

Ross Monro IIC



# WYCCOMBIENSIAN 1996

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# The Wycombiensian

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1996

The Magazine of the  
Royal Grammar School  
High Wycombe

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

Cover Design: Ross Monro

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## Staff Leavers

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### Mr Neil Cooper

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Three words immediately come to mind when thinking of Neil Cooper and his contribution to the Royal Grammar School: Scholar, Officer and Gentleman (the capital letters are quite deliberate).

From first to last, Neil's love of Classics and his wish to instil that depth of feeling and respect for his subject in his pupils has been clear. He came from Exeter College, Oxford, in 1960 as Assistant Classics Master. In September 1975, on the death of Kit Haworth, he became Head of Classics (assuming the purple toga) and Form Master of 6C. Over the years, a combination of academic rigour in the subject and unflappable, patient and trusting guidance on pastoral matters, has produced a considerable number of well-prepared and enthusiastic aspirants for University. The cause of Classics has had no greater advocate and he has pleaded that cause both nationally and locally.

Throughout his time teaching, Neil has also been thoroughly involved in the CCF at school. He became Master in charge of shooting in 1972 (very right and proper for an ex-member of the Royal Artillery), and Officer-in-charge in 1977, ultimately attaining the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. With the Naval and RAF Officers being given their head, all three sections have received glowing reports from the Biennial Inspections. Many boys have achieved their greatest ambitions and satisfaction at school through the CCF and have reason to be grateful. Neil handed over his baton to Roger Hollingworth in 1995. Nationally, Neil has been the maintained school representative on the country's CCF Executive.

The role of wise counsellor is one which Neil has had, and developed, over the years. Housemaster of Uplyme 1964–1973 with Clare his wife (who also taught at the Royal Grammar School 1970–1973); Chairman of his County professional Association (AMMA); Foundation Governor of Wycombe High School; 'Father of the Staff Common Room'.

In the mid 1970s he was a leading voice in the newly-formed Wycombe Parents' Association, which cajoled and encouraged the County Councillors to stand fast against the comprehensive policy of the Labour

Government of the day, and successfully play out time (20 years is a very long time both in education and politics!).

Trying to relax does not come naturally – except sitting beneath a tree, beside the loch in Mull – even then he is reading Catullus in the original. For many years Neil would return from a Sixth Form Cross Country run alarmingly florid, but he was prevailed upon to stop quite recently. Not so in music. Although the light fun of the 'Mastersingers' is a thing of legend, he has continued his enjoyment in the Choral Society to the end.

Invariably polite, meticulous in communication (closely written in black ink), always friendly, only critical when merited and in the nicest possible way of course. Neil and Clare our best wishes are with you.

Ave atque Vale!

M.J.M.

### Mr Brian Gelsthorpe

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Brian arrived at RGS in January 1973. He had just spent two years in Kenya and most of his earlier career had been in boarding schools. Ever since, he has been supremo of the Science Block. This distant outpost of the RGS empire, housed in the large and forbidding brick rectangle on the outer edge of the school site, remains alien territory to much of the staff though the view from the top has always been one of the standard sights of the Headmaster's tour for visitors.

The strength of the Science Department has long been one of the School's major assets and Brian has presided over it for more than twenty three years. His cheerful and multifaceted personality has symbolised its complexities, and the confused relationship our nation has with Science. Like so many others at RGS, Brian has stayed to the end of his career and it has been the school's good fortune that such stability has been a characteristic of its staff.

Despite his responsibility for the building and its fabric, and the continual problems of its maintenance and repair, he always retained a remarkable energy and enthusiasm for Chemistry. His teaching methods may have been relatively traditional but his lessons were always interesting, full of current scientific news gleaned from *New Scientist* or the *Guardian*. His boardwork, coloured chalks and all, was an example to everyone and former staff have been known to use it as a basis for their notes.

His huge reserves of knowledge and experience were invaluable to the whole department. His forty years of service include many years as an examiner for the Cambridge Examination Board. He was a great improviser, never rattled he could 'do' a good lesson at one minute's notice. He could base a Chemistry lesson, even a double period, on ink or a piece of chalk.

When the YHA Club started he immediately offered assistance and has been an active supporter ever since. Weekend trips were his suggestion, but he has also been on many of the longer trips to Wales, the Lake District and Switzerland where he took great pleasure in the scenery and flowering plants. He was a tower of strength on these trips, very calm and reliable and rarely angered. He was well known for his extremely baggy shorts. These were believed to contain enough material for three people using normal design. On the way home from a trip he would take a diversion via Greenham Common, to show solidarity with the protesters.

Brian was nothing if not an individualist. The opposite of an organisation man, his wry mischievous sense of humour was often targeted on the Senior Management Team. He had a soft spot for boys who bucked the system. He never condoned their behaviour, but perhaps he saw something of himself in them.

Above all Brian was a *Guardian* Man. Perhaps when the Staff Common Room voted to cease taking the *Guardian*, he felt that the time had come to part company with it. We wish him and his wife Judy a long and happy retirement.

J.A.W.

## The Revd Barry Kempson

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Barry Kempson left RGS in July 1995 after nearly two decades of service to the school. He combined his job with that of Minister of Chenies Baptist Church. Barry was always under enormous pressure. In the end, after a long period of very bad health, his wife Janet persuaded Barry to give up one of his posts. Happily, the result has been a return to better health.

Thousands of pupils and former pupils will remember Barry with affection. He was one of the many characters whose mild and gentle eccentricities have enriched the life of the school for so long. Many will remember for the rest of their lives Barry's stories of angels on motorbikes and his demolition of houses. They will also remember his kindness. Barry was his own man and paid absolutely no heed to the normal conventions of time keeping. His lessons would begin and finish up to fifteen minutes late. The previous head, Rowland Brown, had to admit defeat when it came to containing Barry's assemblies. After the usual five minutes Barry had barely begun.

We miss Barry very much. We miss his sincerity and warmth. We miss his clear-cut Christian faith and commitment.

R.G.R.

## Mr Mike Davies

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Mike Davies joined the staff in 1989 having studied at Loughborough and taught at Chislehurst and Sidcup GS. He moved to Sir William Borlase's School as Head of PE for one year before continuing his studies in America. When he answered my call to teach PE at RGS for a few weeks to cover the absence of Derek Stubbs, little did he realise that it was the start of a seven year stay.

During that time he has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the school both on the sports field and as a Housemaster at Uplyme. He is a well liked, personable colleague who has been the mainstay of staff teams and his sporting prowess will be sadly missed.

An excellent teacher of all sports he has played a full part in the life of the Physical Education department and at various times has been responsible for cricket, athletics and basketball. The success of numerous U13 rugby squads is a testimony to his rugby coaching ability, and how fitting that after yet another successful season the U13 VII reached the final of the National Schools' Sevens. He leaves to take up a new challenge as Director of Sport at Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree, and we wish him, wife Corrine and family every success.

C.C.T.

## Miss Jenny Kelly

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Jenny Kelly joined the Modern Languages Department in 1989 as a teacher of Spanish and French. She soon found herself running the Spanish department, and under her watchful eye it has expanded and flourished with new courses in the Sixth Form and greatly increased take-up at GCSE. Jenny has brought her skill and enthusiasm both to the classroom and many extra-curricular activities (not to mention her culinary expertise to the Department, which will be sorely missed).

She has organised the annual trip to Spain over many years, and the number of boys now participating is a testament to her leadership and the varied activities she has arranged. Her contributions to Vulture, PSHE and Careers have been much valued, and she has been a stalwart of the Junior Block and a year 9 form teacher. We wish her every success in her new position as Head of Modern Languages at Radcliffe College.

H.R.M./S.J.N.

## Mr Richard Chuter

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To return to your old school to teach can be a daunting prospect, but it didn't seem to affect Richard who returned to RGS to teach PE and French after gaining a degree at Saint Luke's College, Exeter.

He taught both subjects with distinction and became a well liked member of the Common Room, regularly competing in Staff sports teams.

Richard made an enormous contribution to the PE department, pioneering new fitness work in years 10 and 11, and bringing his expertise to extra-curricular work in rugby, athletics, and basketball. As joint coach of the U15 XV he gained great satisfaction in seeing them lift the Daily Mail Cup at Twickenham.

Richard's decision to leave teaching to follow a career in the Metropolitan Police came as a shock and reflects in part the poor salaries and prospects of teachers in the state sector. RGS has lost an extremely talented professional but we wish PC Richard 'Flat-foot' Chuter every success in his new career.

C.C.T.

## Mrs Elsie Probert

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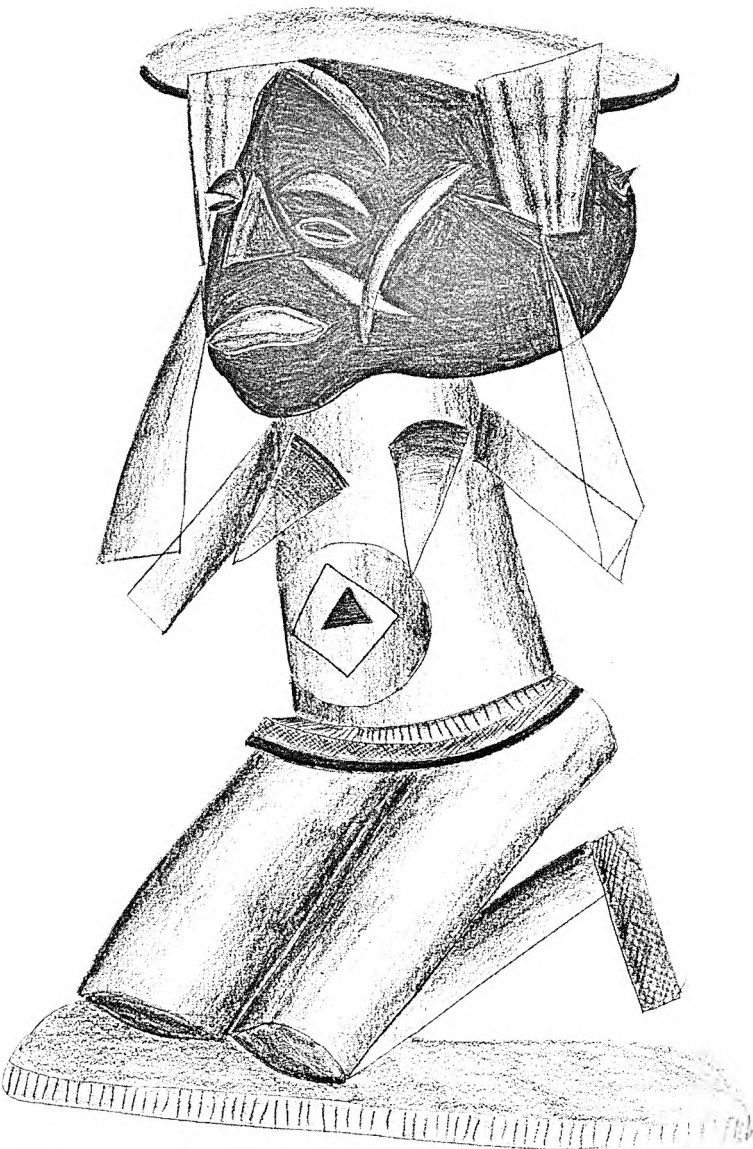
Elsie Probert, who left us last summer, joined RGS in September 1991 with a long and experienced background of teaching Art, including a period of time teaching in Sweden.

The dedication for her subject was evident from the enthusiasm that she brought to her teaching and her interest in pursuing her studies as a professional artist.

Elsie contributed widely to many aspects of extra-curricular work from lunch time Art classes, designing graphics for a range of school activities, as Art editor for the *Wycombiensian* and her contributions to the Vulture Club.

Her outwardly quiet, charming manner was complemented by a keen eye and an energy for life. Her retirement is allowing her to pursue her professional development as an artist and we wish her good health and success in her endeavours.

R.P.S.



## Mr Ian Long

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Ian Long joined RGS in 1993 as Head of Geography, bringing new energy and vision to the department. He has successfully introduced new GCSE and A-Level syllabuses, defined and resourced the Key Stage 3 Geography Curriculum, and introduced the much-needed IT component into the teaching of Geography. Ian has been eager to encourage new ideas and strategies but has always been sensitive to the abilities and ideas of his department. He has shown a great commitment to all the students whom he has taught and has achieved excellent results. He can be especially proud of the 3 successful Oxford Geography candidates whom he nurtured in his first two years. The OFSTED inspection of 1995 was a major challenge for all of us. Ian rose to that challenge magnificently, producing exhaustive and superb departmental documentation which laid the groundwork for an excellent departmental OFSTED report. As in all that he does Ian gave sacrificially of his time.

His contribution outside the department has also been significant. The IT Committee will miss his expertise and enthusiasm, and rowing will lose a staff member who supervised land-training very well, though it is said he seldom participated, and many will miss queuing behind him at the photocopier! Ian came to us having developed a well-researched knowledge of the Oxbridge setup and many applicants benefited from his rigorous and informed approach, and he gave hugely of his time and energies, especially in this last year.

Ian leaves us to take up the post as Head of Sixth Form at Brentwood School and this will bring many new challenges. We wish him all the very best as he makes this significant career move. He leaves a well-organised and successful department where he has accomplished a great deal in his brief tenure and he will be remembered as a valued colleague.

R.N.P.

## Mrs Liz Cunningham

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Liz Cunningham worked in the School Office part-time for several years until April 1996. She was always ready to help in so many ways, coming in at very short notice at times of emergencies and always remaining cheerful and friendly. Like her husband Chris, whose contribution to CCF life is tremendous, Liz is always a very enthusiastic supporter of School events – especially at Craft Fairs where she showed her considerable artistic talent. Thank you Liz for all that you did.

I.R.C.

*Piers Sanders  
Year 10  
'Geometric Abstraction'*

# University Entry 1995–96

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## OXFORD

**A Cox:** LMH; English  
**C Daniels:** Mansfield; Material Science  
**J Hayat:** St Anne's; Geography  
**S Molden:** Christ Church; Geography  
**T Roebuck:** St Hugh's; Geography

## CAMBRIDGE

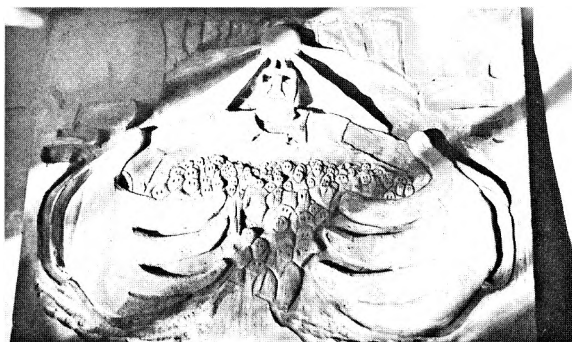
**M Coakes:** Queens'; Engineering  
**J Dormand:** Clare; Engineering (96)  
**B Greenwood:** Clare; Natural Science  
**S Hallam:** Churchill; Medicine  
**J Hanson:** St John's; Natural Science (96)  
**J King:** Churchill; Engineering (96)  
**R Moretto:** Jesus; Law (96)  
**JA Page:** Robinson; Engineering (96)  
**JM Page:** Churchill; Computing/Maths  
**T Parr:** Sidney Sussex; Economics  
**M Pickles:** Trinity; Maths  
**M Reid:** Robinson; Medicine  
**A Robbins:** Downing; Law  
**K Smith:** Magdalen; Natural Science  
**R Steiner:** Girton; History  
**M Suret:** Clare; Natural Science  
**P Watson:** St John's; Classics  
**D Wheeler:** Queens'; Engineering (96)

## OTHER UNIVERSITIES

**JA Agnini:** Nottingham; Computer Science  
**KS Akhtar:** Imperial College School of Medicine (96)  
**JR Alexander:** Portsmouth; Economics  
**M Ali:** De Montfort; Biomedical Sciences & Business Studies  
**JR Allan:** Bristol; French & German (96)  
**N Allen:** Manchester; Law  
**PJ Bailey:** Bournemouth; Applied Psychology & Computing  
**DJ Barville:** Southampton; Law  
**MR Battle:** Southampton; Biology  
**D Bayless:** Coventry; Engineering & Business  
**TG Beecroft:** Amersham & Wycombe College; Art Foundation  
**RP Bennett:** Southampton; Electronic Engineering  
**A Bendyshe-Brown:** Amersham & Wycombe College; Art Foundation  
**JP Blackburn:** Birmingham; Law with European Studies  
**PR Bond:** Coventry; Computer Science  
**LW Booth:** Bath; French & Italian  
**CA Boucher:** UWE Bristol; Languages & European Studies  
**AJ Brant:** Southampton; Electrical/Electronic Engineering  
**RC Bucknall:** Sheffield; Modern Languages  
**IA Childs:** Portsmouth; Sports Science  
**NM Clark:** Plymouth; Media Lab Arts  
**TG Clark:** Leicester; Geography  
**NP Colpitts:** Manchester Metropolitan; Combined Studies  
**RT Coombes:** Birmingham; Medieval Studies  
**J Cope:** Leeds; Medicine  
**JE Cooper:** Nottingham; Industrial Economics  
**CJ Cornish:** Leeds; Zoology  
**I Crichton:** Edinburgh; Economics & Business Management

**AF Davidson:** Cardiff; Music  
**AS Davidson:** Sussex; Artificial Intelligence  
**JR Davis:** Liverpool; Veterinary Science (96)  
**JL Dorricott:** Leeds; Mathematics/Operational Research  
**PI Douglas:** Reading; Psychology (96)  
**JH Dunnett:** Southampton; Philosophy  
**A Dziakowski:** Hertfordshire; Aeronautical Engineering  
**AB Farley:** Birmingham; History & Archaeology  
**JM Fisher:** Birmingham; Accounting  
**K Fountain:** De Montfort; Business & Management Studies  
**PR Gibbs:** Derby; Combined Studies  
**JM Gilbert:** Swansea; Economics (96)  
**DR Ginn:** Bristol; Law (96)  
**DJ Goldie:** Nottingham; Psychology & Artificial Intelligence (96)  
**D Green:** Nottingham; Physics  
**JJ Greenfield:** Exeter; Politics & History  
**AJ Hallam:** Southampton Institute of Higher Education; Yacht & Powerboat Design  
**PR Harley:** East Anglia; Computer Science & Spanish  
**CG Harris:** Southampton; History  
**TD Harrison:** Bristol; Chemistry (96)  
**MA Harvey:** Reading; Agricultural Economics  
**CP Hatt:** Bristol; Medicine  
**K Hawes:** Nottingham Trent; Government & Public Policy  
**NJ Homer:** Southampton; Economics & Actuary Studies  
**JA Hounsell:** Sheffield; International Business with French  
**JR Howard:** London Guildhall; Audio-Visual Production  
**D Irvine:** Edinburgh; Science & Engineering  
**KL Johnson:** Sheffield; Philosophy  
**N Kingsnorth:** Nottingham; Philosophy  
**JM Kinner:** Leeds; Pharmacology  
**RA Knox:** Birmingham; Medicine  
**DM Lambourne:** Birmingham; Electronic & Software Engineering  
**JA Latham:** Bristol; Physics  
**MD Lawton:** Southampton; Medicine  
**J Leach:** Nottingham; German & Philosophy  
**A Leggett:** Brighton; Accountancy & Finance  
**PJ Lennon:** Manchester; History (96)  
**MC Lewis:** Bristol; Aeronautical Engineering  
**DC Lister:** Southampton Institute of Higher Education; Law & Business Studies  
**PD Lynch:** Hull; Computer Science  
**PJ Lyon:** Birmingham; American Studies & History  
**R Maknin:** Imperial College London; Physics  
**A Mann:** Bangor; Biology  
**A Marchant:** UWE Bristol; Financial Management  
**AJ Marshall:** Sheffield; Pharmacology  
**J Mawson:** Reading; Rural Resource Management  
**IP McLaughlin:** Surrey; Law & Russian (96)  
**AE Miller:** London School of Economics; Economics  
**I Mir:** King's College, London; Biochemistry  
**CD Monnington:** Birmingham; Medical Sciences (1996)  
**RP Moores:** Nottingham; Management & German  
**RM Morgans:** University College, London; Construction Management  
**RP Nash:** Reading; Food Technology  
**AJ Norris:** Kingston; Accountancy & Law  
**CR Novell:** Brighton; Mechanical Engineering  
**IC O'Callaghan:** Thames Valley; Business/Management Studies  
**P O'Hagan:** Birmingham; Town & Country Planning & Geography  
**SJ Pack:** Portsmouth Technology; Management  
**DJ Page:** Nottingham Trent; Business Administration

**TC Payne:** Reading; Environmental Plant Science  
**UJ Payne:** Durham; Law (96)  
**DC Peach:** Bristol; Chemistry  
**MS Peake:** East Anglia; Law  
**EW Pearce:** Birmingham; Social Policy  
**ML Peddle:** Aston; Business/Management Studies  
**CD Perring:** Portsmouth; Economics  
**ER Phillips:** East London; Accountancy & Finance  
**ID Phillips:** Swansea; Computer Science  
**GC Porter:** Portsmouth; Economics  
**LJ Power:** Guildhall School of Music; Music  
**AH Priestley:** Birmingham; Medieval Studies  
**S Radforth:** Warwick; Computer Systems & Electronic Engineering  
**CJ Randall:** Leeds Metropolitan; Business Information Management  
**JD Rayfield:** Portsmouth; Latin American Studies (96)  
**IM Redpath:** UMIST; Applied German & Linguistics  
**S Rehmat:** Loughborough; Materials with Business Studies  
**K Riaz:** Birmingham; Accountancy  
**M Riley:** Bucks College; Computer Science  
**JN Robinson:** Brunel; Electronic Engineering (96)  
**G Rossiter:** Cardiff; History  
**NJ Schwarz:** UWE Bristol; Anthropology with Communication Studies  
**RE Sharp:** De Montfort; Combined Studies  
**TM Shaw:** Manchester; History  
**JM Shore:** Bath; Maths & Computing  
**MA Simpson:** Portsmouth; Pharmacology  
**B Soh:** Leeds; Law  
**PC Spackman:** Nottingham; Physics  
**H Spurling:** Bristol; Psychology & Philosophy  
**RJ Stacey:** Cardiff; Business Administration  
**RJ Stephens:** Reading; Land Management  
**MO Stephenson:** King's College, London; History  
**AJ Stubbs:** Exeter; Exercise & Sports Science  
**GD Sugg:** Roehampton Institute, London; Psychology/Social Biology  
**B Synnock:** Brighton; Software Engineering  
**P Timms:** Imperial College, London; Materials Science  
**J Tyzack:** Bristol; Chemistry (96)  
**J Van Denbulcke:** Birmingham; Geology & Geography  
**V Vljacic:** Westminster; Informations Systems/Engineering  
**ND Walker:** Aberystwyth; Law with French  
**B Walters:** King's College, London; Social Studies  
**NS Weingard:** Manchester; Politics & Modern History  
**C West:** Swansea; Computer Science (96)  
**M Williams:** Leeds; Pharmacology  
**PS Woods:** Aston; Psychology/Business Administration  
**RB Woolnough:** Nottingham; History  
**TJ Worsfold:** Imperial College, London; Civil Engineering  
**DA Wotherspoon:** Wolverhampton; Sociology  
**CA Wright:** Leeds; Civil Engineering with Architecture  
**S Yaddhige:** University College, London; Law



*Alex Cox  
 Year 11  
 Plaster Carving*

## “A” Level Results 1995

KEY: Ar – Art; Bi – Biology; Bs – Business Studies;  
 Cn – Chemistry; Co – Communication Studies;  
 Cs – Computing; Ec – Economics; El – English Literature;  
 En – English Language; Ep – Economics & Politics;  
 Et – Electronics; Fr – French; Ge – Geography;  
 Gm – German; Go – Government & Political Studies;  
 Gr – Greek; Gs – General Studies; Ha – Ancient History;  
 Hi – History; La – Latin; Ma – Maths; Mf – Further Maths;  
 Mu – Music; Pi – Philosophy; Pn – Physics; Rs – Religious  
 Studies; Sp – Spanish; Te – Technology; As:Ph – Physics

AS denotes “AS” Level \* denotes Grade A

The successful candidates who took the GCE “A” Level Examinations were:

