

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

OCTOBER 2004



*In memorium -
Anthony Babington
soldier, lawyer
& author*

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The cover of this issue of 'The Old Redingensian' is graced by a portrait of His Honour Judge Anthony Babington OR PP. It needs no further explanation other than his obituary but his life and career were heroic, a word which we can no longer use without care but which applies here in its best meaning. He suffered horrible injuries, which would have destroyed most of us, and their physical legacy must have tested him severely. His courage was of a higher order than most, as he was confronted by his adversary every minute of his life.

Conscription survived the war and lasted until 1956 I seem to recall. As a result many OR's share a military background and will immediately understand the actions I have taken since you were kind enough to allow me to be your president. My predecessors undertook, and successfully completed, a most ambitious fundraising programme. This demanded a huge amount of effort. Now that it has been completed it is time to sort out the most pressing problem we have, that of an ageing membership and lack of recruits. The solution demands clear leadership and a positive plan. A number of committees have studied the problem and produced reports, and I thank them for their work. I, together with Mike Maule, have decided to take action and have committed you all to a three year plan for which I take full responsibility and for which I seek your active support.

Right now the seed corn of our membership is in the school sixth form and at university. We must offer this group positive reasons to become active members of our Association. Ned Holt, the Head of Sixth Form, and his tutors are actively helping. Chris Widdows is leading a new membership initiative with the boys going up to university this year. Do not expect a sudden burst of new members. Few campaigns were won in the first battle, but there are signs of change which encourage me as I write.

We needed a function which would attract our young members. I decided that we should add a 7-a-side tournament to the annual OR XV v School match, pitch a beer tent outside Junior School, invite families along and hold an Old Redingensians Association Festival of Rugby. I enlisted the advice and aid of two ex councillors who are now successful businessmen, Mike King and Chris Jobson. They gave me immediate support and substantial sponsorship. Bob Lewis, with the aid of Chris Jobson and Mike Maule, set about organising it. By chance John Vaughan retired last year and agreed to come along to present the John Vaughan trophy to the man of the tournament. The inaugural event took place on Sunday 12th September and more than 60 OR's, ranging from 40 to 19 years of age, played in the Goss & Co 7-a-side competition. Also 15 students about to go up to university played for the OR XV in the annual match with School and won. You will get a flavour of the event from the pictures by Chris Widdows in this issue but no one who was there can have missed the great excitement and pleasure that the participants and spectators derived from coming back to School.

Everyone has made it clear that we must continue to make the annual dinner more user friendly. I have already taken it upon myself to invite ladies to attend for reasons any observer of modern times will understand. Now we must reduce the time taken up with speeches and positively make time for friends to meet and talk. Mike Maule has taken the initiative in this and he has been working towards a dinner which all generations can positively enjoy.

The Old Redingensians Association is a registered charity set up to help promote education, specifically in Reading School. We must, of course, continue to discharge our charitable responsibilities by helping to maintain the structural fabric of the school, especially that which has historical as well as educational importance, and also with



THE PRESIDENT'S TABLE AT THE 2004 SUSSEX REUNION

teaching aids, scholarships and awards. We offer funds to support competitive sports such as Rugby and cricket. We add a further dimension by recognising, along with the Head Master, that there are human qualities which transcend academic learning by supporting overseas sports tours and GAP year projects which allow pupils to test their courage, initiative and determination. Our 'Flag Ship' awards in this regard are the Enterprise Awards, which encourage leadership, adventure and creativity. I hope that you will support me when I call for an increase in the amount we offer the School for the Enterprise Awards in years to come.

For a number of years we have been holding Remembrance Services in the School Chapel by kind permission of the Head Master. Many have asked if we should continue to do so. It is easy to argue that such services encourage war by celebrating militarism and promoting divisive nationalism. That is not our aim, and it is far from the minds of most British servicemen I have known. Our military services are not politicised and go to war only at the behest of politicians.

Those OR's whose names appear on the memorials in our chapel sat where we sat and walked where we walked. We know of their stories because they are recorded in our School Magazine. I argue that we should perform the small service of remembering these men every year because it is the least we can do and because they represent the whole. It is something we should do because we deplore the waste of young lives and hope, rather forlornly these days, that the lessons of history will be heeded. I seek your support and look forward to seeing you in chapel.

Mike Maule has been your Honorary Secretary as well as your Vice President this year. His management of our organisation has drawn loud and heartfelt applause from all those with whom he has worked and especially from me. Chris Widdows and Ian Moore have been both friends and supporters of the highest quality throughout my presidency. We have been helped enormously by all our Councillors and, in particular, by the legal and financial advice and experience of Rodney Huggins and Rudolph Bissolotti. John Illman, as many of you will know, was rushed into Battle Hospital this spring and subsequently had some repairs which have returned him to a full and active life. This year he added the Presidency of the Anglo-Peruvian Society to that of Chairmanship of our Council. His leadership and good humour were invaluable.

Floreat Redingensis
John Oakes

THE HEADMASTER'S LETTER

It is always difficult in the space which John Oakes allows me to give OR Members a flavour of the ingredient which makes the School so special and different as it is a complicated mixture of many things. It involves a large community of parents, students, staff and friends of the School. I shall therefore comment on two issues: examination results and staffing.

On the day of the results at A-Level, the quality papers started a debate again on standards. I feel it was quite disingenuous so to do on that day. What needed to be celebrated was student achievement. The debate on standards needs to occur properly and in depth. More important than positions in league tables was the fact that students all did well and almost every one has gone on to their university of first, and in some cases second, choice.

I will briefly comment on the reported declining standards. The proportion of the British population with a driving licence was 67% in 1994 and 71% in 2004. No one is suggesting that it is easier now to pass the test. It is also impossible to compare achievement now and ten years ago as the test is not the same and there is now a written paper.

Results have risen not through a government conspiracy. They have risen because of many factors:

1. the content has moved away from factual recall that many parents will be familiar with from their own experience;
2. the systems of 6 modules making up an A-level with students knowing detailed modular marks and being able to re-sit papers where they feel results have been below par;
3. the more focused teaching and the practice of teachers showing students what it takes to do well in exams.

All these have worked together to push up grades. There is neither simple "grade inflation" nor an outburst of "absolute higher student performance". The truth is actually between these extremes. What the results do show is that many, many more students are being given the opportunity in Years 12 and 13 to show what they can do. This should be welcomed unreservedly. The real question is whether testing at age 7, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18 is the right way to assess student performance.

It is our duty to make Reading School the best boys' selective school in the country without it becoming an examination hothouse. This is an achievable target for this School. I have made my views widely known on other occasions about the unofficial League Tables which appear in the national press in August. However, you will be interested to note that Reading School was the fourth highest school, and highest boys' school in the Daily Telegraph on 27 August with regard to 2004 GCSE Results. In the Daily Mail of 20 September for A-Levels, RS was also fourth highest school nationally and second highest boys' school, and on the same day 5th overall in The Times for A-Levels and again the highest boys' school. I would like to thank OR members who took the trouble to write to me to convey their congratulations to both staff and students about these results.

It should be said that there are a minority amongst the state's 164 grammar schools where there is a very selective entry system and Reading School is in this minority. We are achieving outstanding results across all subjects and this is the thing worthy of note. It is our job to strive for continuing improvement whilst preserving our special character. It is also that we continue to protect the broad range of curriculum opportunity on offer to every student, in academic and non-academic terms. Some of our work is of national importance and amongst this I would include the high numbers who study science at A-Level and achieve excellent grades. The outstanding quality of mathematics teaching, which in my opinion is second to none

nationally, remains our strength, but also the increased performance of the arts subjects, particularly English, is an important feature for a boys' school.

I am sure ORs will be interested in a few statistics to illustrate this point. In the Key Stage 3 Tests, the Mathematics and Science results were better than ever. In the Maths Test 117 out of 123 candidates obtained Level 8, the highest grade. In Science 118 out of 123 obtained the highest possible grade, Level 7. Unfortunately, yet again the English marking was substandard and the results are being reviewed. There is substantial remarking, including scripts from Reading School. 49% of schools have had to send their examination papers back. This is disappointing, as Reading School has taken these papers very seriously and for the last four years used the additional and optional Key Stage 3 Tests for Years 7 & 8. It is however essential that examining bodies at any level ensure the highest standards are maintained in the administration of test papers and that markers are well qualified and properly trained.

At GCSE Level, out of 1347 papers taken, 1332 of them (i.e. 99%) obtained Grades A* to A. 75% of the results were at the highest grades A* and A. This compares with the 2003 figure of 76% which was the highest in the school's history. With an A Grade scoring 7 points, the average points score per candidate was 79.8 points. In English, 93% of students obtained grades A*/A and the equivalent figure in maths was 98%.

At A-Level, the results were 12% better than in 2003, which in turn had been by a significant margin the best results in the school's history. Over 88% of the papers achieved the two highest pass grades, A and B. Every paper entered achieved a pass grade A-E. To have no papers below this is an enormous achievement. Some departments obtained A and B grades for all their candidates: English Literature, geography, chemistry, art and music.

I would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the service to the school of some long-serving members of the teaching staff, three of whom left in the summer after almost 90 years of service to the School between them. Phillip Rothbart (Head of Modern Languages) joined the staff in September 1969; John Vaughan (Director of Sport) in September 1970 and Ian Sharma (KS3 Science Co-ordinator and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) in September 1986. Phillip has moved onto new opportunities and retains his contact with education by working for the Open University and he will also continue to work with the School as a part-time rowing teacher for this Academic Year. John has moved into the world of rugby consultancy and coaching. Ian has moved to Bourne Grammar School, Lincs. These three staff, and the other seven staff who left in the summer go with our best wishes and thanks for their devoted service to the school.

11 staff have joined the School this term and I hope they have a most rewarding next stage in their teaching career and do not take long to catch the Reading School magic. OR members need to note that the new Head of Physical Education and Games is a footballer. In particular I would like to thank Graham Ireland who is back teaching the examination music groups until the new Director of Music joins us from St. George's, Weybridge in January 2005. The fact former members of staff, and Graham Ireland is in an honourable group that also includes the present President of the ORs, are happy to come out of retirement to help us is a mark of their genuine attachment to the school, their dedication and attitude of service, coupled with the fact that it is a wonderful place to teach and a privileged profession to belong to.

Floreat Redingensis
Andrew Linnell

NOTES NEWS & CORRESPONDENCE

“THE MOST SUCCESSFUL READING SCHOOL XV”

An article appearing in the May issue of ‘The Old Redingensian’ thus described the very successful 2004 XV. Peter Coombs writes to challenge this assertion and argues that it should properly be applied to the 1946 XV. He also issues a friendly challenge to the members of the 2004 XV to meet those of the 1946 XV at the Annual Dinner in 2005 to argue the case at table.

The Editors

Dear Sirs,

Many thanks for a most readable and intriguing OR journal - with emphasis on school sport. I must, however, write to challenge the assertion that the 2004 XV was “the most successful Reading School team ever”. Unsubstantiated fiddlesticks!

Whilst it is notoriously difficult (nay, impossible) to compare and contrast the sportsmen and teams of different generations, nevertheless, in this case, let the results speak for themselves.

Reading School XV 2004: Played 9 Won 7 Lost 2

Reading School XV 1946: Played 11 Won 10 Lost 1

Interestingly, only one of the schools played was common to both fixture lists - Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. Be assured that many of our 1946 opponents - notably Beaumont College, RGS High Wycombe, Bedford Modern School and Newbury Grammar School - had Rugby reputations for beyond the confines of the Home Counties.

