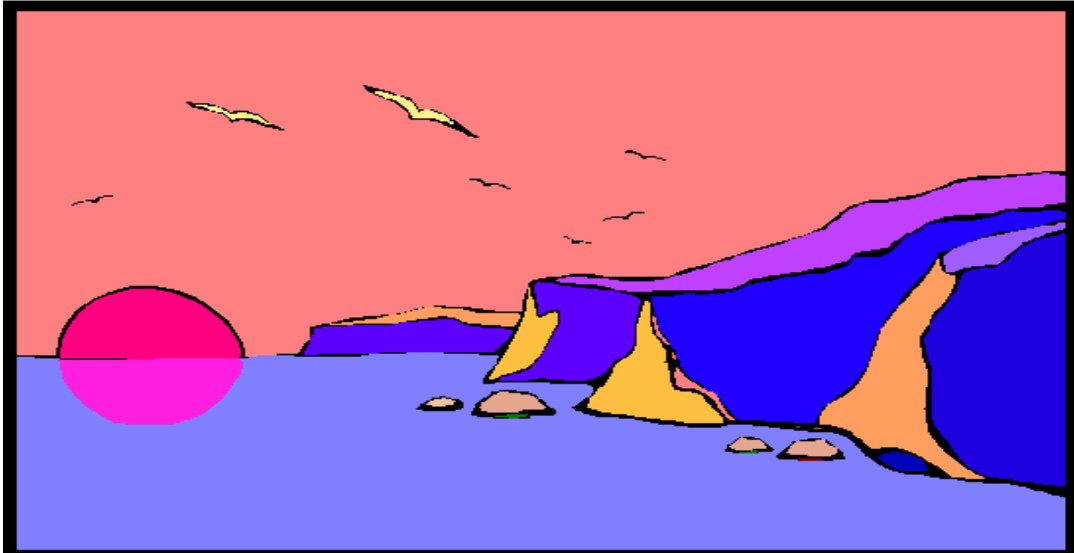


# NEWSLETTER JULY 2004

[Annual dinner](#) [Duncan Moore trophy](#) [Martin Berry](#) [Matron's late book](#)  
[Memories of 1955](#) [P L Jones](#) [That'll teach 'em](#) [Wycombiensian 1970](#)  
[Wycombiensian 1994](#)



## *CRICKET AND GOLF REUNIONS*

On Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July, the OW team played the RGS team in the Annual match for the Duncan Moore Trophy in memory of Duncan Moore who had played for the school 1st Team regularly in 1995 and 1996. The OW team consisted of the following:



Bobby Dix (capt) (1994-2000)

Sajid Zaib (1982-1988)

Richard Royce (1990-1996)

Andy Francis (1990-1994)

James Nicholas (1994-2000)

Jason De Gelas (1991-1995)

Oli Clark (1997-2003)

Nick Robinson (1997-2003)

James Anderson (1997-2003)

Ian Wagge (1975-1981)

Russel Bowry (1995-2001)

Bobby Dix writes as follows:

The RGS 1st XI won the toss and elected to bowl first in overcast conditions. The Old Boys quickly got into their stride with runs coming freely throughout the innings, mainly thanks to Nick Robinson's quick-fire century. Contributions were made right down the order, which allowed the Old Boys to reach 260 all out in the 40th over. The home side were forced to consolidate after Anderson and Nicholas took a wicket apiece, and quickly fell behind the challenging run rate. Despite several promising partnerships and a fighting hundred from Luke Walker the RGS were unable to keep up with the pace, due to the nagging bowling of Ian Wagge and Russel Bowry. The RGS eventually fell forty runs short, allowing the Old Boys to take the Duncan Moore Memorial Cup for a third consecutive year.

After the game a barbecue was organised for the teams.

It would be good next year if there were enough players to play two matches. Whether you played for the School 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, or are just a keen cricketer you would be most welcome. Contact your friends. It would be great to see a number of you back at the school. The date of the fixture will be published early in the New Year.

On the same day the OWs had a golf match against the RGS Staff. Unfortunately for various reasons the numbers involved were lower than last year but it was a very enjoyable occasion. The results were as follows:



OWs STAFF

Mark Forrester (1958-1963)

versus

Ian Gould

Martin Priestley (1955-1963)

David Chamberlain

WIN

Paul Dolphin (1969-1976)

versus

Ian Wilson

Doug McIndoe (1973-1979) WIN

Joan Allen

Trevor Woolliams (1985-1991) WIN

versus

Will Phelan

Steven John (1962-1970)

versus

Roger File

Peter Price

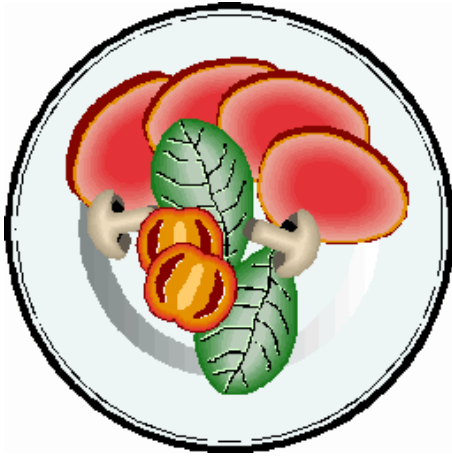
WIN

Mike Moffatt

The OW team won 3-1. We are planning another match for next summer. Details to be published early in the New Year.

