

**WYCOMBIENSIAN
1992**

The Wycombiensian

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Royal Grammar School
High Wycombe

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Old Wycombiensians' Editor: Mr M W Cook

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The Visit of HRH The Princess of Wales — 6th June 1991

Royal visits to Wycombe RGS do not occur over-frequently. There have been three in the last thirty years. Any traces of earlier visits are lost in mists of time, so the school counted itself exceedingly fortunate to have received a positive response from Kensington Palace to its invitation for the Princess of Wales to come and open the new library and information technology centre on the first Thursday in June 1991.

After months of careful preparation and with close co-operation from the security services, the arrangements came to a smooth fruition on the momentous day. Computer equipment for the IT centre had the final jinxes sorted out, new books for the library arrived in time, staffing changes in the library service rippled the surface but failed to cause disaster and all the gleaming new furniture, built by the local manufacturers Ercol, was in place.

Every boy in the school had the chance to see our royal visitor, either as she arrived or after the opening of the centre. When the day dawned with overcast skies there was concern that the day might be remembered more for its dampness than its celebration. Certainly the school's



The Princess signs the specially engraved Visitor's Book



The Princess greets Old Wycombiensian veterans of the Gulf War.

musicians were glad of the giant blue and white jumbrella beneath which they provided the background music in the quadrangle. However, when the several hundred expectant pupils, staff and guests saw the royal car sweep into the precincts and stop beneath the Queen's Hall, all thought of dull weather dispersed as the Princess's radiance swiftly cast its magic spell. After introductions to the visiting county dignitaries and the school's senior management team, Barnaby Miller of 2F presented Princess Diana with a bouquet. The Princess's comment to Barnaby exemplified why she has such superb rapport with people: she quipped "You must have been so embarrassed to have been chosen to do this. You'll have lost all your street cred with your friends." Into the new library the party moved, formalities and plaque unveiling ensued and then came the part of the day that will remain green in the memories of all who were there - meeting people. The Princess chatted with the school's internationals in rugby, hockey, rowing and fencing together with the Voluntary Service Unit, and exchanged banter with Mr John Roebuck on the comparative safety of fencing as opposed to golf, alluding to Prince William's unfortunate blow on the head from a schoolfriend's putter three days earlier. The IT centre was a

major feature of the visit and IT co-ordinator Mr Peter Gibson had a class of second year pupils displaying their confidence in handling computer graphics and word processing.

The broad spread of the RGS family was reflected in those next introduced on returning to the front quad - long serving staff Miss Pamela Blackwell, Headmaster's Secretary, and Mr Ted Bradmore, Chemistry Department Technician - and a group of youthful Old Wycombiensian Gulf War veterans, whom the Princess had particularly asked to meet. The Princess then went 'walkabout', going up to chat with RGS pupils of various ages and asking

prefects "What's the local talent like?" and "How many A grades do you expect to get?" As the royal visitor progressed towards the departure point through the lines of the superbly turned out CCF Guard of Honour the school was invited to give three cheers for the Princess. The volume of the cheering was something of which the front quadrangle had never heard the like. As the royal car sped away towards Marlow's Cottage Hospital opening it left behind a thousand RGS members who would have concurred with the ninety year old whom the Princess met later in Marlow who said to her "I don't know what they're paying you m' dear but whatever it is you're worth double".

Staff Leavers

Mr Rex Knight

After more than 24 years service with us, Rex Knight is retiring from teaching and leaves behind a large and flourishing Biology department very much of his own making. Prior to his arrival Biology was an option that always attracted some of our ablest, but it was not the mainstream that has led to well over two hundred Wycombiensian's of his vintage becoming doctors and dozens more dentists or vets. All would recognise a debt of gratitude to him.

Always a modest and unobtrusive man he wishes the minimum of fuss to attach to his departure including this piece which, in the tradition of Mr David Jones last year, is requested to be as brief as possible. His emporium at the very top of the Science block has certainly made his department the most physically isolated in the school, and his total dedication to its activity and welfare have limited the width of his impact on other aspects of school life, but no one could doubt his concern for and support of the school as a whole. He was an especially loyal supporter of all RGS music and drama. Although many aspects of recent educational changes have not been to his liking, his dedication, sincerity and loyalty to the Grammar School tradition have contributed greatly to the RGS over the last quarter of a century.

He intends to write a new textbook, to continue with a great deal of examining, to be even more active in the Chiltern Society and to listen to more music if he has the time. He will be wished the happiest of retirements along with his wife Judith who has ended up as his colleague here, by all who have known him.

R.C.F.

Mrs Julie McGuinness

A rather quiet, shy young lady was appointed to teach English in September 1981. Mrs McGuinness had recently married after completing a degree in English at Oxford - her bias being towards Language and Medieval Literature - and a year's teacher training at Nottingham. She quickly proved that, not only had a genuinely kind and understanding teacher joined us, but one who was quickly to gain boys' respect as a conscientious teacher, who was

interested in their welfare, an efficient form mistress, and who could cope with the most threatening looking fourth and fifth forms.

From 1986-88 she was in charge of the Senior Library - who can forget the Christmas treat for Librarians, or the silly awards? As the English Department's champion in the weekly contest against the French Department, who better to run the Badminton session in Sixth Form Games? And, with her known interest in English Language at degree level, who better to inherit the mantle laid down by Mr Goldthorpe, and start A level English Language in this school?

We shall miss a respected and well-loved colleague, who has contributed much to the life of the School, and wish her well in the new life she and her husband are moving to in Nottingham. Coincidentally, her new home is a short distance from the school in which she completed her teaching practice, a fact which makes her circle just, and makes her end where she begun.

J.I.M.

Mr Brian Treharne

Brian Treharne joined the staff in September 1986, in the first instance half time for a year and then full time. This was after Wellesbourne, a local and well-respected secondary school, was closed. Brian was the Head of Sixth Form and Mathematics at Wellesbourne and rather than seeking a similar post, decided to join the Maths department here, bring considerable expertise, particularly when teaching those to whom A level Maths does not come easily. He quickly settled into the job and became a valued colleague and friend to other members of the department.

In addition to his mathematical duties, Brian has entered into the extra-curricular life of the school. Early during his time here, he instituted a radio controlled car club and has taken part in several YHA Club activities, including a memorable Easter week in the Yorkshire Dales complete with both driving rain and early summer sunshine. He also has co-ordinated the TVEI (technical and vocational educational initiative) in the School, helping to provide training and equipment for the School.

D.M.B.

University Entry 1991-92

OXFORD

R Brown: St Hugh's, Geography
C Claydon: Pembroke, Chemistry
P Foot: Merton, Maths
T Kawakita: St Anne's, Metallurgy
S Long: Pembroke, Maths
G Maddock: Wadham, PPE
R Mills: Magdalen, Arch/Anth
N Molden: Christ Church, PPE
K North: Christ Church, Maths
J Oldham: Balliol, A/M History
M Sykes: Worcester, Physics
J Taylor: Magdalen, Engineering
S Tobler: Brasenose, Modern Languages

CAMBRIDGE

R Bareham: Clare, Maths
A Bowen: Clare, Medicine
M Brown: Jesus, Natural Sciences
C Camp: Downing, Law
J Carr: Gonville & Caius, S.P.S.
J Davies: Gonville & Caius, Natural Sciences
C Denison: Clare, Natural Sciences
A Fallaize: Trinity Hall, Natural Sciences
J Feasey: Pembroke, Natural Sciences
R Fraser: Queens', Engineering
J Hadley: Robinson, Vet. Medicine
C Jennings: Downing, Economics
A Mawhood: Trinity, Modern Languages
P Mennie: Trinity, Maths
T Milward: Pembroke, Computing
D Toms: Christ's, Natural Sciences

HIGHER EDUCATION ENTRY

M C Albino: Reading University, French/German
J P Aperghis: Newcastle University, Microbiology
S A Ardron: Loughborough University, Transport Management
M R Audcent: Sheffield University, History & Politics (1992)
J B Baguley: London University, Computing
M J Barnes: Reading University, Computer Science
C S Booth: Stafford Polytechnic, Business Studies
S A Bromwich: Swansea University, Computer Science
K A Burnett: Swansea University, History/Philosophy
S J A Carter: Coventry Polytechnic, Business Management
B C Chadwick: Durham University, Physics
A I Chipping: Aberystwyth University, Modern Languages
S A Clouden: Birmingham University, Chemical Engineering
J J A Cooney: London University, Chemistry with Management
M J Cooper: North London Polytechnic, Geography/Geology

D A Corris: Exeter University, Mathematics
J D W Crozier: Southampton University, Mathematics & Chemistry
A I Danby: Southampton University, Electrical Engineering
N F Darby: Bristol Polytechnic, European Law & Languages
C P Darvill: Bristol University, Civil Engineering
J T Davies: Exeter University, History (1992)
J E Dewar: Southampton University, Electrical Engineering
A Doe: Nottingham University, Geography
C B Downing: Bath University, Electrical Engineering
D N Downing: Bristol University, Computing (1992)
J N Drake: Edinburgh University, French/Italian
N D Edwards: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Modern Languages
A I Everett: Southampton University, Electronic Engineering, French/German
R O Fell: Sussex University, History & Law (1992)
J K Figue: Leeds University, Computer Science
C A Fines-Allin: Staffordshire Polytechnic, Business Studies
M K Foster: Southampton University, Biology with Chemistry
E J Friend: London University, Physics
M Gambhir: London University, Physics
S D Gawne: East Anglia University, Law
C J Griffin: Southampton University, Biology
M D Groves: Southampton University, Medicine
J W Hall: Keele University, Biology
M M Hammond: Sandhurst
P R Hazell: St David's University College, Lampeter, French
K C Herbert: Surrey University, Microbiology
A E Jackson: Bangor University, Marine Biology
L J F Jarritt: Reading University, Geography
C L D Johnson: Anglia Higher Education College, Law
H Kamide: Aston University, Human Psychology
Q A Khan: Aston University, Business Studies
G H King: St Andrew's University, History/Geography
M W King: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Geography
G R Knight: Bristol University, Economics/Social History
M J Koster: Nottingham University, Politics
C G Lockyer: Leeds University, Geology
D Mailvaganam: Reading University, Computer Science
P E Marsh: Aberystwyth University, Marine Biology
T J McCullagh: Bristol University, Economics (1992)
G N Millward: Liverpool University, History
D P Morris: Croydon College, Theatre Production
G E D Mullen: Kent University, Chemistry
S J Noakes: London University, Building Management
A P Norton: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Geography
J P Palmer: City University, Music
R J Parker: Bangor University, French
C Puddephatt: Leeds University, Mechanical Engineering
M B Reece: Keele University, Geography & American Studies
J Richards: Bristol University, Aeronautical Engineering (1992)
S D Richards: Bristol University, Law
G P Rockett: Southampton University, French & Spanish
T V Ryland: Birmingham Polytechnic, Law
A C Rysdale: Bristol Polytechnic, Building Surveying
G N Saunders: Kingston Polytechnic, Chemistry
D A Senior: Aberdeen University, Engineering

A R Shahrukhi: Newcastle University, Medicine
R Skarda: Portsmouth Polytechnic, Aeronautical Engineering
D G Smith: Nottingham University, Law (1992)
R Sparks: Aston University, Transport Management (1992)
A J Speedy: Durham University, Law
S M Treherne: Warwick University, Politics
D E A Twizell: Loughborough University, Computing
O M Vassib: Kingston Polytechnic, European Business Studies
A P Walker: Bristol University, Music
T B Wallace: Southampton University, Biochemistry & Pharmacology
D J Warboys: Nottingham University, Psychology
G L Wheeler: Nottingham University, Biology
R B White: Manchester University, Physics with Astro-Physics
J M Widdess: Leicester Polytechnic, Economics
C C Widgery: Nottingham University, Geography
J Wigglesworth: Southampton University, Geography
T A Woolliams: Bristol University, Mathematics
I M Wright: Sheffield University, History
A B Yates: Birmingham University, History



Graham Stagg - 2nd Year

“A” Level Results 1991

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

KEY: A - Art; B - Biology; C - Chemistry; Comp - Computing; CF - Contemporary French; DM - Decision Maths; E - Economics; EPS - Economics & Political Studies; Eng - English Literature; ELA - English Language; F - French; FM - Further Maths; Ger - German; Geo - Geography; Gre - Greek; GS - General Studies; GP - Govt & Political Studies; H - History; AH - Ancient History; L - Latin; M - Maths; Mus - Music; P - Physics; Phil - Philosophy; BS - Business Studies; GS - General Studies; Sp - Spanish; RS - Religious Studies; AD - Art & Design; Elec - Electronics.

AS denotes “AS” level

* denotes grade A

S A Clouden: M,C*,B; AS:CF **M K Foster:** C,P,B*; AS:Elec* **E J Friend:** H*,C*,B*; AS:P* **C S M Griffin:** C,P,B; AS:Phil* **J E Isaac:** M,C,B; AS:P **B S Lipinski:** M,C,B **G N Saunders:** C,B; AS:Comp **S Tegala:** C,B,AD **M E Thomson:** M*,C*,P*,B **T B Wallace:** H,C,B; AS:DM **G L Wheeler:** M*,C*,B*; AS:P **J A Cooney:** M,C*,B; AS:Comp **M J Cooper:** Geo; AS:AD **A K O Denniston:** M*,C*,P*,B* **N C Grassly:** M*,C*,P*,B* **J W Hall:** C,B **K C Herbert:** C,P,B*; AS:E **R Holden:** F*,H*,Sp*,B **A E Jackson:** C,B; AS:CF **H Kamide:** Geo,C,B; AS:AD **P E Marsh:** C,B; AS:P **G L Thomas:** M*,C*,P*,B*,GS* **M I Wightman:** Geo*,C,B*,GS; AS:P **N Yaseen:** M,C*,B*; AS:E **J P Aperghis:** M,C,B **A A W Davies:** C,B **A M Gill:** M*,C*,P*,B* **M D Groves:** C,P,B*; AS:DM **D J Harding:** M*,C*,B*; AS:P* **J E D Mawdsley:** M*,C*,P*,B* **S E McDonald:** M*,C*,P*,B* **A R Shahrukhi:** F*,C,B*; AS:DM **G Singh:** C,B **A J Taylor:** B; AS:AD **C E West:** M,C*,P*,B* **S R Birney:** H,E,AH **J D Cronin:** EPS,Phil,GS; AS:AH **O G Currell:** Eng,Geo,AH; AS:AD **A R W L'Estrange:** F*,Ger,Mus*,L* **J P Oldham:** Eng*,AH*,L*; AS:Phil* **S D Round:** Ger,H,AH **C J Blythe:** Eng,H,E,AD **S A Bromwich:** Eng,Comp,GS; AS:DM **N F Darby:** Eng,F,H **C L D Johnson:** Eng,H,GS; AS:AD **P S Kingsnorth:** H*,E; AS:GP **R R Parker:** Eng,F,H **J L Power:** Eng,H **J D W Rea:** Eng,F,EPS; AS:DM **S D Richards:** Eng,H,EPS*,AD **A P Walker:** Eng,H,Mus* **J Carr:** H*,E*,Geo,GS*; AS:GP **G R Knight:** H*,E*,Geo*,GS*; AS:GP* **C C Pateman:** F,H,E **S M Prior:** H,M **R Sparks:** H,E; AS:GP **M A Waldron:** Eng,H,E; AS:GP **I M Wright:** H*,E,Geo*,GS*; AS:GP **R Barnicoat:** H,Geo,BS; AS:AD **C S Booth:** AS:Phil **S J Carter:** Geo,Comp,BS **C A Fines-Allin:** Comp,BS; AS:AD **P S Friend:** Geo,AD,BS **L J Jarritt:** EPS,Geo,BS **Q A Khan:** H,BS; AS:Phil **M J Koster:** EPS*,Geo*,BS **R J Oxley:** Geo,AD,BS **S A Ardron:** Eng,H,Geo; AS:GP **M Cartledge:** Geo,AD **J Cook:** Geo **P H P Dixon:** Geo **A R Doe:** Eng,H*,Geo*; AS:GP* **R O Fell:** H*,EPS,Geo* **A K Gibb:** F,H,Geo **C R Jennings:** E*,Geo*,M*; AS:CF **T J McCullough:** F*,Geo,Sp; AS:E **D P Morris:** Geo,Comp; AS:Phil* **S J Noakes:** Geo,BS **A P Norton:** E,Geo,M,GS*; AS:P **S R Priestley:** Geo,M,GS,BS **T V Ryland:** F,H,Geo,Phil **J M Smith:** H,E,Geo **O M Vassib:** H,Geo,BS; AS:E **D J Warboys:** F,H,Geo; AS:GP **C C Widgery:** H,EPS*,Geo* **J Wigglesworth:** EPS,Geo,Phil*,M **G M Addison:** Eng,H,Geo; AS:CF **M R Audcent:** H,EPS,Geo **K A Burnett:** Eng,H,E,GS **C J D Camp:** Eng*,F*,H*,

Mus.GS* **J T Davies**: H*,EPS*,M: AS:CF S H **Gawne**:
 Eng,H*,E; AS:Phil* **D Hackett**: Eng,F,H,Mus* **D T**
Holland: F*,H*,E; AS:GP M **Keer**: F*,Ger*,H*; AS:E P T
Maxmin: Eng*,F*,H*,GS* **G N Millward**: Eng,H,M;
 AS:GPS R **Tyrrell**: H,EPS; AS:CF A B **Yates**: H,EPS,M;
 AS:P N **D Edwards**: Eng,F,Sp,GS; AS:Phil M J
Elmidoro: F,H,EPS,GS C A **Fielding**: Eng,F,H; AS:Phil*
P M Hoskins: F,H R J **Parker**: Eng,F,BS; AS:DM G P
Rockett: F*,Geo,Sp* **J N Drake**: F*,Ger,M; AS:P* G H
King: F,G,H*,L* **J P Palmer**: Eng,H,Mus M B **Reece**:
 Ger,Geo*,BS; AS:CF S M **Treherne**: G,H,EPS*; AS:DM
M J Barnes: M,C*,BS J E **Dewar**: M,C,P C B **Downing**:
 M,FM,C,P B G **Mitcheson**: M*,FM*,C*,P* D C **Smith**:
 M*,FM*,C*,P* J A **Vaughan**: M*,FM*,C*,P* T A
Woolliams: M*,FM*,C,PI A **Danby**: M,C,P*,GS;
 AS:Elec* D C **Kumar**: M,C,P*; AS:Elec* D P
Rimington: AS:CF R K **Skarda**: AS:AD R J **Storey**:
 Geo,BS G J **Tucker**: C,P J M **Widdess**: H,EPS; AS:Comp
 C N **Carter**: M*,FM,C*,P* B C **Chadwick**: H,M,P;
 AS:Comp B C **Claydon**: M*,FM,C*,P* D A **Corris**:
 M*,FM*,C,P* J D W **Crozier**: M*,FM*,C*,P* D
Mailvaganam: M,P,BS; AS:Comp G E D **Mullen**:
 M,Comp,C; AS:E J E G **Richards**: M*,C,P*; AS:AD D A
Senior: M,C,P; AS:AD M W **King**: Geo,M,P; AS:Elec* C
G Lockyer: Geo*,C,P,Mus A C **Rysdale**: Geo.P J C **Bhat**:
 F*,M*,C*,P* P M **Oram**: M,Comp*,C*,P* C
Puddephatt: M,C,P; AS:Phil M D **Sheiham**: M*,C*,P*;
 AS:Phil* M J **Spraggon**: C,P; AS:AD D A **Stevens**:
 M*,C*,P*,Mus T A **Stokes**: M*,FM*,C*,P* R **Wells**:
 M,C,P G E **Wheatley**: M*,C*,P*; AS:CF C P **Darvill**:
 Geo,M,FM,P P **DeRaney**: H,P; AS:GP M **Gambhir**:
 M*,FM*,C*,P* D R **Slater**: H,M*,FM,P*,GS* D G
Smith: M*,P*,BS; AS:E R E **Watson**: M*,FM*,C,P* R B
White: M,FM,C,P* J F **Wyatt**: M*,FM,C,P* A J **Speedy**:
 Eng*,F,AH*,AD* P **Hazzell**: Eng,F,AD T **Channon**: F,Sp;
 AS:Phil R **Pike**: Eng,F A **Rogers**: F M **Albino**: F,Ger;
 AS:AH A **Chipping**: F*,G*,M M **Cracknell**: F P **Read**:
 Eng,F,Ger; AS:Phil* D **Downing**: F*,M*,FM,P A **Everett**:
 Ger*,M*,FM*,P* M **Hammond**: M,FM,P,AD J **Baguley**:
 M,Comp*,P; AS:Elec A **Boyle**: M,Comp,P J **Figge**:
 M,Comp,P M **Govan**: Comp*,P; AS:Elec L **Twizell**:
 M,Comp*,P; AS:Elec* P **Lishman**: Comp; AS:AD



P. G. Szyszko

“GCSE” Results 1991

The following boys obtained Grade A-C in four or more subjects in the “GCSE” Examinations:

S Anderson (10); R Barber (10); N Beecroft (9); M Chacksfield (10); A Churchett (9); J Goodwill (5); S Hazelden (10); J Hopwood (10); M Hutt (10); T Jenkins (9); J Keefe (9); A Khan (10); T Lambert (10); J Lippiat (10); D Lomas (7); A Machacek (10); C Maclagan (6); S McBrearty (8); R Monnington (9); J Newell (9); A Nichols (9); M Rafathullah (6); T Rogers (10); E Rysdale (10); D Sheiham (10); A Smith (9); J Steane (9); A Wardill (9); R Weaver (10); J Whittaker (10); J Windle (10); F Anwar (10); J Barrett (10); J Blogh (10); C Bryan (10); M Cameron (11); J Cox (10); P Cox (9); T Crompton (10); A Diplock (9); P Farrugia (8); T Johnson (10); S Kazi (9); R Leigh (9); M Madden (9); J Mann (10); J Martin (10); J Norton (8); J Palling (9); T Palmer (9); M Randall (10); L

Sargent (10); A Seddon (9); J Smart (9); J Stanhope (7); R Tang (9); J Tarry (7); P Taylor (6); S Thomas (9); S Walters (9); R Webb (10); D Whiting (9); N Wright (10); P Anderson (7); J Baily (4); A Bain (8); A Ball (9); C Bishop (10); J Blackwell (6); M Brown (10); A Carter (9); D Chapman (10); P Dewar (10); A Dover (10); S Draper (11); N Elliot (11); P Fairbairn (8); A Gambhir (10); A Harker (9); A Hickman (10); D Holt (4); A Lewis (10); G Limback (8); D Long (11); L Marchant (7); M Peasley (9); B Rackstraw (10); J Ryan (7); P Simmons (7); C Strand (8); J Webb (9); R Wetherell (9); O Woodstock (9); C Barkey (10); R Blow (10); S Blows (7); O Clinch (9); M Coles (5); A Curry (10); W Dixon (8); C Evans (8); J Eyers (8); A Gilmore (10); P Hemmings (8); H Heygate-Brown (5); P Hills (10); K Hodgson (7); S Hutchins (9); V Kapoor (10); S Lawton (9); R McDonald (8); D McLaughlin (8); A Mirza (10); J Peters (6); M Ponting (9); R Pople (10); D Shaw (10); M Slagter (10); N Stiggers (11); D Talbot (6); C Tough (9); M Walters (9); M Ward (8); M Wheeler (11); S Albino (9); M Andrews (10); S Baker (9); N Benstead (10); D Bocquet (10); B Cave (9); P Colburn (9); C Cranie (11); G Edwards (10); J Edwards (10); D Foord (10); R Garner (9); M Hill (10); M Holmes (7); J Johnston (10); E Kingham (10); C Lathom-Sharp (8); T Levicki (6); W Lin (8); S McKellar (6); K Nixon (10); M Page (9); W Pepper (10); D Pratt (8); A Price (9); A Purnell (9); D Schruers (9); A Sloane (7); L Smith (6); C Tang (10); A Thompson (10); P Tidball (9); E Allen (10); A Arora (10); M Bassett (9); M Cooney (8); B Cronin (10); P Crozier (10); T Davies (10); A Demetriou (10); L Devlin (4); D Dinnage (9); B Dobson (11); D Featherstone (9); A Garrard (10); N Harwood (10); M Hoare (10); M John (10); D Lee (7); S Leslie (8); G Lynch (10); A Meldrum (10); A Mohammed (9); A Morton (10); A North (10); N Page (10); J Ray (9); N Simpson (8); R Stanton (10); R Stidworthy (11); A Sweetman (11); P Szyszko (10); I Welch (8).

OPEN HOUSE

Proportional Representation: Unfair Votes

"It is better to go forward into Europe in a slightly tipsy state than in a drunken stupor". This is the European policy of the 'Beer Lovers' Party' in Poland: they encourage the consumption of beer instead of vodka. With their 3% support in Poland there is the possibility that in general elections the balance of power could be held by the Beer Lovers. Admirable though their policies may be, their presence would make for an interesting coalition. Throughout the last century proportional representation (p.r.) has bred weakness and failure whereas our single member constituency, 'first-past-the-post' system has brought political strength. The supporters of p.r. show historical ignorance and dangerous idealism. We must resist p.r. in this country at all costs.

