

Newsletter
New Series No 1 April 2021

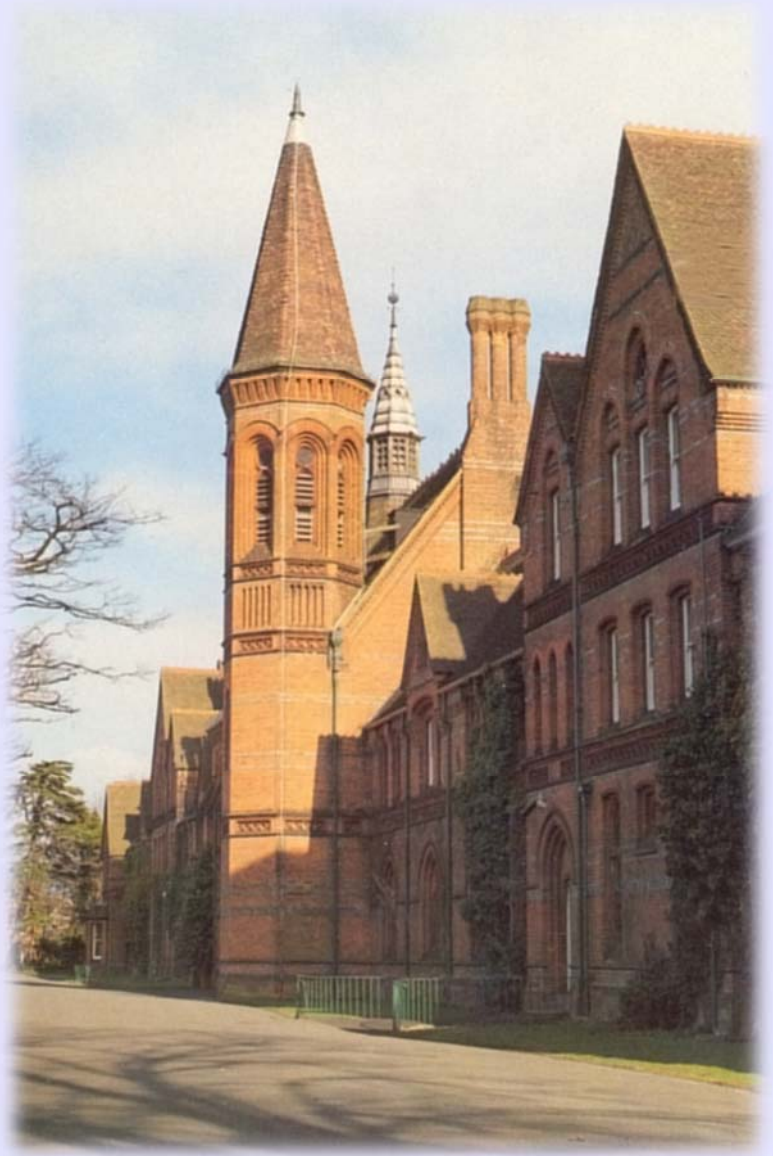
The Old
Redingensians
Association

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1125—2021



The Old Redingensians Association

Editorial



To keep members up to date with the fast moving School scene and to foster the 'Club' aspects of the Association, your Council believes that an annual newsletter would be a useful supplement to the dozen or so pages in the School magazine '*Floreat Redingensis*', that currently cover ORA activities.



Older members will recall the series of newsletter that ran from 1965 and gradually developed into '*The Old Redingensian*' that was issued from 1999 until 2013, and sent to a far wider audience when the old termly School magazine ceased publication at the close of the last century. The School launched '*Floreat Redingensis*' as a new School magazine in 2013 and ORA currently fund that publication to the extent of £5,000 per annum.

Accordingly, after a break of seven years, your editors return, older (as may readily be seen from the images above) but certainly no wiser, or we wouldn't be here!

We hope that the newsletter will be welcomed and we in turn shall welcome suggestions and contributions; particularly news of Old Redingensians (including births, deaths, marriage and career information).

Calendar

Executive Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, 4 May 2021; Tuesday, 6 July 2021; Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at 2 pm in the Kirkwood Room at School or in default by Zoom arrangements.

Full Council Meetings:

Tuesday, 25 May 2021; Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 7 pm in the Learning Resource Centre at School or in default by Zoom arrangements.