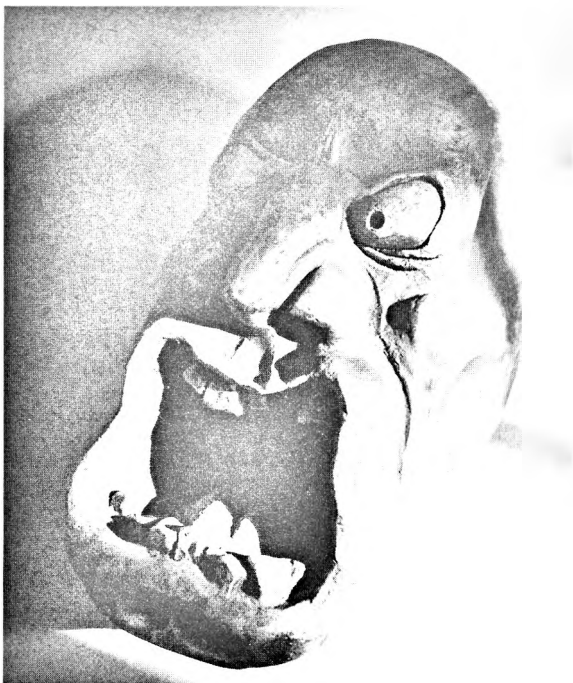
**J Agnini:** Cs\* Hi Ma AS:Ph **K Akhtar:** Bi Cn Ma Pn  
**J Alexander:** Cs Ec Ma **M Ali:** Bi Bs Cn **J Allan:** Fr\* Gm\*  
 Hi Mu **N Allen:** Fr\* Gs Hi\* Ma\* AS:Ph **R Allom:** Bi Cn  
 Gs\* Pn\* **P Bailey:** En La Pi **B Barnett:** Bs Fr Hi  
**D Barville:** En\* Fr\* Ma\* Pn\* **M Battle:** Bi Bs Cn Ge  
**D Bayless:** Bs Ge **T Beecroft:** Ar Ge **J Belcher:** Hi AS:Ar  
**A Bendshe-Brown:** Ar Pn **R Bennett:** Ma\* Mf Pn\*  
 AS:Et\* **R Benstock:** Ma Pn AS:Pi **J Blackburn:** Ge\* Gm\*  
 Hi\* **P Bond:** Cs Pn **L Booth:** El Fr\* Hi AS:Go\*  
**C Boucher:** Fr\* Gm Ma AS:Ph **R Bounds:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\*  
 Pn\* **A Brant:** Cs\* Ma Pn AS:Et\* **J Brinn:** Fr\* Gs\* Hi Ma\*  
 Pn\* **C Bruckner:** Cn Pn **R Bucknall:** En Fr Gm AS:Go  
**A Caldwell:** Fr\* Gm **S Cameron:** El\* Ge Gs Hi Pi  
**T Castagnoli:** Ec Pi **I Childs:** Cn Ma Pn AS:Cs **N Clark:** Ha  
 Hi AS:Go **T Clark:** El Ge Hi\* AS:Go **S Clarke:** Bi Cn Pn\*  
 AS:Cs **N Colpitts:** Bs Ge Ha AS:Pi **R Coombes:** Ep\* Ha  
 Hi\* AS:Cs **J Cooper:** Bs Fr\* Ma AS:Ph **M Cooper:** Gm\*  
**J Cope:** Bi Cn Pn\* **CJ Cornish:** Bi Bs Fr AS:Ph **A Cox:** El\*  
 Hi\* Sp AS:Pi **I Crichton:** El Ep\* Gs Hi **C Daniels:** Cn Ma\*  
 Pn\* AS:Gm **AF Davidson:** Bs Mu Pn **AS Davidson:** Cs El  
 Ha Pi **J Davis:** Bi\* Cn\* Pi\* AS:Ar **J De Gelas:** Gs  
**RD Devoy:** Cn Gs Ma Pn\* AS:Bi **D Donnelly:** Co Ge Hi  
**J Dormand:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf Pn\* AS:Et\* **J Dorricott:** Cn Ma  
 Pn **P Douglas:** Bi\* Bs Cn AS:Rs **J Dunnett:** El Gs Hi Pi  
**A Dziakowski:** Gs AS:Ar **A Farley:** El Gs Ha Hi Pi  
**J Fisher:** Bs Fr Hi **K Fountain:** Bs Fr Gm Ma **R Frewing:**  
 Ge Pn **C Fullick:** Bs **P Gibbs:** El Hi **S Gibbs:** Bs Pn AS:Te  
**J Gilbert:** Ec Ge Hi AS:Ar **D Ginn:** Fr\* Hi Sp\* AS:Go  
**Z Girnary:** Ec\* Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **D Goldie:** Ar Bi Fr AS:Pi  
**D Green:** Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* AS:Cs\* **J Greenfield:** El Ep\* Hi  
 AS:Rs **B Greenwood:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* **M Hallam:** Ec  
 Gm Ma AS:Ph **J Hanson:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **P Harley:** Pn  
 Sp AS:Fr **C Harris:** El Gm Hi **JA Harrison:** Ec Gm Hi  
 AS:Cs **T Harrison:** Bi Cn Ep **M Harvey:** Bs Gm Ha  
**C Hatt:** Bi\* Cn\* Pn\* **K Hawes:** Hi Sp As:Go **J Hayat:** Fr\*  
 Ge\* Gm\* Hi\* **R Haynes:** Gm Hi Mu **RG Holland:** Bs\* Fr  
 Ge AS:Pi **N Homer:** Bs Gm Ma **J Horridge:** Ep\* Hi Ma  
 AS:Fr **J Hounsell:** Fr Ge Gm **J Howard:** Bs El Ge Sp  
**D Irvine:** Cs Fr Ma Pn **M Jefferies:** Bs Mu **K Johnson:** Fr  
 Hi Pi AS:Cs **J King:** Ge\* Ma\* Pn\* AS:Gm **N Kingsnorth:**  
 Bs Ge Gs Hi AS:Pi **S Kingsnorth:** Co Pi **M Kinner:** Cn Ec  
 Pn AS:Go **A Knox:** Cn\* Gs Ma Pn\* AS:Fr\* **R Knox:** Bi\*  
 Cn\* Pn\* AS:Cs\* **D Lambourne:** Gm Ma\* Mf\* Pn  
**J Latham:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* **M Lawton:** Bi\* Cn Ma Pn\*  
**J Leach:** Gm\* Hi\* Pi AS:Cs\* **A Leggett:** Ec Ha Hi  
**P Lennon:** Co El\* Hi\* AS:Fr **M Lewis:** Gm Ma\* Mu  
 Pn\* **D Lister:** Bs Hi Ma AS:Fr **P Lynch:** Bs Ep Gs Hi  
**P Lyon:** El\* Ge\* Gs\* Hi\* AS:Fr **R Maknin:** Cn Ma\* Mf  
 Pn\* **A Mann:** Bi Hi **A Marchant:** Bs En Ep **A Marshall:**  
 Bi\* Cn Pn **A Mason:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* **P Mawhood:** Fr Hi

AS:Ar AS:Go **J Mawson:** Ar El Ge **J Maxmin:** Fr\* Gm\* Hj\* **AJ McCallion:** En Gs Ha La Pi **I McLaughlin:** Bs Ge\* Hj\* **C Mee:** Bi Cn Hi **A Miller:** Ec\* Gs Ma Pn\* AS:Gm **I Mir:** Bi Cn Ma AS:Ph **S Molden:** Fr\* Ge\* Gm Ma\* **C Monnington:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma AS:Ph\* **R Moores:** Cn Gm\* Ma Pn\* **R Moretto:** Cn\* Fr\* Gs\* Ma\* Pn\* **R Morgans:** Cn Ma Pn **A Munday:** Cn Ma\* Pn\* **R Nash:** Bi Cn Fr AS:Ph **P Nasr:** Bi\* Cn Hi AS:Ph **A Norris:** Cn Ge Ma AS:Fr **C Novell:** Cn Ma Pn **I O'Callaghan:** Bs Fr Sp **P O'Hagan:** Bs Ge Hi AS:Te **S Pack:** Bs Fr Hi **D Page:** Bs Gm Hi AS:Fr **JA Page:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **JM Page:** Cs Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **T Parr:** Ec\* Ma\* Pn\* AS:Go **T Payne:** Cn Ge\* Gs\* Ma AS:Ph **U Payne:** Ec Hi Ma AS:Pi **D Peach:** Bi Bs Cn AS:Ph **M Peake:** Fr\* Ge Hi\* AS:Go **E Pearce:** Co Fr Ha **M Peddle:** Bs Ge Hi **C Perring:** En Fr Sp **E Phillips:** Bs Pn Sp **I Phillips:** Cs\* Pn AS:Et **G Phipps:** Fr\* Gm\* Pi\* AS:C\*s\* **M Pickles:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **C Porter:** Cn Gs Ma Pn **L Power:** Fr Mu\* **A Priestley:** El Fr Hi AS:Ar **S Radforth:** Cs Ma Pn\* AS:Et **C Randall:** Bs Ec Ge Ma **J Rayfield:** El Fr Sp **I Redpath:** Fr Ge Gm **S Rehmat:** Bs Ma Pn **M Reid:** Bi\* Cn\* Hi\* AS:Go\* **P Reid:** Ha AS:Go **K Riaz:** Bs Hi Ma AS:Ph **M Riley:** Ep **A Robbins:** El\* Hi\* La\* Ma\* **J Robinson:** Cn Ma Pn\* AS:Et\* **T Roebuck:** Cn\* Ge\* Hi\* AS:Pi **G Rossiter:** El Ge Hi **N Schwarz:** Ar En Ep **R Sharp:** Bs Co Ha **T Shaw:** Bi El Hi\* **J Shore:** Cs Ma Mf Pn\* **K Smith:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* **R Smith:** Cn Pn **B Soh:** Bs Ec\* En\* Ge **P Spackman:** Bi\* Cn\* Ma\* Pn\* **H Spurling:** Cs Hi Ma AS:Pi **R Stacey:** Bs El Fr Hi **R Stephens:** Ep Ma Pn **M Stephenson:** Ar\* Fr Ge Hi **A Stubbs:** Bs El Ge **G Sugg:** Bi Co Hi AS:Fr **M Suret:** Cn\* Gm\* Gs Ma\* Pn\* **B Synnock:** Cs **N Thorne:** Bi Gm Ma\* AS:C\*s **P Timms:** Cn Ma Pn AS:Gm **M Tucker:** Co\* Ge\* Hi AS:Mu **J Tyzack:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf Pn\* **J Van Denbulcke:** Fr Ge Pi Sp **V Vljajic:** Cn Ma Pn AS:C\*s **N Walker:** Ep\* Fr\* Gs Hi AS:Gm **B Walters:** Bi Ep\* Hi AS:Ph **M Warfield:** Ar Bs Pi AS:Fr **P Watson:** Fr\* Gr\* La\* Mu\* **N Weingard:** El Ep\* Gs Hi Pi **C West:** Cs En Ep AS:Mu **D Wheeler:** Cn\* Ma\* Mf\* Pn\* **J Wickremer:** En\* Ge Pi **M Williams:** Bi Cn Pn **P Woods:** Co\* El Hi **R Woolnough:** El Ep\* Hi\* AS:Pi **T Worsfold:** Ge Gs\* Ma\* Pn\* AS:C\*s\* **D Wotherspoon:** Co El Hi **C Wright:** Cn Ma Pn\* AS:C\*s **S Yaddehige:** Bs Cn\* Ma\* Pn\*

## “GCSE” Results 1995

The following boys obtained Grade A–C in their ‘GCSE’ Examinations:

S Adams (10); R Afshar (10); A Akhtar (10); R Ali (9); M Allen (10); I Anderson (10); N Andrew (9); R Andrew (8); M Antoine (8); D Arnold (11); O Atkins (11); E Bambury (9); S Baxter (8); M Beesley (10); A Bentall (10); A Bettteley (10); C Blanch (10); T Blewett (8); A Bond (10); A Bowen (9); T Brice (10); J Brocklehurst (10); J Brown (10); P Brown (10); R Brown (6); M Bryars (10); J Burden (10); A Burnette (10); R Burrell (11); R Cannon (10); T Chambers (9); M Clarke (8); T Collier (10); T Collingwood (8); P Cooke (10); C Cookson (11); M Cooper (8); R Corb (8); M Coster (11); J Cotgreave (10); RA Cox (10); M Cranefield (9); J Crompton (11); D Curtis (11); J Darbyshire (11); R Davies (10); D De Sybel (11); M Devoy (9); M Dickson (7); S Ditta (8); O Dodds (9); B Donegan (3); I Dunstan (10); N Edwards (11); J Elliott (10); M Farmer (11); N Finch (9); L Fletcher (8); P Ford (11); T Gardner (10); R Garner (10); A Gerrard (10); W Gerrard (10); B Gilbert (9); M Ginn (10); G Goodchild (11); M Grant (10); N Graveley (11); R Gutfeld (10); E Hall (11); T Hameed (11); J Hammersley (11); A Hanif (9); P Harris (12); J Hay (10); A Haynes (11); C Haynes (10); P Hayward (11); A Heaps (11); N Heath (6); S Hicks (11); M Highett-Smith (10); P Hill (10); M Hinchy (9); B Hunter (9); I Hussain (7); D Hyland (9); A Ilyas (9); A Iqbal (7); J Iqbal (6); D Irvine (10); J Johnson (11); G Jones (8); A Kahn (9); J Kelly (10); D Kemble (7); A Khan (10); R King (10); D Kirk (11); K Lambert (7); N Langdon (10); F Lau (10); R Lawrence (11); A Lehal (9); N Leighton (9); J Ling (10); A Lloyd (10); M Locke (6); J Locke-Hart (11); R Lowe (10); J MacGregor (10); R Mannerling (9); A Markanday (10); N Markanday (10); B Markham (9); G Marsh (10); O Marshall (8); A Mason (10); C Mavers (8); S McCallion (10); N McConnel (11); R McKenzie (11); A Merkley (9); D Miller (9); AJ Moore (9); AR Moore (10); B Moore (9); L Moruzzi (7); S Musk (9); P Newnham (10); T Noakes (8); J O'Shea (10); M Palmer (10); R Parrett (9); T Payne (10); S Peake (9); R Pearce (8); L Pepper (11); M Perkins (10); L Pestille (9); D Phipps (9); M Pilgerstorfer (11); A Pilkington (9); W Reed (7); D Rein (10); M Richards (10); L Richardson (8); M Roberts (11); S Sanders (10); G Sandhu (8); B Scott (7); A Shafi (10); R Skeggs (10); O Slocombe (9); D Smaje (9); C Smart (10); B Smith (9); P Smith (10); M Spragg (10); A Spurling (9); D Stacey (9); G Stagg (9); A Stanton (10); A Taylor (11); P Tegala (9); P Tobler (10); N Townsend (8); W Townsend (10); P Tudge (9); J Ullah (8); D Urquhart (9); M Wallwork (8); B Walters (10); J Ward (10); J Ware (9); D Waterton (9); P Watson (10); A Weedon (9); S Westbrook (9); B Wilkes (5); D Wilson (10); A Winrow (8); G Winston (11); J Wood (11); P Woodbridge (7); T Wylot (9); J Yates (10); A Zahl (10).



Stuart Page  
Year 11



# OPEN HOUSE

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## Hilda

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'Our grandmothers and grandfathers, great aunts and great uncles are leaving deserted their places in the deckchairs along the beaches of Britain; instead they are taking up the deckchairs reserved for them along the beaches of the next world.'

A section from an article the lady read yesterday; for some reason unknown to her, that single sentence lodged itself in her mind and would not slip out like so many other thoughts had in the past. She is old and frail with white hair and wrinkled skin visible on her face and hands. She is wearing clothes carried over from past decades when blue paisley dresses were the height of fashion, yet most of the garments are covered by a blanket resting on her lap to prevent the dangers of the cold reaching her. On her wedding finger is a single band of gold, worn down from its former glory by meticulous polishing to prevent such a loss of its original splendour. Her eyes are wide open, showing the blue irises which lend themselves to the belief that, in their time, they were the cause of many a broken heart. She is sitting in a wheelchair and appears to be close to her metaphorical death-bed.

She is in a nursing hospital and her close relatives, consisting of her son, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter, have visited every other day since she was admitted to the home; today is one of those days to which she looks forward and which keep her alive. Her family are due at twelve noon. It is 10:30. She thinks of her eighty-first birthday two days ago when her grand-daughter brought her an ice-cream, one of 'life's little luxuries', and when her son said that he was in the company of his three favourite women. She thinks of how, eleven months ago in April, she would amuse herself at home and clean the little house she owned. It is now 11:15. She thinks of how she wept at the funeral of her husband who died of cancer two years previously. She breaks out of her pensive trance as the clock in the rest-room of the nursing home strikes 12:00. She focuses on the door to the corridor from which her visitors would enter, and gazes expectantly. One minute passes, then five; her relatives are late.

Her gaze mists into daydream as she pictures the April day when she, her husband and her best friend went for a picnic in the countryside due to a clear weather forecast, and the heavens opened, yet the picnic continued with damp sandwiches and watered-down champagne; it was her wedding anniversary and her best friend's birthday. It is 12:45. The lady asks Mary, her favourite nurse who has always looked after her and paid especial attention to her, if she has seen or heard anything of her son and his other favourite girls. She hasn't, but will go and ask around. Again the old woman drifts helplessly into thought; the subject is the last day she ever spent with her mother, when she took a photograph of her knitting in her favourite chair. Her mother 'passed away' in her sleep that night. 13:10. She remembers the birth of her son in the early hours of the morning, and the joy and pain she got out of it because of what had happened before. 13:25. Mary returns and says that nothing has been seen or heard of the 'visitors'. She slips into thought about the war years and the terrible photographs that returned from liberated Europe where,

in the concentration camps, bodies of Jews worked to death were piled on top of each other like trains in a scrap yard, run endlessly until they could no longer work at the required rate; she recollects the bomb which struck her house and killed her young daughter, father and two sisters while she was out shopping for groceries at the market. A tear wells up in her eye. She recalls the birth of her daughter, the brief return of her husband after the British evacuation at Dunkirk, the columns of heroic young men marching down the streets going off to fight 'Jerry', the announcement made by Chamberlain that Britain was at war with Germany. 14:10. Again she looks at the door to the corridor, but no-one enters. She twinges suddenly as a pain momentarily grips her left arm.

She tries to think about the 'good old days'. She remembers her wedding day when she tied the matrimonial knot with her long-term fiancé, Burt. 14:25. She remembers the hard times of the thirties and the world depression as all the industries slipped into bankruptcy, all except the film industry with her heart-throb, Clark Gable. 14:35. She remembers the day she saw her first Clark Gable film, *Parnell*. 14:40. She remembers the world outcry as the Russian Bolsheviks seized power and brutally murdered their royal family. 14:45. Again a pain grips her left arm, but for longer this time and all the way up to her shoulder. She hurriedly recalls her teenage years: the time she walked along the city streets and saw an old lady huddled in a shop doorway, but walked on like everybody else after a few seconds of staring, a luxury to which the old tramp was obviously unaccustomed; the time she and her older sister won first place in their age group local show-jumping championships; the first time she got on a horse, 'a girl's best friend'. 14:50. She recalls the wonder she felt when the only poppies left in the fields of Flanders were at the edge of the corn which stretched endlessly into the distance, the hurt she felt when the cereal crop grew up around the wild plants and strangled a few of them, the joy she felt when such beautiful red flowers grew up out of the desolation of 'the war to end all wars'. 14:55. She recalls the end of the war, the patriotic effort of all people no matter what colour or social standing, the brave young soldiers marching to their deaths, the start of the war. 15:00.

She falls off into a dreamless sleep but is awakened by the severe pain, in her left side as well, yet for some reason does not call out. 15:20. She recollects her carefree childhood and the day she and her sister built a shelter in the forest, 15:25, the day they went fruit-picking, 15:30, the day trip to Southend-on-Sea, 15:35, the first encounter with a deckchair at Brighton, 15:40. Then her first memory: her mother weeping, her father holding an envelope in his hand and trying to comfort her mother. 15:45. She remembers her first word, 15:50. She remembers her birth, 15:55. She remembers her conception, 16:00. She remembers the deckchair in front of her with her name on it.

'Mum, look, I'm sorry we're late but we had problems with the car.'

'Hilda, are you awake?'

'Granny?'

Jonathan Crompton 6HK<sub>1</sub>



## Dedicated To You, But You Weren't Listening

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I bought a CD by the Soft Machine the other day. The thirty-somethings among you may at this point suffer a faint shudder of recognition at the name (unless you are *still* a Michael Jackson fan, of course). The rest will either stop reading forthwith, fearing (possibly not without cause) incipient obscenity, or may curiously peruse further, in hope of the same.

Different things stir the memory. Music usually works for me. This 25-year-old concert recording sent me straight back to the Lower Sixth. For the average flare-trousered, long-haired Sixth-Former in 1971 (and we knew what long hair *really* means) the Soft Machine were at the forefront of 'progressive' music (not a term of abuse until the punks got hold of it), along with King Crimson, Van der Graaf Generator, Family, Colosseum, the Groundhogs, Yes, Caravan, Barclay James Harvest, and the rest too numerous or oddly titled (Curved Air?) to mention. We paid homage to the Beatles, Hendrix, and Cream, of course, but they were gone. The oracle, the fount of all that was new and exciting, was John Peel's 'Top Gear' programme on Radio One, and its offshoot the 'In Concert' show, or, as Peel would have it, 'The Sunday-Repeated-On-Wednesday Show'.

Incarcerated as we were in the depths of the West Country, live gigs were hard to come by, and in the absence of cash to buy records (the black vinyl 12-inch variety at 39/6 – i.e. £1.97½!), we crouched over Wonderful Radio One between five and six on Sunday evening, just after Alan Freeman had dismissed his 'pop-pickers', and cursed the appalling 247 metres medium wave reception, which became worse and worse as night fell, howling and whistling, and intermittently eavesdropping on the Danish shipping forecast. The generation brought up on pristine One-FM stereo broadcasts and MTV can have no inkling of how we suffered for our music.

After a while the idea dawned of hitching up our all-singing all-dancing mono reel-to-reel tape recorders to this dreadful radio reception, and adding a little tape-hiss, wow and flutter to the mix. You know those old tape decks: a 7-inch reel of ¼ inch tape ran for an hour at 3¼ inches per second, which was just right for the 'In Concert' show. I say all this patronisingly, of course, with benefit of Dolbied chrome cassette hindsight. Back in '71 we were pretty darned proud of the results, and the reels of tape of that era, lovingly preserved in tatty, dog-eared boxes, spliced with Sellotape (you could get proper splicing tape, but it cost) when the dear old machine stopped singing and dancing and started chewing, became a cherished archive, until finally falling into total disrepair and oblivion with the arrival of the first decent cassette machines, some time in about '76, I think.

One of the gems of my collection was the show done by the Soft Machine in March of 1971. A gem because the Softs were never a patch on their live form on record, and some of their best stuff was done 'live in the studio' for the BBC. The group are long gone now, and I thought that this sort of material would never see the light of day again. But such is the interest that the music of that era now seems again to be exciting that a company has made a deal with the BBC and is gradually re-releasing archive material. Hearing it again after all this time, I am first struck at how rough and ready a performance it is. But for all that, it brings the whole period flooding back. Now, if only they'd reissue that wonderful show when the Pink Floyd premiered *Atom Heart Mother* ... O Level summer!

J.P.E.

## Old Man

---

Stuck,  
This bone pile –  
– Thinly sculpted skin.

Life ebbs  
Lost as dead hair,  
Creaks to move,  
Tumbles –  
Falls –  
Collapses –  
Still lives.

Air sliced –  
– The sharpness strikes.  
A knife stony edged ...  
... Blunt

The distilled smell  
Centuries past fill this room  
His body lies  
– with a knife –  
Still living.

'A death  
My life for a death'  
BANG!  
Chemical action ignites  
Crushed,  
New life.

His free spirit  
Booming like feathers  
Quiet like thunder  
Leaves that wreck  
To see red –  
Smell red –  
Think red –  
Feel pain  
The eternal pain,  
Life was better,  
Devilish laughter roars.

John Punter 11E



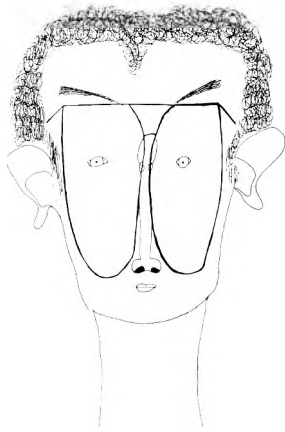
## Poem for the Planet

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Wandering through the lonely trees,  
Moaning at the destruction I see,  
On the horizon I spy the smoke,  
On which this Green-Blue world will choke.  
It makes me start to wonder why  
Money causes us to die.  
Man does play an interesting game  
Burning our hopes with a flame.  
Or sending all of us to look  
At our destruction, in all our books.  
It makes me want to run, to flee,  
To leave it all behind me.  
This loss of life, this death's hand,  
Will come to haunt the whole of man.

Nicholas Spearing 9E

*Written as part of a Geography Test on the Tropical Rain  
Forest and its exploitation.*



Thomas Bennett  
Year 8

## The Computer Kid

There once was a boy whose name was Brett,  
Who liked to fool around on the Internet.

He down-loaded games which he proceeded to play,  
Until he'd wasted half of his brain away.

With computer games he was obsessed,  
when not playing, he was quite distressed.

Down the stairs he would sometimes creep,  
and play the computer in his sleep.

He thought about it while at school,  
And didn't get good marks at all.

He hated sport and said 'No Way!'  
when people asked him out to play.

And although he made the occasional joke,  
He really wasn't a social bloke.

One day, a game that Brett down-loaded,  
Broke the computer, and it exploded.

Sparks came flying from the screen  
(Brett shouted something quite obscene).

But deprived of games, Brett's tiny brain,  
Shut down, and Brett went quite insane.

He ran away, but soon was found,  
Buried six inches in the ground.

