

The background of the cover features a large, detailed illustration of a school building with multiple towers and a central spire. In the foreground, a group of students in school uniforms are playing volleyball. One student is jumping high to hit the ball, while others are positioned around the net. The entire scene is rendered in a monochromatic blue and white style.

# THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

*October 2022*

## CONTENTS

1. THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
THE HEAD MASTER'S LETTER
2. NOTES & NEWS
3. OUR SCHOOL
4. REUNIONS
5. OBITUARIES
7. THE SOCIAL CALENDAR
8. THE HOUSE OF LORDS  
RECEPTION
11. LIVES OF DISTINCTION
14. SPORT
18. OLD SCHOOL TIES
19. EDITORIAL

---

# *The President's Letter*

---

**Although this is only my second 'letter' it is my last opportunity to write as your President and I feel that I should account for my stewardship of the Association in my Presidential year which is nearly over.**

The year started with the convivial and well attended Annual Dinner but the success of that owed much to our previous President, Denis Moriarty, whose timing of the unveiling of the Kemp Memorial ensured that many ORs came from far afield and stayed on for the AGM and dinner. However, my principal guests, Dr. Tony Noakes, Chairman of the Reading Foundation, Dr. Philip Mitchell, Chairman of Governors, and, of course, the Head Master, reflected my wish, supported by the Council, to forge closer links between the ORs and other members of the School Community.

The Sussex Reunion, impeccably organised by Michael Smith, was an enjoyable occasion. It is an OR 'family affair' but it was a delight to welcome Ron and Margaret Smith from Sydney. Ron is an exchange teacher at Reading School and I hope that he and Margaret will take back happy memories of the ORs as well as Reading School and that they will make contact with our Australian Group.

During my year I have tried to maintain and foster contact with our Australian and USA groups by writing, as and when appropriate, informative letters and I hope that ORs in Australia and the USA will get in touch with these groups if they have not already done so. Members of both groups have made generous donations to the Big School Appeal for which I thank them. The OR Council will do as much as it can to foster such groups, wherever they exist or may be formed, enabling the Association to flourish as widely as possible.

I have placed great emphasis on increasing OR membership, initiating and chairing a Membership Sub-Committee which has put a range of proposals to the Council. That our membership now exceeds the 'magic' one thousand mark is due more to the efforts of last year's President, Denis Moriarty, and Chairman of Council, Tony Waring. I hope that I, my sub-committee and Council have helped our very hard working Membership Secretary, Chris Widdows, in his perpetual efforts to expand the Association.

In June we celebrated the unique occasion of an OR Reception in the House of Lords but this was more than a prestigious occasion for

the ORs and the School. It provided the perfect opportunity to invite Governors, Members of the Reading Foundation, the Parents' Association and Friends of Reading School to participate in an OR event.

I am indebted to my old school contemporary, Lord Roper, for so willingly enabling us to hold our reception in the House of Lords and assisting with the arrangements despite his busy political commitments. I am doubly indebted to Brian Titchener, our Social Secretary, for attending to the myriad details involved in making the event a huge success. The success of the evening is, I think, best judged by the enthusiastic responses and words of thanks received from members of the Governing Body and Parents' Association who wish to have more opportunities to participate in OR events. I know that our President Elect intends to develop this theme of greater collaboration between the bodies comprising the School Community and I feel that it can only do good for the School, the support of which is our principal objective.

The Association continues to support and encourage the great sporting events such as the OR Rugby game followed by the OR 7s, OR Hockey and Cricket matches, the OR Golf Association's tournaments organised by Rudolph Bissolotti and, of course, OR Cricket Week which has developed a new lease of life. Terry Cratwright has been indefatigable in organising this event. Mark Lyford has joined him in this last two years to the immense benefit of the cricket and the palate of all those taking part.

Another of my objectives is to continue the work done by my recent predecessor in restoring Remembrance Sunday as a key event in the OR Calendar and I hope we will have a large turnout again this year when, I am promised, the School Chapel will have the benefit of heating! Service to the community is an abiding characteristic of a Reading School education and I hope that we shall do our very best, by the strength of our attendance in Chapel, to honour those who have served their county in wars and, in particular, those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Governors and the Parents' Association are being invited to join us in the Service which will be led by the Honorary Chaplain of the ORs, the Venerable Peter Coombs.

Elsewhere the Journal gives an account of the presentation to the School library of a museum

quality display cabinet filled with OR memorabilia. This started as a simple idea of displaying some School Colours Caps kept in the School Archives. The idea grew thanks mainly to the generosity of Betty Canning who, with members of her family, donated the money necessary to purchase the cabinet which is dedicated to the memory of her late husband Geoffrey, our former President. Will Lunn and Chris Widdows made an enormous contribution to the display and have been outstanding supporters of the project from selection to installation and furnishing the cabinet. The opportunity to provide a showcase for the ORs, situated, thanks to the Head Master's kindness, in the superb new library, has been grasped with both hands. Will and Chris will be arranging to change the display regularly and I hope that the attention focussed on OR history and heritage will both interest boys and bring the OR Association to their attention in a positive way.

Finally some words on an objective I willingly inherited, the Big School Appeal. If, as a School Boy, you ever wondered what Big School looked like before the stage was installed, you can now find out. The Summer Vacation saw the removal of the stage (not without a certain nostalgia in some quarters), the preliminary renovation of the walls and ceiling and the final renovation of the wooden floor. Those who have seen it have been delighted by the transformation and the role of the ORs has been praised from all quarters, not least from Andrew Linnell who has been generous in his thanks to you all. The fund raising for the Appeal is now in the hands of John Illman as Appeal Director and, when he succeeds as President in December, he will have additional opportunities to promote the undertaking. More will be said about the appeal elsewhere in the Journal so I will simply say that so much has been done but there is much more to do. So far ten per cent of our members have raised nearly thirty thousand pounds. Just think what the remaining ninety- percent of you might do! Any donations, however small, are welcome.

Last of all I would like to thank the OR Council for its support, the officers for their hard work and the many other members of the Association who have helped and encouraged me throughout my year in office.

*Floreat Redingensis  
Dudley Bruton*

---

## **THE HEAD MASTER'S LETTER**

---

**There has been much publicity about the examination and assessment system which affects Secondary Schools. As I write the debate is continuing. I thought that members of the OR Association would be interested in my comments.**

Before I make some general comments I would like to report on the school's

examination performance in Summer 2002. The unvalidated and unchecked league tables compiled by national newspapers in August do have the effect of shifting schools around because of tiny statistical changes year on year or secondly because of the criteria chosen to rank schools.

Reading School students achieved some

outstanding results in 2002. At GCSE 71% of entries achieved the highest grades A\* and A in the examinations. This is the highest result since GCSE examinations commenced. The average point score per student was over 78 points. As each A grade result is worth 7 points, this means on average students have achieved about 11 A grade passes. At A-level 69% of the entries achieved Grades A &



B and on average students achieved above grades AAB. No boys failed any A2 A-level paper entered.

At Key Stage 3 the school achieved the best results in Reading Local Education Authority. This was before a complete re-marking and substantial upgrading of Key Stage 3 test results. After this re-grading, 41 students out of 123 entered were given results 1 National Curriculum level higher. This scale of re-grading is outside my experience and a real sign of the stresses upon the examination system and the fall in the quality of marking. I have accordingly re-issued students with corrected certificates of their performance.

I must also comment on the publicity surrounding AS and A Level results in 2002. It is important firstly to emphasise that Reading School possesses a very rigorous method of tracking students. If there had been substantial evidence of underperformance, students would have been entered for re-marks by Mr I G Judd OR, (Director of Examinations), Mr E S Holt OR (Senior Master) and myself during the summer vacation. In point of fact, the level

of re-marking at this school has been broadly in line with that of previous years. No subjects or specific modules generated significant re-marking requests. The school has no evidence that any students or any subject areas have been significantly downgraded. The results achieved were broadly in line with expectations.

However, this was the first complete cycle of the entirely new post-16 qualifications and the School has learnt much from it. In future we shall be able to analyse the increased amount of data systematically and scientifically and thereby support students even more effectively. The schools that have experienced difficulty have done so in very specific areas. It is somewhat difficult to sift the fact from the fiction in the press coverage as the understanding journalists seem to have of the new examination system is so limited. It may well be relevant that some of the schools who have experienced difficulties have also chosen to enter all their students in both A/S and A2 examinations at the end of Year 13 (i.e. Summer 2002) so may well have only received their first data in August.

The underlying problem with the examination system is that it is overstretched, arcane and over complex. There is also a shortage of good, experienced markers. The cost of the system to schools, which has risen three or four fold in recent years, is too much of a burden for their budgets. The resulting inaccuracy I have commented on in this article, which for this school this year was produced by the AQA Board in the Key Stage 3 English tests, must be put right.

Despite all these problems and the media's handling of a difficult situation many educationalists and teachers have predicted, we must not lose sight of the successes of the students. Reading School again celebrates that students have done well nationally, are getting better in terms of their skills relating to examination techniques and in this school in particular have achieved high standards. I, my colleagues and the students will watch the current debate with informed interest.

*Floreat Redingensis*  
**Andrew Linnell.**

# NOTES & NEWS

**Ken Poole (88-92).** A team led by Dr. Kenneth Poole, specialist registrar in stroke medicine at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and a Medical Research Council clinical research fellow, has found that over half of all strokes occur to people aged over 70 who are already at risk of osteoporosis because of their age. Dr. Poole is carrying out a study looking at the effectiveness of biophosphonates in stroke patients funded by the National Osteoporosis Society. His research is published in *Stroke*, a Journal of the American Heart Foundation. Some will recall that Dr. Poole did his elective year in Australia working at the practice of OR Dr. J.H. Waites (71-79).

**John Perry (42-49).** Having had some success in his fight to unravel the difficulties surrounding the payment of disability pensions tax free to army personnel, if the disability was "attributable or aggravated by" time in the forces, he has encountered some further obstacles. The Royal Navy and the RAF had followed legislation to the letter but the Army had somehow failed to do so. More than 4,000 soldiers have been wounded in a succession of campaigns over the last 50 years and 2,500 of them in the Korean War alone. Much larger numbers have been discharged on medical grounds attributable to their service. None of these appear to have received their tax benefits. He is, therefore, still working with outstanding determination to see that this injustice is righted.

**W.H. Ball (30-37).** Doreen Lee, the

stepsister of Bill Ball, flew to UK from Western Australia carrying two books which he won during his Reading School career. She presented them on permanent loan to the Reading School Library. The books are "Discovery" by Sir Richard Gregory which was won by Bill for Lower IV Maths in 1930 and "The Plays of John Galsworthy" which he won for Upper School Spanish in 1931. Both are signed by G.H. Keeton, sometime Head Master.