The idea of p.r. seems to be that the votes of the whole voting population should carry equal weight in determining parliamentary representation. Our present system gives votes equal weight within each constituency. Those who support p.r. complain that this effectively disenfranchises voters for particular parties in particular areas, *e.g.* Conservative voters in Liverpool. P.r. is meant to solve this by establishing 'fair votes'. In its purest form it may indeed be 'fair', yet it has succeeded in creating chaos in Germany, Italy and in France at sometime during the last century, as I will show.

The rise of Hitler and Mussolini was aided by p.r. In Weimar Germany there were at least thirteen parties in the

Reichstag and governments were always coalitions. Often the coalitions took to the form of an alliance of the Catholic 'Centre' Party and the S.P.D. - officially Marxist and atheist. When this uneasy coalition collapsed Adolf Hitler was invited to form a government: he promised strong government. The eradication of six million Jews may have been unfortunate, but at least the Nazis were elected 'fairly'. P.r. was introduced in Italy in 1920 which resulted in six governments in the four years to 1922 - Britain had one. The 1921 election yielded 35 Fascist M.P.s yet Mussolini's coalition was formed by 1922, on the promise of strong government.

After yet another French Revolution in 1870 the Third Republic emerged. By French standards it lasted almost an eternity, *viz.* until 1940. During that period there were 108 governments as a result of p.r. compared to the 20 in Great Britain. The political chaos was serious in consequence: in 1938 there was a government crisis which meant there was no administration to respond to Hitler's annexation of Austria. At a time when Europe most needed strength a frontline state against Germany had no offensive military plans and no government.

Without p.r. would there have been a Second World War?

The Continentals have yet to learn that p.r. gives the smallest parties the strongest grip on power. In Germany the Foreign Minister from 1974 to 1992 was Hans Dietrich Genscher, one of the small group of Free Democrats. The Italians have government by pressure group because the parliament contains a countless number of parties, including three for old-age pensioners and, of course, the Party of Love. It seems obvious that with the appearance of neo-Nazism we do not want the National Front controlling France, just as the stability of the Middle East is not helped by fundamentalists running Israel.

The answer, the p.r. supporters say, is to have, for instance, a 5% limit for parties, *i.e.* 5% of the vote must be



Simon Shingleton - 5th Year

obtained before any seats are won. What about fair votes? Surely we should be as fair to minority cliques as to larger parties? What about being fair to Nazis, mass-murderers and racists? Germany has had relatively strong government since the War because its system has not been entirely fair. Our system is even better because it gives greater priority to effective government. Democracy is useless if it creates anarchy, even if it is 'fair' anarchy.

Nicholas Molden 6HR2

File Past

From the Wycombiensian of 1912:

On May 4th we held an entertainment in the School-room in aid of the sufferers from the Titanic disaster. As a result we were able to hand over the sum of £1.15s to the mayor's fund. Much credit is due to Mr Griffiths and Mr Matthews, who at such short notice organised so successful an entertainment, and to all who took part in it.

From the Wycombiensian of 1962:

EDITORIAL

Perhaps the most momentous year in the Royal Grammar School's long history has just ended. The School's importance and position has been steadily increasing under the guidance of the present Head Master, Mr E.R. Tucker; when he came in 1933 this School was just one of thousands of such Grammar Schools. Ten years later, election to the Headmasters' Conference gained for the Royal Grammar School the status of a Public School, a status which it has retained and proved it deserved ever since, and with a record of almost fifty State Scholarships in the last three years, few schools may rival it academically.

From the Wycombiensian of 1978:

APATHY SOCIETY

The society has had a relatively eventful term. Our membership has doubled during the last year and we recently held our fifth Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, as neither of us could be bothered to turn up, we don't know what happened (and we don't really care anyway). Apart from all this excitement we have held many (one or two) boring debates on subjects such as: 'How to waste free periods and Thursday afternoons successfully'.

I've heard a rumour that the Apathy Society meets on Monday lunchtimes in Bill's but I'm still not convinced.

S.M. Poulson

The Titanic

In the year nineteen twelve
on April fourteen
The Atlantic was calm
not an iceberg was seen.

An "unsinkable" ship
they said would float like a cork
had sailed from Southampton
on route for New York.

On board there were many,
two thousand and nine,
this ship's maiden voyage
for the White Star Line.

Caution said slow,
but the captain cried "onward
but keep a good look out
to port and to starboard."

The band played on
till approaching midnight.
Of icebergs the lookouts
had still not a sight.

When all of a sudden
the ship shuddered and roared
and in through one side
the Atlantic it poured.

"Women and children go first"
went the cry
as into the lifeboats
they went, to keep dry.

The band played on
in best naval tradition
and the ship slowly settled
belying its description.

Richard Burrell 2W

Nathan McConnell - 2W



February 14th

Doc Martens

Jeans, baggykneed, gone on one side.

Studded belt

Loose hanging, ragged, russet tee shirt plenty of firm muscle apparent.

Shaven headed. One earring.

“Uh ... what sort of buncher flowers can I get delivered for thirty quid?”

“Well sir (*this petitely, and attractively polite*), we can either ... or we can ... but perhaps you'd rather ...”

“No. Uh. That one'll do”.

Cash changes hands: an address dictated.

“Would you like a card, perhaps a message?”

“Uhyeah.

Uh To ... the most wonderful mum in the world ... uh all the best ... er ... love Roy”.

Next

Spots, specs, hair slicked over to one side.

School blazer. Top shirt button regulation undone, and tie half mast to match.

Also the teeniest African potted violet seen outside a Bonsai garden surely. Must be five bob's worth at the outside. Or one week's pocket money.

“Gift wrapped?”

“Certainly”

Then self: balding, grey, mid forties.

Sentimental flowers.



Rhodri Jones - 5th Year



Lynton Pepper - 2nd Year

T.J.N.C.

A Ballad About a Person

A boy who lived in Gerrards Cross,
Went to Thorpe House School.
He had a lot of very good friends;
Who all were pretty cool.

'Til one cold day in 1990;
He stumbled on an exam.
And six months later, in the morn'
The mail-box gave a 'clang'!

He felt a shiver down his spine,
As his father revealed all;
Inside the letter, this can't be right:-
A place at John Hampden School!

Great astonishment filled the boy,
And his parents too.
They all decided between themselves;
There was one thing left to do. . .

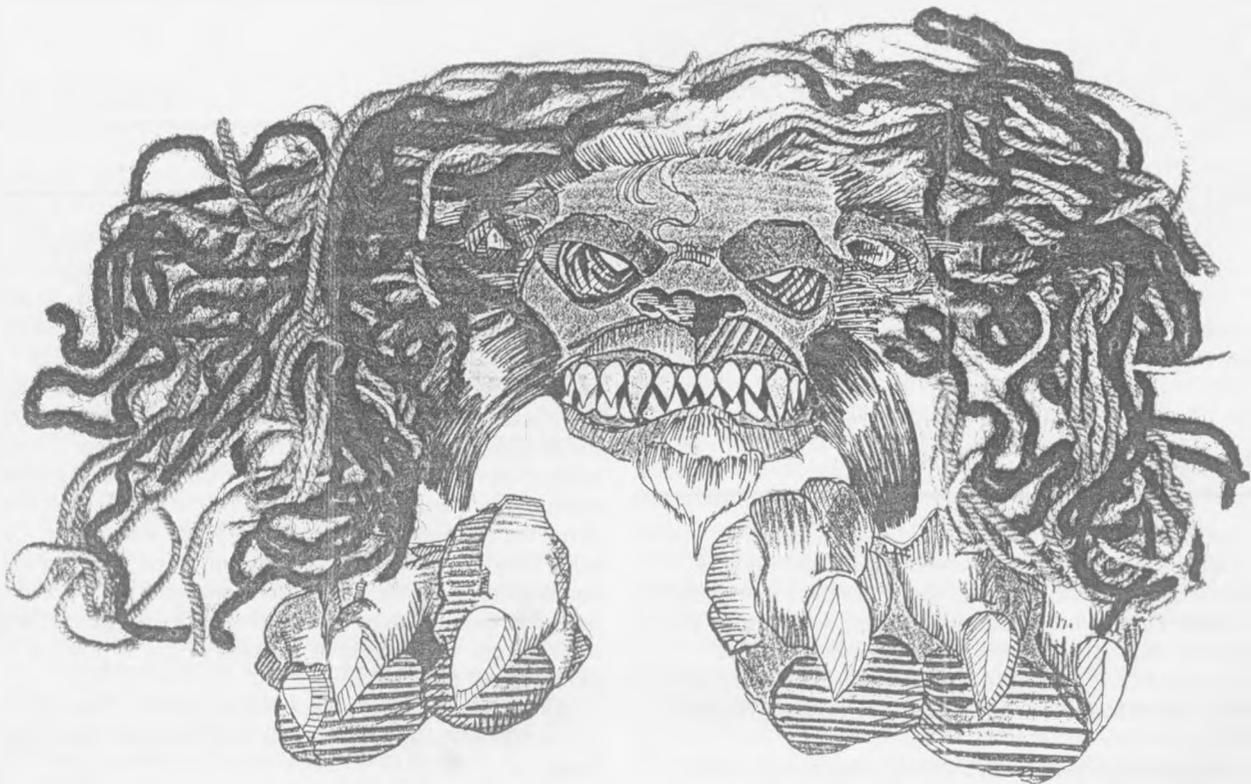
Appeal, Appeal, Appeal, Appeal,
Appeal with all their might -
Their chances of getting a different place,
Would obviously be tight.

Eventually a decision was reached,
Which made the boy cry "Yes!" -
The governors all decided on
A place at the R.G.S.

Matthew Dickson 2W



Chris Fletcher - 5th Year



Nathan McConnel

SOCIETIES AND ACTIVITIES

School House Report

This year has seen new arrivals in both the Juniors and the Seniors, leading to a full house for the first time in many years. On the junior side, we welcomed Ashley, Jonathan, Paul, Matthew and Nick who all proved to be handfuls when it came to taking them for prep. This however created no problems for Martin who had them under control in no time (albeit due to rather unorthodox methods of punishment!). The middle dorm was dominated by the sweet smelling?! Kingsworth twins who once again broke all known records for smelly feet. They were joined by Sam, Toby and Matthew 'Dinosaur' Harvey to create perhaps the untidiest dormitory in history!

Upstairs Tom Hadley was glad for the arrival of Jon Thrupp. Justine Twort and Paul 'Grass-stains' DeRaney since he has now had someone to talk sport with. Scott and his pigeons were joined by Chris 'Mr Bean' Bryan, his ant and Mrs Thatcher, although he obviously enjoyed Mark and Euan's company more as he spent most of his time in their room which looked something like the showroom of Dixons! James Nurthen reached new heights in his intolerance of other people's music tastes (notably Jon Hadley's) and among his main targets were Ride, Curve and James or 'anyone with a boring and monotonous voice'. But he likes Guns 'n Roses so you can have pity on him! Martin was joined by Chris 'I was in the kop for Liverpool v. Genoa' Baynes and his girlfriend Clare who seemed to spend more time here than certain boarders (Mark Booth).

The School House Tuck Shop under new and improved management succeeded in making even more profit than last year, and funded trips to Alton Towers, Oxford Ice Rink, Bowling at Dawes Hill, Bonfire Party, Amadeus, and a football match against the Staff which we narrowly lost 4-3 after being 3-1 up at half time.

As ever, thanks must go to all the cleaning ladies, Rhona and Gillie, Mr Noyes, Mr Moore and of course Mr and Mrs Gamester for keeping us all in check (most of the time anyway!).

D.O.M., T.B.F., P.O.B., D.W.E.E.B., D.E.A.N.O.,
G.O.N.Z.O., M.B.A.W.O.L., T.A.B.S., C.A.B !!!
1992.

Uplyme Report

This year has seen many changes and improvements around Uplyme resulting in a more friendly and homely atmosphere for all. The common room has been completely redecorated, carpets have been fitted in all dormitories and several new showers have appeared. An extensive fire alarm system has also been installed which was tested on a cold, wet, and miserable April night at 11.30 pm (Thanks Sir!).

The departure of four sixth formers to university and another, Doug Smith, to help handicapped people, has led to a much younger house. Two fifth formers, Mark Holmes and Jamie Blackwell, also left, Mark on a quest for happiness and Jamie, last seen with bright orange hair heading towards Holland, on a quest for something else. Two new second years, Martin Coster and Jamie Cotgreave

have settled in well and been accepted as house pets in preference to last year's Andy 'D'yu wanna fight' White who now annoys the entire house with his slow metamorphosis into a classic Essex boy. Other new arrivals were third formers Toby Carter and Ryan Wheaton. Ryan has thrown himself into the role of Notice Board Supervisor, amongst other things, in a bid to become youngest Headboy ever, while Toby has thrilled all with the continuous strumming of his guitar (Ahem!).

The last two arrivals were David Bocquet and Simon Moody who has stunned everybody with his quick and often madcap sense of comical timing. Thrown straight into being a prefect, David quickly found his feet and his first act was to instruct the junior prefect Darren Mills to undertake all prefect's duties.

Events during the year have included trips to Alton Towers, bowling, ice skating and an evening at the circus, all of which were heavily funded by day boys through the School House tuck shop (cheers lads, keep it up!).

On the sporting field Uplyme has outdone itself once again with the crushing defeat of School House at football (15-0). Unfortunately they cannot accept this defeat and still claim they won 5-3.

Finally, many thanks go to Mr and Mrs Davies for the doughnuts, Gareth Davies for his happy smile, Mr Edwards for lending us money and Mr McNeil for amusing us with his very own brand of humour. Thanks must also go to Mrs Gamester, Rhona and the cleaners for keeping the House and us clean and tidy.

Stuart, Dave and Darren.

P.S We'd just like to mention William because he might beat us up if we didn't.

Chess

It was a curate's egg of a season. On the good side the 1st team did very well to finish high up in the Division 1 of the county league, and an Under 14 team did equally well to win a major prestigious tournament held just before Easter. Some of the players individually certainly had good seasons, and there are some very promising young players. On the disappointing side the team lost in the 1st round of the Sunday Times to our old rivals Dr Challoner's, and none of the six teams in the Junior League distinguished themselves, partly because some of the players did not show the commitment or reliability one would like. On the other hand a number of captains and those who ran the club and organised all the inter-form competitions worked so hard and did so much. I thank them all very much for all their efforts. By the end of the season, the following players held full colours:

Simon Long, Tim Rogers, Paul Colburn, Daniel Lambourne, Philip Hobbs, Des Sheiham and Nathanael Page.

The following had half-colours: Andrew Bentall, Robin Phelps and Matthew Walters.

With a young squad we look forward to a better season next year.

I. R. Clark

American Exchange April 1992

At 6.50 am on Thursday 2nd April this year a group of ten sixth-formers from RGS and Lady Verney High School left for New Hampshire, USA. As we sat in the minibus on the way to Gatwick Airport nobody really knew what to expect from our New England counterparts.

After a relaxing 2 hours wandering around the huge Gatwick multiplex the real journey began. We arrived in Boston at 2.30 pm Eastern time (six hours behind BST). Most of us were in our host families' homes by 4.00 pm.

Exeter Area High School commenced lessons at 7.45 am which meant, for most, getting up not too long after 6.00 am. I had lunch, most days, at 10.15 am, that's halfway through second period at RGS. The school finished at 2.20 pm but we were free to leave, or go into the town, whenever we pleased.

Exeter is only a 1-hour drive away from Boston, America's oldest major city. Our planned trips included three visits to Boston, one sightseeing tour, then to see a baseball game and finally to the Museum of Fine Arts. Other activities included a visit to Concord (the State capital), an historical walk of Exeter and canoeing, to mention but a few. Everyone's host family were more than willing to organise additional excursions independently from the school trips.

Going to America as a tourist is all well and good, but in order to see how Americans live you have to live with them. This exchange was an ideal and rare opportunity see a very different life-style and be part of it for three weeks. Everyone involved had a great time and I know that I'm not the only one who wishes to return. Thanks to Mr Mitchell for organising the trip and putting up with us all.

Simon Blows 6E1

Senior Vulture

I'm taking my A-levels this year, and then leaving school. That made it my last ever year as a 'Culture Vulture'. I was hoping that this year's visits would live up to those of those of the past 5 years. They did this, and with style.

A play by Molière, an enchanting recital of chamber music, a choice from two arts films and an opera by Mozart certainly did justice. Molière's 'Tartuffe' was a rib-tickling tale of morals, made all the more amusing and well delivered by the fantastic acting of John Sessions and Felicity Kendal. On the musical side, the London Chamber Orchestra's energetic performance of works by Rossini, Haydn and others, which took place in Queen Elizabeth Hall, was fresh, captivating and listener-friendly. Combining both the theatre and music Mozart's 'Xerxes' at the English National Opera was a fabulously produced extravaganza. The set design and the choreography were superb and set off the well-performed but bombastic opera extremely well. Lastly there was the choice to view the Polish film, 'The Double Lives of Véronique' or 'Hear my Song', a film about an Irish singer. Those who watched 'Hear my Song' spoke of it highly as a film comedy. I, however, opted for the more heavyweight Polish film. 'The Double Lives of Véronique' is a tour de force of Polish film-making. It is a stunning combination of beautifully observed camera work, subtle complexity of plot, ingenious imagery and strong acting. The actress playing Véronique won the Palme D'Or at the 1991 Cannes

Film Festival for this role. All this is brought together with exquisite tightness by the director.

Every member of Senior Vulture got a lot out of our visits, and will certainly join up again (those of us who aren't leaving). It would be nice to see a swell of numbers in Senior Vulture. So join up if you can, you'll never get the opportunity again. Finally a big thank you to the staff involved, Mr Keysell, Mr Arnfield, Mr Mitchell, Mr Cowburn and Miss Kelly.

Simon Bayly 6SG2

Junior Vulture

Thanks go to Messrs Cowburn, Mitchell, Arnfield and Keysell and Miss Kelly for the various trips Junior Vulture has enjoyed this year.

So far this year Vulture has been to Gilbert and Sullivan's comedy opera, 'The Mikado', which was a brilliant updated performance of the original version, and 'The Wind in the Willows' at the National Theatre. This theatre had an amazing revolving stage which rose and fell to reveal different character's homes! Most recently we went to hear the London Chamber Orchestra which was enjoyed even by people who don't normally take an interest in classical music.

William Village 3K
Robert Dudley 3DC

Ikon

Another year, another magazine. Once again the dedicated team managed to produce a magazine, costing considerably less than the defence budget of Peru, filled to bursting with witty articles, poems by Glyn, intelligently argued debates, poems by Glyn, delicately crafted artwork, and of course, the vital component: poems by Glyn. Just when you thought no more articles could come pouring in for your diligent perusal, no more came. Rhodri Jones excelled himself by lack of action seldom equalled outside the Labour Party post-election over-optimistic victory celebration. Scott beavered away securing pages from friends, relatives, people he met in the street etc, while Glyn and Chris stuck them together with high technology, 600 pieces of yellow card and copious quantities of staples.

Having produced the magazine, it only remains to sell it. Our attempts to palm it off as a programme at the illustrious performance of 'Amadeus' were slighted off on the grounds that they would lower the tone. Hopefully our endeavours at Show Day will meet with more glorious success than our current sales tactic (at date of writing) of standing in the Exhibition Room and hoping. Only slightly discouraged by the fact that only one in every hundred boys and Mr Arnfield knows where the Room is, we boldly stride onwards in our magazine vending efforts.

That aside, the aforesaid magazine is effervescent with satire, wit, artistic masterpieces and other masterly chunks of creative endeavour. Myriad thanks to Resources. To put in your own little bite of genius to the next magazine, feel free to contact any of the editors, or Mr Arnfield. All (well, a few) offers gratefully accepted.

*Ikon was edited and produced by Chris Fletcher,
Glyn Cannon, Scott Walters, and Rhodri Jones.*

Amadeus

The school production of 'Amadeus' was presented in the Queen's Hall from Wednesday 1st April 1992 to Friday 3rd April with a special Gala Performance, including a meal, provided by the RGS Parents' Association, taking place on Saturday 4th April. With the assistance of a group of girls from the Beaconsfield High School the cast of 26 played to full houses which was most gratifying for all involved in this spectacular and complex production. Also very encouraging were the numerous letters and expressions of congratulation received by the Headmaster and Peter Cowburn. The following review was written by Sian Case, a former RGS member of staff and patron of Saturday night's Gala Evening:-

Amadeus - The Gala Evening

The final line of Amadeus - 'mediocrities everywhere' - was a denial of everything I had just enjoyed: an evening of delicious food, superb music and thrilling drama. An intimate dining atmosphere was established in the cavernous Queen's Hall by a soiree style layout of tables, miles of blue ribbon, distinguished programmes and elegant chandeliers. Excellent and astonishingly small musicians entertained the diners with popular Mozart pieces which complemented the fine food: salmon, cold meats and salads with appropriately Austrian style desserts. The presentation of this dinner was first class with four star service.

The three central characters: Salieri, Mozart and Constanze deserve particular praise for their energy and skill. Nick Simpson, the corrupted hero, never allowed his righteous anger to descend into jealousy and risk losing the audience's sympathy. He managed professionally the swift mood changes between humorous asides, earnest prayers and desperate rage, gradually understanding his tragedy: to be the only person to fully appreciate Mozart's genius and his own failure. Tom Adams and Kate Walton clearly relished the vulgarity of their stormy relationship presenting clowning, tenderness and anger in quick succession. They both acquired dignity as Salieri's contempt for them grew, which also pulled at the audience's sympathies.

Adam Chenery deliciously revealed comic talent as a silly Emperor with a nasty edge who retained absolute



Scott Walters, Alex Holmes, Tom Adams, Adam Chenery, Justin Twort and Nicholas Simpson on location at West Wycombe House.



Kate Walton and Tom Adams.

power over courtly politics. Anna Jones delivered an enchanting cameo role as Katherina, the sensual, lively mistress of Salieri. The supporting cast filled Vienna with gossip, energy and colour and demonstrated great self-discipline; I never spotted a lapse of concentration.

At the end of the evening we were introduced to the best dressed stage crew I have ever seen. Congratulations are especially due to Marie-Joëlle Watson for a huge number of magnificent costumes which established the opulent Viennese atmosphere and the lighting and set design which created a stage within a stage to highlight contrasting action.

This Gala Evening added something to another exciting RGS production: Peter Cowburn's direction had created a tremendous team of talented young actors, musicians, and stage crews. The timing, design, passion and mood of this production were its strongest triumphs. Perhaps the best accolade for Peter's direction was that it was so easy to forget the youth of this team as they delivered a professional production of a challenging drama.

S.C.

Model Railway Club

After a break of one year the Model Railway Club was relocated in the back of the Maths Block. This year's activities have consisted entirely of re-decorating the room (in a suitable shade of pink). More progress on the R-gauge railway should be made next year. It may also be possible to construct our OO gauge layout in the roof space above the room. We are very confident about the future and hope that the MRC will soon be up and running normally.

William Spooner, Chairman, 6SG2

Christian Union

Assemblies to be taken; lunch-time meetings to prepare; after-school events to run and even whole weekends to organise! Such is the busy life a new leader of the RGS Christian Union can look forward to...

The week of the Christian Union Assemblies arrives. Monday morning - knees knocking, you peer over the 'pulpit' at the 800 strong 'congregation'. You speak shakily, then it's all over, you sit down quickly, heart racing. 'I hope everyone heard,' you think. Next time won't be so hard will it?

Life for the 'bible bashers' of the RGS isn't always that nerve-wracking. Meetings every Wednesday lunchtime frequently provide a laugh as well as encouragement and serious discussion. After-school events, at least twice a term, give everyone a chance to meet Christians from the other CU's in our area and share news.

The Christian Union weekend in February Half-Term was organised mainly by Anton Machacek, so everything was bound to go smoothly. Between thought provoking meetings, meals and snatched hours of sleep, there was still time for football, videos, videogames, and other activities. Last year's weekend must have been good too, because Jon Elvin, the leader of all the meetings, came back for a second helping.

In conclusion we as leaders hope we've provided a service to those people who have come to all our meetings and we hope that with God's help we'll continue to do so.

P. Crozier 6HK1

The Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund has been well supported over the last year. The 90/91 collections ended in June with £2871.51 having been sent to widely varying charities and needs. Special collections were made for the children of Romania, Ethiopian Famine, Poppy Day and Red Nose Day. In addition, 15 different charities such as the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, Help the Aged, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dr Barnado's, each received gifts of £160. Locally, a gift of £160 was made to the High Wycombe and District Body Scanner Appeal.

So far the weekly gifts of the Autumn and Spring Terms alone of the 91/92 year have amounted to £3200. This is a significant and welcome increase and comes at a time of recession!

Four gifts have been made so far, one of which was not money as such, but a special 'Emergency' or 'Disaster' Box filled with an amazing assortment of items for clothing and candles to cutlery and cuddly toys, all donated or purchased by Forms throughout the school.

The Box, or share in National Scheme, was officially presented to the Rotary Club of High Wycombe in readiness for immediate dispatch to any part of the world facing sudden disaster.