He'd stabbed himself with a kitchen knife,  
And gone to play computers in the afterlife.

So if you play on a computer,  
Let poor Brett become your tutor:

You should never, ever forget,  
The story of poor little Brett;

And the example that he set,  
When he fooled around on the Internet.

Stephen Dunford 9C

*Mr Berry's article on the Internet appears in the following  
section of the magazine. – Ed.*

## The Great Bomb Plot

It came to pass one summer's day,  
A president did rise and say:  
'Oh what a good idea it'd be  
To blow up bombs under the sea.'

The man who spoke was called Chirac,  
And while the public turned their back,  
He thought it wise that he should not  
Blow up his bombs on a Frenchman's plot.

Meanwhile a group of people saw  
That Chirac's plan had a major flaw:  
When Monsieur heard this dreadful news,  
He condemned their dangerous views.

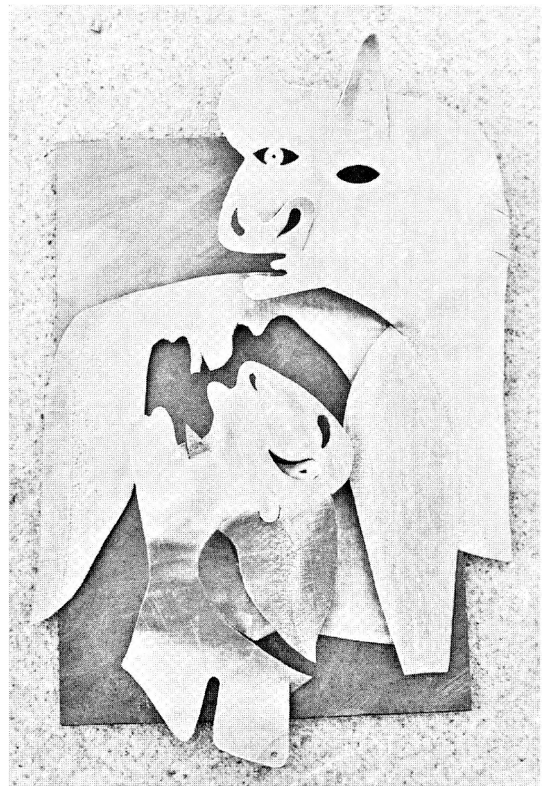
But these people, Greenpeace their name,  
Still thought that it was a dreadful shame;  
So the President, he sent some cops,  
Who put some gags on Greenpeace's chops.

All other countries of Europe united,  
And to stop Chirac's tests they fought;  
Except, of course, the mad UK,  
Who decided that tests were fine, 'OK'.

But the French public was angry still,  
And demonstrated at their will;  
Yet our friend Jacques, he did not fear,  
He was in charge and that was clear.

And that's the story of Jacques Chirac,  
Who turned the shade of the sea to black;  
His ultimate and ghastly gain,  
Was for other people to die in pain.

Jonathan Kahn 9C



Ross Monro  
Year 11

*Lead relief sculpture after Guernica by Picasso*

## The RGS in the 1930s

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*Stanley Hoffman was a schoolboy at the RGS in the early and mid-1930s, straddling the Headmasterships of George Arnison and Edmund Tucker, and left as Head Boy in 1936. He subsequently took holy orders, and rose to be a Canon of Rochester Cathedral and one of the Royal Chaplains. In the first of two extracts from his 1995 autobiography, 'Morning shows the Day: the making of a priest', Stanley Hoffman describes the RGS of sixty years ago.*

Somehow before I was eleven I seem to have been prepared for the scholarship examination for entry into the local Royal Grammar School at High Wycombe. All that I can summon up from my memory about it is the train journey to Wycombe on the day of the examination, accompanied by Miss Tomkins or Mrs Dickinson (mother of my friend Edward) who was on the staff and presided in the other classroom. On that journey, the four of us who were entering were quizzed by her about what little we know of history, the names of the great poets and composers, and whatever else she thought we might be asked. The exam was held in a primary school in the town and I recollect nothing at all of it. But I passed. The others did not.

The Royal Grammar School, rebuilt on a new site some years before, was a foundation of Edward VI, dated 1562, and pupils were expected to be proud of it and behave accordingly. We were to wear our caps at all time. Punishment for not wearing the cap was a hundred lines, or if preferred, six strokes with the gym slipper. We were not allowed to talk to girls on the way to or from school, not even to our own sisters. House shoes were to be worn while inside the school on pain of slipping. No talking in the corridors! In 1928 it was not a big School, a two form entry, that is to say about sixty-four new pupils each year. One could leave at sixteen and parents had to sign a paper saying that they would allow their children to stay until they were that age. This was felt necessary because so many fathers had been killed in the Great War that there was always a temptation to make the boys leave at fourteen or fifteen so that they could start work and earn money badly needed by the family. It is only recently that I have realised why so many of my companions at school had no fathers. It was only on Armistice Day, November 11th, when the OTC paraded in uniform and members of staff wore their campaign medals, that the fact of war was realised, and the results of war became evident. Our PE master was cruelly called 'Soapy' Sumpter because part of his mouth had been shot away and saliva was perpetually dribbling from it. How unfeeling and brutal the young can be!

The staff all had University degrees but only the PE master who came when Sumpter left had been trained to teach. So the quality of teaching was not of the highest. A local Vicar called Bickle came in to take religious education. He liked the boys with plump knees to sit in the front desks so that he could slap them and I remember not one word of what he was supposed to 'teach'. The strange thing is that one remembers their names and initials at this distance. H G Brand who drove a three wheeled 'Morgan' car taught Maths; J E John, a Welshman, taught English; P L Jones, another Welshman, also taught Maths, as did P Bartle. J C Milner taught History, and Sam Morgan Geography. R Hutchinson, killed in the Hitler War, taught Latin. He was very kind to me when my Father died. E C Millington taught Chemistry and S Watts, Physics. Watts could not keep order and tortured us by rubbing our short hairs at the side of the head with his knuckles. French was in the hands of J M McQueen in the lower forms, and M Marti, a Swiss, in the upper forms. Art and Woodwork

were taught by G A Grant who also organised the remarkable 'Hobbies Club' which held monthly meetings on all sorts of hobby subjects and also the annual camp to which up to a hundred of us looked forward for months. We camped in old army bell tents in various places, Belgium, Devon, Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Wight, and in that way got to know our fellows and the masters better.

The Headmaster was George Arnison, a dapper little man with a short clipped ginger moustache who had been at Giggleswick in Yorkshire and who always smelt strongly of whisky. The School day began with assembly, with all the masters, gowned and hooded on the stage. We went to School on Saturday mornings and had games every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons on the huge field behind the school. A regular punishment was to take a bucket and fill it with stones from the playing fields. We had PE outside until it was too cold, then in the Hall, and later in a purpose-built gymnasium. I hated games and PE and the boxing that we all had to endure. My nose was broken in one encounter and caused great sinus trouble until I was twenty four and had to have it corrected. The gym master, C E C Eastman, was a martinet and no crying off games or PE was allowed except for real illness. He was a great apparatus man and devised all sorts of cruel tortures on it. One trick was to jump over the box, then over the buck, bounce high to hang on to a beam, and then over another obstacle. On one occasion the boy in front of me, Johnson by name, failed to release his hands from the beam in time and broke both his wrists.

In my early years at the RGS I was ceaselessly bullied, tied to trees out of sight of the school, and shot at with water pistols. More than once I had my shoes taken away and had to go home in football boots; my case of homework was taken, and my outdoor clothes hidden. I suppose it was good for me. I had to learn to take pain without complaint, but I determined that when I attained power in the School, as I was resolved to do, I would see that all bullying was stopped and if need be the bullies punished. When later I became a prefect and later still the Head Prefect, alone able to administer corporal punishment in the 6th form library on Saturday mornings, I instituted a strict regime applied by all the other prefects, with a simple 'court of justice' to examine breaches of the rules! It amazes me that a boy of seventeen or eighteen was allowed such power. It was not good for him (me) or the school, especially as none of the masters had a similar power. They of course had other sanctions!

In reaction to the treatment I had received early in my time at RGS I enjoyed membership of the Officers' Training Corps. It enabled me to order about and shout at boys who in earlier days had plagued my life. I applied myself to the training and rose through the ranks as Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, Quartermaster Sergeant and Company Sergeant Major, and enjoyed the annual camps at Strensall, Tidworth and other army centres. The only cups I won at school were for the 'Most Efficient Recruit' and the 'Most Efficient Cadet'.

*To be continued.*



## File Past

*From the Wycombiensian of 1914:*

### METEOROLOGICAL NOTES

After a stormy opening, August became a fairly steady month. There was an absence of thunderstorms, and no heavy rain. The term began with no less than twenty-four rainless days. The regular Autumn rains, which sodden the leaves and hasten the fall, came in the latter half of October. At the time of writing, the Continental cold has begun to be felt. This will be particularly noticeable in the case of Wycombe, for the valley opens out to the South East; while the escarpment of the Chilterns, comparatively low though it is, must slightly exclude Atlantic influences. We have often observed a marked edge to clouds extending in a line from South West to North East (the alignment of the Chilterns) indicating the condensing power of a 600ft. escarpment. So that, while a pall of cloud hung over the hills South Eastwards, the Vale remained in bright sunshine.

*From the Wycombiensian of 1933:*

A full inspection of the School by four of His Majesty's Inspectors took place from December 1st to 4th, 1931. The inspection was a very thorough one, and at its conclusion the Chief Inspector was able to make a very satisfactory report. Two quotations from the report suffice to justify this statement (1) 'Comparison between the state of the school as it appeared to the Inspectors who reported in 1923 and its present condition makes clear that there has been development of a definite and substantial kind in its general efficiency as a place of education,' and (2) 'The Governors take keen interest in their School, and their relations with the Headmaster, are obviously based on mutual confidence.'

We received a good report in 1923, so we may certainly look upon the first quotation as complimentary. As regards the second, all is well, as a rule, with a school when Governors and Headmaster work together harmoniously, and after twenty-seven years as Headmaster I am very glad indeed to see definitely recorded on your minutes a statement setting forth the happy relations existing between the Governors and myself – happy relations which, I may perhaps be allowed to add, have always existed.



*Jonathan Miller  
Year 8  
Pastel in the Cubist Style*

*From the Wycombiensian of 1966:*

### SCHOOL RAVE

Take 720 people, provide each with 12 fl. oz. of Coke, place in a gymnasium and supply 150 decibels for 4½ hours and the result, if you are lucky, is £117.4.9d. profit, seven grey hairs and a broken fire alarm glass. Countless hours of planning and fretting finally came to fruition on the cold night of December 20th. The first couple arrived. Their money was greedily taken and dropped into the box, and their hands eagerly stamped. These two must claim the doubtful privilege of their being the only people to have been personally escorted through the corridor to the hall. Very soon, as if someone had pushed a magic button, droves of youngsters appeared, warbling and clattering about at the doorway. The tide increased to a flood, and countless worried friends peered through the thick blue atmosphere to make sure they were talking to someone they knew. The disc jockey, chained down behind the stage burred a deep bass muttering over the speakers, which only he himself could have distinguished, in the true professional style, and began his evening's work. John Mayall's group, or what could be discerned of them beneath their fur trappings and assorted hirsute growths, then arrived, and they provided great entertainment for the major part of the evening, with short breaks to replenish their energy. Then, as quickly as it had started, it was all over, everyone left, and the lights were switched on.



*Thomas Openshaw  
Year 8  
Plaster Cast – Contemporary Fossil*

# SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

## Guys and Dolls

This year's drama production was the highly successful *Guys And Dolls*. The 'guys' were from the RGS and the 'dolls' were from Wycombe High School. The 'Broadway' musical proved to be an excellent vehicle for the enthusiastic and highly talented youngsters, and producer Jeff Walker astutely channelled energy and skills to give us a show which had the audience clapping, foot-tapping and laughing with the gamblers, sharing tender moments with Sarah and Sky and philosophising with Miss Adelaide about the wisdom of marriage.

We knew it was going to be a quality performance when Nicely Nicely Johnson, played by Jonathan Wood, sang the introductory number, ably assisted by Benny (Robin McKenzie) and Rusty (Tim Jarrett). The rich, resounding timbre of Jonathan's voice and the security of the harmonies would have graced a professional performance and credit is due to the Musical Director, Tim Venvell. Yet this was but a foretaste of what was going to be one of the outstanding scenes of the musical when Jonathan led the 'genuine sinners' in 'Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat'. Here the inventiveness, humour and skill harmonised most effectively as the audience reaction proved.

The character of Sky Masterson, skilfully played by James Crompton, bridged the gap between saints and sinners, completed the quartet of guys and dolls stereotypes and proved that love can survive in spite of enormous differences.

The size of the company only became fully apparent in the finale when the stage was very crowded. The choreography throughout the production was highly creditable with such large numbers on a relatively small stage. Jo Fell and Sophie Garland produced some excellent routines which captured the flavour of the period.

So many excerpts remain in the mind and perhaps some of the best were the tingly moment produced by Sky and Sarah in the love duet 'I've never been in love before'; Big Jule (Edward Arnold) terrorising the gamblers into accepting his blank dice (he remembered where the spots had been); the ingenuous Arvide (Nick Heath) comforting Sarah; the animated daydreams showing a domesticated Nathan and Sky; and the energy and good harmonies of the male chorus doing 'Luck Be A Lady Tonight'.



*Nathan Detroit (Matthew Sheraton) and Sky Masterson (James Crompton).*

The effective lighting and scenery enhanced the production which was so obviously enjoyed by the cast and left the audience calling for encores. To produce a show with a cast of 65 is an enormous undertaking: to do it to this quality is a triumph.

J.L.H.



*The principal characters.*

## Guys and Dolls – Your Backstage Pass

Imagine this: you are the director of a musical. A very big musical. In fact, so big you know that at times, nearly seventy teenaged boys and girls will be moving quickly in the same direction, that which leads to the stage, and they will all be trying to squeeze through a not especially big door. Add to this yet more people moving around various sets depicting churches, nightclubs and cafés, and then add some people giving out props and applying make-up and changing costumes – all in an incredibly confined space – and what you have is a recipe for ... disaster? Chaos? MAYHEM? Well, okay, yes at times. Actually it was backstage at *Guys and Dolls*, the biggest dramatic event that has ever been staged at this school. The amount of work put into it, both by the performers and those members of staff involved, was vast. The patience required

by participants was phenomenal, and the effect that it had on Mr Walker's blood pressure was, at times, conspicuous.

However, all those who were in the play, or came to see it, will know that Mr Walker's efforts were rewarded in the end, for the audience was presented with four excellent performances. The Wednesday audience was even treated to a touch of masterful improvisation from Adelaide (Gemma Lloyd Buckingham) and Nathan (Matthew Sheraton) when Harry the Horse decided the excitement was all too much for him, and chose not to come on stage at all, preferring to stay backstage with the girls instead. In fact, in all fairness to Ross Howlett (Harry), the not unnatural excitement that is present backstage of any performance, made it difficult for anyone to know where they were supposed to be. With most of the junior block's classrooms converted into dressing rooms, regular stage-calls could easily be missed behind (amongst other things) hysterical laughter, and the welter of good feeling that was apparent amongst the cast.

Inevitably, any play is going to be a complete flop without a small army of technicians to turn on lights, open curtains, move Mr Stevens' sets, and clip on microphones. The latter caused much heartache for Sky (James Crompton) on one night when the cursed 'Red Microphone' failed to work for him. He sang with great vigour to a rather bemused audience who were all wondering why the bloke on the stage with the dice was opening and closing his mouth, with apparently no sound coming out. A similar thing happened to me on another night (again with 'Red Mic.'). At the time, I wondered why the applause had been so sparse when Benny and

I came off the stage. 'We weren't all *that* bad were we?' I remember thinking.

Backstage would of course have been in a terrible state had it not been for Matron and her handling of the costumes. One particular costume caused some concern to Sarah (Emma Williams). During rehearsal, a rather stressed Mr Walker had suggested that maybe she wasn't wearing it in quite the right fashion. When questioned as to what the 'right fashion' was, he fired back with, 'I don't know! Just make yourself look more tarty!'

Also very much in evidence back stage were the dancers. Their performances on stage were deft and elegant thanks to the marvellous work of Jo Fell and Sophie Garland, the latter also being able to choreograph most of the male members of the cast with staggering ease.

And how could I forget the band? The members of the band learned their very difficult parts in what seemed to the cast to be an extremely short space of time. Mr Vennell's bunch played with aplomb with rarely a note out of place and Mr Gazard had audible (and I would think visible) fun on his drums.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of all members of the cast when I say that the whole thing was an immensely enjoyable experience. At the same time I am equally sure that the cast are all extremely grateful to all those who helped to make *Guys and Dolls* one of the most impressive events of the school's year. On a personal note, I only hope that I will have the chance to be in another production like this one before I leave the school.

Jonathan Wood 6EH<sub>1</sub>

## Stage Lighting and Sound Team

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This year saw the arrival of two new prefects in charge, Mark Gooding and James 'Norm' Whiteside, who had a difficult act to follow after the two year dictatorship of Jimmy Page. So far this year we have assisted in numerous school concerts, public hires and around 400 assemblies!!

For the second time Anton Machacek, who is now at Oxford, ran the RGS lighting design challenge. This involved designing the entire lighting rig and plot for the third act of *Arms and the Man* by Bernard Shaw. The competition was strong, but was won by Stephen 'Albert' Wells, closely followed by a sound team entry. Unfortunately Norm was disqualified from entering as he was the middle man liaising with Anton. Could this have affected the outcome? For the first time non-team members were invited to enter, but nobody accepted this challenge.

Then came the highlight of our year – *Guys and Dolls*. We started work on the technical aspects of the play in the new year. The lighting for the play was designed by Norm and Al. The number and diversity of scenes in the play meant that over seventy stage lights were used along with several stunning 'effects' lights. The many hours of work done by the designers and riggers paid off as the lighting matched the acting in its excellence. On the production nights the lighting was operated by Mark Sleeman and Al.

The other major role undertaken by the team is the stage management. The Stage Manager (Norm) was responsible for coordinating the techies and thespians (all 50 of them), as well as the sets for each scene. This proved to be very stressful, but total disasters were narrowly avoided on several occasions and the audience was presented with a seamless fast moving performance.

This year the sound team went all out to make the play a stunning success. This obviously required hiring much equipment, as the present system is getting old, and could not meet our needs. To avoid any problems a complete system was hired, including mixer, amplifiers, speakers, graphic equaliser, midi controller, and five radio mics and their receivers. On top of all this there was the team's CD player and tape deck. No effort was spared in creating the effects, even to the extent of recording the urinals to create a sewer effect. The control of this extensive system was smoothly carried out by Mark Gooding with assistance from Michael Upton and David Walker. The planning was done in advance this year, i.e. we had a cue sheet before the first night. This was due to the arrival of a new team member – Mary 'Mummy' Griffiths. The initial reasoning behind her membership was that the actresses may have disliked men placing the microphones in the appropriate places. However she proved a vital asset, organising and controlling the men of the team. She also cleaned the team gallery properly for the first time in more than six years, and then she painted it!! We are indebted to her and wish her all the best. Of course with all this, the sound could not have run better, the difficulty of this being underestimated by many.

But as always the final thanks must go to Mr Everett and Mr Moore, who spend so much time to give us such great opportunities, with little or no reward for themselves.

Mark Gooding 6SB<sub>2</sub> and  
James 'Norm' Whiteside 6SW<sub>2</sub>

## Christian Union

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'We've been doing this job for a year and half now and we think we've almost got it right ...' so say us current CU Leaders, closely followed by 'Oh, we're off now then, bye' as we hand over to the new Leader, Dan Flint.

This year has been, hmm, 'more organised' than our first few months as leaders, in fact we have had several structured series including 'Life, and How to Survive It' and 'The Rough Guide to Christianity'. The former of these included one episode called 'Sex, and How to Survive it' which looked at Christian attitudes to this subject. For some strange reason, more than double the normal number of people turned up for this meeting. We can't quite imagine why (?!). One of the final events by Upper Sixth members was to take both Junior and Senior assemblies for a week. This produced interest throughout the school and most people were enlightened to a greater or lesser extent.

On a local level, the RGS CU played its part in the South Bucks ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship). Running with tradition, the RGS organised the ISCF Weekend Away in February, to which over 50 people came, although this responsibility was new to us personally. As has also become customary, the Weekend was the highlight of the ISCF year, and lives were changed once again.

The Christian Union continues to be a society for pupils, by pupils and we are still non-denominational and easy-going (at least we try to be most of the time). We would like to thank Mr Jamieson for being helpful when we needed help, and for leaving us alone when we were doing all right. We would also like to thank Michael Upton, Mark Gooding, Julian Simpson and Illya Derigs for their much appreciated input throughout the year. Finally, we wish Dan Flint the best as he takes the CU forward into the next two years.

Michael Roberts 6MB<sub>2</sub>  
Colin Wright 6LY<sub>2</sub>  
Robert Hart 6SE<sub>2</sub>

## Christian Forum

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Christian Forum meets regularly on Monday lunchtimes in Room 14 at 1.40 and is an informal Christian discussion group. Discussions are led by either Mr Ratcliffe or one of the boys. Subjects under discussion this year have included death and the afterlife, the question of suffering, and the intellectual foundation of Christian faith.

The meetings begin with coffee and biscuits, and after a prayer the discussion is launched off centred on a Bible reading, but progressing wherever the group for that week chooses to take it. Although on average the group is smaller than in previous years, debate is lively and good natured, with references to personal experiences and with anyone free to comment. In this way the discussion and often the subject is shaped to suit those present.

If you are interested in some down-to-earth and informal debate, Forum is worth a visit, even for only one meeting.

Andrew Hoyle 6HR<sub>2</sub>

## School House Report

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It's time for that report again. We've had 12 squeaky-clean second years, incoming intermediates and a new supply of Sixth Formers. The events are all in stall – and they're off!

Coming up on the inside is Matt Cranefield, who managed to swing a day off school for intoxication. Thanks for cleaning our room Glyn! How does it feel to be drowned, Matron? Hook, line and sinker! The late night drinking sessions were well under way by half term – we tried to stop you Mr McKellar, but we knew you needed it!

The new Sixth Formers were in good form; we feel as if we now know Jo as well as Alex does, we're still counting how many juniors Graham ate at Xmas and, thanks to Faiz, we know that Ferrero Rocher taste better than we thought.

Ricky has handed over the 'tucky keys' to Nicky, Mr G seems to have changed race, Simon has had to change his biro, Wappy's changed gear, Deering's changed his match sponsorship [yawn] and Nick L has changed ... well, just changed.

At home, we've got things whiter than White, with Mart Lunt making the tea. Back here, Drinkypoos is still parking his car, Elliot is still flexing his Nesquik and Gilly is still re-arranging lunch to make tea.

Thanks to McShine for being absent, to Toby and Jon for the amusement of 'Wildwood' and to Lenny for his incredible piano skills in chapel.

We look forward to Amberway next year and the advent of Miss Costigan as our resident Housemistress – go on Mr G, you know it makes sense. Pippa wouldn't mind.

Finally, a mention of R A, Rebel Alliance, the School House rugby team, who had a 100% record against Woking, Aylesbury and the Bandits at Beaconsfield RFC's 12-a-side tournament. Mr G and Hurricane proved an awesome combination and we came back victors at the start of the summer term.

Thanks to all those who put up with us – happy hols and sorry about the creaky floorboards. Must be a rat ...

N.A.H.

## Wildwood Report

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The beautifully furnished new Senior House has had a successful first year, with the odd cold spell. Lee Hunter, trainee House tutor, has had absolutely no control over the House whatsoever (even during the time he wasn't on the phone)! This is due to the ruthless regime imposed by the Style Council (Sandeep and Lenny).

There has been constant battle for intellectual supremacy throughout the year. Jon remains forthright in his claims that Philosophy is actually a subject, while Toby was a non-starter with his landscape gardening course. Lenny and Sandeep were neck-and-neck all the way, with wild(wood) aspirations of soliciting and civil engineering. However, Lenny was pipped at the post by Mr R O Dent's surprise application to MENSA.

The Upper Sixth look set to continue the boarding tradition of dismal A Level results, thanks to Jamie's persistent inane questions. While other relationships have failed, Martin has remained committed to the deity of the netherworld and all that is black.

Linda, you clean well. Thank you to JMcK, Frankie V and Webber. Special thanks to Lee, Mr G and Mr D. You were great.

LONG LIVE BOARDING!!

J.C.P./T.C.



*Jordache Myerscough zooms in.*

## Video Film Unit

The Video Film Unit has met with considerable success in this, our first year. Several short films have been made, one of which saw the group altering history when it took advantage of the snow to recreate Scott's memorable voyage to the Antarctic. Also, our entry into the Motorola Youth Parliament competition received a special commendation. Several members of the unit have also made regular visits to a YCTV studio in London to learn and develop new skills. Currently, the unit is working on its most ambitious project to date – a promotional video for the school entitled *A Day In The Life Of A Year 8*.

If any parents have, or know of anyone who has, unwanted or old video equipment such as cameras, editing desks, video recorders and small televisions, that they wish to donate, the unit would be more than happy to receive it.

Finally, the unit would like to thank Mr Claye for his guidance and organisational skills.

