrett, Alex Topsfield, Matthew Yates, Patrick van Reijendam, Sebastian Malti, Dorian Proudfoot, Matthew Taylor, Liam Dooley, Simon Whitelock. County players: Stuart Penman, James Barrett, Alex Topsfield, Sebastian Malti.

Stuart Penman 6MB₂
Captain

U16 XI

The boys from this year have developed into a very talented group of unbeaten hockey players who reached the South Round in style. The season was fun-filled with friendly matches at the beginning of the season, and with a more professional approach after Christmas. However a defeat in the South National finals against Eastbourne College 3—2 finished the opportunity to reach the National Finals.

However, we hope to do better next year.

The squad: Philip O'Hagan, Michael Hoy, Tim Price, Simran Ghalley, Neil Stretton, Kris Lamberton, Chris Sanderson, Howard Sayers, David Blair, Daniel Chancellor, Michael Katnik, James Aris, James Cousins, Alex Berry. County players: Sayers, Cousins, Chancellor, and Blair.

J.H.C.

U15 XI

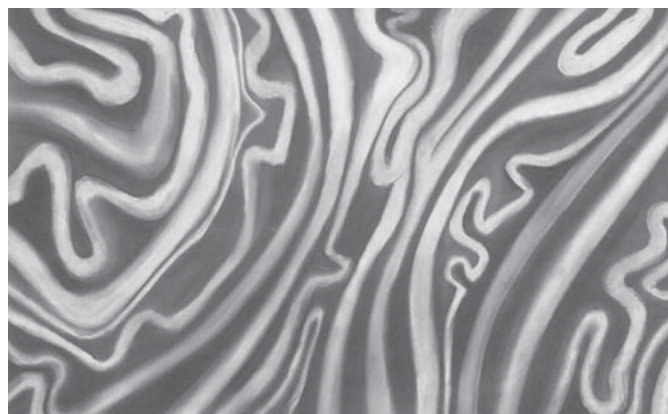
The focus this year was a mixture of fun and development.

The first few months of the season were spent developing ball pace and movement, with tactics and formations included later in the season. A number of friendly matches against Beaconsfield High School and Wycombe Abbey produced enjoyable games before Christmas. With the bulk of fixtures after Christmas the boys started to play good hockey.

The following players, Robert Bushrod and Edward Hoy, together with Patrick Ashton and Jonathan Mills, formed the U16 Cup Squad.

The squad: Tim Henshaw, Alastair Penman, Graham Jeal, Robert Blair, Alex Round, Patrick Ashton, Jonathan Mills, Fred Quiney, Daniel Rollison, John Stevens, Robert Bushrod, Edward Hoy, Sebastian Knowles. County players: Ashton and Mills.

J.H.C.



Year 10
Pastel drawing

U14 XI

This season has been a successful one for the U14s. A dramatic improvement from the beginning of the season meant that the team won the RAF Bucks Cup, beating both Dr Challoner's and Sir William Borlase, and also beating John Hampden 7—2.

Brilliant team spirit was always evident and even with ten players the team managed to beat some teams with good possession play.

Like all good teams, the U14s didn't just rely on one player to score; everyone chipped in with the goals, with Andrew Johnson being the top scorer with 12 goals, followed by James Archer with 9. A good team also needs a solid, hardworking midfield and defence. Benjamin Gower was a pivotal player leading by example, keeping the midfield together, and sometimes having to play in defence. But there have to be players like this in every part of the pitch, which could also be said for the team's left-back, Tim Beecroft. The rest of the defence also kept many teams from scoring.

The full team is: James Hammond, David Green, Manoj Sharma, Tim Beecroft, Jonathan Vaughan, Chris Bennett, Thomas San Juan, James Ludlow, Benjamin Gower, Raphael Joseph, James Archer, Jason Douglas, Edward Kelleher and Andrew Johnson.

The team would like to say a big thank you to both of the coaches who helped the U14s through this season, Mr Clarke and Mr Stone.

Honours: Edward Kelleher (South England); captain David Green, Benjamin Gower, James Hammond (Bucks). The U14s: Bucks champions, and into the last 16 of the National Cup.



Tim Gardiner
Year 12
Painting

U13 XI

Despite not having many matches this year the 'B' team have made huge strides this year and are almost unrecognisable from the group who took up the game in September. They won their first ever game 2—0 versus a Reed's School side but were defeated in a second game. Their enjoyment and enthusiasm for the game have brightened many a Thursday afternoon and I hope that they will all continue to enjoy hockey next year and beyond.

Team: Conor Paskell, Alex Fryer, Joel Girling, Matthew Rogers, Anthony Moon, Oliver Trotman, Bilal Tanveer, Adam Elborn, Benjamin Radvan, Kenneth Hyland, Dennis Hans, Angus Reid, Jamie Stewart.

B.R.S.

Cricket

1st XI

Played 14 Won 4 Drawn 5 Lost 5

The RGS had a season of mixed success. A very young side, including only one Year 13, began with defeats at Lord William's, Thame, and Hampton School, twice being let down by poor batting. However this was amended at the first home game as Chris Allfrey scored 108 and James Howlin made 54 not out, RGS setting Windsor 225 to win. Despite taking early wickets, the bowlers could not finish the job and Windsor hung on for a draw. Our first win came in unconvincing fashion against Magdalen College with James Anderson's 50 helping RGS reach the required total of 204 with one wicket to spare. The team's fortunes picked up from thereon with young players beginning to establish themselves and grow in confidence. A thrilling match with the MCC went right to the wire, and the individual talent we had in abundance, so evident in training, was now becoming more apparent in matches. Tom Collins, James Cousins and Jonathon Cooper showed promise with the bat as the season progressed.

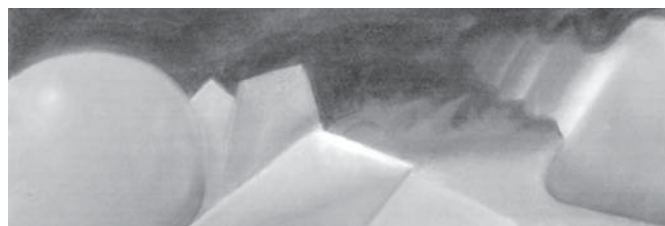
RGS hosted a touring side from Oxley College, Australia, who won by two wickets despite excellent batting by Nicholas Robinson (47) and James Howlin (48), with James Anderson (2—54) and Luc Walker (2—57) bowling particularly well.

The RGS festival at Worcester began with a defeat by the hosts. The batting line-up failed to deliver, and despite some exemplary team fielding, and tight bowling from Oliver Clark (2—23), Wycombe went on to lose by 6 wickets. The match against Guildford was abandoned due to rain, and so our next opponents were Colchester. Some outstanding bowling spells from James Howlin (3—4) and Luc Walker (4—9) demolished their batting order, but we made hard work of scoring the 50 runs required, William Collins showing gritty determination to hit the winning runs. The final match was against Newcastle, where top scoring Julian Allfrey contributed to a reasonable total on a difficult pitch. Howlin and Walker again shone with the ball, each taking 4—19, backed up by some excellent catching and ground fielding by the whole team. RGS High Wycombe won by 66 runs in what was Chris Allfrey's last match for the school, after 5 years of top-class service.

Chris Allfrey (39), Nicholas Robinson (32) and Jonathon Cooper (34) finished the season with the best batting averages, while James Anderson (19), Luc Walker (16) and James Howlin (16) were the top wicket takers.

Although the loss of Captain Chris Allfrey is a substantial one, the remaining team with some first team experience under their belts can look forward to a successful 2003 season, with the building blocks now firmly in place.

Oliver Clark 6MT₂



André Kübler
Year 10
Painting

U15 XI

Played 8 Won 4 Drawn 0 Lost 4

The 2002 U15 squad was potentially one of the strongest that the school has ever produced and there were high hopes of a successful run in the Lord's Taverners' Trophy. However, while the coach was still languishing in Germany, these hopes were dashed by an inept batting performance at Wellington when only Jonathon Cooper with 49 made any impression, as we were bowled out for a modest 127 chasing 207—7.