The other three special gifts have been £500 towards the School's major effort for Albania, £50 to the Rotary Club of Great Britain's 'Tree Link' scheme, in which one class of our school participated in 1991, and finally, and on a sad note, £250 to 'British Blind Sport', given in affectionate memory of Andrew Cooper, so tragically killed in March this year. As his great love and involvement was in Judo, the money will be used to help train the British Paralympic Judo Team which will be competing in the 9th Paralympic

Games in Barcelona this year.

Our sincere thanks go to all contributors and especially to the staff and Form Reps for all their interest and help.

The Secretary of the Benevolent Fund,
B. Kempson

Forum

6th Form Forum: Tuesday Lunchtimes, 1.40 pm Room 4

The group has steadily increased throughout the year, so that we now have a large number of regular members. The group has discussed many topics of interest, often with lively interaction between ourselves and Mr Ratcliffe.

The aim of Forum is to bring together all those who wish to look into the Christian Faith whether they are believers or not. All are welcome to join the discussions and we look forward to a further growth in numbers.

4th and 5th Forms have their own Forum meeting on Monday lunchtimes in Room 14.

Roger Blow 6HR1

RGS Sponsored Walk, March 1992

The first rumours, spread by the sixth form committee, that the school was going to partake in a sponsored walk, were met by moans and groans from the majority of pupils. Comments such as, 'Not another fund raising event,' and, 'There's no way I'll be doing that,' became commonplace. However, people's attitudes were soon transformed on hearing its huge scale and infinitely worthwhile cause.

This was to be a sponsored walk with a difference, aiming to raise £14,000. This money would buy two ventilators for the European country of Albania. These life support machines are estimated to save 1,000 children's lives each year.

In order to reinforce the cause in people's minds, a news team from the BBC, including Bill Hamilton, were invited by Mr Page to give a presentation on the Albanian orphans. In an extended Monday morning assembly, thanks to linked up television screens, the whole school witnessed the poverty and distressing pictures of a country in need of help.

It was now the Sixth Form Committee's job to organise the big day of Sunday March 16th. Letters, written by Mark Oden to the National Trust, local farms and a local business, asking for permission to use their land, received benevolent replies. A preliminary route, stretching from Hughenden to Downley and Naphill, was plotted by our CCF army correspondent, Fraser Hill. Due to some rather dubious map reading on the practice walk, the Committee encountered an irate armed gamekeeper, and got completely lost! What turned out to be a five mile detour, by chance ended at the pub.

Meetings increased to two per week as the date of the walk approached. They were predominantly occupied by Giles 'entrepreneur' Horridge's worries of where his drink selling profits would go.

Each form was allocated a prefect to encourage the boys to take part, and to record the amount of money pledged. Ryan Brown was in charge of chasing these prefects up, while Jody Davies came up with the idea that walkers

should collect letters of an anagram on their way round. Lower sixth formers Andrew Price and Matthew Hill offered to run round the circuit, collecting any rubbish after the walk, and Robert Mills sorted out first aid precautions in the form of Matron.

Large bar charts were posted at the back of the Queen's Hall displaying how much each form had been pledged, with Wimbledon tickets on offer to the boy who raised the most money. 6GP broke all records, having around £1,000 by the day of the walk. Two weeks beforehand, things were not looking good, as only £2,000 had been pledged by the whole school.

On the day of the walk, Mr Pantridge and Mr Cook took round a group of boys at 6.30 am. There were 'volunteers' stationed at thirteen checkpoints around the course, each with a letter to spell out Albanian Appeal. At the start, Mr Brown and Mr Clark were ticking people off, while Mr Page co-ordinated the event.

The day passed without any major incidents, and spirits were high, despite some light rain towards the end. There were inevitably some who got lost, thanks to an arrow pointing the wrong way. One dog wandered off without its owner, and was found by someone on a checkpoint an hour later.

Once the day was over, the hard work began; collecting in the money. Mr Berry kindly offered his form room to act as a collection centre for all the money. As the weeks passed, it became evident that the total was going to be large. News that the £14,000 barrier had been broken was greeted with great satisfaction.

At the time of this magazine going to press, the total had surpassed all expectations, approaching £16,000. This sum is the largest ever raised at a single event in the school's history. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who helped to complete this magnificent achievement, and especially to Mr Page for his dedication and effort.

Peter Toller 6MB2

Osnabrück Exchange

After leaving High Wycombe at some horrible and devilishly early hour of the morning, the RGS and Wycombe High tour of Europe progressed rapidly through the countries of more Flemish extraction. Several hours and an Armchair Cricket game of mammoth proportions later the '12 Km to Osnabrück' sign was sighted. The coach was hurled into a wild frenzy as the uttermost horror of the realisation dawned that very few of us has a sufficient enough grasp of the Teutonic dialect to see us through the next two weeks. Our slightly premature arrival gave us ample opportunity to sample the rich artistic talent of the town.

Two days later we found ourselves rudely awakened (rather characteristically) and dragged off to a rather strange institution loosely termed 'school' where pupils are apparently encouraged to dress casually, smoke, and abandon all pretence of respect for teachers or scholastic achievement. In the first week there were three visits to other noteworthy German towns. Unfortunately, the trip to Bremen was marred by the weather, the trip to Hamelin was tarnished by the tour, and Munster was spoiled by an excess of gothic architecture. An enlightening visit to the open-air museum of Dettmold containing several interesting, and very old, farm buildings was much appreciated.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

This year has seen the continued progress of many boys in this rewarding and challenging venture.

Thirteen boys have completed their Bronze Awards since last year's article and five, Mark Foster, Tom Stokes, Jody Davies, Christopher Green and Andrew Gilmore have earned their Silver Award and all are to be congratulated.

The highest and most demanding standard of the Gold Award is reached by a smaller proportion of individuals nationally than Bronze or Silver, because of the degree of effort and commitment required. Paul Kingsnorth, Mark Oden and Adrian Cotter have done particularly well in becoming members of this select group.

Many boys are enrolled on the Award Scheme, of whom a number have progressed part-way, then let their progress lapse. I would like to encourage all in this position to 'pick up the reins' and come and sort out with me how best to tackle any remaining sections. There are so many exciting experiences and opportunities within the Scheme that it's well worthwhile seeing it through.

One such popular and enjoyable experience is that of a Bronze expedition. Last year's participants trained and were assessed at different sites in the Chilterns, camping overnight at Green park on the assessment weekend. Whilst Simon Kingsnorth seemed able to ignore his rucksack and virtually galloped round his group's route, others proved a little more tentative in their approach. Nonetheless, all groups did extremely well and managed to rally themselves and successfully pass this section.

This year's expedition (20/21st June and 4th/5th July) is open to all members, so come along and test your outdoor skills.

Special thanks are extended to Andrew Gilmore and Matthew Skingley for their assistance with the scheme and to Mr Claye and Mr Skingley for their invaluable help with the expedition.

Mrs N. J. G. Catling

Most of our remaining time was spent in the excellent shopping facilities of Osnabrück, which proved to be considerably better than Wycombe's, or making our way to the numerous tourist attractions by way of the superlative public transport, a fine example of German efficiency. Other facilities of note are the three public discos of Osnabrück, where one can marvel at the agility of the Germans on the dancefloor, and the amazing lust for the colour purple.

The hospitality of the German families was excellent; they went out of their way to make us feel at home, surprising us with their repertoire of menus consisting of meat and bread. Thanks to the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere generated by the Germans a lot of good friends were made (big hand to Christoph - a German with serious potential).

After ten days of enjoyable and beneficial experiences, we once more found ourselves awake at a ludicrously anti-social hour of the morn, staring at a somewhat familiar coach. After an emotional farewell to our Lower Saxon friends, we set off on a slightly more subdued, though less apprehensive, journey home.

Special thanks go to Mr Crease and a 'seahardy' Mr Yeates for making the trip so enjoyable and such a valuable venture.

Richard A. Monnington 6SE1

Bolivia Ho! (Bolivia ?!?!??)

Thursday April 2nd 3 pm. Jolly slides of somewhere foreign, South America, even Bolivia for all I know, and gung ho details of the joys of leeches and creepy crawlies in Amazonian jungles and the possibilities of high altitude sickness in the High Andes. 'Any of you chaps want to go?' A lemming rush of young adventurers come to the front of the Queen's Hall to signal their enlistment.

With the end of term report a 'Now let's be serious about this' letter to Mums and Dads.

Surprisingly enough between a third and a half of the parents of the initial signatories not only expressed interest but turned up to an evening to explain the proposition and reassure the natural parental concerns and anxieties. The pictures of apparently vertical Inca rock trails vanishing up into the mist with figures stumbling up, or was it down them, left one breathless. My mother, bless her, surely wouldn't have let me do this when I was at school. Surely these quite normal looking parents wouldn't allow their nearest and dearest off the leash, care of the school, into this exotic location?

No, apparently I was wrong, enthusiasm evidently abounds as questions rain in over the coffee cups.

Will we really go? I have no idea or at least no hard evidence yet, but the omens look astonishingly propitious. Watch this space next year.

The plan is to acclimatise at high altitude on arrival in La Paz to get accustomed to the lower degree of oxygen in the air. To validate and complete the acclimatisation by a 7-8 day trek in the lower Andes in Cordillera Apolobamba. Then to complete a longer and high trek moving over the High Andes, the Cordillera Real, and down to the Upper Amazon Basin jungle.

The four-week stint will end with a few days 'Rest and Recuperation' (R&R) on Lake Titicaca whose inhabitants not only build Thor Heyerdahl reed boats but actually live in huts on islands of floating reeds.

At any rate, I have looked it all up on the family atlas and am now a little clearer as to where Colombia is.

T.J.N.C.

Geography Field Trip 1992

It was with a feeling of trepidation that the Lower Sixth Geographers set out for the quiet, peaceful and harmonious coastal town of Aberystwyth. The prospect of spending four solitary days in the company of Mr Meyer and Mr Pantridge was strangely daunting.

The journey was made short by the erratic and somewhat unceremonious outbursts of Wai-Kwong Lin. A brief stop was made in the Teme Valley, Worcestershire where we analysed the surrounding glaciated landforms created by the last ice advance.

Once at Aberystwyth, staying on the famous University's campus, we familiarised ourselves with the surroundings... in which the canteen played a significant role.

That evening we were informed of our tasks. We were to investigate the precious sand dunes of Ynyslas and to study and conquer the ominous Cader Idris.

The dunes which had been forming over the last four hundred years were examined intensively by use of a transect running from the Embryo Dunes to the Dune slacks.

The whole reserve was abundant in plant and animal life ranging from marram grass to orchids and Myrmica-Rubra ants to rabbits. The equilibrium of the sand dunes explained by the wardens was disturbed by 'Mogul-mania' which left Pete Cox with a sprained ankle!

The walk up Cader Idris the following day commenced surprisingly early. We encountered numerous examples of 'striations and grooves' which were cunningly found by their ever enthusiastic fan, Mr Pantridge.

Upon reaching the Corrie Lake, Llyn Cau, we began the task of scree slope measuring. Carson Hemuss's blundering ways dislodged many a threatening rock in the path of unaware climbers below. However the exercise was a success with, miraculously, no injuries.

We trailed behind the militarily trained 'Mountain Goat' Andrew Sloane, who tackled the rock face with an unmatched enthusiasm, soon being proclaimed King of the Mountains. Having descended Cader Idris with striations and grooves left on our backsides, the Welsh name was now a swearword in our vocabulary!

Well done to Warren Bailey for his adaptation to the strange South American's behavioural patterns. Special thanks must be given to the teachers, Mr Meyer and Mr Pantridge, who made this an informative and worthwhile experience. Their patience and understanding exceeded that of all our expectations.

J. Twort and J. Thrupp 6GC1

Role-Playing Club

The role-playing club has changed a great deal since last year, the major change being the relocation of our meeting place from room 5 to room 24. This enabled us to start role-playing from the beginning of the lunch break rather than at 1.30. Another change is the loss of Duncan Slater, and now that he has gone we realise how much he had contributed to the club. Bob Hutton-Squire, our current chairman, took his place and led us through good times and bad, but sadly he will be leaving us at the end of this year. The 5th year members, next year's Lower Sixth Form, will then have the task of running the club by themselves (which will not cause problems as they outnumber all the other members put together).

The disappointing aspect of this year is the absence of regular members (perhaps they were confused by the room change), so if you think you might be interested, please come along (we don't bite). Although there is a small membership fee, the RPG club has the privilege of a 5% discount on any purchase totalling £10 or over at the shop 'Not Just Stamps' (the reason for the name being that they sell role-playing games as well). Any member of the club can borrow our ever increasing range of games which includes, "Heroes Unlimited", "Panzer Leader", "Blood Bowl", "Warhammer 40,000", "Shadowrun", "Advanced Dungeons and Dragons", "Star Wars (and two adventures)" and "RuneQuest".

People often do not know what role-playing is, and if they do know, they believe that all role-players are not totally sane individuals who use very exotic dice, and they are absolutely right. Wouldn't life be boring if everybody was totally sane, so come over to room 24 any lunchtime (and after school) and enjoy yourself.

Colin Bennett 5G

Public Speaking and Debating

In October 1991 the debating team of Nicholas Molden and myself embarked upon a season of ineptitude and irrelevance (*Speak for yourself - NM*) with a warm-up debating competition organised by the Cambridge Union Society. The motion in retrospect was so vague that I can't recall it. Although the team did engage in several weeks (*minutes - NM*) of research, it was soon discovered that the established manner in which to win a debate seemed to be to avoid the motion totally. Unsurprisingly, the RGS team did not win, but valuable lessons were learnt for future competitions.

In early 1992 the RGS debating team performed the Observer Mace competition, this time with success. Speaking in support of the motion that 'the present government is to blame for the apparent decline in educational standards', the RGS team produced mind-crunching rhetoric backed up with brain-blowing evidence - and two 'Yellow Pages' telephone directories (!) - in an attempt to crush the delightful young ladies from Pipers Corner School and simultaneously set the school debating scene on fire... we settled for just winning.

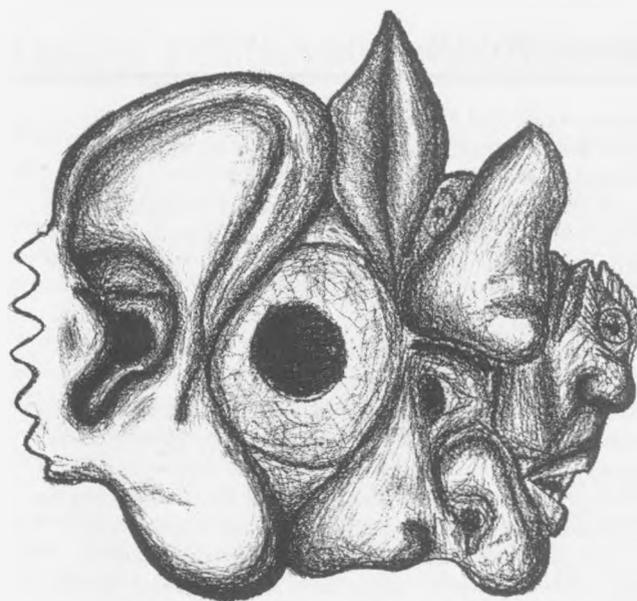
Our bubble was to be cruelly burst in the next round. Given an utterly 'unwinnable' motion the RGS team battled bravely against another team of young, but not so delightful, ladies from Saints Helen and Katherine School. With no proverbial leg to stand on, it came as no surprise when we lost. The unknown presence of a local press photographer led to an article in a local newspaper which, with the facts twisted in a characteristically press-like manner, painted a very rosy picture for the RGS performance, even going so far as to say that the team had produced some of the best school debating ever experienced!

On the public speaking side, the RGS team, consisting of myself (Chairman), Nicholas Molden (Speaker) and Paul Foot (Vote of Thanks), entered the English Speaking Union competition. Nick spoke on the subject of 'political correctness', and his excellent speech was wasted on the incredibly unresponsive audience. However, we proceeded to the next round, easily trouncing the competition, including the RGS junior team of Rhodri 'irrelevant' Jones, James 'I'm in charge' Wilkinson and Edward 'no amusing (?) nickname' Bennett, who spoke on America's world role. In the next round, Nick met with a hostile reception from an audience which had sadly 'got the wrong end of the stick'. Although the team had the best technique, the judges sided with the audience (*boo! hiss! - NM*) and we lost.

For the Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition the team members changed places with Nick now as Chairman, Paul as Speaker, and myself as Vote of Thanks. Speaking on the subject of 'time', Paul raised the odd strangled titter from his audience (*thanks a lot! - PF*). On a good day we would have won the round; however, the victors were a well-deserving team from Wycombe High School, with RGS finishing runner-up. In the junior competition, Rhodri impressed the audience with his eloquent style, but the judges didn't seem to be quite so agreeable and placed the junior team in second place, the first defeat the all-conquering junior team has had in this competition.

Thanks must go to Mr Roebuck for his efforts in helping the debating team in the Cambridge Union competition. Many, many thanks to Dr Smith for his tireless efforts in aiding and abetting both the debating team and the senior and junior public speaking teams. I would also like to wish next year's teams the very best of luck... go out there and get revenge, Rhodri!

Craig R. Leslie 6GP2



David Thonger - 3rd Year

Biology Field Trip 1991

The annual ecology course started well when the wind-screen of our coach tried to fall out whilst on the motorway. It was only due to the incredible skill of the coach driver, and Mrs Stokes' unbelievably generous offer of 'Dinner at the Severn Bridge' that we eventually arrived safely at Orierton Field Centre in (by then) moonlit Pembrokeshire, if looking a little dishevelled and dazed. However, our spirits recovered somewhat upon learning that our 70 companions at the font of knowledge were all female!

Academically speaking, the week was mainly used for the acquisition of new observational and analytical skills, which were put into practise on the final day, with our research projects. On this day, the rain poured as we descended upon West Angle Bay, with the unified purpose in our minds of counting small molluscs. After two hours of balancing, soaking wet, on rocks one or two 6th formers began to entertain themselves by kicking limpets, while continuing their enthralling littoral studies. At one point a blood-curdling cry was heard floating across the bay, but fears of murder by limpet subsided after finding out it was J Stephens (who had cracked under the strain on day 2) cleansing his inner psyche with the unusual 'primal scream' method (until he slipped and impaled himself on a rock).

Throughout the week, other 6th formers showed signs of cracking up (due to the strain of lessons from 9 am - 9 pm); indeed, all 18 of us observed that Tim Buck (who had not signed up for the course) had mysteriously reappeared in the guise of a schoolgirl from Norwich. Something that everybody else seemed to find highly amusing was my cunning impersonation of somebody who's just fallen into a stagnant duck pond at 11 o'clock at night.

On the final night, John Travolta laughs were organised c/o J Gordon with a 'disco' in the common room. Surprisingly, attendance was poor, and it was therefore assumed that some students were too exhausted to join in such energetic activity, or (more likely), had gone elsewhere to do 'other things'.

Overall the week was a success, and actually very enjoyable. Most importantly our tutor Mark (a.k.a Tim Booth) provided us with the best of teaching for our 'A' level ecology work. Special thanks, too, must go to Mrs Stokes for being a superb trip supervisor and for organising a delicious celebratory cake.

T. P. Witcher 6BK2

Kart Club

1991 proved to be a very successful year for the Kart Club, which is beginning to be a force to be reckoned with in both county and national events.

We gained two national licence holders in 3rd year Ben Randles and 5th former Andrew Smy. Four new recruits also joined us; John Goodfellow, Kenneth Saunders, Mounis Hussain, all of the third year, and second year Chris Smart.

The quartet of old hands Jon Tarry, Robert Beever, Jake Conway and Alex Taylor continue to improve. Jake Conway remains our most successful driver, with a fifth place in the national finals, three outright wins at county level and crowned Hertfordshire County Champion for the second year running. Jon Tarry matched him in this last respect, becoming County Champion in his class. In 1992 Jake will move up to the fastest class raced by schools, the 125cc class 9. Robert Beever will take over Jake's all conquering class 14 kart.

During the 1991 season all drivers have been competing for a trophy donated by our Technology Department Technician, Mr Rowland. Points were awarded to successful individuals throughout the season. Tied in third place were Jon Tarry and Alex Taylor. Second place went to Robert Beever. It will come as no surprise to learn that the winner of the Clive Rowland Trophy was Jake Conway. During the year Jake was again rewarded for his efforts by being awarded his half colours, along with Jon Tarry.

The new season is upon us and after two practice meetings, the hard work on the karts carried out over the



Robert Beever at Rye House, Hoddesdon.

winter looks to be paying off, producing some fast and reliable karts. With our refurbished trailer, built with materials kindly supplied by a number of parents, we can now transport our six karts, and look forward to using them to good effect in 1992.

C.W. Howe

Art and Design

Extra-curricular Art and Design takes place during lunchtimes and often after school hours. Facilities for a wide range of two dimensional and three dimensional activities are available for all boys in the school. These include the more traditional media and processes of Drawing and Painting; but also Printmaking, Textiles and mixed-media techniques. Our sculpture workshop offers facilities for modelling, carving, casting and construction/assemblage.

The opportunity to develop skills using an integrated system of video camera, digitizer, computer, VCR and colour printer allows a relatively new and exciting dimension to image manipulation to be explored within the art studio.

Visits and Workshops

Once again, this year has proved to be an extremely exhausting but exciting one with a workshop led by the artist John Trigg at the Spring Gardens Art Centre in High Wycombe.

Simon Tegala and Robert Oxley - old boys of the School, currently completing their Foundation Art Studies at Bucks College, led workshops for a number of pupils in the lower and upper school. The programme developed from looking at an exhibition of Simon and Robert's work displayed in the exhibition room at the school.

The sixth form have been to a variety of exhibitions

including the 'Fauve Landscape', 'Egon Schiele' and 'Mantegna' exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts. On separate occasions the fifth year and sixth form visited the Tate Gallery seeing of note the 'Sculpture towards Architecture' and the 'Otto Dix' exhibitions respectively.

The fourth years had a full and exhausting day visiting the Ashmolean Museum and the ethnological collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford.

All in all, the visits have been 'illuminating experiences', stimulating and of great value.

R.P.S.

Photographic Society

The aim of the Photographic Society is to teach boys how to develop and print black and white photographs. (Photographic assignments are arranged and cheap black and white film is available for purchase.)

This year we have been able to offer a course in basic black and white photography as part of the Thursday Afternoon Activity options for fourth and fifth year boys.

The Society supports the Scouts and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme by offering skills courses.

R.P.S.

The Young Enterprise Experience

The Election Experience

Fourteen members are elected to positions in which they feel they can blossom, resulting in severe 'anti-talent' in all departments and a hung parliament. So the board meeting is organised - screaming, shouting, arguing, coffee down the back of the computer in Room 31 - and that's just the staff. But out of this riotous mess comes inspiration for the company name: ****!

The Production Experience

Only the pesetas can attract company members to the production line already beginning to churn out drinks coasters with late Sixteenth Century Dutch tulip prints - conforming to EEC regulations - plastered on top. The company name is changed to **** after considerable discontent amongst backbenchers, who claim they were not sober during the earlier meeting.

The Self Confidence Experience

The coasters prove to be unpopular amongst the pupils at the school, but several appear in the Staff Room (hooray!) ... bin (tut!). Advisers advise us to seek advice, since even they won't buy our products. A new name is needed, as well as a new product. Morale is low, and so is profit, and there's not enough self-confidence to go round.

The Total Despair Experience

The accountant runs off with the company money, all 2.5p which the company was intending to use to replace the computer in Room 31. The company hits the worst recession since ... the week before. Members wander aimlessly around the school denying having anything to do with the company. Suddenly a new product thought up the following week sees the profit margins raised (accountant seeking refuge with Salman Rushdie kicks himself for not having waited a little longer) and teamwork and trust amongst members soars.

The market for second-hand copies of Delia Smith's first copy of a copied recipe provides the company with enough money to see off all debts. A new company name is chosen which is more befitting a company of such high calibre - *!?!.

The Good Time Experience

All members now motivated and communication is good, Captain. Nutmeg and gherkin cookie crumbs carpet the Main Black floor as pupils can't get enough of the recipe (Ceefax p524).

The 'Don't Count your Chickens before they're hatched' Experience

Somebody finds out that Delia Smith doesn't even like



Warwick Dixon - 6th Year

nutmeg and gherkin cookies and sales come to a halt. The accountant reappears and disappears with the cash box and several Dutch coasters. Members sit around a round table drinking coffee and appear severely stressed. Bald patches appear on all heads. Weeping, screaming, and totally out of his head, and otherwise behaving most professionally, the MD is forced to resign.

The Next Experience

New MD kicks off the next money-spinner. The second-hand car business is a hit (unfortunately the staff have nowhere to park, but otherwise all is well). Ex-MD begins to recover in an asylum on a diet of coffee, water-cress, and dried Turkish garlic and new MD sets off on the dangerous road to join him.

Soon everyone at school has a W-reg Austin Allegro with no windscreen (only available in orange) and every company member has a J-reg Jaguar XJS!

And so the MD emigrates having forgotten to add to the 'no money back' sales clause, that none of the cars has passed their MOTs for the past seven years, and can be taken apart in *one* easy step.

To conclude, I will add that a Young Enterprise company profit chart resembles an Himalayan mountain range, but this capricious nature only makes the *experience* all the more enjoyable.