O. Slocombe 6C<sub>1</sub>  
M. Hazelden 11RS

## Year 10 Photography GCSE

At the beginning of the year Mr Willmot, with persuasion from a few enthusiastic Year 10s, set up a new GCSE course. Although Photography was running before for Sixth Formers, this was the first time for Year 10s. There are nine of us who have practical and theory lessons on alternating Thursdays. The course is quite expensive due to the price of chemicals and specialised equipment, although well worth it. In theory lessons we learn about old German scientists who discovered light sensitive and developing chemicals. We also learn about composition, texture, form, shape etc. in a photo. Practical lessons take place in the darkroom next to Matron's. There, our wonderful pieces of 'art' are formed. Hopefully we shall all get 'A's under the expert advice of Mr Willmot.

Brian Peers 10V

## Photographic Society

The Photographic Society is open to all boys interested in developing their skills in black and white photography. Skills courses in Composition, Developing and Printing processes are available.

The society has encouraged and supported the introduction of GCSE Photography and this liaison has allowed the darkroom facilities to be improved. My thanks go to Mr Willmot for his enthusiastic and technical expertise.

R.P.S.



*Adam Stewart-Wallace  
Year 11*

## A Level Biology Conservation Visit

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On Thursday 14 March the Biology students visited BBONT, Warburg Reserve (Berks, Bucks, Oxon National Trust). This is an SSSI, in other words a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is the name given to relatively small sites with a wide range of species (or unique species) not found generally. Unfortunately this does not mean it is protected by the law, but because BBONT have bought the site it is actively managed and protected. The warden, Nigel Phillips, showed us around with his assistant, Becca Flintham. They explained to us their job and the idea that running a nature reserve is a balance between encouraging public access to educate and allow recreation but also to conserve the range of habitats from physical destruction by thousands of pairs of feet each year.

If you would like to become a member of BBONT, you can collect information from Mr Wolton.

J. Hayat 6BW<sub>2</sub>  
A. Hussain 6BW<sub>2</sub>

## 6th Form Biology Field Trip to Betws-y-Coed

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Betws-y-Coed, the very heart and soul of Snowdonia. But time being so short, it was a terrible shame that we couldn't see more of Betws. The 'all day long and into the night tuition' wasn't half as bad as it seemed. In fact Robin Sutton, our chirpy bearded tutor, livened up the days no-end. He brought a novel concept to education: he made it interesting and enjoyable.

There was little time for extra-curricular activity, but what little there was, was excessively good. The dartboard was the centre of attraction, with the tablefootball coming a close second. The field centre had a peculiar environment. It made some of us run about the mountains of North Wales SAS fashion, some of us go mad, some join in a beard growing competition, and one find a companion-of-sorts!

This field trip combined excellent concentrated tuition with a glorious time. We would like to thank Mr Wolton and especially Mrs Royal who gave up so much of their time to make this trip possible. A big thank you from everybody.

Peter Sapsed 6BG<sub>2</sub>

## Model Railway Club

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In the last part of this year, the Model Railway Club has finally started to get off the ground again following the theft of most of our kit. This is due to the kind donation of track and rolling stock by some parents, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks as a club to those concerned. Typically, this new equipment has arrived just before many of the present membership leave the school, but Robin McKenzie is stepping into the breach as the new club secretary and will hopefully get a permanent layout built before long.

Any people interested in joining the club should see Mr Lovell in the upstairs Computer Room or come along to the club room at the Science Block end of the Maths Block during any break except Thursday lunchtime.

Oliver Atkins 6SE<sub>2</sub>

## Young Enterprise

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This year has been a very successful one for Bamboula, the school's Young Enterprise company, with our greatest success being the hugely popular fantasy football league which attracted over one hundred and fifty entrants. The race for the title (not to mention the prize money) has been close all season and even Alan Hansen has been unable to predict a winner. Being a Watford fan, it is the other end of the table which has interested me, and the battle for the wooden spoon has been even tighter than the one at the top.

Bamboula's other projects have included a successful fifty-fifty revision book sale, the Valentine's Dance which was held at the Orchard and the selling of personalised clocks. We also provide refreshments for both parents and teachers at parents' evenings throughout the year. Rather less of a success was our Christmas Inter-Schools postal service (which netted us the grand total of £1.05, less expenses). A possible reason for the failure of this venture is the lack of boys at the school with girlfriends. (They all assured us they had in the market research!)

Unfortunately for the general public, some of our other plans for market domination have just failed to reach production, usually due to lack of time. Our elastic tape measure with accompanying diet plan, for example, would have made a fantastic gift, and who knows where we might be if our 'Spot the egg' Competition had ever taken off! However pre-tax profits of around four hundred pounds tell their own story of a generally successful year.

Bamboula has attracted much outside recognition (most of it good) this year and in the Wycombe area final of the Young Enterprise competition we finished in a creditable second place overall, with Dodgy Gear just pipping us to the post. (Dodgy Gear? – Dodgy marking more like.)

Our thanks go to our advisors Marc Robinson and Neil Rees of AXA Equity and Law, and our link teacher Mrs Allen. A special mention must also go to our mascot, Kevin 'Rabbit' Greenhill, for eating all our unwanted lettuce and providing us with someone to laugh at.

James Johnson 6EH<sub>1</sub>

## Science Fiction Association

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This society was formed by a group of Year 9s and Year 10s in order to share the interest of general sci-fi in literature and television media. The joining fee is £1 per year. It has been shown as very popular with around 25 members joining at the start.

The first meeting kicked off on a Wednesday lunchtime in Room 10 with an explanation of the club. At the next four meetings there was a showing of *X-Files*, *the Unopened File*. The club is going to have a stall at the Show Day involving a full size dalek and a sale of memorabilia.

The club celebrates the famous authors such as Isaac Asimov, and television programmes such as *Star Trek* and *Doctor Who*. For information about joining contact A Turner, N Spearing or C Houlton of 9E, or R Holdaway of Year 10.

Alex Turner 9E



*'The sausage kiosk outside Munster station is unrivalled.'*

## Osnabrück Exchange

This long-established exchange is jointly run with Wycombe High School. The schools in High Wycombe founded the connection, with the Ratsgymnasium School in Osnabrück, many years ago.

The Easter holidays saw the completion of yet another cycle of the programme, when pupils from the Year 10 and Lower Sixth groups paid a return visit to their exchange partners, who visited High Wycombe during October last year.

Our coach left the High School unfashionably early in the morning, but we arrived in Germany very fashionably late. From then on, each individual began his own crash course in oral German, whilst being kept at the mercy of his host family for three days. This was generally time enough to allow recovery from culture shock, to get to know the German host family, and to enjoy some excursions to areas of interest within the region.

The first opportunity for pupils to meet their friends again was during the day spent at the Ratsgymnasium. A day spent at a German school is a learning experience, whether or not the language is understood. The apparent lack of discipline alone would surprise English pupils, and terrify the teachers.

A number of day trips later in the week were arranged for the pupils with the kind assistance of the teachers from Germany. During the week we visited Hamburg, Münster, and Hameln. These trips were all enhanced by some wonderful weather. Day trips usually involved a guided tour of the town, but then gave us time to do as we pleased. This could be spent walking, shopping, or doing, eating or drinking 'etwas typisch Deutsch'.

Hamburg was found to have a large number of impressive public buildings such as concert halls and court houses. Hameln boasts some classic architecture, whilst the sausage kiosk outside the station in Münster is unrivalled.

The international flavour was completed towards the end of the exchange, when a three-way discussion between German, English and Polish students was carried out. The Polish students, who were also staying in the town, were able to reveal a little about their own culture.

Everybody was shown tremendous hospitality by their host families, and those who enjoyed their experiences of German culture probably had even more regrets about returning to England.

Thanks to Mr Yeates for yet another successful exchange, and for buying us sausages; and to Mr Crease, for an honest, but nonetheless entertaining mistake. Marvellous.

Peter Ford 6BW<sub>1</sub>

## RGS Expedition to Venezuela 1995

On 16 July 1995 21 RGS pupils, two World Challenge leaders and two members of staff – Mr Hollingworth and I – set out on an expedition of a lifetime – a month in Venezuela.

Despite this being officially the first day of the trip, the planning, fundraising and physical training had been taking place for the past year and a half, starting as far back as February 1994 when World Challenge, a tour company specialising in outdoor adventure expeditions for schools, came to give a presentation to the RGS pupils.

Twenty-one pupils finally made the decision to take part in the expedition, and it was with them that Mr Hollingworth and I worked to improve fitness, plan the trip and fundraise some of the trip costs.

Fundraising, a challenge in itself, was very successful with one boy raising over half the total costs for the expedition, a sum equivalent to around £1,200. A variety of different events proved successful in raising the much needed money for the pupils including a sponsored run, a premiere of the Tom Hanks' film *Forrest Gump* at Wycombe's UCI 6 cinema, a 140 km relay run across the Ridgeway, a Craft Fair at the RGS as well as the boys' own fundraising schemes such as Saturday and holiday jobs.

Fitness was a very important part of taking part in the expedition so regular training sessions were organised including a weekend away to Anzio Camp in Leek in the Peak District. Many physical challenges lay ahead of us and so that required us to feel fit and healthy throughout the time in Venezuela. All of us underwent an intensive immunisation programme including injections for typhoid, yellow fever, cholera and diphtheria amongst others. Malaria tablets were taken before, during and after the trip.

The RGS pupils and staff, led by the World Challenge leaders Ric Broad and Allan Bisset, were unaware of the problems that might arise on the expedition and there was an excited nervousness for the first few days of the expedition.

The first objectives – to fly safely to Caracas, to organise a hotel, food and transport for 25 people and then to climb the 3 day acclimatisation trek to the top of Naiguata Peak (2,765 metres) in the Avila National Park just on the outskirts of Caracas – were achieved without a hitch.

With a smooth and problem-free ascent and descent we were confident of achieving our next goal which was to climb the highest of Gran Sabana's table top mountains called Mount Roraima (2,810 metres). The long walk to and from this very beautiful mountain in the south-east of Venezuela and the climb to the top took us six days in total.

Other adventures were journeying to the Angel falls, the highest waterfalls in the world, a community project in the La Paz Barrio of Barquisimeto, and survival technique challenges during the 'R & R' phase on a deserted Caribbean island.

All in all it was a great expedition, very memorable and enjoyed by all.

S.P.H.W.



Mark Astbury 62

## 1996 USA Ski Tour

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Following Britpopsters Oasis' invasion of America a month beforehand, a group of 33 RGS boys and 'senior' members 'conquered' the place (or at least a few mountains on the east coast) during the Easter of 1996.

The party's excitement at what lay ahead was dampened slightly by a two hour delay before take off, as Virgin Airlines tried to tempt passengers off the overbooked flight by offering increasing amounts of cash to stay overnight and then to fly first class to Boston the following day. Staff were sorely tempted but as always looked to the welfare of their pupils and stayed put! The eventual flight passed without incident, with the exception of a little light relief from Brian Peers. Filling in his US immigration form one line out of phase, the first question was for the name of the airline which he dutifully completed in the space underneath which asked for his sex! ('*Question: Sex (male or female)?*' '*Answer: Virgin.*' – Ed.)

On arrival in Boston we were greeted by our Rep. Simon from Skiers' World, and boarded a coach to take us to our ski resort of Killington in Vermont. Tiredness prevented the vast majority from taking dinner, one of the few times that chicken was not on the menu. Our accommodation in the Pinnacles Condominiums was both spacious and very comfortable. Trying to come to terms with the 5 hour time difference and an early start we had our first breakfast in America at Snowshed and then off to boot and ski fitting. Everyone was allocated an instructor relative to their ability, with my group of reasonable skiers being given a fairly free rein to express our ability to the full. With the aid of a light snowfall early on in the week, the snow remained fine throughout our stay. By the end of the week we had almost all skied double black diamond runs (the hardest) and the cutely named Bunny Buster trail. 'Panda eyes' were very much in evidence by the end of the week from the constant sun.



*Boston, Massachusetts, April 1996.*

The food was more often than not poultry, eaten at various restaurants and was always edible if not always delicious. Our evening entertainment improved markedly as the week progressed, with trips bowling, which included a popular stop at 'Dunkin' Donuts', a night at 'Bumps', Vermont's No. 1 club for under 21s, and other extra curricular activities which I am not at liberty to divulge.

A fantastic vacation was rounded off with a few hours in the attractive city of Boston. Then it was back home to our parents for some badly needed sleep, but not before we had eaten some more chicken on the flight just for good measure. Thanks must go to all the 'senior' members of the party, Mrs Howe and Mrs Henderson and Mr Davies, who made the adventure such a success, and especially Mr Howe, whose organisational skills were excellent. The holiday was a tremendous experience for everyone with very little 'chaffin' on anyone's buzz' and a sweet time was had by all.

Gareth Jones 6HR<sub>1</sub>

## Role-playing Club

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Once again the club has had a successful year. At last, the takeover of the Trading Card Games, such as 'Magic: The Gathering', is declining and people are starting to play the more traditional games again. We entered 2 teams into the National Advanced Dungeons and Dragons tournament, the regional finals of which were hosted by the RGS. The senior team came in a respectable 3rd position.

Bill Gerrard 6SB<sub>1</sub>

The club will be organising events in the 6th Form Common Room throughout Show Day. Anyone can come and join in a game, or just spectate. The club meets every lunchtime in Room 25 and all types of games are played, from tabletop wargames to trading card games. Members can borrow games from the club's extensive library, recently expanded thanks to a generous grant from the school and the loan of many games from Mr Glendinning.

Alex Taylor 6SE<sub>1</sub>  
Chairman

## German Work Experience

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In February of this year I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to do some work experience in Frankfurt. I flew out during half term and stayed with a very welcoming German host family.

My work experience was carried out at Hoechst AG, situated on a huge plot of land near the centre of Frankfurt. I was given an Ausweis (ID card) at the start of my visit, which I had to use to get in and out of the gates. Once inside however, transport was free on any of the many buses which ran continually during the day. I was paired up with Frau Herbst, in the pharmaceutical logistics department, who was responsible for the supply of products to several countries including Malta, Israel and Switzerland.

On my first day I was taken on a tour of the plant, during which I saw the storage of raw materials, the manufacture of various products and the automated packaging equipment. For the rest of the time I took and processed orders destined for the three aforementioned countries.

All in all I was treated to an invaluable insight into the workings of the department and also German working life. The exposure to the language has increased my vocabulary and confidence. I was lucky enough to attend several Fasching (carnival) celebrations which were culturally stimulating.

I could not recommend this type of work experience highly enough and would like to thank Mrs Allen very much indeed for arranging it for me.

Marcus Pilgerstorfer 6LY<sub>1</sub>

## Philosophy Society

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The Philosophy Society was formed in October of last year with the intention of promoting philosophical thought among Sixth Formers. The first few TAA meetings were informal discussions amongst a small group. Dr Puritz came to a couple of the discussions mainly to argue for the existence of God. There was an alarming lack of religious conviction among committee members and his presence was a welcome break.

We kicked off the term with a discussion of when consciousness develops. Meetings were well attended by Upper and Lower Sixth Formers alike. Meetings continued throughout the autumn term. Subjects discussed included the mind-body problem, infinity, the existence of God, evolution and determinism.

Jon Crawford-Phillips was meanwhile busy writing to universities in the area asking for philosophers to come and talk to us, the first of whom was Professor Robert Kirk, who gave a most interesting talk on functionalism on 13 December.

The next meeting after the mocks saw our first bearded speaker. Professor Wilfred Hodges, give a talk on logic. As an author of the standard logic textbook, one might expect him to be fanatical about his subject but he was apologetic about its uses and referred to common sense as a much higher virtue.

The next week's talk was a demonstration of the spirited, if not anarchic, view of Dr Keith Ansell-Pearson of Warwick University. His account of Nietzsche's aggressive atheism and contempt for Judaeo-Christian values was a vast contrast to the religious basis of our school.

Dr Milton visited the following week and gave an interesting talk on the philosophy of science: a thought provoking talk that benefited many Sixth Form scientists.

On 29 February Professor Karmiloff-Smith gave an enthralling talk on the nature-nurture debate. Her accounts of the tests performed on newborn babies seemed to point very much towards nurture. The phenomenal speed with which newborn children learn was demonstrated with some very clever testing.

The Philosophy Society would like to thank all the visiting speakers and Jon Crawford-Phillips for making arrangements concerning their visits. The organising roles have now been handed over to Malcolm 'Malcolm' Devoy and Ed 'Edwards' Hall, of the Lower Sixth. We hope the society will continue and become better established. The founding committee members this year were Robert Wood, Robin Stattersfield, Neil Sinclair, Jon Crawford-Phillips, Stuart Nickols, Richard Royce, and Ross McNaughton.

Stuart Nickols 6SW<sub>2</sub>

## Chess

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It has been a season of fluctuating fortunes. A number of the experienced players have been unable to play regularly for the 1st or 2nd Senior Team, and consequently the results have been disappointing with the 1st team being relegated. In the *Sunday Times* competition, the team reached the semi-final of the zone, before going out to a very strong team from Haberdashers'.

At the Junior Level, we have done better. A number of new players have shown great enthusiasm, and our 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th teams finished either first or second in our league, depending on the results of the final matches. Many of the captains have been so reliable and been such a help in organising their teams.

Many thanks to those who are leaving school this year: Philip Hobbs, Mark Patterson, Jody Shuttlewood and James Whelan for their valuable contribution to School Chess over the years.

I.R.C.

## Public Speaking

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This year the RGS again competed with success in the opening round of the Rotary Club's 'Youth Speaks' competition held at Wycombe Abbey in February. However, we were not able to break the current domination of this opening round enjoyed by girls' schools, and the positions of our senior and junior teams were an exact reversal of last year's.

The senior team was composed of chairman Stephen Day, speaker Neil Daugherty and vote of thanks James Fagan, and spoke with wit and eloquence on the proposition that 'Girls don't make passes to blokes who wear glasses'. Bespectacled Neil Daugherty put forward the thesis that the optically challenged man was, in fact, a girl's ideal partner. The team won third prize in their section.

The junior team, which was composed of chairman Sam Jahanshahi, speaker Brian Lacy, and vote of thanks William Howe, chose as their title the well known adage of film producer Sam Goldwyn, 'Include me out'. This was a well crafted and very confidently delivered performance which exposed the lunacies and dangers of so-called 'politically correct' speech; in a very full section, they were awarded second prize out of eight schools.

M.J.S.

## IT Centre

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This year the main development in the IT Centre has been the arrival of a new Pentium server, and an increase in memory in the workstations. Every station in the main room now has eight megabytes, which is enough to cope with Microsoft's heavier packages. The server has lots of hard disk space, and for the first time in living memory we still have (so far) some space in reserve. Someone's Law says that you always fill your hard disk space, though, so it won't be long ... Since September the whole system has been up to a respectable speed, and has become more stable. The remainder of the annual budget went on uninterrupted power supplies for the servers, so we are now looking forward (well, nearly) to power cuts, instead of dreading them.

The new generation of users have the same old interests, and are beginning to show the same flair. There are some good graphics appearing, and more ambitious languages

## Computer Club

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As a change, I thought I'd start the annual Computer Club report with a brief history of its last 6 years.

When I arrived at the school, Room 30 contained 2 networks: one consisting of RM 480Zs (best remembered for 'Scoop' and an 'amazing' flight sim) and another of just about PC-Compatible RM Nimbus 186s (best remembered for 'M.U.D.' and 'Worm'). This system was adequate, but somewhat outdated in an age when the 486 PC had already been released. After a couple of years, we were given the old Admin Network consisting of about ten 286 machines and a 486 File Server, running Novell Netware, a professional Network Operating System. Thus the 480Zs were sent to Silicon Heaven, but a few of the old 186s still remained. Over the next 2 years, more stations were added to the new Novell Network, and in turn more were removed from the old 186 network. Now our system is solely based on the Novell Network, but half of the machines are still 286s which are definitely beginning to show their age.

On the plus side though we have had some additions this year. First came the arrival of two Pentium P-100 machines with three 486DX-33 PCs, each of which are about six times more powerful than our next best machines. Each of these 5 computers have been upgraded to 16+ Mbytes of RAM which will enable them to perform well for years to come. We have been hoping to update the rapidly ageing 486 - 25 MHz File Server (the core of the network) for the last year and a half. Unfortunately, this has not happened, but its hard-disk space was increased from 400 Mbytes to 1 Gbyte which will act as a temporary solution. The 'pride' of the network, the HP LaserJet 4M Plus Printer continues to be invaluable, especially during project times.

In conclusion, is the network in a better position now relative to when I started at the school in 1990? Well, yes it is slightly. However, Computing as a subject is becoming even more important as can be seen in the fact that there are now two A-Level Computing groups in the Lower Sixth, the first time ever. In line with this, I hope that the network will be able to increase its capabilities rapidly, hopefully including access to the Internet, and along with this Internet programming tools, such as Java.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Lovell for his running of the Network and advice in my years at the school and I would also like to thank A J Moore for his help throughout the year. I wish Mr Lovell, A J and the new network manager the best for the coming year.

Michael Roberts 6MBe<sub>2</sub>

than BASIC are being learned. Unfortunately the internal conferencing programs had to be stopped, because the whole network was being reduced to a teenage chat line. Instead we now have variety, with some impressive laser printed projects, and even a few heroes using Access.

The aims for the future are to get faster stations in the room, expand the remaining workstation memories, get more stations into the rooms in the main block, and make more links to other parts of the school. The Internet should be our big growth area (see the following article), and the eventual prospect of every station in the IT Centre being directly on-line to the rest of the planet looks like being our next big dream.

Thanks, as always, to Mrs Briggs for her patience and fortitude in the face of hordes of eager users, and our thanks to Matthew Sheraton and Duncan Moore for their cheerful and helpful work as prefects.

P.M.A.G.

## The Internet at RGS

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The Internet connects computers all over the world, and now the RGS has links into this system. A group of staff and boys is investigating the possibilities and already these are becoming evident. While the School's exchange party was in Germany at the Ratsgymnasium in Osnabrück, a link was set up to exchange messages with parties at each school typing into the computer, with the typing from the distant school appearing on screen as well as the local typing. There are several projects which could develop from this link between the two schools.

Most people see Internet addresses in many contexts, both for sending email (electronic messages from computer to computer) and for the location of information on every imaginable subject. Much of this has potential for use in education, and it offers a method of publishing for the school to anyone in the world who might be interested. By the time this magazine is published, there should be information about the school, including pages from this magazine, available at the following address:

<http://www.rmplc.co.uk/eduweb/sites/rgshiwyc/index.html>

Those of you with world wide web browsers are encouraged to visit the site, and to use the email address to send constructive ideas and suggestions. In particular it would be good to hear from old boys and to receive their Internet addresses.

The school has the following email addresses:  
for administration

RMP.9045404.D4W@DIALNET.CO.UK

for curriculum use and to contact staff and pupils

rgshiwyc@rmplc.co.uk

Boys who are interested in becoming involved should talk to Mr Berry.

D.M.B.



## Mr White-Taylor's Tuck Shop

Mr White-Taylor's Tuck Shop has continued to flourish over the last year. As well as providing first class confectionery, we have also continued to offer our customers the chance to take part in our exciting seasonal promotions.

Last summer we played the 'Lucky Numbers' game which made S Smith very happy indeed as he walked away with the big prize. Our second Christmas promotion, 'Reach for the Stars', was the most successful promotion we have run to date. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the lucky dip and congratulate all who won prizes. We were pleased to welcome back Helga, our mechanical hen, to dispense our lucky eggs during our Easter promotion. She certainly pleased L Pearson and I Copete by awarding them the top prizes of cash plus Easter eggs.

'I am very pleased indeed at the way the promotions have gone', said Mr White-Taylor, our manager. 'All the profit goes towards improving the facilities at the school, and everything helps. I would like to thank my staff, Marcus Pilgerstorfer, Greg Walton, A J Moore, Matthew Locke, Richard Lawrence, Robin Eade, Lee Biddle and Tim Palmer for all the effort they have put in. Oh, and don't forget – Tuck at White-Taylor's Tastes Better!'

Marcus Pilgerstorfer 6LY<sub>1</sub>



*'We'll serve anyone at White-Taylor's.'*

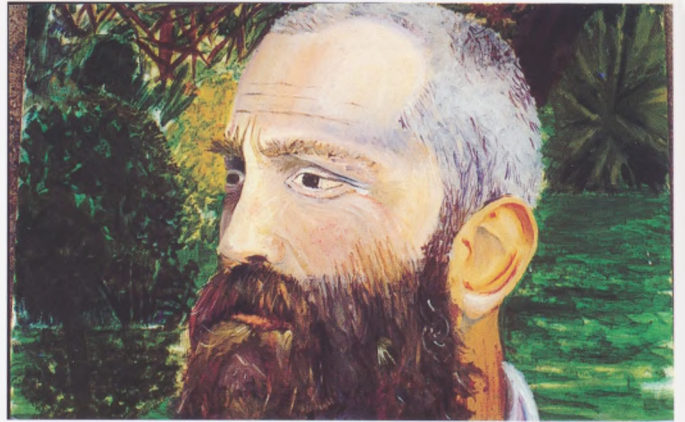


*Tom Sermon 62*



*Neil Andrew 61  
Oil Painting*

Stuart Page  
Year 11  
Oil painting



Tim Jarrett  
Year 10  
Pastel/Conté Drawing



James Gledhill 62  
Oil Painting



Dale Batham  
Year 11



Matthew Tinnelly  
Year 8  
'Contemporary Fossil'  
Plaster Cast



James Locke-Hart 61  
Oil Painting

Dimitri Amiras  
Year 11



Robin Eade  
Year 11



Kevin Kilshaw 62  
Mixed-media



Alex Cox  
Year 11

## Jeremy Paxman Society

It is now a year since the Headmaster and four Sixth Formers set up a society to invite guest speakers to the school. The only difficult decision the society has had to make was what to call itself. Mr Levin's suggestion of the 'Nelson Mandela Society' was rejected, as was the 'Margaret Thatcher Society', which was passionately argued for by Stephen Day. The Jeremy Paxman Society was the name we eventually came up with.