Bill was killed in 1937 in the Spanish Civil War. He was in the British Contingent of the International Brigade. R.A Middleton made the arrangements with the School Librarian for the receipt of the books and we thank him for that.

**John Morgan (29-34).** John Morgan's son, an Old Warwickian, but otherwise forgiven, has e-mailed to say that his father has turned 83 years old and, although not in perfect health, soldiers on in Perth, West Australia. He has changed his e-mail address to [jmoprgan1919@hotmail.com](mailto:jmoprgan1919@hotmail.com) and is using the Internet to follow the fortunes of Reading Football Club.

His son John R. Morgan mentions that he has JPG images of School Calendars for Michaelmas terms 1929 and 1930 which might be of interest to some members. His e-mail address is [jmorgan@arach.net](mailto:jmorgan@arach.net) au.

**Mark Hamlin (67-74)** writes: "I refer to Roy Seymour's comments in the latest edition of the 'Old Redingensian' regarding

1952 as the year when Alfred Sutton Primary sent a record number of ten boys to Reading School.

I would like to point out that the same primary school managed to beat that record in 1967 when eleven of us transferred to Reading School including, amongst others, myself, Graham Bilbe, Kenneth Targett, Damian Green (now MP for Ashford), Michael Geoghegan, John Prince and David Robot."

**Damian Green MP**, mentioned above, has been busy putting the Conservative Party's Education Policy together, as many of us have seen in the articles he has been writing for the Times and the Telegraph.

**Robert Minchin (86-88)** married Helen Spooner on 8.9.2001. He has recently graduated with a PhD in Astronomy from Cardiff University.

**John Spanner (56-63)** writes to say that he and **Mark Field MP** were both guests at the Golden Jubilee Lunch at the Guildhall on 4th June this year, Mark because he is the MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, and John because he is a Member of the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Farringdon Without in the City of London. He is also Master-elect of the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London, and will become Master on November 5th this year. The congratulations and good wishes of the President and Members of the Old Redingensians

Association go with him at his installation.

**Philip Lowe (57-64).** Frank Terry reports that Phillip, who was in East Wing during his Reading School career, is now the Head of the European Community Competition Department, the first non-German to achieve this post in 35 years.

**Neale Jouques (78-85).** Neale is a major in the Royal Logistics Corps and has been serving in Afghanistan. His grandfather served on the North West Frontier at the turn of the century and Neale finds that there are still signs of the British occupation visible in Kabul today. Whilst at Staff College he met **Richard Beaumont** who is now working in

the Ministry of Defence, **James Weedon** who works in procurement at Abbey Wood and **John Bailey** who lived in the house opposite Neale at Camberley. Richard and James are in the Royal Engineers and John is in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The only other individual he has seen recently from Reading School was **John Whitwam** who is with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and they met, by chance, in Iraq just after the cease-fire during the last? Gulf War.

**The Kirkwood Bursary** of £250 was, this year, won by Andrew Hodgson who was Vice Captain of School and Captain of County

House. He was a member of the touring team which visited Granada, partially sponsored by the OR Association. He is taking a GAP year and will go on to Durham University to read History.

**The Kirkwood Award** was won by Edward McNeil, Captain of School House and East Wing House. He will teach English in China prior to going into law. Edward also won an OR Enterprise Award to help fund his GAP year in China.

## OUR SCHOOL - Memories of West Wing

By Ted Webber (42-49)

Roy Seymour's piece in the April issue of the Old Redingensian where he mentions some of the masters and their nick names "rings a bell". I sometimes wonder how those nicknames arose, and how they stuck. Starting with the Head, C.E. Kemp was 'Kipper'. Did it start as 'Skipper'? I never thought he had any resemblance to the fish served up at least once a week for breakfast in West Wing! It is probably irrelevant but one needed to learn ones first multi-skilling lesson filleting it.

'Isiah' (L.T.N. Hardy) on the other hand is easier to understand. From 'Daddy' Lamb I learned the calculus that set me up for becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers in later years. It was 'Bonk' Reddington who taught me how to make maps plus some geology in the same cause. Why 'Bonk' before it acquired its current meaning? He must have been keen on boxing ears.

'Birdy' Nightingale and 'Fanny' Francis are obvious, but what did we call Mr. Vale when we failed to construe his iambic pentameters, let alone wrote our own? Mirabile dictu – his ablatives were always absolute. My first Latin master in the Senior School had the syllable 'max' in his name – I do not remember anything else about him except that he had an unfortunate accident. I copped a drill as class Captain when I failed to restrain my colleagues in crime from chanting "Maxibus sitibus on deskilorum, deskilorum colapsibus, maxy on the florum".

Finally, my House Master, Mr. Streather. His nickname 'Stret' now seems so unimaginative for such a highly colourful character. Although I was five years in West Wing, I was still the most junior when I left, due to the closure of Junior School. Juniors had lights out at 7.30 p.m., even at the age of 14! Of course we yarned for hours in the dorm before sleep finally overtook us. Around 10 p.m., Stret made his rounds but he always clumped loudly up the stairs and if you did

not hear him coming it was your own fault! Very probably, you would find yourself standing outside his study door after breakfast with blotting paper in your pants, wondering which of those exquisite items of torture in the umbrella stand next to the desk he would select, and would it be four or six?

The lunch bell is rung. We line up outside the dining room, juniors first. The door opens and we file to our benches. "Benedictus benedicata...". Those were the days.

And the best hymn in the English Hymnal? "God be with us till we meet again" which was always the closing item at the end of term service in Chapel. Would I recognise my old school, apart from the buildings?

*(Ted writes from 14 Elizamay Close, Buderim, QLD 4556, Australia. His name will not yet be in the OR List since he is in the process of joining the Australian branch. Ed.).*

## THE HAVELL PRINT OF READING SCHOOL



In October 1816 a large coloured aquatint print of "Reading School and Playground" was published by Edmund Havell in Friar Street.

The print shows the old school building with pupils at play in the Forbury Gardens. I have a limited quantity of full colour reproductions for sale printed on high quality paper.

The sheet size is just over 17 inches x 25 inches, and the picture area is approximately 14 inches x 22 inches.

Price including postage and packing is £35

John Spanner,  
Weighbridge Cottage  
201 London Road North  
Merstham, Surrey  
RH1 3BN

Telephone 01737 642094  
E-mail johnspanner@aol.com

# REUNIONS

## AMBERLEY REUNION 2002

By Michael Smith

A day of bright promise welcomed us to "The Boat House" on Saturday April 27th, which was encouraging, as over the years as well as sun we have met with torrents and even snow as accompaniment to our feasts.

When Dick Wilder arranged the first reunion at "The Spotted Cow" at Angmering thirteen years ago he set a trend which took us via "The Blacksmith's Arms" at Adversane to our present, and much enjoyed, unusual wharf setting on the Arun at Houghton Bridge. It certainly is a peaceful spot on the edge of the impressive gap which the river eroded through Kipling's "blunt, bow headed, whale-backed Downs". Americans find the name "Downs" something of an eccentricity, for to them they are palpably "ups", and are relieved to learn that the term, so familiar to us, is derived from "dun" the Saxon word for hill. Most Sussex place names are of Saxon derivation, but the palimpsest, which is the landscape, bears a clear record of over six million years of human endeavour. Indeed the river beneath the windows was as familiar to Neolithic dug-out boats as to Roman galleys. The Romans called the river "Trisantonā" and it wasn't accorded its present title until the Normans had built a castle in "Hoar-hound dell", later simplified to Arundel. As a highway it reached the peak of its importance with the canal age when it became a major routeway from London, via the Thames and the Wey, and was linked over the Wealdon ridge by locks to the Arun. The wharves would have been bustling with activity and loading and unloading of cargoes of grain and coal, of brick and tile, and even, for fear of French privateers, the pay for the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. Further upstream there are only archaeological remnants beside the canal short cuts, and there is a tunnel through which the barges "legged it". The importance of London's lost rout to the sea vanished as its aristocratic investors saw their shares plummet when the "iron-horse" took over.

Across the Roman Road, Stane Street angled from the Downs to cross the wetlands en-route to Londinium. At Hardham, a short distance away, was a "mansio", a Roman Posting Station which gave travellers on Imperial business a comfortable night's rest. The Ordinance Survey delightfully marks it as a "ROMAN STATION", which makes one think the tannoy might announce "the train standing on platform II is the X:VIII from Noviomagus to Londinium, calling at Anstiebury Camp and Box Hill only.

But, of course, those who gather here annually don't have time to explore this time-capsule in any degree of depth. Several do take a stroll along the river banks or go down to Amberley "wild brooks" under the castle,



*Audrey Smith greets Ron and Margaret Wright of Sydney Australia in the bar of The Boat House, Amberley*

which was for so long the country seat of the Bishops of Chichester. Or they may have time to call at the Museum of Industrial Archaeology in the adjacent chalk pits. Our focus is upon meeting old friends and there is ample opportunity to do so in the bar or on the terrace before being called to table. In 2002, for the second time in a row, the President, Dr. Dudley Bruton, with his wife, Joan, welcomed us warmly, with special greetings to Ron and Margaret Wright, who are with the School for an exchange year from Sydney. I am sure that they will carry with them a vivid recollection of what must have seemed, initially, a mad house. Will Werry had been frustrated, at the last moment, by weekend railway engineering works south of his home in Cheltenham and so couldn't be with us, and we wish him better luck next year as we always appreciate his sense of humor. Bob and Juliet Elphick were also unavoidably held back, so from our intended 47 we were down to 44. As we have to make our way to the Carvery to choose from the delicious array, tables are called in turn by a system of lots and once the choice is made the members of "The Crew" bring our piled plates to the table. This year their outfit was smart pleated blue skirts, rather than the traditional short shorts, but none of us minded! As we can't all start eating at once we didn't call upon our cleric, the Venerable Peter, to say Grace, although I was minded of a rather charming one heard at a Farmers' Livery Company lunch at which I was a grateful guest of Kerr, "For groaning plate and brimming cup, for freedom from the washing up!"