So, JOIN! YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Peter G. Szyszko 6BG1

IT Centre

The IT Centre has had a very successful first year meeting the inevitable challenges well. Our primary task was, of course, to attempt to encourage the enthusiasm which had existed on the BBC Network to develop in the IT Centre. We were delighted with the response from the school as a whole - lunchtime and after-school sessions on the network are now packed with users, and we are beginning to purchase additional stations for the Centre to meet demand.

The teething troubles which one would expect from a network of this size and complexity have now been overcome - we are most grateful to our users for their patience in the first few weeks of network development.

We have also seen an excellent response from the departments in the school, which are promoting the use of the Network as a resource - whether for producing projects on the Word Processor, Spreadsheet or Graphics Packages - or by organising lessons on the network. As just one example of this we now see lessons on the Network occurring in subject such as History, where databases of documents are available for examination. We hope this use of the Network will be further encouraged when the school's plans for the extension of the system throughout the school come to fruition.

None of these developments would have been possible without the assistance of a very competent team of Assistant Network managers. James Page and Jonathan Page have, for example, produced a menu system for the 'Subjects' software which the school has purchased, whilst Jonathan Blogh has created a graphics display programme for Show Day. Andrew Brant's competent execution of many administrative tasks adds to this array of talent which bodes extremely well for the future. Phil Lishman's technical expertise has enabled us to use the network hardware to its maximum potential. Thanks go to Mrs Briggs and Mr Gibson for their considerable effort behind the scenes in running the IT Department.

Peter Mennie 6MB2
Network Manager

Computer Club

During this year the popularity of the Computer Club has increased, possibly due to the instability of the IT centre network. This has led to the influx of second and third formers using advanced applications such as PC Paintbrush and 'Worm'.

New additions to the computing equipment this year include two 386sx machines, hopefully with more to come in the near future to replace the now antiquated RML 480Z network. It is also hoped that we will acquire a Postscript laser printer in order to produce high quality output, and a high-speed Hayes compatible modem to facilitate the setting up of a bulletin board system. It is envisaged that this will be online 24 hours every day, providing access to information concerning the school, messaging services, and public domain software.

Other additions to the lab include three new filing cabinets, a new desk, a fridge and a swivel chair.

Richard Coope 6ER2 and Jon Read 6SE2
Network Managers

Mock Election - Another Conservative Victory

Perhaps it was harbinger of the most unexpected general election result since 1945, but on the surface of it, it was the usual RGS mock election result. The sequence of Conservative victories was only once broken, in February 1974, when the old Liberal party candidate won, thanks to the intervention of a rather wild anti-party party candidate advocating 'free sweets for all'. His election-meeting hurling of sweets in the air for the electorate to scramble after caused such turmoil and disorder that all subsequent Mock Elections have been simply for parties standing nationally and not for individual candidates. Thanks to the urging of Debating Society stalwarts Fraser Hill and Craig Leslie, a pre-election meeting was held in the Queen's Hall in which Nick Molden (Conservative), Robert Hutton-Squire (Liberal Democrat), John Heil (Labour) and Nick Mann (Green) spoke up manfully for their favoured parties and took questions from an audience of several hundred who had no intention of giving them an easy ride.

Voting was by form and the Tories polled most in the Second Forms with nearly 3 in 4 voting for them and their support declining generally with the years such that in the Sixth Form they failed, just, to poll half the votes. Liberal Democrat support below the Sixth was fairly steady at 22%-28%. In the Sixth it rose to 35%. Labour fared very badly, with only a single supporter amongst 179 voting for them in the Second Forms! Even in the Sixth, Labour only gained 10% of the votes.

In the 43 individual forms throughout the school, five cast more votes for the Lib-Dems than the Tories - all of them in the Sixth, where there were also two ties between the same parties; similar ties occurred in 3G and 4DM. All the rest yielded Tory victories.

Although voting was by placing a cross against a single party, voters were requested to indicate orders of preference as well, so that results could also be calculated according to the Alternative Vote System. As the Conservatives gained absolute majorities (more than 50% of the votes) in all the younger age groups, it was only applicable in the Sixth Form. After redistributing the second preferences of the eliminated Labour and Green votes, the Conservatives still won by 146 votes to the 133 accumulated by the Liberal Democrats. The most interesting feature of this redistribution was that five Labour voters indicated that their second preference was for the Conservatives! All of which reinforces the view that nothing is for certain in politics.

R.C.F.

RESULTS							
	Total Votes	%	Votes by Forms				
			2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Conservative	570	61	129	102	89	114	136
Liberal Democrat	261	28	40	42	41	39	99
Labour	56	6	1	6	11	8	30
Green	47	5	9	3	8	6	21
Conservative majority	309						
			Turnout 82.6%				

YHA Club

After a quiet year in 1990, the club is back with a vengeance and during the current year there have been six weekend trips - to Surrey, Cheddar, two to the Dorset Coast, the Wye Valley and Mid Wales. Last October a group of sixteen spent half of the half-term holiday in South Wales at Capel-y-Ffin and Llanddeusant Hostels, with weather varying from driving sleet to magnificent sunshine. In spite of the recurrent chant 'Mr Ratcliffe never turns up', he inevitably did, his car just happened to be parked strategically.

The main event of the year was a holiday in Switzerland in July 1991. The following report was written by Keith Burnett and Linus Twizell, both of whom were in the upper sixth last year.



Outside the Schönbiel Hütte

Last summer a number of people wearing shorts and the odd bobble hat decided to see how many Europeans they could bemuse in the space of one journey. Having achieved remarkable success in this venture they realised that it was time to get on with the actual walking. At first sight Switzerland looked very attractive, and the whole thing seemed like a good idea at the time. Then we saw the hills.

'Hills' turned out to be something of an understatement as we were promptly turfed out of the train and onto the North Face of the Eiger (the lower bits, admittedly). It was at this time that we realised that Mr B was in charge and wondered if it was going to hurt.

Fortunately our sojourn in Grindelwald turned out to be fairly pain-free despite one of us nearly falling off the side of a mountain and another sticking his head through a closed window.

When we could escape from the mountain goats, the views were, it has to be said, breathtaking, which probably explains why a few of us started to look a little blue in the face of the Jungfrauoch. The scenery defies words, but most of the stereotypical images of Swiss countryside you're likely to have seen are actually fairly accurate (especially the cow bells), except the cows don't have 'Milka' written on the side and many of the climbs would be far too vigorous for a wimp like Julie Andrews.

Grindelwald (which is known as 'Glacier Village'), eventually got the better of us, but not before we had exhausted a camera fully, said 'ethereal' far too often and reported to the police the appalling theft of our trousers.

Travelling in a train called BOB, we relocated to the equally attractive Zermatt. Zermatt is full of shops that sell souvenirs of a town that seems to consist solely of souvenir

shops, but it is very pleasant nonetheless. Cars are not allowed in Zermatt because they would spoil its traditional chocolate-box image, which only collapses if one walks as far as the authentic rustic hydro-electric dam.

While in Zermatt we celebrated Swiss National day, trying to avoid the continuous onslaught of *wurst* (suspicious sausage) and magically appearing parents ('Oh no, it's my Mum'). We were eventually treated to a fairly spectacular firework display, after a bizarre multi-lingual address by the Mayor in which he referred to the 'Spirit of the Matterhorn' (!) - all of this was greeted with tumultuous applause from the Korean tourists, especially the lost child announcement.

The next day we set out to get a little nearer to the Matterhorn, and finally found ourselves at the mountain hut so remote that supplies have to be flown in by helicopter. The toilets were out of bounds after dark as they were on the edge of a cliff and the water supply was a single, remote tap, frequently hidden by the ever-present goats. We 'volunteered' to get up at five o'clock in the morning and were subjected to a forced march before breakfast, but it was worth it. As the sun rose, the tip of the Matterhorn started to glow orange, the illuminated area slowly growing until half of the mountain shone pink whilst the lower slopes remained a chill grey. Then I ran out of film.

There isn't space here to describe every single route, but most of them were the sort described by a Swiss guide as 'only for real walkers - no businessmen or Americans'.

Thanks to Messrs Berry, Arnfield, Gelsthorpe and Edwards, respectively for intricately-planned 'short-cuts', the stunning admission that 'I've got a degree, but only in art' (but it was from Cambridge - ed), a dramatic rendering of the works of Shakespeare using only prawns, and for patiently putting up with us all.

At the time of writing, we are planning the 1992 Summer trip - to the Austrian Alps. This time most of the accommodation will be in huts belonging to the Austrian Alpine Club, similar to the Schönbiel Hütte described above. Tentatively for 1993, the thoughts are for the Engadine in SE Switzerland. Start saving!

D.M.B.

Challenge '91

On 22nd September, James Wilkinson and I arrived at John Hampden Grammar School to get to on a coach. The coach took us to the River Dart Country Park, in the woods north of Ashburton in Devon. We were to spend a week with fourteen other students, also in the fifth year and from schools around High Wycombe. Also, there were a number of teachers from these schools and industrialists who had volunteered from their firms to take part.

During the week, we did many teambuilding and leadership tasks, mostly outdoors, but some indoors, using brainpower instead. For each task there were time limits on planning and the action phase. There were also constraints, causing further frustration. At the end of each day, some of us were wet and muddy, and all of us were tired. By the end of the week we had learnt many things about teambuilding and a lot about the other members of our team.

James and I would like to thank all those organisers who worked very hard and hope that many more people from the RGS will take part in the years to come.

Edward Bennett 5MS

Music Society

The first event of the musical year was the Autumn Recital, on October 15th. Highlights included Mozart's Concerto No 1 in D played by Matthew Dawkes (horn), Brahms's Ballade in G minor played by Matthew Wheeler (piano), and an innovative performance by 'Fairly Close Harmony'.

This year's Christmas concert took place on 3rd December and featured all the main orchestras and windbands. The junior Choir gave a fine performance of M Hurd's Jonah Man Jazz accompanied by jazz quintet - Richard Proctor (trumpet), Alex Mitchell (alto sax), Alan Lewis (piano), Michael Andrews (bass) and Elliot Toms (drum kit) - and the First Wind Band gave an exciting performance of 'Star Wars Spectacular' by John Williams. The second half included the Choral Society's performance of Laudate Dominum to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death, and an exceptional performance by the Jazz Band.

We welcome Mr Gazard to the school as assistant music director, who showed his talents by running the school Jazz Band and providing an excellent evening of music for the Mayor's Appeal, as well as singing (under pressure) 'New York, New York' at the Christmas Party.

February's Music Recital commenced the 1992 musical calendar with many solos: from Richard Catchpole (clarinet), Matthew Dawkes (piano), Alex Mitchell (alto sax), Richard Proctor (trumpet), Matthew Lewis (bassoon), Elliot Toms (drum kit) and Lawrence Power (viola). The RGS Jazz Sextet made its usual appearance, but with Mr Gazard on piano.

Musicians from both RGS and WHS combined to give a lively performance of Bruckner's 4th Symphony at Wycombe Parish church in March. The programme also included a combined choir singing a selection of motets and the WHS choir sang 'Missa Brevis' by Benjamin Britten.

A few senior members of the Choral Society joined 1000 other singers from Buckinghamshire in a performance of Verdi's 'Requiem' at the Royal Albert Hall, accompanied by the County Youth Orchestra. After many hours of preparation the concert went extremely well and a good time was had by all.

Thanks are due to Mr Smedley for co-ordinating the year's musical programme, Mrs Smalley for running the box office, and Mr Edwards (front of the house).

Richard Proctor 6BG₂ and Elliot Toms 6SW₂

4th Year Music Course (26th-27th March 1992)

Towards the end of the spring term, the fourth year GCSE music group were fortunate enough to be visited by several members of the highly acclaimed London Sinfonietta. A Course was run over a period of two days, the aim of which was to introduce young musicians to a more modern approach to music, with a large emphasis on compositional work and active participation. The pieces written were based on Mark Anthony Turnage's recent work, Kai, and before starting them Mark took us through some of the basic ideas behind his composition. As well as offering advice with the compositions, the players from the sinfonietta willingly joined in with the groups, providing additional instruments.

Similar courses were run at Wycombe High and both the Dr Challoner's schools during the same week culminating

in a combined concert held at Newlands Park College on the following Wednesday. It was interesting to hear such a large amount of variety between pieces based on the same work and how, in particular, the RGS pupils had been slightly more adventurous with their ideas. We were also given the opportunity to hear the full version of Kai played by the London Sinfonietta. The course was both enjoyable and educational for all who took part and we are very appreciative of the time and effort spent on the part of the sinfonietta and all involved in the running of this event.

David Wheeler 4AM

Stage Lighting and Sound

This last year has seen many significant advances in the team as a whole, and our contributions and the efforts of the individuals have all raised the standard of service to the school.

This was evident in the RGS Dramatic Society production for 1992. 'Amadeus' by Peter Shaffer. Again it was no easy job and our appreciation is extended to all those who gave up so much of their spare time to allow such a quality production to be put on. This year the whole team was involved, half in pre-production rigging and the other half running the performances. Some luckless sixth-formers were present at all times - namely Anton Machacek and ourselves. Many people who saw the show said that they thought it was the best show that they had seen at the school. This was due not only to excellent acting by the senior members of the cast but also to perfect sound cueing and subtle lighting changes. This play needed about 120 lighting changes compared to the normal, which is around 80. The final show was well worth the effort, and was reward enough.

This was not the only reward of the year though. A sizeable grant from the Parents' Association meant we could buy even more lights and sound equipment to add to our collection, which has now reached a level that can only be described as state of the art. Our array of special effect equipment has also been added to by two members of the sixth form. Anton Machacek has designed and built a four-way colour wheel controller saving the school over £350, and Paul Doe is in the process of finishing a Dry-Ice fog effect machine.

Over the last year Anton and ourselves have had opportunities to gain more experience in the world of Stage Lighting. Anton took part in a week's work experience at Windsor Theatre, where he was able to see the professionals at work. Then, we were approached by Four-Ways drama group to design, rig and control the lighting for the play 'Woman In Mind' which was performed at the Lancaster Arts Centre, Wycombe Abbey.

As well as this development of personal skills, the team has also come a long way, with more health and safety features being added to our already crowded gallery. During the last summer holidays, the cables above the Queen's Hall Stage were all enclosed in metal cladding and arranged in an almost orderly fashion. Our use of stage towers has also been modified for our safety.

On reflection it has been a very busy year, and one we enjoyed immensely (this having nothing to do with the fact that we are in charge and hence have the powers of delegation). We pass on our thanks and praise to all the pupils and staff involved, as well as our positions of responsibility to our successors.

Matthew Moore 6C₂ and Paul Doe 6SW₂

Careers

Now under new management the Careers Department has continued its well-established programme of careers lessons, careers and higher education advice, interviews, careers talks and the work shadowing scheme.

Careers talks

In addition to the usual topics of law, medicine, finance and accountancy the scope of this year's talks was broadened to include, among others, pharmacy, surveying, the Diplomatic Service, the construction industry and two sessions on 'the year off'. Whilst it was encouraging to see large attendances at the talks covering better known careers it was disappointing that not more students took advantage of the opportunity to learn about a wider range of possibilities.

Work shadowing scheme

Despite the pressures of the recession on industry and the professions, the work shadowing scheme has had a successful year. Although, unfortunately, there remains a hard core of students yet to be convinced of the value of the experience of the world of work, the majority have appreciated the career insights they have been offered.

Banking, journalism, law, accountancy, engineering, medicine and veterinary science continue as popular choices. Among the new experiences were those with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Civil Aviation Authority, the stage lighting team at the Theatre Royal Windsor, a television advertising sales department, Wycombe District Council and the Houses of Parliament. On separate occasions three students shadowed different MPs, one during the week of the Budget and the dissolution of Parliament.

The value of the scheme is illustrated by the following report.

Thursday 12th March

Prime Minister: ...from 'Love's labour lost', and Labour will lose!

Neil Kinnock: Another quote from the Hon Member for Finchley: 'He's frit.'

Prime Minister's Question Time finished and Mr Speaker announces his retirement. Party leaders praise Mr Speaker. House of Commons begins to empty, continuation of Tuesday's Budget Debate follows, during which the Budget makes itself noticeable only by its absence, having been shoved aside by praise of the Government's record (Michael Howard) and impenetrable jokes about Saatchi and Saatchi (Gordon Brown).

I started my week's work shadowing Ray Whitney, MP for High Wycombe, at Sir William Borlase's, with a debate between the Conservative MP and the Labour candidate for Wycombe. The week continued with a visit to a cable TV company, a speech by a European Commissioner on Europe and the economic climate in South America, a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, tea in the Member's Tea Room with a coachload of old ladies from Wycombe Conservative Association, a bomb alert, office work and the above session in Parliament. Due to the announcement of the election and the consequent clearing up of offices, I left London on Friday and spent the day shadowing Mr Whitney's constituency agent in Wycombe, which involved sorting out the election campaign, and



Ray Whitney, MP for High Wycombe, and his shadow.

dividing 15,000 'Sorry you were out - please vote for us' cards into piles of 100.

I found my week's work shadowing in London and Wycombe extremely interesting and very enjoyable and I would like to use this opportunity to thank Mr Whitney, his secretary, and his constituency agent for letting me shadow them. I wish them all the best for the next five years in Government

Christopher Bryan 6BC1

The school would like to record its grateful thanks to all those participating in the scheme by offering placements.

H.R.M./J.E.G.

Spanish Trip - April 1992

A party of third, fourth, fifth and sixth formers met at 8.45 on April 4th. The coach left and we set off bound for the sunny land of Senoritas and paella. Twenty four hours later and we had arrived at our destination, Salamanca. A town consisting of cathedrals, palaces, and ancient university buildings, it culminates in the Plaza Mayor, one of the most elegant squares in Spain.

On our arrival we were introduced to the families with whom we were to spend the next seven days. By that time the majority of us were happy just to sleep off the long journey that we had endured, although some did venture out to inspect the local sights and entertainment that first night. During the week in Spain, day trips were organised to many interesting destinations. Although this year there was no guide provided to give us fascinating insights into Spanish culture and history, Miss Kelly and Mrs Fletcher easily made up for this by supplying us with their own thoughts and observations on the many sights visited. The day excursions consisted of visits to Segovia, Zamora, Valladolid, Madrid (including the Prado), El Escorial and Portugal. Each excursion consisted of visits to places of interest in the respective town, and a certain amount of free time, which was spent by some simply absorbing the Spanish culture.

The families with whom we stayed were very

understanding and friendly towards us. At the end of each day's excursion we would return home for dinner. This gave us a chance whilst dining and watching television with them to pick up new vocabulary. Then depending on choice some of us ventured out to experience the well known Spanish nightlife. Salamanca certainly didn't go lacking in this department. Once the sun had gone down, it came alive, catering impeccably for its large population of university students and school parties. Many stylish and atmospheric bars and discotheques existed. Early on in the evening the 'tapas' was experienced in many different destinations.

The last two days were spent with the family in and around Salamanca. Sunday afternoon arrived and it was time to return home. A most enjoyable, successful and interesting ten days was had by all. I would like to thank on behalf of the whole group, Miss Kelly, Mrs Fletcher and Miss Kalyanvala who put up with us so well during the holiday.

Justin Hopwood 6LF1

East Meets West

In February the school's first exchange with a grammar school in the former East Germany took place. Contact with the Grosse Gymnasium in Rostock, a Hanse town on Germany's north coast, was made through a penfriend of Mr Crease's, who teaches at the school.

The German group visited Wycombe in October 1991, and four months later a party of 5 boys from RGS and 5 girls from the High School made the return trip to Rostock, flying to Hamburg and travelling on by train to Rostock.

We attended classes, enjoyed a guided tour of Rostock, spent an evening in the school's own bar/disco, made trips to Berlin and local towns, went to a political cabaret but most of all spent time with our host families, talking German and learning about their joys and frustrations that have followed the unification.

The Rostock exchange will, it is hoped, be a permanent feature of the German Department's programme for A level pupils.

A.S.C.



Michael Upton - 3DC

Ski Club

Saturday 21st December was a windy day and, as the teachers and 42 boys going on the Christmas Ski Trip prepared for the gruelling coach journey, thoughts were on the Ferry crossing. The journey went fairly smoothly though, and we reached the Alps by mid-morning - after nearly 24 hours of travelling.

After arriving at the hotel in the rain, and finally settling in we were told about the week's skiing and activities. We were greeted each morning with a rather sparse breakfast, before setting out for the slopes and we were sent off with a similar lunch. However, most of the boys were well prepared for this and made good use of the resort's restaurants.

I was a beginner and I was pleased to find that we progressed quickly, due to our practice on 'dry' slopes in Hemel Hempstead. After the first few days of lessons we were able to stay up on our skis for longer and longer at a time.

In the evenings we had activities arranged for us; returning from our first day's skiing we went bowling in teams. Team names ranged from the bizarre, 'Roger's Technicolour Shell-suit' to the corny, 'Bowling Stones'. Final scores were just as varied with the sixth form groups starting off badly but improving after each trip to the bar. We spent other evenings ice-skating and shopping.

Our lessons went on through the week until the Friday

when we practised slalom tactics for the race after lunch. The beginners started first, one by one. The snow was at its deepest all week and we were met with snow drifts as we sped out of the finishing gate. The three fastest in each of the four groups received medals at the prize giving that evening. There were numerous other prizes - among them: a prize for the boy who crashed into a mountain hut while skiing; two prizes for the cutest skiers on the slopes; one for a boy who looked like Snoopy. The most prestigious prize of all was the 'Tinkerbelle' prize awarded to the most accident prone boy on the slopes, the boy dubbed: 'Danger Zone'. The prize was a small bell, which was intended to warn us that 'Danger' was on his way.

On the last day we were all out to enjoy ourselves and most of us were not taking as much care as usual - as a result there were a few spectacular 'wipe-outs' as skiers collided with one another. The snow, which had been heavy all week, melted and the sun came out - making Saturday the best day overall.

I enjoyed the trip, as did everyone else I am sure and hope to go skiing again in the near future. Many thanks to all those who organised and helped on this trip.

William Tait 5RS

Library

The problem: how to move 12,000 books, assorted furniture, tickets etc from two rooms in different parts of the school into a new Library? Too easy? Then reduce the time allowed before the royal visitor comes for the official opening, offer the excuse that the work isn't finished. Take away the Librarian to another job, just before the move. Now, there's something worth tackling!

Mrs Evans, our first chartered librarian, had worked out a detailed scheme for the move, and, under the leadership of Mr Mitchell, 'the enlightened despot', Mrs Grieve, Mr Chuter - brought back from retirement - and Mrs Wynter masterminded and manhandled the move itself. The plastic book boxes, carefully numbered, were filled from the old shelves and transported by teams of volunteers and some pressed men, to the equivalently numbered new shelf, the books having been dusted and vacuumed before the move.

Finally, the work in the new Library really not having been finished, the new shelves had to be cleaned, the books finally placed in their right places - except there weren't enough places, and so the initial plan had to be adapted. Then there were the hectic three days preparing for the opening, the new loo seat, matching soap and towel... but that's another story.

As Her Royal Highness and visiting dignitaries left after the opening ceremony by the front door, the Bursar and his team arrived at the back door bearing not gifts but the tables and chairs for the mezzanine floor. The library was immediately open for business (despite box upon box of new books waiting to be unpacked, a shortage of readers' tickets and chaos in the library office). With the arrival in June of the new chartered librarian, Mrs Sue Philpot (who brought with her not only professional expertise in the years of school library experience but also the appropriate height for the library desk) the flagship really set sail.

The list of improvements achieved in less than a year speaks for itself: the reference, fiction and subject sections have been expanded as have the newspaper cuttings files; a pamphlet collection has been established; a video library has been started; the range of periodicals increased. From the computer terminal in the library students now have access to a selection of reference materials on CD ROMs such as Groliers Encyclopaedia, back issues of The Times and ECCTIS detailing higher education courses. It is intended that this facility will be developed as the Library progresses. Regular book sales have been initiated and have proved very popular. Library skills are taught to the new second years, entire classes may have lessons in the library and small groups may research topics.

The library's success can be measured by the very large number of students present, especially at break and lunchtime, drawn at first perhaps by the comfortable chairs, newspapers and magazines but then discovering all the other facilities available. The work load generated by this heavy usage has at times threatened to submerge the library staff but they have been helped to stay afloat by the volunteer team of lunchtime helpers.

It hasn't all been 'sweetness and light' of course and it is still only the beginning. Still to be faced is the daunting prospect of computerising the catalogue and the issue procedure (the manual system involving 5,500 reader tickets is becoming more and more unwieldy) and the possible installation of a stock security system, unfortunately apparently increasingly necessary.

It has been said that it takes five years for a new library

to be fully established. The RGS Library has got off to a cracking start and with the support of staff and students should meet that target without difficulty.

J.I.M./S.P./J.E.G.

Greece Trip - April 1992

It's All Greek to Me!

And it certainly was, as Munday Tours carried another intrepid band of pilgrims to descend on the very peak of classical culture.

A brisk walk through Athens on Monday morning allowed us to taste pollution at its best, and took us to the spectacular National Archaeological Museum, famed for holding the finest Greek vase collection in the world. The finds from Mycenae and Epidauros, targets for future excursions, proved difficult to leave, especially for two members of the Classics Staff.