Our first speaker was Andrew Adonis of the *Financial Times*, who gave a provocative speech defending the excesses of the tabloid press. Next came Jeremy Paxman himself, who treated us to some reflections on the subject of Englishness. Other guests have included a survivor of a Nazi extermination camp, a representative of UNE, a scientist from Nuclear Electric and a satirical South African folk singer.

One of the forthcoming speakers is General Sir Michael Rose, who played a key role in the war in Bosnia. Also in the offing is Will Hutton, an influential thinker in the Labour Party.

Matthew Richards 6HK<sub>2</sub>

## Islamic Society

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

Each week many people attended, from varying religious backgrounds, with the intention of understanding the ideals of Islam. The response was positive in that so many different people researched and presented talks.

The meetings this year were centred around one main theme, the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Apart from this chronological account, other topics such as charity (£280 was collected by the Society for the Romanian Appeal), fasting, good character and praiseworthy manners were discussed.

Many thanks are due to Mr Wolton who has continued to help and maintain the Society.

M. Hussain 6BW<sub>2</sub>



Ian Mann  
Year 10  
Pastel Drawing

## Senior Vulture

This year, Senior Vulture has so far been to see three productions, two of which have been in London, braving the bomb scares.

Our first outing was to see Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville* at the local Wycombe Swan theatre. Though slightly slow to get going, the cast's performance was of a surprisingly high quality for a smaller production such as this, particularly that of Figaro, the barber himself, whose opening aria, *Largo al factotum della citta*, I still find myself bellowing from time to time.

February's outing provided a complete change of pace with *Cain* at the Barbican. Byron's story, adapted from the Bible, of Lucifer encouraging Cain to challenge the beliefs he holds on the nature of God, was involving and acted in the close confines of The Pit, and while it was somewhat short on one-liners, the play was nevertheless thought-provoking and enjoyable.

Our most recent trip was to see Brecht's *Mother Courage* at the National Theatre. It featured an impressive and cleverly-designed set and a notable performance from Diana Rigg as the eponymous resilient profiteer who simultaneously follows the fortunes of her three children and the progress of the Thirty Years' War in seventeenth century Europe. The setting conveniently coincided with the A Level History studies of some members of our group.

I have greatly enjoyed taking part in Senior Vulture and would heartily recommend it to my younger colleagues. During my two years as a member it has given me the opportunity to see a diverse selection of high quality productions at prestigious locations and has proved useful as an acceptable excuse for late homework. Thanks to Mr Keysell, Mr Mitchell, Mr Cowburn and Miss Kelly for giving up their time to take the group on these excursions. I am sure they would agree that we were always perfect ambassadors for the school!

This year's programme of visits will be completed with the new film of *Richard the Third*, which promises to be just as enjoyable as the previous events.

R. J. Wood 6HK<sub>2</sub>

## Junior Vulture

On 14 October, 33 boys from Years 8 and 9 embarked on their first Junior Vulture excursion of the academic year to see *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde at the Old Vic Theatre. This play was the story of a young man who pretends to be two different people and inevitably problems arise. It was a well-acted and very humorous play which we all enjoyed. Before the play we were given a guided tour of the National Gallery.

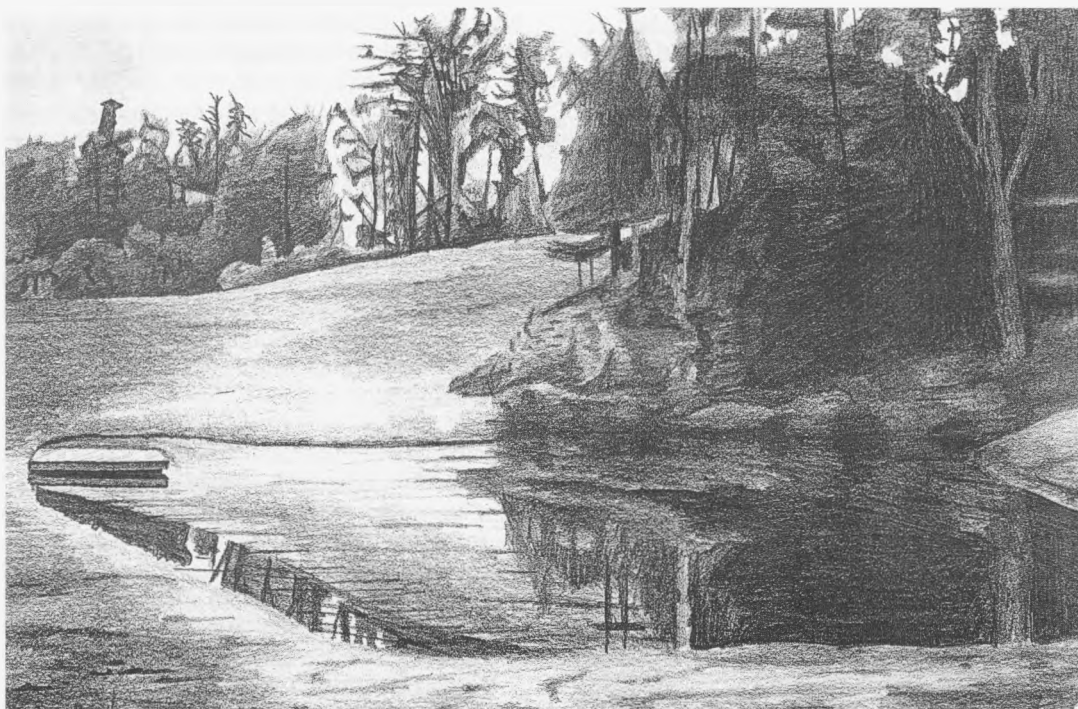
Our next trip was to take place on Thursday 30 November. This was a local trip to the Wycombe Swan. The play we watched was a Gilbert and Sullivan production, *The Mikado*, their most famous comic opera. It was the story of a Japanese Emperor's son pretending to be a poor minstrel in his search for a woman to fall in love with. He happily succeeded in the end.

Just after the Christmas holidays we were informed of our third excursion. This promised to be the most interesting and entertaining one of the first three. It was a dramatic adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. There was something different about this one, for Tom Godfrey of Year 8 actually took part in the performance. The well known story of *A Christmas Carol* is about an old man called Ebenezer Scrooge who lives on his own and hates practically everybody and everything including Christmas. But one night he is visited by a ghost of an old business partner named Marley. After the incident three more ghosts followed: the ghost of Christmas past, the ghost of Christmas present and the ghost of Christmas future. After all this Mr Scrooge became a very nice, caring and compassionate old man. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the production, especially the clever special effects.

There's now one more Junior Vulture trip remaining and everyone is looking forward to it.

Many thanks to Mr Cowburn for organising the visits and to the other members of staff for accompanying us.

M. Sidhu 9S



Adam Stewart-Wallace  
Year 11

## Music Department

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This year has been an extremely busy time for the RGS Music Department and has seen a wide and varied programme of events, the climax of which was, undoubtedly, a joint production of the musical *Guys and Dolls* with Wycombe High School.

The Autumn Recital began the year with excellent solos by Jonathan Wood, Tim Beresford, Matthew Ginn, Patrick Watson, and Gavin Winston, and included a particularly memorable rendition of Debussy's *Reflets dans l'eau* by Robin McKenzie, who realising he had forgotten his music just minutes before going on, decided to play John Cage's *4' 33* instead. The concert ended with Handel's Organ Concerto No. 13 played by William Village and the RGS String Orchestra.

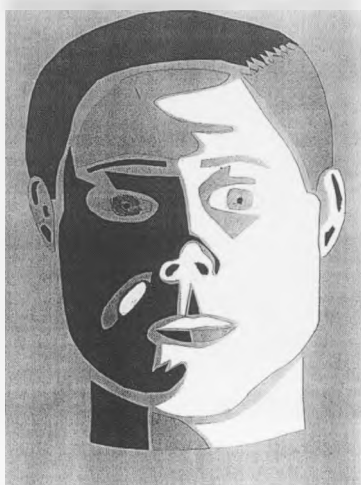
The Jazz Band were able to show they were ever the professional 'giggers' they claim to be, when they continued, without batting an eyelid (not that anyone could see them batting an eyelid), whilst the lighting team practised turning all the lights off during the performance of their second number at this year's Christmas Concert (funny, turning lights on and off seems easy to us!). Having recently purchased 'state of the art' computerised composing equipment, Mr P D Gazard displayed his talents at arranging and his medley was expertly pulled off by the Junior Choir and the RGS Jazz Band. The concert ended with a spectacular performance of Rutter's *Gloria* by the School Choir, accompanied by the Brass Ensemble and Organ.

Shortly after this concert, the school choir, accompanied by William Village, presented a magnificent Carol Service directed by Mr T P Venvell, which was hailed as one of the best by the Vicar of All Saints' Parish Church, High Wycombe.

Although some might think preparing for *Guys and Dolls* was enough for one term, the Music Department still managed to produce an extremely enjoyable recital just weeks before. Fortunately the lights were labelled 'on' and 'off' this time! There were a few tense moments beforehand when the Concert Manager fell ill and thanks go to Robert Dudley and Patrick Watson who stepped in at the last minute to stage-manage the concert.

The highlight of the Spring Term was an impressive production of the musical *Guys and Dolls*. This, the first ever Broadway Musical by the school, combined the cream of Musical, Dramatic, and Technical expertise of both RGS and Wycombe High School. The production (with a cast of over 100 performers accompanied by the Hot Box Stage Band) played to a combined audience of nearly 2000 people, all proclaiming it a thoroughly splendid night out.

William Village 6C<sub>2</sub> and Daniel Stammers 6ER<sub>2</sub>



Barry Coakley  
Year 10  
'Paper Collage'

## Music Society

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This year has seen the launch of the new Music Society, organised by an enthusiastic committee of interested parents, with the joint aims of encouraging and promoting music in the school, and raising funds, initially to buy a new grand piano for the Queen's Hall. The society has promoted three concerts this year, each in its own distinctive style: a concert given by the all-female saxophone quartet, the Jazz-a-Belles; a talk by the well-known and entertaining musician Antony Hopkins; and a recital of Impressionist piano music by Paul Roberts (O.W. 1960–67), which was preceded by an excellent masterclass for some of our advanced pianists. The society has also taken over the provision of refreshments at musical events, and raised the standard of these considerably!

Thanks are due to all members of the committee, led by chairman, Nigel Grant, for their time and their enthusiasm.

T.P.V.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – Bronze Award

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To give you an idea of a typical candidate's experience:

### Physical Recreation

I decided to play badminton for my physical recreation part of my award. I had been playing regularly beforehand as I belonged to a club, so it was relatively easy for me to play for the number of hours needed to succeed in this section. I also had to go to Stokenchurch once every few months to be assessed by an official award scheme assessor. She coached me in certain parts of the game and also told me about some of the rules of the game. The last session that I had with her I was given a test which was the equivalent of the Carlton bronze award which involved being tested on the rules and different types of shots.

### Skill

For this part of my award I took up pistol shooting. I joined a rifle and pistol shooting club in Marlow and I started off with firing .22 calibre pistols. Recently I obtained a high enough score to be allowed to fire larger calibre pistols (.38).

### Expedition

For the six weeks prior to my expedition week-end I went to Stokenchurch Youth Centre once a week to be taught skills which might be used whilst on the expedition (such as navigation, first aid, camp-craft etc.). We (as a group) then had to decide what purpose we would have to base our expedition around and my group chose to study pub signs. We then took part in a training week-end which consisted of two long walks with a night under canvas. I have not done my actual expedition yet but I am really looking forward to it.

### Service

I have not yet decided what I would like to do for my service section of the award but I think that I will try to do something in the summer holidays.

I have found everything that I have done so far for the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme interesting and fun and I am looking forward to completing my bronze award and going on to take silver and gold award. I would recommend it to anyone.

James Falconer 11MS

If interested, please contact Mrs N J G Catling.

## Rugby

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What a wonderful year for rugby at the RGS! In the summer, former captain Jun Shaw, now playing with Leicester, gained an England Colts cap in Canada. In December Matthew Dawson, another former captain, gained a full England cap when he played at scrum half against Western Samoa. The U13 VII reached the final of the National Schools' Sevens and the U15 XV won the Daily Mail Cup with a magnificent 17-13 victory over Wellington College at Twickenham.

1995/96 has been a vintage year with the 1st XV, U15 XV, U14 XV and U13 XV all enjoying excellent seasons. The Friends of RGS Rugby was launched with a luncheon, and recently the first ever Sportsman's Dinner attracted 400 people. They were entertained by England No 8 Dean Richards and professional after dinner speaker Bob 'The Cat' Bevan. Also in attendance were England players Matthew Dawson, Paul Grayson and Nick Beal, and Barbarians' Secretary Geoff Windsor-Lewis was the MC for the evening. The evening was a huge success, and the funds raised will pay for all next year's rugby transport costs, thus easing the burden on the school budget. My sincere thanks to everybody who helped make the event such a success and to all the parents, particularly the mums, who have helped and supported throughout the year.

C.C.T.

### 1st XV

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Anybody who underestimates an RGS 1st XV will do so at their peril. Many pundits suggested that this would be a poor year and had written the team off before the season started. To reflect back on a season of 13 victories, 3 draws and only 3 losses, is sweet, and is a great credit to a team that worked hard for each other under the excellent captaincy of Steve Coakley. His personable commitment to every game was an inspiration to those around him.

Despite not being able to field a full strength side, the team made a wonderful start at St Edward's Oxford winning 13-7. Sir William Borlase's were overwhelmed in the Daily Mail Cup 42-0. At Radley spectators were treated to an entertaining game of running rugby but we suffered a 6-19 loss. Barnet, St Benedict's and Warwick were beaten as the season gained momentum. Two further victories in the cup saw the team go to Ipswich for the festival in good spirits. Sporting sharp new haircuts the team performed well to reach the main cup competition on the final day but lost narrowly in spirited performances to Colston's and Queen Elizabeth GS Wakefield, who were later to compete in the final of the Daily Mail Cup.

0-0 draws are very rare, but the 1st XV were to experience two in the second half of the term. The first was at Abingdon. The second came at home just before Christmas against Lord Wandsworth School in the Daily Mail Cup. A thoroughly entertaining game saw RGS create three clear scoring opportunities, but each time they were denied by the excellent cover tackling of the Lord Wandsworth fly half. As a result Lord Wandsworth progressed to the quarter finals by virtue of being the away team. It was a cruel and undeserved way for the 1st XV to leave the competition. The third draw of term came at Solihull, 10-10, but there were good victories over Aylesbury, Windsor, London Oratory, and Desborough. Weather disrupted the Spring Term fixtures but wins were achieved at Tiffin and Laytmer Upper.

The Sevens season was disappointing mainly due to injuries to key players, and although the squad worked hard they did not gain the success that might have been expected. Dimitri Amiras and Edward Brooks represented the South West Division U16 XV and Amiras went on to play at lock in the England final trial. Daniel Smaje enjoyed an excellent season at scrum half for the 1st XV, and was selected for the England President's XV versus Durham Schools in the Durham centenary match. May I thank the squad for their hard work throughout the year and particularly those members of 6, for their years of service to RGS rugby. I hope they have enjoyed their experience, learnt a little, and continue to play wherever their career takes them.

C.C.T.

### 2nd XV

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After a shaky start to the season the 2nd XV began to show some potential winning against QES Barnet and St Benedict's. This was followed by a run of three close losses which failed to reflect the increasing cohesiveness of the team. Against Desborough the team was rewarded for its inventive running style, winning 31-7. This was followed by an impressive win over Berkhamsted school, succeeding where the 1st XV had failed. We finished the season playing some excellent running rugby and winning emphatically against Latymer Upper and Tiffin School. Captain and scrum half Martin Davidson led by example becoming the team's leading try-scorer with a hat trick in one match. Fly-half Oli Pearson showed promise for the future with some excellent touch kicking.

Other notable performances came from Brian and David Parsons who tackled ferociously throughout the season, and Kevin Kilshaw who was the backbone of the scrum and a motivational force as vice-captain. Thanks go to all players for being 100% committed on the field of play, despite disappointing training turnouts, and Mr Taylor for being a guiding force throughout the season.

Martin Davidson  
2nd XV Captain

### U16 XV

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With early season pitches like concrete the start of the season was unique with little contact training. The potential of the new squad was good with size on the team's side. The first two matches against St Edward's and Radley proved to be excellent games with the boys losing by a score in both. Luck had deserted the team when a last second touch line conversion for Warwick enforced a 12-10 defeat. In the first half of the term the boys played some very good rugby but just lost out. After half term Abingdon were beaten 8-3 with F Hutchison converting a penalty under great pressure at the end. Hutchison's boot proved to be one of the finds of the season. For the next month the team worked towards a floodlit tournament at Luton. In school games a crushing win over Berkhamsted 43-6 highlighted the versatility of the players.

The Luton tournament proved to be the highlight of the year. After two mediocre group games the team had to go into a play-off to qualify for the semi-final. The team then produced the best rugby of the evening with a game that resembled a game of sevens. The semi-final against Bedford school proved to be a nerve racking game. Many chances were squandered by both teams and at the end of

10 minutes the deadlock was not broken. After convincing the referee that a 'penalty shoot out' was not the favourable option, sudden death was decided by another of the season's finds, N Forrest, scoring an excellently worked try in the corner. In the final, we played Watford Grammar School, to whom we had lost in the group stages. The final proved to be a tense affair with no score after 6 minutes. Then a silly mistake gave Watford a penalty in front of the posts 3-0. With time running out Watford gave a penalty away just inside their half. F Hutchison slid the penalty kick just wide. Watford then dropped the ball and put themselves off side, giving RGS a penalty 5 metres out. Quickly taken and rucked, it produced a try for M Embrey,

## U15 'A' XV

This was a season which began with high hopes and dreams of playing at Twickenham. It was also a season where the weight of expectation could easily have brought down many a lesser team. At times the pressures were enormous but throughout it all they proved what an exceptional group of young men they really are. They remained focused and determined, and all who were involved with them couldn't help but be impressed by their maturity, both on and off the field. It is hard to write a report which fully does them justice. This was a season of tough fixtures. Nevertheless they played 20 matches and won 19 of them. They conceded only 49 points and scored a massive 837 points, the highest margin of victory being an 82-0 win over Abingdon. Fourteen of the games were won by more than 30 points. The season also saw victory in the Luton Floodlit Tournament.

The undoubted highlight of the season, however, was a tremendous Daily Mail Cup run, culminating in a thrilling encounter against Wellington College at Twickenham. A nail-biting final full of fast running, hard-hitting rugby had us all on the edge of our seats. Having played well and established a good lead in the first half it took some heroic defending in the second to hold on to a 17-13 scoreline and secure victory. The celebrations which continued well into the evening were well deserved – not just for that one win but for a whole season of which both we and they should be very proud. CONGRATULATIONS.

A.T.J.



*The victorious Daily Mail Cup U15 XV team.*

burrowing through to score an RGS victory on the final whistle.

The rest of term failed to live up to the excitement of those few weeks. A win over Solihull, 19-5, proved to be the last win of the season. With injuries now taking their toll the core of the pack was missing and our dominance up front slackened. A close defeat by Gillott's Henley and a rematch against Watford proved to be hard games. The season tailed off with the last two games cancelled.

J.A.McK.

## U15 'B' XV

A season of mixed fortunes saw the 'B' team play twelve games, winning four, drawing one and losing seven. At their best they showed that they were capable of producing some very good rugby, as in their 34-3 victory over St. Benedict's and their 25-5 win over Berkhamsted. Unfortunately they allowed too many winning situations to slip through their fingers, such as a very narrow 22-19 loss to Holmer Green, and a 17-0 half time lead against Bedford Modern which was turned into a 29-17 defeat. Nevertheless throughout the season they retained a positive attitude, training hard and always giving of their best. They were totally reliable and many of the boys earned their way into the final squad which travelled to Twickenham for the Daily Mail Cup final. Special thanks go to Aidan Shaw for captaining and leading the side so capably throughout the season, and to all the lads for all their efforts and hard work.

A.T.J.

## U14 XV

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A dynamic and heady mix of youth and talent was assembled on the fourth day of term at the RGS. The teams were to remain unbeaten at 'A' team level and lost only once in the 'B's.

The desire to win, but win in an enjoyable style, was encapsulated throughout every game. 'Rucking' was the key, and this the teams did to great effect, often steamrolling larger packs through speed and determination.

In the 'A's Matthew Honeyben offered his tactical knowledge to provide a perfect foil to Nick Duncombe's flashing feet for a solid half-back partnership which always stood us in good stead. When this was coupled with David Dunne's rampaging runs, Nick Green's thumping tackles and Ross Coull's penetration in the centre, the link between forwards and backs was always keen and indeed 15 man rugby was evident in 'A' and 'B' teams.

Undoubtedly highlights included the decisive win against Solihull and victory at the Minehead tournament, the squad of 20 walking away with all three trophies (CCT and Duncombe not seemingly overawed by the presence of Eric Peters). This was a good holiday/tour when the team demonstrated to Bradford Grammar School its potential with resounding victories against them.

The calibre of the whole year was shown at Sherborne. With two players in the U15 Daily Mail Cup squad, we progressed to lose to Wellington in the final.

Many thanks to Nick Duncombe, Matt Honeyben and David Dunne, the 'Senior Management Team' of the side, and to all parents and their support, rain or shine. I enjoyed the season.

W.M.P.

## U13 XV

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The U13 Squad again worked with great enthusiasm and determination during September and October, anxious perhaps to sustain the achievements of their predecessors in the last two years. The first game against Warwick produced a severe test against an unbeaten side, and the team was encouraged to lose only by one try. However, after the half-term break the 'A' XV stepped into gear, especially after a fine win against a confident Queen Elizabeth Barnet XV. The toughest game was against London Oratory when the team showed real character and purpose to overcome a two try deficit and win by 27-14. The final game before Christmas against Watford resulted in a 5-5 draw when RGS demonstrated the erratic nature of their performances. However, refreshed after the Christmas break, powerful displays of free-flowing and powerful rugby destroyed Latymer Upper, Tiffin and Reigate.

Meanwhile, despite the absence of a number of 'C' XV fixtures, the 'B' XV were becoming a forceful team under the watchful eye of Mr Glendinning. Many players forced their way into the 'A' XV as the competition for places encouraged ever-improving performances. The 'B' XV finished the season unbeaten – to the delight of the coach who had never experienced this pleasure at John Hampden School.

My thanks go to this squad for their tremendous enthusiasm and wayward concentration – and also to the previous U13 teams and parents who have made this introductory year for RGS boys such an enjoyable experience. I would also like to thank coaches Robson, Moffatt and Glendinning for their excellent support over the recent seasons.

M.J.D.

## U13 Sevens

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RGS are in danger of becoming unpopular on the Sevens circuit. After weeks of training I was thinking that this year's Seven would struggle to concentrate for half a Sevens game. Four weeks later they had won the Bedford Modern and Berkhamsted Sevens for the third year running, the Warwick Sevens for the second time in three years and lost in the final of the Rosslyn Park National Sevens. This team conceded more tries and made more poor decisions than their predecessors, but when the game went to the wire they demonstrated phenomenal resilience and character to overcome their shortcomings.

The Bedford Modern Sevens was a good learning process as the team improved enormously to defeat the hosts eventually in the final. The final of the Berkhamsted Sevens was the most dramatic with the lead changing four times as RGS beat old rivals Q.E. Barnet by 24-19.

Warwick Sevens demonstrated that this team really had plenty of class in defeating the host school in the final to avenge the XV's defeat earlier in the year.

In the National Sevens, RGS negotiated a tough game at the end of the first day against Stamford to proceed into the quarter finals. A poor display against Dulwich, followed by a superlative performance against Reading, saw RGS into the finals to play RGS Guildford. Wycombe led 10-5 until the last moments, when 1995 World Cup Final referee, Ed Morrison, awarded a mysterious try to Guildford, which they converted to win by 12-10. A huge disappointment to end a season which achieved success beyond my highest expectations. My congratulations to a great Sevens squad.

M.J.D.

## Hockey

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### 1st XI

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Early season victories over Kingston GS and Sir William Borlase's GS indicated how strong the team was and a succession of further wins over Warwick, Aylesbury GS, Dr Challoner's GS and Hitchin only ended when an understrength XI lost to Desborough by 1 goal in the last match of the season.