The complete fixture list and the results were as follows:

Leighton Park School	Away	Won	18 - 9
Churchers School	Home	Won	8 - 6
Pangbourne Nautical College	Away	Won	27 - 3
Douai School	Home	Won	35 - 11
Rutlish School	Home	Won	17 - 12
Beaumont College	Away	Lost	6 - 9



1st XV 1946

Oratory School	Away	Won	32 - 0
RGS High Wycombe	Home	Won	26 - 5
Bedford Modern School	Home	Won	13 - 3
Newbury Grammar School	Home	Won	5 - 3
Leighton Park School	Home	Won	8 - 6

Points for: 195 Against: 67

The leading try scorers that term were M.E. Green (7), P.B. Coombs (7), J.W. Chown (6), A.G. Piper (4), R.C. Fullbrook (30). The tackling Cup was awarded to R.B. Larkinson with G.H. Taylor as runner-up.

Happily the majority of the 1946 team are actively with us today and doubtless still retain proud memories of a matchless season as members of “the most successful Reading School team ever”.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Coombs
Captain, 1946 Rugger XV

FOOTBALL AT READINGSCHOOL

Extracts from a letter from David Meads (57-63)

Thanks for the last magazine. I did find the football article particularly interesting. In my time Rugby was everything and Jim Letham would never have acknowledged the existence of the round ball. Having played representative football at primary school, it was with dismay that I found that Rugby was the only option. I blame the school now for my fixation with football - I am a season ticket holder at Reading and Saturdays in winter are spent either coming up to Reading or travelling the motorways of this country far and wide watching my team.

Occasionally I see OR's from my era - Peter Higgs who has spent a lifetime reporting on football, tennis and golf for the Sunday Mail, Jim Attewell and Graham Broadhurst who have been estate agents around Reading over the years. For a couple of years after leaving school I played cricket for the OR's with Gordon Abington, the Easbys, Mike Cleer et al and, occasionally on Sundays, Derek Shelmerdine roped me into playing cricket for the Kiwis.

ENTERPRISE AWARDS

We recently received a letter from David Haysom in which he thanks us for supporting his GAP year with an award. He taught English at Moscow State University. He writes:

“Along with ten other GAP year students from UK and Australia, I taught students in the Faculty of Modern Languages and the Faculty of Law, in classes of between five and fifteen students, with ages ranging between sixteen and thirty-five... I also volunteered to teach at a school for refugees from Chechnya and other impoverished areas of the country. When our teaching commitments were over (by the end of May), we had the opportunity to travel to other parts of Russia beyond the capital - I was fortunate enough to visit St. Petersburg and also travel to the east as far as Yaketerinberg in Siberia, just the other side of the Urals.”

THE BRISTOW WINDOW



In 1986, during a service in our chapel to celebrate the School's quincentenary, Her Majesty the Queen dedicated a stained glass window of St Cecilia made by Lyn Clayden and Barbara Batt.

The Foundation Governor, Mary Chaplin, who was present at that extraordinary service, was perhaps inspired by it to see that a window to commemorate the life and work of John Bristow was installed this year in chapel. That she should have commissioned Lynn and Barbara to construct the window comes as no surprise.

On 19th May 2004 a service was held in chapel to dedicate the window which is now in place just above the Head Master's stall near the WW2 War Memorial on the north side. It is a superb window using shades of green glass to transmit the light coming from the lime trees outside and depicts St. Thomas Aquinas. A number of symbols in the lower panel commemorate John's life, notably his love of books, music, gardening and, not least, trees. We are reminded that he was so moved by the loss during the terrible storms of the late 20th century of the stately limes which once graced the main drive that he insisted, against much opposition by those who control the County's finances, that new ones were planted to replace those which we lost.

After the service John's large family, old friends of Reading School, Governors, ORs and members of John's teaching staff gathered on the terrace for drinks and recalled numerous happy times when the school community gathered as a family during John's headship. A concert in Big School to celebrate John's love of music followed.

Mary Chaplin extends her thanks to all the ORs who contributed to the cost of the window.

PRESENTATION EVENING

The principal guest at Presentation Evening on Friday 10th September was Damien Green MP OR. In his speech Damien reported that in August 2004 Reading School had a total of four front bench MPs in the House of Commons. By Presentation Evening the number had been reduced to two. Andrew Smith had resigned from the cabinet and Damien himself had resigned as Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, on 9th September no less. It appears that after Damien had completed his fateful job interview with the Leader of the Opposition he sent a text message with the news to his wife only to receive the reply "does this mean we will have to see more of you?".

It is noted that the Reading MP Jane Griffith was scheduled to attend as principal guest last year but had to cancel at the last minute. She was 'deselected' by her local party soon afterwards. The Wokingham MP John Redwood was kind enough to take her place on the platform at the last moment. He has suddenly been elevated to the opposition front bench. Our remaining OR parliamentarians must await their call from the Head Master with some trepidation.

Amongst the winners of Old Boys' prizes were Shaun Worth who was awarded the Kirkwood Bursary valued at £250 and Edward Mayhew who received the Kirkwood Prize. The Jeremy Ramsay Art Bursaries went to Oliver Hawes, Nicholas Kennedy and Peter Ocampo. The Association's Boarders' Scholarships were awarded to Jack Humphries, George Draganov and Steven Young.



JOHN VAUGHAN

John retired from teaching in Reading School last year in order to pursue a second career in sports coaching. The following tribute to him was written by the Second Master, Mike Evans:

John Vaughan, a gentle giant if ever there was one, arrived at Reading School in 1970, at a time when Welsh rugby was already riding high. He had been at St. Luke's College, Exeter, in the days before the axe of political vandalism began to fall on specialist PE Colleges, and when St. Luke's and Loughborough vied for pride of place not just in rugby (and not least in the Middlesex Sevens) but in all forms of Physical Education. He was already established in the Llanelli back row, and spent many hours, in his first two Reading years, travelling back and forth to train and play before joining London Welsh, at the height of its success. Reading School was to have the benefit of John's huge knowledge of the game – resulting from his experience as a top class player and, more latterly, coach, over the next thirty-four years. John captained Southern Counties against the All Blacks, coached London Welsh to a Twickenham cup final, and is now in great demand as a top RFU coach.

But it is not just as a gifted player and rugby coach that John will be

THE CRICKET SCORE BOARD GOES ELECTRONIC

The traditional OR v School cricket match was interrupted this year for a short ceremony to inaugurate the newly installed electronic cricket score board, funds for which came from a bequest made by the late John Haines. Diana Haines officially opened the apparatus by pressing a key on the laptop which operates it. A plaque to acknowledge John's generosity will be affixed to the scoreboard in the near future.



DIANA HAINES

remembered, nor, indeed, just as a teacher of rugby, but as an extremely gifted teacher of Physical Education. Anyone who has seen John at work on a games afternoon, with small boys working hard all round him, or explaining a point to a group sitting round him, their young faces turned to him eagerly, will know just what a "natural" John is. Boys had confidence in him, and a tremendous respect for him, not just because of what he had achieved, but because they sensed that he respected them and their achievements, however small. They respected his warmth, his patience, his interest in them, whether they were physically gifted or not. John always challenged boys, both technically, and in terms of leadership. The Junior (JSLA) and Community (CSLA) Sports Leaders Award were modern extensions of what John had been working on for years. Tours became a key feature of the sporting calendar – in rugby, particularly, but also in cricket and tennis. Teams travelled to many parts of the UK – to South Wales with some regularity – to Ireland, and – much further afield – to Canada, South Africa, Hong Kong, Romania, France and the West Indies, to name just some of the destinations. Tours, John argued, not only enhanced team spirit and individual skills, but also gave leadership opportunities more regularly than in the routine at home. It is not a coincidence that John was instrumental in establishing Reading School's involvement in World Challenge by leading a group to the wilds of Ecuador.

The department which John took over in the mid-seventies was never blessed with ideal facilities. It had two large green spaces, a swimming-pool and a very basic gym. Nothing has changed – at least in this respect. What has changed is the breadth – and quality – of the provision, something attested to by successive Ofsted inspections. And this despite the continuing absence of acceptable indoor facilities, and the need for reliance on hiring those of other institutions. John overcame these obstacles, and the level of boys' skills in badminton and basketball in particular, bear witness to his efforts.

John's period as Housemaster of West Wing was – sadly – its final one as a boarding house. But they were happy ones for those who were its members, many of whom tell interesting stories about recalled incidents, and John's characteristically patient and just methods of dealing with them.

John will, we are sure, continue to take a close interest in the sporting achievements of boys at Reading School. But, as colleagues and ex-pupils will confirm, despite his sustained drive for excellence as a teacher and Head of Department, and despite his own impressive achievements on the rugby field, John's first question to an O.R. whom he met would always be to discover whether he was still playing sport, no matter at what level, because for John sport enhances life, and it has always been his aim to enable others to share that enjoyment. I think we would all agree that he has, in no small measure, achieved that goal.



NICK RAWLINSON (70-77) and family visited the school from Tasmania on 12 September to watch the Rugby Festival. The picture shows him with his wife Malina, son Gareth (11) and daughter Sheena (6).

PHILLIP ROTHBART

Phillip left full time teaching at Reading School this year to take up a post with the Open University. He has almost single-handedly maintained the Reading School Boat Club for a number of years and has willingly agreed to remain on the staff as Rowing Master for the time being. His service to the school, therefore, continues.

CHRIS MANN who left school in 1998 has just started his house job, having graduated from Leicester Medical School. He gained a number of prizes, amongst which were the Wolfson Graduation Prize for achievement, the Charles Lawson Prize for coming top in finals, the British Medical Association Prize, the Sidney Brandon Prize for Psychiatry and the Faculty Gold Medal for coming top in finals.. He will be trying for surgery training rotation after this year.

OR CRICKET WEEK - BACK TO WINNING WAYS

Three wins, a draw, no defeats, four centuries, 1900 runs in four games, good wickets, good weather, several new OR players – what could be better? The one disappointment was the cancellation – at 7.50 a.m. on the morning of the Tuesday match – by our opponents, Richmond (regrettably, not for the first time). Apologies to all players and spectators – especially those who travelled long distances.

Monday's game against the Drones (composed largely of Pangbourne College Old Boys) produced a high-scoring and entertaining match in which a newcomer, Mike Thompson, played a starring role, scoring 119 not out and then taking four crucial wickets. Cricket week ever-green, Andy Northway, saw the ORs to victory with two wickets in the last two overs and with just four balls remaining.

Following the disappointment of Tuesday's cancellation, the Wednesday game against new opponents, Kensington, provided a run feast. The visitors are regular Sunday opponents of the Caversham & Redingensians Cricket Club – an annual fixture that dates back some 20 years. They fielded several players of sub-continental origin who batted in typically stylish wristy fashion and amassed a daunting total of 300 in only 53 overs. Their Australian import scored 139 – his third century in successive games. Sadly, not being used to all-day matches, they failed to recognise that risking defeat was the most likely route to victory and the game subsided into a disappointing draw with the ORs never seriously challenging the target, in spite of big scores from John Grimsdale and John Camidge.

In recent years there has been a two-day game against Bowdon from Cheshire, who are captained by Redingensian, Sean Walters. However, it was impossible for the ORs to field the same side two days running, so two one-day matches were played. These were notable for

Kerr Kirkwood informs us that **MATTHEW DRAKE (91-98)** has completed six years study at St. Georges Hospital Medical School. He achieved remarkable results in his final as he was one of four to gain a distinction in all three chapters of the course. The total number of students in his graduation year was 230. Matthew also won three prizes. He started at Worcester Royal in August this year.