We then proceeded to the legendary Acropolis and its museum which crowned the day. The impressive Doric columns of the Parthenon dominated the skyline and many a camera lens for a couple of hours.

A busy day deserved some well earned sleep, although several boys preferred to find out that despite being inexpensive, Ouzo carried a certain price.

Another half day was spent in Athens viewing the American, 1950s, part restoration of the Agora now containing a splendid museum. The theatre of Dionysos was also open, where we were able to observe the 'commodius' splendour of the thrones reserved for Priests.

Wednesday saw a visit to Delphi - religious centre of the then Aegean region. Sanctuary of Apollo and home of the Oracle, Ancient Greece's answer to Russell Grant.

'Snaking' back down to the Coach we once more packed our cases for a transfer to Olympia. The 'RGS Olympics' were held in the Olympian Stadium. Star of the Games, Mr Ratcliffe, won his very own individual heat, waiving the victor's Laurels in favour of a chocolate biscuit, allowing Mark Oden to claim first prize.

Tolon became our residence for the last three nights of the tour. From here, day trips to Mycenae, ancient Corinth and the Corinth Canal took place. Friday's trip to Epidauros allowed visiting bards to take centre stage of the fifty-five tier theatre. Recitals included works from the 'Ratcliffe collection' and a 'Profession of Love' by Mark Oden to all young ladies present. Evenings saw regretted adventures, by some, to a Night Club with a Scottish influence, followed by Kebabs and Amstel.

After a long last day and a ten hour journey home, most of us were exhausted; but a thoroughly enjoyable time had been had by all, without exception. We arrived laden with Urns, Ouzo and parts of the Parthenon...? but no drachma.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to the members of staff, Mr Edwards, Mr Ratcliffe, Mr and Mrs Wilson and especially to Miss Munday who put in so much work, creating such a memorable trip.

John Mawson 6GP2

SPORT

Rugby

1st XV

Played 31 Won 25 Drawn 0 Lost 6 For 633 Against 226

For the second successive year the start of the 1st XV season was marred with an injury to the captain in the first game. A dislocated shoulder in the opening minutes of the victory over Watford GS, 20-4, kept captain Simon Schlaepfer sidelined until half term. Lock forward and pack leader Tom Davis proved to be a very able vice-captain and rose to the challenge of leading this experienced side containing twelve boys in the upper sixth.

The first four matches were won easily including a good victory away at Emanuel, 25-12, before John Fisher brought the team back to reality in the driving rain at Purley, handing RGS a 6-13 defeat. Four more victories were recorded before half term and RGS departed for St Josephs XV-a-side Festival full of confidence. Held over two days this is regarded by many people as the premier XV-a-side festival in the country. RGS made an excellent start defeating Hereford Cathedral School 24-0, followed by victories over Milfield and Trent College. Day two started with tense victories over Downside, and Warwick, to gain a place in the semi-final against Felsted. Both teams were well matched and the final score was a draw 0-0. In this unusual situation RGS were eliminated despite remaining unbeaten because they had scored fewer points. Felsted were beaten in the final by an impressive Bradford GS side.

The half term break did not benefit the 1st XV and after an inept first half display could only draw back to 14-15 against Windsor School in the only defeat of the second half of term. In a run of nine matches Aylesbury were defeated in a close away match 13-9, giving RGS victory for the sixth successive year.

Once again the 1st XV had entered the RFSU U18 Daily Mail Cup and despite the pressure of a congested Autumn Term fixture list had beaten Pangbourne College 20-4, Bishop Stortford HS 42-3, Desborough 32-12, Magdalen College School, Oxford 21-4, to reach the South West Divisional Final. The game against Portsmouth Grammar School was extremely close with RGS coming from behind



Toby Marsden breaks with the ball against Mount St Mary's in the cup semi-final. Tom Davis, Jody Davies, Dominic Coleman and Andrew Hoad are in support.

in the closing ten minutes to claim victory 15-13, despite having lost both centres with injury before half time. As runners-up in the Divisional Final last year our hearts went out to our opponents but it was great to begin the Christmas holidays secure in the knowledge that we would visit Castlecroft for the semi-final in the Spring.

RGS started the new year with a victory over our friends from Clongowes Wood, Dublin 22-6, but a very disciplined Belvedere College side showed why they were destined to reach the Leinster Cup final when they defeated us 3-18. The Spring Term was to be dominated with preparation for the National Cup semi-final and RGS started to play some pleasing rugby with excellent victories over RGS Guildford 20-0 and Reigate 10-4.

A hastily arranged tour to Dublin found St Mary's, possibly the best school team in Leinster, in devastating form. Totally outplayed in the opening half of the game RGS trailed 3-21 but in an enthralling game RGS fought back to 16-21. It was nice to visit the impressive grounds of Clongowes Wood College, where author James Joyce had been educated. The hospitality was overwhelming but we completed a double over them 16-6 and finished the tour with a fine 19-3 victory over King's Hospital School Palmerston.

Playing under floodlights was a new experience for the 1st XV as they defeated a Bucks Club U17 XV 9-3, but good preparation to accept an invitation to play Northampton Youth at their superb facilities at Franklin Gardens following the east Midlands v Barbarians game. Competition for places in the 1st XV squad made the choice for places in the semi-final team very difficult but finally 22 players left for Castlecroft on Friday 20 March knowing that they were as well prepared as they could be. A great boost to morale had been given by Hovis with the sponsorship of tracksuits for each of the squad members. The confidence of the team showed in the opening minutes of the game against Mount St Mary's School, Sheffield, when Andrew Hoad scored an opportunist try from a line out. Andrew Hazell added the conversion and then a penalty to take RGS further into the lead. RGS held the lead at half-time 9-0, but in a disastrous opening to the second half saw Mount St Mary draw level 9-9. With ten minutes to go and following several surging runs by winger Paul Handley, Alex Toone landed a 35 metre drop goal to give RGS a 12-10 lead and it looked as if the RGS Twickenham dream would come true. They were denied by a late rally by Mount St Mary in the closing minutes which gave them victory and a place in the final at Twickenham where they were defeated by Bradford Grammar School.

The semi-final had been a memorable occasion not just for the quality of rugby on view but also for the tremendous support RGS received on the day. Although the 1st XV style of play has changed slightly this year the team still scored 107 tries. To all boys leaving the squad I wish them every success in their new club/college teams. I thank them for their effort and commitment to school rugby and thank the parents for their loyal support.

C.C.T.

2nd XV

Played 25 Won 17 Drawn 1 Lost 7 For 387 Against 177

In a season plagued with injuries, theft of players by the 1st XV and emigration, the 2nd XV in its various guises fielded almost 50 different players. As well as two older members

of the school, a large number of 5th formers gained valuable experience this season with a good balance of upper and lower sixth formers providing the backbone of the team.

A coherent and sometimes very powerful pack, with Mandip Bharj providing most of its weight, could provide good possession for the backs who, when they did catch the ball, could run in tries against anyone. This season, though, the 2nd XV's strength was its interplay between backs and forwards characterised by the best try of the season where the ball went through ten different pairs of hands and was finished off by Alex 'Punctuality' Nichols.

A very successful run up to Christmas saw the 2nd XV lose only two and draw one of their 16 games, with notable victories over John Fisher 32-0, QE Barnet 30-0, local rivals Sir William Borlase's 29-7 and a close game against Desborough 9-7.

Two hard teams from Ireland were encountered in the Christmas holidays and many a hangover had to be overcome in order to defeat Clongowes Wood, but Belvedere College were too strong.

The post-Christmas programme was only four games long with good victories over Reigate Grammar 15-3 and RGS Guildford 7-0.

Half-term saw the 2nd XV embark on the tour to Ireland with a team missing many key players and, although fighting gallantly throughout the three games, the 2nd XV were beaten by St Mary's, at the return game with Clongowes and by King's Hospital School. Although losing the games a lot of very valuable experience was gained by some up and coming players and everyone enjoyed themselves greatly. We all enjoyed Ireland and feel that we have brought a little bit of it back with us, especially certain 5th formers, with James Pettitt providing an extra exhibit at the Guinness brewery.

Thanks go to all players especially Mike McKenna, 'Easy T' Badman, 'Onion' Bharj, James Pettitt (Pack Leader), Justin Sugg (Vice-Captain), Anthony Charles, Mark Oden, Tad 'Opai dasei' Kawakita, Rob Mills and Mark 'Quick get my inhaler' Pickles.

Thanks also to Mr T., Mr Davies, Mr Yeates, and Mr Taylor for guidance throughout the year.

Paul DeRaney, Captain

3rd XV/U16 XV

Played 16 Won 12 Drawn 1 Lost 3 For 310 Against 100

The strength in depth of the senior rugby squad was demonstrated by the excellent record of the 3rd/U16 XV squads. Once again this season RGS has been able to field up to four senior XV's on a Saturday and there has been fierce competition for places. A large number of the U16 XV played for the county with Neil Govan (centre) and Jun Shaw (scrum-half) progressing to the Divisional side. Shaw was eventually selected for the England U16 'B' XV squad for their game against Italy.

Among the notable team performances this season there were victories over John Fisher 16-10, Forest 2nd XV 68-4, St Benedict's 25-6 and Sir William Borlase's 2nd XV 16-0.

Many boys should look forward with confidence to gaining a regular place in the 1st and 2nd XV next season.

C.C.T.

U15 XV

Played 17 Won 14 Drawn 0 Lost 3 For 535 Against 92

The whole of the U15 rugby squad has enjoyed a very successful season, reflected in the 'A' XV record and the fact that the 'B' XV were unbeaten throughout. Many of the players who began the season in the 'B' XV improved their skills and techniques tremendously and provided genuine strength in depth. This was demonstrated by some fine performances from Robert Smith, Andrew Priestley, Richard Benstock and Christopher Harris who all gained recognition as the season went on.

The heavy defeat by Emmanuel School came early on in the season. It occurred at an ideal time to learn the importance of a 'team' approach to the game and how to overcome the various difficulties provided by good opposition. Despite losing narrowly to St Benedict's (10-6) just before the Autumn half-term, the team produced some fine rugby based around strong, mobile forwards and fast running three-quarters. They remained unbeaten in their Saturday fixtures and were only to lose one more game, albeit the narrow 18-14 defeat by a powerful London Oratory side in the Daily Mail Cup. However, the victories over Aylesbury, Latymer Upper and Reigate demonstrated the true ability of the team. The win at Reigate (10-0) rewarded the boys' efforts after the Daily Mail Cup defeat two days earlier, and they showed tremendous character.

Some of my personal memories include the 'A' and 'B' team victories over Berkhamsted (won with 14 and 13 players respectively, due to injuries), Kurt Johnson's first try against St Joseph's, Ipswich and Toby Shaw's tireless performance against Twickenham finalists London Oratory.

My thanks to Joe Davis and Nathan Thorne who captained the two sides, to all the players for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn and to all the parents who travelled many miles to provide some fine vocal support. This squad of players should provide some real strength for the senior sides in September.

R.A.C.

U14 'A' XV

Played 16 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 10 For 174 Against 272

Looking coldly at the statistics of a punishing season for this year's U14 team, the harsh reality is that we lost twice as many games as we won and, in that respect, this year was not a vintage one. But there is, I believe, far more to it than that.

The season started with a loss against Watford and a win against Hampton, and although we enjoyed a comprehensive victory against a modest Shiplake College (42-0) there then ensued successive defeats against much stronger opposition in Emanuel and St Benedict's and more disappointingly against teams we should have beaten, John Fisher, Windsor and Aylesbury to name but three.

There were times when defeat could be explained by a simple lack of physical presence which at U14 level is of the utmost importance but it would be wrong to say that this was solely to blame. There were many times where the wrong option was chosen or the final push was lacking. Commitment to the team effort in matches and in training was needed.

The turning point of our season came at Berkhamsted where we began to show for the first time in a competitive

match what we were able to do, and victory there led to subsequent victories over Royal Latin and Lord William's. Our momentum allowed us to compete against the very strong London Oratory School and despite losing by 18 pts to nil, our progress from early season setbacks was there for all the loyal parents to see.

It would be unfair of me to single out individuals for special praise, for progress was made through everyone working hard to improve their own and the team's playing standards.

Despite a poor record this season, I sincerely believe that the 1992-93 season will see the continued improvement of a team capable of much good rugby and a fine team spirit. I wish them all the very best.

S.J.N.

U14 'B' XV

Played 8 Won 7 Lost 1 For 160 Against 52

The U14 'B' team's overall playing record indicates a great strength in depth in the year group as a whole and much good rugby was played consistently throughout the year.

Convincing victories were recorded over Windsor (30-0), Lord William's (26-10), Watford (24-0) and Shiplake College (24-4), and this augurs well for next year as the year group tries to build on a season of great progress. My thanks to all members of staff who helped take sides away for matches and in particular to Mr Taylor and Mr Tattersall who gave up hours of their time to help on the coaching side.

S.J.N.

U13 'A' XV

Played 12 Won 10 Lost 2

During this season, twenty eight boys played for 'A' XV. The results they achieved were a reflection of the amount of talent in the squad and the improvement that was made by both individuals and the team.

In their first five games RGS scored over 25 tries and conceded only two in recording five consecutive victories. However, against London Oratory the team displayed a defensive vulnerability that had not been apparent in previous games when they had dominated possession. An 18-0 defeat in this game was followed by three consecutive victories against Royal Latin, Latymer Upper and RGS Guildford. The encounter with Reigate was the most exciting of the season. RGS established a lead early in the second half, but a fine comeback by the opposition culminated with their winger scoring with the final movement of the game to snatch a 15-14 win. In the last two games the team gained convincing victories against Aylesbury and Dr Challoner's.

The squad worked with great enthusiasm and determination throughout the season. Individual mentions are not appropriate here - the team frequently dominated the opposition with skill, flair and strength.

M.J.D.

U13 'B' XV

Played 10 Won 7 Drawn 1 Lost 2 For 176 Against 56

An enthusiastic squad, ably captained by scrum half Pilkington, improved steadily as the season progressed.

The flankers Musk and Watson were outstanding. In the latter part of the season the figure of Marshall loomed large (scoring an average of three tries per match from the position of number 8).

Lloyd at outside-half kicked with accuracy, whilst the back division had pace but didn't always use their skill. This was a major factor in the 6-8 defeat at the hands of Reigate.

Nevertheless, the overall message was very encouraging. The most penetrating and fluent play was saved for the emphatic 32-0 victory over Aylesbury Grammar School.

A.M.R.

U13 'C' XV

The 'C' XV beat Queen Elizabeth, Barnet and Desborough, but lost to Watford and London Oratory. It was disappointing that their enthusiasm and commitment was not rewarded by more opportunities. Many of the players also appeared for the 'B' XV - demonstrating the capabilities of the squad overall.

M.J.D.

Sevens

It was disappointing to see the senior sevens curtailed because of the involvement in the cup competition, particularly as the 1st VII had given an excellent performance in the Autumn Term to win the Barry Boyden Shield at the NatWest Bank Sevens.

In March victory over Bedford Modern brought success in the plate final at Windsor, to be followed by victory by both 1st VII and 2nd VII in Section A and B of the Bucks Sevens. In the week following the cup semi-final the 1st VII made a valiant effort in the National Schools Sevens, recording two wins and a draw before finally succumbing to fatigue and defeat.

The U16 VII struggled to find their best form and were hampered by losing two of their better players to the South East Divisional XV. The U15 VII played well to reach the final of the London Oratory Sevens. However, injuries in the earlier rounds prevented them from taking the title. After an indifferent season the U14 showed the teams true potential with some excellent performances to become runner-up at Sherbourne and reach the latter rounds of the Barnet and Reigate tournaments. The U13 started well reaching the final of the Bedford Modern Sevens and then winning their group at the National Sevens before losing in a play-off round.

C.C.T.

Hockey

1st XI

Played 24 Won 17 Drawn 1 Lost 6 For 81 Against 27

Honours - the school has once again supplied the divisional and county teams with a large number of players, Arshad Khan, Paul Seddon, Adam Smith and Timothy Townley were all selected for the S East U18 Team which won the Divisional Tournament over the New Year. Jon Axworthy, Matthew Cameron and Michael John played at U17 level. The Bucks U18 side captained by John Gordon comprised seven other RGS players: Alan Morton, Matthew Cameron, David Bocquet, Paul Seddon, Arshad Khan, Mark Darby and Adam Smith, and had a very successful season.

Colours - The commitment and high standard of play was rewarded with full colours being awarded to: Jonathan Axworthy, David Bocquet, Matthew Cameron, Mark Darby, Michael John, Alan Morton, Paul Seddon and Jonathan Symmons. Half-colours were awarded to: Robert Flint, Simon Goodfellow, Mark Hobden, Mark Madden, Toby Minton, and Aumran Mohammed.

The loss of a number of key players from last season's team which lost narrowly in the National Final to Calday Grange GS resulted in the formation of a very young side. However as the season progressed, the team matured with impressive wins against Radley College 3-2, and Sir William Borlase's 1-0; other results confirmed that the team had potential to succeed.

At the St George's Weybridge 6-a-side tournament improvement throughout the day enabled the school to reach the final without conceding a goal with John Gordon commanding in defence. In the final against Whitgift School, Croydon, courageous hockey was played by the whole team with Timothy Townley and Adam Smith outstanding and a 1-0 win gave RGS the trophy for the first time.

Unfortunately luck seemed to be against the school in the national competitions. After beating Marlow in the Bucks qualifier 2-1, a team now free of injuries went to the divisional final. Fine play from the whole squad and in particular Arshad Khan and Jon Axworthy took us to the final to face Chatham House, a team we had already beaten 2-0 that day. After conceding an early goal, RGS fought back only to be defeated 2-1.

Indoors a convincing 4-1 victory over Kingston GS helped us achieve a 100% record in our pool but the final against Kingston was only decided after the second period of extra time. Kingston eventually finished runners-up in the National Final.

The strength of this year's team is clearly shown by the fact that Kingston beat RGS 2-1 twice in close matches but went on to beat Bedford in the National final 7-0.

The whole team joins me in thanking Mr Stone for his endless support and encouragement as our coach.

J. Gordon (Captain)

Special mention should be made of John Gordon and Timothy Townley who have played in National finals since 1988.

D.G.S.

2nd XI

Played 18 Won 6 Drawn 5 Lost 7 For 29 Against 33

The 2nd XI hockey team has experienced a mixed season, with results looking, on paper, unfavourable. However many of these results have been produced by the team's erratic inconsistency, with many opportunities squandered. The usual pattern for a game this season was a dazzling first half display without score, followed by the conceding of two soft goals at the beginning of the second. The team was potentially quite talented and played with a certain esprit de corps. Notable victories were recorded over John Hampden (6-0) and Desborough School (3-0). The last game of the season was an emotional affair with no fewer than six boys playing their last game for the school. The game was played on grass at Windsor Boys' School and was won 2-0.

The team was: A Morton, M Cameron, S Goodfellow, M Walters, A Ball, A Wardill, A Mirza, F Anwar, R Stidworthy, J Symmons, R Flint, T Minton, M Hobden, A Mohammed, M Madden, J Edwards. Manager: M.W.C.

R Flint, Captain

U16 XI

The team had mixed results in its eleven outdoor matches this season. Best performances were against Homerton House (National Champions 1991) 4-0, Aylesbury GS 1-0, and Reading School 1-0.

On three occasions the team was fortunate enough to be able to play indoors and gained a respectable result in the South East Indoor competition held at Epsom College.

Much of the team play was of good quality, and determination was never lacking. Better finishing in front of goal would have greatly improved results. It's always difficult to arrange regular matches for the U16 age group so unless players gain club or senior team places, fitness and skills levels easily deteriorate. Neil Fitch showed considerable talent in goal and played well in his first season at county level and the team was strengthened by the return to fitness of Marc Washbourne.

With few places available in the 1st XI next year, competition will be tough and players must be prepared to practice regularly and honour match commitments.

The team would like to thank Mr Stone for his help and guidance and also Mr Cook and Mr Grundy for their effort on Games afternoons.

SQUAD: (C) - County (D) - Divisional
Jonathan Axworthy (CD), Nicholas Hughes (C), Andrew Goodfellow (C), Neil Fitch (C), Nicholas Hudson (C), Simon Hallam (C U15), Stephen Barlow, Ben Rayner, Jake Conway, Simon Milward, Roger Bates, Marc Washbourne, Stuart Large, Edward Phillips, Timothy Wallwork.

N. Hughes

U15 XI

Played 10 Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 5 For 20 Against 25

The side started the season enthusiastically but soon realised that to compete with schools such as Kingston and Watford GS, far more thought had to be put into their

game. Regular training sessions were held at Bisham Abbey and valued input came from the HW 1st XI Captain Paul Brown. The team began to look more impressive, functioning as a unit but were unable to convert pressure into goals. Injuries to key players and unavailability affected team continuity.

Nick Pembroke, Tim Parr (1st XI squad), James Gilbert, Daniel Ginn, Mathew Lewis and Jeremy Wickremer have all made exceptional progress. Ben Barnett and Ben Walters gained regular selection by the end of the season.

It is hoped that all who have played have enjoyed the matches and have learnt more about the game.

SQUAD: (C) County

Nicholas Pembroke (C), Tim Parr (C), James Gilbert (C), Matthew Lewis (C), Hugh Spurling (C), Daniel Ginn, Jeremy Wickremer, Matthew Peddle, Jonathan Maxmin, Ben Walters, Robert Morgans, Tom Harrison, Ben Barnett, Ian O'Callaghan.

R.M.P.

U14 XI

The U14 squad's first season of hockey has been played against teams that have already played for a number of years. This is reflected in our defeats at the beginning of the season, Daneford School 3-0 and Stowe School 3-0. However, towards the end of the season the team recorded some extremely promising wins such as 2-0 against Windsor, 1-0 against Reading and 2-0 against Oxford. These wins would have been by a much greater margin if it had not been for the inability to convert sustained pressure into goals.

The team have also done well in indoor tournaments, finishing well in the Aldenham tournament early in the season and winning the Horsham six-a-side tournament. In the other tournament at Horsham the U14 team finished second behind the hosts.

We have supplied eight members of the county team with Tony Fletcher and Karsten Smet achieving places in the South East England Divisional Team.

Finally we would like to thank Mr Pantridge and Mr Stone for their work and time. We hope to have a much more successful season for next year. Also our thanks go to Alistair MacKay for his encouragement and advice.

SQUAD: (C) - County (D) - Divisional

Jonathan Hooker (C), Matthew Walker, Paul Jarrett, Karsten Smet (CD), Adam Graveley, Tim Scholes (C), Tony Fletcher (CD), Joel Meyer (C), Scott Biddle (C), Gregory Walton (C), Philip Barlow (C), Mark Smyth, Kaushik Guha.

T. Fletcher, Captain

and 101 n.o in an intra-school match. Jon Wyatt also scored a fine 116 n.o. against Dr Challoner's, including a few risky hockey shots for 6 over mid-wicket. David Warboys also contributed scoring 67 against Lord William's Thame.

The early season bowling was dominated by Trevor Woolliams taking 6 for 36 against Hampton and 5 for 36 against Dr Challoner's in the following game. Richard Parker showed great consistency, bowling particularly well throughout the season.

In the build up to the RGS Festival, this year held in Worcester, the middle order batting started to move into a higher gear, with Richard Parker scoring 45 against Abingdon and captain David Harding scoring 71 not out against the MCC. With Ryan Brown coming into form and the skipper actually taking some wickets, all appeared to augur well for the festival. The record of only one defeat going into the festival seemed quite impressive.

The festival this year contained all six RGS's namely High Wycombe, Worcester, Lancaster, Colchester, Guildford and Newcastle. The first four days saw no batsman score above 39 and despite good bowling and excellent fielding, the lack of batting presented problems for the team as a whole. As the games were limited overs, there was a win or lose situation and the latter predominated. The matches with Newcastle and Colchester were close run things and we were perhaps unlucky to lose both.

The final day of the festival saw an increased determination in the batting, and 59 not out from Ryan Brown and 55 from David Warboys left Lancaster chasing 170. Good bowling and fielding yet again reduced Lancaster, ironically the only team to have beaten Worcester, to 147 all out. Thus the festival and the season ended on a high note and in retrospect it is easy to say that we could have won three matches on a different week.

Finally I would just like to add a personal note of thanks to Mr Yeates for dedicating so much invaluable time to senior cricket over the past year.

D. J. Harding, Captain

Batting Averages:

David Warboys 422 runs @ 28.1
Matthew Dawson 277 runs @ 27.7
Jonathan Wyatt 306 runs @ 23.5
David Harding 244 runs @ 20.3
Ryan Brown 264 runs @ 18.9
Richard Parker 175 runs @ 14.6

Bowling Averages:

Richard Parker 22 wickets @ 18.2
Trevor Woolliams 17 wickets @ 19.8
Alex L'Estrange 12 wickets @ 27.2
David Harding 16 wickets @ 28.3
Ryan Brown 10 wickets @ 28.8

Cricket

1st XI

Played 14 Won 3 Drawn 6 Lost 5

Poor weather in the early season caused many fixtures to be either abandoned or cut short resulting in a large number of draws. Early games saw good innings from the top three batsmen with very little support from the lower order batsmen. Matthew Dawson scored 52 against Tiffin

U15 XI

Played 11 Won 2 Drawn 4 Lost 5

The U15 Squad had a mixed season, winning two, losing two and drawing four of their regular games. However, in the three 25-over games played, RGS were defeated on each occasion.