Our top mid-field player Laveen Jandu was too old for the U18 competition matches and so qualification for the National Finals was not going to be easy. Indoors Kingston GS outplayed us in a pool match which turned out to be crucial. Kingston went on to become convincing National Indoor Champions. Outdoors in a very closely contested tournament in Sussex, Eastbourne College went through as South East Champions. RGS played excellent pattern hockey but were unable to take scoring opportunities at key moments.

The highlight of the season came in March when the school won the prestigious St. George's Weybridge 6-a-side tournament (an invitation tournament for 28 schools throughout South England). RGS defeated the hosts in extra-time to win the cup for the second time after having defeated last year's winners Simon Langton GS from Canterbury in the semi-final.

Three former RGS players were selected for Cambridge this year in the 'Varsity' Match. 1991 RGS Captain Jonathan Wyatt has been playing for Great Britain in their build-up for the Atlanta Olympics.

Laveen Jandu and Tejinder Hanspal (96 goals in 2 RGS seasons!) were invited to attend England U21 training

sessions, Philip Barlow and Simon Grant played for Bucks U21, Tony Fletcher, Karsten Smet and Greg Walton for Bucks U18. Sukhpreet Authwall, Marc Antoine, Richard Lawrence and Andrew Merkley all did well in their first season for the 1st XI. Paul Jarrett and Joel Meyer made significant contributions in defence and mid-field and Scott Biddle gave us penetration on the right-wing.

I wish all leavers continued success in the game.

D.G.S.

## 2nd XI

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The 2nd XI had a good season of hockey this year. Largely it was Matthew Walker's captaincy skills and the efforts of all his team members which enabled them to play some superb hockey and thus secure a number of victories, including 5-2 against Warwick, 4-2 against Dr Challoner's, and 5-2 against John Hampden.

Whilst the pupils playing in the team varied from week to week the side was usually made up of Graham Blackwell who played in goal, and Matthew Walker playing as sweeper and the captain. In defence there was Nicholas Finch, Michael Spragg and Martin Richardson, with Joel Meyer, Timothy Scholes and Kaushik Guha in midfield, and in the front forward line were Sam Musk, Andrew Burnette and Mark Patterson.

Other contributions came from Christopher Mavers, Jamie Cotgreave, Matthew Luscombe, Matthew Dickson, Matthew Ginn, Martin Wallwork, Andrew Merkley, and Greg Walton amongst others.

It was good to see that despite the need to vary the team line up regularly their performance improved greatly over the year, both in terms of the individual skills of the players and in terms of the effort and determination that they displayed. Congratulations to all those involved in making it a very successful season of hockey.

S.P.H.W.

## U16 XI

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There were few matches at this level this season but RGS did manage some creditable victories, notably against Dr Challoner's GS. The indoor squad played with particular promise.

Team – R Eade, C Hopkins, D Grant, D Flint, R Syner, C Middleton, B Meyer, C Makinson, R Lawrence, M Gibson, S Duncombe, P Channon, S Egan, S Vassib, T Lasocki.

Richard Lawrence, Daniel Grant and Simon Duncombe have already played at 1st XI level and show potential for the future.

R. Lawrence/D.G.S.

## U15 XI

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**Played 15 Won 4 Drawn 3 Lost 8 For 26 Against 37**

This has been a very mixed season for the U15 hockey team. The season started with no clear idea of who would play where (with a few exceptions) or how we would play. It was only towards the end of the season that clever short corner routines proved to be valuable.

James Bayless started off in goal but, after a few games, decided to become a goal scorer rather than a goal keeper. This left a big hole to fill but Chris Tague volunteered and has gone from strength to strength. He does, however, need a long warm-up before the game! The coach from Haberdashers' Aske's could not stop telling us how well Tague had played.

If the dynamic duo, Charles Gunn and Daniel Keating, are both playing, the defence can be very sound. Lee Biddle has found his position at left defence. More experience of playing here and bit more power will make him into a good defender. Other members of the defence have included Paul Whaley, Ross Burton and Simon Pearce. A guest appearance was also made by Sam Jahanshahi against Reading.

The midfield has been unchanged all season, Scott Fitzgibbon, Jonathan Davies and David Cox taking up this area to very good effect.

If Tim Jarrett and James Nicholson play, then goals will come. The question is how many. Only once have the team not scored when they have both played. The left-wing has seen many holders including Ross Hendry, James Bayless and Oliver Britnell.

This team will improve over the years as their strength and confidence grows. I wish them well.

Jonathan Davies and James Nicholson both earned selection for S. E. England U15s and Scott Fitzgibbon played with distinction for Bucks U15s.

D.F.W.

## U14 XI

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**Played 14 Won 6 Drawn 2 Lost 6 For 29 Against 21**

The U14 hockey squad consisted of many enthusiastic players who were starting hockey for the first time along with 3 or 4 who had played previously. Our early season fixtures were therefore very hard encounters but through the season we became more experienced and started to win some matches very convincingly. We played particularly well against Desborough School (5-0), Aylesbury Grammar School (5-0), and finished the season by only losing 0-1 to the top hockey school, Kingston Grammar School.

The highlight of the season was becoming Bucks County Schools and Youth Champions, defeating Marlow Hockey Club 3-1 and Aylesbury Hockey Club 7-0, and then attending the South East England Divisional tournament where we came 3rd. Special mention should be made of Edward Harrison's selection for the South East Divisional Team, which won the National Championship, and of Nick Duncombe who represented the South West. Both played very well and represented their Divisions and the school tremendously well. We also provided 4 members of the Bucks County Team, and Oscar Webb did exceptionally well in his first season of hockey.

However our success came first and foremost through a very good team effort and this is very encouraging and bodes well for the future. We also had some enjoyable 'B' team fixtures.

Squad: David Day, David Blaseby, Nicholas Rochowski, Richard Gamble (C), James Cremin, Paul Smyth, Edward Harrison (D), Charles Young (C), Marc Kerridge, Oscar Webb (C), Craig Gibson, Jonathan Dosser, Andrew Hutchings (C), Philip Booth, Philip Gatrell, Alex Robinson. C: County player D: Divisional player

Edward Harrison 9G

# Cricket

## 1st XI

Despite another unsatisfactory period of preparation in the vital Spring term, the 1st XI squad approached the season with restrained optimism. A varied bowling attack was available, albeit lacking real penetration, and the batting, although likely to be inconsistent, hinted at possessing some power. There was sufficient experience in the team and a willingness to blood young talent from the U15 and U16 teams.

Optimism turned to reality in the first game when Tiffin were bowled out for 110 with Simon Grant taking 5-37 and Geoff Watts 4-31. Andrew Kahn and Andrew Bentall made promising debuts to secure victory by 4 wickets. Against Hampton, Daniel Ginn took 5-37 as the opposition declared at 180-9. However, the weaknesses that haunted the rest of the season became apparent as catches were dropped and batting frailty was exposed in a reply of 96-8. Dr Challoner's destroyed our bowling attack in making 144 for the first wicket, before RGS replied with 101-8 in a game killed by a poor declaration. The Aylesbury game was one of the best of the season. Andrew Bentall made an excellent 90, as RGS set a target of 187. AGS were reduced to 174-9 in a fine run chase with RGS unable to take the vital last wicket. A similar pattern followed against Windsor with Morgans making a fine 94, RGS declaring at 200-5 and the opposition stranded on 119-9 with no eleventh man. Ginn (4-7) and Crichton (4-15) inflicted the damage as RGS claimed their second win.

Unfortunately there were no further wins during the season. The Magdalen College School and Latymer Upper fixtures were lost to rain and opportunities to beat Desborough were wasted. An inspired 80 from Duncan Moore against St. Benedict's could not create a favourable result. Being bowled out for 61 against Berkhamsted was a low point as was the number of dropped catches against the Oratory when defending only 175. Abingdon saw an inept RGS run chase against a reasonable declaration. In the last Saturday fixture against Watford, RGS chased 174 in superb style until the last five overs. Wickets fell rapidly until three results were possible on the last ball – a draw being the conclusion.

The RGS Festival was a superb gathering of cricket talent, organised at RGS Colchester with great efficiency under perfect blue skies. The results below do not give a clear reflection of the efforts of Wycombe. They produced many excellent sessions without sustaining the necessary quality to win matches.

Wycombe vs Guildford	Guildford 311-5 Wycombe 214-4 (Kahn 58)
Wycombe vs Colchester	Wycombe 177 all out Colchester 178-5
Wycombe vs Worcester	Worcester 232 all out Wycombe 190 all out
Wycombe vs Newcastle	Newcastle 273-3 Wycombe 174 all out

In conclusion, this was a team that failed to find the cutting edge when victory was in sight or opportunities were offered. However, in Daniel Ginn they had an outstanding captain, who although he didn't sustain his quality of performance, was an excellent leader showing shrewd judgement and a strong hand with the varied characters of an enthusiastic XI.

M.J.D.

## 2nd XI

**Played 9 Won 7 Drawn 1 Lost 1**

The strength of the 2nd XI in both batting and bowling departments was rightly reflected by their almost faultless record. The infiltration of young talent into the side, and the successes of both the new and the more experienced players, gave rise to a good team spirit and added a competitive edge to the team.

The first match set the tone for the rest of the season when we bowled Hampton out for just 79 (Sam Musk taking 5 for 35), setting up a comfortable 6 wicket victory. The game against Tiffin followed an almost identical pattern. We bowled the opposition out for 82, largely due to an excellent spell by Alex Pember (6 for 28), and won by the same margin. The bowlers starred again in a three wicket win over local rivals Dr Challoner's, with four wicket hauls for both Mudasser Hussain and Tom Arundel.

We were soon brought back down to earth, though, when a very strong Aylesbury bowling attack reduced us to 30 all out (the season's only humiliation) chasing what we thought was a modest total of 115. The winning form returned for the next game, steady batting from Richard Royce (35) and Paul O'Hagan (31) setting the platform for Rizwan Ali to rip through the Berkhamsted batsmen (5 for 37) to register a 22 run victory.

The next two games were also won convincingly. Against Desborough, Kurt(ley) Johnson knocked over most of the top order in a vicious opening spell of 6 for 22, leaving Nick Pembroke (42n.o.) and Richard Royce (35n.o.) to steer the side to a ten wicket victory. Daniel Bayless (4 for 7) bowled accurately against St. Benedict's to ensure we were only chasing 74, and the target was reached with 9 wickets in hand, with Nick Washbourne making 28n.o.

Against the much tougher opposition of Abingdon, we turned in our best batting performance of the season. Jason De Gelas starred at number three with an excellent 94, but resilient batting from the opposition meant that we had to settle for an honourable draw. The season was aptly rounded off with another emphatic ten wicket victory. This time Watford were the victims, with Matthew Ginn (43n.o.) and Paul O'Hagan (38n.o.) scoring the 91 runs required in great style.

The team send their thanks to Mr Jamieson, and the other members of staff, who gave up their time throughout the season.

Richard Royce 6HK<sub>2</sub>

## U15 XI

**Played 14 Won 5 Drawn 7 Lost 2**

The season started with the Lord's Taverners' Final against Stowe. After a slow start Stowe recovered to make 210-8 in 40 overs and RGS could only make 160. The second match against Hampton had the closest finish with RGS finishing 7 short of Hampton's 153 with Simon Duncombe making 67.

After these two set-backs the team were unbeaten for the rest of the season. The side was well balanced and there were many impressive performances. Andrew Pembroke took 8-26 against Berkhamsted, Simon Duncombe 75\* against Desborough, Pembroke 67 and Jehan Jayanetti 48 against Windsor, and David Novell 64 and 3-34 against John Hampden GS. Chris Matcham made two 40s and finished with 51 against RGS Worcester. Ross Howlett improved considerably and made 56 against Watford.

One of the best matches was against Dr Challoner's GS. The opposition had one South England player and several county regulars but RGS made 155 with Chris Dark making 51. Dr Challoner's were left struggling on 57-8 after fine spells of 4-23 from Alex Robinson and 3-12 from Daniel Grant. Grant also scored consistently well in the first half of the season. David Lewis showed much promise as a seam bowler.

Although Simon Duncombe only took up wicket-keeping at the start of the season, both he and Andrew Pembroke were selected on several occasions for the 1st XI.

The team enjoyed their cricket, worked hard at nets sessions and many players now have established a good base for future success at the game.

D.G.S./J.A.McK.

## U14 XI

**Played 15 Won 9 Drawn 2 Lost 4**

The U14 XI side last year was extremely capable in both batting and bowling. The beginning of the season was highly successful, the team winning the first 6 matches and beating sides that had previously beaten us convincingly.

The squad consisted of 24 and everyone played a game. There was no such thing as a 'depleted' team.

Alex Melrose and Aidan Shaw batted well throughout the season with Alex hitting his first 100 against Abingdon and Aidan hitting three fifties including an unbeaten 92 against Windsor Boys'. Jonathan Pearce and Simon Crompton made good contributions, both hitting a fifty each.

Every member of the team contributed to the bowling line up at some stage in the season. Notable performances were from Jonathan Pearce (6-30) and Simon Pearce (5-11). These 2 bowlers were both ably supported by Richard Arundel's seam, Simon Crompton's leg spin and James Bayless's off spin, to name but a few.

The only down point was in the Lord's Taverners' Cup when we lost to Dr Challoner's in our most disappointing performance of the season. Nothing seemed to go our way. But we bounced back to defeat a strong RGS Worcester team in the last match with the boundary being a forward defensive away on one side.

Team spirit was excellent and it is true to say that all the players in the squad of whatever ability will benefit from the experience of playing for their school and will hopefully grow in confidence.

Overall, this was an excellent term's cricket. Thanks go to Mr Yeates for his dedication to the team during the season.

Aidan Shaw and Jonathan Pearce  
(Joint Captains)

## U13 XI

This very talented cricket squad showed its potential in the very first game of the season against Hampton. Good fielding by the team and accurate bowling by Saeed 3-29 and Bentall 4-8, ensured that Hampton were bowled out for 135. David Dunne 41, Nick Duncombe 46, and Matthew Honeyben 19 not out, steered RGS to a 6 wicket victory. Berkhamsted U14 'B' XI had not answer to the pace of Matthew Honeyben's bowling as he took 5 wickets for 6 runs in dismissing the opposition for 111. Runs from Dunne 49, Matcham 25, and Honeyben 22 not out, gave RGS a crushing 9 wicket victory. The Bucks County U13 XV were the only team to test RGS all season and on a very damp wicket they bowled RGS out for 62 to force the only defeat. Earlier, RGS had bowled the county team

out for 98 with Saeed and Honeyben being the pick of the bowlers. Local rivals Dr Challoner's 132-7, hung on for a draw after a sporting declaration by RGS at 149-3 in which David Dunne made a maiden half century. St Benedict's were defeated by six wickets with Bentall being the pick of the RGS bowlers 5-24 and Dunne and Honeyben again dominated the batting.

The best performance of the season came in the final game and was a fitting tribute to a team that had worked extremely hard. Abingdon on their home ground scored 161 all out at tea with Saeed 6-30. With a bare two hours to get the runs Dunne and Matcham punished the bowling, dispatching the ball to all corners of the ground on a very fast outfield. Both carried their bats in tremendous style as RGS recorded a 10 wicket win, David Dunne 73 not out and Hugo Matcham 67 not out. An outstanding season and we will follow their progress with interest.

C.C.T.

## Golf

The RGS golf team, consisting of Luke Donald, Alan Bailey and David Novell have had mixed fortunes this year. Early in October the team played in the National School Championships at Sonning golf club. After a promising start with Luke Donald shooting a 72, the team eventually finished a slightly disappointing 3rd behind the winners Eton. Luke's 72 did however win the best round of the day.

On a brighter note, the captain of the golf team, Luke Donald, already an England Boy International, has had a marvellous start to the season. In March, along with his partner, he won the Sunningdale Foursomes. A day later he went on to win the Berkhamsted Trophy with rounds of 72 and 67. A second place finish two weeks later in the Selbourne Salver with scores of 67 and 69 has meant that Luke has been selected for a full senior cap representing England against France at Sunningdale in May. This is the first time ever in any sport at the Royal Grammar School that someone has been given a full senior cap, so many congratulations and we wish him luck both in the international and in his future career.

I.J.W.



Oliver Blaiklock  
Year 8

'Use of the Distortion Grid'



*Mark Methvan, ex-RGS pupil and international badminton coach, in the Sports Hall.*

## Badminton Club

This popular club for Years 8 and 9 meets in the Sports Hall every Wednesday (3.45–5.00 pm). The club runs 'singles' and 'doubles' competitions as well as free play sessions.

This spring term we were fortunate enough to have Ron Methvan and his son Mark (international badminton coach and ex-RGS pupil) to provide professional coaching for our pupils.

R.P.S.



*Adam Wishney  
Year 10  
Conte/Pastel Drawing*

## Fencing

The RGS fencing team has, yet again, enjoyed an extremely successful season. The team has remained unbeaten in inter-school matches for the fifth consecutive year with convincing victories over Eton, Harrow, Wellington, Marlborough and KCS Wimbledon. The school team retained the Leon Paul London Team Épée trophy for the second year running, with Will Rysdale, Simon Fawell and Alastair Gerrard overwhelming the opposition. School members also enjoyed success at both county and Southern Section level with Toby Roebuck (U16), Will (U18) and Alastair (Senior) winning Master at Arms trophies.

This year's individual results have, once again, been outstanding. RGS fencers earned finalists' medals at the National Épée finals at both U16 (Toby 3rd) and U18 (Alastair 3rd and Will 8th), levels resulting in Alastair being selected to fence for England in the Home International in Northern Ireland. Alastair has had a superb season, gaining good open results, finishing 2nd in the U20 épée finals and being selected to fence for Great Britain in several Junior 'A' Grades and in the high-profile London stage of the Senior 'A' Grade Grand Prix. Tim Whitfield has achieved consistently good results in senior competitions, resulting in selection to fence in the Eden Cup – Britain's only foil 'A' Grade. Richard Lawrence has improved considerably this year, qualifying for the Corble Cup – Britain's premier Sabre event, with a strong foreign entry. RGS fencers were also selected to represent Southern England in both the Senior and Junior Winton Cups.

The school's competition season culminated in the Public Schools' Championships at Crystal Palace, London, where RGS won four finalists' medals – Will 5th in senior foil, Alastair 2nd in Senior Épée and Toby 6th in both Junior Foil and Épée. The school's team performance was again outstanding, with contributions from everyone resulting in winning the Jack Wheeler trophy for the 3rd placed school overall. The RGS has won this cup for the last three years – an excellent record for a school with one of the smaller entries.

The latest additions to the RGS fencing club, those joining in Year 8, showed great promise and determination with good Public Schools results and Daniel Kubler selected to fence in the England National Finals. They should all further improve on these results next season.

The final event of the year was the enjoyable and close-fought Old Boys' match and dinner, a fixture which is sure to become permanent.

I would like to express my thanks to both Mr Roebuck and Mr Harry Jones for their continued organisation, training and invaluable support, along with Mrs Whitfield for her help with the younger fencers on Thursday afternoons.

Tim Whitfield 6SB<sub>2</sub>  
Fencing Captain



## Basketball

The highlight of the 1995–96 season was Simon Gilbert's achievement in playing for the England U15 team, in both the Home International Tournament and in European qualifying games. The fact that he combined this feat with playing in the U15 Daily Mail Cup campaign is a testament to his outstanding all-round ability.

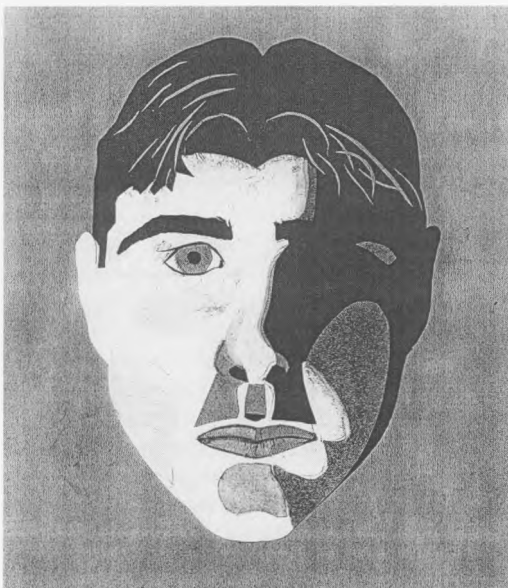
The season as a whole was disappointing. When one considers the tremendous enthusiasm for basketball illustrated by the inter-form competition and the number of players practising at lunchtime, it would be expected that this would be translated to success in RGS results. However, the U19 team were confronted by two very powerful college teams from Southampton in the English Schools' Championships and made an early exit from this competition. The Herts League failed to provide regular matches and, despite some excellent performances, the season was hampered by the absence of a Bucks Cup competition offering local opposition. The U19 team will retain some very talented individuals for next year who, if they give team performances priority over individual ego, should play some excellent basketball.

The U16 team played the game of the season against Garth Hill in the English Championship, eventually losing at the end of double overtime, and losing the opportunity to progress in the competition. They did produce some excellent performances in the Herts League, and as the season progressed allied a good full-court game to the obvious height advantages the team enjoyed.

The U15 and U14 teams, having benefited from the excellent coaching of Richard Chuter, both managed only a limited number of games in the newly formed South Bucks League and the English Championship. Regular competition of a good level will be needed to ensure that the many talented players in the age groups fulfil their early promise.

At the conclusion of the season, Peter Scantlebury, the GB international, has been running a coaching clinic once a week for the senior players. One hopes that the strides these players make in the summer term, together with the enthusiastic response that should greet new coaches next season, will secure a successful future for RGS basketball.

M.J.D.



*O. Dutton  
Year 10  
'Paper Collage'*

## Tennis

Last year was another good one for school tennis.

The 1st team played 13 matches, winning 8, drawing 1 and losing 4. In the Glanvill Cup, victories against John Hampden, Misbourne, Beaumont's School and Wellingborough meant that the 1st 4 of Adam Harrison, Mike Jefferies, Chris Monnington and James King reached the last 16 in this National Competition which was entered by over 600 schools. Despite Adam Harrison winning the opening match, our opponents, Abingdon School, proved too strong, winning the remaining matches to gain a place in the quarter finals against Repton. In the Midland Bank Cup, wins against London Central High, Sir William Borlase and Watford GS meant that we faced Windsor Boys' for a place in the National Finals. In a close match Windsor won 4–2. The team played with good spirit throughout the season, and we wish them every success in their future careers.

The Colts teams have both had satisfactory seasons. The U15 team won 3 of their 7 matches, with the 1st pair of Tom McCarthy and Robert Ogden reaching the second round of the Thomas Bowl at Eton College before losing to a strong Sevenoaks side.

The U13 team played 3 matches, beating Gateway School in the Midland Bank Cup 4–2, before losing to Chalfont Community College in the second round.

M.E./J.McD.

## Cross Country

A season that promised so much trailed away sadly and irksomely. Thoroughbreds went, and stayed, lame. At times it became necessary to invite, request, cajole, coerce up to 16 people to produce a 6 man team which would then trail in at the end of the field.

On the bright side we have the fastest senior runner in the county, and we were undefeated in early races in September, Tim Gardner snatching an excellent third place from Dr Challoner's in the Haskell Cup at Guildford by 1 second on the last lap. At the subsequent St Alban's friendly relay on 1 November, we were first again, Tim with the fastest lap and the 'B' team top of the 'B' teams. This was the last time for the season that we would beat teams like Challoner's, Aylesbury, Watford, Haberdashers' and St Alban's. On occasions thereafter we failed to provide a full team despite accepting an invitation, or failed to get a result as the team did not complete the course. At Coventry, the major fixture of the year, having won the Cup for most improved school, we collapsed to 34th of 42 schools. On the bright side, this may yet prove an excellent strategy for re-winning the 'most improved' cup again next year. We have an enthusiastic and capable Captain in Nigel Leighton; and Tim Gardner, Ben Walters and Ross Parrett are with us again to form the nucleus of a senior team with potential. We want to focus on developing junior talent in the school when it arrives fresh from the primary schools next September.

T.J.N.C.

# Boat Club

## 1995 Regattas

The Boat Club competed in eleven events at five regattas this season, and achieved a total of three wins and one second place.

The first regatta was at Coate Water Park, near Swindon. The Upper Sixth crew, which had trained as the 1st IV all year, were unable to race here owing to illness. Disappointingly, as things turned out, and for a variety of reasons, they never appeared competitively again this season as a crew. The Lower Sixth crew thus became the 1st IV.

At Coate, the J16 IV, competing in their first regatta, faced Wycliffe College in the Novice IVs event. Our crew's inexperience showed at the beginning of the race, when their racing start lacked the necessary fire and aggression to put pressure on their opponents. Though rowing well over the rest of the course they were unable to claw back the length-and-a-half which they lost in the first two hundred metres.

The 1st IV were entered in two events. In Senior 3 IVs they faced Staines Boat Club in the first round. Getting off to a good start they maintained a one-length lead for most of the course to win. In the semi-final they met a strong crew from Reading Rowing Club. Though keeping the pressure on throughout the race our crew could not match the strength and experience of Reading who won in the end by two-and-a-half lengths. Nevertheless, this was an encouraging performance from them in their first adult status event. Later in the afternoon they competed in the straight final of Junior IVs. Here they met a crew from Clifton College. Dominating the race from the start, they powered down the course for a comprehensive win.