Throughout the season Kim Langley-Hunt, Jonathon Cooper and captain Tom Collins led a strong bowling attack, which peaked in the final game of the season against Dr Challoner's, with Kim taking 3—4, Jonathon 2—17 and Tom 3—10, ending the match and ARY's 20 years as a cricket coach at RGS with a hat-trick, as RGS won by 8 wickets.

The batting never quite fulfilled its potential, though Matthew Bailey proved to be a very reliable opener, and Tom Collins and Jonathon Cooper also scored runs consistently. The side was weakened regularly with four members of the squad deservedly playing in the 1st XI, and others involved in top class athletics.

There was an excellent team spirit within the squad and the boys clearly enjoyed their cricket, though I don't remember it being so difficult to field 11 players on a Saturday, and a scorer proved to be a rare luxury. Maybe the memory has faded and the spectacles become rose-tinted, as the hair has turned a distinguished shade of grey. Even so I look forward to watching many of this team forming the back-bone of a very strong 1st XI for the next 3 seasons.

A.R.Y.

U14 XI

The 2002 season provided as many wins as defeats, with a heavy defeat at Watford GS and several very narrow defeats in 30 over matches. Skipper John Stevens led the way with the bat, passing 50 on no fewer than 5 occasions, supported primarily by Adam Francis with two 50s. As our limited over defeats proved, we were guilty of scoring too slowly, and very often the lower order batsmen got themselves out while going for quick runs late in the innings. However, we are very hopeful that the hard hitting of boys like Stephen Thompson, George Jafari, Paul Bradshaw and Chris Zair will be very useful in later years. The team had plenty of pace bowling, and all showed great potential, but during the season suffered from bowling too many wides, and generally lacked the guile to remove top-class opposition batsmen. Wicket-keeper Samuel Rolfe performed superbly both behind the stumps and with the bat when called upon.

There were lots of talented 'B' team players but the inability of opposition teams to provide similar 'B' teams meant that many players waited in vain for matches to materialise. For us this was the biggest disappointment of the season!

There were 2 memorable games, the semi-final and the final of the Lord's Taverners' Trophy. In the semi-final against John Colet School we scored 147—5 in our 30 overs, but the opposition looked set for victory near the end until skipper John Stevens took 2 wickets in an over. But their opening bat and skipper was on strike at the start of the final over, needing only 8 to win. Ben Francis was entrusted with bowling the final over; he bowled the skipper and their last man in an amazing over to leave us winners by a mere 7 runs.

In the final we got lucky — after being bowled out cheaply on a wet wicket by Aylesbury GS the heavens opened and the game was washed out. The second match, played at Bledlow Ridge, was a real cliff-hanger: In a 35 over match we started well, but from 100—1 in 22 overs we slowed dramatically and only reached 151—5. Aylesbury recovered well from

19—2, and after 20 overs were well placed at 96—2. But a terrific catch by Stephen Thompson got rid of their danger man, John Stevens and George Jafari both chipped in with 3 wickets, and beneath bright moonlight their last two men were run out on 143, leaving us narrow victors by 8 runs with 8 balls to spare. The team obviously will be looking forward to representing Bucks in the national rounds next season, starting off with a visit from Magdalen College, Oxford.

I.J.W./D.G.S.



*Michael Sanderson
Year 8
Detail of pencil drawing*

U12 XI

Played 9 Won 7 Drawn 0 Lost 2

The season started with a disappointing defeat to Hampton School; RGS struggled to reach a target of 93 off 25 overs, and could only reach 69—7 in their allotted overs.

This galvanised the squad and they worked hard to become a strong, cohesive unit. The bowling attack was a formidable one. The captain Oliver Lowe, and David Maunder, both bowled an excellent line and were very tight and economical. They were well supported by the medium pace of Johannes Potgieter, Benjamin Manning and Sebastian McDonald. Together with the leg-spin of Edward Greenland, and flighted off-spin from David Stone, they helped produce a rounded attack. The opposition were limited to some very low scores and very rarely were we chasing a total of three figures.

This year we were also very lucky that we had two very good wicket-keepers in the likes of Nicholas Aris and Dominic Markham, who both did a fantastic job behind the stumps.

The top individual performances of the season came from David Maunder (4—7 versus Cressex, and 4—20 against Hampton), and Edward Greenland (5—9 against Dr Challoner's).

The RGS retained the Calypso Cup, but didn't have it all their own way. Against Dr Challoner's and in reply to their 76—9 off 25 overs, RGS lost wickets regularly. However Benjamin Chandler stepped forward and with one wicket remaining he stroked a four off the very last ball to win the match.

The progress that the boys made was highlighted when they played Dr Challoner's again at the end of the season. They won comfortably this time and amassed 112—8 off 30 overs, thanks to Oliver Lowe with the best knock of the season of 44. The bowlers did their job and bowled Dr Challoner's out for 77.

It is clear that the team's strength is in their bowling and fielding, and they did struggle in the batting department. However if a couple of individuals knuckle down and work hard to stay at the crease, then the team should go from strength to strength, and could go far next year.

T.A.W.

Boat Club

This season began for the Boat Club with boys from Years 8 to 10 competing in the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Birmingham, a race over 2,000 metres on rowing machines. All athletes achieved good times, our best placing being 17 out of 50. It was not until mid-December that we competed in our first race, the Burway Small Boats' Head of the River Race. Compete we did, leaving Burway with a win for the 1st J15 Quad in the Junior 15 Coxed Quads, the crew consisting of James Loveday, Chris Taylor, Adam Seward, David Loveday and cox Daniel Bailey, and a 1st and 2nd place in the Junior 15 Double Sculls for the same crew.

Our next competition was the Hampton Head, in February. The 1st Junior 15 Quad once again competed, and obtained a placement of 5th out of 15 overall competing.

A fortnight later the 1st Quad was joined by the 2nd, consisting of Ciaran McVeigh, Sam Charleston, Nathan Moore, Alex Auld and cox Jonathan Buchanan, at the Henley Fours' Head. It was a surprise to us all that the river remained liquid on the cold morning, especially at the hour at which we were expected to race. The 1st crew once again performed well, being placed 4th out of 20 crews competing. However the 2nd Quad were not placed on the first page of results and so were forgotten in the rush to the warmth of the minibus.

We returned to Burway for the Large Boats' Head in March. The 1st and 2nd Quads competed, and the 1st Quad once again won, despite crashing into Dulwich College, and breaking a few of their oars. The 1st Quad competed again as the 2nd Four, alongside the 1st Four, which consisted of Ciaran McVeigh, Alex Auld, Chris Caddell, Ramsay Kerr and cox Christian O'Kelly. One of the two fours won the event, but we won't say which for fear of embarrassing the 1st Four, so we left once again with 2 wins.

Later in March the 1st Quad and Four competed in the Schools' Head on the Tideway in London. The Quad and Four both finished 8th in the country, although out of 26 and 10 respectively. The Quad unofficially finished 6th, although obtained time penalties.

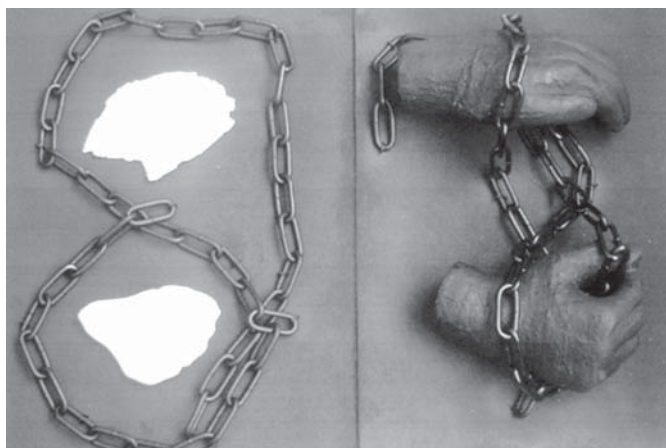
Our thanks to minibus drivers, parents for their support, and, of course, our coach. We look forward to the regatta season ahead.