The 133rd Annual General Meeting

will be held in the Refectory at School and via Zoom facilities on Saturday, 25 September 2021 at 5 pm followed by drinks and **The Annual Dinner** in Big School at 7 pm; please be seated by 6:55 pm.

OR Remembrance Sunday Service

on 14 November 2021 at 10:45 am in the School Chapel, preacher Rev'd Martin Hayward (South House 1956-64).

The Frank Terry Memorial Lecture

will be delivered by Professor D J (David) Owen (West 1979-86) Thursday, 18 October 2021.

Events to be confirmed

OR Golf Society—London Drinks—Reading Drinks—Various Year Group Reunions
Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary at Erleigh Road is also planned including the replication of a rather special football match (see page 6).

The Old Redingensians Association

A Clarification

For 'confused of Croydon' and others who may be perplexed or simply unaware of developments in the 'School Family' it will be useful to distinguish the activities of the School's relatively new 'Alumni Association' and of the OR Association.

The two bodies are not mutually exclusive and work closely together but there are distinct differences. Your Secretary, Jeremy Chadwick, has written helpful descriptions that we repeat below:

Old Redingensians Association

A voluntary group of ex-pupils and staff of Reading School forming a charitable body, whose collective purpose is to support each other, support the current students and the School, its achievements, rich heritage and wide range of cultural and sporting activities across the community, through participation and charitable financial support. This purpose is drawn from a sense of shared experience at and through the School. The ORA particularly helps the School through its social programme which draws together generations of former pupils including some who have otherwise lost touch with the School.

Reading School Alumni Society

A group managed by the School with the purpose of development of a database of former pupils of Reading School to maintain contact with them. Further, the Alumnus group supports a professional network for Old Redingensians to enable mutual support and assistance in career development. The Alumni database will also be used to drive a regular donor funding programme to support the School.



The Old Redingensians Association

Report on 2020 AGM

The Annual General meeting was held on 21 November 2020 via Zoom, with 23 members attending. The outgoing President, Ian McKinnon (*pictured left*) opened the meeting and welcomed, in particular, those members attending from abroad. A number of apologies had also been received.



The Membership Secretary, Chris Widdows, read the list of 40 Old Redingensians known to have died since the 2019 AGM, the minutes of which were then considered.

There being no matters arising from the minutes, officers reports were then scrutinised; the Events Coordinator, Michael Barrott, highlighted the deleterious impact that Covid-19 had had on the year's planned events.

The Chairman of Council, Ned Holt, reported on the actions of the Foundation during the year, and the magnificent legacy received from Miss Evelyn Aust was emphasised.

The election of officers and councillors for the 2020/21 year then took place (see page 5) followed by the reappointment of the Auditors. The incoming President, Andrew Tuggey (*pictured right*), then assumed the chair of the meeting.

The members received the appointment of Alistair Wrenn to Honorary Life Membership with acclaim. The present state of the swimming bath was discussed and, there being no further business, the meeting was closed.



Financial Summary at 30 June 2020

The financial position of the Association is improved on that for 2018-19, albeit with an outlook of lower income based on telecom mast rent reductions. The Association ran a surplus resulting in a £24,353 increase in overall funds to £410,316 from £385,964. This was as a result of a slight increase in income and endowments, courtesy of the generous donation facilitated by Neil Thomason.

At the end of the year, the Endowment Fund stands at £94,664 and Unrestricted Funds at £315,652. £245,000 of Unrestricted Funds are represented by the valuation of the Old Bath Road rugby ground and thus easily realisable assets in Unrestricted Funds are only £70,652.

There are activities highlighted in the Trustees' report which we intended to fund for the School in 2019-20 which were impacted by COVID-19. We will work with the School to agree the approach in 2020-21 in light of the ongoing circumstances.