MARK WILLIAMS (58-64) went on from school to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford to read French and German, but switched to Japanese. He has just been appointed Professor of Japanese at the University of Leeds. **PETER WILLIAMS (77-78)** left school to become a farm hand. At 25 he persuaded Reading University to take him, and after three years won the prize for the top First in his year in Agriculture. He joined a firm of agricultural consultants, and now works from a small farm in Cornwall. **DAVID WILLIAMS (75-81)** made it to Birmingham to read medicine despite discouragement at school. He got a First in his BSc, and subsequently his MRCP and MRCGP. He practices in the Cotswolds. All three brothers are happily married and, between them, have 8 children.

Frank Terry tells us that **HUGH TERRY(69-76)** was married on 29th February 2004 to Miss Nenita Nobog, a lady from the Philippine Islands. The ceremony and reception were held in the lovely surroundings of Hong Kong Park and were attended by his father Frank (staff 46-82). His brother Francis (56-63), who is also married to a Filipina, was unable to get to the wedding as he is currently living and working on the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic.

ERIC MARTIN (39-45) Tony Waring writes: Eric, with his wife Mary, has emigrated to New Zealand to link up with three of his four sons, a daughter and his grandchildren who had previously settled 'Down Under'. Eric excelled in all aspects of the sporting agenda, gaining five school colours and even playing, as a sixteen year old, for Reading FC in a war time match at Elm Park. Later Eric played wing for Berkshire and for the old Redingensians until 1961. He retired in 1992 as a financial director in the tyre industry. Two of his school pals, Ron Best (39-43) and Colin Stamp (38-44) arranged a farewell gathering at the Holiday Inn (the old Caversham Bridge Hotel). Amongst the guests present to wish the couple 'bon voyage' were Bob Elphic (36-44) and Tony Waring (40-46).

star performances from three recent leavers who were making their debuts in the OR cricket week.

In the Thursday game, Tom Candish, batting at number 3, held the innings together until being penultimate man out, falling six short of his century. He was ably supported by Matthew Russell in a century stand. Bowdon struggled from the outset and never threatened the target of 202, falling 40 short.

Bowdon's batting was far more dominant on the Friday, going to lunch at 165 for 2 – believed to be a record pre-lunch score in OR cricket week. Russell and Northway then applied the brakes, dismissing the visitors for 259, with Ball making 115. After a slow start, ORs cruised to victory in only 39 overs, with Phil Beeching scoring an unbeaten century.

In the last few years, we have been concerned about the quality of the wickets, but the ground staff have done an excellent job of returning the square to its former quality. The new covers are also a boon. The electronic scoreboard – refurbished through a legacy from John Haines – provides a professional finishing touch. Our thanks are due to the headmaster for his continuing support. The OR Council eased our financial concerns through a generous grant, for which all the players are grateful.

There is some serious debate about the timing of next year's week – a consideration being to hold it during the term to try to attract players from the school. This will be discussed during the winter, but, if any ORs wish to contribute to the debate, or register to play next year, please call Terry Cartwright on 01428 602992, email terryc@whiteoaks.co.uk, or Mark Lyford on 07901 668374, email MarkLyford@finewineservice.co.uk.

RESULTS

Monday 19th July – ORs won by 65 runs

ORs 266 for 6 declared – M. Thompson 119 n.o., R. Dewey 58, R. Owen 30 n.o.

The Drones 201 – A. Northway 4 for 58, M. Thompson 4 for 58

Tuesday 20th July – match abandoned

Wednesday 21st July – drawn

Kensington 300 for 6 declared – H. Dey 3 for 35,

A Northway 2 for 49

ORs 240 for 7 – J. Camidge 79 n.o., J. Grimsdale 61

Thursday 22nd July – ORs won by 40 runs

ORs 202 – T. Candish 94, M Russell 51

Bowdon 162 – D. Lovett 3 for 18, T. Russell 2 for 30

Friday 23rd July – ORs won by 5 wickets

Bowdon 259 – A. Northway 4 for 50, M. Russell 3 for 81

ORs 262 for 5 – P. Beeching 104 n.o., M. Russell 50 n.o.



CARTWRIGHT AND EVANS IN THE SLIPS

THE ENGINEERS - PART 1

by Ted Webber

This is the first part of an article in our occasional series 'Lives of Distinction' and Part II will appear in the Spring 2005 issue of *The Old Redingensian*. Ted Webber has been planning the article since reading that written by our Chaplain, The Ven. Peter Coombs, about OR clerics. The response from OR professional engineers was enthusiastic. It was clear that we would have to publish the article in two parts, with apologies to Peter to whom we caused some anguish by restricting him to one!

Captain N.P. (Nick) Sealey RN BSc FIMarEng. 1968-1975



Nick joined the Royal Navy from school and read for a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, graduating with a gentleman's 2.2. After completing engineering training in 1980 he spent the next 16 years at sea serving in ships ranging from the steam powered HMS *Rothsay* of 1950s vintage to the diesel electric & gas turbine powered HMS *Somerset* completed in 1996. He served all over the world with only the former Soviet Block and Japan omitted from a list of countries visited. High points included a year spent working with the shipbuilder during the construction of HMS *Ark Royal* back in Newcastle and two years carrying out a similar task during the build of HMS *Somerset*. However this time the build yard was in Glasgow and Nick was now the Senior Naval Officer. At the other end of the spectrum he recalls two particularly arduous months in 1982 in Mombasa

repairing the boilers of HMS *Aurora*, after they had suffered a major failure. Nick remarks that the problems of communicating with home in the days before email and mobile phones, and carrying out heavy repairs with the minimum of external support, were most educational!

Nick spent two periods involved in training others. The first was training young officers at sea where he had to instruct in Coastal and Astro-Navigation — a long way from crawling around the bilges and tanks of ageing steam ships! The second was providing operational sea training for RN and foreign warships in all aspects of engineering and damage control. He found this was a most rewarding and challenging appointment. Ships were tested to the limit and the staff had to ensure that the exercise 'emergencies' they introduced did not become real ones. He remarks that drifting in the busy shipping lanes of the channel in a major warship with a failed propulsion plant is not good for anyone.

As his engineering responsibilities grew he became a member of the Institute of Marine Engineers in 1984 and a Fellow in 1998. Since 1996 his career has moved largely away from the sea, working in the MoD initially with responsibility for Resources and Programmes for Naval Personnel and later with the Chief of Fleet Support

where he was responsible for future engineering policy. In 2000 Nick returned to the waterfront as the Senior Marine Engineer Officer for the Surface Flotilla accountable for engineering and personnel policy and practice. Whilst serving there he was selected for promotion to Captain and is now serving as the Deputy Director Naval Manpower Planning. He expects to move again later in the year, probably to a post in the Defence Logistics Organisation based at Abbey Wood in Bristol.

Henry Webber BSc CEng FICE 1954-1961



Henry Webber left Loughborough University in 1964 with first class honours in civil engineering and a prize for the best finalist of his year. He worked first with contractors and was involved, among other projects, in designing a jetty at Qatar in the Persian Gulf and in designing and building the first runway at Southampton airport, which had previously been a grass airfield. He qualified as a chartered engineer and was

admitted as a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1968.

Since then he has been in government service where he says that he could not have asked for more interesting or more varied work. Early years were devoted to defence projects for the Navy, RAF, USAF and NATO. These included hardened buildings, large hangars, and airfield pavement engineering, for which he helped develop national and international design standards. He managed the construction of the new RAF Chivenor and the planning for the Trident Missile and Submarine Depot at Loch Long, which was the largest UK construction project after the Channel Tunnel.

Three years were spent at Portsmouth managing the defence estate, followed by a period maintaining the government estate in London, which included Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, et al. He was then appointed head of profession and director of civil engineering for the Property Services Agency.

After government property management was privatised he took up the appointment of Director of Parliamentary Estates and in that role he continues as an officer of both Houses of Parliament.

He has served on numerous British Standards committees, quality assurance bodies, industry and other professional groups, and he holds a territorial army commission as colonel in the Engineer and Logistic Staff Corps, Royal Engineers.

Henry and his wife Gwalia now live in Oxted. Their two sons, who are both Chartered Surveyors, live nearby. He is a regular bridge and tennis player, and a less regular golfer, but most of all he enjoys wielding a spanner or soldering iron at anything which does not move.

John Gore C.Eng MTEE. 1936-1941



John Gore was at Reading School from 1936 to 1941, leaving after a year in VISC with J LI Sylo-Jones as Form, Physics and Maths Master. He joined Post Office Telephones and undertook a two-year apprenticeship in the Reading Telephone Area. After courses and on-the-job training in the installation and maintenance of a wide range of telecommunications equipment he worked as a technician in telephone exchanges, repeater stations and customer premises, including RAF and USAF bases, throughout the Area.

In 1949 John was successful in an internal Civil Service exam for Assistant Executive Engineer, and was posted to the P0 Research Station at Dollis Hill, London NW2. This was the 'home' of Tommy Flowers and the team that developed Colossus, the world's first electronic computer, for the Bletchley Park code-breakers during World War II. John joined a group developing wide-band amplifiers for coaxial cables, the first application being the extension of 405-line television from Birmingham to Manchester.

In 1956 he passed a further internal examination, this time for Executive Engineer. He remained at the Research Station to lead a team designing transformers and other magnetic devices. He also worked on systems to reduce noise in telephone transmission circuits. In 1963 a transfer to the

Subscribers' Apparatus Branch of the P0 Engineering Department in Central London, still as EE, gave John responsibility for the design of telephone coin-boxes and kiosks.

Promotion to Head of Group took place in 1966. John's new group covered the development of push-button telephones, loudspeaking telephones, telephone aids for the disabled and, surprisingly perhaps, hearing aids for the Ministry of Health. From the inauguration of the National Health Service in the 1940s, the P0 Engineering Department, with its electro-acoustic expertise, had designed hearing aids for the NEIS, but this was to end in 1968 when the P0 ceased to be a Government Department.

From 1977 until 1982, now in Service Department, John helped to organise the collection of reliability statistics for new and existing telephone equipment, and sat on a British Standards Institution sub-committee on electronic-component reliability. Duties included attending an international conference on reliability in Paris, and visiting Sweden to report on telecommunication productivity. Finally, from 1982 until his retirement in 1985 John led a group involved in the computerisation of Repair Service Controls in what had now become British Telecommunications PLC.

John qualified as a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1957 and acquired Chartered Engineer status in 1966. He now looks back on a career which he says, even though confined to working for virtually one organisation, was varied, of continual interest and always challenging and rewarding.

Since his retirement John has continued to live in High Wycombe, Bucks, with his wife Joan. He continues to play an active part in the local civic society as a Vice President.

Eric Burrows 1942-1947



Eric was obsessed by aeroplanes during the war years, and he could

not wait to join the RAF. So, much to the chagrin of his family and Mr Kemp, he left school in Dec 1947 and joined the RAF as an apprentice airframe fitter at the RAF No. 1 Technical Training School at Halton, Bucks, aged 15 1/2. At the end of the three year course his marks were sufficient to gain the Ordinary Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. On posting to a RAF station to start repairing aeroplanes, the Engineering Officer wanted him to continue his education at the expense of the RAF, perhaps at York University. In hindsight, he realises that he was foolish to have declined the offer, but the sudden taste of freedom was too strong for him.