Adam Seward 10M



Benjamin Gower
Year 9

Pen and ink 'Camouflage design'



Tim Gardiner
Year 12
Mixed media

Basketball

	Played	Won	Lost	Unplayed	For	Against
Year 7:	4	3	1	0	98	69
Year 8:	3	2	1	1	99	105
Year 9:	5	3	2	1	223	107
Year 10:	3	1	2	2	95	96
Sixth Form:	6	4	2	0	295	260

Once again, teams have been entered in league competition at all age groups except one. The local area schools' competition was reconfigured to allow more schools to take part, but somewhat perversely this meant a slight reduction in the number of games to be played. Given the strength of last season's Year 9 and Sixth Form teams, we entered these two groups in the national schools' championships as well.

Access to the Sports Hall for practices and matches was slightly better this year, thanks to flexibility of other groups, and to Mr Gould's sympathetic ear!! We still suffer considerably, however, from the absence of many of the potentially better players, engaged as they are in the major sports in the school.

Like any season, this had had its disappointments and its successes. The brand new Year 7 team provided the most successful record, being unbeaten in all their games, and only narrowly losing in their playoff final. Perhaps the biggest disappointment was the absence of any national championship games for the Year 10 team. This was due to some mismanagement either by other schools or by the competition organisers.

The Year 10 team, having won all their games in Year 9, started to falter in the face of some very keen opposition, and couldn't manage to maintain their record.

The Sixth Form team, in their first 'national' game, came away with a convincing victory, and were full of confidence going into our second round match. Here we were faced with one of the best teams in the country, and were accordingly beaten, but not disgraced. One of our opponent's players is a member of a national adult division one team, and was responsible for almost half their score.

Our thanks in particular go to Matthew Willmot, who has given his time at almost all home games to score and keep time.

The records for the season are above, and we hope that the enthusiasm, and lessons learned from this year's activity, will bring us even better results next season.

M.J.H./A.H.

Athletics

School Records

School records have once again tumbled this season with some records as old as thirty years being broken (date in brackets represents the original record date).

Year 7 Record Breakers

J. Hillier 800m 2.29 (1999) A. Kang Discus 24.15m (2001)

Year 8 Record Breakers

M. Lyon 200m 26.0secs (1968) A. Mair Hammer 28.95m (2001)
4×100 Mooney, Record, Mair, Lyon 51.5secs (2001)

Year 9 Record Breakers

N. Cottrell Pole Vault 3.00m (1987)

Year 10 Record Breakers

C. Record 49.77m (2001) P. Rodgers 11.4secs (1974)
T. Hunt Octathlon 4,620 pts C. Record 100mH 14.8 secs (1974)
Cassidy, Hunt, Record, Rodgers 4×100m 46.9 secs (1981)

Year 11 Record Breakers

Rodgers, Brown, Record, Hunt 4×100m 47.6 secs (1980)

Senior Record

Cassidy, Hunt, Record, Rodgers 4×100m 46.9 secs (1980)

District sports

District sports took place for Year 9 and a combined Year 10/11 team in early May. The 10/11 team contained only three Year 11 athletes yet they still dominated all the other schools to win by a huge margin. The Year 9 team also won by a massive margin. Jamie Blackie won the best District athlete for Year 9 and also the Derek Stubbs Memorial Trophy for best athlete in the district across all the age groups. The majority of the District team for the County Championships came from RGS. The Junior Championships came later in the season and RGS were under a little pressure to emulate the older boys and maintain the record of winning at these age groups for the last three years. The boys performed superbly on the day, once again winning by huge margins. Philip Sole won best athlete in District for Year 7 and William Holland for Year 8.



*Tim Peplow
Year 10
Dahlias*

County Championships

At the County Championships at least one RGS boy managed to qualify for the County finals in every event in which we were competing, and we finished in the top three in fourteen events, winning six. County Champions were, in the Juniors, Edward Dickson winning the triple jump and 80m hurdles, and Neil Cottrell winning the pole vault. In the Intermediates, Chris Record won the Javelin and the 100m hurdles, and Toby Hunt won the discus in an ESAA qualifying distance, albeit a year young. Toby in fact competed in the English Schools' Championships in the shot as opposed to the discus.

Combined Events

Once again at Milton Keynes the Individual County Pentathlon took place with Junior athletes having to compete in five events in one day. RGS managed a unique 1,2,3 with Edward Dickson winning and Jamie Blackie 2nd with Robert Bushrod 3rd. All three were selected for Buckinghamshire in the Midlands Championships at Junior age. Chris Record and Toby Hunt were pre-selected for the Octathlon at the same championships, a gruelling 8 events over two days finishing with the 1,500m.

The Midlands Championships took place in Derby with the three Juniors finishing 3rd E. Dickson, 7th R. Bushrod, and 9th J. Blackie. This meant that Buckinghamshire won the competition. In the Octathlon Chris Record finished a creditable 4th and Toby Hunt won the competition. Therefore all five boys were selected for the National Championships.

ESAA Track and Field Cup

RGS hosted the County round of this national competition and in sunny conditions at Handy Cross many boys produced personal best performances. Both Junior and Intermediate teams won convincingly (the Intermediate score of 519 would have won the National Final last year) and qualified for the South East of England regional Final. RGS has only ever won the South East Final twice in 25 years, both at Junior level. Despite some excellent individual performances the Junior team failed to do itself justice, finishing third, and missing out on the National Final by a mere 7 points, having scored 422 points. The Intermediates followed up their last round with another score over 500 points, winning in style, and putting RGS into the National Final for the first time at the Intermediate age level.

ESAA Track and Field Cup. National Final

On Saturday 6 July, in almost perfect conditions at the Thames Valley Athletics Centre, RGS competed in their first ESAA Cup final at Intermediate age in 23 years of trying. In the Field events in the morning there were some excellent results with Kim Langley-Hunt producing a personal best in the triple jump by almost 50cm, jumping 12.42m. Chris Record won the javelin with a throw just short of 50m and Toby Hunt the discus with a throw over 40m. Adam Daniels also set a personal best in the high jump of 1.74m. The track started with the hurdles and Edward Dickson set a personal best, taking 0.4 secs off his time, running 11.9, Chris Record won his heat in 11.5, and RGS scored a massive 61 points in this event. This set the scene for a truly exceptional afternoon. The two Robinsons both ran personal bests in the 1,500m, followed by Philip Rodgers' victory in the 100m. Going into the relays RGS had scored a massive 515 points, a score enough to win at last season's event. The relay team did not let the side down, taking three seconds off their last time to help RGS to a massive total of 532. RGS were National Champions for 2002.

J.I.S.

Fencing

Once again, the RGS fencing team managed to produce, what my esteemed colleague Kenny Bush described as, a quintessentially royalgrammarschools performance this season, with closely fought matches against Marlborough, Charterhouse and Eton.

As always, the Public Schools' Championship in March proved to be the highlight of the year. This is the one occasion in the RGS fencing calendar when the team comes into contact with a powerful sub-culture known as Public School Fencers. All 8 fencers who attended put in gallant performances.

Will Carter and Will Hoults, two of the youngest members of the team, performed admirably in all 3 swords. Andrew Waterfall, the 'Granddad' of the team, proved that there was still life in him yet, managing to get to the third round before being eliminated. Paul Dazeley produced some superb fencing, gaining high positions in all 3 swords in the junior event (21st in the sabre, 16th in the foil and 6th in the épée). Kenny Bush, always the surprise package, provided some much needed amusement with his own unique fighting style. Tom Bennett, as per usual, fenced brilliantly and won the senior épée!

That leaves only two more people — Ravi Francis, the fencing captain, and me, the glue that really held the team together.