A goodly number of the gathering had been stalwart supporters since the early days but, sadly and inevitably, we have lost several members or their wives. Happily the widows are still very supportive and we are delighted to welcome them, Betty Canning, Marion and Pat Wilder, Shirley Fidler and Diana

Haines. Some wives have gone too, Catherine Mattingley, Dora Terry and Jackie Wiggins. We naturally raised our glasses to "absent friends". It was especially good to welcome, for the first time, John and June Oakes, who in the past have been away in France at this time of the year. Dudley was again supported by the Gregories and the Sigees and other table groups coagulated as of yore. Th Ruddles and Paynes reminisced over House matters, and Seaford College house talk was continued by "Matt" Mattingley and Audrey and Michael Smith. A few "grass widowers" collected together: Frank Lacey, Will Lunn, Gerald Malkin and, of course, Kerr, and, unusually on his own, Ron Middleton, and Chris Widdows. David and Edwina Pollitt, Peter and Catherine Coombs, and Geoffrey and Ariela Taylor are all of identical vintage, closely followed by John and Mary Childs. More senior members included Ron Whittam, Noel Wiggins, Ainsley and Pauline Clarke and brother Don, who brought along Arthur Lloyd. Brian Titchener was able to give out some notices at the end, as ever supported by Marion. Dudley brought the meal to an end with a short and witty speech before proposing a toast to the health of Reading School.

We look forward to welcoming another equally lively and traditionally friendly group next year when John Illman will be presiding. We should, however, very much like to see a few more from a young middle age group – so please pas the word of the annual enjoyment on.

Apologies were received from Rudolph Bissolotti, Peter Dominy, Malcolm Godridge, John Illman. Denis Moriarty, Frank Terry, Derek Thomerson, Peter Tomkins, Tony Waring and Mike Warren.

*Floreat Redingensis*

# READING SCHOOL ESSEX CRICKET TOUR REUNION JULY 2002

By Michael Holmes

The Reading School Cricket Tour of Essex first took place in 1961 when I broached the idea to John Haines who was then in charge of the 1st XI. North East Essex was the area where I had been brought up and educated and I knew many of the local grounds on which the County played. The party to tour would include key members of the current School eleven, past members who had played for the School and cricket loving members of the Staff who could spare a week away from home in the school holidays.

The tour was a great success in the first

year and it ran for ten years until 1971. Essex became the happy hunting ground for Old Redingensians who adopted the Crouch End Hotel as their base each year and who enjoyed the conviviality and friendships generated on tour as much as the cricket itself.

In 1986, on the 21st anniversary of the first tour, a match was played against the School XI with the touring party members forming the opposition. A further fifteen years on it was felt that most tourists would be too old to take the field and provide a worthy match against School but would not be too old to share in the nostalgic reminiscing.

Thus twelve ORs met, firstly at the School ground in Cricket Week for a photograph and secondly at the County Arms for a pub lunch. Much good natured banter and recollections of past glories dominated the conversation and it was generally agreed

that we should repeat the event, perhaps in a couple of years.

Those present this year were Frank Terry, Stephen Wright, Michael Holmes (all former staff) and Terry Cartwright, Rodney Mills, Barry Bartholomew, Howie Townson, Ron Alexander, John Short, Martin Smith, Mike Jefferies, Ken Brown and David Hill (all ORs). Apologies were received from Chris Hawson, Peter Sadler, Bob Towner, Mike Cleere, John Schofield, David Steer and Nick Barton.

If there are other Reading School tourists who would like information on a future possible reunion, would they please get in touch with me, Michael Holmes, at 50 Green Lane, Hucclecote, Gloucester, GL3 3QX or on [m.g.holmes@btinternet.com](mailto:m.g.holmes@btinternet.com)



*L to R - Philip Hite, Danielle Lindsay, Richard Lindsay, Natalie Braham, Ray Braham, Jenny Toh Seymour and Roy Seymour (Hon Sec)*

## USA WEST COAST REUNION

By Roy Seymour

The USA West Coast Reunion was held on March 1st 2002 in Berkeley, California. Members and wives gathered at the Radisson Marina Hotel for the social dinner meeting. Old day boys and boarders were present. The congenial gathering was punctuated with interesting information about the latest School activities, fund-raisers, memorial services, and the School's excellent academic rating.

Following the toasts to "The School" and "The ORs", the formal greetings from Dr. Dudley Bruton, the President of the Association in UK, was read and received with thanks. We also saluted the ORs who were able to attend what is always a most enjoyable gathering.

The US branch of the Old Redingensians has held a reunion biennially for the past ten years. The western states have always produced the greatest interest, but we welcome updates and information on ALL ORs living in America for our next meeting in 2004. (Contact Roy F. Seymour, PO Box 382, Somerville, New Jersey 08876, USA).

## OBITUARIES

**LEONARD WILLIAM "MAC" MASKELL (16-21) K. Kirkwood writes:**

"Mac" sadly passed away on 9th November 2000 at his home in Ferndown, near Bournemouth. He was born 30th May 1905 and when he died he was the most senior OR and the most senior in the Reading School lodge. He was the eldest of three brothers but the only one who attended both Kendrick Boys' School and Reading School. He rowed for the latter and left in 1921 to qualify as a quantity surveyor. He worked for Berkshire County Council and later for W.T. Lamb and Son.

In 1939 he volunteered for the Royal Navy and after officer training at HMS King Alfred he was commissioned as a Lieutenant RNVR and posted to Sierra Leone in West Africa. He was involved in the defence of this important convoy staging port which saw to the marshalling of merchant shipping coming and going to UK round the Cape of Good Hope. On return to the UK he was promoted to Lieutenant Commandeer and took part in the preparations and run up to the D-Day landings. He assisted in the Mulberry Harbour project and in particular the "Swiss Roll". This was a pier designed to float on

the surface of the sea and, when vehicles ran over it, hinged sides sprang up to keep the water out. One very big "Swiss Roll" was used by the British in Mulberry II at Arromanches. In later life Mac was delighted to visit Arromanches and see the remains of the great cement structures still resisting the elements. He remained in the Navy until 1970 and was awarded the VRD.

On retiring from the Navy he became a manager for a division of an Oxford development company and then sales manager for British Nuralite. In the latter role he travelled frequently to Europe and Australia. On retirement he and his wife Joyce purchased a General Store and Post Office in Nether Stowey in Somerset. From there they went to Padstow in Cornwall for the best part of 20 years, before finally going to Ferndown. His wife Joyce, a son in Australia, a daughter in Bramdean, Hants, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren survive him.

**P.J. STREATHER (35-48)  
K. Kirkwood writes:**

The death of John Streather severs a family connection with Reading School spanning 77 years, commencing with his father who joined the School as a Master in 1925. John was 75 years of age when he died of a long

illness in July 2002. After National Service he joined the town solicitors Dennis Berry & Co. He later joined Charsley Harrison (Slough) and then Brain and Brain in Reading. He was a regular OR player of Cricket and Rugby football but his greatest pleasure was his family and his tidy garden in Goring-on-Thames. He was somewhat shy, possibly overshadowed by his father, but he was a gentleman.

Eighty ORs attended his funeral, including the Easby twins, P.E. Johnson, Dennis Jones, Tom Patterson, C. Wansborough and C.A. Rowden. John's sister Pamela, who had lived with her family in the House Master's rooms in West Wing, predeceased him by two years. Many "West Wingers" will mourn her death, as she was a ray of sunshine about the house. John leaves a widow, Molly, and four children.

**EDWARD H. PALMER (15-17)  
Michael J. Busby (39-46) writes:**

Howard Palmer almost reached his century. He attended Colet Court before joining Reading School in 1915 at the age of 12. He was a member of the School cub pack and left in Lower III A. In his professional life he was a highly respected quantity surveyor, at first with Gardener & Theobald (the family firm) which he served from 1924 to 1970. He

then became an independent professional consultant with quasi-arbital functions.

He was elected Honorary Secretary of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a role for which he was best known and which he filled between 1936 and 1957.

#### **MAJOR RALPH EYLES (32-37)**

*K. Kirkwood writes:*

Ralph Eyles died suddenly in hospital aged 81. At the impressive memorial service held on 2nd July it was a "soldiers day", as it was attended by over 25 retired officers from his regiment, the 15/19th Kings Royal Hussars, with which he had served both in the Middle East and in Malaya in 1949.

Major General George Lewis gave the address, Colonel Peter Hodgson read the lesson and the last post was sounded by a bugler from the regiment. C.J. Widdows and K. Kirkwood represented the Old Redingians Association at the service.

#### **DAVID W.F. JOHNSON (41-51)**

*K. Kirkwood writes:*

David was born in 1933 and was evacuated to Reading during the war. He entered the School in 1941 and was to have a life moulded by a superb Head Master and, in particular, by C.A. Nightingale, the producer of Shaw's "St. Joan" in which David played "The Dauphin". In 1951 he was called up for National Service but switched to the Intelligence Corps in which his talent for languages was used effectively.

He read Russian at Cambridge and then joined the Board of Trade, becoming an able and discreet Civil Servant. He was closely involved in the development of Concorde and was appointed CBE in the 1992 Honours List.

David and his wife Mary shared in the enjoyment of amateur dramatics. He always believed in "duty before self" and his Christian faith was expressed in his kindness to those less fortunate than he was. Many valued his friendship and a painful void has surfaced in their lives with his loss.

#### **H.G. (GORDON) CLIFTON (30-35)**

*K. Kirkwood writes:*

The sudden death of Gordon on 25th March in hospital, aged 82, severs a long connection with Reading School and the OR Association of which he was a most loyal member. His funeral held on 3rd April, in Reading, naturally attracted many Old Boys as well as business people of the town. Members of the Reading School Old Boys' Masonic Lodge were present at the service as Gordon was a Past Master. He was initiated in the late 1940s and reached the Chair in 1960.

Gordon had joined General Accident Insurance Co. after leaving School and became a manager of various branch offices. After a spell in London and Glasgow he became the area manager for the South East Region with an office in Reading. He was a tall handsome man, modest, quiet and shrewd by nature. As a scholarship boy he entered Reading School in 1930 and was active in the OTC and enjoyed chess. He was a keen

sportsman, participating in OR Rugby, Cricket and Swimming. By 1939 he was a Lance Bombardier with an AA Battery in the Royal Artillery and by January 1943 he had attained the rank of Captain, having served in India and Burma.

In 1947 he married Doreen née Alderson, widow of Squadron Leader Eric Few RAFVR, also of Reading School, who was killed in the last month of the war in Europe. He leaves her together with one son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

#### **THE REVEREND GERALD HARRIS (41-46) Contributed by Canon Colin Hill**

Gerald and I were choristers at an early age at a local parish church in Reading and then at Reading School, together for most of the time between 1941 and 1946. When he left School he became an apprentice at Pulsometer Pumps where he remained for five years. He then joined Spanner Boilers in 1953 and rose rapidly through the company and became their Technical Sales Manager, travelling all over the world sorting out problems.