(Extract from the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2020)

The Old Redingensians Association

ORA Council 2020-21

Lt Col A S (Andrew) Tuggey CBE DL (1958-66)	President of the Association
J D (Jeremy) Chadwick (1979-86)	Vice President/Secretary
I D (Ian) McKinnon (1977-82)	Immediate Past President
E S (Ned) Holt (1966-72) (Staff 1982-12)	Chairman of Council
R J (Richard) Taylor (1988-95)	Treasurer
C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62)	Membership Secretary
K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63)	Archivist
M A C (Michael) Barrott (1966-73)	Events Coordinator
N C (Nick) Burrows (1969-76)	Legal Adviser
A A J H (Aaron) D'Souza (2002-09)	Councillor
J M (Mike) Evans (Staff 1968-05)	Councillor
R G (Richard) Griffiths DL (1957-64)	Councillor
A M (Ashley) Robson (Staff 2005-)	Headmaster
R J (Ray) Sawyer (1967-74)	Work Experience & Careers
J H (John) Short (1956-64)	Estates Adviser
A D (Arthur) Truslove (2003-08)	RS Magazine Coordinator
Revd C L (Clive) Windebank (1952-59)	Honorary Chaplain

For information:

Overseas Branch Organisers

Australasia	Mike Jones (1957-64)	australasia@oldredingensians.org.uk
Canada	Bill Hedges (1942-47)	canada@oldredingensians.org.uk
USA	Roy Seymour (1952-57)	usa@oldredingensians.org.uk

There is currently a vacancy for European Organiser—volunteers for this or other territories welcomed.

Subscription Alert!

The annual subscription for all members over the age of 24 is now £20 although many generously pay more than that amount. If you are currently paying less than this please now amend your standing order to Old Redingensians Association
(Sort code: 40-38-04 Account number 40632139)

Members who have achieved the age of 24 in the last 12 months should note that their period of free membership, since leaving School, has now expired. Each member will be contacted separately in this regard.

For any enquiries, please contact the Membership Secretary, Chris Widdows at
memsec@oldredingensians.org.uk (tel: 07876 228682)

The Old Redingensians Association

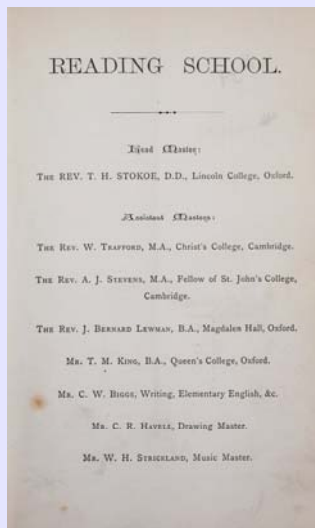


Gallery of Images Old

Following 700 years in The Forbury, on 16 September 1871 - 150 years ago - the School's new buildings in Erleigh Road were opened by the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, William Page Wood, 1st Baron Hatherley (*pictured right below*). The architect, Alfred Waterhouse, drew the sketch of the buildings shown on the left.



Revd Robert Appleton had been the last headmaster of the old school in the Forbury but new candidates were interviewed for Erleigh Road and Rev Dr Thomas Henry Stokoe DD of Richmond School, Yorkshire, appointed. He was to hold the post until 1877. He died in 1903 and is buried in St Andrew's churchyard at Sonning (see images below).



The year 1871 also saw the foundation, on 25 December of Reading Football Club, now one of the oldest clubs in the country. Their first opponents were - Reading School! Many ORs have followed the fortunes of the Club over the years and the connection is strengthened through their long term archivist, David Downs OR (1952-59) (*right*).



The Rugby Football Union was also founded in 1871 and the School switched to Rugby the following season before returning to the round ball game for a few years more. Nonetheless the School Club are amongst the older members of RFU having joined in 1902.



The Old Redingensians Association



Gallery of Images New

The story of the last 12 months has of course been that of the Covid-19 pandemic. The School played its part in the local community not least by offering the School Field for emergency accommodation for medical staff from the Royal Berkshire Hospital (**image 1**). The School drive took on a new look with the installation of a number of exercise machines (**2**). Benedict Bradley was the 2020 recipient of The Sir Thomas Beecham Trust Award. The cheque for £1000 was handed to him on behalf of the Trust by Chris Widdows (**3**). The emblem of the Trust as it appears on the organ loft in Chapel (**4**). The highlight of the year was the magnificent legacy given to the School by Miss Evelyn Aust (**5**) and perhaps the lowest point the destruction by fire of the School Boathouse (**6**),



The Old Redingensians Association

OR News

I W O (Ian) House (1954-61) had his latest collection of poems '*Just A Moment*' published by Two Rivers Press in 2020. His previous collections are '*Cutting The Quick*' 2005 and '*Nothing's Lost*' 2014. Ian delivered the Frank Terry Memorial Lecture in the Chapel on 15 October 2020. Covid restrictions applied but his thought provoking lecture was recorded and can be accessed on <https://vimeo.com/466473638>.