## ANNUAL DINNER 2005

The date of the Annual Dinner is fixed for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April. It will be held in the Queens Hall, with the Guest of Honour being Andrew MacTavish. Some of you will remember Andrew as a boy at the RGS in the years 1948-1955, others will remember him as an English teacher in 1962-1966, others as the Head of John Hampden School and also Wycombe High School for a term. Many of you may have seen him as the Head of a 50s Boarding Grammar School programme shown on Channel 4 last summer. He is a very entertaining speaker. The Dinner will be preceded by the AGM of the Club, and tours round the school by those OWs who would like one. In addition on the same day it is hoped that there will be some sporting reunions on the Hockey-field, Sports Hall and elsewhere if there is sufficient interest. How about contacting your OW



and making up a table at the Dinner?

It has been suggested that the following should have a Reunion at the Dinner:

1. The 680 boys who fifty years were beaten by the Headmaster or Sam Morgan, on one day. (For the full story, read Andrew MacTavish's splendid account below.) Someone has suggested a re-enactment of the event!!
2. All those who in 1962 were in 5R, the only form I am told in the history of the school where all the boys studied Russian. The following were in the form: (Apologies for no first names.)

C.J.Andrew, A.Barratt, M.J.Bevan, D.J.Bowler, C.J.Coles, R.F.Darvill, J.Dixon, D.R.S.Fowler, N.P.Hampton, N.A.Harley, R.Hill, J.W.Hume, G.H.King, P.R.Lavender, A.J. Mole, G.A.Monaghan, S.G.Newman, B.A.Oliver, D.R.Parker, A.J.Prickett, A.J.Rainbow, J.S.Reid.

Form-teacher: A.J.MacTavish

Two of these have already said they will come. If you are on the list, please contact me. If you know anyone who is on the list, please ask him to contact me.

If you would like to get friends from your form, or a shared activity to join you at the Dinner, but have lost contact with them, please contact me and I will put their names on this website.

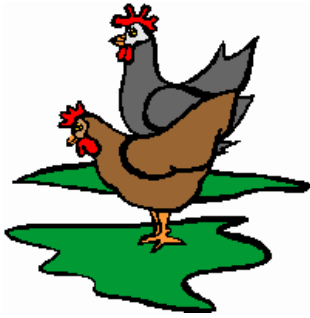
## **BOOK THE DATE NOW!**

Further details will be sent out to those who are members together with the Annual Magazine in January, and will be published on this website.

### **Three reminders:**

1. If you are a member of the OW Club and did not receive a magazine in the spring this year, it may be that you have moved and have not told us your new address. Please let me know this and you will receive a copy of the magazine.
2. If you are not yet a member of the OW Club, and would like to join, please [click here](#).
3. If you would like to buy receive a copy of the Wycombiensian, the school magazine, which has just been published, please send me a cheque for £5.

## ADVANCE NEWS



The buildings of the RGS will be featured again on Channel 4 this summer. This time a Technical School of the 60s is being re-created on the RGS site. I understand that the present 6<sup>th</sup> Form Common-Room is to be turned into a Cookery Room. There will be Rural Studies, with chickens and other animals around the place. Neither Andrew MacTavish nor Geoffrey Heath, who was Head of Spanish at the RGS in the 1980s, and who were in the Production last year will be performing again. The programme will be shown at the end of August and beginning of September.

Geoffrey Heath wrote about his experience in the production last year in the Wycombiensian, the RGS magazine. It is reproduced below.

### **That'll teach 'em**

Last summer, more by accident than anything else, I made my debut (and probably my farewell appearance) on television in the Channel Four series *That'll teach 'em* which was filmed at the RGS. For four weeks it became 'King's School', a fictional boarding establishment where food was basic, discipline was harsh and the teaching style was based on the 'chalk and talk' method. For two of the staff. Headmaster Andrew MacTavish and me, this was very much like stepping back into the past as we had both once been on the staff at RGS. I taught French and Spanish from 1968 to 1989. We both agreed that although many things had changed, parts of the school were exactly as we remembered them. Indeed the Gym Block where lessons took place seemed not to have changed at all. The door to the gym did not fit properly in the 1960s and nobody has got round to fixing it yet. The only thing that seemed odd was the presence of girls.