The bowling attack was dominated by Miles Davis. In bowling 115 overs he took 28 wickets at an average of 10.1

runs per wicket, at a strike rate of 1 wicket every 25 balls. This outstanding performance during the season lacked any consistent support from the other bowlers. Some large totals were conceded by an attack that was without penetration. Only Jun Shaw bowling 60 overs, taking 11 wickets at an average of 25.7, offered another threat.

In the batting department, Jun Shaw completed a fine all-rounder's contribution scoring 311 runs at an average of 38.9. Neil Fitch batted with some flair to score 223 runs at an average of 24.8. No other player managed a consistent performance with the bat.

The team always played with enthusiasm and improved their fielding considerably. Comprehensive victories over Hampton and St Benedict's were contrasted by batting collapses and heavy defeats against Lord William's and Aylesbury GS. Three dull draws against Latymer Upper, Abingdon and Enfield GS compared with an exciting run-chase against RGS Worcester, illustrated by inconsistency and greater game awareness as the season progressed. The middle order batsmen, without becoming reliable, were responsible in their approach. The season should, perhaps, be considered more for the personal improvement made by some players and their increased knowledge of the game, rather than the erratic results.

M.J.D.

U14 XI

Played 10 Won 5 Drawn 4 Lost 1

Under the captaincy of Daniel Ginn the team developed well and a fine season ended with the very convincing defeat of a strong Dr Challoner's GS side to win the Lord Taverners' Colts Trophy.

Jonathan Greenfield, Robert Morgans and Nicholas Pembroke scored consistently well, and others showed batting potential. Running between the wickets however was often poor and not enough pressure was exerted on the fielding team.

Daniel Ginn was easily the most consistent bowler showing good control of length and line. Kurt Johnson and James Cornish were quick and always likely to take wickets but far too erratic. Tim Parr bowled steadily with some success, and variety was given by Guy Holland's left-arm spin together with off-spinners Andrew Priestley and Robert Morgans.

An important feature of the team was its fielding which at times was excellent with Philip Gibbs always adequate behind the stumps.

It will be interesting to watch the players in this age group mature as there is certainly considerable talent in the side.

D.G.S.

U13 XI

Played 9 Won 3 Tied 1 Drawn 3 Lost 2

St Benedict's School, Ealing were probably the best opponents that the U13 XI faced during the summer and it was a pity that we had to play them in the opening game. Despite a valiant 35 by Rogers, RGS were bowled out for 79, and slipped to an 8 wicket defeat.

The following game against Desborough was nerve

racking, finishing in a tie. Moore 54 retired, Crompton 39 n.o., Royce 21 n.o. were in good form as RGS recorded their first victory of the season at the expense of John Hampden. Some excellent bowling by Moore 3-15, and Royce 3-5, helped dismiss Latymer Upper for 77 and Captain A Francis guided the team to an 8 wicket win with an unbeaten 46 runs. A drab game with Aylesbury finished in a draw.

Abingdon inflicted the only other defeat on the team by four wickets, partly due to an ambitious declaration by RGS after Donald had scored 31 n.o.

The season finished with a draw at Enfield GS, in which Watts produced good bowling figures of 4 for 7, and a win over John Hampden in a rematch by 5 wickets.

All boys in the squad worked hard to improve and show some potential for the coming season.

C.C.T.

Basketball

The U19 team, in a manner not dissimilar to the previous season, failed to proceed beyond the first round of the English Schools Competition and made little impact in the Herts League. The League is now one of the strongest in the country and places heavy demands on athletes who are not treating basketball as their premier sport. Although RGS had a nucleus of the side who reached the National Finals at U14 and U15 level the squad generally lacked height and experience. Nonetheless, the Bucks Cup provided a dramatic conclusion to the school careers of some players. Having convincingly beaten Radcliffe in the semi-final, RGS played old rivals, Chesham High. In a game that was level at full-time (71-71) RGS dominated overtime to record a fine 82-79 victory.

The U16 team also failed to proceed beyond the group stage of the national competition and only won two out of seven games in the Herts League. The valuable experience gained from participation in the League was illustrated by RGS beating Chesham in the County semi-final - avenging an earlier defeat in the season. In the final Gyosei International School again proved too sharp and disciplined for the RGS, but not before the team had shown the great improvement that they had made during the season.

The U15 team were unfortunate to meet Denbigh School in both National and County competitions. Denbigh won the first game, but could not stop RGS gaining revenge in the Bucks Cup. Victories against Radcliffe and Chesham ensured a successful campaign in the County Cup, but this team demonstrated that they should be aspiring to greater heights. They will be severely tested in the Herts League next season.

The U14 squad made great strides during the season. Early losses to Easthampstead and Salesian College in the National Competition and Chesham in a friendly, were soon forgotten as the team demonstrated excellent form against Dr Challoner's and St Benedict's. The most dramatic game of the season was the County Cup semi-final against Chesham, when with possession in the last thirty seconds, RGS could not score the decisive basket to overcome a 52-53 deficit.

My thanks to the team coaches and particularly to the table officials, trained and organised by Anne Howarth.

M.J.D.

Fencing

I never thought for a moment when I started fencing at the RGS back into the 70s under Mr John Roebuck, that I would one day be back at the school running the club. Having now gone full circle, it is good to see that the fencing club has dramatically transformed from the small lunch-time outfit I first joined into a highly active and successful club, with a membership of approximately 50 boys. Not only has the size of the club increased, but the results have continued to pour in, and improve continually. This year, no one fencer has stood out from the rest in terms of results; instead it has been a year where the many honours have been split evenly across most of the competitive fencers. For example, in the County and Regional Championships the RGS again totally dominated all of the age groups, from U14 level up to U18 level and collected a total of 32 medals across the 3 weapons shared between 12 boys.

We have also maintained continued success in school matches, winning all but one of our fixtures, notching up notable victories over Harrow, Eton, Wellington, Merchant Taylors and Westminster, amongst others.

At national level, we had the amazing achievement of getting 7 fencers into the top 10 of their respective British Age Group Championships:- Roland Levan 3rd and Seang-Lim Tan 5th at U16 foil; Edward Rysdale 6th at U18 foil; S L Tan 4th and Tom Roebuck 9th at U16 Epee; Jeremy Parkinson 7th and Mark Chacksfield 9th at U18 Epee.

These results resulted in 4 of the boys (Levan, Tan, Rysdale and Chacksfield) being selected for the England Youth Team which competed in the Home International Quadrangular competition in Ireland, which England narrowly won. This brings the total of current RGS fencers with England Youth colours to 6, the above 4 joining David Whiting and Jeremy Parkinson who fenced for England last year. Tim Whitfield and William Rysdale both qualified for the National U14 championships, which, when this went to print, had not yet been held.

The school entered new territory this year in playing host to the National School's Team Foil Championships which attracted over 20 teams from all over England. Unfortunately the School 'A' team were unable to capitalise on the home soil advantage and finished 4th overall. With the RGS 'B' team in 9th place, we were again the only school to get 2 teams in the top 10.

As every year, the high point of the fencing calendar was the Public Schools' Fencing Championships. This year 5 fencers reached the final tableau of their competitions; Edward Rysdale at Senior Foil; R. Levan-Junior Foil; M Chacksfield and J Parkinson - Senior Epee; T Roebuck-Junior Epee. These results, along with the other entrants from the RGS, gave the school a final placing of 4th out of 52 schools, a remarkable feat considering that we have neither the time nor resources available to us which are enjoyed by the comparable public schools.

So ends another highly successful year, unfortunately we must say goodbye to Jeremy Parkinson and Michael Church who leave us this year after several years of valuable service. We have also had to say goodbye to Mrs Payne (our novices' coach) who has been helping Mr Roebuck with the club since I was here as a student, but we welcome a new coach, Mr Harry Jones who is well established in the area, and who we hope can keep the club on the road to continued success. I would also like to thank Mrs Dodds for her work on repairing clothing, Mr Howe for the continued loan of the workshop, Mr Flack for his

expertise over our electrical equipment, and the Parents' Association, all of whom are essential in the 'smooth' running of the club.

A.D.G.

Cross Country

After the success of last season the various school teams have enjoyed another successful season.

Matthew Vance has captained a very strong senior squad through a busy season in which we added both the Sutton Coldfield Relay and the Skinners Relay to our usual fixture list.

The highlight of the Autumn Term was an excellent 5th place at the Dr Challoner's Relay, but lifted by the availability of Matthew Hill after Christmas, we achieved our highest ever finish (9th) at the country's top relay at Coventry. The senior team went on to win medals at Merchant Taylors, Haydon and Rochester, while both Matthew Hill and Nic Beecroft won individual medals.

The Juniors in their few races have run consistently well, usually led by the splendid front-running of Tim Crompton. Entering the Milk Cup for the first time, we won through to the regional semi-final where we failed narrowly to qualify for the National Final. For the second year running we won silver medals at Dr Challoner's, and further silver medals followed at Haydon and Rochester.

The Juniors also retained the District Championship in emphatic style, but the Inters failed to do so. Tim Crompton and second former Tim Gardner emerged from the dense fog of the County Championships at Stowe School to represent Bucks in the Nationals at Bristol, where Tim Crompton finished as Bucks' highest placed runner. At senior level both Matthew Hill and Nic Beecroft won the right to represent Bucks at Bristol where Matt was also Bucks' highest placed runner.

The senior team has been well served by Matt Vance, Ben Brown, Nic Grant, Matt Hill, Nic Beecroft, Matthew Fitzgerald, Andrew Hickman and Adam Purnell in particular, the last five of whom are eligible next year. The juniors have been led splendidly by Tim Crompton, supported by Dominic Synnock, Nic Richter, Tim Gardner, Ross Parrett, Rupert Brown and Ben Walters, the last four of whom are also eligible next year. So there are strong grounds for believing that next year will be just as good if not better than this year.

I. J. Wilson

Badminton Club

Badminton Club meets on Wednesdays from 3.45-5.00 pm in the Sports Hall and runs throughout the academic year.

An enthusiastic gathering of second, third and fourth year boys ensures the success and popularity of the club.

R.P.S.

Tennis

1st VI

Played 11 Won 1 Lost 10

Colts VI

Played 11 Won 8 Lost 3

We have been in a transitional stage at senior level in recent years and this has been reflected in the poor season we had last year, with the solitary win over Borlase's as our only consolation. Regular players in the team included Mark Cracknell (Captain), Chris Claydon, Tim Brooksbank, Michael King, Chris Widgery, Mark Hobden and Tom Stokes.

The Colts team however were very strong, one of the best here for many years. Our usual fixtures saw us win many matches but our best results occurred in the Midland Bank Cup where we won through to the regional final only to lose 5-1 to Aylesbury Grammar, but the result did not reflect our performance. Our Colts were a mixture of 3rd and 4th years so our expectations for this season are very high and the prospects for future years very encouraging.

S.J.G./M.E.
(Masters i/c)

Table Tennis

The 91/92 season has been a steady, rather than spectacular one. We have continued to play as an after-school club, twice weekly, in competition in the English School Table Tennis ASSN National Competition and at various levels in the High Wycombe and District Table Tennis Leagues. In fact RGS has fielded more teams this season than ever before.

In the ESTTA Team Competition we played teams at U19, U16 and U13. While all teams played to the best of their ability, and some players excelled themselves, we had to be content, at the end of the day, with runner-up and third places.

In the H W & D Leagues, we played four teams in the Senior League and eight in the Youth League.

Having lost our star players at the end of the last season, our present A team (Captain E Belcher) did well to hold their own in the same 4th division, finishing in the lower half of the table, but ensuring their place in the same division next season.

Unfortunately it was necessary to withdraw our C team before the end of the season but the B team in Division 5 and the D team in Division 7 have played consistently and ended the year mid-table.

Full School Colours have been awarded this year to Andrew Hickman, who has not only played well but shared the A team's captaincy, and to our B team player Simon Woolliams, who has played effectively for RGS teams since he joined the school four years ago.

School Half Colours have been well earned and awarded to Christopher Monnington and Justin Webb of our A team and to Roger Blow (Captain), Stephen Barlow and Yasser Taher of the B team.

In the Youth League no less than sixteen of our twenty-one players were in the league for the first time.

They have learned that the standard of the best teams is quite high. However, they have played with enthusiasm and commitment and been improving all season.

The Table Tennis Club equipment has continued to be used on Thursday afternoons this year during the TAA periods with up to 25 boys involved.

Finally, I would like to express my very genuine thanks to all the parents who have helped transport teams to their venues and especially those who have assisted in the supervision of evening League matches.

J.R.B.K.

Boat Club

1991 Regattas

The 1991 regatta season, notwithstanding some atrocious weather, was a successful one, with crews of all ages scoring regatta wins.

The 1st IV had mixed fortunes. They began with second place in Open IVs at the RGS Worcester 700th Anniversary Festival Regatta. In the Senior Ball Cup competition at Stratford, after losing narrowly to the eventual winners in the first round, they took the 'plate' with some ease. A creditable performance reaching the semi-finals in a high-quality event at Avon County Schools' was followed by an ignominious early departure in the first round at Bedford Star with equipment failure. Happily, the season ended in excellent style with wins at both Thames Valley Park (in the rain) and Exeter.

The J16s began the season well. At the RGS Festival both the VIII and IV won their events, and, with support from Andrew Diplock, who won the sculls, the squad took the J16 team trophy. In the Junior Ball Cup the 'A' IV reached the semi-final, and the 'B' IV the final. The VIII raced again creditably at Avon County Schools against major public school opposition. Things went down-hill from this point. Bedford Star saw both IVs exit in some disarray at the semi-final stage, as the rain poured down. To end the season, a IV raced at Exeter, taking second place in both Novice and J16s. These were both races that they should have won; a long lay-off in the aftermath of GCSE and some unwarranted complacency could be blamed.

The J15 squad had a slow build-up, only racing towards the end of the season, but the wait was worth while since



The J16 squad at Worcester.

they achieved two wins and one second place out of four events entered. Perhaps the most satisfying win was in beating our own J16s. in the final of J16 IVs at Exeter. However, the most impressive performance came a few weeks later, after an idyllic three-day training camp at Golant on the Fowey Estuary in Cornwall, when they beat a strong and previously unbeaten Bideford 'Blues' crew in J16 IVs at Dartmouth. Earlier in the season, sculler Robert Beever had excellent wins at the RGS Festival and at the Ball Cup, where he picked up both the J15 and J16 trophies.

The Saunders Rowing Cup was awarded to Alex Large of the J15 squad.

The return of IRM from Oz meant another RGSBC party at the Remenham Club. We are very grateful to Iain and especially to the parents who put so much effort into making this such an excellent evening. However, the decision to take the whole Boat Club to compete at Exeter on the next day was, perhaps, in retrospect, a little misguided!

Summary of Entries

RGS Worcester Festival

1st IV** - J16 VIII* - J16 IV* - J16 scull* - J15 scull*

The Ball Cup Races

1st IV (plate*) - J16A IV - J16B IV** - J16 scull* - J15 scull*

Avon County Schools' 1stIV - J16 VIII

Bedford Star Junior 1st IV - J16A IV - J16B IV

Thames Valley Park 1st IV*

Egham J15 IV**

Exeter

1stIV* - J16 IV** - J15 IV* - J15 scull

Dartmouth Royal J15 IV*

* win ** second place

Crews

1st IV	J16 squad	J15 squad
W H Spooner (Cox)	G M Lynch	M F Burman
J L Farley (str.)	(str VIII & 'A' IV)	I D C Dykes
A C Mawhood	A Sweetman	R T Evans (cox)
C M Denison	J A Goodwill	D J Farr
M D P Wynter	T J Crompton	C D Fletcher (cox)
	B J R Cave (cox)	A J Large
	A M Lewis	C J Pearman
	(str. "B" IV)	R D J Beever
	A T M Bain	(sculler)
	J S Ray	N C Y Webber
	M D Hoare	(sculler)
	J C Martin (cox)	
	A Diplock (sculler)	

1992 Head of the River Races

The Club was represented by a composite VIII made up from the senior IV and J16 IV at two 'head' races,

including the premier event for schools on the Tideway in London.

They achieved 4th place at Reading Schools' Head and 4th place in the Small Schools' category (60th place overall out of 178) in the national Schools' Head.

1st VIII

W H Spomer (cox)

J L Farley (str.)

A C Mawhood

C M Denison

D J Farr (J16)

C J Pearman (J16)

M D P Wynter

M F Burman (J16)

I D C Dykes (J16)

J.P.E.

Athletics

The season began with RGS's inaugural performance at the Dr Challoner's Relays at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The Junior and Intermediate teams proved the strongest at the meet, both winning the 4 x 400m events.

At the District Championships the School maintained its dominance. The Intermediate Team won by a margin of 50 points. Andrew Price (100m and 200m) and Nic Beecroft (800m and 1500m) achieved notable doubles wins, and David McLaughlin was victorious in the discus. The Junior Team (3rd Form) overwhelmed all opposition. RGS won all bar four events and gained second place in six more. Ian McLaughlin set District records in the discus and shot (coincidentally throwing National Entry standards), and Patrick Lennon, Joe Davis, Robert Smith, Kurt Johnson and Mark Warfield also won their events. In winning by a margin of 67 points, and with the Second Form Championships being cancelled, RGS retained the overall District title by a record margin.

A number of athletes were selected to represent the District at the County Championships. The following were the most distinguished performances:

Andrew Price	- 1st in 100m and 200m
Matthew Vance	- 1st in Senior Boys 800m
Mark Warfield	- 1st in Javelin
Ian McLaughlin	- 1st in Shot Putt
Patrick Lennon	- 2nd in 100m
Joe Davis	- 2nd in High Jump
Robert Smith	- 2nd in Triple Jump

Andrew Price and Ian McLaughlin were selected to represent Bucks at the All-England Championships in Stoke-on-Trent. Ian produced a fine performance to gain the bronze medal in the hammer competition.

RGS entered the English Schools Cup for the second year. The 2nd Four team performed well in their first representative meeting for the School, but failed to qualify for the Regional final. However, the 4th Form (Intermediates) won the area round at Dr Challoner's - progressing to the Regional Final at Barnet Copthall Stadium. In increasing their points score by 33 points, RGS gained a commendable 5th place. At this meeting Ian McLaughlin broke the School 3rd Form 800m record, previously held by Martin Gillingham who gained international recognition.

M.J.D.

C.C.F.

O.C's Report

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales came to open the New Library at the School on June 6th and as well as the general rejoicing the Contingent was involved in three ways.

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadet C.S.M. Tony Gibb was in attendance throughout the visit.

All sections provided a Route Lining Party trained by our SSI W.O. C D Rowland. We were particularly pleased that Her Royal Highness had asked us to invite as many of those who had fought in the Gulf as could manage it to be presented to her. It is true to say that all were charmed and delighted by her genuine personal interest.

The CCF is a combined operation in which we all work together, and the admirable activities of the Cadets will follow in the Section reports.

They and I are conscious of the help from beyond School and this year, if I may, I shall concentrate on good friends here for whom in one way or another this year has brought a change.

Lt Tim Claye has given thirteen years lively, vigorous and effective service as OC Royal Naval Section. He is retiring *maximo cum honore*, but has said that he will be willing to continue to help from time to time. His energy and the genuine relish he has shown in sharing in all the training activities have constituted the best possible example to the Section.

His place will be taken by Lt Ross Barker - Lt Claye's 2 i/c. at one point who moved away from our school on promotion and is returning, to our very great pleasure, on further promotion.

We have been very pleased to welcome Cdr Mike Jones, RN as our bursar and he too has shown much interest in the Section.

In the RAF Section we have been very grateful to Flying Officer Vivien Seymour for taking over with extreme competence and lively interest as OC Section. She is the mother of a former member of the RAF Section and herself a former WRAF Officer. During the year Air Commodore Mike Darby (RAF Ret'd) joined the staff and with the greatest generosity not only offered his help with the RAF section, but also very modestly agreed with the CCF regulation about his rank.

In an entirely friendly way, since F.O. Seymour has outside business commitments, the new arrangement is that Flight Lt (as he now is) Mike Darby is OC RAF Section with F.O. Seymour as 2 i/c. With the new reorganisations and the disappearance of HQSE District our RO G3 Trg Cadets Major Mike McRitchie, MC is officially more remote. Fortunately he remains the splendid supporting genius he has been all along. This is the place however for a tribute to the remarkable energy and good cheer as well as the competence of this admirable man.

In 16CTT too it is impossible to describe without the appearance of exaggeration the high qualities of Capt David Nicholson who has now retired with the heartfelt good wishes and gratitude of many CCF's including most certainly our own.

We are also saying our farewell to Sgt Jock Ennis, Grenadier Guards with regret and great gratitude for what he has done, not only on Parade Days here, but on our outside training, especially Adventure Training in the Peak district. He has worked with an excellent combination of professional expertise and great good nature.

The presence of these splendid men in the teams

supporting us is vital. To all those in this team effort, civilians in the School hierarchy and the Services, our warm thanks.

We have just been deeply saddened and shocked by the death of Andrew Cooper - a quiet, delightful and thoroughly helpful person.

F. N. Cooper

Royal Naval Section

The Section was saddened to learn of the death of Andrew Cooper who had been a loyal member of the section since his fourth form days and was our storeman. He was a very likeable young man.

At the time of writing, considerable developments are afoot: we have taken delivery of our trailer and cover so that our safety boat Dory can be launched, recovered and trailed to any spot where we may undertake sailing. Our new chief CPO 'Dusty' Rhodes is also equipped with a trailer and six Toppers which, added to our two at Danesfield Sailing Club, give us sailing for eight and safety vessel for two, quite apart from our remaining sailboard, pulling and canoeing activities. We have a new affiliated ship at last, a Leander frigate HMS Scylla, and as Show Day shows up on its biennial round, I shall find myself at sea with cadets in the Tracker class fast patrol boat on a voyage from Portsmouth to Holyhead via Land's End. We welcome the return to the school and the section of Doctor Barker, who will be running the section in the new academic year. Good luck to him and all involved with the section.

T.J.N.C.

O/C Royal Naval Section

HMS Heron Underwater Escape Training Unit

The section's numbers were swelled this year by the arrival of an unprecedented 12 new 4th Form cadets. We also welcomed Cdr Jones, the new Bursar, an ex-Polaris submariner who entertained us with a lecture on life as a submariner early on in the year. A busy year saw us go Orienteering in Wendover Woods, do watersports on the river at Danesfield, visit Portland for an Air Day, go to sea in a Fast Patrol Boat and make a trip to the Royal Naval



Anyone got halitosis?

Underwater Escape Training Unit (known affectionately as 'The Dunker'), at Yeovilton. The latter proved to be the most eventful. For some of us anyway! The day consisted of being crammed into a small tank with five other people, strapped in, being lowered to the bottom of a swimming pool and then being asked to get out through various holes in the side. This was done after an extensive briefing and wearing flying suits. This first run proved to be no problem but when the tank was turned upside down under the water the problems began (for me anyway. Everyone else had no trouble!). I managed to get my seatbelt stuck and in the ensuing struggle by the assistants inside and outside the tank, succeeded in tearing ligaments in my back which left me in bed for over a week! At least my 'accident' got me out of doing the 3rd and 4th runs when the lights were partially and then fully turned off. Everyone else thoroughly enjoyed the experience; however, I didn't quite share their enthusiasm.

None of the visits would have been possible without the help of the Naval personnel who assisted in organising the trips in the first place and came up to school regularly to help us out. Thanks therefore must go to Chief Rhodes, Lt Paul Porter, Lt Cdr Wills and Lt Charles Mason and of course Lt Clay whose firm hand on the section kept us from going astray too much!

P O Dominic Russell

The M.C.M. (Mine Counter Measures) Trip

On Sunday 15th December, a small group of RN cadets and their Coxswain, William Spooner, travelled to Scotland for a Mine Counter Measures day at Rosyth Naval Base.

At 06.30 the following morning all the cadets who had been assigned to H.M.S. Dulverton got up.

What was to happen next (in theory, that is) was that we would be shown to H.M.S. Dulverton. What actually happened was an incredibly arduous 'double march' all round Rosyth docks, while our commanding officer attempted to find our ship.

Having finally embarked, bleary eyed, we were all lined up and divided into groups. Here we met the seamen who were to look after us for the duration of the day, our 'Sea Daddies'.

H.M.S. Dulverton slipped her moorings and proceeded to the concrete jetty, where explosives were kept away from the main dock (for obvious reasons). Here, a mine was loaded on board, and we set off again out into the North Sea.

Our 'Sea Daddies' showed us all round the minehunter, and we learnt about her mine hunting, and mine sweeping role. We were pleased to hear that the RN minehunters are the best in the world, being equipped with incredibly sensitive sonar (so sensitive, we were told, that the divers were frequently sent down to disarm a dangerous mine, only to find an old tin can, rusting on the the sea bed). Another way which we were shown of identifying mines, apart from using divers, were the French 'PAPS'. Like something out of a James Bond movie, the 6ft long bright yellow midget submarines are remote-controlled, via a joystick from onboard the ship, and the controller could see where the submarine was thanks to a small video camera mounted in the nose (of the submarine, not the controller!).