Ravi fenced well in both épée and foil but, due to lack of sleep (!), found it difficult on the 3rd day and was unable to perform to his best in the sabre. Indeed, on the journey back, he declared that he had been licked, beaten and thrashed — and all that before his match! No wonder he found it hard!

Lastly, I tried really, really hard and produced a brilliant performance in the sabre, and would have done so in the foil had I not suffered extreme transport problems on the second day of the competition.

Robert Lowson 6LM₂

Badminton

A school U14 team was put together this year especially to enter the English Schools' Badminton tournament. The regional qualifying round took place at Haberdashers' Aske's School, and the team of Robert Hird, Sam Johnson, David Macmillan and David Stone won every match 5—0 before playing the hosts, Haberdashers', in the final. Despite Robert Hird beating their top player, a fellow England U14 international, by 15—13, we went down narrowly 2—3. But with the top two teams qualifying, we had booked our place in the Finals at Luton on 6 April.

Sadly Robert was unavailable for that weekend, but after a quick trial of budding hopefuls, Stevan Jordan was selected as our number 4 with Sam Johnson moving up to number 1. As one would expect in a national final, the competition was excellent, and after a slow start the team did exceptionally well to finish 7th in the country, with Stevan hardly looking out of place by the end of the day. Who knows where we might have finished with Robert, however, since the national winners were Haberdashers'?

Interestingly, Wycombe High also qualified, and with one of Robert's twin sisters in the team they did staggeringly well to finish 3rd in the country; and they were also left wondering what might have been since Robert's third triplet, another England U14 international, was, like Robert, unavailable for the final.

I.J.W.

Cross Country

This year saw some outstanding Sixth Form runners making their final contributions to what has been a very exciting two years. The season began with the Haskell Trophy at Guildford RGS, where the team achieved 9th position out of the 24 teams. The season continued on equally good form at many of our rival schools, including Dr Challoner's, Haberdashers' Aske's, Verulam, Merchant Taylors' and in our own fixture at Hughenden Park (now in its second year).

Of the senior runners, Fabian Downs achieved a sufficiently high finishing position in the County Championships to go through to the Nationals, held this year in Brighton, where he finished in 270th position out of the 400 plus runners. Martin McDonnell only narrowly missed qualifying but did achieve a 'reserve' position.

The Intermediate team (Barney Collins, Jo Chapman, Sam Rolfe and Francis Mostyn) made history when they came first in the District Championships, winning the District Shield.

Congratulations are also due to the various runners in lower school who gave up their Saturday mornings to represent the RGS. Although there are too many to mention, Justin Moore, Jack Hillier, Andrew Armitage, Michael Chen, Jonathan Auld and Mark Johnson deserve special recognition. Many Year 7 boys also made some stunning *débuts*, including Duncan Foster, Joseph May, Tim Grocott-Mason, Michael Ball and many others.

Although the Senior team retains the much valued running abilities of Alex Armstrong and Fabian Downs (for one more season), the remainder of the RGS team, James Jelfs, Howard Hoare, Martin McDonnell and the team's Captain, Edward Collins, will be greatly missed. I wish them every success and happiness in their future careers.

D.P.M.



The 2003 Cross Country team: James Jelfs, Fabian Downs, Alex Armstrong, Edward Collins, Martin McDonnell and Howard Hoare

Tennis

The U13 tennis team squad had another successful season, winning all their matches against local schools in the HSBC Cup. They went on to win the South East Regional Final in Newbury in September, qualifying for a place in the South Regional Final at the David Lloyd Tennis Centre in Portsmouth, where they narrowly missed out on winning the match despite some excellent play by all involved.

In the U13 Bucks Cup the team were undefeated in all but one of the matches they played.

Whilst every team member had a part to play, Tim Block, Andrew Johnson and Robert Hird in particular had another exceptional season, and we hope that they will continue this good form next year in the U15 Competitions.

J.McD./M.E.

OC's Report

This is my first report as the new OC CCF. Taking over from Lt Colonel Hollingworth was always going to be a difficult act to follow but it is with great pride that I find myself in the company of him and the other former OCs.

Having come to the RGS only two years before it has been a very steep learning curve, but a very enjoyable and satisfying one as well. To say it has been a busy time would be an understatement but the support and advice I have received has been fantastic. The old guard continue to give their valuable time, as do the CCT and Old Boys. The commissioning of Lt S. Purdy and Lt S. Ellen, and the transfer of Capt K. Ellen into the Army Section and Flt Lt Haynes into the RAF Section, has also meant that a great deal of enthusiasm is omnipresent in the Corps. We have also managed to enlist the services of Mr T. Sawyer who made a huge contribution (and I don't just mean his portion sizes) to Leek, and Mr C. Taylor who has joined us in Snowdonia and Kinder as a mountain leader.

The figures remain high within the Corps with good numbers joining in Year 9. I am sure that a major part of this is the packed programme of opportunities offered to the cadets. Starting in September these come throughout the year: ranging from night-navigation (won by the RAF Section) on Christmas Common to full-bore range days at Ash Range Complex. The introduction of the D of E Award has enabled the Corps to contribute directly to the Award with the teaching of some skills such as shooting, signals and first aid, and the Service section. In fact only recently I was pleased to sign a Year 10's Service section of his Bronze D of E. I also hope that our activities give cadets a taste of the outdoors that inspires them to do the expeditions or just try hill-walking in their spare time.

The year has been busy. There are all of the familiar activities with some notable successes. There have been two overnight field training weekends for the Army Section, and Adventurous Training in Snowdonia, the Black Mountains and the Peak District. The RAF once again won the Regional Ground Training Competition and staged an excellent Junior Leadership weekend. The Navy Section continues to sail regularly, and despite the loss of not one but two Dories are back on the water as we speak. They also had an excellent week on the fleet tender as their report tells.

One aspect of the Corps that goes from strength to strength is the shooting. The club night is always packed and we have entered numerous competitions. The team has been excellently led by CSM Hoare with great enthusiasm from cadets of all years.

These activities are possible only with the efforts and support of our adults and the senior NCOs. School staff give up their holidays and weekends. CCF officers who are not members of the school regularly come in on Thursdays and make a huge contribution to camps and weekend activities. This year I am particularly in debt to Vivien Seymour, who has now stepped down as OC RAF Section after years of tireless and invaluable support. Chris Cunningham also deserves special mention as he has continued to be the stalwart for both the Army Section and the shooting. One of the great successes of the CCF at RGS is the willingness of Old Boys to return and help at weekends and camps. This shows that they not only enjoyed their time in the Corps but also that they appreciate that the activities rely upon such volunteers. It is a pleasure to see them return. Senior cadets at the RGS amaze me with their commitment and ability to find time in their pressured academic studies. The planning of Thursdays and particularly RSM Harris's efforts at Butternut were outstanding and certainly helped me do my job.

All of the Sections flourish under the leadership displayed by Joan Henderson in the Naval Section, who has become

my second-in-command, Vivien Seymour and more recently Tony Haynes in the RAF Section, who somehow manages to balance the demands of the Physics technician's role and that of OC RAF Section, and Keith Ellen who runs the Army Section. This in conjunction with the support outlined earlier will ensure the Corps not only continues but is enhanced in the next few years.

So what are my final thoughts at the end of my first year as OC? Well certainly it is a demanding role, particularly balancing it with Head of Biology responsibilities. The real strength of the RGS CCF is the 'can do' mentality. Obstacles such as risk assessments, range letters, RASPs and ordering rations are ultimately overcome because everyone wants things to happen. Why do we want things to happen? Well, you wouldn't have to ask if you have had the pleasure of spending any time in the company of the cadets and adults of the CCF on any of the activities outlined above.

Major G.T. Scoble
OC CCF



The Clyde Fleet Tender at sea

Royal Navy Section

This has been another year of mixed fortunes for the RN Section. We had a very successful summer excursion on board a Clyde Fleet Tender in August but in September our new Dory was stolen.