Although they put on a show of bravado, the pupils were nervous at the beginning, not knowing what to expect, but the staff were quite anxious as well. We were acutely aware that these thirty boys and girls were intelligent, confident individuals and that if we did not manage to impose a strict regime in the first few days, we could be in real trouble. Fortunately my colleagues were very strong characters and outstanding teachers. They were all extremely likeable and I was fortunate to get to know them. The matron. Pat Crowe, who came over in the series as a dragon who had strayed out of a Carry On film, is in fact a deeply caring person who worried endlessly about the pupils' welfare. Inevitably the boys and girls did not realise this.

I have been asked whether we switched off and fraternised with the pupils when the cameras were not there. This was definitely not the case. The school was run twenty-four hours a day as if it were a real school and we maintained the regime whether or not we were being filmed. At the same time the situation was artificial as it is very difficult to interact naturally with a pupil when there is a TV camera three inches from your left ear. There is no doubt that the students did play up to the cameras and their behaviour noticeably improved when they went away. The main problem we found was that the staff and the production team inevitably had different agendas: we were running a school while they were trying to make interesting, entertaining television programmes and this did lead to some tensions. The camera crews had

a natural tendency to concentrate on the "characters" and this tended to encourage rebellious behaviour. However I could see from the start that it would be like this and it was something we had to accept. I was part-time and originally only scheduled to teach two or three music lessons a week but it was difficult not to get more involved and I found myself going in every morning, including Sunday, to play the hymn for assembly. Even so, I was not there all the time. My colleagues who were in school twenty-four hours a day found it quite a stressful experience.

My brief in lessons was to teach singing and I soon found out that many of the pupils did no singing at all in their normal schools. The hymns which we, the staff, had sung all our lives were for the most part totally unknown and had to be taught note by note. At first there was some embarrassment and the sounds the class produced were fairly dire. Contrary to what one might have expected the boys sang with more confidence than the girls and several had surprisingly good voices. However the standard did improve quite considerably and at the prize giving three weeks later they gave a very creditable rendition of the school song, a suitably earnest ditty full of worthy sentiments which I composed in an appropriately pompous style, and two other pieces. What their performance lacked in refinement of expression it made up in enthusiasm, but, more importantly, I think that many of the pupils found to their surprise that they actually enjoyed singing, perhaps as a welcome relief from academic lessons.

It was fascinating to see how a major TV series is put together. One striking thing is the speed at which everything is done. We were still filming as the first programmes were being broadcast and each episode had to be assembled, edited, have music and commentary added and be presented to Channel Four for their approval within ten days. Another feature is the meticulous attention to detail, down to supplying us with 1950s spectacle frames made up to our own prescription or ensuring that we had authentic-looking magazines lying round in the staff room. It was also unbelievable what a tiny fraction of the material filmed was used in the programmes. At the end of 'term' all the pupils mounted a fully staged, very professional performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream which they had learned and rehearsed in under three weeks - a truly staggering feat. I think we were all very sad, both staff and students, that the decision was made to show nothing of this. It was disappointing for Liz Pidoux, the English teacher who produced the play brilliantly, but also for me, since I had composed and arranged the instrumental music, not a note of which was heard. Sometimes too, story lines were begun but not followed up. In the episode in which I featured most prominently I sent a girl to the Headmaster for misbehaving in a music lesson. She claimed that she could not sing, was duly admonished for her attitude and reduced to tears. What the viewers were not shown was that that girl sang a solo very competently in the end of term celebrations and on the last day made a special point of coming to say goodbye to me. I have subsequently had a charming letter saying how well she is doing with her singing.

One of the most interesting things was to read the post-series comments of the pupils on the Channel Four website. Almost all of them viewed the experience in a very positive light, even to the extent of wishing to do it all again. Quite a few said that they had learnt a great deal during the four weeks and could see positive advantages in traditional teaching methods. Although the aim of the series was ostensibly to compare the demands of O Level with GCSE this was never going to be a very scientific experiment, given the short timescale, and it was scarcely surprising that pupils who were not used to learning dates in History or studying French grammar did not do very well in 1950s style examinations.

To sum up, with all its frustrations it was a fascinating experience and I was amazed at how many people watched the programmes. However, perhaps the most touching moment for me was when I played the final hymn in the very last service ever to be held in the School Chapel.