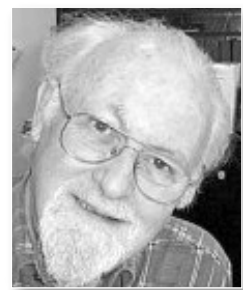
Eric stayed in the RAF for 5 1/2 years and was commissioned Pilot Officer. In 1953 he resigned his commission and went to civilian life, which he found quite a shock as he had gone into the RAF straight from school. He became a design draftsman at a research laboratory at Aldermaston and spent 4 1/2 years working on the mechanical side of various electronic devices, and then electron microscopes became his speciality.

In 1958, Eric came to Australia as the engineer to build a new factory and oversee the production of television aerials for Belling-Lee, who at the time were the largest supplier of aerials in the UK. He spent all of his subsequent working life in manufacturing, usually as production manager of various factories. He organised the production and installation of what was known as the East-West link, a string of microwave dishes across the Nullarbor Plain connecting Perth with the eastern states. He says there were many interesting things to do in mechanical engineering when Australia actually had a manufacturing industry.

Eric finished his working life as the owner/operator of a non-ferrous metal foundry, and he says he was not too unhappy on retiring at the age of 66. He now lives in Cowes at the entrance to Western Port Bay in Victoria, where he had his various yachts moored over a 30 year sailing career. Flying is now restricted to joy flights with a younger friend.

Edward Sutton Webber, Dip Eng. FICE (retd.). Hon.FIE-PNG, 1942-1949

Ted was destined for the family



hardware business in Taunton, and so left Reading School at 16 in spite of a very good School Certificate. Before and after National Service as an RAF engine mechanic, he spent 4 years in the hardware business but found it incompatible with his penchant for construction - use of power tools borrowed from the shop was disapproved! He tried dairy farming, and was cursed for not closing a gate. He tried to enter LSE to study economics, but without A-levels that was not possible. He attempted to enter the Anglican ministry, but was found lacking in vocation.

His father ran a Dorset civil engineering consultancy practice, where Ted was taken in as an articulated pupil at the late age of 22. He was soon designing and supervising construction of water pipelines and sewers, studying part time, and was eventually accepted for the last two years of a 4 year sandwich course in South Wales where he gained excellent experience on the Resident Engineer's staff at Aberthaw power station during the summer months. A highlight of this period was winning the Institution of Civil Engineers' Miller Prize for a student paper on rural water supply, presented at Cardiff University. Ted had found his niche at last.

On graduation (aged 28), he joined the civil engineering consultants Howard Humphries & Partners at their Reading office, and was immediately given the task of designing the spillway for a large earth dam in Sierra Leone, and later went on to supervise construction. That four years in West Africa was exhilarating, and gave Ted a taste for warm climates and sailing.

Returning to Reading, Ted was soon involved in using early computers to solve problems in urban pipe network design. This new speciality took him on extended trips to Ghana, Nairobi and Khartoum, and finally to Colombo for 2 years. Why stop only half way across the world? So in 1972 Ted and his family of four emigrated to Sydney where he joined another consulting

firm with similar interests in international aid projects. This led to several extended visits to Indonesia on Colombo Plan and World Bank work.

In 1978, divorce and retrenchment made it necessary to find free accommodation, and it was an easy jump to the Department of Works in Papua New Guinea (PNG) where Ted stayed for 13 years, becoming Engineering Manager and acting General Manager of the PNG Water Board. Works were mostly on a small scale, yet there were many fascinating problems to overcome. Ted developed a method for optimising the size of rainwater harvesting tanks based on rainfall frequency, roof area and tank costs.

With construction and operations in many towns to supervise, opportunities for travel to exotic places were almost unlimited. As a President of the Institution of Engineers PNG, he was responsible for encouraging the growth of the profession among indigenous graduates, and he represented PNG at the Commonwealth Engineers Conference in Mauritius in 1990. He was also an Examiner for the Professional Interview of the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK), which gives admission to Chartered Engineer status. He says he was a big fish in a small pond!

Ted's final professional years were spent as a World Bank consultant in Indonesia, and he retired in 1996. He now lives with his third wife, Marguerite, on the Queensland Sunshine Coast, where he grows inter alia bananas and mangoes, hibiscus and oleander. His engineering skills are limited to maintaining their 12 m. pool. He is a director of U3A Online, an internet facility for retirees to study mainly recreational subjects, and he acts as a computer users' trouble-shooter to the local U3A. "Learning for the joy of learning" is the U3A motto, and for Ted that joy started at Reading School.

Alan Kenneth Jefferis BSc., FIEE (ret'd). 1947-1952

Alan knew from an early age that he wanted to do something in engineering or science. Leaving Reading School at 16, because family finances wouldn't allow continuation, he joined the Post Office as a trainee engineer. (The Post Office ran the telephone service until BT was formed



in the late 70s.) Alan made up for missing out on A-levels and university by extensive part-time studies and finally a 4-year "sandwich course" leading to a BSc. During this period, like all 18-year-old men, he had to do two years National Service, serving in the Royal Signals.

After graduating in Electrical Engineering in 1962 at the age of 26, and still with the Post Office, Alan joined the newly formed Satellite Communications division. This was at the time of the launch of Telstar, an experimental satellite that demonstrated the first trans-Atlantic television transmission. "I could hardly believe" says Alan, "that within a few months of becoming professionally qualified I was at the centre of a communications revolution based on space technology, which itself could be said to be only 5 years old, the first artificial earth satellite, Sputnik 1, having been launched in 1957."

Although getting hands-on experience with the new technology by conducting experiments with Telstar from the earth-station at Goonhilly in Cornwall, Alan's principal work then and for the next 20 years was concerned with the planning and design of future satellite systems. This involved study of orbits, the technology of the satellites, radio transmission techniques, earth-station technologies, requirements (i.e. the market) and above all economic aspects. This work was done in an international environment since the systems were primarily for international services and were planned and owned as a joint effort of many countries.

As his career progressed Alan's work became more the management of a business activity based on engineering facilities rather than the nuts and bolts, but he never lost contact with the work of the engineers and the engineering problems they faced. Asked what he found offered the greatest challenges and the greatest rewards from his

career in engineering Alan says "the greatest challenges were getting large numbers of different countries to agree on technical features, choice of contractors etc. That these challenges were met and overcome is borne out by the dramatic developments and the large numbers of satellites launched". For rewards Alan cites the thrill of being able to study all aspects of future systems costing hundreds of millions of dollars to determine the solution that best meets the requirements of technical feasibility and risks, timescales, geographic reach, cost and, above all, the needs of the market.

Dr Bruno Vieri PhD. BSc. FIEE 1952-1958



At school, Bruno especially enjoyed physics (Ron Liddington, who also taught him most of the mathematics that he learned there), biology (Harry Thomas), metalwork (Ruffell), rowing (Jessop), the CCF, and English literature (Timms/ Frank Terry/ Birdie Nightingale). His appreciation for that education has grown over the years and his only regret is that he did not pay more attention at the time!

Then he went to the University of Birmingham to read electrical engineering for a BSc. in 1960 and to Imperial College for a PhD in 1966 (research topic: video data compression), and rowed for both institutions. Next, at EMI Electronics in Hayes he worked on computer recognition of blood cells and fingerprints with a magnificent and inspiring team. At the time the Beatles also worked for EMI, but one of the enduring oddities of our society is that they made more revenue and profit for the company than the many scientists, engineers and manufacturing people.

In 1968 he was recruited by the USA-based Xerox Corporation, a very exciting company for a technical person to work for. They had come to Britain looking for cheap labour. Bruno moved to Rochester in New York State, where their principal facilities were located, and soon found that

whatever problem or question he had in almost any aspect of engineering or pure science, there was at least one well-known expert in a nearby office or in the next building who would help him out.

He missed the boat when Xerox began to establish the PARC research centre in 1970, but he did take up other opportunities in Dallas, Texas from 1973 to 1976, then in El Segundo, California from 1976 until he retired in 2003. As the world knows, Xerox's business was a pretty wild roller-coaster over the years, but its technology was always innovative, fascinating and challenging.

He worked on laser printers, scanners, fax machines and other products, and managed research and engineering programs. But it was the occasional successes, the blunders and near-misses, and the little personal experiences that he finds especially memorable. Such as the time he was on vacation in Reading and happened to walk past an office building. Through the big windows he saw a new laser printer hard at work, one of the first in the world, and one whose engineering he had managed in California. It was almost as good as seeing a child succeed.

Like many engineers and scientists, Bruno still keeps in touch with his profession, through consulting, teaching, and the activities of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and its US equivalent, the IEEE. He now lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, with his wife, Betty, where they enjoy the good climate and hiking in the scenic wonderlands of the state.

John Prince BSc MICE MIHT, 1955-1960



John, aged 16, commenced his career as an articled pupil under the Borough Surveyor of Reading and studied part-time before going to Southampton University where he achieved an honours degree in civil engineering.

Continued on page 11



NEW BOOTS



AGRESSION



GRAVITAS



FIRM REFEREEING



SUPPORT FROM THE TOUCHLINE



TEAM DISCIPLINE



SPEED



TEAM TALKS

SCENES FROM THE
OLD REDINGENSANS
ASSOCIATION

FESTIVAL OF RUGBY

12TH SEPTEMBER 2004

ORGANISED BY BOB LEWIS
ASSISTED BY MIKE MAULE
&
CHRIS JOBSON

SPONSORS

GOSS & CO
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THE 7-A-SIDE COMPETITION
FOR THE GOSS & CO SHIELD
WAS WON BY
'THE INAUGURALS'
CAPTAINED BY
JONATHAN UNDERWOOD.
THE SHIELD WAS PRESENTED
BY JEREMY WILSON,
MD OF GOSS & CO.

THE OR's WON THE
ANNUAL XV-A-SIDE MATCH
AND THE CLACY CUP WAS
PRESENTED TO
MAN OF THE MATCH,
PHIL LEWIS, BY MIKE MAULE,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OR's.



SCENES FROM THE 2004 OR MATCH



SCENES FROM THE 2004 OR MATCH



THE WINNING '7'



THE CLACY CUP



THE JLV TROPHY



THE COSS & CO SHIELD

Photography by Chris Widdows

In 1967 John joined London Transport. He designed Hatton Cross Station structure for the Piccadilly Line extension to Heathrow. For practical experience, he supervised the reconstruction of the Circle Line roof near Paddington (originally built in 1861) as Resident Engineer in charge.

He says that a particular challenge was finding a means to reduce noise generated by drilling holes in the roof between 2am and 6am every night in a residential area. Diamond core drills jammed due to swelling of the brickwork from coolant water and thermic lancing set fire to a gas main and did not produce a clean 'bore'. The solution adopted was the lining of an open box with foam rubber, within which the operator worked.

After working for Bracknell Development Corporation and qualifying as a Corporate Member of ICE in 1969, John ventured into the private sector with Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners and supervised part of the M4 motorway construction between Maidenhead and Reading. This was followed by structural design of an underground station and highway design for the M25 motorway (Essex) for consultants Mott, Hay & Anderson (MHA).

He was employed by the DoE Road Construction Unit in Kent from 1975, and helped design the M26 and construction of part of the M25, followed by design of the M27 and its junctions and link roads in Hampshire.

On privatisation of the RCU in 1981, John rejoined MHA (now Mott MacDonald) where he continued until retirement in 2004. He worked on major road schemes such as A34 Newbury Bypass and A3 Liphook to Petersfield, primarily on the planning, design and environmental assessment of the schemes with a focus on public exhibitions and Public Inquiries. Helping members of the public on these occasions was something that he enjoyed and he had sympathy for residents genuinely affected by the projects.