At the Bedford Star regatta the J16 IV competed in two events. In Novice IVs they beat Bedford School to reach the final, but then failed to meet the challenge of a strong crew from Bedford Schools' Rowing Association. In J16B IVs they were put out by Eton College in the first round.

At both Thames Valley Park and Reading Town Regattas the 1st IV competed in Senior 3 IVs. (At Reading Town Jon Brinn rowed as substitute for David Large – the only appearance by an Upper Sixth oarsman this year.) Though by no means disgraced in either event they failed to make progress. They had yet to find the pace necessary to win at adult level.

The season was completed with our now traditional visit to Totnes and Bridgetown Royal Regatta, which is held on the River Dart in Devon. To make the long journey worthwhile our two crews were entered in four IVs events. We were rewarded with yet another gloriously warm and sunny weekend, which was a bonus for those making the overnight stay under canvas.

The J16 IV, in Novice IVs, met Ross-on-Wye and Paignton in the first round. Getting off to a poor start, they allowed Ross to steal a half-length lead, which they were unable to recover. Thus, although they beat Paignton by a considerable margin, they did not progress to the final. Later, however, in the final of the J16 IVs event, they had a good win over Bideford 'Blues' and Paignton. This was their maiden regatta win.

The 1st IV were without their regular cox Michael Garland, who was away on CCF duties. Robert Barksfield made an unlikely, but highly effective, debut in that role. In Senior C IVs, they beat Bideford 'Blues' easily to reach the final. Then, in the straight final of Under 18 IVs they



*A study in concentration.  
The J16 IV before their first race at Coate.*

had a good win over Dartmouth. The final of Senior C took place just 30 minutes after that of J18s – scant recovery time on a very hot day. Our crew met strong opposition from Exeter and Paignton, and were unfortunately beaten into third place. (The extra weight of the substitute cox, of course, had absolutely nothing to do with it!)

RGS has now retained both of the Totnes Junior trophies for a third successive year.

At Prize-Giving, the Saunders Rowing Cup was awarded to Andrew Jagger, stroke of the 1st IV.

## Summary of Entries

*\*win \*\* second place*

Coate Water Park	1st IV* – J16 IV
Bedford Star Junior	J16 IV – J16 IV**
Thames Valley Park (Reading)	1st IV
Reading Town	1st IV
Totnes & Bridgetown Royal	1st IV* – 1st IV – J16 IV* – J16 IV

## Crews

**Captain of Boats:** J D Brinn

<i>Senior Crew</i>	<i>1st IV</i>	<i>J16 IV</i>
A Farley	D G Cockburn	J G Ware
J D Brinn	D L Large	E C Bambury
A J E R Cox	(sub. J. D. Brinn	A P Winrow
P C Spackman (str.)	– Reading T.)	J R Kelly
G D Sugg (cox)	O H Seys Llewellyn	P J Smith (cox)
	A S Jagger	
	M J Garland (cox)	
	(sub. R J Barksfield	
	– Totnes)	

J.P.E.

## OC's Report

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

I was therefore pleased that the expedition to Snowdonia last October was well supported by all three Sections when a record number of 20 cadets took part. Following a long drive, we reached Capel Curig at about 2300hrs where we found the accommodation to consist of a barn shared with animals of several species including a particularly noisy cockerel which ensured that training started promptly in the mornings. Three mountain walks were completed including the classic Snowdon Horseshoe with the exciting traverse of the knife-edge ridge leading to Crib Goch. A brief period of rock climbing was included during the Saturday evening under the skilful supervision of Lt Tony Boreham.

The Range Days were also supported by cadets from all three Sections with the result that the annual cadet shooting competition in September saw RGS team members wearing three styles of beret. The Night Navigation exercise was held as usual at the beginning of February when the long nights allow a start shortly after the end of school. In the past this has always been well attended by cadets from the Army and the RAF Sections, but this year saw a vigorous Naval presence. So vigorous in fact that it was won by Andrew Henderson and Edward Arnold who demonstrated exceptional skill with map and compass despite this not being a prominent part of the Naval Section's training syllabus.

I have also been keen to encourage a link between the Army Section and our local TA unit, 5 RGJ (Royal Green Jackets). After gaining enthusiastic support for this idea from their OC, Lt Colonel Martin, a presentation was made at the school in December. This was headed by Capt Damian Griffin, who is an Old Boy of the school and Xavier's elder brother, and was much appreciated by our cadets. In March this was followed up by 5 RGJ participation in one of our Battlecraft exercises. I look forward to being able to develop this association and to the possibility of senior Army Section cadets being able to participate in some TA exercises.

In March we were invited by the Army's HQ Land Command to participate in a briefing day for Headteachers at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park. Our task was to present a school's view on the value of CCF training. Mr Levin introduced the presentation which included ten minute talks by three of our senior cadets, one from each Section. Altogether the presentation lasted for an hour and was followed by an extended question period. I am pleased to report that this went down very well and we have received a number of letters approving of our efforts and, in particular, those of our cadets. It was a good day.

The following pages give detailed reports on the activities that have been undertaken by the CCF during a very busy year. All of this activity is only possible as a result of the hard work put in by our CCF adult staff and by our cadet senior NCOs. School staff give up their 'free' time during the term and will also often spend the first week of the holidays on a CCF camp. CCF Officers, who are not members of the school's teaching staff, come on Thursday afternoons and also contribute tremendously to weekend activities and camps. Old Boys who feel they have benefited

from their CCF experience come back and offer to help. Senior cadets in the Sixth Form give up time to plan and come on recces during a year when they have many academic pressures. I am continually grateful to all of them to an extent that I find hard to express. Long may it continue.

Lt Colonel R G Hollingworth

## Royal Navy Section

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The Royal Navy Section has again had a very active year. 22 new cadets joined us in September 1995, and they took part in a double Field Day straight away. We travelled to Portsmouth in two minibuses, and went to our accommodation in HMS Bristol, a destroyer moored in the harbour. Half of us had sailing instruction on the first day, whilst the other half had sea survival training at Horsea Island. This involved putting on once-only suits and plunging into a cold salty creek. We then had to swim and board a life raft. After this we proceeded to our parent establishment, HMS Dryad, where we trained on missile directors, and had recognition instruction on ships of the Fleet. On the second day we all went to sea on fast motor launches, and actually went across to Cowes for lunch. This provided an excellent opportunity for practical instruction in both seamanship and navigation. HMS Dryad also provided a further Field Day in November.

Our new cadets demonstrated a great deal of enthusiasm. We are also very keen to help them develop leadership skills, and are noting carefully those who are particularly promising in this respect. All of them have completed their syllabus for promotion to Able Seaman, and it is important to record here the work of the Section's two Leading Seamen, Matthew Perkins and Alan Winrow, who provided a very high proportion of the instruction required and took a key role in our planning meetings.

Regular winter activities for the Navy have included orienteering, both locally and at Wendover Woods, shooting, climbing, and the assault course at Beaconsfield. In addition, Sub-Lieutenant Joan Henderson has continued to generate enthusiasm by arranging jet-skiing and go-karting.

Our cadets have shown an increasing interest in tri-section activities, and caused dismay in various quarters when they won first place in the Night Navigation exercise.

However, there can be no question that the most important accomplishment of our cadets over the past year has been the many hours of sailing they have put in at the RAF Sailing Club near Medmenham. Every Thursday in the summer term, they practised and trained, and were prepared to put in whatever time was necessary to develop their skills in Toppers, Lazars, Enterprises, and a GP14. Joan Henderson's experience and instructional techniques played an indispensable role here.

Our cadets have continued to attend a wide variety of courses and camps at Easter and in the summer. These have included a general camp at HMS Raleigh, marine commando training at Lympstone, and also courses in power boating, shooting and air and submarine acquaintance courses.

Enthusiasm and a willingness to participate in a wide variety of activities are evident in all our cadets, and we now look forward to another summer of Thursday afternoons on the River Thames.

Lieutenant Ross Barker  
OC Royal Naval Section

# Army Section

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The Army Section has enjoyed a busy and successful year and has attracted an encouraging number of recruits from within the school. Last year saw 36 cadets join in July and maintained the total strength of the Army Section at 66, retaining 18 cadets from the last year's intake.

Most of the training programme on Thursday afternoons is devoted to instructing the recruits in the Army Proficiency syllabus and a total of 29 cadets gained their Certificates during 1995/6. The training programme also included visits to the assault course at Beaconsfield, use of the school climbing wall, map and compass exercises in Hughenden Park, orienteering in Wendover Woods, and shooting on the school's indoor range.

Last summer the Section's camp was at Cwrt-y-Gollen near the Brecon Beacons in South Wales and a stretching programme of activities was accomplished by the cadets in an enthusiastic and encouraging manner.

The Adventure Training camp in March was based in the Peak District with battlecraft exercises carried out on the Leek training area, rock climbing on the Roaches, orienteering and an initiatives afternoon.

During the year the Section has also taken part in the Patrol Competition, the Target Rifle Competition, and the Skill-at-Arms Competition. These events between schools, organised by the Cadet Training Teams, are keenly fought and therefore invigorating. Other activities have included two battlecraft Field Days, three Range Days, a night navigation exercise in the Chilterns and weekend expeditions to Snowdonia and the Black Mountains. Thirteen senior cadets attended Methods of Instruction courses at Bicester organised by 16 CTT and have all benefited greatly. Major Cooper has also encouraged the training of these senior cadets and their expertise is now aiding the training of the junior cadets.

As always, our training owes much to the assistance given by the Cadet Training Team from Bicester, and especially to Sgt. Kevin Pollitt who has now returned to Regimental service with the Guards. His place has been taken by Sgt O'Regan, also of the Grenadier Guards, and we look forward to more of the same!

Capt. C. J. Cunningham  
OC Army Section

## The Empire Strikes Back at Leek 1996

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Many activities were undertaken throughout the week. The second day brought the bigger and better battlecraft exercise, acclaimed to be the best for years. CSM Saunders and CSM Atkins didn't repeat last year's Oscar winning briefing of: 'All you need is an H.D. Jersey and ... over to you Olly ... Any Questions?' This year Sgt McKenzie and Sgt Brown took the role over and managed to give a long and detailed briefing, allowing their platoon to have as much information as possible.

The exercise progressed slowly, as the cadets struggled through the exercise area over the first day, headed by L/Cpls Murray, Kenney and George, as section commanders. The next day saw a revival. Perhaps it was the good night's sleep in their Bivis mixed with their home cooking which did the trick! With Sgt Brown now as the platoon commander, the platoon moved more quickly, but were, however, defeated, as the Arab arms dealer managed to conduct the meeting, before the platoon reached him.

The exercise ended with a cup of tea all round and rifle cleaning.

This year's camp saw the return to Kinderscout, after last year's non-outing. All groups managed to get around, and the seniors even managed to guide themselves back, after their compass broke, and Sgt Brown had forgotten the spares.

The return for many, but also the first time to the Roaches for others, saw Lt Colonel Hollingworth, Lt Boreham plus friend, giving much valued opportunities for climbing. Even RSM Griffin managed to clamber up, with a twisted and bruised ankle. Meanwhile, back on the exercise area, Lt McKellar and CSM Saunders, were creating a dam, which only the dambusters might get through, for the command tasks in the afternoon. Many groups managed to cross the dammed river, but none better than the Directing Staff, who managed to get across with just a boot or two in the water. They even managed to get Old Boy Kevin Hodgson across bone dry. Quite an achievement!!!

So came the de-brief, with a special present to SSI Rowlands and thankyou to the staff from RSM Griffin. The Pattinson shield was also awarded to Cdt Sanders.

The last day saw the village hall returned to its former glory, and we left with one bruised ankle, a couple of stitches, and a couple of promotions here and there, to show for the week.

Much thanks must be noted for all the officers and staff who gave up free time to co-ordinate the week.

C. S. M. Saunders

## Army Field Day

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Early on the Saturday morning, 2 March, all the kit was organised and about 30 cadets were transported to Aldershot training area after being given yet another ridiculous scenario.

The safety briefing completed, the battle simulation commenced.

Despite the weather and rigorous attempts of the enemy leader (a certain CSM), to make sure the cadets' attempt to save the world failed miserably, good yet again triumphed over evil and the day was a great success.

Thanks goes to all the NCOs, officers, old boys and members of the RGJ who helped to make the exercise worthwhile and enjoyable.

Sgt Cotgreave

## 2nd Cadet Land Leadership Course

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This year's replacement for the old UKLF was held at Nescliff training camp near Shrewsbury. Armed only with a rail warrant, borrowed combats and a comprehensive knowledge of RAF drill, my suspicions were raised when I changed at Birmingham and boarded a train full of hard looking Army cadets with more kit than the SAS in the Gulf had.

Thoughts of a largely classroom theory based course went rapidly out of the window as I overheard them discussing where they had got all of their regular non-issue kit.

A few Q&A increased my knowledge to the extent that I might be slightly under prepared: 'No you definitely won't need RAF uniform, only combats and your beret' and 'you've never done any field exercises? Oh well good luck!'

The rest of the journey passed trying to absorb all the information given by a carriage full of cadets trying to teach the whole part 3 syllabus at once.

It turned out the Directing Staff knew this would be the case and patiently taught the few of us whilst revising the others.

In general each day followed the same guidelines. Wake up 5:30, quickly clean the billets and parade at 6:00 for half an hour's PT, breakfast, wash, parade to draw weapons (with clean and polished boots after PT) at 7:20, then onto the 4 tonners and out into the field for the day's activities. Lunch was normally out of a Norgge, and we'd return in time to polish our boots and do some personal admin. Dinner at 17:45. In the evening there were lectures until about 21:00 although occasionally up till an hour and a half later. Then it was time to get kit ready for the morning, polish boots and crash.

The food was almost always hot, basic but filling and good, although the early dinner meant a journey to the NAAFI for a pint of tea and some chocolate digestives.

The day's training was almost all aimed towards the final exercise and involved revision of weapon handling, communications, section and platoon tactics, first aid, navigation, and a pyrotechnics display.

The final exercise over 36 hours involved the establishment of a patrol harbour, from which an ambush and patrol went out. The next day saw us attacked at stand-to, with a hasty retreat to the 4-tonners which moved off without us after incoming mortar fire landed. The rest of the day we advanced through enemy positions in parallel with the other platoon.

The highlights for me were all new experiences such as firing the LSW, blank firing exercises, ambushes at night (lots of noise and light) and generally jumping into water filled ditches (the best part of which was that if you were in front the others had to follow you in even if they did not want to).

If you get the chance to go on a similar course it is well worth it. Don't worry if you're not in the Army section either. By the second day everyone in your section will be working as a team and they'll guide you through and everything else is revised by the DS. However it is worth trying to have a chat with someone who has done it before, especially as the kit list left off items which they must have thought were obvious but which I as Budgie (RAF type) hadn't brought.

Sergeant Charles Blanch RAF

## RAF Section

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This has been an excellent year for the RAF Section. It began with the recruiting of 22 Junior Cadets who were selected for their interest in aviation, their enthusiasm and their willingness to participate in out-of-school activities. They have made record progress, passing their Part I Proficiency Examination by Christmas and taking their Part II by Easter. Their high motivation shows in everything they do, for example record numbers are attending our two camps this year. I am also delighted to announce that Fg Off Seymour, Mrs Holt and I have been joined by another member of the RGS staff. Miss Jane Costigan has joined us as Civilian Instructor and intends to take a commission in the RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training) as soon as the pressure of school work permits.

The main reason for such a successful year has been the high quality of leadership and management shown by the senior entry. WO Paul Tester and his team have been outstanding. Paul proved an enthusiastic and sensitive

leader who planned well and gave a great deal of thought to the well-being of the cadets in his charge. Paul has been awarded a Flying Scholarship which he will fly this summer, and has been selected for the highly prestigious International Air Cadet Exchange, so he will also be spending three weeks representing British Air Cadets in Canada this summer. FS Kevin Greenhill was outstanding as Chief Instructor, both in the planning of training and in setting standards for his instructors. Kevin also did tremendously well in gaining a Bursary in the Engineering Branch of the RAF. FS Colin Wright has been very effective leading the Senior Cadets and has won an RAF Sixth Form Scholarship as well as a Flying Scholarship. FS Michael Garland, who won an RAF Sixth Form Scholarship last year, has had a highly productive year leading the Junior Cadets, completing a Flying Scholarship and doing a great deal of work in getting our Gliding Club 'off the ground'. We are all grateful to FS William Wyman who took over as Adjutant at short notice last summer and has been responsible for the section's administration since then. FS Paul Jarrett has demonstrated excellent leadership ability in charge of a flight of Junior Cadets for two years running – a record achievement in the Section. All these young men have excelled in the discharge of responsibilities that most people do not have the opportunity to carry until they are much older. We will all miss them and we wish them well in their future careers. Whatever they do in life, they will do it better because of what they have learned in the CCF.

One of the most important responsibilities of the senior entry is to train their successors so that no expertise is lost and the Section can go from strength to strength each year. The new team have eagerly taken up the reins, with WO Andrew Burnette in charge. FS Tom Payne as Chief Instructor and FS James Darbyshire as Adjutant. The Senior and Junior Cadets will be led by FS Nick Finch and FS Jonathan Ware respectively. This is a strong team with a great deal of potential for another excellent year.

The main innovation this year has been the formation of an RAF Section Gliding Club. We have taken out block membership of the Chilterns Gliding Club at RAF Halton. Four of our club members are entitled to fly with the Chilterns whenever they are operating, that is every weekend and on Wednesday and Friday afternoons (if the cadets are free from lessons). The cost of gliding with the Chilterns is exceptionally low, typically about five pounds for an hour's flying instruction – if you can stay up that long! The Section is extremely grateful to the staff and parents who provide supervision and transport for the cadets who go gliding at the Chilterns. With their help our cadets now have virtually unlimited flying.

Once again I must stress that none of the excellent opportunities that our boys enjoy would be possible without the tremendous help we get from people who give unstintingly of their free time and energy to benefit the cadets. All of us in the RAF Section are very much aware of the generous help we receive from many quarters. Fg Off Seymour and I extend our grateful thanks to Fg Off Iain Brown for the time he devotes to weapons training. To Flt Lt David Burnett, who is now posted and succeeded by his predecessor, Sqn Ldr Mike Neil (work that one out – answers on a postcard please!), and their pilots on No 6 Air Experience Flight for the Bulldog flying they provide our cadets at RAF Benson. Also to Sqn Ldr John Brebner and his colleagues of No 613 Volunteer Gliding School at RAF Halton for the much appreciated powered gliding they provide. Thanks also to Flt Lt Barry Fryett and FS Andy Waddell of our RAF Liaison staff for their highly professional support throughout the year, as well as to Flt Lt Tony Sollars who contributes so much to

the success of our camps, to Lt Geoff Rysdale for the shooting, and all the many others who have helped so willingly. Our best wishes to go Wing Commander Peter Drissell who has now fully recovered and to Sgt Ben Markham who is making an excellent recovery and is coming to Summer Camp with us.

Flt Lt M. C. Darby  
OC RAF Section

## Summer Camp 1995 – RAF Leuchars

Our camp last summer was at RAF Leuchars, just south of Dundee in Scotland. On the first Saturday of the holiday we set off on the long train journey and, despite the Warrant Officer trying to leave his bags on the train, we arrived without mishap or adventure and with all our luggage intact! (He was too busy checking everyone else's baggage to worry about his own. Ed.)

RAF Leuchars is the home of No 43 and 111 Squadrons which both fly the air defence Tornado. The roar of these powerful aircraft punctuated the days giving our camp a highly operational flavour. There were many activities organised for us such as flying and shooting, and others that we had to organise ourselves, such as the drill competition (a surprising favourite) and orienteering. We flew in Bulldog aircraft of Queen's University Air Squadron, Belfast, who were on a camp of their own. The flying was particularly enjoyable because none of us had been in the Bulldog before and were impressed by its much improved performance and visibility over the Chipmunk. We also shot on the station range with many cadets achieving high standards. We endured a 'speed orienteering' exercise all over east Scotland, enjoyed a day out in Dundee, and visited a secret bunker which would have been hard to find without the road-signs! There was a well organised night exercise that was exhausting but fun, and many opportunities for work experience in the various sections of the station.

The camp was rounded off with a cabaret given by the cadets for the entertainment of the staff (as if they didn't have enough to endure. Ed.). Each flight prepared entertainment and starred some amazing actors, comedians and singers (*we were amazed!* Ed.). Despite the long journey, activity packed days, fresh air and physical activity, everyone returned home exhilarated, exhausted and safe after one of the best camps that even the senior NCOs could remember.

The retiring entry would like to wish the new set of senior NCOs and indeed the entire Section a successful year in 1996/97.

CWO Paul Tester  
Warrant Officer i/c Section

## Gliding

Last September the RAF Section Gliding Club burst onto the activity scene. Affiliated to the Chilterns Gliding Club, flying out of RAF Halton, Wendover, the club takes RAF cadets there for air experience and gliding instruction every weekend all year round. The club offers winch launches in a variety of aircraft with many expert instructors. It has the benefit of a very spacious hangar on the airfield with lecture/classrooms, offices and workshops. The wife of one of the senior instructors produces some very welcome bacon sandwiches at lunch times in a converted bus in the middle of the airfield. So, suitably fortified on windy winter

days, RAF cadets may be found logging considerable hours over Buckinghamshire, participating in one of the most exciting experiences the school has to offer. With one solo pilot already and the promise of more to come the club is going from strength to strength. None of this would be possible however without the staunch support and help of dedicated members of staff and parents to whom go our very greatest of thanks.

FS Michael Garland  
SNCO i/c Gliding  
SNCO i/c Junior Cadets

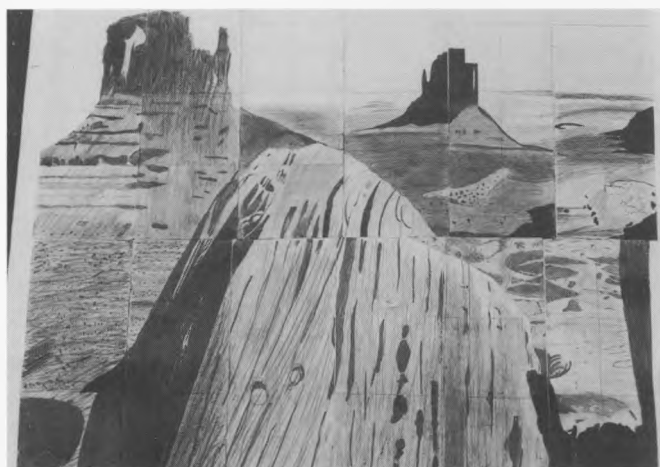
## Flying Scholarship

The RAF Flying Scholarship scheme offers twenty hours of flying tuition at a civilian flying school. Four of the flying hours are solo. The course carries no obligation to join the RAF and lasts eighteen days with food and accommodation paid for. I attended the selection procedure last March and was awarded a place at Glenrothes near Dundee.

Learning to fly is a wonderful experience but one that is difficult to put into words. When I met my companions on the course we were all looking forward to it, but none of us anticipated just what a marvellous experience it was going to be. Flying is not just a quicker means of transport but an amazing experience, the feeling of being free as a bird. We all found ourselves quite discontented when we weren't sitting in a plane!

There was much to learn before we could fly solo, but the day eventually arrived and it is one that I will never forget. As my instructor finally left the aircraft he asked that if I crashed, please do not do so on the tower where the instructors were watching. I hoped he was joking, but you never know! Once I was in the air and the adrenaline rush had subsided, I could relax and savour the moment, knowing that I was in control. I managed to miss the tower and landed safely, apparently to the satisfaction of my instructor because within a few hours I was up again practising 'touch and go's' on my own. The scenery was unbelievable: patchwork fields, and miles of jagged coast and sea. I value my flying scholarship as one of the best experiences I have had, joining the privileged few allowed to explore the freedom of the skies.

FS Colin Wright  
SNCO i/c Senior Cadets



Year 8  
Class Drawing – Pencil Technique  
(after A Adams)

# OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

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## Annual General Meeting 1996

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17 Old Boys attended the meeting held in the School Library before the Annual Dinner.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, agreed and signed.

The Treasurer read the Auditors' Report on the state of the Club's finances. The deficit for the year was £2,299, an increase of £1,353 on last year, almost entirely due to the increase in the cost of the magazine. Life subscriptions credited to the Capital Account amounted to £1,560, which added to the account's balance of £10,522, less the year's deficit of £2,299, gave a balance to be carried forward of £9,783.

All the Officers of the Club were re-elected, including three new members of the Committee, Messrs J W M Chadwick, T C Williams and D Andrew. The new Constitution of the Club was re-submitted to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The President, in his comments, stated that the school remained in good heart, in spite of severe cuts in the budget. Noted successes had been achieved in the academic, sporting and cultural fields. Internationalism was the defining object of his headmastership and various projects in this field had been undertaken. The greatest threat to the school was funding.