Professor F R (Francis) Terry (1956-63) introduced his father's Memorial Lecture above and other members of the family in the audience were Mrs Rachel Terry and Mrs Jean Terry.

C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62) has become a trustee of The Sir Thomas Beecham Trust. Shirley, Lady Beecham maintains her benevolent interest in the School which originates with the Beecham's friendship long ago with Sir Herman Lindars OR (1909-16).

Sir Edward Young KCVO PC (1978-85) the Private Secretary to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II received his knighthood in the 2020 New Years Honours List. Ed and his brother **Dr T P (Timothy) Young (1979-86)** are second generation ORs, sons of **Dr Edward Young (1946-47)**.



Ian House



Francis Terry



Ed Young



Alistair Wrenn



Jonathan Mantle

A A(Alistair) Wrenn (1978-85) became the eighth OR to receive Honorary Life Membership, following long service on the ORA Council. He continues to work in the Reading area as a chartered building surveyor.

A (Ant) Butler (2001-08) is now a captain RE with 32 Engineer Regiment at Catterick. Military readers will be interested to know that he had previously passed P Company. Ant married Lauren last October.

A B (Ben) Morris (2003-10) is the Assistant Director of Music at York Minster. There are two other ORs in the Chapter House Choir, that Ben conducts; R M (Richard) Long (1966-73) and R J (Richard) Parkinson (2005-12).

R A (Bob) Ford (1952-59) reminiscences *1952 and All That* are an 18pp "must read" for all who attended the School in the 1950s. We hope to be posting it on the website shortly. By coincidence another Ford, R W, wrote *Recollections of Reading School 1918-26*, a beautiful manuscript bound in blue and gold, that does the same for his era as Bob does for the 50s.

.Dr T D (Darragh) Buckley (2003-10) is an associate in the Prospect Street Dental Practice, Caversham. He qualified from Liverpool in 2013.

I J (Jonathan) Mantle (1965-72) is a writer and educationist. An overview of his work may be accessed on www.jonathanmantle.com.

The Old Redingensians Association

OR News

J M M (Jim) Wilkie (1953-58) nowadays lives near Bristol. He is well known in the world of vintage steam and agricultural implements and amongst his writings are; *An Illustrated History of Tractors* (Ian Allan 1999), ; *An Illustrated History of Combine Harvesters* (Ian Allan 2001) and ; *An Illustrated History of Farm Implements* (Ian Allan 2002). He is co-author of *Tractors in Colour* (Ian Allan 1996).

N E (Nigel) Sutcliffe (1947-55) is currently engaged on a centenary history of RAMS Rugby Club founded, in 1924, of course as The Old Redingensians RFC.

J H (John) Spanner (1956-63) Ex Standard Chartered Bank and former Territorial Army officer is the current Master of The Worshipful Company of Art Scholars. Unusually in the Livery world, John was also Master of the Worshipful Company of Glovers 2002-03. He is now also chairman of that year's Past Masters' Association.

D J (David) Owen (1979-86) Professor of Structural and Molecular Biology at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Disease and a Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, has been a Fellow of The Royal Society since 2017.



Nigel Sutcliffe



John Spanner



David Owen



Ewan Page



Ned Holt

Professor Ewan Stafford Page was Chairman of the Governors of Reading School from 1979-93 when he was Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading. Nowadays he lives in Bath and celebrated his 92nd birthday last August. Computing has been his life's work and he has the distinction of being the first from that discipline to become Vice Chancellor of any university. The Page Building at Reading School was opened by him on 6 February 1994.

Dr J M (James) Kennedy (2001-08) is now a specialist registrar in the Gastroenterology Department at The Royal Berkshire Hospital and is engaged to be married later this year.

E S (Ned) Holt (1966-72), with his staff **(1982-12)** hat on, brings news of three former history teachers. Llinos Williams is now at Bedales School, Helen Colson at King's School, Gloucester (and both are parents) and Peter Hurst is teaching in China. Ned now lives in Cheltenham. He says that he bumps into ex-students there from time to time and wonders whether their occasional reluctance to say where they work suggests a strong OR presence at GCHQ!