Geoffrey Heath

## ***STAFF LEAVERS***

### **Mr Martin Berry**

Martin joined the RGS in 1982 as Head of Mathematics. He previously taught at Loretto School in Scotland, bringing with him an enthusiasm for Mathematics, hill walking, music and good whisky. I understand from conversations with him, that when asked by the then Headmaster, Rowland Brown, how long he thought he would stay at the RGS, Martin replied 'about 5 years'. It is an indication of Martin's commitment to the school that he found enough to interest and challenge him that he stayed for 22 years. I know his involvement in the last few years with the management of the whole school in the newly formed Leadership Group gave him immense satisfaction, as he felt he was able to contribute to the further development of the school.

Martin inherited a Maths department that was just about embracing the use of an overhead projector, and it was through his initiative, leadership and inspiration that it is commonplace for us all to use, not only overhead projectors, but laptops, LCD projectors, interactive whiteboards and the latest software to enhance the teaching of Mathematics. We in the Maths department have always respected Martin for his knowledge of the subject and also his vision, which always seemed to be a little ahead of the DfES and their thoughts. He was adamant that the interest of the boys must always come first, and with this philosophy a change of syllabus was not entered upon lightly. After much discussion, he persuaded many of us to become fully involved in the development of the MEI syllabus, which resulted in some of us spending our summer holidays in the Mathematics Centre at Oxford University developing coursework scenarios.

Martin's enthusiasm for hill walking was admirably illustrated by the number of trips that he organized and led, persuading boys and staff to spend whole nights in accommodation that can only be described as a little better than the average garden shed. This was all done under the educational desirability of broadening the boys' experience! I am not sure what the intention was for the staff, but it was their representations that persuaded him to upgrade the accommodation to the Youth Hostels of the region they were visiting.

His love of the outdoor life was appreciated by many staff at Christmas, when he composed his own cards, using the wonderful photographs he had taken of his holidays walking in far away places. This joy of travel he has brought to the staff social calendar, instigating regular staff train journeys that have included trips on Eurostar to Paris and Brussels as well as excursions to Cornwall and the north of England. Martin's enthusiasm for the new technology has resulted in many new initiatives. With the advent of the Language College Initiative, it was Martin who pioneered the use of video conferencing and interactive whiteboards to teach pupils from a school in London, who had no Maths teacher, from the comparative comfort of the Language Building at RGS. He was instrumental in developing and maintaining our much acclaimed Website, as well as bringing the art of timetabling from the Mike Moffatt 'Lego

Brick' era to the Martin Berry 'Laptop' era. The ensuing ease of producing data has been appreciated by all staff.

We all wish Martin a long and healthy retirement and we look forward to receiving postcards and Christmas cards that reflect his continuing wish to explore far away places. He can be assured of a warm welcome at the school, particularly as he has agreed to continue to maintain our Website and write the timetable.

R.M.P.

The following are also leaving at the end of the Summer Term:

Anne Smalley, Graham Burford, Oliver Godfrey, Richard Atkin, Ruth Ling, Ann Howarth, and Mike Howarth. Tributes will be paid to Anne Smalley and Ann Howarth, who were both at the RGS for 15 years or more in the next edition.

## **WHY ARE YOU LATE?**

**A selection of some excuses written recently in Matron's Lateness Book:**

**Went on a holiday.**

**Homework fell into the dishwasher.**

**Stupid amount of traffic at Handy Cross.**

**Mum was being sick so I couldn't get a lift.**

**Mum slept in.**

**Wedding last night; woke up late.**

**Ate dodgy pizza last night.**

**Bus decided not to come.**

**Went wrong way; got lost.**

**Dog ran away and I had to catch it.**

**I am ill.**

**Hamster died.**

**Ed.** When you were at school, do you remember yourself or anyone else giving an unusual reason for being late? Please let me know.

***Letters to the Editor***

Dear Ian,

I saw this in today's (25th May) Lloyd's List - I guess it was reported elsewhere but as it has a RGS connection, I send it to you:

"THINGS maritime return to Christie's auction house tomorrow with the sale of a rare Second World War Dunlop human torpedo "Clamy Death" helmet. The helmet was worn by Lieutenant Ian Fraser VC, one of only four Royal Naval Reserve personnel during the Second World War to win the UK's highest award for gallantry.

The helmet was part of the uniform of the X-men, who pioneered midget submarine warfare, and Frazer was awarded his VC for a daring raid on the Japanese heavy cruiser Tako."

Rgds

John Burns (1970-1975)

Ed. Many thanks, John, for this information. If anyone sees information about OWs anywhere, please let me know.

**Hi Ian**

I think I was going to email you before with my details. Here they are. If you would like to put them on the website I would be delighted. I'm still proud to have gone to the RGS.