Any other business. The chairman of the club outlined the problems of the increased amount the school required from the club for the magazine. The Hon. Secretary explained that the school magazine would not be sent automatically each year, but that a limited number would be available from him at a cost of £3.50. He outlined plans for the Old Boys' magazine which would be sent to all members. He had received correspondence from Old Boys, the majority of whom supported enthusiastically the idea of a separate magazine. The new magazine would contain a summary of items in the magazine which the Hon. Secretary thought would be of interest.

The Chairman thanked the President and Hon. Secretary and the meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

## Annual Dinner

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73 Old Boys attended the Annual Dinner on 20 April 1996. Guest of Honour was George W Ray (1917–23), the recently retired Vice-Chairman of the School Governors. 90 years old and a man of many parts, George had worked for Ercol furniture for 72 years, from 1923–95. J K Prior (1934–40) proposed the toast to the Guest of Honour. J W M Chadwick (1967–74) proposed the toast to the School and Club to which the Headmaster, David Levin, responded.

## Obituaries

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### Old Boys

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**ESSEX. F W** (1927–34) died on 10 July 1995 aged 79 years. Frank was head boy at the RGS in 1934. He was a considerable athlete in his youth, establishing a number of school records and playing rugby and cricket for the school. He went on to Reading University where he took a degree in Early English. He was accepted for the Overseas Civil Service on graduating and spent a preparatory year at Exeter College, Oxford before leaving for Sierra Leone in 1939. He spent most of the next 17 years there, becoming financial secretary in 1953 before transferring to British Guiana in 1956. He became one of the least popular men there in the late fifties. Preparing for independence he arranged the funding for investment in education and industry by introducing new taxes which hit the unmarried male especially hard. There were protests and near-riots and Frank became the butt of political cartoonists in the press. Despite his unpopularity the four years spent in British Guiana were regarded professionally as his finest hour and earned him his appointment to the Order of St Michael and St George.

He later did similar work in Africa, overseeing the move to independence of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. Frank spent the last eight years of his career as a Senior Official in the Ministry of Overseas Development and he served as a member of the Peace Commission which travelled to Rhodesia during 1971–72 to test public opinion over the country's readiness for independence. After retirement in 1976 he worked on a number of technical co-operation projects. His first wife, Joy, died in 1987 and he is survived by his second wife Mary and by twin sons of his first marriage.

**HARRIS. L J D** (1930–33) died on 8 January 1996. Leslie was a founder member of the Old Wycombiensians' Rugby Club and was always very interested in the affairs of the Old Boys' Club.

**LANCE. R W** (1940–45) died on 24 July 1995.

**LISTER. A N M** (1975–81) died on 5 September 1995 aged 31 years. After leaving the RGS, Andrew took a B.Tech in Arboriculture at the Merristwood Agricultural College and was subsequently appointed to the post of Landscape Officer Arboriculture with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 1987. In 1993 he had to give up the job he enjoyed so much because of his medical condition and he obtained employment with the De Bugg Group plc in High Wycombe. The funeral took place at Hughenden Parish Church and was attended by many of his friends from Great Kingshill and the school.

**MARTIN. R V** (1938–44) died on 20 April 1996 aged 68. At school he was Vice-Captain of Queen's House (1943), Drum Major of the Junior Training Corps band and a regular at the Nunney Harvest Camps. He went on to teacher training at Goldsmith's College and National Service in the Army Education Corps before teaching at schools in the Chesterfield area. From 1970 until retirement in 1988 he was headmaster at Downton School near

Salisbury, an active member of St Thomas' church, Salisbury, and served on several Diocesan Board of Education committees.

**SAVAGE. K A** (1981–87) Kerrigan Savage died in Kenya on 5 April 1996 aged 26 years. He was killed when the vehicle he was travelling in crashed off the road. He was on his way to Tsavo Game Park near Kilimanjaro where he was intending to fly in a microlight to follow the elephants in the Park. The Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held on Tuesday 16 April in Beaconsfield, at St Michael's Church. The church was packed with friends and relatives, some of whom had flown in from Australia and Africa.

Kerrigan (Kes or Kerry to many of his friends) joined the RGS in 1981 and was a model student, achieving top grades in his A Levels and then a First in his Finance degree at Southampton University. He was a well-liked and popular student, and quiet in nature. His time at University saw a great change in him as he matured into the outgoing young man so loved by those who knew him. He loved to travel, working in the USA through BUNAC and then touring SE Asia and Australia, before taking up his place on Barclay's Management Development Programme. On this he helped organise and run a holiday camp for underprivileged children, funded by the Barton Training Trust. He revelled in this environment. His final MDP year was in Nairobi and typically he was out seeing and visiting every possible place in Kenya. He would try everything, bungee jumping, white water rafting, snorkelling and then the final trip to follow elephants in a microlight. He lived life to the full, and no opportunity was missed by this gentle, caring and cheerful young man.

His parents, Malcolm and Margaret, have asked that any donations in Kes' memory should be made to the 'Barton Training Trust', c/o Ian Moseley, Head of MDP, Barclays Bank plc, 54 Lombard Street, London, EC3P 3AH.

**TERRY. J H** (1938–41) died on 21 March 1996. John was employed by the National Westminster Bank, ending up at retirement as Manager of the Beaconsfield Branch.

**TURNBULL. H T** (1919–26) died on 11 December 1995 aged 85 years.

**WILSON. P J C** (1958–65) died on 20 September 1995 aged 48 years. Peter was a detective constable working in Milton Keynes and his colleagues decided to name part of the police station there in his honour. An interview room has been dedicated to his memory.

## Staff

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**MILNER. J C** (1928–38) died on 29 August 1995 aged 96 years. Lt Col Milner was a History master at the school and Captain of the OTC. He was affectionately known as 'Tiny', being about 6'4" and 18 stone.

**POLLARD. Miss G G B** (1943–45) died on 1 April 1996 aged 95 years. Grace Pollard taught classics at the RGS and Wycombe Abbey at the end of the war.

## Notes

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**ALLEN. D O** (1984–90) is training as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen and numbers Toby McCulloch and Robert Tulloch among his colleagues. He

remains in close contact with several of his year, Philip Krinks, Andrew Hunt, Richard Monk and Nick Baikie, respectively working in merchant banking, promotions, advertising and law.

**ANDREWS. S T H** (1972–80) is now working at the Defence Research Agency at Chertsey where he is doing work related to security and special forces vehicles. He returns to his Battalion as a Company Commander at the end of 1996, moving to Cambridge. He has been doing a lot of sailing, mainly in UK waters, sadly missing a trip to South America due to work commitments. Doubly sadly, he does not appear to have bumped into any of his old cronies recently and hopes to resolve this lapse.

**AXTON. J A** (1922–26) Returning from a visit to friends in Santiago, Chile, last year, one of the engines conked out over the Andes. Everybody off the plane into various hotels at Buenos Aires, finally arriving Heathrow via Frankfurt a day late, where my luggage was lost.

Found 3 days later and delivered to the house.  
Oh! for the return of MN Shipping Lines!

**BILBO. E** (1962–68) is now studying with The Open University. He has just taken his 4th year exam. If successful, he will then have a further two years to go.

Edward is suffering from a progressive neurological condition, and does not get out much these days.

**BLEWETT. P C** (1966–73) is now Senior Head of Year at Warwick Park School in Peckham teaching Physical Education. Peter is still Chief Instructor of the Budolswai Judo Club in South Kensington and would welcome any old boys who are interested in Judo. He can be contacted at the club on 0171-370 1000.

**CANN. I** (1982–88) got a First in Spanish and French in Part II of the Cambridge Tripos in June 1994. He was awarded a prize of £100 by his College, Emmanuel. He is a trainee consultant with LEK Ltd, a London firm of Business Consultants specialising in mergers and acquisitions. His elder brother, Gareth, is a Sergeant in the West Midlands Police Force. He passed out top in the Sergeants' Exams in his Force and sixth best in the whole country.

**CHAPMAN. D P** (1987–93) appeared on *University Challenge* as one of Selwyn College's team in the recent series.

**DAWSON. M J S** (1985–91) Matthew played at scrum half in England's Five Nations' Championship winning team this season. His club, Northampton, were unbeaten in winning Division 2. He has been teaching at Spratton Hall School and next year starts a course at Loughborough University.

**EMBLETON. N D** (1975–81) is now Paediatric Registrar at the RVI, Newcastle; living happily with Fiona and Hamish (1993) and trying to avoid too much hard work.

**FEIRN. D R A** (1974–78) still practising dentistry in Hull. Has lost contact with N Raistrick (1971–78) and would be grateful for any leads!

**GARRATT. M J** (1977–83) Mark, Finance Director of Interior plc, won the Young Accountant of the Year award for his leadership in the company's management buyout. The Managing Director of the company said the buyout would not have been possible without Mark's skill and

knowledge. Mark was initially chief accountant before becoming Finance Director and joining the Board. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant, married with three children under five and a senior elder of his church, the Salvation Army.

**GRAPES. T R** (1983–89) is now working as a consultant hydrogeologist. Tim spent 1995 working on a number of short contracts for the consultancy firm Southern Science Ltd., based in the National Rivers' Authority Offices in Huntingdon and Solihull.

He has recently taken up a new, permanent position with the firm of consulting engineers SRK (UK) Ltd, based in Cardiff.

**HILL. J** (1979–85) is now pursuing a career in hospital medicine and is training in Cardiology at St Thomas' Hospital, London. He was married in July 1993 and lives in West Hampstead. He has been in contact with David Copping (1979–85) who has started a general practice training scheme near Reading, Chris Kennedy (1979–85) who has recently finished his drama school training, and James Everard (1979–85) who has recently returned from Bahrain and has started a course in psychodynamic counselling.

**HINDE. E J** (1923–27) moved to the RGS from the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, when his father became Headmaster at Princes Risborough Council School. The Guest of Honour at this year's Annual Dinner, George Ray, was Head Boy when he arrived. To him as a new boy, George was a most important person who impressed him very much.

**HUGGINS. R W** (1961–68) The Ascot Gold Cup winner of 1995, Double Trigger, is owned by Ron Huggins, who either owns or has shares in several horses whose names begin with Double, trained by Mark Johnston at Middleham in Yorkshire. Double Trigger and his full brother, Double Quick, finished first and second in the Goodwood Cup.

**JONES. J** (1984–88) Jonathan read Mods and Greats at Brasenose College, Oxford and has now successfully completed a thesis and is Doctor of Philosophy.

**LAURIE. J K** (1960–65) John is chairman of Newport Components, a company which specialises in making DC–DC converters for very low voltage computers used in telecommunications, local area networks and electronic medical equipment. The company was awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1995.

**MORTON. D** (1960–68) is Head of Region for the former Soviet Union and South West Asia, BBC World Service.

**OLDHAM. J** (1986–92) has graduated from Oxford and is now working as a journalist on the *New Musical Express*.

**PEPPER. J** (1967–72) after 17 years with the same firm, it is time for a serious change that can not be satisfied with just a different job. Jon left work in April 1995 to travel the world in pursuit of trout and new horizons.

**PHILPOTT. G B** (1940–47) Graham met Sam Morgan on the stairs of Moss Bros, Covent Garden, sometime round about 1967. Sam enquired what he thought he was doing there, on the proposition that he could not possibly afford to be, even though he had been working for a living for some twenty years. 'Alf' Marti, French master during

Graham's time at the school, was his father's cousin. He had a niece called Pamela, who married one of the Youens twins. They now live at Pershore. The Youens boys are related to Graham's wife (Betty Field), a Marlow girl and part of the Seymour clan.

**PRATT. S G** (1984–90) married Alice Bull 12 August 1995 in Wesley Methodist Church, Cambridge, and is now known as Stephen Bull. Now working for Praxis plc, the Software Engineering Company of Deloitte and Touche, and is based in Bath.

**PRICE. P A** (1976–82) is teaching Geography at Repton School, Derbyshire, and thoroughly enjoying coaching senior football and cricket. Also on the staff is the wife of I A Tennant (1978–84), who teaches Classics at the neighbouring prep. school. He was best man at the wedding of R J Buller (1976–82) last summer, where he ran in to H Sharp (1976–82) and M Peacock (1976–82). He is in touch with R D Rees (1976–82) who has returned from Switzerland, lives in Rutland and had a son last year.

**ROLLASON. C R** (1965–72) works for the European Commission in Luxembourg as a Portuguese translator. He married a Romanian girl this year and lives in Metz.

**RUGG. J** (1982–88) has just qualified as a Chartered Surveyor.

**SANTNER. R S** (1976–82) Richard moved from engineering and environmental consultants Ove Arup and Partners to the International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF). He now travels the world, advising those involved in marine oil spill response and those seeking and/or administering compensation for damage from oil pollution.

**STINCHCOMBE. P D** (1972–80) Paul is a barrister and has been selected by Wellingborough Constituency Labour party as their prospective parliamentary candidate. The sitting MP is Peter Fry, one of two current MPs who are Old Wycombiensians.

**SWINHOE-STANDEN. R A P** (1975–81) is spending 1996 as a student at the Army Staff College at Camberley, having completed 11 months at RMCS Shrivenham in 1995. Bachelor days will end in October when he marries Heidi, after which he will be reduced to shopping and requesting 'pink chits' for evenings out of the house!

**TANNER. D W** (1940–46) is still in full time employment after serving almost 30 years in the Royal Air Force in the flying branch and 10 years in the Civil Service until retirement at 60 was enforced. However, he managed to get employment with a local builders' merchant until age 65 and was retired again. To meet some regulation he had to take 5 weeks off, but was then re-employed on a 6 months' renewal contract. In 1993 he could not resist the temptation to join the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club at Lee on Solent airfield. It took him back to 1944/5 when he started gliding at Booker and No 126 gliding school under Charles Bunn and Reg Edmunds. He quickly re-soloed and is now an instructor. Unfortunately the future of the airfield is uncertain as the Royal Navy vacate the site this year. After renewing his Private Pilot's Licence he was also able to fly the Club's 'tug' aircraft, a Chipmunk, and a Piper Supercub. He now has 5 grandchildren ranging from 12 to 1 year. Last October he went to Sydney for his father's 100th birthday.

**TAYLOR. J W K** (1918–24) After living 50 years in Penn. has moved, to be nearer the shops, to 5 Calumet, Beaconsfield. He finds fewer and fewer of his age group left and welcomed the opportunity to support his old friend George Ray at the OB's dinner.

**TIMBERLAKE. N C** (1971–79) Still pursuing two parallel careers with differing degrees of success, Neil is currently Operations Manager of a holiday tour operator based in Reading. In his three and a half years with the firm he has seen the company's turnover almost treble, proving at least some firms have been able to buck the recession. Despite sending many thousands of people away on holiday, Neil feels frustrated that he seems to find little time to go away anywhere himself. His other 'career' also frustrates him at times. His latest bid for political office, to become County Councillor for the ward in which the RGS is situated, failed by just 17 votes, making Green Hill & Totteridge the most marginal ward in Bucks. Neil hopes to have another opportunity!

**TOMES. I M** (1951–58) Major Ian Tomes retired from the Army, after 36 years' service, in early 1985. He has moved to Somerset and is now working as a Regional Welfare Officer for 'Combat Stress' (the Ex Services' Mental Welfare Society), where he visits some 400 disabled ex-service men and women in South West England and South Wales.

**WAKEFIELD. D A** (1958–65) is now Chairman of the Priory Hospitals Group, the UK's leading provider of acute mental healthcare in the private sector. Before joining PHG, David served in the Royal Navy, including duty in the Falklands war as a Commander in HMS Antrim. He regularly sees Lieutenant Commander Brian Wright (1950–55), and was amused to find on changing auditors to Price Waterhouse that the responsible partner was Steve Tinton (1959–66).

**WALKER. D** (1955–63) Denzil works behind the 'zinc' and in the kitchen of the café bar where he lives – 'Aux Chants des Oiseaux', 8 Chemin de sur Somme, 80100 Abbeville, France. Tel: (+33), 22.24.28.73. He hopes one or two of his contemporaries might care to pop in for a café-Calva. He is still happily married, but his wife has had to return to Prague.

**WALTER. J F** (1923–27) continues to enjoy good health at 86 probably by keeping active physically and mentally, as does his wife Mollie (née King). They still walk as much as possible and the weather permits, play Carpet Bowls regularly, often representing their Club, and visit as many of the superb Yorkshire hostleries as they can. John still writes for the *Darlington & Stockton Times*, and supplies it with photographs when appropriate, and for 18 months has edited a village newspaper. At the request of his daughter and her family of 4 in New Zealand, he is writing his autobiography, part of which brought back vivid memories of his years at the RGS.

They both send good wishes to the School, and to all in and around High Wycombe who remember them, and shared good times.

**WHITE. C R J** (1978–83) still works for Wyre Borough Council having been there, as a Principal Officer in the Planning Department, for over a year now. He and his wife, Louise, have bought a house and hope to settle there, at least for the time being.

**WHY. C J** (1942–50) is now fully retired from state school teaching and TEFL in Italy for the last five years. Down in the West Country enjoying Dartmoor and holidays abroad.

**WILLIAMS. T C** (1947–52) Terry continues to reside within 2 miles of the School, and would be happy to see other OB's visiting the area from afar.

He is now retired after a varied and interesting career – 3 years' army service (Infantry); 13 years' banking in Sierra Leone, West Africa; happy times whilst there, but country now torn apart by civil war and corruption; 24 years in corporate treasury, the last 19 with P&O, from whence he retired as Deputy Group Treasurer.

Now involved in local matters: Great Kingshill Residents and Village Hall; local church choir; RGS OB Committee; et al. More time for various hobbies and travelling.

Married to Anne for 38 years; elder son in Tennessee US, and younger son Gary (1977–83) banking in London.

**WINTER. P E** (1960–68) is currently managing a relief and rehabilitation programme among pastoral people in three areas of South Sudan.

**WOMBWELL. R S** (1960–67) continues to work for ICL which he joined when he left school. He is project manager with ICL Retail Systems having worked his way up through the software development stream. One of his main pastimes is rambling and mountain walking. He still belongs to a High Wycombe based rambling club and frequently walks in the Chilterns on Sundays with his family. He remains in contact with a couple of old boys, John Rundell (1960–67) and J C Hughes (1957–64).

**WYATT. J** (1987–91) Jon is a member of the Great Britain hockey squad for the Atlanta Olympic Games. He turned down the chance of a blue at Oxford to further his career by playing National League One for Reading. He became captain at 21 and this year led the club to HA Cup success.

## Who's Who at the RGS

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Just when I thought that you could reach for your cheque book and order your copy of the launch edition of *Who's Who at the RGS*, we ran into major problems with our computer.

Our repair man – Mr Ray Lovell (Head of Computing) – eventually found the fault and got us back on air. Thank Heavens. The staff in Resources came to our aid with yet more cups of tea and sympathy so we just dried our tears of rage and frustration and started all over again.

But that was our darkest hour. We knew that we had turned the corner when a few weeks later we received this note from Ron Wynands (Class 5Sc 1947–8) ...

'Dear Mrs Mawhood. The man opposite me at breakfast, when I was staying at a Parador in Spain, turned out to be an old boy from the RGS. He is very interested in being included in *Who's Who*. Here are his details. Would you please send him the paperwork?' And we did.

Thanks to the unscheduled delay we have been able to include a few other last minute stragglers in the *Magnum Opus*. An old boy now living in Tasmania dropped by during the school holidays. His bonus for the trip down memory lane was a clutch of papers from the Assistant Bursar – a membership form for the Old Wycombiensians' Club, a *Who's Who* form (which he has sent back to me) and he bought the latest copy of the *Wycombiensian* magazine for good measure. One more sheep back in the fold.

## Notices

Last year I made contact with one of the considerable number of OWs who live in the Totnes (South Devon) area. I thought that they might like to go and meet the staff and RGS Boat Club crews who were going to take part in the Totnes and Bridgetown Royal Regatta. Well, he rounded them up, they turned up, got acquainted, cheered the boys on, took photographs and sent them to me. A great time was had by all, and the silver rosebowl is sitting there in the trophy cupboard outside the Queen's Hall. Later in the year this particular OW's brother visited Totnes and decided that he was missing out on the action. So he made contact with the OW Club and we now have an OW Regional Club in Toronto keeping the flag flying in Eastern Canada and Eastern USA. Since I last wrote to you we had contact from an OW living in Paris who has offered to round up all old boys in France and Benelux. Another regional club is born.

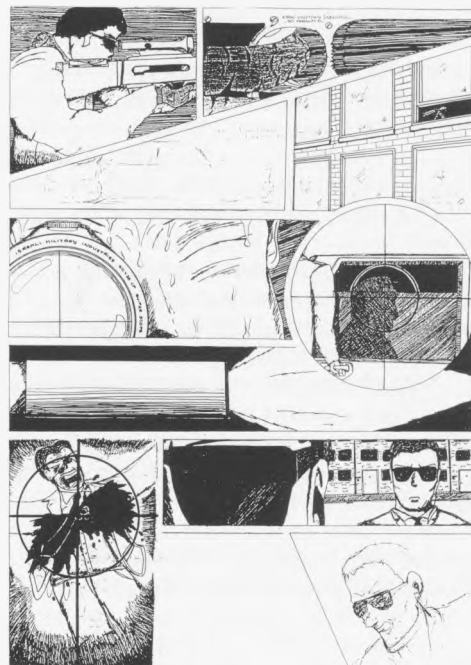
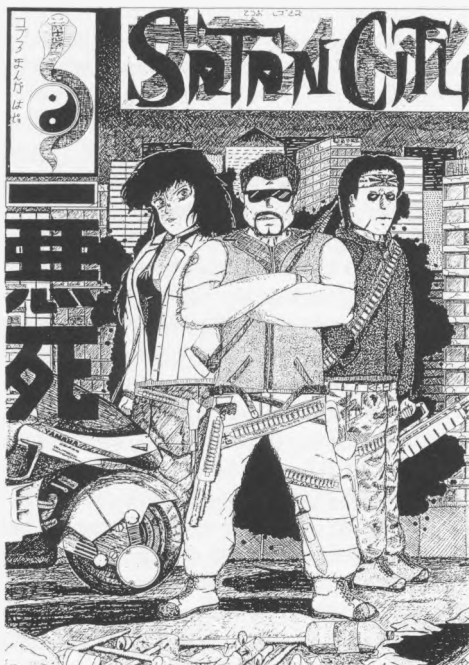
As I write this (1 May) I am planning to meet more members of the Club at Show Day on 18 May. We have been showered with photos of the cricket and rugby teams of long ago, old school ties and straw hats, school reports from the 1920s and most exciting of all – a video. This video was copied from cine film taken by R Barnard (1925–31) in 1962 when Her Majesty came to the school and opened the Queen's Hall and the Chapel. We hope to have some if not all of this on display on Show Day. None of this was anticipated when we first undertook the daunting task of producing *Who's Who*.

A great number of old boys have offered to help the school with work experience, work shadowing and careers advice. So this book will be a vital reference book for all pupils in the school and those to come. I expect that it will also be responsible for a great number of reunions, catching up on gossip and celebrating. I daresay that I will have more news for you in next year's *Wycombiensian*. Watch this space and listen for a great sigh of relief from the most loyal band of parent helpers ever known. Without all of their time given willingly there would have been no book. I am grateful to them.

Sheila Mawhood (Mrs)  
Parent Governor and Editor of *Who's Who at the RGS*

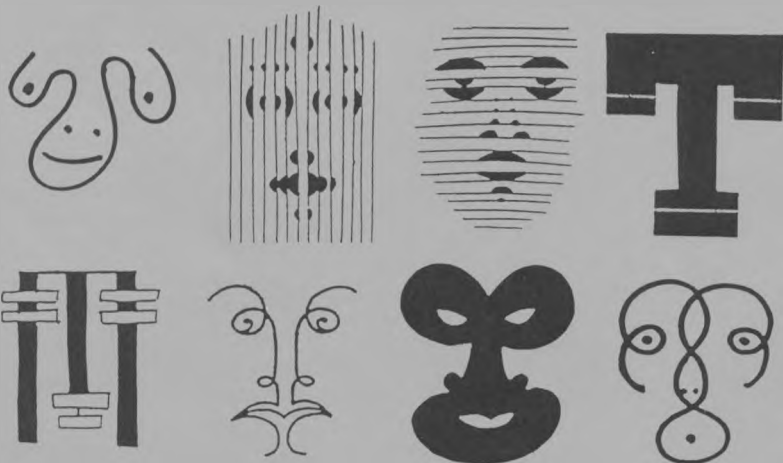
1. New Zealand branch of RGS OW Club.  
Please write to:  
Mr Jim Rickard, Waikite Road RD 5  
Welcome Bay  
Tauranga  
New Zealand
2. Eastern Canada/USA  
Mr Chris Edwards  
Town House 505  
63 Waterford Drive  
Etobicoke  
Ontario M9R 2N7  
Canada
3. France and Benelux  
Mr Andrew Knox  
44 Rue St Denis  
Place des Innocents  
75001 Paris  
France

To obtain your copy of the launch edition of *Who's Who at the RGS*, apply to the school for an order form.



Michael Bush  
Year 11  
Comic Strip Design & Composition

THE  
WYCOMBIENSIAN



RGS 1996.