The mine that we had picked up at the concrete jetty was now put into use. Our 'Sea Daddy', A.B. Lofthouse, went out in the Gemini (a rigid inflatable boat), and laid the mine. Everyone waited forrard for the mine to go off,

and when it did, it was not what everyone expected. A huge column of white water shot up into the air, accompanied by a tremendous BOOM!, and a heavy tremor ran throughout the length of the ship. This brought home to me the danger of minehunting and the risks the divers who lay the mines run.

The most enjoyable moment of the day, for me at least, was going out in the Gemini. We were all given an opportunity to drive it, and it was incredibly exhilarating to feel the power of the engine driving the boat forward. We also got the opportunity to sit in the ship's 30mm Anti-Aircraft gun and train and elevate it. The day after, we again endured the 5hr train journey, and finally arrived back at King's Cross Station, from where a few train journeys later, we arrived back at Slough Station, where our parents were waiting patiently for us.

Lawrence Booth 4CP

Army Section

September saw the training programme begin in earnest with all NCO's busy teaching battlecraft, map and compass, weapons skills and adventure training. These skills have been used well in a vast spectrum of activities: two Aldershot Field Days, an expedition to Snowdonia, an MOI Course, a visit to RAEC Beaconsfield, Range Days, a Patrolling Competition, RCT and Royal Signals Presentations and of course, Summer and Leek camps.

One of the more light-hearted activities was football versus the staff. In a very tight match Mr Hussey and a few other masters edged to a lucky 8-1 victory.

A great deal of time in planning and organising such an array of opportunities open to cadets has gone on. For this, warm thanks go to those staff from RGS: Lt Col Cooper, Capt Grundy, WOII Rowlands and those friends from outside school: Capt Hollingworth, 2nd Lt Ryesdayle, Lt Holmes (RN), Lt Bradford (RN), Tony Boreham, Mr Prior and of course, Mrs Cooper. From 16 CTT we also thank Sgt Ennis who completes his 'tour of duty' with us and goes on a new overseas posting; we wish him luck.

Great commitment and effort from NCO's and cadets made this a very successful and smoothly run year. Best of luck and continued fun for the future.

RSM Davies
NCO i/c Army Section

As has been reported above this has been another exhilarating and busy year for the Army Section. As usual many cadets and NCO's have attended all sorts of camps and competitions and have gained great experience in leadership skills in difficult conditions whilst stretching their will power and determination to the full. Many of the cadets have been promoted and in doing so have slowly learnt the skills of life as they develop their full potential.

Of course, senior NCO's come and go and it is with sadness that I have to say goodbye to my senior men. These include RSM Jody Davies, CSM Leon Edwards, CSM Fraser Hill, CQMS Ben Rendall, Amourer CSgt Andrew Shearer, CSgt John Mawson and signals CSgt Tom Havelock. I thank them wholeheartedly for their full commitment and help in running the Army section, but my special thanks go to Jody for his excellent support and superb administration and organisation of the section as my right hand man. We also have to say goodbye to Sgt Jock Ennis who has been an excellent Regular NCO from 16

Cadet Training Team and has been of great assistance throughout his 2-year stay with us; with him go our best wishes in his next posting.

Finally, thanks go to Roger Hollingsworth, Tony Boreham, Clive Rowland, Geoff Rysdale and Steve Bradford for all of their friendly help and assistance in all of the activities.

Capt S. J. Grundy
O/C Army Section

Proteus Central Camp, Summer 1991

During a warm July, last year, members of our Army and RAF sections travelled to Sherwood Forest where one of the oldest army bases in the country became home for a week. The camp was organised by the Regular Army and was attended by about twenty other schools.

We kicked off the week's activities by journeying to the river where we impressed the Royal Engineers with our raft-making skills. The sound construction of the rafts definitely made up for the lack of buoyancy when we paddled away for our own version of the Blue Riband. The morning finished off with nautical style tug-of-war involving two boats connected with a rope and twenty four cadets, paddling madly.

The week progressed with battle craft exercises including platoon and section tactics, ambush drills and, for some, the use of the Bren Gun which we have not fired before during our own exercises. We also took part in a night exercise which including firing blank ammunition in the dark; another first for RGS. Another highlight of the week was radio instruction by the Royal School of Signals themselves. Range shooting appeared towards the end of the week where we fired cadet GP rifles and semi-automatic .22 rifles.

The week finished off with the inter-school competitions where Cpl Curry and Lt Cpl Burman performed well in the orienteering to give one of the camp's best results. The assault course team impressed everyone with their Gung-ho attitude and they scored well. Best of all, our 'B' shooting team were awarded a certificate for reaching the finals of the falling plate competition.

This was a very well organised camp and all-round experience was gained by all who attended. Once again, many thanks go to all the officers who made it possible, especially Major Meyer who filled in at a moment's notice.

Sgt J. Lippiat



Row, row, row your boat.....

Leek Camp 1992

This camp began as all camps do... with an advance party and a four-ton truck. This idyllic partnership left school after a 05.00 start with the eight NCO's recovering after the advance party election night party. Six hours later upon arrival in the peaceful Staffs village of Butterton, the advance party worked at fever pitch to prepare the camp for the main party. During this the long-standing record was smashed: unloading 40 sleeping bags around five corners in an amazing 42s!

The camp's programme began in earnest on Saturday; PT followed by an adventurous training circus. After lunch a new but equally demanding orienteering course was tackled. The SNCO's challenge was edged into second place by an outstanding solo performance by Capt Hollingsworth. The Battlecraft exercise commenced on Sunday after a tough night's preparation. The scenario this time involved a mad professor, an informant and a nuclear device. The said bomb led to speculation CSM Hill was to become the next Blue Peter presenter! After a rocky start, the enemy being ammo-less and the platoon commander's blank demmo not working, the day ran very smoothly. Cadets and NCO's got into the swing of things and acted like veterans. A night's solid downpour saw a late start to the second day but the platoon soon got into action clearing a vast area of all enemy forces. Just short of the final objective, horizontal sleet and hail set in and a draw was called, 2hrs R and R resulting.

Kinderscout's expedition was undertaken in excellent spirit (in true Liverpoolian style) and even constant rain did nothing to dampen it. The SNCO's even 'extended' their route as they were enjoying bog jumping with Sgt Ennis so much!

Having heard of our team, the Wallabies conceded the annual football match by default. The camp debrief and promotions were followed by the task of restoring our 'cramped but cosy' conditions to their former glory. This was achieved in admirable style, and all cadets returned to Wycombe (and snow) for a well-earned bath.

Great fun and much experience was gained from this successful and rewarding camp.

RSM Davies

Aldershot Field Day - November 1991

This exercise saw the fourth year cadets involved for the first time, giving them the chance to put into practice the tactics learnt at school, with the added bonus of no second year rugby players to dodge!

Objectives for the day included stopping a die-hard bunch of terrorists escaping, capturing secret documents on the subject of nuclear fission and saving the informant with his flashing roadlight?!

All went to plan with all but the last objective being gained, when in the confusion and mêlée of the final assault, the informant defected and half the platoon and its commander were lost. A much disputed enemy victory was claimed, but this was put down to experience and a most enjoyable day was had by all.

CSM Hill

Aldershot Field Day - March 1992

After an arduous orienteering exercise, the battlecraft started in earnest. The mission: Locate and destroy six French terrorists, and recover the stolen information on the new Trident submarines.

Execution: The platoon slowly cleared the ground of the terrorists and forced them to miss their helicopter evacuation. The enemy did manage to regroup and the platoon attacked with good effect. A short rest and brew up saw the mysterious disappearance of two cadets. They were retrieved and a 'surprise' attack on the last pocket of resistance, a camp on a bowling hill, was planned and receded. The attack was sprung and the terrorist threat neutralised, information recovered and platoon commander lost to a suicide squad!

Debrief: A cup of hot soup and discussions upon the victorious force.

Sgt Whittaker

Shooting

During the past year the CCF has entered four shooting competitions. The first two competitions that we entered were CADSAM and SEDSAM. At CADSAM cadets fired the Cadet GP Rifle (5.56 mm) and had the opportunity to fire the current issue SA80 and LSW (both 5.56 mm). At SEDSAM cadets used the Cadet Target Rifle (7.62 mm).

In September 1991 the new CCF Shooting Club opened and meets every Thursday evening. So far we have entered two postal competitions, the Staniforth Challenge Cup and the Fennell Competitions.

All teams have done well in the competitions, but there is still room for improvement next year.

Many thanks go to 2Lt Rysdale and Mr McGairy for their help on Thursday afternoons and also for giving up their Thursday evenings to help with the Club.

Sgt Neil Benstead

RAF Section

This has been another busy year for the RAF Section, with a large number of visits and activities. The new chain of command quickly settled down under the firm leadership of Section Warrant Officer Mark Oden, ably assisted by Flight Sgt Tim Hogbin as adjutant, and Flight Sgts André Calleja and Elliot Toms in charge of the senior and junior entries of cadets. Having successfully guided the Section through the school year to date and trained their successors, the Senior NCO's of the Upper VI Form handed over their CCF responsibilities to the next generation at the end of the Spring Term in order to concentrate on their 'A' level studies, thereafter enjoying the status of 'elder statesmen'. We all wish them good luck with their examination results and in their future careers.

The Section has been greatly honoured by the Air Officer Commanding Air Cadets who has awarded his Certificate of Good Service to Richard Wells and to James Dewar, last year's two Warrant Officers for the outstanding work they both did in supporting Flying Officer Seymour when the previous officer commanding left. Only about eighteen of these prestigious certificates are awarded each

year throughout the entire AT and CCF cadet organisation of over 40,000 cadets.

Once again we have been fortunate in obtaining Flying Scholarships: in addition to Flt Sgt Matthew Hoare who gets one as part of his VI Form Scholarship, Flt Sgt André Calleja, Flt Sgt James Edwards, and Sgt Tim Milward are this year's lucky recipients. We wish them joy and every success with their flying.

Last summer James Dewar and André Calleja successfully completed basic Glider Training to solo standard. In addition our cadets are having the benefit this summer of three Basic Glider Training Courses and five Initial Glider Training Courses, together with many opportunities for Familiarisation Glider Training. All our gliding is now carried out on the new Grob 109 motor glider, which is a significant improvement on the old Venture glider, and is more akin to flying a light aircraft than gliding.

James Edwards completed the RAF Hereford Leadership Course last summer, whilst Section Warrant Officer Michael Hutt and Cpl Nicholas Hughes will be following in his footsteps this year. Meanwhile Sgt Kevin Hodgson has completed the Army's notoriously difficult UKLF Leadership Course.

We extend our warm thanks to all the many people that have helped the Section enjoy another excellent year, in particular Squadron Leader Mike Niel and the officers of No 6 Air Experience Flight at RAF Abingdon (soon to be RAF Benson) for their enthusiastic support in introducing so many of our cadets to flying in their dual-control Chipmunk aircraft and also for providing a splendid flypast for the visit of HRH the Princess of Wales. The Section is also greatly indebted to Squadron Leader Ian Mullan and his dedicated band of pilots on No 613 Volunteer Gliding School for acquainting a large number of boys with the thrills of powered glider flying. This could not have been achieved without the generous assistance of parents Jeff Hogbin, Bob Keefe, and Ron Seymour in transporting and supervising the cadets. As always, thanks go to Flt Lt Dave Quick and Flt Sgt Andy Waddell of our RAF Liaison Staff at HQ CCF (RAF) Central and East Area for their stalwart support throughout the year, as well as to British Airways Capt David Hughes, Capt Roger Hollingworth, Flt Lts Ian Brown, Bob Boutland, Paul Seymour, Lt Geoff Rysdale and all the others who have given so willingly of their free time.

Flt Lt M. C. Darby
O/C RAF Section

Easter Camp, RAF Manston

In the first week of the Easter Holiday thirteen RAF cadets enjoyed a week at the famous Battle of Britain RAF station at Manston, Kent. We arrived on a beautiful afternoon and quickly settled in with the other visiting contingent from King's School, Grantham. Some brave souls decided to rise at 5 am next morning for a jog, but most of us preferred a lie-in till reveille at 6 am! A busy week followed, with all of us flying at least once in Chipmunks, and some were lucky enough to fly in one of No 202 Squadron's Sea King search and rescue helicopters, an exciting trip that culminated in our being lowered from a 30ft hover to the ground on the rescue winch. Another highlight was a day's gliding with No 617 Volunteer Gliding School, which whetted everyone's appetite for this spectacular form of 'pure flying'. Shooting was also

popular, with a number of us gaining our marksman's badge.

The rest of the week was filled with a wide variety of activities and visits, including a memorable visit to the armed forces bomb disposal training school where we learned about some of the spectacular work of those brave and dedicated men. Our thanks go to Flt Lt Boutland and Officer Cadet Dewar who joined us for a few days, to Flt Lt Darby who organised and led the trip, and everyone else who helped make this such a very interesting and enjoyable trip.

Section Warrant Officer Michael Hutt

Easter Camp, RAG Gutersloh, Germany

On Wednesday, 8 April seven RAF Cadets under the watchful eye of Fg Off Seymour flew from Luton to Dusseldorf for a week's camp at RAF Gutersloh. During the week the atmosphere was relaxed, and the programme varied. Everyone enjoyed at least one flight in an operational Puma or Chinook helicopter, some for as long as two hours. One afternoon was spent with the RAF Regiment, gaining hands-on experience with the Rapier anti-aircraft missile system and a selection of anti-tank and anti-personnel weapons. It was also fascinating to watch the resident Harrier squadron putting their aircraft through their paces on the airfield.

Gutersloh is an ex-Luftwaffe wartime base, and we were lucky enough to see some of the memorabilia from those days, including the room in the attic of the officer's mess where Hermann Goering used to hold his private (very private) parties. Other activities included a visit to the assault course, a trip to the historic town of Munster (I recommend their McDonalds), a day spent in Magdeburg in what was East Germany, a fun evening at a leisure pool complex, and several evenings of sports at the excellent fitness centre.

Grateful thanks go to Fg Off Seymour for the time and effort she devoted to making this camp possible, and to Cdr Jones for kindly transporting us to and from Luton Airport.

Flt Sgt Jonathan Keefe

My First Solo

Last August WO James Dewar and I had the pleasure of learning to fly on a Basic Glider Training Course at RAF Benson. We arrived in blazing sunshine which was to remain with us throughout the week, sapping our strength in the cockpit and tanning our bodies on the ground. Unfortunately a tricky cross-wind made flying difficult for the first few days; however, on the Sunday conditions were perfect and the previously relaxed training became intense. The morning was spent practising emergencies and landings, and early that afternoon my instructor told me that I was ready to go solo! Feeling excited, although a little apprehensive, I taxied out, got clearance on the radio and felt the full throb of the engine as my RPM increased steadily. With a dramatic salute to my colleagues I released the parking brakes and started to roll. A gentle back pressure on the stick and the glider was in its element. I was now flying solo for the first time. At 900 feet I levelled out and started the 180° left turn to commence the downwind leg of the circuit. Now for the

first time I was able to relax and admire a beautiful orange sun glowing on the horizon. At long last I had to turn finals and, with a sense of dismay, opened the airbrakes to start the second 180° left-hand turn on the runway. I lined up with the centre-line, picked my landing point and 'rounded out'. It was a perfect landing, and as I throttled back and shut down, I felt absolutely fantastic. I had just been the captain of an RAF aircraft and flown a successful solo circuit - a moment I shall never forget. Our thanks go to Flt Lt Hazledon and his wonderful, humorous team of instructors, and to Fg Off Seymour for arranging the course for us.

Flt Sgt André Calleja

Visit of Air Vice Marshal G M Ferguson CBE RAF

On 5th December, 1991 the RAF Section was honoured to receive a visit from the Air Officer Administration of Headquarters Strike Command, Air Vice Marshal G M Ferguson CBE RAF. On his arrival the Air Marshal was greeted by a guard of honour of RAF cadets in the quadrangle. Having chatted to the guard and Flying Officer Seymour, the Air Marshal took tea with the Headmaster and Contingent Cdr before being escorted to the IT Centre where he was shown an interesting variety of aircraft simulation software. On the 'square' he witnessed some stunning drill from the 4th Form recruits, from which he was able to recover gently whilst observing a lecture on the Chipmunk in the Gaunt-Smaje Room. Having browsed through an impressive display of 5th Form projects, the AVM proceeded to the firing range to see our marksmen in action, which was followed by a squad of senior cadets undergoing an advance leadership exercise that they completed with verve and minimum number of casualties. During his short visit Air Vice Marshal Ferguson expressed admiration at what he saw both of the school and the CCF Contingent. For our part it was a great pleasure to host such a charming and distinguished guest.

Section Warrant Officer Mark Oden

Method of Instruction Course

On 15 February, 1992, four RAF and two Army cadets from the RGS arrived at St George's Barracks, Bicester to attend a Method of Instruction Course run by No 16 Cadet Training Team. Most of the next day was spent being taught to use visual aids to greatest effect, and how to instruct our fellow cadets in a professional manner. Nine hours and forty sides of notepaper later we were assigned our lessons for the next day. We breathed a sigh of relief to hear that none of us would be delivering lessons on the notoriously difficult GP rifle, but instead on good old 'map and compass' work. Even so, we prepared our 15 minute lessons until the small hours of Sunday morning, managing only 3 or 4 hours sleep! All too soon we each gave our lessons, from which it was clear that we had all profited greatly from what I now believe to be an essential course for cadet instructors. Our sincere thanks go to the tea urn at St George's Barracks, without whose help we could not have survived this intensive course. Who said teaching looks easy.

Cpl Simon Hallam

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Annual General Meeting

24 Old Boys attended the AGM of the Club, held in the new School library before the Annual Dinner.

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

Matters Arising

The President drew attention to the library in which the meeting was being held. He was grateful that an anonymous donation from an Old Boy at the meeting had helped to make the fitting-out possible. J K Prior said that local management of schools had brought extra work but that it was being operated successfully. He could not praise too highly the work of the Bursar, top management team and the staff.

Treasurer's Report

The Auditor reported that the deficit for the year of £555 was very similar to the norm for previous years. Subscriptions were received from 31 Life Members during the year, totalling £930, which added up to the Capital Account balance less the deficit of £555 gives a balance at the end of the year of £6,538 as opposed to £6,163 at the beginning.

All the Officers of the Club were re-elected. Thanks were expressed to John Read for his work as Hon Auditor and to the Hon Secretary/Treasurer.

The President in his comments spoke of the advantages of LMS. The control of the budget meant that the school could employ a maintenance man, who could do various much-needed jobs quickly. The result of the General Election was awaited with interest as a real threat to the status of the school seemed likely. Generally the school was in good heart, being absolutely inundated with applications for boarding.

There was no other business.

Annual Dinner 1992

The Guest of Honour, proposed by Geoffrey Green, was Henry Sandon (1940-44), who gave a very interesting illustrated account of his life. In his early days he had appeared in films including 'The Thief of Baghdad' with Sabu. He taught music at Worcester Royal Grammar School and sang in the Cathedral Choir at Worcester. He is now a world renowned expert on Worcester porcelain and is one of the panel of experts appearing regularly on the Antiques Roadshow.

R C File (1945-53) proposed the toast to the School and Club. He drew on his experiences of 40 years' association with the school as pupil and master, latterly as Dean of Sixth Form Studies. The Headmaster responded.

Deaths - Old Boys

PC BEVIS (1921-25) of 16 Catchpole Close, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk, died on the 6th May 1991.

ALFRED BRADLEY (1938-43) G E G writes: The glowing tributes in The Times and Daily Telegraph bear testimony to what one of his BBC colleagues called his 'twinkling genius'. He was ever a true man of the theatre from his day in School plays and had a consuming passion for his art and an ability to communicate this to others. Whilst he was a student at Drama School, he would, with others of his student friends, visit London theatres frequently (as often as three times a week - always in 'the Gods'). He recognised, however, that his true talents lay more in directing and soon proved his brilliance in this area in theatres throughout the country, including High Wycombe Repertory Company. He was ever a shrewd judge of talent and I recall an occasion when he pressed me to visit him at Aylesbury Rep. to see a young actor who had given up his career in the bank to go on the stage; he forecast this actor 'would go far'. Regrettably, I was not able to spare the time (I was then, briefly, on the professional stage), otherwise I would have seen Ronnie Barker at the start of his career. He was ever a person to enjoy life. While in the Sixth Form during wartime, he paid a visit (with the School Chaplain - an Old Boy, the Rev G McAvan) to a London theatre (The Windmill), the main attraction of which was the ladies in a state of undress. It is not recorded as to who was the more surprised when the lights went up and they discovered that the gentleman sitting immediately in front of them was none other than one ERT. For the greater part of his career he was a renowned BBC Producer and fostered the works of many of the new breed of playwrights such as Alan Ayckbourn. Those who had the good fortune to know him well, will ever cherish fond memories of a delightful character.

A E BRANCH (1919-23) died in June 1991 aged 84 years. 'Twiggy' Branch was a well-known Wycombe character and a faithful Old Boy of the School. He did not follow into the family furniture business, Barnes and Branch, but carved out a career for himself in the Art supplies world. He ran the Art Shop in Castle Street and retired in 1971. He lived in Marlow, which suited him well, as he and his wife had a narrow boat and cruised over 8,000 miles, at an average 4 mph, on the canals and rivers of England. In his retirement he was a valued helper in the Marlow Cottage Hospital.

JOHN DIFFLEY (1969-74) died in April 1991. From the RGS he went to Leeds University to study Law and was working in London at the time of his death.

J DODGSON (1919-22) died on the 9th November 1991, aged 85. Jim's capabilities were of a more practical nature compared with his brother Allan. After leaving school he took an electrical engineering apprenticeship, leading to a lifelong career in that field. He married in 1932 and settled in Chalfont St Peter. His skills led to his being retained in a civilian role during the Second World War to 'keep the wheels of industry turning'. After the war he returned to a former position with an electrical contractor in Gerrards Cross, where he also became a member of the part-time retained Fire Service. Following his retirement at a later age than customary, he devoted his energies to caring for his family and neighbours. He leaves a son Peter (1948-55) and two grand-daughters.

S E HANDS (1915-20) Lt Col S E Hands TD, FRPSL, died on November 22nd 1991, aged 88 years. Sydney

Hands won one of the few scholarships available at the time and was a faithful life-long supporter of the school. He was a member of the Old Boys' Committee from 1922-86. He founded the Old Wycombiensians' RUFC in 1929. He was its first Treasurer and held the post until 1966. He was held in great esteem by High Wycombe RUFC which developed from the Old Boys' teams and tribute was paid to him at a special dinner in November 1969. He was Guest of Honour of the Old Boys' Club when he reached the age of 80. He was a founder member of the Old Boys' Masonic Lodge and was Treasurer from 1971. He donated the Hands' Cup for philately, competed for annually at the School.

When he left school he joined a bank and then in 1922 the firm of Wm Hands and Sons, which his father had founded in 1906 and which became one of the country's leading manufacturers of contract furniture. In 1964 he was appointed Chairman and retired in 1974 having served the company for 50 years.

He was a keen sportsman - rugby was his great love. He was a founder member of the High Wycombe Motor Cycling Club many years ago and competed widely. He raced on the Brooklands track and partnered Freddy Dixon as a side-car passenger (on a plank) on a Harley Davidson, reaching speeds of 100 mph.

He was called to the forces in August 1939 and ended the war as Lt Col and Staff Paymaster Class 1. He was responsible for the Central Clearing House for the pay of Middle East Forces in Jerusalem.

He was a prominent member of several masonic lodges and active member of High Wycombe Rotary club, serving as President in 1968-69. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 1947, was Hon Treasurer for nearly 20 years and President in 1972-73. He won numerous gold and silver medals at exhibitions all over the world with his Bolivia and Israel collections.

He leaves a widow Mrs Irene Hands, who lives at 17 Brands Hill Avenue, High Wycombe, two daughters and a son.

G HUNT (1923-30) George Harman Hunt died peacefully on January 8th 1992, aged 79 years. George Hunt was the founder of one of High Wycombe's most successful estate agencies. He was a chartered surveyor who joined John Nash in 1938 to create Hunt and Nash of Crendon Street. He retired as Senior Partner in 1983, but continued to go into the office every day in a consultancy role.

During the war he served in the Royal Engineers and came out as a Captain. In post war years he became a Wycombe Councillor, following in the footsteps of his father, a former mayor. He was involved in the town's slum clearance programme in the fifties when 1800 houses were pulled down and new homes built.

He was a keen sportsman. He learned his rugby at school and played at scrum-half for the Wasps and High Wycombe. He was a member of Flackwell Heath Golf Club. He was always of a courteous manner and immaculately dressed - when a comment on these qualities was once made to him, he replied, 'Well, you see, I'm an Arnison man.' He leaves a widow, Mrs Jean Hunt, who lives at Upper Meadow, Hammersley Lane, Penn, High Wycombe, a son and a daughter.

J E KIMBER (1920-27) Jack's first job was with the Milk Marketing Board and there he met his wife Muriel who lived in Chesham. Following marriage in 1940 they set up home in Liverpool, running a branch of a family based Ship Stores business. In 1970 they returned to Bucks and he worked in London for a short time. On retirement

they moved to Broadstone in Dorset. Jack's main interests were reading, his garden and good music, especially church music. He was very involved with Wimborne Minster and was a regular member of their 'Welcome Team'. Jack is sadly missed by his wife, four children and six grandchildren. His wife is shortly to return to the Wycombe area to live near her eldest daughter.