If you read last year's school magazine report you will have noted that our safety boat had been stolen from our sailing club. I had a replacement boat built and delivered last Easter. Over the summer holidays the RN took the boat to make some small modifications to the craft. The boat was returned in early September and a week later was stolen again, in spite of increased security at the club.

As I write this I am still in the midst of organising yet another replacement craft and the RAF sailing club is now monitored 24 hours by security cameras linked to the RAF police at Naphill.

However, the Clyde Fleet Tender was a great success. A group of RN cadets with the welcome addition of a few cadets from other Sections went on the expedition led by Lt Col Hollingworth and Lt Cdr Henderson. We travelled to Scotland by train, then joined the vessel for an interesting and enjoyable voyage. The boys quickly learned the skills necessary to helm and navigate, and helped with provisions and deck work. Mr Henderson was an invaluable navigation instructor.

The trip included a two night stay on the Isle of Arran under canvas and a day's climbing on the island's two highest peaks. At the end of the week we visited HMS Faslane and

went on board one of the nuclear submarines.

This year because of commitments in the Gulf the RN has had to cancel its programme of camps and courses, which has been a disappointment for cadets booked on them at Easter and in the summer.

In spite of these setbacks the Section has had a busy year. We have been pleased to welcome Zoe Hatch from Wycombe College as an adult instructor and helper on Thursday afternoons. James Chancellor has been a loyal and able Coxon and he has been particularly well supported by his four Leading Seamen — Michael Anderson, Mark Bartlett, Sam Gower and Simon Wilcock. We were delighted that Andrew Heavyside also transferred into the Section. His experience from his Sea Cadet unit is very valuable to the Section. We wish to add our congratulations to Murdo Findlay who passed his Admiralty Interview Board and a place has been reserved for him to join the Royal Navy in September 2004 as a Warfare Officer. Although he is not a member of the RN Section he has been a good friend to the Section, assisting with training this year.

The Section's winter training has been very successful with good passes by Year 11 cadets in the Naval Proficiency examination and some excellent results in the Year 10 AB tests. Proficiency in weapons handling has been particularly good this year with 100% pass rate in the GP test.

The summer sailing season approaches. We look forward to sailing and canoeing sessions at Danesfield and two jet-skiing sessions at the end of term. Once again all of our cadets have proved enthusiastic and willing to participate in our training, events and activities and we are looking forward to another summer of Thursday afternoons sailing on the river Thames.

Lt Cdr J.L. Henderson
OC Royal Navy Section

Army Section

Last summer the Army Section travelled to the Brecon Beacons for our annual summer camp. It was a green field camp, which involves turning up in an empty field and running the whole week from scratch. During the week we undertook several activities including rock climbing, orienteering, a range day, an expedition and a 36-hour military exercise.

In September we had a record number of new recruits from Year 10 and a new officer in charge. Year 12 and Year 13 NCOs have been training the recruits and senior cadets in weapon training, battlecraft, map and compass, drill, military knowledge and expedition training.

These new skills have been put to practical use on a hill-walking weekend in Snowdonia in October, two field days in November and February respectively, and finally on an Adventure training camp in Buttern (Peak District) during the first week of the Easter holidays. We also managed to secure third place in a Patrol Competition in Stowe and will be competing in a similar event in Bordon in May. As a final addition to the Army Section this year the military band has been revived after several years and it is now looking very promising.

I have attended all of these events and have been very impressed with the progress all of the cadets and NCOs have made in the past year. We are now looking forward to a weekend in the Black Mountains at the end of June and our annual summer camp at Nesscliffe in the first week of the summer holidays.

Obviously none of these wonderful activities would be available without the dedication of several officers from in and outside school, so I would like to thank all of the officers on behalf of the NCOs for all their hard work throughout the year.

RMS Edward Harris

Snowdonia Expedition

During the weekend of the autumn half term, the CCF went to Snowdonia to experience mountaineering. The weather was very bad for the whole trip, which added an extra challenge. On the Saturday we climbed Carneddau. The walk started in the sun, but before long it started raining, and there was a snowstorm as we scaled some misty peaks. However, by the end of the day the sun had appeared, illuminating the beautiful Welsh countryside.

The second day's walk was intended to be up Tryfan, along Glyder Ridge, descending to Llyn Idwal by the Devil's Kitchen. However, once again, the walk began in a light drizzle, which became a full blizzard as we approached the more rocky peak. Lunch was eaten at the summit, but the slippery rocks were deemed too treacherous, and the walk was abandoned.

The Monday usually involves a final climb up Moel Siabod, before the journey home. However, the weather, inclement on the previous day, had grown worse over night, and it was decided that it would be more sensible to miss out that walk and return home.

Despite the weather, the weekend was very enjoyable.

Sgt Robert Moore



William Swindells
Year 8
Conté drawing

Stowe Patrol Competition

In March the Army Section entered two teams into the Patrol Competition at Stowe School. The competition tested skills such as patrolling, camouflage and concealment, and shooting. We were also taught about and tested on foreign weapons and the MILAN anti-tank missile. Added entertainments included a laser game, using night vision sights, and a huge company scale dawn attack.

The senior team achieved third place overall, a great achievement considering that this was the first year we have entered. The junior team also did very well, but suffered due to their lower numbers. It was a very enjoyable weekend, and we hope to expand on our success next year.

Sgt Robert Moore

Butterton Camp April 2003

The advance party left on the last Thursday of term to travel to Butterton in Staffordshire where we have been for every year since 1962. The week's activities began on Saturday morning with a challenging orienteering course. Major Scoble's team managed to win the event but were penalised as he had helped lay the course out!

The afternoon consisted of several command tasks involving a lot of water. The three teams worked through the five command tasks set up by the Year 12 and 13 SNCOs. The command tasks included a raft building exercise, a 'bomb' disposal, stretcher run, blind crawl and a river crossing by constructing a tripod and cantilever.

On Sunday the morning activity was rock climbing on the Roches. There was a range of different climbs to cater for every ability group.

Sunday afternoon was spent preparing for the 48-hour exercise, which would start on Monday. A series of stands were set up by the SNCOs which would allow all of the cadets to revise their fieldcraft skills and get used to working in their sections. Sunday evening consisted of a briefing and then personal preparation for the exercise. The exercise itself involved 'friendly forces' trying to evade capture by 'enemy' patrols, a platoon attack, and a night ambush.

Wednesday was our final day of activities and involved an expedition over Kinder Scout. We were joined by Lt Colonel Hollingworth who is now living in Kenya but had come back to receive his MBE for his services to the cadet force. All of the teams completed the route easily and it provided a good opportunity for the lower ranks to practise their map and compass skills. Wednesday evening culminated in many cadets gaining promotions after an excellent week where everybody had put in maximum effort.

Tom Sawyer cooked excellent food all week which meant we had plenty of energy, and many officers spent a lot of time organising the event. Everybody is now looking forward to our summer camp in Nesscliffe which will provide a fitting finale to a challenging year.

RMS Edward Harris

RAF Section

We have been exceptionally lucky this year with the amount of fixed wing flying we have been given, and the weather on the whole has been glorious.

In July we had a superb day as guests of the Air Squadron, a group of gentlemen aircraft enthusiasts who invite the first three winners of the Ground Training Competition to Cranwell each year. The day began with a parade and awards ceremony, a delicious lunch followed, and then the cadets had the opportunity to fly in some amazing aircraft from all

periods of the development of flight and from several countries. A day the cadets said they would remember for the rest of their lives. We began this year's competition by winning outright the Area Competition last October for the first time. However, the National Competition in March proved a smidgen too keen and we just missed getting into the last three places this year. We are undaunted and will get our revenge!

As usual we have enjoyed adventure training in Snowdon and the Black Mountains and Cpl Piper has been awarded a place on the week's adventure training camp at Llanbedr in June. We have also maximised opportunities for various courses run by both the RAF and Army for leadership, methods of instruction, shooting, and not forgetting the confidence course (aka the assault course!).

The whole Section visited the RAF Wartime Operations Bunker at RAF Uxbridge in November where they were able to see the very sophisticated displays that showed the commanders absolutely everything they needed to know at a glance when the Battle of Britain was at its height.