The last seven years saw John in a client role managing the interface between the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) and trunk roads and motorways in Kent, Essex and London. For example CTRL was threaded below a span of the QEII bridge at Dartford above the tunnel exit roads. As an invitee to the formal opening in September 2003 of the first

section of the high-speed railway line through Kent, John was on the first passenger train in the UK to travel at 300 km/hr.

John lives at Dogmersfield, outside Fleet in Hampshire with his wife Charlotte. They cycle and walk for pleasure and John plans to buy a motorcycle. He occasionally organises a reunion for his OR contemporaries.

**John Henry Bungey
MSc, PhD, DIC, CEng.
FICE, MIStructE,
FINDT. 1955-1962**



On leaving Reading School, John ventured north to St. Andrews to take an Engineering degree. Whilst specialising in Civil Engineering, he participated in student life by being secretary of the 'Rag' committee and President of the Ski Club. Apart from brief spells during his post-graduation training period in the London office of Scott Wilson & Kirkpatrick and Partners (SWKP), the past 38 years have largely been devoted to concrete — both as a construction material and incorporated into structures with reinforcement or pre-stressing. This has encompassed design, construction, assessment, research and teaching and has provided many opportunities to travel to interesting parts of the world. He notes that the challenges of this vital construction material are present wherever you go!

On leaving SWKP, he undertook an enjoyable year of MSc Level training in Concrete Structures and Technology at Imperial College, London, at a time when major changes to technical aspects of design were being developed. He completed two years 'muddy-boot' motorway site experience in Cheshire during which he, amongst other things, was involved in the day-to-day aspects of construction of several bridges, during which these new design procedures were ready for introduction to UK industry. John gained full membership of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1970 whilst on site and later became a Fellow.

He was next fortunate enough to be offered a lecturing post at the University of Liverpool. The next few years were very busy preparing lecture courses on Limit State Design of structural concrete and developing, with a colleague, an undergraduate textbook on this subject (currently in its 5th edition). At the same time, he began to develop research activity in the field of in-situ performance and assessment of reinforced and pre-stressed concrete. John was particularly interested in the use of non-destructive testing (NDT) for this purpose, and became closely involved in the problems of High Alumina Cement Concrete in the mid 1970s. Basically concrete roof beams started falling down, and testing methods were needed to check similar beams nationwide.

Membership of technical committees followed and he chaired British Standards committees on NDT of concrete, the British National Committee for NDT, and Concrete Society Working Parties developing guidance notes, together with membership of many other committees in Europe and the USA. His research team is internationally recognised and dissemination of results has led to a further textbook and travel to most parts of the globe. He has also lectured on design of concrete structures on several occasions in the Far East.

John's academic career has also involved increasing levels of administration and management at both Departmental and University level, culminating in a 5-year term as Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Liverpool. This has presented many new challenges in both financial and personnel management, and he is left in no doubt that whilst good technical understanding is essential, the ability to communicate and deal with people at all levels is paramount for a successful Engineer.

**Paul Henry Durham BSc
Eng. Ceng, FICE, FIHT.
1969-1976**

Paul's fascination with engineering started at an early age with a progression from Lego to Meccanno, and taking things apart. At RS, metalwork with Mr Ruffell left a strong impression on him. Science A-levels led to an engineering degree at Leicester University. He decided to



specialise in Civil Engineering and left with a BSc.

Paul's working life started on the West Coast of Scotland but soon moved to North Yorkshire. There he spent five years in design and construction of road works before becoming qualified as a Chartered Engineer following the Professional Interview of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Like most civil engineers, he has left publicly visible examples of his craft across the country, with bypasses at York and Harrogate, reconstruction of the bridge at Kettlewell and many other smaller schemes. After Yorkshire, back to Scotland and a couple of years in Fife, then Wiltshire and onward to Cornwall. In Cornwall he supervised building of parts of the A30 and Wadebridge bypass, including the River Camel Viaduct (every Civil Engineer needs a big bridge under his belt!). And so, inevitably, the move from making things to managing them. After a spell as Divisional Surveyor for England's most Westerly and Southerly points, he moved into managing CORMAC, Cornwall County Council's in-house contractor. Exciting jobs included building roads and infrastructure for the Eden project.

Two years ago he moved again and now has a senior role in RCS, which is a part of Balfour Beatty. RCS is a very large road maintenance contractor, and Paul runs their business in the Midlands.

Paul comments that the contribution made by engineers to sustainable civilisation is often taken for granted financially, but he would not have done things differently. The company bean-counter is younger than him and the lawyers earn more, but he has left a mark on the landscape and has enjoyed just about every minute.

Paul retains an interest in the Institution of Civil Engineers and he is involved in carrying out reviews of candidates for Professional Interview. He lives in Malvern with his wife and three children and occasionally finds time to play squash - another habit acquired at RS.

READING SCHOOL XI TOUR OF ST. LUCIA 2004

The tour was partially assisted by sponsorship from the Old Redingenisans Association. The tourists have kindly allowed us to publish the following extracts and photographs from their tour diary. The full diary appears on the Reading School web-site.

Day 1, Sunday 18th July: The Journey

The hour of 5am is not one frequented by many teenage boys; in fact most are scarcely aware of its existence. Yet it was not sleepy eyed and dull minded that 14 students of Reading School switched off alarms and pulled back their duvets, rather it was with glaringly obvious excitement. For this hour, on the morning of the 18th July 2004, represented the start of an adventure, an adventure laced with perils and interwoven with challenges. It was the beginning of 'The Tour'.

Before we knew it we were boarding flight BA2157 for Antigua and then St. Lucia, which for once managed to leave on time! We made it to the ground unscathed: we had arrived in St. Lucia! The brief stop at customs and the taxi system at the airport immediately highlighted the laid-back attitude of the locals, and we clambered into a taxi, which was more like a coach, for the last leg up to the north of the island to our hotel, The Bay Gardens Inn.

On arrival at the hotel we were greeted by some very friendly staff, who became a significant part of our experience as the tour progressed, and were shown to our rooms. Still running on a high from the adrenaline and excitement we made our way to dinner at the hotel, which was an upbeat and joyous affair with plenty of banter from all concerned. That set the tone for the next two weeks, everyone coming together and forming some close friendships.

Day 2, Monday 19th July: Carnival (Hands up)

Most awoke early today, and we congregated in the dining hall at approximately 8 30am for our first breakfast. We were given some free time to relax by the pool, and then were called to the hotel's conference room. Here we were introduced to our tour organiser's representative and the St. Lucian Sports Trust representative, Roland Cox, whose long and distinguished career included playing cricket at a very high level, and being the scorer for the West Indies when they played at home. Everyone warmed to Roland immediately, as it was clear he took great pleasure in us being here, and because he was a very genuinely nice guy, who joked and laughed with us. After the meeting we once again got involved in some very taxing activity down in the pool, and began to form friendships with the members of Wrekin College and exchange views about the standard of St. Lucian cricket. We were told to be ready to get a taxi into Castries, the capital, to go and watch the annual St. Lucian carnival, which incidentally was being held at the Mindoo Philip cricket ground, where we were due to be playing a game on Sunday. Having taken just one look at the pitch, Sunday's game suddenly seemed quite doubtful! And so we enjoyed a very cheery afternoon watching the dance presentations of various groups, which seemed to include the majority of the island's population!! Each group would come onto the stage in extravagant and brightly coloured costumes and dance together to the clearly popular soca track 'Hands up, Hands down'. Each dance had an historic or geographic element to it which was announced and explained the costumes and dance.

Day 3, Tuesday 20th July: Match Day 1

An expectant atmosphere filled the dining hall this morning, prickling with excitement and punctuated by the occasional yawn in meek protest to the early hour. But, alas! News soon spread like wildfire round the room that due to heavy overnight rain our first game on tour had to be postponed, and as a result we had the day to entertain ourselves.

Day 4, Wednesday 21st July: Visit to Soufriere

Wednesday dawned bright and far too early for most members of the



tour party. However neither this nor the overnight rain could dampen the spirits of such a lively group. The slightly subdued mood of the early hours soon gave way to a cheerful and relaxed atmosphere as the catamaran knifed its way out of the marina under blue skies and bright sunshine, and at the very welcome news that free drinks were available for the duration of the voyage! Throughout the two hour trip, the wonderful weather was matched only by the scenery, and of course the stimulating conversation that can only come from 14 'boys on tour'. On arrival at Soufriere we were taken up to the Toraille waterfalls in the spectacular Pitons, where we all bathed in the refreshingly cold waters, and plunged under the torrents of water cascading from the high rocks. The next stop on our trip was a tour of the local plantation, where the group was treated to a detailed and somewhat disconcerting account of the making of cocoa beans, before a walk around the actual plantations where we were able to marvel at the beautiful fruits and plants. This was followed by a meal laid on at the plantation.

Day 5, Thursday 22nd July: Reading XI vs. Matrix C.C

We awoke for breakfast at 8am to discover that it had rained for a large proportion of the night. As a result, the start of our match against Matrix C.C. was delayed to 12o'clock leaving us ample time to take in the first test between England and the West Indies on the TV set at the bar. England were batting heroically, causing a wave of patriotism - unique to the Englishman on foreign soil - to sweep over the tour party.

We arrived at Gros Islet playing field late in the morning to get our first taste of St. Lucian cricket and their pitches. At first glance all was calm, but closer inspection revealed an outfield you wouldn't play golf on and a strip that resembled a fruit cake-very soft, lumpy and liable to fall apart if disturbed. Those at the ground did well to get a game on at all, but we did have to wait until 3pm to get going whilst the pitch baked in the sun. Eventually, captain for the day Adam Davidson, having lost the toss, walked out with Mark Lloyd to face the first delivery of the tour. Quite to the disbelief of those watching from the stands, we slumped to 16 for 6 thanks to some excellent swing bowling and variable bounce. Arthur Truslove and Matt Richards decided that the way to play was to take the attack to the bowlers, and so they did, regularly going over the long grass of the infield and rescuing the Reading innings from complete embarrassment with scores of 22 and 14n.o respectively. We finished on a paltry 67 from our 18 overs (to which the game had been reduced due to the late start) but on that pitch we all thought it was defensible and that the wicket would give something to our bowlers. But the signs were looking ominous after Matrix C.C. hit 10 runs without loss from Raj's opening over. After a tidy start from Rohit Kapoor, one of the younger members of the squad rated very highly with good cause, Raj hit back in an extraordinary over which included the sequence: wicket; wide; wicket; wide; wicket; and suddenly we were right back in the game. Rohit's next over produced the most farcical decision of the match, and almost certainly the tour, as the batsman skied a delivery straight towards David Chaytor at mid-wicket. Alun Lloyd called for the catch



behind the stumps and set off, charging through by-standing fielders and screaming the call, gloves aloft. At the last moment he dived full length, but sadly, he got nowhere near the ball, showing either a great consideration for his team-mates, running 20 metres to prevent Chaytor having to run 2, or else a complete inability to judge distance caused by only putting one contact lens in that morning.

After 10 overs captain Adam turned to spin and reaped an immediate reward with a run out. The coach of the Matrix team did not take kindly to being run out by a junior member of his team, and ran down the wicket bat aloft cursing and muttering, threatening to hit him with his bat! Luckily, he decided against picking up one of the machetes littering the outfield! More wickets fell, but with such a small total the game was never safe and entering the last over, Matrix were 61 for 8. Adam took the responsibility and ran in to bowl and Alun Lloyd took an easy stumping to go some way towards repairing his earlier misjudgement. With the last ball of the match, the pair repeated the trick and we won the match by 3 runs. The tour had got off to a winning start!