"In the last 10 years I have done and seen quite a lot, most of which I will not go into here. However, I have lived in London for about 6 of those years and am now living in Maidenhead preparing to go and live in Japan. Having studied Japanese for 4 years now, I am just about getting quite good! It's great to see that now the RGS offers Japanese to its students.

Four years ago I became a Christian whilst I was living in London. Since then I have been trying to figure out God's plan for my life and I feel that He is leading me to Japan to share the gospel there. I know that I wasn't the most driven academic scholar during my time at the RGS. In fact I spent most of my time in the tuck shop, as I remember! But since I became a Christian I have been studying the Bible, obviously, but also Japanese and I have become a bit of an amateur theologian. I guess I have found a purpose to study.

I have worked in the computer industry in Cisco support, gaining Cisco certification along the way. I hope to work in Japan in Cisco / networking areas, but the main reason for going is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the Japanese.

Andrew Levicki

Dear Mr Clark,

I am not sure how one could do it, but would anyone at the school have a list of the chaps that joined 708 Squadron ATC in the mid to late forties?



At that time a Major Boardman Reed liaised with the school and took a number of us to Bovington and Chalgrove, where we ate wonderful, non-school food (including bananas) and went up in US 8th Air Force planes.

With D-Day parades coming up, I went on the Web and plonked his name into Google. Lo and behold, he had written a book, in which we were mentioned, and I had a long chat with him by telephone. At 91, he is as sharp as ever and had his last solo flight at age 86.

Thank you for your help.

Robert C. (Bob) Huntley

Ed. If you were a member of the 708 Squadron ATC and remember Boardman Reed, or indeed Bob Huntley, do contact me.

## ANNALS OF THE RGS

It was 1955, and it was winter. The snow fell, four inches of it, virgin, pure, transforming every roof and wall and bush. We arrived in excitement. The whole atmosphere at school was electric. At 9 o'clock assembly, the Headmaster, 'Boss' Tucker, laid the law down as he always did on such occasions. There would be no snowballing within fifty yards of the buildings, and he made ominous hints as to what would happen to anyone found breaking this edict.



In those days, there was a tradition that the prefects would take on the rest of the school in a snowball fight at lunchtime. At about 1.15 pm, we emerged at the double from the Prefects' Room at the end of the Gym Block. We knew our appearance would immediately encourage a flight of snowballs, and we wanted to get fifty yards away from the buildings as quickly as possible. We formed up in the middle of the field. The prefects were organised and relatively disciplined; there were about 40 of us. The rest of the school who turned out numbered about 300 and were totally disorganised. The other 300 - 400 boys kept well out of the way elsewhere.

The pattern of the battle was standard. It was a clear lesson how a small team can survive against great odds. The prefects kept in a tight group, protecting the Head Boy, the Deputies and one or two other senior people who were obvious targets. Prefects had the power of slipping for minor offences, -at least, the Head Boy and Deputies did, - and a number of the middle school were on the field to get their own back. Small groups of them would try to isolate leading prefects and give them some fairly rough treatment. The prefects would sweep

down in pincer movements in return and roll over known rogues in the 5th forms (Year 11's). Small boys would run about like gnats, occasionally scoring a hit on a prefect and immediately being swatted in return. It was all good-natured and the senior prefects intervened if anyone went too far.

Afternoon school started at 2 pm. Ten minutes before that time, the Head Boy, Barri Jones, called his 40 men together and conducted a fighting withdrawal to the Prefects' Room. As we approached the building, he called to our opponents that we had finished. Most stopped throwing snow and broke off. One or two persisted. We ran in, knocking the snow off our clothes, and slammed the door. Two snowballs thudded on the panels. That was outrageous. Barri threw the door open to see who had done this and a number of us prepared to follow him. At that instant a snowball arrived with a very fast, flat trajectory. It punched straight through the top centre of the six small panes in the door. The same door is still there today. Glass shards showered over us and the piece of coal, which had formed the centre of the snowball, skidded across the room. An instant later there was no one in sight outside the Prefects' Room.

After the initial shock, we set to clearing up the glass. Barri went off to report the matter to Sam Morgan, the Deputy Headmaster. He returned to say that Sam had gone with him to Boss, and that Boss was absolutely furious. In fact, he was sending two of our number with a note round all forms telling the boy who had broken the window to report to his study immediately. We did not feel that this would achieve much. We felt that Boss's anger had clouded his judgement. He would lose this one. But we underestimated Boss. He knew what he was doing. The stakes were high, but he was not one to blink.

Twenty minutes later, I met a fellow prefect near the Library (now the Drama Room). He had been one who had taken the note round. "Guess what? Boss has sent for every form to report to the Hall (now the Library) in turn at five-minute intervals. Every single form except the Upper Sixth. He and Sam are coshing everyone!"