We lost touch with each other for about 20 years until I became Rector of Easthampsted (the new town of Bracknell) where he and his wife Joan were then living. In the late 1960s his business moved to Stourbridge where he and Joan became attracted to St. Thomas and it was there that his vocation blossomed and his aspiration to become ordained materialised. Despite a heavy business schedule, which took him all over the world, he studied for 4 years at The Queen's Theological College, Birmingham for the work of a non-stipendary minister. He was ordained at Worcester Cathedral in 1994 by the Bishop of Worcester. I was privileged to be present at his ordination. He served his deaconate at St. Peter's, Pedmore and in 1986 he was offered the post as Priest in Charge of St. George's Jumpers – with a population of about 10,000 – a daughter church of Christ Church Priory, Dorset, where his ministry restored life to that church.

Joan and Gerald then retired to Hawkchurch, Devon, where he gave invaluable priestly service until his illness with a brain tumour. At his memorial service at Hawkchurch some 140 people were present (and 11 robed clergy) at which I was privileged to give a tribute to him. He died just short of 73 by a month or so. He was an OR who was shaped and moulded by his school and gave a great deal to industry and the Church.

#### **ROBIN L. DAVIS Contributed by C.P. O'Dell and F.J. Pocock.**

Robin was born in 1942. Wartime and the years immediately afterwards were hard times for his parents. Robin's good fortune was that they had both the imagination and the determination to give him the best education possible. They made many sacrifices to give him a good start by sending him first to Highlands School, where he joined John Toner. They both went to King Edward's Preparatory School in 1953. Two years later at Reading School Robin started to learn German with Wally Renshaw, an inspirational teacher, who brought the

language alive through conversation. The German Language was to play a very big part in Robin's life's work. After a further year, he went on to an exchange visit to Munster in Germany, where he stayed with Winfried, who became a life long friend.

At School Robin made friends easily and could always be counted on to be at the centre of some prank or other. His school friends will remember his founding a debating club (appropriately called the 'Drones'), the hilarious poems which he wrote with his friend, Arnold Page, and his riding through Reading on his scooter, dressed in a toga and crowned with laurel leaves going to a fancy dress dance at Junior School. Another equally outrageous OR was riding on the pillion, dressed as Nero!

Despite obtaining good A levels, Robin rejected the idea of further academic study and went to work in London as a trainee manager for Shell. However, within a year he had changed his mind, and went to Aberystwyth University to study modern languages. Required to study for a time in Germany, he and his great friend Chris O'Dell were arrested by the People's Police for taking photographs of the Berlin Wall from the wrong side of Checkpoint Charlie. Only Robin's quick wit and fluent German saved them from a spell as guests of the Stasi!

At Aberystwyth he met Joy, a gifted lecturer in Pure Mathematics, whom he married when he was 23. They moved to Germany, where he was a university teacher. On returning to England he worked in Broadstairs to set up an English Language Centre for Kent County Council. From scratch he built up the school into a successful and profitable operation. His career in teaching English as a foreign language had begun.

After separating from Joy in 1983, he gave up his job in England and went to work in Austria, where he met four gifted Austrian authors who had decided to write a course to teach English in Austrian schools and were looking for a suitable native speaker to complete their team. Their books became best sellers and are now used by 95% of all Austrian secondary schools.

In 1986 he became Director of Studies for Bell College in Saffron Walden, with responsibility for 250 residential students. He later became Head of Academic Management with wider responsibility for the Bell language schools in Cambridge, London, Bath, Norwich and Oxford, as well as Saffron Walden.

In July 1986 Robin met Françoise and they settled in Saffron Walden, where their daughter Florence was born. But just a year later Robin became ill with cancer. Typically he faced the future with courage and realism. He knew that his leukaemia would shorten his life but with spells of chemotherapy he could expect to enjoy two or three years of normality well into the future. And so it was. He got on with life and lived it to the full.

And so to the last years of Robin's life and

his involvement with the activity which gave him enormous pleasure. He was the inspiration of a project to find and reunite all of his contemporaries from Reading School. Working with his friend Francis John Pocock, nearly everyone was found and came together at a splendid reunion in Oxford. None of the 52 people there will forget his expert organisation and the skill and good humour with which he chaired the event. He also initiated the idea of producing a book to commemorate the event but sadly he died just after finishing the final proof-reading.

Although his last round of treatment had been successful and the prognosis was excellent, a different affliction took him from us unexpectedly in 2001. Our sympathies go

to his wife Françoise and his three children. He will be greatly missed.

**E.H. WILLIAMS (30-36)**  
**By K. Kirkwood.**

E.H. Williams died in January 2002 at the age of 81. He was born in Reading and after leaving school he joined Road Transport and General Insurance Co. He served in the RAF as a wireless operator in Burma and returned to his old company in 1946. In 1979 he was President of the Insurance Institute of Cheltenham.

In retirement he was a popular judge of summer garden competitions. His wife Marie predeceased him.

**TOM BUCKNELL (51-59)**  
*died suddenly on Saturday 21st September 2002 aged 61. His funeral took place at St. Andrew's Church Bradfield at 12 noon on Tuesday 1st October 2002. The President and members of the Old Redingensians Association extended their deepest sympathy to his family. An obituary will be published in the next issue of this journal.*

## THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

### *The Memorial Service for John Bristow Head Master of Reading School 1980-1990*

The Venerable Peter Coombs, Chaplain to the Old Redingensians Association, officiated at the memorial service for John Bristow held in the School Chapel on Saturday 18th May by kind permission and in the presence of the Head Master,

Andrew Linnell. Dr. Neil Applegate, the School Chaplain, was robed and in Chapel. Graham Ireland, Emeritus Director of Music at Reading School, was at the organ. Mrs. Patti Naxton gave a solo rendering of "The Last Chord" by Sir Arthur Sullivan and of the hymn "God be in My Head".

Dr. Tony Nokes, Chairman of the Reading Foundation, read an excerpt from Mediations XVII by John Donne and Michael Evans, the Second Master, gave a tribute. In the congregation, in addition to John's family, were the President of the Old Redingensians Association, Dr. Dudley Bruton, Governors,

Parents, Pupils, Friends and Staff of Reading School. The congregation was invited by Joan Bristow and her family to meet for refreshments in Junior School after the service.

John's full, generous and Christian character was reflected in the service and in the gathering afterwards. He would have deplored fuss and pomp. It was, as were his arrangements for Her Majesty the Queen's visit to the School, a happy and positive family occasion of which Reading School was very much a part.

*Joan Bristow (second left behind the grandchildren) supported by her family at the Memorial Service for John*



### *Reading School Presentation Evening*

was held in the Great Hall of Reading University on Friday 13th September 2002. The Chairman of Governors, Dr. Phillip Mitchell, presided and the principal guest, John Illman CMG, sometime British Ambassador to Peru and also Vice President of the Old Redingensians

Association, presented the School and Endowed prizes. The President of the Old Redingensians, Dr. Dudley Bruton, was on the stage with the Head Master and Staff and presented the OR Prizes. Mrs. Marsha Elms, the Head-teacher of Kendrick School, was amongst the VIPs in the audience as were Frank Terry, Kerr Kirkwood and Rodney Huggins.

In his annual report the Head Master, Andrew Linnell, drew attention to the generosity of

the ORs who had, so far, raised more than £28,000 to restore Big School. He also spoke warmly about Roy Perkins, well known especially to cricketers and hockey players ORs, who retired at the end of the last academic year, pointing out that Roy's Maths Department was probably the best in England. Tom Walter, the Head of Geography, was awarded a certificate for 25 years service to Reading School.



## The Farmery Medals

were not presented this year as the School Athletic Sports Day had to be cancelled because of the danger of Palmer Park subsiding.

It appears that the chalk mines, which bedevil Reading, have crept under that well known facility and the possibility of an athlete disappearing into them has caused the Borough to close the sports facilities. Alternative arrangements on the School field fell foul of the weather and the public examinations.

### The Canning Memorial Cabinet

has been placed in the new School Library in the Kendrick Building. Betty Canning kindly donated the funds for its purchase and, by kind permission of Andrew Linnell who was present, a 'Ceremony of the Keys' was held in the Library on 20th September. Ian Canning gave a short speech in memory of his father on behalf of the family. Betty then handed two sets of keys over, one to Ned Holt for the School and the other to Will Lunn for the OR Association. Will Lunn and Chris Widdows had been instrumental in the purchase, erection, design and contents of the cabinet, the idea of which was first mooted by Tony Waring.

Tony and Peggy Waring were amongst the guests at the ceremony which was presided over by Dudley Bruton and attended by John

Illman, Kerr Kirkwood, Will and Rodney Lunn, Chris Widdows, Graham Ireland, Ron Middleton, Ned Holt and John Oakes. Betty Canning was supported by her son Ian and grandson Tom representing his father Michael who was on duty elsewhere.

In his remarks Dudley said that the cabinet would be filled with articles of historical interest to the School. The photograph and biography of Geoffrey Canning, whose career had so much benefited Reading School, would remain within the cabinet permanently.

This is a showcase in School for the Old Redingensians. The Head Master welcomes OR visitors and there is a book in the School Reception office for you to sign. The Canning Memorial Cabinet is in the New School Library, hard by South House House Master's door. Please ask the School Receptionist to telephone the Librarian to arrange a welcome for you and your guests.



*Floreat Redingensis.*

*Ian Canning so concludes his speech in memory of his father.*

*L to R - Tom Canning, Ian Canning, Betty Canning, Dudley Bruton*

## The House of Lords Reception on Friday 21st June 2002



*The House of Lords Reception. L to R - Joan Bruton, Dudley Bruton Lord Roper and Mark Field MP*

The Lord Roper OR hosted a reception in the Cholmondeley Room in the Palace of Westminster for the Old Redingensians Association. Lord Roper and the President of the Old Redingensians Association, Dr. Dudley Bruton, with Mrs. Bruton received the guests.

The principal guest was Mr. Andrew Linnell, the Head Master of Reading School. Mr. Mark Field MP represented the House of Commons. It was also attended by Dr. Phillip Mitchell, the Chairman of Governors, Mrs. Jaqui Ashley, the Chair of the Reading School Parents' Association, Dr. Tony Nokes, the Chairman of the Reading Foundation,

Governors, Parents and Friends of Reading School.

Amongst the ORs present were Mr. John Illman CMG, the Vice President, and Mrs. Illman, Members of the Council and Office bearers. Mr. Roy L. Seymour, the Honorary Secretary of the American branch of the Old Redingensians, led the overseas contingent. A Loyal Message of Greetings on the occasion of her Jubilee was sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by the President from the Reception and was graciously received at the Palace.

The President and Council of the ORs extend



their thanks to Lord Roper for his hospitality and to Mr. Brian Titchener, the Honorary Social Secretary of the ORs, for making the arrangements for the event.