We spent the evening at Auberge Seraphine, the poolside balcony restaurant which we had all to ourselves. The food was exquisite and as usual only the conversation could surpass it

Day 6, Friday 23rd July: The Island of No Arithmetic

Eyes half closed, legs heavy, morale low, a Reading School cricket team awakes at 5 in the morning, yes, 5am, to travel to St. Vincent. G.F.L. Charles airport was packed, at least 10 other people were foolish enough to rise at such an absurd hour, and forms were filled out and necks craned to observe a TV about the size of a hardback book showing the test match.

The flight was astounding with idyllic views of St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Arriving in St. Vincent prompted more form filling. On leaving the airport we piled into a bus. We were greeted with news that our return flight was not actually entirely organised, of which more later. Driving through the island was like taking a tour through a series of postcards, so panoramic and beautiful were the views.

Bumpy dirt tracks, sheer cliff faces and reckless driving left us staring into the jaws of death. The subsequent trek to the waterfall didn't manage to claim any victims, but the heavy rain on the rocks and the whirlpool was nearly too much for some, so it was comforting to note the lifeguards who had accompanied us!

We arrived at 4.30 for a 6.30 flight, only to find our flight had been delayed until 8.30! When we finally moved into the departure lounge at about 9.30, we were greeted by a diminutive round woman with some well received news: apparently our matchbox with wings which carried 40 people was over booked by 15, that's about 40% out! This led Chaytor, emerging as one of the star comedians of the tour, to pronounce St. Vincent as "The Land of no Arithmetic". At this point, Mr. Walder marched his 3 feet into the manager's office and by 7.10 past 10, all 22 of us were on our way home.

Day 7, Saturday 24th July: Beausejour-Take 1, Reading XI vs St. Lucia U17's

By the time we arrived at the Beausejour all thoughts and jokes about the day before had been forgotten. The stadium was fantastic, and every one of us knew that it was likely to be the best stadium we would ever play in, with the exception of possibly two or three of us. We got out on the outfield to warm up, the first time we had been able to do so due to the condition of the other pitch. We found that the hosts approached the timings with their usual laid back attitude and we started the game at 11am, after the introductions and presentations to the Minister of Sports and Desmond Haynes, the West Indian legend. Captain for the day Martin Jubb won the toss, and elected to bowl first. His decision looked to have paid off initially, with Raj bowling their opener in just the 3rd over. This was followed by some very tight bowling from Rohit, Adam and Tom restricting the run rate well in the first 30 overs, leaving us looking odds on favourites to be chasing a low total. But then the effect of the heat began to take its toll, possibly combined with the lack of sleep from the day before, and the bowling began to degenerate a bit. Some errors began to creep into our previously seamless fielding, with a few catches going down. In the end a combination of inconsistent bowling, bad luck and big hits allowed them to set a reasonable total of 163 before being bowled out in the 39th over. We were well fed at lunch, and our two openers got off to a usefully solid start, reaching 70 before the fall of the first wicket. However we failed to push on from this commanding position, and found the required rate increasing steadily to the point when we needed 6 an over for the last 12 overs. Even then we should still have won comfortably, after getting back to 18 required from 24 balls, but then the opener returned with a very good spell leaving six required from the last ball. This proved too much for Tom Vaal, who swung hard but miss-hit to cover for a single, leaving us 159-7, 5 short of victory. There was a lot of disappointment that evening, but as far as team performances go we should have been proud of ourselves.

Day 8, Sunday 25th July: Beach

Any high hopes of a match today against St. Mary's College were shot down by a midnight storm that had, according to Roland Cox, rendered an already questionable wicket completely unplayable. This news was greeted with a mixture of responses from the squad, ranging from stark disappointment at not playing to barely concealed relief at the opportunity to catch up on some much needed sleep and go to the beach.

Day 9, Monday 26th July: Reading XI vs St. Mary's College

We all woke up bright and early to go for breakfast at 7.30. However, as we all arrived in the dining hall we were greeted with the news that the game was delayed. Again. As disappointed as we were to hear the news of another delayed start, it gave us a great opportunity to watch some cricket. Our moods were soon lifted as we sat at the bar, flirting outrageously with the barwoman, Taneisha, watching England storm to a 220 run victory over a woeful West Indies side. We were also hopeful that this would set the tone for our game later that day, although some were more confident than others.

We were all gathered in reception at 10.00 for an 11.30 start at Gros Islet against St. Mary's College. Captain for the day was Raj Mendhir, with David Chaytor his vice-captain. Yet again we failed to win the toss, and yet again we were put into bat. Vaal and Budge opened the batting, Vaal boosted up the order to try and push on our scoring rate at the beginning of the innings. This decision seemed to pay off, with Vaal hurrying to 19 in a very short space of time, before both openers were dismissed by some very good fielding from the opener of his own bowling. Even Vaal accepted his dismissal without anger, although he appeared stunned his shot had not earned him 4 runs rather than getting him out. The scoring rate dropped a little during the middle of our 25 overs. However, this changed dramatically when Alun Lloyd, 36n.o. off 23 balls, and Martin Jubb, 10 off 5, pushed our innings along to a competitive 117-9 from our 25 overs.

After tea we took to the field and things did not start as well as we had hoped, with Raj's first over going for 'plenty'. Soon though, following a good spell from Jubb and top figures of 5-1-11-0 from Vaal, we found ourselves back in a winning position. Unfortunately the tides then turned again as both opener Raj and medium-pacer Bettes took

some fearsome punishment from a fired up St. Mary's middle order, including Bettes being hit for a 6 out of the field and nearly into a cemetery. Raj ended up with figures of 5-0-34-1, with the 1 being a superb catch from Alun at short leg off the 2nd ball of the innings, and Bettes for all his work could not find a wicket, leaving him with figures of 5-0-33-0 much to his displeasure. After looking to be in a vulnerable position, a magnificent spell from Adam Davidson bought us back into contention. Motivated by his drop in the batting order from 1 to 11, finished with figures of 5-1-14-5. Not bad for an opening batsman really. St. Mary's ended up with a total of 115-9 off all 25 overs, giving Reading their 2nd win of the tour by a close 2 runs.

Day 10, Tuesday 27th July:

We were permitted a lovely lie in on Tuesday morning, a very very rare occasion. All in all it was an extremely lazy morning, which some spent shopping at the duty free centre, others in the pool, and some still in bed!

Day 11, Wednesday 28th July: Reading School XI vs Leon Hess School

Once again the squad rose early in anticipation of their 4th match and gathered in the dining hall. When we were informed that the game had been delayed, again, it came as no great surprise and there was barely so much as a groan of disappointment, so used to the situation were we. Eventually, however, we did make it to Gros Islet to take on Leon Hess School XI, today under the captaincy of James Lattimore, and once again we were put in to bat first. Budge made an excellent contribution at the top of the order with a 26, and was well supported by the middle order of Jubb, Alexander and Lloyd. Alun Lloyd. Mark Lloyd was an altogether different story.

We pushed on to the formidable total of 151 from our 25 overs, making the game very much ours for the taking. A good bowling performance, notably by Rohit (4-25) and Adam (3-20) guided to us a convincing victory, as Leon Hess managed only 119-9 from their 25 overs. Special credit should also be given to skipper Latti who, missing several bowlers, turned his arm over for a tight 2-12 to help us to victory.

Day 12, Thursday 29th July:

As usual, the day dawned bright and early, and as usual the squad entered the dining hall in drips and drabs, yawning and sleepy eyed, hopeful of another close game, this time against Roland Cox's Shamrock C.C. A torrential downpour as we were getting on to the bus, however, quickly dashed all hopes of a game, and the bus was filled with disappointment as we arrived at Gros Islet to find it resembling a swamp far more than a cricket pitch.

Day 13, Friday 30th July: Beausejour-Take 2, Reading School XI vs St. Lucia U17's

It was a determined Reading School team that left the hotel at 0900 that morning, thankful that the start had not been delayed like the previous 3 games, as we were all determined to make the most of what were both our last game, and a very important one. Arrival at the Beausejour C.G was low-key in comparison to the previous week's game, when the opening of St. Lucia's new national academy had brought both TV cameras and former West Indian legend Desmond Haynes to the stadium. Having to wait until over an hour after the scheduled start time of 1000 for our opponents to arrive probably gave us a taster of what the Leon Hess School had to endure earlier in the week when they arrived to play us a day early! Tom Vaal was captain for the day, and once again we found ourselves bowling first at the Beausejour in the searing heat and glaring sunlight of the mid day. In a nice gesture Ed Budge and David Chaytor led the team onto the field in what was to be their final game for the school. The game began with similar trends to that of the first, with initially tidy bowling being undermined by a mixture of indifferent fielding, dropped catches and a late surge from the opposition's middle and lower order, meaning that the total they set was 164 - one more than we had chased and failed to reach in the first game. The one comedy error of that day was of Phil Alexander's making, as the batsman skied a ball almost vertically, and Phil at wicketkeeper lined himself up under it with plenty of time to spare. However he took his eyes off it at the last minute, knocking the ball to the floor. Unfortunately for Phil, it was apparent that had

his gloves not intervened with the ball's path, it seemed likely that it would have landed directly upon the top of the stumps, and so his embarrassment was all the more pronounced.

After a brief interlude for tea, it was the turn of the Reading Boys, and Budge and Davidson made their way to the middle. Once again the Reading innings was set on a solid foundation, with both openers batting confidently for a partnership of 70. Also, for the first time ever, an opening batsman changed his pads mid-innings because they "just hurt" when he was hit! Unfortunately for Reading, however, once the opening partnership was broken a combination of accurate bowling and appalling stroke selection allowed their off-spinner to capitalise and tear through our middle order. Ducks to both Arthur Truslove and Matt Richards meant their names were added to the growing number of competitors for the prestigious award, the Duck Cup.

Despite our collapse, a crucial partnership between Raj and Chaytor steered us towards victory by another narrow margin. The win was made all the more impressive by the fact that the St. Lucia side was this time at full strength, as several of its players had returned from an international tournament being held in Barbados, which coincided with our first game. A glorious scorecard was produced by David Bettes, who having failed to perform with the bat, scoring only 3 runs (although to be fair he was only dismissed once), showed where his true capabilities lay! That night's meal was a happy one, at a small restaurant called Tiffy's, where most people opted for one of the local curries on offer.


Day 14, Saturday 31st July: Lets Party!

Our last day! A scary thought after two weeks on paradise. A very lazy was day had by most of the boys, with many allowing themselves well-earned lie-ins lasting much of the morning.

Day 15, Sunday 1st August: The Last Leg

The morning after the night before! We in room 251 got up early to get our room open, and pack, leaving Budge and Chaytor to sleep more. The morning was generally spent trying to shove clothes and presents alike into any available space in bags, and laughing at the staff because of how appalling the West Indian cricket team were after watching England romp home to another victory. We left our rooms at 12.15 so that the maids had time to clean up before the next visitors arrived. It was a strangely sombre moment, with all of us wishing we weren't going.

We arrived back in England at 9.30am English time. Many trolley races ensued in trying to get luggage off the conveyor belts. It was carnage! Out of arrivals and into the waiting arms of our families we came, although we had the more important issue of distributing the duty free to deal with. All good things must come to an end and with many goodbyes we all trooped off to enjoy the journey home and some much needed sleep.