Now that caning in schools is illegal, the RGS slang term "coshing" for caning has died out. Even then I could hardly believe it. I had to witness this unique sight. If Boss was in this mood and doing things wholesale, it was probably unwise to go past the Hall doors. One might get dragged in and given the treatment. I went up to the top corridor. In those days the top corridor was open to the old Hall. With books under my arm, drawing myself up to my full height, I walked slowly along until the Hall came into view. Without hesitating and as if in deep academic thought, I passed the opening, taking in an incredible sight. Boss and Sam were standing one on each side, near the stage. Two rows of boys were lined up from the doors below me. Each boy at the head of the column bent over and one or the other administered two sharp strokes, and the boy walked back down the Hall watched closely by those in the queue. Apart from the swish of the pairs of strokes, there was total silence, except for the odd quiet instruction from the teacher who had brought the form from the classroom. I realised afterwards that boys were trying to get in the queue for Boss. He might be furious, but he was not a golfer like Sam who had a very strong swing.

Everyone was caned - boys who had been in the Library all lunchtime; boys who had been at music practice; who had been kept in by staff; who had avoided snowballing because they felt it was childish; who had gone home to lunch and were not on the premises. No one was spared. The estimate was that about 680 boys received two strokes. And the interesting thing is that there were no complaints. It was a different world then. Nevertheless such a mass

caning was unusual enough to be reported in a brief news item in the Sunday Express the next week. And at the end of the year, on Speech Day, Boss referred to the business in his report to the governors and parents. He was speaking from the stage of the old Hall, where the canings had taken place. Speech Day then took place on an afternoon in the last week of the summer term. All boys were on the premises and there were many displays and demonstrations. The prize-winners were in the Hall with the parents and the speeches were relayed by a PA system round the buildings. Usually no one outside the Hall paid a great deal of attention. However on this occasion, Boss made a reference to an incident in the winter that had left Mr Morgan and himself with aching right arms - and a cheer went up from one end of the building to the other. It was a very different world...

### **A J MacTavish Form 6M3 (1955)**

Ed: A different world indeed! Are you one of the 680 boys who were caned? Do you know of any who were caned? Father, grandfather, friend? How about having a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of those involved at the Annual Dinner? What were your memories of the occasion?

Dear Ian,

I believe you like to receive tales, stories, reminiscences from the past. I do have a few but I won't bore you beyond one. Pilljey's "Elastication", we called it. This involves the one and only, the great P.L.Jones (hence Pilljey) and this tale will be familiar to anyone who had the privilege of having Pill for Maths. The story goes like this.

Should any boy be so unwise as to misbehave in class, and especially should he violate his basic rule in Algebra, the following would take place:

Pill would advance upon you, a beatific smile upon his face, his bone dome shining, and take his position alongside you. Then he would fish in his waistcoat pockets and produce an elastic band. This he would stretch between thumb and index finger of each hand as far as it would go short of breaking.

Next he would place one end of this highly extended instrument about one millimetre from your earlobe, holding the other end at full stretch. Then he would intone as follows:

The first thing in Factorisation

**TWANG**

is to take out everything COMMON

**TWANG**

And you know what happened with each and every "TWANG". Believe me they smarted! You can be sure that Pilljey's instruction would be rigorously observed by the student in the future of every case, regardless of whether or not this particular matter had been the cause of Pilljey's activity or not.

Pillgey and the other Masters of that era gave me the finest education, together with the associated necessary discipline any boy could ever have had, a combination that has stood me in excellent stead all my life.

Cheers and all the best for all at the RGS

Ian Fairnington

Ed: Does anybody else remember being "twanged" by Pillgey? Has anybody else got memories of him?

### ***NEWS FROM JOHN SAUNDERS***

John tells me that he has put the 1964 school photograph on his website. So if you were at school in that year you may want to see if you can recognise yourself 40 years ago! **Please click!** Many thanks, John!

### ***SAD NEWS***

Graham (Willie) Watson (1952-1958) reports that Greg Angel died of leukaemia about three months ago.