R D MEAD (1912-14) Robert Dennis Mead died in Australia aged 90 years. His nephew R N Giles (1934-39) writes: Robert Mead began an engineering apprenticeship but left it to join the Army as a motorcycle dispatch rider. Returning to engineering he was a keen wireless enthusiast in the early days of broadcasting and constructed many receiving sets for family, friends and neighbours. In a variety of jobs from garage mechanic to draughtsman to production manager he had many homes, including years living in Holmer Green, at West Wycombe and on a houseboat at Windsor. His invention of an 'outboard motor' for bicycles reached prototype stage but was overtaken by the arrival of the Lambretta. When his two sons emigrated to Australia he and his wife followed them and he continued his career in Townsville, NSW. Unfortunately his eyesight failed and he spent the last 20 years in idyllic surroundings. His address there was typical: Mead, Balgal Beach, c/o Rolling Stone Post Office, via Townsville.

C MITCHELL (1937-45) Cyril died on November 24th 1991, peacefully after a very long illness. He had not been able to work for the last twenty years. He was the RSM of the JTC and Senior Flight Sgt in the ATC - a very lively and forthright member of the school during its hectic war years.

C F PALMER (1926-31) died on March 18th 1992, in Lincoln Hospital aged 78 years. Charles Palmer was a Life Member of the Old Boys' Club and spent most of his working life at Broom and Wade in High Wycombe. He was a home loving man and a skilled gardener. Roses were his speciality. He and his wife moved to Lincoln 10 years ago to be near their only daughter. He leaves a widow Mrs Joan Palmer, who lives at 14 Oak Avenue, Dunholme, Lincoln.

P M M SLATTER (1919-26) died on March 16th 1992 after a short illness, at the Chalfont and Gerrards Cross Hospital, aged 81 years. Paul Slatter was for many years manager of Martins Bank in High Wycombe, before moving to work in London. He was Treasurer and Secretary of Bucks County Cricket Club, where he was an official for 30 years. He had strong connections with local amateur dramatics and produced 25 musicals and shows for the High Wycombe Musical Entertainment Society between 1955 - 1983. He was the second of four generations of Slatters to attend the RGS. He leaves a widow, Mildred, who lives in Framewood Road, Fulmer and two sons.

Deaths - Staff

J S DAWES MA. MUS B (Cantab), ARCO (1956-68). Jimmy Dawes made a great contribution to the musical life of the School for 12 years. He was Director of Music and was also Organist and Choirmaster at the Parish Church in High Wycombe. Under his direction the School produced a long line of Gilbert and Sullivan operas which stretched back to 'Patience' in 1956 and ended with 'The Mikado' in 1968. He left the school at the end of the Christmas term and went to a similar post at a Roman Catholic School in Slough. He leaves a widow Mrs Kirsten Dawes, two sons (both Old Boys) and a daughter. The tribute that follows is

by Eileen McCarthy, Hon Sec of the Maidenhead Newman Circle:

After reading for a degree at Queens' College, Cambridge, where he also received the rarely awarded Sawyer Prize for Music, becoming an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, Jim Dawes taught first at Cranleigh and then at Leeds Grammar School.

During the war, he served with the RAF and, on demobilisation, became the Music Advisor for Buckinghamshire, later returning to teaching at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

In 1959, Jim and his wife, Kirsten, were received into the Church, and also began their long association with the Newman. They were invited to join the South Bucks Circle, and Jim played a very active role, serving as Chairman, Secretary and Committee member. During this time, he also served on the Liturgical Commission of the Northampton Diocese, with particular reference to Church music.

On joining the staff of St Joseph's Secondary School, Slough, he moved to Maidenhead, and within a year, had established the Maidenhead Newman Circle, of which he remained the guiding light until a year or so before his death. Membership was boosted in 1978 when members of the South Bucks Circle, now disbanded, were invited to transfer to the Maidenhead Circle.

At national level, Jim served on Council, was Secretary 1981-84, and Membership Secretary 1984-86. While he was teaching in Slough, he was appointed organist at the Holy Redeemer Church, and on retiring from the post received the Papal award Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice for his services to the Church.

I count myself privileged to have known Jim. He was a very private person and never sought the limelight, but used his talents to the full in the service of others. He was never too busy to give us the benefit of his many years' experience in the Newman Association, and I am particularly grateful for the support he gave me when, very new to the office, I became Circle Secretary. May he rest in peace.

Notes

ANDREWS. S T H (1972-80) Since his last entry in these notes, Simon has been to the Gulf, where his battalion was sent before the end of the war, returned to Germany and been posted back to the UK, where he is an instructing Captain at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Before leaving Germany he bumped into Jon Coups (1972-80) who is married and also in the Army (Capt. Royal Artillery).

ANDREWS. W R H (1959-63) Bill went to Bristol University to read Zoology and left, married to do an MSc in Oceanography at Southampton University. After a short spell as a poorly paid Research Assistant he landed a job in Cape Town, doing research on upwelling for the Department of Sea Fisheries. He returned six years later with a broken marriage and two sons. After a spell in London supply teaching, he went north to start a business hiring canal holiday boats near Stoke-on-Trent, where he still lives. He now has a second family (two girls this time) and runs a small retail business started by his second wife.

BAYLY. A (1980-86) gained his MEng in Chemical Engineering at Pembroke College, Cambridge in June 1991, with first class honours. He is currently travelling in Asia before commencing his PhD, also at Cambridge.

BECKET. G A (1935-40) is still useful as Hon Treasurer of various worthy bodies, as befits an unusually innocent obsolete bricklayer. He sends news of his sons. **BECKET. H A** (1964-70) continues to be active in advertising and is based near Oxford Circus. He resides at Radlett and is a Church Organist and Choirmaster when possible. **BECKET. A R** (1966-72) rushes around the realm installing computers. He remains keen on amateur radio and lives in Prestwood. **BECKET. N S** (1975-79) has satisfied the examiners as a Master Mariner. When home (lately from Gabon) he shares a flat in Southampton with a trombone and is to be married in April.

BIRD. M E C (1924-26) is a retired Consulting Engineer. Brother-in-law **STEPHENS. J S** (1924-26) is a retired Film Art Director who won an Oscar for his work on the film 'Tess'. He now lives in Menorca-Balarics. Sons **BIRD. S M** (1954-59) is a Solicitor in East Grinstead, **BIRD. M F S** (1954-60) is a Consulting Engineer, Mechanical and Electrical in Bucks. **BIRD. S** (1967-73) is a Consulting Civil Engineer specialising in Geophysics. He would be delighted to receive news of any of his contemporaries.

BIRD. M (Dick) (1944-51) regularly meets other Old Boys through the Old Wycombiensian Masonic Lodge and recommends membership to Old Boys interested in charitable work and the camaraderie of the world's oldest fraternity. He also plays an occasional game of snooker with Roger Ball and keeps contact with Ron Wynands, Richard Wheelband (resident in Canada), Mike Hastings and other members of 5SC (1948 vintage). Malcolm retired in 1990 but keeps busy with some occasional consultancy and has now had 14 books published on business subjects. He has completed a training course to equip him for voluntary teaching of adult literacy and numeracy. He also tends a large allotment for relaxation.

BJELK. K (1980-86) graduated from Kingston Polytechnic in July 1990 with a BA Hons Degree in Chartered Accounting and Finance. He is currently training to become a Chartered Accountant with a local firm of Accountants in High Wycombe.

BROWNLIE. R (1980-86) graduated from Corpus Christi, Cambridge in June 1990 and proceeded to travel for 6 months taking in India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, Hawaii and United States. He is now working for Andersen Consulting in London.

BULL. M (1947-81) Marcus obtained his PhD in June 1991. His thesis was on 'Knightly Piety in SW France 970-1130'. He gave a paper at an international conference on the Crusades held in July 1991 at Syracuse University, New York State.

CLARK. J W (1960-66) is now Professor of Industrial Relations at the University of Southampton. He is currently on secondment to the Warwick Business School to carry out research into personnel management and technical change. In 1990 he was appointed to ACAS's national panel of arbitrators, and enjoys doing about five single arbitrations a year. He is currently trying to persuade government (or whoever will listen) that arbitration is a more speedy, just and less costly alternative to industrial tribunals for dealing with unfair dismissal cases.

COLLINS. F (1972-79) Frank has had a busy year full of unexpected happenings. He has moved house, but only

'across the fence', whilst a change of employment to a firm of solicitors in the City of Bath offers many new exciting challenges - although not without incident! The forthcoming year promises to be a busy one as well, as he is scheduled to become Chairman of Frome Round Table in April 1992.

CORNISH. M M (1940-46) is currently Head of Department of Maritime Studies at Glasgow College of Nautical Studies. On leaving RGS he spent two years on the training ship 'Conway' before going to sea with the then British Tanker Company. After an initial 10 years at sea, on obtaining his Extra Master's Certificate, he came ashore as lecturer in nautical colleges. After four years in London he married and then obtained a post in Plymouth where he remained for nineteen years and where his two daughters grew up. He returned to sea occasionally, in gas carriers and P and O. In 1982 he obtained his present post and feels that his college has done well to survive as the Merchant Navy has been and is going through a difficult time. He and his wife live in Helensburgh. His younger brother Bernard (1948-51), after initially serving with REME, emigrated to Australia with his family and now lives and works in Brisbane.

CRADWICK. L W (1927-32) Minister of Health Virginia Bottomley has described Leslie as one of her favourite constituents. He went to the State Opening of Parliament in November having been given a ticket by Mrs Bottomley, one she had been lucky to obtain in the MP's draw. Leslie got to know her when he had a problem with his pension several years ago.

CUPPER. M R (1942-48) has retired from banking after 42 years service and is now assisting his wife in running a small hotel - Loddington House Hotel, on the seafront at Dover.

FLETCHER. B J (1941-49) retired from the Civil Service in December 1991 and was joined in April 1991 by **VEALE. D G** (1941-49) another former Civil Servant. Both have found plenty to do in retirement and wonder how they found the time to go to work.

FOSTER. M (1971-78) is still working as a management consultant for Andersen Consulting. He took time off recently to travel the world but is now back and planning to get married this summer to Sandy. His best man will be fellow Old Boy Chris McDermott. He still keeps in touch with Tony Sendall and Neil Featonby, friends from schooldays.

GARRATT. M J (1977-83) is Financial Controller for Stanhope Interior Construction Limited. He is an active member of the Salvation Army, his duties encompassing being Representative on the Churches Together in England Forum, Senior Elder in his Church in Nunhead SE15, Lay Chaplain for Students in London, member of the South West London Worship Events Committee, Brass bandsman and choir member. His brother Martin (1979-85) is Head of Music at the Wye Valley School, Bourne End.

GODFREY. R W (1972-79) has the letters FCMA and ACIS after his name. He works as a Company Accountant for a research and engineering Consultancy Company in Wallingford. He rejoined them in 1991 having spent a year with National Power during its run up to privatisation. He now lives in Abingdon. He will be visiting his brother **GODFREY. S J** (1967-70) in Brisbane in September. Stephen works for a Merchant Bank and has lived in Australia since 1984.

GRAPES. T (1983-89) is now in his second year of a three-year degree course in Applied (Mining) Geology at

Leicester University. Between leaving RGS and starting at University he took a year out and was able to gain some experience of working in a mining environment, when he secured a placement as a field assistant with a major mining company. This involved several month's work on a gold exploration project in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland. After graduating Tim hopes to make a career in the mining and minerals industry, after perhaps further study for an MSc in an associated field.

HADDON. J S (1943-47) is on a 3-year contract as Chief Technical Officer in the Department of Mining Engineering at the University of Technology, Papua New Guinea.

HEYS. M (1984-87) qualified as a Professional Golfer at the PGA School at Bisham Abbey in November 1991. He continues to work at Wrexham Park Golf course, Slough.

HICKMAN. H C (1939-46) was recently awarded an Honours Degree by the Open University after a protracted period of part-time study which started as a leisure pursuit, but when the benefits became apparent he decided to complete the full course. The title of EUR ING has been conferred on him by the European Federation of National Engineering Associations. The recipient of this title is recognised throughout the European Community as a professionally qualified engineer.

HILL. J R (1964-71) Jonathan is going to Oscott Seminary to train for the R C priesthood.

HOLLAND. M (1982-88) Michael is studying for an English/Drama degree at St Mary's, Twickenham. He is a member of the Socialist Workers' Party and hopes to gain an Equity card after he has obtained his degree.

HOY. J L (1970-77) is working for the Government as an economics adviser on the the UK's aid programme. After postings in Kenya and London, John is now based in ODA's regional office in Thailand, mainly covering Bangladesh and Indonesia. His Thai has improved since he married his language teacher, Nim, in 1990. He keeps in touch with Roger Orr, who is designing computer systems for the Stock Exchange and Stephen Gray, who, as a marketing director for TKM, is spearheading sales of 4WD cars in the UK.

HUGHES. E (1978-84) having spent three years gaining experience with Foster's Brewing Group, where he was Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the European Group, Edward decided that, in order to gain a broader understanding of the functions of a business and to increase his contact network, he would start an MBA at Harvard Business School.

HUNNIBELL. M (1976-82) Marcus continues to live in Cheltenham and practice in Stroud. He is learning to cope with Saving Legal Aid and has established that Hook Norton is a reasonable substitute for Adnams. He reports that Graham Cox (1976-82) has joined the ranks of Metroland commuters, having moved out of the smoke to Little Chalfont. Lance Voute (1976-82) has returned to academia at the Royal Veterinary College at Hatfield.

JARVIS. A R (1978-84) flies C130 Hercules and his Gulf Service started on August 10th 1990 when he was deployed to Cyprus. He flew various trips to and from various stations in the Gulf and in January was detached to Riyadh for 5 weeks to fly low level casualty evacuation trips in preparation for ground war, which thankfully were not needed.

KENNEDY. C M (1979-85) is currently studying at the Central School of Speech and Drama. He performed in a

joint production of Macbeth with members of the ADC at Cambridge, which they took to the USSR. He sends news of Matthew Leigh continuing his brilliant academic career at Oxford, combining his post-graduate studies at Balliol with some teaching at St Hugh's, Pat Jennings has returned from oil prospecting in South America hoping to join the RAF, Robert Moorin is teaching English at Nantes University and Justin Audcent is working for a firm of accountants in Reading.

KIMBER. R M (1919-23) 'Dick' Kimber, the highly respected and longest serving member of the Council of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, is to be congratulated on reaching the age of 21. He was born on February 29th 1908.

MADLIN. R (1968-75) expects to be posted back to London in the first half of 1993 and hopes that he will see more of his old school friends as a result. After the excitement of Maastricht in December 1991, 1992 will see the UK Presidency of the EC Council of Ministers. A change of pace will be welcome next year!

MARTIN. B A (1974-81) is in the RAOC qualified as an Ammunition Technician and has spent his time in various Ammunition Depots in Germany since joining the army. He served in the Gulf helping to run the largest Ammunition Depot and after the conflict ended he helped to receive all ammunition returned. It was during the latter phase that he met Rupert Swinhoe-Standen. He has done two tours in Northern Ireland, and is married and is presently posted to Edinburgh with 11 Ord Bn, the people who inspect the RGS CCF ammunition inspections.

MCGAIRY. D L (1931-33) is retired after careers in the RA (Gunnery Instructor) and as resident eccentric engineer at Harrisons the Stamps. He is an Old Boy both of the RGS and 'the Tech', which is rarely heard of.

MONAGHAN. N R (1965-72) is still practising at the Criminal Bar, despite the Lord Chancellor's attempts to destroy the profession. No longer a Tory, but looks back on the RGS with affection. He wonders if there is any hope of the class of 1972 making the Old Boy's Dinner of 1993 on Saturday April 3rd, a celebration of 21 years out?

MOORE. D J (1963-70) returned to live in High Wycombe in July 1991 and now lives in Terry Orchard, just off Terry Road - little more than a stone's throw from the school. At the beginning of 1992 he became Senior partner of his firm of solicitors, Rodgers and Burton in Barnes, London SW13. Last year he was fortunate enough to be elected as a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is working towards becoming a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, having been admitted to the Freedom of that Company in January 1992. He is married with two children who both go to nearby Hamilton School.

PEATEY. B C (1941-49) is feeling his age, having become a grandfather for the first time in October 1991. He is still defeating the object of retirement by taking part in County Council and other local activities and was delighted to become a Foundation Governor of RGS last year.

PEATEY. J B (1968-73) has recently been appointed as a Customer Service Manager with the Prudential, based in Watford. Living in Hunton Bridge, he is ideally placed (when time allows) to pursue his main hobby, which is canals and narrowboats that sail them. When he is unable to be on the canal it is alright, as an off-shoot of the Grand Union actually passes under his house. Until recent renovation work was finished, the rising damp gave things a very authentic feel.

PREECE. J M R (1972-79) served in the Gulf in 22 Fd Hospital, anaesthetic support. He is in the RADC, his wife is a Captain in the QARANC and she also did service in the Gulf.

PRIOR. J K (1934-40) Chairman of the School Governors, John, former Training and Development Manager of the Prudential, recently designed, assembled and edited the Gower 'Handbook of Training and Development'. The book has been greeted by the profession as a 'flagship' publication and it is selling very well.

RIVETT. B (1977-79) Marlow estate agent Brett returned from his 10-a-day round the world trip to a new job as manager of the Spittal Street office of Chancellors. The grandson of the man who founded Murray's, the old Wycombe department, Brett's activities on his trip included white water rafting over rapids in Nepal, sleeping on a luggage rack on a train in India and trekking through the Himalayas.

SANTNER. R S (1976-82) in 1991 became a Chartered Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers and Institution of Civil Engineers. He continues to work for Ove Arup and Partners, engineering designers and consultants in London. He was in recent contact with KING. G (1976-80) who lives in Frimley and runs his own computer consultancy, and WHITE. M (1976-82) who continues to sing, act and direct shows and plays in the West End.

SAUNDERS. J R (1943-50) is working for the UK subsidiary of the Scherdel Group, Germany, makers of car components, particularly engine valve springs. He sees HALL. E (1944-51) on his occasional visits to the UK.

SEARLE. R A (1969-76) continues to work as a priest on two large council estates on South Tyneside. He is in charge of a new church and finds the challenge of building it up exhaustingly exhilarating! He is pleased to report that real ale has reached Geordieland at last and at affordable prices. He would still like to hear from David Gardiner, Grahame Murnane or any others of the Arthur Sproat Band.

SHACKELL. W E (1951-60) was head of the Ministry of Defence's casualty unit for the Gulf and he was awarded the CBE for his work. He is currently based in York as the Commander of 29 Engineer Brigade and York Garrison.

STONHAM. E J (1958-65) has set up his own accountancy practice specialising in rescue operations and insolvency. He has been very busy recently and hopes this information will be of academic interest only to other readers of the Wycombiensian.

THAIN. J E D (1961-68) is living within twenty minutes of Kruger National Park. He has his own sales and marketing company based in Johannesburg.

TODDS. S M (1972-79) has established his own Theatrical Agency, booking tours around the world for contemporary artistes. The company is also responsible for licensing music and videos in Eastern Europe and now has offices in London, Warsaw, and Richmond, Virginia.

TOMES. I M (1951-58) Major Ian Tomes is back in Africa again with an Army Advisory Team. This time he is in Gwery, central Zimbabwe, where he is advising on officer training at their Military Academy. After 6 years in West Africa, he finds Zimbabwe very 'civilised' in comparison, although the country is suffering from a major drought.

WALLER. M S (1966-73) in his role of Principal (Computer) Support Analyst at British Airways, Max's responsibilities include the management of disk and tape resources, operational software maintenance and enhancement and general trouble-shooting. He still enjoys representing BA at tenpin-bowling at home and abroad in corporate and airline tournaments. His other passion is

collecting and researching 60's US garage-rock and psychedelia, which has resulted in his involvement in several books on the genre. He writes currently for the UK psychedelic fanzine Freakbeat.

WILKES. N C B (1975-82) served in the Gulf with RAOC Stores Platoon 12 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery. He is married to Fifi with a daughter Katie. He plays squash for his corps and is hoping to get an Army trial. He is at present Adjutant, Training Battalion and Depot, RAOC.

WILLIAMS. C G F (1935-40) retired from a fascinating financial career in the Americas. He now lives half of the year in New Jersey and the rest on or by the River Thames - a floating voter?

WILLIAMS. J C (1949-57) is still employed as the Secretary and Chief Executive of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and as such comes into contact with many other electrical engineers who were educated at the RGS. He has recently met two old school friends. The first was Brian BOWERS (1950-57) who went to Kings College, London to study electrical engineering and then worked as a patents officer at the Patents Office. For some years now he has been working at the Science Museum, where he is responsible for exhibits and exhibitions covering lighting, electrical machines and electronics. He is very interested in the history of science and engineering and chairs an Institution Committee responsible for a series of books covering the history of electrical engineering. He has written many articles for learned Society publications and has also written a number of books on subjects as diverse as 'The Life of Michael Faraday' to the 'History of Lighting'. He is well known as an international lecturer on the history of electrical engineering and has recently lectured in Australia and the United States. The second old school friend he meets regularly is Brian F HARDY (1950-57) who received an electrical engineering degree from Imperial College, London. Brian is Chairman of a Professional Technical Group at the Institution of Electrical Engineers and serves on the Power Division Committee. He works for a company in the power engineering field and is an enthusiastic member of the Kent Centre Committee of the Institution. He would encourage ex-RGS friends who have become members of the Institution of Electrical Engineers to let him know at his London office in Savoy Place.

THE ANNUAL DINNER 1993 WILL BE ON SATURDAY APRIL 3RD.

The Old Wycombiensian Lodge

1992 marks the 275th anniversary of the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Old Wycombiensian Lodge is only 43 years old but continues to provide the opportunity for Old Boys and staff to share their Freemasonry with those having the School as an additional common bond.

There is no doubt that the fellowship of Freemasonry is enhanced by the added bond of school life. This is clearly indicated by the number of Lodges in which membership is

dependent on having attended or taught at a particular school or university.

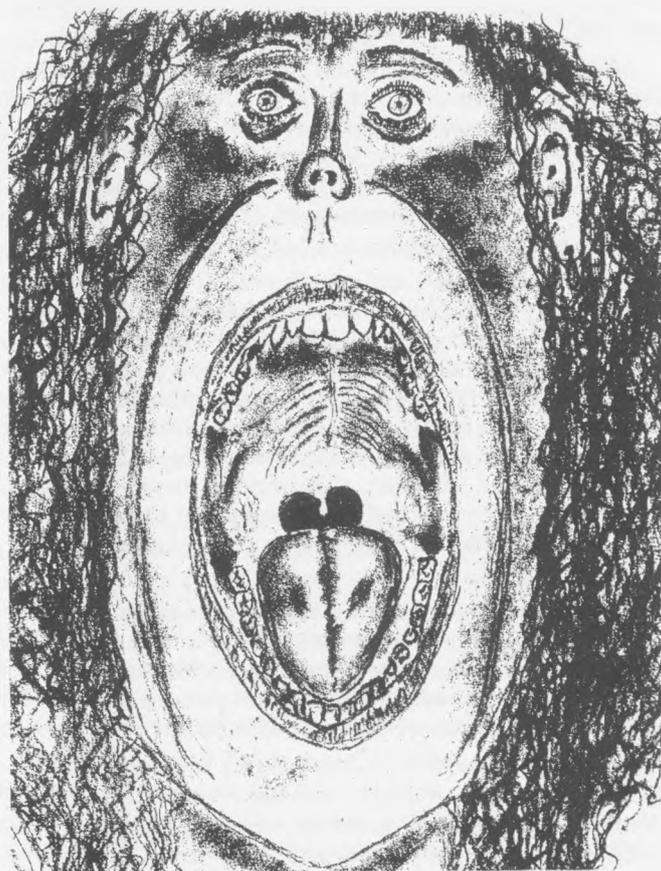
Locally there are three Old Boys/Staff Lodges: Borlase, Norman Arches (High Wycombe Technical/John Hampden), and our own.

The shared attachment which such Lodges have for their respective school or university led to the formation of the Federation of School Lodges with a current membership of 130 of which we are one: in fact we recently hosted the annual meeting of the Federation.

To celebrate the 275th anniversary of Grand Lodge, Freemasons are donating a total of £2,550,000 to four charities active in the field of mentally handicapped adults. £1,250,000 will go to the CARE organisation, £500,000 to The Home Farm Trust, £250,000 to the Camphill Village Trust and £50,000 to the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes.

The extent to which Freemasonry supports charities and appeals is commendable; for instance during 1991 a total of £465,700 was distributed under the classification of 'minor' grants to hospices throughout England and Wales and National Charities of all types. This was quite apart from major donations to specific causes.

The Worshipful Master of our Lodge this year is J P Lord who will be succeeded in October by A E Fleet. The Senior Warden is D G Varney and Junior Warden is G E Green. The Secretary is P A Langson, Primrose Cottage, 20 William Smith Close, Little Woolstone, Milton Keynes, MK15 OAW, any of whom will be pleased to give you further information.



Douglas Devoy - 4th Year