A R (Alan) Deighton (1962-68) retired in 2009 from his post as lecturer in German at the University of Hull. Nowadays he volunteers at an asylum charity and at a local history centre, walks, sings and plays the violin in local choirs and orchestras; so the lifting of pandemic restrictions cannot come soon enough for him.

The Old Redingensians Association

School News



A report analysing the **educational background** of those in Who's Who reveals that Eton has the highest number of entries overall, but the highest for a State School is Reading School. Staff past and present must be truly proud of the continuing excellence of their 'product' both in that rarefied air and, indeed, at all levels of achievement.

With no great endowments, it is a difficult task to maintain such high levels, without the basic facilities. The fabric of the School buildings are a regular and huge expense; indeed the generous legacy of **Miss Evelyn Aust** was a godsend, when it was received to a School covered in scaffolding with the bills coming in.

The Foundation uses its money wisely and well to, literally, keep a roof on the old place but the facts speak for themselves; the boathouse has burnt down in the last year so there is no rowing. The swimming pool is condemned, so no swimming. The tennis courts went years ago, so no tennis. The shooting range and the scout hut are long demolished.

The reasons for seeking money through the sale of part of **Morgan Road** are surely crystal clear in this light – disposal of the family silver or not, money has to be found. OR's, reasonably, want to know just what that money will be spent on; in the long processes involved, it is difficult for the School to set out more than broad objectives. So much can change along the way and delicate negotiation is needed.

The above, perhaps, seems to emphasise the negative side of things, but a visit to the School's website <https://www.reading-school.co.uk> will reveal the many positive initiatives that to some extent restore a balance and demonstrates an excellent use of tight resources by the Headmaster, Ashley Robson.

Twelve men have had the privilege of being Headmaster, and borne the burdens of that office, in the School's **150 years at Erleigh Road**. Three of them consecutively accounted for 70 years of that span: Dr Epstein (20); Mr Keeton (24) and Mr Kemp (26); the latter's successor, Anthony Tilton Davis, had just commenced his thirteenth year when he took his own life. Next comes Mr Bristow whose tenure was ten years; and the current School year is Mr Robson's ninth.

Visitors to the School will find the **Kirkwood Archive Room** has migrated from the Cloisters and is now housed in what was once the West Wing Housemaster's quarters. It is across the corridor from reception and, so, more accessible and better placed to showcase the School's heritage.

With the death of **David Rampton (1943-53)** former White scholar in mathematics, a connection with the School of more than a century comes to a close. David's elder brother, John, was at School from 1941-48. Their father, Vivian Charles Williams Rampton (1915-17) was that favoured pupil of the poet, Wilfred Owen, whom he gave tea to in Dunsden Vicarage, to the disapproval of the Vicar, when Owen was a lay assistant in the parish before the Great War.

The **Reading School Parents Association** continues its sterling work in support of the School and OR's may be interested to know that RSPA have recently launched a lottery, the proceeds of which go into their donation fund. Tickets are £1 a week each and the draws take place on a Saturday evening, with winners being advised by email. Full details may be found on: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/reading-school>

The Old Redingensians Association

In Memoriam



Since those reported in Floreat Redingensis 2020 we have learned of the following deaths:
Obituaries will be posted on the members website in due course. Reminiscences and contributions are welcome.



A C (Andrew) Bohman (1944-51 West) Music Teacher Died 9 January 2021 aged 87. Andrew was Captain of School Music in 1949 and his contemporaries ever remember him playing piano. He was an engaging, enthusiastic personality who fully embraced the life of the School and remained passionately interested in it all his life. After the Royal College of Music, he became an inspiring peripatetic music teacher and later a Schools Inspector. In retirement, his articles in The Old Redingensian were beautifully written pieces combining reminiscences and admiration for his old School and staff with equal wonderment. His wife, Heather, predeceased him and he is survived by his sons, Adam and Jonathan.

Ven P B (Peter) Coombs (1939-47 West) Clerk in Holy Orders Died 22 September 2020 aged 91 Captain of School, of Rugby, and of his House, CSM in the Corps and an all-round participant in School activities, Peter attended Bristol University and Clifton Theological College. His vocation took him from a curate at Beckenham to Archdeacon of Wandsworth and then of Reigate before spending an active 'retirement' in Southampton. He maintained strong contacts with Reading School, became honorary Chaplain to the ORA and he was President of the ORA in 1997/8. Peter married Catherine Buckwell, in 1953. She died in 2015 and he is survived by their children Ian and Alison.