This year we have had first class SNCOs as usual, but two stand out as being exceptional. CWO Tim Hoult has been highly respected by cadets, NCOs and officers, and his enthusiasm and energy have been boundless. FS Riedl has designed and produced a computer programme which will enable our stores to run more effectively and economically, as well as increasing the accuracy and efficiency of the administration of the Section. We wish FS Rose good luck when he joins the RAF in the autumn for his Initial Officers' Course.

We have as usual had the very valuable help of Mr Bastow and Flt Lt Head, as well as our RAF liaison staff, Flt Lt Quick and Sgt Kumela, for which we are most grateful. We were delighted when Flt Lt Haynes joined us last November as OC Designate and became our OC in March when he was awarded his Commission.

I have been privileged to have the opportunity to be involved with the school and CCF since January 1989, and have enjoyed my service tremendously. It has been good to see the cadets develop their maturity and to pass on the ideas of teamwork and leadership which will be so valuable in their adult lives. I know from my business life that these qualities will set them apart from many of their peers wherever their career paths take them. Throughout my time at RGS I have had unfailing support and encouragement from my fellow officers as well as the cadets themselves, and I shall miss them. It has been good to be part of such a great school.

Flt Lt V.R. Seymour
OC RAF Section to March 2003

The last year has seen many changes affecting the RAF Section. Pilot Officer Macaulay and Mr Shaw left last summer. In the autumn term, I was employed by the school as Physics technician, having recently retired from the RAF after a career as an engineer spanning some 37 years. I joined the Section in November and took over from Flt Lt Seymour in March. The school owes her a great deal of gratitude for the time and effort she has put in over the past 14 years and she will be sorely missed. We are grateful for the great support given to the Section by Major Scoble, our Contingent Commander, who despite his heavy duties also takes our cadets shooting and on the confidence course, and on adventure training weekends.

The cadets run the day-to-day activities of the Section themselves and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. The Section has been very ably led by CWO Tim Hoult, who was awarded a Commendation of Good Service by the Air Officer Cadets. Tim has also been a source of much-needed advice and assistance to me during my very rapid learning curve!

Easter Camp took place recently at RAF Cosford. Corporal Matthew Wildman was promoted to Sergeant the day before the camp and arrived to find himself appointed as senior cadet for the whole camp of 40 cadets. Likewise, Adam Piper, a newly promoted corporal, was given charge of a flight alongside 3 other experienced sergeants. Both acquitted themselves extremely well, and Cpl Piper's flight came very close to winning the inter-flight competition!

I look forward to continuing my command of the Section over the coming year. We are always pleased to receive help from parents or friends. If any parents or guardians, with or without RAF experience, would like to try their hands, please do not hesitate to offer your services!

Flt Lt A.R. Haynes
OC RAF Section from March 2003



*Tom Sprigge
Year 12
Painting*

Cadet Warrant Officer's Report

It has been an amazingly busy year since I took over as Warrant Officer in charge of the school's RAF Section, thanks mainly to my supporting staff of senior NCOs, Flight Sergeants Jasdeep Hunjan, Adam Parrett and Matthew Rose. Much has been achieved and twelve months later it is amazing to see the progress we have made in certain areas.

Our traditionally strong areas of the training programme were again emphasised this year, with Year 10 cadets regularly having the opportunity to partake in gliding and powered flying at local RAF stations. As the school has its own .22 calibre range, the cadets are able to practice shooting often, resulting in the qualification of many cadets and NCOs with shooting badges. In addition, lectures covering the core topics of the Air Cadet syllabus were ably given by many senior and junior NCOs alike. Over the course of the year we saw lessons and demonstrations given in fieldcraft, shooting, drill and survival, as well as the more theoretical side covering navigation and flight. The high quality of teaching and instruction is reflected in the exam results at the end of the year, a 100% pass rate being achieved amongst senior cadets in particular.

The quality of teaching was demonstrated in March as a team of junior NCOs, led by Corporal Tom Ravenscroft and assisted by a team of dedicated corporals, organised and ran the annual Junior Cadet Leadership Course, held at Jordans Youth Hostel. Cadets at the Army Training Area at Frimley learnt valuable skills essential for their development in the Section — as well as having fun at the same time!

On a wider scale we had a fair deal of representation in external competitions and camps. Last summer several cadets went on camps, notably one at RAF Cosford. In addition, I was fortunate enough to be invited to represent the CCF by route-lining at the Queen's Golden Jubilee Review of the Armed Forces at Portsmouth, attending a one week tri-service camp whilst there.

A team of thirteen cadets competed in the Regional Ground Training Competition at RAF Uxbridge in October, involving tests of drill, leadership exercises, first aid, fitness, aircraft recognition and shooting. We performed strongly in every event, winning the leadership element and the Area Trophy for the highest aggregate marks. We represented the Area in the National Finals in March, where we again did well, finishing third in the fitness section and winning the shooting. We achieved seventh place overall, placing us well into the top ten out of nearly 200 CCF (RAF) Sections nationwide. The success of our Section also seems to be affecting the careers of a few of our senior NCOs, with Flight Sergeants Matthew Rose and Tobias Riedl on their way into the RAF, and we wish them all the best in their careers. Moreover, I was appointed the CCF's representative as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Buckinghamshire, a role I have relished taking on — the highlight of which was meeting Princess Anne as she opened the new Ercol facility in Princes Risborough.

Finally, I would like to thank on behalf of my entire staff the officers who have so generously aided us: Flight Lieutenant Seymour, who stepped down as the OC in March after a long and distinguished service with the Section — she will be missed by all involved; Flight Lieutenant Haynes, who has now assumed command of the Section — his effort and enthusiasm have been a great help; Flight Lieutenant Head, a previous OC of the Section, who has helped out on various excursions; and Major Scoble, who included us in his army NCOs' weekly meeting for the first few months, offering advice and criticisms that enabled us to improve the way we ran the Section. I must also thank my team of NCOs for their effort and input, and wish all the cadets and NCOs luck next year.

Cadet Warrant Officer Tim Hoult
Section Warrant Officer

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club took place on Saturday 12 April 2003 in the school library. 28 Old Boys were present. The accounts were presented to the meeting and were approved. Two members of the Committee, David Merriman and Ralph Miller, were standing down, and the Committee would seek to fill those vacancies. In response to some questions, it was reported that there had been a pleasing increase in membership, and in contact with OWs through the OW web site.

After the AGM an EGM was held to approve the new Constitution. There were no major changes but it was felt that the old constitution needed to be brought up-to-date in a few areas. The new Constitution was approved unanimously. Those present adjourned to the Queen's Hall for the Annual Dinner.

Prior to the Dinner, senior boys of the school gave a conducted tour to about 30 Old Boys, pointing out changes and additions which had taken place over the past few years.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was attended by 115 Old Boys, 19 teachers (both former and present), and 7 senior boys. There was a most pleasing increase in the number of Old Boys, particularly in the number of more recent Old Boys, and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

Before dinner the Headmaster, Mr T.T. Dingle, gave a brief review of the school's achievements over the past year, and his hopes for the future. The Guest of Honour was Ian Blyth, who had been a boy at the RGS in the 1950s and had taught at the school for 38 years. David Merriman proposed the toast to Ian, and Ian replied with some highly entertaining reminiscences of his time at the school.

On the afternoon of the Dinner, 22 Old Boys enjoyed a game of hockey at Bisham Abbey, while some fencers and rowers performed in the Sports Hall and on the Thames respectively. It is hoped that this will become a feature of the Reunion and that more Old Boys will be able to participate in these and in other sports.



Joseph Abdalla
Year 9

Drawing 'Camouflage design'

Old Boys' Notes

BANHAM. M J (1943—52) Martin is a professor at the School of English, Leeds University, and is editor of the *Cambridge Guide to the Theatre*. He was moved to see the photo of his late brother **Roger** in the previous issue of the Old Boys' magazine, lining up as second drummer in the JTC band in 1944. He recalls that the band was very smartly turned out, and regularly (literally) stopped whatever traffic there was around in those days.