O. R. Ties

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C. J. Widdows

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LEONARD COXE: THE HEAD MASTER FROM EUROPE

by Martin Murphy

Martin Murphy, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, was a pupil at Reading Junior School from 1941-1945. He thinks he remembers first hearing the news of D-Day during a lesson in the 'Tin Tab' (probably Nature Study, with Miss O'Reilly).

Of all the headmasters of Reading School, Richard Valpy is probably the best known, but he is by no means the most distinguished. He made the school fashionable for a time but it is as a flogger that he is best remembered. The palm of honour should go to the man who was the last Master of the old monastic school, which closed in 1539, and the first Master of the municipal Grammar School which rose from its ashes two years later. His name was Leonard Coxe. He is almost forgotten in Reading, but he has a place in the history of Poland and Slovakia where he first made his reputation as a scholar and humanist between 1518 and 1527. This year 2004, which witnessed the accession of these two eastern European countries to the European Community, is a good occasion for reviving the memory of one who links late mediaeval with early modern Reading, and who recalls a time when Europe was united by one culture and one language. That language was Latin.

Leonard Coxe was born circa 1490 in Thame, Oxfordshire, though his father originated from Monmouthshire and Leonard was proud of his Welsh ancestry, often describing himself as British (Britannus) rather than English (Anglus). He may have begun his studies at Cambridge University, but he first emerges from obscurity as a wandering scholar in France and Germany. He was at Paris in 1513, and in the following year matriculated at the University of Tübingen, where he met a brilliant young scholar named Philip Melancthon and became an ardent admirer of Erasmus. The old closed world of mediaeval learning was giving way to a literary Renaissance of which Erasmus was the acknowledged leader. Luther had not yet formally broken with Rome, and the future looked bright for Christian Humanism. By 1518 Coxe had moved on to Poland where he matriculated at the University of Kraków as an English poet from Thame ('Anglicus poeta, de Tama'). His ability to turn out elegant Latin verses for any occasion was one of the talents which brought him to the attention of rich and influential patrons at the University and at court, Kraków being the Polish capital. He further enhanced his reputation with a public oration, in Latin of course, in praise of the University of Kraków. Printed, it made him famous. Coxe may have learned to speak some Polish, but Latin was the language that prevailed in academic circles.

His connection with the wider European world and his classical scholarship gave him star quality in Kraków, and he gathered around him a group of young students who were later to take a leading parts in Polish public life. He was lucky to be in Poland during the lull before the storm which divided the country along sectarian lines. One of his pupils, Jan Laski, was to become prominent as a leader on the side of the Protestant Reformation, while another, Stanislaus Hosius, was the future architect of the ultimately successful Counter Reformation. As students at the 'Jerusalem Hostel' presided over by Coxe, they managed to co-exist.

Erasmus' vision was based on his belief in the saving power of education, by which he meant education in the values of the Christian gospel and the Greek and Roman classical writers. Educators of Coxe's calibre were in short supply, so it is not surprising that he was headhunted by a Hungarian ecclesiastic then resident at the Polish court. At his invitation Coxe spent five years (1520-1525) in what is now Slovakia, as Rector of the grammar schools at Levoča and Košice. Nothing is known of his experiences there, but his philosophy of education – the principles behind his practice – are on view in the little book 'On Teaching the Young' (De erudienda iuventute) which he published at Kraków on his return there in 1526. Only one copy survives in the Romanian National Library in Bucharest. Coxe was writing for teachers in town grammar schools such as the ones he had known in Slovakia and the one he would later know in Reading:

town schools for day boys. Such a teacher, he believed, should be one whose life 'is capable of being a model for his pupils' behaviour'. Latin and Greek were the principal object of study, not just because of the inherent value of their literature but because they were a preparation for success: Latin was, as Computer Studies might be said to be now, the key to survival in the world of affairs, particularly in eastern Europe, where it was the language of diplomacy and politics. Like his master Erasmus, he believed that boys should be coaxed, not frightened, into learning: corporal punishment was to be used sparingly and in moderation, a lesson here for Dr. Valpy!. 'I would rather teachers were loved by their pupils than feared by them', he wrote, 'but they must take care in case, by trying too hard to be liked they merely earn contempt'. The point of teaching was gradually to liberate and motivate the pupils so that he could swim for himself in the sea of learning 'without cork floats'.

This little book was dedicated to Piotr Tomicki, Bishop of Kraków, Vice-Chancellor of Poland and Chancellor of the University of Kraków, and it was prefaced in Latin verses by the author's pupils, including Stanislaus Hosius (a future Cardinal), who described his master 'Coxus' as '*nostrae spes una iuventae*' (the one hope of our youth). In Kraków, Coxe published over twenty-five editions of works by Latin authors, edited for use in school. For a modern reader perhaps the most entertaining is a Latin phrase book for boys with facing translation in Polish and German (Coxe supervised the Latin). It includes such mouthfuls for use in the playground as: '*Si vel minimo digitulo me, talibus te modis te tractabo ut mei quoad vixeris semper memineris*': (If you so much as lay your little finger on me, I'll teach you to remember me as long as you live). Perhaps more useful is the phrase '*Vadam ad levandum ventrem post dumeta*': (I'm going to relieve my bowels behind the bushes).

When one of Coxe's students travelled to Basle from Kraków in 1527 he took with him a letter to Erasmus from Coxe, by way of an introduction. Erasmus' reply shows that he had heard of the good work his Welsh disciple was doing to spread the light in Poland. But the atmosphere in Kraków was changing, and later the same year Coxe returned to England. There he was unknown and had to start up a new career. He was lucky to obtain the patronage of Hugh Faringdon, Abbot of Reading, and by the beginning of 1530 was installed as Master of the boys' school attached to the Abbey. It says much for Abbot Faringdon that he was willing to take a risk by appointing a man with a 'modern' outlook who was a follower of Erasmus (who was no friend of monks!). Coxe's little book 'The Art and Craft of Rhetoryke', published two years later, carried the grateful dedication '*To the reverend father in God and his singuler good lorde the Lorde Hughe Faryngton, Abbot of Redyng, his pore client and perpetual servant Leonarde Coxe desyreth longe and prosperous lyfe with encrease of honour*'. That wish was not to be fulfilled, as we shall see. Coxe went on to acknowledge his gratitude to the Abbot for having considered him '*worthy to have the charge of the instrucion and bryngyng uppe of such youtje as resorteth to your gamer schole founded by your antecessours in this your town of Redyng*'.

Coxe's nine years as Master of the Abbey school coincided with the cultural and religious revolution. In 1534 the Act of Supremacy made Henry VIII head of the Church in England, and 1536 saw the beginning of the process which, master-minded by Thomas Cromwell, was to sweep away the monasteries. Coxe prudently hedged his bets. Even while he was still in Abbot Faringdon's employ, in 1534, we find him writing to Cromwell, then Recorder of Bristol, fishing for a job as Master of the Free School in that city. Evidently, he was getting ready to jump on to a faster bandwagon. He is on record as having come to the aid of John Frith, a Protestant whom he had released from the



THE MARTYRDOM OF HUGH FARINGDON, LAST ABBOT OF READING, ON 14 NOVEMBER 1539
PAINTED BY HARRY MORLEY (1881 –1943), IN 1917

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stocks in the market place in Reading. That might be an indication of his Protestant sympathies, or perhaps simply a kind heart.

In 1539 history arrived on Reading's doorstep. In September of that year the great Abbey of Reading, which had dominated the town since its foundation in 1121, was finally suppressed. It is difficult to imagine the impact this event had at the time. Cromwell, having failed to persuade Abbot Faringdon to go quietly with the promise of a pension, had him committed to the Tower of London and then tried on a charge of treason for denying the royal supremacy. The abbot was allowed no defence and the verdict was a foregone conclusion. In November the last Abbot of Reading was hung, drawn and quartered within sight of the Abbey. Was Leonard Coxe among those who witnessed the event? One hopes his pupils were not. In his history of the school Michael Naxton noted that one of Hugh Faringdon's last acts as Abbot of Reading was to make a formal agreement between himself and Coxe, guaranteeing the continued teaching of 'the Catholic religion piously and in an orthodox manner'. The covenant was recorded in the Abbey Register of 12th August 1539, only four weeks before the abbey was suppressed. Coxe did not fulfil his side of the bargain.

Coxe retreated to Caerlon, in his native Monmouthshire, to plot his future course. His next published work, and edition of a work on grammar by William Lilly, was dedicated to his new patron, Thomas Cromwell. But Cromwell himself fell from power and was executed in 1540, in spite of which Coxe's appointment as Master for life of the newly constituted Reading School was given royal approval on February 10th 1541. With the job went a rent free house and an annual salary of £10, paid out of the revenues of the manor of Cholsey, confiscated from the Abbey by the Crown. The post became vacant in 1547, the year of Edward VI's accession, so it must be presumed that

Coxe died that year, or shortly before. Like the Abbé Sieyès, at the time of the French Revolution, he could say 'I survived'.

Anthony Wood, the Oxford Antiquary, wrote that Coxe was '*more eminent in foreign countries than his own*'. That remains true today. His name appears in histories of Poland as that of a key figure in the history of the Polish Renaissance. His Kraków oration of 1518 is regarded as a primary historical source, since it lists the major humanist scholars who were then his friends and colleagues. Though written on the basis of his experience in eastern Europe, his little work 'On the teaching of youth' is the earliest treatise on education to be written by a British author, predating by 50 years the more famous work by Roger Ascham, 'The Schoolmaster'. The modern editors who have rescued Coxe's work from oblivion describe it as '*a document of unique importance in the history of British education, an unprecedented glimpse into an early Tudor classroom and insight into the mind of a British schoolmaster*'.

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OBITUARIES & LIVES REMEMBERED

HIS HONOUR JUDGE ANTHONY PATRICK BABINGTON O.R.,(32-37) P.P.

Anthony Babington, who died on 10th May 2004 at the age of 84, overcame horrible brain injuries sustained during the fight around Arnhem in 1944 to become a barrister, stipendiary magistrate, circuit judge, and author of 10 books.

He was born in Cork on 4th April 1920 into a family which had emigrated to Ireland to escape the retribution which might otherwise have followed the 'Babington Plot' to assassinate Elizabeth I. He was soon taken to India to join his father, an engineer, and remained there until he was four. The first of the disasters which he so courageously overcame occurred when his father, weakened by alcoholism, was forced to retire at the age of 43. The family returned to their property at Kenley Court in Surrey and Anthony attended St. Anselm's prep school. It was whilst he was a boarder there that his father died after failing in business and losing his Irish estates through the chicanery of his agent.

He came to Reading School in 1932 and his school career was markedly successful. He gained 2nd XV Colours for playing in the 1st XV, School Rowing Colours in 1936 and 37, and was an active member of the Debating Society, the Drama Society and the Music Society. He was also a House Prefect. He first appears in the published list of members of the Reading School Old Boys' Club in 1939, during the presidency of Lt. Col. B. St. J. Warren Hastings. He remained a member all his life, becoming President in 1992.



JUDGE BABINGTON PRESENTS THE FIRST
ENTERPRISE AWARDS

At the outbreak of WW2 he was commissioned into the Royal Ulster Rifles. Near Arnhem, on 2nd November 1944, he was hit in the head by a shell fragment. He was wounded so badly that he appeared to be near death. In his autobiography 'An Uncertain Voyage' he relates that whilst lying injured he heard a bystander saying it was not worth trying to save him. He was saved, principally, because a medical officer noticed that one of his eyelids moved and he was evacuated by stretcher, ambulance and plane. On the evening of the

same day he reached the Military Hospital for Head Injuries at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. He underwent extensive surgery from which he emerged with a paralysed right side and mute, the speech related part of his brain having been destroyed. He was to recall that he lay in his hospital bed, unable to move or speak, thinking of the attractive WREN with whom he had had a passionate affair and longing for a visit from her. It appears that the 19 year old got as far as Oxford and then decided she could not face the ordeal of a meeting and returned home. He never married.