A montage of the photographs, taken by Mr. Chris Widdows during the event, is to be found in this journal, together with a list of those attending. A colour copy of the montage may be obtained by sending a donation for the Big School Appeal to Mr. Chris Widdows whose address is in this journal. Cheques should be made payable to the Old Redingensians Association.



*Friday  
19.00 -  
Cholm  
Hosted*

#### A-ORS

A Annand  
A Babington  
  
A Bartholomew  
A Bissolotti  
A Breadmore  
A Brown  
A Bruton  
A Bucknell  
A Chadwick  
A Childs  
A Coombs  
A Dingwall  
A Elphick  
Keith & Mrs Janet Annand  
Anthony &  
Ms Josephine Pullein-Thomps  
Stephen  
Rudolph A  
W J & Mrs M L Breadmore  
Ken C & Mrs Pauline O Brown  
Dudley & Mrs J Bruton  
Tom & Mrs Barbara Bucknell  
Peter G  
John & Mrs Mary Childs  
Peter & Mrs Catherine Coombs  
Peter  
Robert & Mrs Juliet Elphick

A Field  
A Garveigh  
A Girdler  
A Haines  
A Ilman  
A Jackson  
A Jones  
A Jordan  
A Judd  
A Lambourne  
A Longstaffe  
A Lunn  
A Lunn  
A Mathews  
A Messias  
Mark  
John & Mrs Eugenia Garveigh  
Tony  
Keith  
John & Mrs Elizabeth Ilman  
K Stuart & Mrs Rac-iel Jackson  
Graham & Mrs C Jones  
D J  
Ian & Ms Jean Rowlands  
John  
D C & Mrs Caroline Longstaffe  
Rodney P & Mrs Patricia Leyland  
Will E & Mrs Susan Lunn  
John & Mrs Wendy Mathews  
Bernard & Ms Betty Presky

A Metson  
A Middleton  
A Oakes  
A Peddley  
A Perry  
A Polden  
A Rooney  
A Sadler  
A Seymour  
A Smith  
A Smith  
A Stafford  
A Steer  
A Stevens  
A Stevens

David & Mrs J C Metson  
Ron A J & Mrs E Juliet Middleton  
John & Mrs June Oakes  
Ronald & Ms Wendy Boyce  
John M & Mrs Anne Perry  
Chris  
Dermot & Mrs Jacqueline Rooney  
J S  
Roy F & Barrie Sloan (52-57)  
Philip E & Miss Jenny Partridge  
Jonathan  
S R & Mrs Angela Stafford  
David J & Ms Jenni Woolven  
P C & Mrs R Gregory  
J R & Mrs S Stevens



**21st June 2002**  
**21.00 Reception,**  
**Mondeley Room**  
**by: Lord Roper**

A Thompson  
 A Titchener  
 A Webber  
 A Whelan  
 A White  
 A Widdows  
 A Williams  
 A Wolfers

Brian J  
 Brian & Mrs Marion Titchener  
 Henry  
 Matthew  
 Frank & Lady White  
 Chris  
 W A  
 Michael

**B-FRIENDS**  
 B Garvie  
 B Thomas  
 B Wadsworth

Lena  
 Alwena  
 Michael &  
 Mrs Elizabeth Wadsworth

**C-PARENTS**  
 C Pointer  
 C Ashley  
 C Townend  
 C Beattie  
 C Kind  
 C Wieczorek

Fiona  
 Jacqui  
 Mike & Mrs Erica Townend  
 Ian & Mrs Annette Beattie  
 Jamie & Ms Elaine Scothern  
 John P &  
 Ms Fran Elisabeth Luecking  
 Roger & Mrs Ann Lloyd  
 Anthony J

**D-GOVERNORS**  
 D Holts  
 D Nokes  
 D Thompson

Jack & Mrs Gaynor Holt  
 Tony & Mrs Ann Nokes  
 Margot

D Chaplin  
 D Martin  
 D Jubb  
 D Gupta  
 D Mitchell

**E-STAFF**  
 E Wright  
 E Linnell

Mary &  
 Prof Richard/Robert Chaplin  
 Ian  
 David  
 Paul & Mrs Anisha Gupta  
 Philip

Ron & Mrs Margaret Wright  
 Andrew

# Lives of Distinction

By Peter Coombs

Since WW2 it is estimated that between 50 and 60 ORs have been ordained into full-time church ministry. Forty-five of these have been traced and twenty-eight of these have responded to an invitation to write about themselves and any place that Reading School might have had in their vocation. Here, necessarily edited, are their varied contributions.

**Colin Hill (39-46)** After school, university and ordination Colin served in parishes in Rotherham, Sheffield, Easthamstead and Croydon. As Vicar of Croydon one of the main emphases of his ministry is revealed by many appointments (often as chairman) of housing trusts, a youth counselling agency, an Industrial Mission and committees supportive of the police and crime prevention. This significant involvement in community affairs led to his appointment as OBE in 1996. In the church he has been a member of the General Synod, an Honorary Canon of two cathedrals and for five years an Honorary Chaplain to the Queen. At present Colin is hard at work completing a 70,000 word thesis on the Croydon Whitgift Foundation. Retirement!

**Graham Holley (45-46)** Graham was at school for just one year but learned much from Raymond Jessop in the Geography Sixth. Culham College trained him as a teacher and he taught at Clewer and in Reading until he went to prepare for ordination at Salisbury. "Barchester", but beneficial. He has been able to make good use of his interest and skills in education in most of the parishes in which he has served, notably at Much Marcle for 28 years. A great deal of committee work has come Graham's way: Diocesan Education and Schools Committee, Church Union, the federation of Catholic Priests, Diocesan Missionary Council. In recognition of his devoted service in the Hereford Diocese Bishop John Eastaugh presented him to the stall of Putson de minore in the cathedral. Prebendary Holley. Since his official retirement he now cares for a parish in Gourock with the mountains of Argyll to give him constant inspiration.

**Colin Evans (40-46)** After the Classical Sixth worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough at the same time serving as part-time pastor at Spencers Wood Congregational Church. Moving north full-time ministry emerged while at Ilkley (now in the United Reformed Church after 1972) and he pastored churches "at all points of the compass" including seven years as URC Moderator in East Anglia. But Colin's church-based ministry is only the less "glamorous" part of the story. Colin was a regular contributor to the national religious press (columnist, feature writer and West End

drama critic for the Church of England Newspaper!) author of four books and currently contributor to the URC monthly journal and to an international series of Bible Reading Notes. Colin has appeared on innumerable TV programmes and on much local and national network radio. He has tutored at the Churches' TV Centre and three times over has been theatre chaplain for the Actors' Church Union. He attributes this somewhat "glamorous" ministry to his thespian roots at school and his more orthodox ministry to his Big School and Chapel lesson reading assignments. Out of these a vocation was born.

**Roy Matthews (43-46).** The 1971 award to Roy of the Territorial Decoration speaks of a very close association with things military and especially to the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was commissioned as chaplain to the DWR TA Battalion in 1958 while a vicar in Yorkshire, retired from that appointment on age grounds then went into the Army Cadet Force serving 34 years in all. Roy still retains active links with the regiment and this year, their Tercentenary year, went out to Osnabruck to dedicate their colours. During 30 years of parochial ministry one of his specialties was education and in the nine years before retirement also held the posts of diocesan Schools Officer and then Deputy Director of Education. Roy also maintains an active position in Freemasonry being provincial Grand Chaplain for the province of Yorkshire North and East Ridings.

**Peter Coombs (39-47)** He can look back to a Crusader Bible Class when the Christian faith first came alive for him and to the Billy Graham Crusades when his vocation to full-time ministry crystallised. School, too, played its part with the framework of chapel services giving him an appreciation of structured worship which ensured that the Church of England became his spiritual home. After National Service he taught for three years, trained for ordination at Bristol served in parishes in Beckenham, Nottingham and Kingston upon Thames before being appointed Archdeacon of Wandsworth by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood. Peter owes a great debt to Reading School. Apart from the form room (opportunities not always taken) the playing fields, the JTC and so many extra-mural activities gave so many opportunities to relate to others and to exercise leadership.

**John Richards (41-47)** John has "made history" by being the first (one of two) priests to be made a bishop in order to be a Provincial Episcopal Visitor. That is, appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to give pastoral and sacramental support to those priests and parishes unable to accept



*The Venerable Peter Coombs*

the ordination and ministry of women priests. John recalls the wonderful liberal education provided at school teaching him, among other things, "the importance of good manners and respect for other people". Chapel is also remembered especially the saying (and in his case the learning by heart) of the General Thanksgiving prayer. He remembers "Daddy" Lamb saying that he could read the New Testament in Greek better than the prefects could read it in English. And that from the lips of a mathematician! Before becoming a bishop John's entire ministry was served in the Exeter diocese as curate, vicar, rural dean and archdeacon. At school John started in IA and left from IVA – from Timmy to Terry!

**John Dobson (37-48)** If you want to learn "Greek in a week" (or Hebrew even) John Dobson is your man! John says that at school Timmy made teaching attractive and George Vale inspired interest in languages. Later, Merton College taught him to work hard and the Christian Union helped him to a joyful committed faith. Two years in the Royal Engineers taught him that problems need to be coped with, not escaped from. Twelve years in Uganda taught him about learning languages – "you don't begin with the Present Infinitive Active". 100,000 copies of his Learn New Testament Greek have been published in four languages. His Learn Biblical Hebrew came out two years ago. John's ministry is global. Since parochial retirement in 1994 he has taught courses in Hawaii, Moscow, Harare, Johannesburg and Kenya. Pakistan is booked for 2003. The secret of his success? "Smiles stimulate study and laughter lubricates learning". Easy!



**Brian Goss (39-50)** He wrote specifically about his retirement. He says "I was quietly minding my own business in the little house on the council estate in the London Borough of Hackney to which my wife and I retired in 1996. Out of the blue a letter arrived from Leslie Griffiths, Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel, City Road EC1. He had unexpectedly lost the services of a colleague – how would I feel about joining the staff team? And so, a new life has begun at the age of 70." Brian invites anyone to pop in – just a short walk from Old Street tube station. Come as tourist or pilgrim. On Sundays a third of the congregation walk to worship, a third come from all over London and a third come from all over the world.

**Roy Bennett (45-50)** As a Roman Catholic Roy was excused worship but met in a form room under the eagle eye of Andrew Kelson. He still remembers some of his mini homilies and still admires his perseverance and ingenuity in coming up with something fresh every day. Intent on journalism Roy only changed direction in his last year (with Frank Terry) but the main influences came from outside school. His CV records 9 appointments held – from Birmingham to Ryde. In his ministry he has met up with no ORs. Alan Stockbridge who invited him to preach in the school chapel being the one exception. Not even, says Roy, have I met any ORs in the two prisons in which I have served as chaplain! Roy is very modest about his ministry: "some work, some play, some lasting friendships, some ships that have passed in the night."