### ***WYCOMBIENSIAN 1970***

The following poem appeared in the school magazine in 1970:

#### **I MUST GO DOWN TO THE RGS**

I must go down to the RGS, to the neo-Georgian tower,  
And all I ask is a crusty teacher droning for an hour,  
And the desk's creak and the pen's squeak and the BA gown shaking,  
And a grey fog on the master's face and a sore backside aching.  
I must go down to the RGS, for the call on the rugby field  
Is a foul call and a shrill call that lets no skyvers yield.  
And all I ask is a biting day with the dirty ball flying,  
And the flung mud and the sharp sweat and the scrum-halves crying.  
I must go down to the RGS, to the Sergeant's snappish bark,  
To the hot brown clothes and the drill-parade and all that Army lark.  
But all I ask is an easier sum from the algebraic ogre,

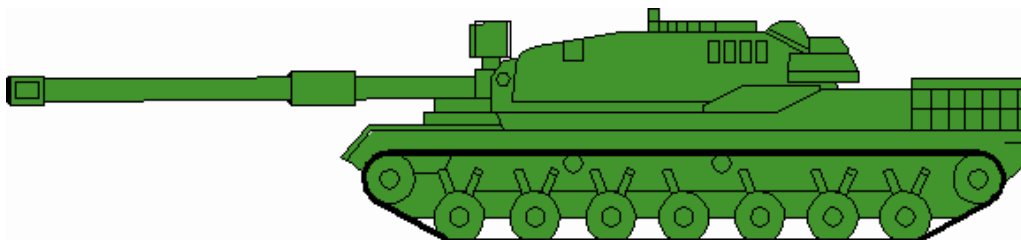
And loud TV and a sweet dream when the long prep's over.

**Ed.** Can you write a parody of John Masefield's poem, "I must go down to the sea again" about the RGS in your decade? Please send in your version for publication?

## WYCOMBIENSIAN 1994

What appeared in the School Magazine in 1994? If you were at school then, do you remember any of the events or characters mentioned below? If you were at school earlier than that, what differences do you notice between then and the time you were at school?

Three former students of the RGS, Matthew Hill, Matthew Brown and Jody Davies, wrote of their experiences in their Gap Year in China, Chile and the Army. Matthew described the food he ate in China, the "Thousand Year Egg" which is duck egg, marinated in horse's urine, and buried in lime for sixty days, and "Three Squeals". According to the Editor of the Wycombiensian, "Three Squeals" is a dish of rat embryos. The first squeal comes when the embryo is removed from the womb; the second when it is dipped in the sauce; and the third when it is popped into the mouth!



The other Matthew spent the year teaching English to Chilean students aged 12 to 19 in an all-boys school in the centre of Santiago, while Jody commanded a convoy of armoured personnel carriers and my 45 strong troop of Gurkha soldiers around the streets of Hong Kong.

There were reports of School Trips to Italy,

America,  
Austria, an  
Activity  
holiday led  
by Colin  
Howe to  
Anduze in  
France, the  
German  
Exchange to  
Osnabruck  
and Garth  
Ratcliffe  
snow-bound  
journey to  
the Isle of  
Wight. On  
the Munday  
Tour to  
Rome,  
Pompeii, and  
Herculaneum  
, we read of  
Garth  
Ratcliffe's  
jokes, and  
Hilary  
Munday's  
85-decibel  
shout "Any  
more for the  
loo?" in the  
centre of  
Rome, and  
her now  
legendary  
instruction to  
the boys "go  
and eat your  
passports."  
(Ed. Any  
ideas on why  
she said such  
a thing?  
Please send  
suggestions  
to me). On  
the American  
Exchange  
Ross Barker

impressed all with his knowledge of baseball. On the Ski Trip to Austria, James Latham went into a pool for the first time in three years, while Joan Henderson awarded her annual awards one of which was to Alistair Marchant for the best-timed comment about the Milka cow being sexually frustrated because of its colour!  
(COW)

In the Boarding House reports we read of Uplyme still in existence in 1994 with Mike Davies as the House master and John Edwards as the House Tutor. Among those mentioned are James Baker, Chris Coster, Miles Nurnberger, Darren Mills, Peter Northage, Martin Wallwork, Rupert Stephens and William Richards. (Ed Have any former members of Uplyme got any memories of the House?) Of the clubs, activities and societies, over 60 boys represented the school at chess, over £3000 was raised for the Benevolent Fund, the Islamic Society was founded, the Christian Union and Forum met regularly, the model Aero Club had 36 members, it was Mike Smedley's last year as Head of Music and organiser of all the Music Society's activities, and the Room 30 Computer Network and that of the IT Centre were friendly rivals.

On the cultural front, Peter Cowburn, John Mitchell, David Keysell and Jenny Kelly organised trips for Senior and junior Vulture to see plays such as Oleanna, Travels with my Aunt, Jane Eyre, the film The Piano, the operas, Orpheus in the Underworld and L'Elisir D'Amore, and the Museum of the Moving Image. The School Play was The Importance of Being Earnest, with the leading parts played by Rhodri Jones, William Tait, Richard Benstock, James Fagan, Glyn Cannon, and Richard Knox. The Junior Play was Bottom's

Dream. The major parts were played by Tim Stork, Brian Peers, and Ryan Parrett.  
(THEATRE)