P R (Peter) Fiddick (1951-57 West Wing) Journalist and Broadcaster Died 2 October 2020 aged 81. A sporting and academic all-rounder at School, Peter was Hon. Sec. of the Debating Society, useful preparation for a distinguished career, after Magdalen College, Oxford, as a journalist, television presenter and author. He was the first media editor of *The Guardian*, the last editor of *The Listener* before it moved online, and later a freelance writer and broadcaster. He is survived by his widow, Jane, and their children, Harriet and Edmund

Rev Dr M G (Michael) Hinton (Staff 1949-53) Schoolmaster and Clerk in Holy Orders Died 22 October 2020 aged 93. He had the unusual distinction of having been the Headmaster of a grammar school (Dover), a public school (Sevenoaks) and a comprehensive school (Broadoak, Western-super-Mare), but it all started at Reading School, his first teaching post after coming down from Merton College, Oxford. He wrote a history of the town of Reading and later, after he had taken Holy Orders, the world best seller *The 100-Minute Bible*. His wife, Jean, died in 2009 and Michael latterly moved to a home for retired clergy. He leaves five children, and eight grandchildren.



G A (Graham) Ireland, FRCO (Staff 1982-2001) Director of Music Died 13 December 2020 aged 81. Graham attended the same Gloucestershire grammar school as Mike Evans, former second master at Reading School. After Sheffield University, he taught at Brandeston Hall and Caterham School before his two decades at Erleigh Road. He brought huge energy and enthusiasm to everything he did, greatly raised the standard and scope of music teaching and was an invaluable assistant to John Oakes in South House. Graham oversaw the replacement of the organ and he fostered a close relationship between the School and the Beecham Trust through the generosity of Lady Beecham. Graham was unmarried and died from Covid-19 related conditions in Shinfield View Care Home. A memorial service at School is planned.

In addition to the five recorded above our sympathies go to the families of:

P J (Peter) Abery (1950-57 East)	Banker who died on 1 September 2020 aged 81
Major D R (David) Baylis (1935-38 West Wing)	Company Director 11 August 2015 aged 94
D (David) Chesterton CB (1951-58 East)	Civil Servant 1 January 2020 aged 81
Dr M J (Michael) Duck (1945-55 West)	Research Chemist 9 July 2020 aged 83.
Rev W G (Bill) East (1959-66 South House)	Clerk in Holy Orders 1 July 2020 aged 72.
C M W (Chris) Hodgess Roper (1948-53 EW & County)	Inventor, Aviation Industry 30 July 2020 aged 83.
A ('Stan') Matthews (1970-77 West)	IT Consultant 20 October 2020 aged 61.
D J (David) Nash (1946-57 West)	Shipping Clerk 19 July 2020 aged 85.
D G (David) Preston (1983-96 Staff)	Schoolmaster, Author and Composer 22 June 2020 aged 80.
D (David) Rampton (1943-53 West)	Mathematician and Statistician 18 November 2019 aged 85.
M J (Mike) Ruddick (1976-83, 1996-07 Staff)	Schoolmaster 29 September 2020 aged 66
D R T (David) Sherwill (1943-49 West)	Photographer 7 November 2020 aged 88.
P A (Peter) Short (1939-47 West)	Insurance 5 February 2020 aged 90.
N J A ('Glad') Taylor (1970-77 East)	Insurance 2 January 2021 aged 62.
D E (Don) Tice (1938-39 West Wing)	Australia Post 21 February 2020 aged 92.
R C (Russ) Woolford (1954-62 West Wing)	Accountant November 2020 aged 77.
T E J (Terry) Lovett (1954-62 East)	Aviation 9 April 2021 aged 78

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

The Old Redingensians Association

Charitable Aims of the ORA

To advance the education of the pupils of Reading School by providing or assisting in the provision of educational, recreational or other charitable facilities for their use
and

To relieve poverty among members of the Association or former pupils of Reading School among present pupils
and among those who are likely to become pupils at the School.



Old School Tie (left) Silk £20
OR Association Tie (right)
Polyester £15 Silk £20

Available from:
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cwiddows@aol.com or 07876 228682



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