**John Hedges (45-50)** He says that he thought very highly of chaplain Jacky Newman. When John asked him whether he thought he might consider ordination he said "I don't think so". No one is infallible! John left school at 16 and he did not reach ordination until he was 27 via National Service, Reading Borough Treasurer's Department, Leeds University and Ripon Hall, Oxford. He describes his ministry as mainly "pastoral" working in Manchester especially with prisoners and their families. Moving south, Easthampstead, Tilehurst and Thatcham were places where he worked. He commends the Alpha course saying that a good proportion of his congregation came from right outside the church influence.

**John Lambourne (44-52)** He speaks of an early career with more low-lights than high-lights. His first parish went bankrupt and he was made redundant; further curacies were "exciting and short-lived". Eventually John settled down as Vicar of Robertsbridge, Sussex where he has already served for 26 years. He is also the Bishop's Advisor on rural affairs in the Chichester Diocese and Rural Chaplain for East Sussex. Chaplaincies are John's forte: he was a TA padre for four years and has been chaplain of four rugby clubs. He first thought of ordination while on a National Service Moral Leadership Course. Guess his hobby. He has over 100 books on

butterflies. He just has to be a country parson.

**Alan Stockbridge (42-52)** MBE, MA, CF (Retd.) – these indicate the direction of Alan's career. A good bible class (Crusaders), a good school chaplain (Jack Newman), a good army chaplain (Geoffrey Grobecker) were steps along the way to ordination. First an army career: ten years in the Royal Signals and the RAEC. Alan was (unusually) ordained to serve as an army chaplain in which capacity he saw action in Northern Ireland as well as having tours in Cyprus and Germany. He was head-hunted by headmaster Tony Davis who was seeking a school chaplain. Alan's four years at school sadly coincided with the tragic death of Tony Davis. To Alan was committed the task of reading out farewell letters to staff and to school. After Reading School he resumed his army career for a further ten years before becoming Rector of Harrietsham where his brief was to "rescue" a parish whose previous incumbent left after four days! Alan, from his retirement home in Menorca looks back on a full and varied life.

**Peter Dominy (47-53)** Peter went up to Oxford expecting to become a solicitor but having come to faith there he became convinced of a strong call to ordination. A mining town curacy was followed by fifteen years in Nigeria. Just then Nigerians were taking responsibility for all areas of life, including the church. Much of his time was spent preparing people for new responsibilities and then standing down as they assumed leadership. Before leaving the country Peter was personnel secretary for a denomination whose Sunday worshippers exceeded those of the Church of England! Returning to the UK he became Rector of Broadwater, Worthing where he was instrumental in "planting" two new churches and forming a Team Ministry. He is now Vicar of Danehill and Rural Dean of Uckfield becoming an Honorary Canon of Chichester Cathedral in recognition of his service at home and overseas.

**Anthony Gelston (43-53)** Anthony is Emeritus Reader in Theology at the University of Durham and probably the only living OR Doctor of Divinity. After a rural curacy at Chipping Norton his gifts and vocation led him to full-time teaching and research in theology taking early retirement at 60 to give more time for research. Anthony's specialism is the linguistics of the Old Testament: Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac. He is now two-thirds of the way through (in a team) in producing a new edition of the Biblia Hebraica taking account of all known texts. Only another three years to go! He also taught liturgy at Durham and has assisted in the revision of the Psalms and Canticles for the new Common Worship. He earths academic studies by serving a wide variety of parishes around Durham as occasion demands and particularly enjoys a monthly service in a Methodist church where they "appreciate Preaching".

**Bill Sewell (43-53)** While at school Bill was a tyro Congregational Lay Preacher. After Reading University and Mansfield College, Oxford he enjoyed forty years of "routine pastoral work" since 1972 in the newly formed United Reformed Church. In the sixties Bill co-authored Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship which was widely used on both sides of the Atlantic. In the eighties he was the URC's Ecumenical Officer for Wales and worked hard (sadly without positive results) towards the reconciliation of ministries over five denominations. In the nineties he was seconded to the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa to strengthen leadership in the Botswana Synod. A well earned retirement has taken Bill to Wells-next-the-sea.

**Peter Marr (48-53)** Peter describes himself as a "late ordinand". He was ordained into the Church of England priesthood in 1987 while teaching in a Roman Catholic independent school. During this time he was awarded an Oxford Schoolmaster Fellowship to study the ecumenical situation and dialogue especially in shared schools. He made several visits to Northern Ireland in the late 1980s and published the results of his findings in *One in Christ*. From the Anglo-Catholic St. Giles, Reading he moved via the Evangelical Beverley Minster (where his family had Yorkshire links since the 16th century) to his present incumbency at St. Barnabas, Beckenham. He writes that "daily in the school chapel looking at the window of St. Barbara must have had an effect, but even more so were the prayers for the 'pious and generous benefactors' of the school".

**David Weekes (47-53)** He modestly says that his career is a "simple tale soon told". Judge for yourself. Converted to Christianity in his last year at Cambridge during a university mission led by John Stott. A four year curacy in Cheshire. Four years in Uganda during the first phase of Amin's terror – a beautiful land and its people desperately scarred by human wickedness. Twenty years as chaplain and head of RE at Fettes ("No, I did not teach Tony Blair, but met him later"). The pre-retirement years of ministry as Warden and Chaplain of Lee Abbey International Students' Club, Kensington. Often seventy nationalities under one roof seeking to move the club from moribund to mushrooming. And succeeding. From Reading School: "a rich time...a sense of service...in chapel a glimpse of the reality of worship...retaining great respect and affection for what I found and gained."

**Ken Smith (48-55)** Ken has just retired as chaplain of Whitgift School, Croydon, but continues as a professionally trained and much-used bereavement counsellor. Over the years he has drawn insights from such diverse spirits as Billy Graham and Don Cupitt and testifies to the positive influence of Reading School on his spiritual development. School taught him to

think; Birdy Nightingale and David Bleasdale taught him to love words; Mike Hinton got him excited about the Scriptures. His time at school helped him to develop his ideas about education. As a teacher of religious studies many years were spent in chaotic comprehensive schools but Reading School persisted as a model of what might be better. Today he is "totally enchanted with eastern religion, especially Hinduism" and hopes to have his ashes scattered in the Ganges.

**David Hemsley (45-55)** He felt a call to the priesthood after a sermon on vocation in St. Bartholomew's church. After two years in the REME and training at King's, London and at St. Boniface, Warminster he was ordained in Bristol Cathedral for service in a large housing estate parish on the outskirts of Swindon. Six hundred children on the Sunday School register; twenty baptisms at Easter: those were the days! David has always served rural parishes: rural progressive, not rural backwater. For 30 years chairman of school governors of different schools. At one he oversaw the development of the only church secondary school in Buckinghamshire from being barely viable (roll 360) to becoming a beacon of excellence (roll 1000). "Muscular Christianity" is a phrase that occurs twice in David's letter: he was school heavy-weight boxing champion and won Head of the River with the King's Eight. Influences at school? Messrs Grigg and Hinton are mentioned, not for the subjects they taught, but for the men they were.

**David Dominy (47-56)** David is not the only OR parson who left the ministry of one denomination to serve in another because of theological differences over baptism. He served two curacies in West Kilburn and Sheffield and then, in 1976, became pastor of the New Life Church, East Grinstead – a New Frontiers church. Here his congregation successfully pioneered a Christian bookshop, an old people's home and a Christian school. David now serves as pastor of Stafford Family Church which was started from scratch. He says that school chapel services inculcated for him a healthy fear of God and the influence and prayers of Crusader leader Edgar Milward also had a significant effect although it was not until he got to Oxford that he came to understand the claims of Jesus Christ on his life and made a positive Christian commitment.

**Arnold Page (53-60)** Arnold realises that his contribution is virtually impossible to summarise. In telegraphic form it would go something like this: graduated Bristol (Engineering), married Ann, Richmond College BD, Methodist Ministry, churches in Norfolk, Somerset and Yorkshire, Ann miraculously healed, new experience of Holy Spirit, service in Chile, evangelistic crusades and more healings, left Methodist ministry (baptism differences), Pastor, Independent Church, High Wycombe, part-time engineer Timber Research and Development Association, started cleaning business (60

staff), published book for job seekers, professional software developer, back to TRADNA (Senior Engineer), founded Chile for Christ Trust, member charismatic Anglican cell church, High Wycombe. Children in Amsterdam, Brussels, Northumberland and Sydney. He concludes "A strange story, but one in which God has helped me, as He will continue to do so, up to and past death.

**Peter James (53-60)** First Keble College (reading History) then Saskatchewan (working on a farm) then Plessey (installing telephone equipment) then Bristol (studying theology) then marriage (to Carole) then Merseyside (serving in three parishes). Then, says Peter "the unexpected twist". A North Wales holiday saw him learning Welsh "for fun". This turned into an absorbing hobby and led to a ministry in the Principality. Harlech (14 years) and now the Llyn Peninsula (8 years). Peter serves four Anglican churches and three Welsh Presbyterian chapels. The Presbyterian Church has made him a Moderator and (not to be outdone) the Anglican Diocese a Canon. Sadly Carole died leaving Peter with four lively teenagers but the Lord provided "another wonderful wife, Lisbeth". Since she is Welsh he claims his linguistic abilities have improved enormously. Together they are converting an old village chapel for a retirement home.

**Bill Halling (54-61)** Bill confesses that he was probably missing from chapel rather more often than would have been considered proper! However, school nurtured in him a thirst for truth and a desire for justice, thanks, not least to Frank Terry. So that when he discovered the truth of the gospel at Oxford ordination led him to serve in council estate and town parishes. He is rector of the parish church at Kirkheaton and has played a part in establishing a "help and youth work centre" gaining a top Urban Regeneration award. The club still flourishes 6 years later "well above par for the course".

**Stephen Lowe (57-62)** One of our two OR bishops. Several paragraphs would be needed simply to list Stephen's appointments held, committees chaired, trusteeships administered. He became Bishop of Hulme in 1998 via an archdeaconry in Sheffield and incumbencies in East Ham and Birmingham. He is a keen supporter of the ordination of women, of ecumenical partnerships and has developed a passionate interest in and knowledge of urban ministry and regeneration. In Sheffield he was, as archdeacon, actively involved in the aftermath of the Hillsborough Football Stadium disaster when 94 died and 170 were injured and he led the clergy response to the relatives. This led to the development of emergency plans for the rest of the Church of England in the event of major incidents. One who knows Stephen well describes him as "open-hearted and good natured, an enthusiast in everything, vigorous in all his

pursuits and with a strong streak of radicalism within his nature and thinking".