In Maths, seven boys participated in the British Maths Olympiad, and Ross Barker's Maths Club studied waves of Cos and Sin and Quarks and other particle theory. It was the eighth year of the Role-Playing Club, the Model Railway Club met at the end of the Gym/Maths Block



and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was still going, with a vivid account by Edward Pearce of the expedition. The Kart Club was very flourishing

with John Goodfellow, Jake Conway, Jon Tarry, Ben Randles, and Tim Malyon the stars. An Environment Group cleared a site near Hughenden Manor to promote the growth of wild flowers, such as bee orchids, and built a pen for 20 sheep. They made a footpath at Chairborough Nature Reserve, turned part of Kingswood into a coppice, and planted to form a new hedge at Cock Lane. A team took part in the National Mock Trial competition, and in the Rotary Club's debating competition the team of Glyn Cannon, Edward Bennett, and Rhodri Jones came 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 245 schools. The Young Enterprise Team spent a week-end in Aberdeen at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Enterprise Trade Fair convention. Unfortunately they were able to sell only 6 CD clocks, because of competition from other teams.

On the sporting front the rugby teams had their usual successful season, although neither the 1<sup>st</sup> XV nor Under 15 Team got very far in the Daily Mail Cup. The Under 13 Squad played 34 games and won them all! In another successful season for the hockey teams, Jon Axworthy played for the South East England Under 18s, and he, Stephen Barlow, Alistair Bendyshe-Brown, Daniel Ginn, Andrew Goodfellow, and Tim Parr played for the Bucks Under 21s. In the Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> Team, Robert Morgans and Arshad Khan were the pick of the batsmen, and Miles Davis and Daniel Ginn of the bowlers. In the Under 15s Kaushik Guha scored four fifties and averaged 48! Kaushik Guha, Andrew Francis, Duncan Moore and Geoffrey Watts played for the Bucks Under 15 team. In swimming the team won the first-ever National Swimming Title, Tim Gardner and Ben Walters did well in cross-country, and the Colts Tennis team were runners-up in the Under 15 section of the Midland Bank Cup. A sentence in the Golf Report says "In Luke Donald the school has probably its finest ever golfer." (Ed. So far this year up to mid-July Luke has won almost 1.5 million dollars on the American golf circuit! Well done, Luke!)

The Fencing team had a really memorable year. They were unbeaten in school matches over the season and did very well in all championships. They finished third in the Public School Championship. The following performed with distinction: (SWORD) Simon Fawell, Tim Whitfield, Alistair Gerrard, Roland Levan, Colin Gerrard, Richard Coombes, Tom Roebuck, Chris Fletcher, William Rysdale, Chris Smart, Toby Roebuck, Chris Hopkins, Ross Howlett, Austin Jones and Seang-Lim Tan.

The Boat Club achieved a total of five wins and five second-places. The following were the regular 1<sup>st</sup> Team crew: Mark Burman, Michael Aperghis, Christopher Pearman, David Farr, and Christopher Fletcher. The following were the Under 16 crew: Paul Spackman, Jonathan Brinn, Adam Farley, Alex Cox.

The Basketball Under15 and Under 14 Teams both reached the regional final of the English Championship. The under 14s won the Bucks Cup. Ben Gilbert was the outstanding player. In Athletics, Ian McLaughlin was outstanding. He broke the County Record in the Shot Putt and won the Discus competition comfortably. He finished second in the Discus in the A.A.A. Championships. He held several school records in Track and Field. The Junior and Intermediate Teams qualified for the South-East Finals of the TSB National Competition. There were excellent performances from the following: Andrew Scott, Robert Ogden, Matthew Hickman, Christopher Biggs, Tim Gardner, Ross Parrett, James Locke-Hart, Ben Gilbert, Karsten Smet, Tim Gallagher and Colin Wright.

In the CCF Neil Cooper handed over command to Roger Hollingworth. The Army Section had camps in North Yorkshire, and the Peak District, and went on weekend expeditions to the Black Mountains and Snowdonia, and a Night Navigation exercise in the Chilterns. Simon Hallam described his experiences on Alpine Challenge and Nicholas Hughes, described his on the International Cadet Exchange to Switzerland, and Austria. The same two were awarded Flying Scholarships.

(Ed. It is absolutely amazing when you read just a summary of what went on at the RGS in 1994, and I know still does, how many opportunities there are for boys.)

If you wish to make any comments on what is published in the newsletter or write anything for publication, please contact the Editor Ian Clark, whose email address is [ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ianrclarkuk@yahoo.co.uk)

Stop Press:

The RGS Parents' Association invites you to join them for a lively fun-filled evening at the Auction of Pledges, hosted by Eric Knowles on Friday 24 September at the RGS. Please contact the school for further details.

The next newsletter will be published on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Have a good summer!