BREWER. R (1992—98) Following his appearance in a sports champions' edition of the *Weakest Link* in 2001, Ross was a member of the England gymnastics squad which won the team gold medal at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. This matched his previous success in the 1998 games in Kuala Lumpur.

COLLINS. P J (1946—52) Peter writes from Oxford, and was pleased to be able to make the Annual Dinner. He sends news of the death of **Raymond MILLER**.

COPE. C (1982—88) Christopher is still Political Editor of *Warship World*, and criticized the government's planned cuts to the Royal Navy's frigate force in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* on 14 October 2002.

CROWTHER. P P (1947—53) Peter writes from his home in the Netherlands, and has also sent in 2 photos taken in the late 1940s, reproduced in the latest issue of the Old Boys' magazine. He recalls several fellow students from that era — **WESTNEY, KIPPING, and KENYON** — whilst his brother **Michael**, having spent many years working overseas, now, sadly, has failing eyesight, but is active both as Chairman of the Lytham choir and with the RNIB.

DEWAR. D (1978—84)

DEWAR. J (1985—91)

DEWAR. P (1987—93) Both local and national press carried the story of the three brothers and their seven sisters, who all attended Butler's Court Primary School in Beaconsfield, and all of whom have gained degrees — six of them graduating from Southampton! Duncan is now a Lt Col in the Royal Marines, James is a helicopter pilot with the RAF, and Peter is a doctor. Their mother Margaret, who lost her husband 10 years ago, is a Bucks county councillor. The many achievements of the family are quite breathtaking!

HOLLINGWORTH. R (1953—60) Roger was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours in appreciation of his dedicated service to the Combined Cadet movement.

JONES. J H (1969—74) In the Berkshire lifestyle magazine, Howard comments that his life has changed for good, now that he has embraced Buddhism. He first burst onto the musical scene in the mid-1980s, with his acclaimed pop songs and modern state of the art instrument technology. Although he has often been tempted to move to the USA, he states that his ties to High Wycombe, the Buddhist community at Taplow, and his home in Maidenhead are good reasons for staying put.

LOUTTIT. J (1992—98) James spent part of last year in Borneo, working on a conservation project run by Trekforce on behalf of the Royal Society's South East Asian Rainforest research programme. This aims to regenerate the jungle by planting thousands of seedlings.

MacTAVISH. A J (1948—56) Andrew has written a long and lighthearted article on his time as a boarder at school, and this will be on the OB website. It is also available from the Hon Secretary, if a stamped addressed envelope is sent. How different is today's boarding! Apart from his time as a student at school, Andrew taught at the RGS 1962—66, and spent the final 15 years of his career as Headmaster of John Hampden School. A photo of a CCF general inspection day, sent in by him, appears in the latest issue of the Old Boys' magazine.

PEETT. J CBE (1947—50) After service with the RAF, John started a 19 years' career in avionics, before being head-hunted to lead the commercial side of the Racal radio group. From this base, he became a founder of Vodafone, retiring from that company in 1997, having previously been awarded his CBE. He was then persuaded to run a major US space company, but had to return to the UK at the end of 1998, because of his wife's heart problem, so he now keeps busy with non-executive directorships and some consultancy work. His 3 children are healthy, intelligent, well educated and gainfully employed.

PRIESTLEY. R L (1936—41) Reg writes from his home in Deception Bay, Queensland, to say that he has lived in Australia since 1951, and returned to visit the school in November 2001. He also spent time trying to locate various homes and other places around High Wycombe, but much had changed in the intervening years. As he stood in front of the 'new' facade, only 2 names of former students came to mind — **Ralph BARNES** and **Chris WILKINSON**. But he does recall Sam Morgan, 'Guts' Milner, and his arch-enemy M Henri Marti, with whom he clashed often, and on one occasion, his mother marched on the school and confronted the master who had so embarrassed her son! After service with the Palestine Police, he did a temporary stint with BEA, and then spent the next 40 years in the travel industry.

RICHARDS. S (1971—78) Simon was, until mid-2002, Head of Sixth Form at Audenshaw School in Manchester, after which he moved on to Newcastle as Deputy Head of Gosforth High School.

SEARLE. R (1969—76) Ralph reckons that the bustle of a large city like Bristol, where he is now vicar of St Gregory the Great, suits him better than the quiet of the English Riviera in Paignton! His present parish is rooted firmly in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Although he had never been in the CCF at school, he now finds himself honorary chaplain to the North Bristol ATC. Life is so unpredictable.

STEVENS. D W (1933—40) Professor of Musicology and expert on Monteverdi, Denis very generously presented a new organ to the school, for use in the Queen's Hall, and in memory of his parents Edith and William. The organ had its first public appearance at the summer concert, when the guest organist was Sir Nicholas Jackson. The instrument greatly enhances concerts and morning assembly. Denis is also publishing volume 2 of his autobiography — an active life at age 80!

TAYLOR. J (1918—23) John, who was at school on Armistice Day in November 1918, gave a detailed description of his school days when interviewed by Ian Clark. His story is on the school website, or a transcript can be obtained from the Hon Secretary by sending a stamped addressed envelope. An adapted version appears in this issue of the *Wycombiensian*.

THOMPSON. G (1940—45) George clearly recalls that part of the school uniform used to include 'house shoes', to be worn at all times whilst on the premises, but during his time the rule tended to be overlooked because of clothing shortages throughout the war. He was also interested to read

the article by Bill Mercy, on farm camps at Nunney during the war, and remembers the 1944 camp, when he worked in shirt and shorts. Unfortunately, his fair complexion took a beating from the hot sun and scratching from the corn stalks, and his legs were so bad and painful that Bill had to tow him on his bicycle — his knees refused to move! That was the end of his 'harvesting', so the rest of his camp was spent doing chores in the form of 'spud bashing'.

TROWBRIDGE. A V (1940—45) Antony has lived in South Africa since 1958, having spent the previous ten years in S. Rhodesia. He recalls his time as a boarder during the Second World War, under the watchful eye of 'Hosh' Johnson, and was a member of a very active RGS scout group. He has been greatly involved in community development, information and financial service co-operatives, as well as specialist building projects and housing developments.

WALTER. J F (1923—27) at the age of 92 John remains (reasonably) active, and writes and takes photos for the *Darlington & Stockton Times*, as well as editing his village magazine. With his wife Mollie (*née* King of High Wycombe) he plays carpet bowls and travels occasionally, otherwise it is a fairly quiet life with lots of wonderful memories.

WILTSHIRE. D J (1943—50) David was unable to attend the last Dinner and AGM, because he sings with the High Wycombe Choral Society, and their Spring concert was the same day. He was interested in the letter from Norman Timpson, concerning cricket, and recalls that he did get into the 1st XI in 1949, but then sank back to the second team for the 1950 season! He has sent in a photo of the 1949 team, when **Ted WOODWARD** was captain. He too was interested in Bill Mercy's memories of harvest camping, although David did not start until 1948, but food was still rationed, and help was very welcome. He went plum picking near Chesham and pea and potato harvesting at Little Marlow. Since no masters were there to supervise, certain songs were sung in the back of the lorry, and innocent bystanders were pelted with over-ripe fruit! Fortunately, 'Boss' Tucker never knew of these lapses, or heads would have rolled (or backsides thrashed!).



James Young
Year 9
Drawing 'Camouflage design'

Obituaries

Staff

EVERETT. R (1982—2002) Russel came to the RGS from Zimbabwe, where he had risen to be Deputy Head of Chaplin School, Gwelo. Initially teaching Mathematics and Physics, he created the Electronics department in 1986 and ran it until his retirement. On the pastoral side, he served as a form teacher in Years 9, 10 and 11. For many years he was in charge of the sound and lighting systems in the Queen's Hall, doing much to upgrade the equipment and raising it to those standards of excellence which did so much to enhance the school's musical and dramatic productions. Russel was a valued colleague. Dedicated, well-organized and cheerful, he had firm opinions and was forthright in their expression. As a teacher he expected the highest standards from his pupils, and usually got them, as his final batch of examination results showed. Tragically, he was struck by cancer within weeks of retiring, and died on 1 May 2003. He is survived by his wife, Gillian, and their three children.