**Paul Badham (54-62)** Paul was the only person in his year who took an A level in religious studies with Jack Newman. He read theology both at Oxford and Cambridge and gained a Ph.D. at Birmingham during his years as a curate. He was clearly marked out for an academic life and went to be Lecturer and ultimately Professor in the department of Theology and Religious Studies in the University of Wales, Lampeter. As the department expanded enormously the main development has been the establishment of an Open Learning programme in Theology and many clergy and laity from all denominations are now enrolled on distant learning degree courses. Paul's most recent book is *The Contemporary Challenge of Modernist Theology* and he still finds time to be also Director of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre.

**Andrew Barton (65-71)** He went up to St. John's on the Sir Thomas White scholarship getting a top first in Chemistry and his D.Phil in 1980. He mentions his great debt to Messrs Hardy and Liddington and said that his doctorate must have pleased both masters because it was in Chemical Physics! He became a Christian at Oxford through the preaching of the legendary David Watson but he only offered for ordination in 1990 after several years working in industry, at Mars. Andrew is rector of four parishes south of Newbury where he has been for 8 years. He mentions Jack Newman, not because of his influence (he describes chapel as "boring") but because he accidentally gave out the answers to a scripture exam a few days in advance of the paper. "Good for him!" Andrew's wife is also ordained but sadly had to retire because of the onset of multiple sclerosis.

**Timothy Gorham (64-71)** With Ealing Abbey as his postal address Timothy is revealed as one of a very few OR Roman Catholic monks. Interestingly enough while he didn't attend chapel services he says that the very presence of a school chaplain (Jack Newman) and the rather ecclesiastical appearance of the Waterhouse building served to keep religion somewhere in his mind even in the atmosphere of the sixties which was often hostile to religion. After school Timothy joined British Rail and spent fifteen years with BR before joining the Benedictine community at Ealing in 1989 feeling unfulfilled in his work. He studied theology in Rome, took life vows in 1994 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. Timothy is Oblate Master at the Abbey and is chaplain to the junior school which is attached to the Abbey. The idea of a monastic life came to him after he read *Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton describing his life in a Trappist monastery. He points out, however, that Ealing Abbey is no Trappist monastery but is at the centre of a large and busy parish and Timothy himself gets out and about as chaplain to the Abbey choir which has recently sung in Barcelona Cathedral.

**Nicholas Fried (66-74)** was ordained into the Uniting Church, Sydney. He is glad of the broad, creative and radical basis of this fairly new Australian denomination which seeks to get to grips with tough issues of social justice (for instance, the position of asylum seekers in detention centres) and its commitment to reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of the continent. His large church (2,000 people associated with it) is, unsurprisingly, outward looking as it relates the faith to the local community in practical ways of doing things when tradition was not enough. Nicholas finds himself still imbued with this spirit and it motivates much of what he does as he seeks to offer people meaning, purpose and identity and helps them to discern what of the past should be taken into the future. Nicholas sees God's providence in guiding him to a country with only about 200 years of white European

settlement as opposed to the "800 years and more have passed". The future is change!

## *In conclusion*

**What these incredibly diverse pen-pictures do is demolish once and for all the stereotype parson of popular image: elderly, somewhat withdrawn, out-of-touch and one who seldom ventures very far from the cucumber sandwiches on the vicarage lawn. Another cup of tea, vicar?**

On the contrary, they reveal the typical Reading School parson as hard-working, much travelled, community orientated, ecumenically inclined, vocationally assured, intellectually able and gospel motivated. Also, he seems very much at ease in taking

initiatives and exercising leadership. Moreover, retirement does not mean "full-stop" but is simply the gateway to a new flowering of ministry.

Two things may be concluded. First, that Christianity must be a rather special religion. Offering so much to its adherents but expecting much back in terms of service for the common good. Secondly, that Reading School is a rather special institution. Special in its buildings, its staff, its teaching, its extra-mural activities, its standards, its ethos. All these tell of a school that offers so much to those privileged to pass through its cloisters. Cloisters, but not cloistered. Long may this continue.

*Floreat Redingensis!*

# SPORT

## THE OLD REDINGENSIS GOLF SOCIETY SPRING MEETING 2002

*By Rudolph Bissolotti*

The meeting was held on 13th June at Reading Golf Club.

In view of the fact that two of the participants were only available to play one round, the Hon. Sec. decided that there would be two singles Stableford

competitions, one of 18 holes to accommodate the aforementioned, and the other of 36 holes for those available for the full day.

**The 18 hole Stableford was won by Richard Heskins with the very creditable score of 37 points.**

**The result of the 36 hole Stableford competition was:**

**Winner with 57 points:**  
Chris Quartly (*and now holder of the President's Jug*)

**Runner-up with 56 points:**  
Rodney Lunn

**Third (on countback) with 47 points:** Nick Burrows

**Nearest the pin:**  
**Morning round** – John Childs  
**Afternoon round** – John Downes

We were delighted that two previous organisers of the Society, Cliff Swansborough and Tom Bucknell, were able to join us for dinner together with John Illman, the Association's Vice-President. Dudley Bruton, the Association's President, who normally plays with us, had a prior engagement which prevented his from participating in the golf but he found time to join us for dinner and to present the prizes.

We, as usual, were looked after by the catering department of the Club and also appreciated the excellent condition of the golf course. The Society acknowledges the generosity of Goss Group plc for their much appreciated contribution to the prizes.

It is hoped that the Autumn Meeting will be held at Calcot Park. but no date has yet been agreed. Please keep your eye on the Association's website where the date will be advised in due course.



*A last happy OR occasion for Tom Bucknell, seen with back to the camera at The Golf Society Lunch*

# OR CRICKET WEEK LAST OVER TIE BRINGS THRILLING FINISH TO WEEK

*By Terry Cartwright*



*1 Ashley Cole (Capt)  
2 Justin Cole  
3 Mark Lyford  
4 John Evans*

*5 David Owen  
6 Dick Owen  
7 Alan Keneally  
8 James Keneally*

*9 Chip Sainsbury  
10 Chris Proudfoot  
11 Bjorn Mordt  
12 Terry Cartwright*

**A week that started with the disappointment of a frustratingly slow and low wicket and a cancelled game finished in high drama on Friday evening. For some inexplicable reason, the square this year did not have its characteristic true pace and bounce and nearly all batsmen struggled to come to terms with its unpredictability. No OR scored a 50 – which must be the first in the history of the week – and there were only two scored by opposition batsmen.**

In the Monday game against Pangbourne College Old Boys, the ORs batted first and managed a meagre 122, with only three batsmen reaching double figures. Excellent captaincy by Ashley Cole and superb left-arm spin bowling by Paul Sainsbury saw the opposition dismissed for 108.

For the second week running Richmond had to cancel on Tuesday, although this time they did give a week's notice. However, it was not possible to arrange a replacement fixture at such short notice. Some small consolation for the older ORs was the reunion of the participants in the Essex tours which took place in the 1960s. Michael Holmes has written a report which appears in this issue of the journal.

Last year, Wednesday's opponents, the Old Blues, ended the ORs' long standing

unbeaten run, so a strong team was fielded to exact revenge. Batting first again, ORs struggled to reach 137, with the only noteworthy contribution being from Berkshire batsman Michael Leary. The opposition lost their sixth wicket with 41 still needed, but that proved to be the ORs' last success.

This is the third year that we have played a two-day game against Bowden from Cheshire. This provided a rare opportunity for club players to experience a two-innings game. Given the status of the wicket for the first two games of the week, the captains debated whether two one-day games should be played to avoid the possibility of an early finish on the second day. The original plan prevailed, and it proved to be absolutely the right decision, with the wicket actually improving as the game progressed. Batting first, the ORs made 185, with Dick Owen top scoring with 46. Bowden replied with 174, losing their last wicket in the scheduled final over of the first day. Runs came more fluently on day two with six OR batsmen getting into the twenties, but none scoring more than 32. The visitor's captain, OR Sean Walters, took 5 for 48 with his leg spin. Setting the daunting target of 252 in some three hours, Bowden made steady progress and looked set for victory when just three were needed from the final over, with one wicket remaining and their number 4

batsman on 97. With the score level and three balls in hand, he was trapped LBW by Smart to leave the match tied. John Haines would have been thrilled.

Our thanks again go to the Head Master for the use of the facilities, to the new Estates Manager, Fiona Dobbs, for her help, and the OR Association for their invaluable financial contribution. The enthusiastic new groundsman, Clive Liddiard, has taken over the 'problem' square but is keen to remedy the situation for next year.

I would like to add a personal thank you to Mark Lyford for his organisational work, which ensured the presence of a number of young players. His contribution of a selection of splendid wines was appreciated by all concerned.

Dates for next year will be 21st to 25th July. 2003 will mark the 50th year that John Evans and I have played cricket together, so we are planning to have a 'Jubilee' match on the Thursday. Further details will appear in a future issue.

**ORs WISHING TO PLAY IN THIS AND ANY OTHER GAME SHOULD CONTACT ME ON 01252 79557 OR MARK LYFORD ON 07901 668374**



## THE CAVERSHAM & REDINGENSIANS CRICKET CLUB – 2002 SEASON

*By J.M. Evans*

Both the 1st and 2nd teams were promoted last season. The main aim for 2002 was to stay promoted. However, for both teams, that target was made more difficult. Changes were made, in mid season, to the

numbers being promoted and relegated in some divisions of the Thames Valley League next season in order to accommodate clubs entering the league next season and to achieve as equal numbers in each division as possible.

Whilst understanding the reasons it was difficult to understand the timing. The 1st XI was finally one of four clubs relegated. Ultimately this may be a blessing in disguise, as leagues are all about finding the right level to play at, but there is no disguising the

disappointment felt at the Club. John Evans OR remains the club chairman and the driving force of the club. He still plays from time to time, though less than he used to. It is good to see a number of youngsters playing at the Club, though these are, I'm afraid, less and less likely to be ORs. The reason is that most talented cricketers are already involved with Clubs before they arrive at Reading School, and retain their loyalties. Here too the world has changed.

---

## THE READING SCHOOL RUGBY TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA 2002

*By Tom Spindler, Captain of Reading School 2002 & Tour Captain*

As we climbed aboard the coach on the Reading School terrace, everyone felt a mixture of emotions. Obviously excitement was tinged with an edge of apprehension. Relief that the time had finally come was juxtaposed against shock that the day that had been so far away for so long was suddenly upon us. Most of all, though, was the feeling of exhilarated expectation at the thought of embarking on what was always going to be an amazing experience. In the end, however, the tour surpassed

even the most optimistic of predictions.