With immense determination he regained the ability to speak and learned to write with his left hand, though he was to suffer from dyslexia and dysgraphia. He overcame the terror of public speaking by frequently reading aloud. He suffered a near fatal bout of tuberculosis but, despite this and a paralysed right arm and a stutter which remained with him all his life, he determined to make a career for himself both as a lawyer and a writer. He was discharged from hospital in May 1945 and advised by his doctors to take up market gardening. Fortunately he ignored that advice and went to the Middle Temple later in 1945. He passed his law exams with the aid of an amanuensis and started his long and eventually highly successful legal career driven by what he called his 'selfish desire not to be excluded from life'. He was called to the bar in 1948 and became a stipendiary magistrate in 1964. He was a circuit judge from 1972 until well beyond retirement age in 1987. The extent of his achievement is better understood in the light of a short description of Babington's Aphasia, written by Dr. Dudley Bruton, which follows this obituary.

Simultaneously he developed a writing career. Altogether he wrote 10 intelligent and thoughtful books, amongst which perhaps the best known is 'For the Sake of Cowardice', a moving account of the previously anonymous men shot for cowardice in the Great War. This was later followed by another book in the same vein, 'Shell Shock', published in 1997, in which he enlarged on his study of those who suffer mental wounds in armed conflict. He campaigned for the restoration



JUDGE BABINGTON WITH JOSEPHINE PULLEIN-THOMPSON
AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS RECEPTION

of their honour and in a moving letter to The Times in 2000 he pleaded for their cause with eloquence. His advocacy was instrumental in changing the perception of this hitherto misunderstood but not uncommon outcome of combat. He was an enthusiastic fighter for human rights and was active in the writers' organisation, International PEN. It was through his attachment to this organisation that he met the highly successful writer of books for girls, Josephine Pullein-Thompson, who was to become his constant companion for the last two decades of his life both in London and at his cottage in Kent.

He was a gregarious man and, despite the constant hazard of falling over, he travelled widely in later life. He also enjoyed a reputation as a raconteur and regaled his friends in the Middle Temple, the Special Forces Club and the Garrick Club with humorous tales of his life as a judge. His spiritual home, it was said, was the Garrick Club, which he joined in 1964, and his election to its management committee pleased him greatly.

In an appreciation of Anthony Babington, written for The English Centre of International PEN, Francis King wrote "In the course of my life I have met few characters to whom I could apply the adjective 'heroic' but to Tony Babington I could certainly do so."

JVO.CW.KK.DMB

BABINGTON'S APHASIA

By Dr. Dudley Bruton

In January 2003 an article appeared in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine headed 'Babington's Aphasia'. As noted earlier, in 1944 Babington suffered severe shrapnel injury to the left side of his brain in the fighting in Holland. He was left unable to speak and was paralysed down the right hand side of his body, but, unusually, he never lost the ability to understand speech and initially was able to communicate by sign language before gradually learning to speak again.

The part of the brain controlling speech is in the left side, Babington's injured side, even in left handed persons, but there is some evidence that 'left handers' may more readily recover speech in such circumstances because of the overall dominance of the right hand side of the brain in left handed people. Babington is of particular interest because, although he was right handed, he was a left handed bowler at cricket and a left footed footballer as a boy and his recovery of speech is thought to have stemmed from this fact. However, Professor Jellinek, who wrote the article, observed that 'Babington's high initial intelligence was probably also a good prognostic factor'. In my view, Anthony's courage and determination in the face of repeated adversity is the most important, and inspiring, factor of all.

RAYMOND CARTWRIGHT - A MEMOIR

By Denis Moriarty

It was with great sorrow that I heard from Terry Cartwright (well known to us through OR Cricket Week) of his brother Raymond's death. Raymond was my contemporary at school 1943-54; we met in C.P. Peach's Junior School, he a confident goalkeeper in the soccer team, and prominent in its photograph, proudly wearing his colours in a side captained by H.R.K. Japes, and in company with M.E. Howe-Jones and H.B.M. Birchnell who were to contribute so much to the revival of the school's athletic prowess in the 1950s. He was himself effective in the sports arena, playing for the 2nd XV, representing the school in the Triangular Athletics, boxing, swimming and tennis, and he became captain of Boarders Boats.

He was a good linguist, particularly German (a party trick in later Army life was to let forth a flurry of invective worthy of the Nuremberg rallies) and French, and even a little Latin (the purple passages especially of the Aeneid IV) with E.L. Moor. Perhaps unsurprisingly, however, it was in the Elocution Competition and the School Play that he was to be a formidable presence. He appeared with distinction in Shaw's St. Joan, and played a memorable vignette of a pedant in the Molière Bourgeois Gentilhomme. It was as Sir Toby Belch in Twelfth Night, Fred Bleasdale's first production after C.A. Nightingale's retirement, that he was to have his greatest success, and was deservedly awarded the coveted Boulting Brothers Drama Medal. This was a dominating larger than life performance, remembered by every schoolboy present for the overwhelming rudery of the belch itself (noises off courtesy of D.G. Collis in the wings) which reverberated through Big School and Cloisters. In what was a golden age of mimicry Ray was among the foremost exponents, brilliant in observation of gesture and cadence, often a calculated caricature but bang on target. W.J. Streather, M.C. Savage, J.H. Newman (his South House House Master), E.L. Moor and C.A. Nightingale were all within his frame; his deadlier sallies were reserved for S.G. Taylor and our much respected Head, C.E. Kemp.

He was commissioned from Eaton Hall OCS into the Royal Berkshire Regiment's 1st Battalion in Goslar, Germany, where he proved a popular and efficient officer, and joined a Reading School contingent strongly represented in the officers' mess - C.P. Smallbone, Ian Chalmers, E.R. Hobday, myself (all his contemporaries) and Denis Savill of an earlier generation, living now in Chichester - and whose brother Peter, also a Royal Berkshireman then serving with the Territorial Army - is remembered elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our sympathy is with Raymond's widow and his family.

PETER LEE (34-39)

Peter was born in 1923. He attended Alfred Sutton Primary School and moved to Reading School in 1934 where he played Rugby and cricket. He was a man of ability and he volunteered for the RAFVR and trained as a

navigator in Canada. He was first posted to Brindisi in Italy for special duties, dropping supplies and agents to Tito's Guerrillas in Yugoslavia. He was shot down but survived the crash and managed to hide from the Germans for a month before escaping to rejoin his squadron. He was next posted to Egypt, where he met his future wife who predeceased him in May 2003.

In business he was reliable with a quiet and modest manner and became a Regional Sales Manager with the Firestone Tyre Company. Later he joined the Ministry of Agriculture and remained a civil servant for ten years. His greatest pleasure was found with his close family and his grandchildren.

KK.

N.P.J. PEARCE OR (26-32)

Noel Pearce, the well known and popular Carversham resident, died suddenly on 31st January 2004. He was born in 1915 and was educated at Reading School where he was more popularly known as Paddy by his many friends. His early interests in electrics, coupled with a love of the countryside, presaged Paddy's career with the Southern Electricity Board. He became a way leave officer and his attractive, open and honest manner won over reluctant squires who were loath to allow power lines over their land. In his leisure time he was an enthusiastic thespian and was an early member of The Sainsbury Singers.

He joined the Territorial Army in 1939, went to France with the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He attended an OCTU in Bournemouth where he met his future wife, Wendy, then serving with the WRENS. Whilst she remained in Britain, Paddy served in North Africa and Italy.

After the war he and Wendy settled in Caversham and were blessed with a son and a daughter. Paddy rejoined the Sainsbury Singers and developed as a painter. He was an Associate of the Reading Guild of Artists.

The couple were believers in practical voluntary work and together did a twenty years stint in the Caversham Oxfam shop.

KK

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2004

During the service the Venerable Peter Coombs, the OR Chaplain, will rededicate the Kendrick Boys' School War Memorial which is on the north wall of our chapel.

SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER IN READING SCHOOL CHAPEL

(By kind permission of the Head Master)

Please be seated by 10.30 a.m.

Refreshments in Junior School after the service

"AN HUMBLE AND A CONTRITE HEART"

THEO SAUNDERS OR (32-42)

Theo died in spring 2004. He was the only son of the late and revered J.W. (Sugar) Saunders who taught History and English and was House Master of West House. Theo served in Greece and Germany with the army in WW2 and attained the rank of sergeant. After the war he became a company auditor.

His two sisters, Barbara and Margaret, predeceased him and he leaves a widow, Irene.

KK

P.G. SAVILL

Peter Savill, who died in the spring of 2004, was one of two brothers from a military family who attended Reading School in the mid 1930s. He was a good all-round sportsman, playing cricket, Rugby and hockey and competing in athletics and boxing.

His father and three brothers were army officers and Peter volunteered to join the army as an under age recruit in 1940. He was commissioned into the Royal Berkshire TA at the age of 18. He served as a company commander, adjutant, head of transport, on the staff of the School of Infantry and as an Instructor to the Commandos. Being in the infantry meant that he served in many parts of the world, amongst which were Burma, Egypt, Eritrea and Germany. He was a popular and efficient officer and leaves a widow to whom we extend our sympathy.

JVO

(From information supplied by Dennis Savill and Kerr Kirkwood.)

E. GEORGE HORSMAN OR (1918-22)

Mike Shattock OR (47-55), a relative of George Horsman, has informed us of his death in Sydney at the age of 97. He

was born in 1906 at Woodcote Avenue, Carversham and it is thought that he was our most senior member. He left school at sixteen and emigrated with his parents to New South Wales but never lost his affection for his old school. His first job was in the timber business but later he went into magazine publishing. He published the works of young Australian writers and poets and was widely respected. Arthur Harrop OR attended his funeral. We hear that a framed print of Big School was amongst his most treasured possessions and hung over his bed in the hospital during his final days.

KK

JACK ADAMS (31-39)

East Wing boarders of the 1939 era will be sad to learn of the death of a much beloved old boy, Jack Adams of High Wycombe. On leaving school Jack became a gunner in the RA and was posted to the Indian Army. He attained the rank of Captain and on demobilisation in 1946 returned to High Wycombe. He became a Chartered Surveyor and partner in Vernon & Son and Adams, estate agents. He was greatly liked for his courteous manner and shrewd valuations. He went on to manage Wye Properties.

Jack was a keen supporter of Wycombe Wanderers and both he and his father gave land to their stadium and Jack donated a site for the Coleshill C.C., now named after him.

His first wife predeceased him as did his second wife who died in July 2004. He leaves a son and a daughter.

ROBIN COSGROVE (86-91)

Robin's death at the age of 31 in Chamonix-Mont Blanc saddens us all. He was School Captain for 1990/91 and went on to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford and Hosei University, Tokyo, graduating with an MA in Japanese and Business in 1996.

He had embarked on a highly successful career in the City, working for Barclay's Capital, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, UBS, Morgan Stanley and Lotus, before joining RAB Capital in Spring 2004. A memorial service was held at St. Martin's in the Field, Trafalgar Square, London on 31st August 2004. His House Master, Patrick Kavanagh, attended, as did the Senior Master, E.S. Holt, who also represented the OR's.



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