WALLER. J (1970—75) John taught Mathematics and was involved with the CCF. Before joining the school, he had been an instructor in the Royal Navy for over 30 years.

WHEELER. J Jean was the widow of **Frank**, who was Bursar at the school for ten years in the 1980s, and was the mother of **David** and **Andrew**, Old Boys of the RGS in the 1970s.



*Guy Mannerings
Year 11
Acrylic painting*

Old Boys

ASHFORD. M F J (1939—42) Cmdr RN Ret'd. Michael died at Guildford on 3 May 2001. During his time at school, he was a prefect, captain of Disraeli House, and played for the first teams in both rugby and cricket. He retired from the RN in 1959 to join Shell International.

BARNARD. R G (1925—31) Rodney retired in 1965 as a director of engineering, BAA, after a career with various electrical and civil authorities and Civil Aviation. At the RGS he had been a House captain, a CSM in the OTC, and cricket captain in 1931.

BARNETT. B W (1933—39) retired as Accounts Supervisor, Prudential Assurance, after a career with them of 45 years. This was after war service from 1941 to 1946. At school he was involved with rugby and athletics.

CARR. S M R (1927—35) We have no further details. Can any OB provide information?

DUNCOMBE. N (1994—2000) Nicholas was one of RGS's star rugby players, with a promising international career ahead of him. He captained the 1st XV, subsequently played for Harlequins, and was twice capped for England as the team's youngest scrum-half for 71 years. He showed great courage returning to the game after recovering from a broken neck three years ago. Nicholas died suddenly in February while on a warm-weather training session in Lanzarote.

HEATHER. F J (1937—45) Frank was an Exhibitioner in English and graduated MA from Jesus College, Cambridge. After service with the RAF 1948—50, he spent all his working life in journalism.

HUGHES. J T (1962—69) We have no further details. Can any OB provide information?

JENKINS. T B (1941—47) Terry was a person of great character. For many years he was a member of the OW Rugby Club, and anyone who played against him will not forget it! He was articled in London, and practised in the City for some years, before moving westwards to Teignmouth. He lost his wife about 13 years ago, but is survived by 2 sons and a daughter. His death is a great loss to the profession and all his friends. This tribute has been paid by his school friend **Geoffrey GREEN** (1940—46).

MILLER. R (1943—51) Raymond died early last year aged 69. He retired in 1991, after 25 years as Head of Donnington Middle School, Oxford. As well as being a respected teacher, he was a talented artist and cartoonist, and, as a keen singer, was a member of his church choir.

PARROTT. F G (1928—34) Frederick retired in 1983 as Treasurer, Bucks CC motor tax department in Aylesbury, in which town he lived until his death. He played fives and rugby at school, and served with the RAFVR during the years 1939—58.

PRIOR. J MBE (1934—40) John died in September 2002, after a lifetime of service to others, and nearly 70 years' connection with the school. John was a School House boarder from 1934 until 1940. He listed his interests at school as sprinting and drama as well as being a librarian. He was a drum major and acting sergeant major in the OTC, and when war started, he was in the RGS section of the Local Defence

Volunteers. He was also a keen photographer, and his contemporary photos have appeared in past issues of the Old Boys' magazine. When he left school, he joined the Prudential Insurance Company, as well as the Home Guard, being promoted to Second Lieutenant, before seeing active service with the Royal Regiment of Artillery between 1941 and 1946. He served in Normandy, Northwest Europe and India, rising from Troop Commander to Brigade Staff Captain. After the war, he re-joined the Prudential in personnel work with sales and office staff, and when he retired in 1982, he was Training and Development Manager responsible for 22,000 members of staff. He had been President of the Institute of Training and Development, a member of the Council of the British Association of Commercial and Industrial Education, and Chairman of the Insurance Industry Training Council Consultative Committee. He was awarded the MBE in 1977 for services to staff training. John and his wife Heather had three daughters, Kathleen, Amanda and Jacqueline, the two first-born sadly dying in their late teens from cystic fibrosis. Characteristically, John became involved with efforts to cure the disease, and raise funds for research and care, which included making parachute jumps! He was Hon Secretary of the Sussex Region Cystic Fibrosis Trust from 1969 until 1991. John never really left the school. He joined the Old Boys' Committee in 1948, and was an active member for the rest of his life. He became a Foundation Governor in 1964, Vice Chairman in 1971 and Chairman in 1972, a position he held for more than 25 years. During that period he gave unstinting support to the school, the Headmaster and staff, and, above all, to the boys. Under his leadership, the Board successfully defended the school against threats of unnecessary change, whilst continually improving standards and facilities — even during periods of increasing budgetary pressure. John was very proud of the school and of his connection with it, but would never seek credit for his own efforts. He was, without doubt, one of the great men in the history of the Royal Grammar School, and we hope that his example will live on.

RAY. G W (1917—22) George was born in May 1905, and during his lifetime saw High Wycombe change from a market town with a world renowned furniture industry, to the typical 'developed' township of today. At school, he was captain of cricket and soccer, and was cross country champion. All his post-school career was spent in the furniture trade, and he was 70 years with the well-known firm of Ercol, becoming director and company secretary, and only retiring in 1990. He was for 40 years a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, and served as national president of the Furniture Trades' Benevolent Association in 1989—90. He retained a long and close association with the school, and was a Foundation Governor for many years, retiring in 1998.

SILSBY. W E (1919—23) Bill was one of the oldest OBs when he died early in 2002, at his home near Diss, Norfolk. He was born in Princes Risborough in June 1906, and was a few months short of his 96th birthday. He came from a family of local millers, and when he eventually gave up the flour mill business after the 1939—45 war, he opened a wool shop in Crendon Street, near the station.

TANNER. D W (1940—46) David died a year ago, at his home in Fareham, Hants, after a short illness.

WALLINGTON. J (1946—50) Jeremy gained some early journalistic experience with the *Slough Observer* before national service with the RAF, where he organised a profit-making magazine for the squadron! After a stint with the *Bristol Evening Post*, he moved to Fleet Street, on the gossip column of the *Daily Mirror*. After more experience, he joined the *Sunday Times* and in 1967 began his TV career working

for Granada's *World in Action*. His work in investigative programmes became legendary, and he won worldwide acclaim with *Churchill: The wilderness years* whilst director of programmes with Southern TV. With the advent of Channel 4, and the prospect of a multiplicity of networks, he encouraged independent programme-makers, and foresaw the need for a massive studio complex. He chose a disused warehouse at Canary Wharf, and Limehouse Studio was born, setting in motion the incredible development of that area. In the meantime, Jeremy was enticing such TV winners as *Spitting Image*, *Treasure Hunt*, *Who Dares Wins*, and won the franchise to produce *The Business Programme* for Channel 4. Ironically, by 1986, fellow directors could no longer afford the flamboyant style of this former RGS lad, and soon after his departure, they sold the studios to the Reichmann brothers for nearly £25m profit, thereby triggering the phenomenal economic revival in Docklands. In recent years, he had been active in publishing and cross-media programmes. His two great passions were choral singing and old cars, and everything he did was in style. A former colleague summed him up — 'His idea of brainstorming was to throw fabulous dinner parties, which always ended in tremendous rows. He was irascible, feisty, capricious and prodigiously talented. Thank God I met him'. Jeremy died in August 2001, aged 66.

WHITE. W E (1928—33) Wilfred worked for a number of local Councils in a Treasurer capacity, broken only by war service 1940—46 with the Royal Corps of Signals. He had a great love of music, and enjoyed playing the organ. He died at his home in Bristol.



Hayden Devlin
Year 12
Life drawing