At the heart of it all was rugby. The aim set out at the start of the tour was to develop a squad that played the style of rugby that would make for a successful season, and that is exactly what the tour has done. We have a cohesive set of players committed to winning games in a style that has roots in last season's play, but it has developed and expanded into a full game plan throughout the pre-tour training and in South Africa. The impressive statistics of played 12, won 9,

drew 2, lost 1 appears to pay adequate testimony to this fact, but actually fails to tell the whole story. The strength of will displayed by the 2nd XV to go the whole tour undefeated impressed everyone who witnessed it, including the players themselves. So too did the 1st XV's achievement of not conceding a single try, demonstrating not only defensive organisation, but also huge grit and determination to do justice to themselves on the field. All players have come out of the



*R to L - (Bob) Lewis OR, Tour Manager, with the Headmaster of KNYSNA Secondary School*

trip with a deeper understanding of the game, more confidence in themselves and their team mates, a greater determination to win and a desire to enjoy playing high quality, flowing rugby.

It would be foolish, though, to think that touring is all about rugby. The tour has proved just how big a part that other aspects of touring have to play in the overall experience. Foremost in most people's minds will undoubtedly be the vast array of wild life that we have been privileged to see. From whales and penguins to the now infamous big five (can you name them?) South Africa appears to have it all and the climax of the tour in the form of the Kruger National Park was universally received as breathtaking. Some moments of lighter quality also stick in the mind. The dodgems at Durban and the fiercely competitive ultimate Frisbee at Port

Elizabeth beach are just two examples. On top of all this has been the marvellous opportunity to visit new places and meet and, in some cases, share the lives of some of the most warm and welcoming people the world has to offer. The squad was touched to a man by the generosity and friendship shown by all our hosts, who helped make the tour a truly wonderful and unforgettable experience for all of us.

Thanks must go to all who made the tour possible and to all the parents for supporting their sons on this tour and its build up. The excellent medical care provided by Dr. and Mrs. Blowers was appreciated by everyone, and no doubt helped to calm a few nervous mothers back home. The coaching and management team have been brilliant throughout; indeed this tour would not have been possible without them. And finally I

thank the body of players for allowing me to share in the experience of touring.

Bob Lewis OR., the Tour Manager, writes this final comment on the tour:

"My lasting memory will be the sense of pride I felt whenever I spoke in assemblies or after matches on behalf of the touring party. They were outstanding ambassadors for Reading School both on and off the field and I am sure that they, like me, will never forget the rugby tour to South Africa in the summer of 2002.

*It will be remembered that the ORs Association and individual ORs were major sponsors of the tour.*

*Ed.*



**SCENES FROM THE OR MATCH  
2002**





*Dr Frank Williams supports the second of his sons to win the Clacy Cup.  
L to R - Darius Williams, Dudley Bruton, and Frank Williams*

## OLD SCHOOL TIES

*Martin Parsons, author of Old School Ties, took time to do some further research into Old Redingensians killed in WW1.*

### A VISIT TO THE YPRES SALIENT

By Martin Parsons

While taking a party of students to the Ypres Salient in June, I decided to act upon our request in Old School Ties and search for as many ORs as I could find buried or commemorated in the Ypres area. My first attempt, searching for 2nd Lt. Charles Hatt on the memorial panels at Tyne Cott, was unsuccessful, as there was no sign of his name anywhere. And, even though he is registered at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as being on Panel 105-6, there was no reference to him in the Book of Remembrance located just inside the gate of the Cemetery. However, I was able to find many of the others except those at Lijssenthoek and Vlamertinghe Military Cemeteries (because I ran out of time). However, I will locate these on my next visit in October. I found all the ORs commemorated on the panels of the Menin

Gate with the exception of 2nd Lt. Kenneth Frost whose name was not here.

*Those present were:*

**2nd Lt. D.J. Davies** – Machine Guns Corps. K.I.A. 31.7. 1917. Aged 21

**Capt. R.C. Harris** – Suffolk Regt. K.I.A. 16.2.15. Aged 26

**Pte. H.S. Rake** – 43rd Btn. Canadian Inf. K.I.A. 26.10.17. Aged 32

*I was also able to place a Cross of Remembrance on the Graves of:*

**Capt. John Mathews** of 206 Squadron RAF K.I.A 1.8.18 Aged 28 – Hooge Crater Cemetery Grave Ref. II.H.9

**Pte. Harold Guille** of 7th Btn. Canadian Exp. Force. K.I.A. 14.4.16 Aged 31 – Railway Dugouts Cemetery Grave Ref. VI.E.30

**2nd Lt. Walford Knowles** of 2nd Btn. Royal Berks. Rgt. K.I.A. 31.12.17 Aged 20 – Poelcapelle British Cemetery Grave Ref. XIII.E.1

However, the trip was memorable for one tremendous coincidence. At Hill 62, famous for its café, trenches and WW1 memorabilia, I noticed a photograph attached to a tree. On closer inspection I found that it had been placed there by the son of A.G. Wilkin OR (1898-1904).

The Rev. Wilkin had been captured at Sanctuary Wood in June 1916 and the photograph, taken in 1934, showed father and son on the very spot at which he had been taken prisoner. There were many people looking at the photograph, some suggesting various scenarios about him being executed against the tree etc. I am not sure that they were too impressed when I told them that he had, in fact, survived the war to become an eminent churchman. I think they preferred their heroic picture of him being shot as a spy!

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 10TH NOVEMBER 2002

BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE HEAD MASTER THE OLD REDINGENSIANS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOLDING A SERVICE IN CHAPEL AT READING SCHOOL TO COMMEMORATE THE OLD BOYS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN WAR.

THE SERVICE WILL BE LED BY THE VENERABLE PETER COOMBS, THE CHAPLAIN TO THE OR's, AND WILL COMMENCE AT 10.45 A.M. (PLEASE BE SEATED BY 10.30 A.M.)

THIS YEAR THE SERVICE WILL FOCUS ON THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WW2.

# EDITORIAL

## WOULD YOU RECOGNISE YOUR OLD SCHOOL?

Yes and no is the answer. The spirit is there in abundance, and it is tempered by a kindness which was not always present. It is achieved differently. The dubious benefit of cane has long since vanished. The wearing of uniform is not as rigorously monitored but neither was it in Edwardian times, as a glance at the photographs in the Canning cabinet will demonstrate.

It is what you do not see which is so striking. The Horsa Huts, those monuments to rationing, coke fired heating and harder times, have gone. So has Bouders Hall with its living rooms and bedrooms converted into classrooms. Replacing them are the Page building, the new biology labs, the Kendrick building, the sixth form suite and the Staff Common Room in West Wing and the newly restored Big School. The School, at last, has some decent facilities in which to teach, learn and relax.

Just as Head Master Keeton managed the amalgamation of Kendrick Boys School with Reading School, thereby saving us from extinction, and Head Master Kemp managed the changes brought about by the Butler Act and did so with consummate skill, so Andrew Linnell has commenced to manage the changes which have been

brought in by recent governments. They have no convenient name yet but they are turbulent, difficult and radical. League Tables, OFSTED, the proliferation of examinations, staff shortages, the cost of housing in Reading are a few obvious manifestations. To complete a huge building programme, improve academic standards and keep the 'School Spirit' alive, whilst managing the tide of change, is good enough for now.

## SAME BED, DIFFERENT DREAMS?

**The Captain of School, in his report to the Council of the Old Redingensians Association, announced that a School Council has been formed and will commence to work this term. It is a most welcome innovation and it is hoped that it will play a major role in the leadership and government of Reading School.**

Each morning during the school year there is gathered in Reading School a good percentage of the most intelligent and talented people in England and Wales. Accountants have, so far, been unable to quantify the intellectual value of such a gathering but recognise that it is very high. Intelligence and talent bring with them duties.

Reading has, on its outskirts, the huge Worldcom building which stands as a monument to an apparent fraud so appalling that numerous people will suffer its consequence. The examination system

in the United Kingdom is in grave danger of falling into disrepute because its managers forgot that it was based on absolute probity and trust. Governments, especially those which put image before veracity, act like poultices and bring to the surface of the body politic their own type of poison and must, consequently, bear their share of responsibility for the failures in probity which have prevailed of late.

It is no easy matter to govern and schools are the places where pupils should learn government. A school council should be the first chance to experience elective office for its members. Past members of Reading School who look back on their experiences as pupils are quite clear about its value in their lives. It has been a powerful influence for good. Therefore those who lead and manage Reading School carry the burden of expectation, not just of its present pupils and their parents but of its past and future pupils also.

The challenge for the members of the new council is to influence the school, not just to ensure their own re-election, but for the benefit of future generations who will undertake their secondary education within it. The school is a real national asset and its governance requires great care. The Chinese saying "same bed different dreams" suggests governments change little for ordinary folk. We hope that the new council really does have the power to make changes for the good of the school.

*John Oakes*

## OFFICERS FOR 2002

### *President & Chairman:*

Dr. D. M. Bruton 0149 157 5143

### *Vice President:*

J. Illman 0118 945 5365

### *Membership Secretary:*

C. J. Widdows 0118 962 3721

### *Hon Treasurer:*

I.R. Moore 0118 935 2755

### *Social Secretary:*

B. G. T. Titchener 0196 277 4519

### *Hon Secretary:*

J. V. Oakes 0118 988 3881

## EDITORS

### *J. V. Oakes*

17 Portway, Riseley, Reading, Berks.  
RG7 1SQ

Email: [oakes538@aol.com](mailto:oakes538@aol.com)

### *B. G. T. Titchener (Social Page)*

Surmai, Northbrook, Micheldever,  
Winchester SO21 3AJ

### *C. J. Widdows (Photography)*

21 Bulmershe Road, Reading,  
RG1 5RH

<b>O. R. Ties (Silk)</b>	<b>£15</b>
<b>O. R. Ties (Polyester)</b>	<b>£10</b>
<b>Membership Lists</b>	<b>£3.50</b>

From Membership Secretary:

### *C. J. Widdows*

21 Bulmershe Road, Reading,  
RG1 5RH

### *Cheques to:*

*Old Redingensians Association*

## THE OR WEB SITE - WEB MASTER NEEDED

[www.oldredingensians.org.uk](http://www.oldredingensians.org.uk)

Brian Titchener is looking for someone to take over as Web Master. He feels that new blood and new ideas are needed as he is "getting stale". The web site is becoming increasingly important to the Association and is an opportunity for someone with an interest and some expertise in the field to make a real difference to the life of the Old Redingensians.

Brian would like to talk to anyone who is interested in the work. His telephone number is 0196 277 4519 and his e-mail address is [BTtch@aol.com](mailto:BTtch@aol.com)

*Designed & Produced by  
Trinity Creative Resources 0118 988 3493*