

THE OLD REDINGENSIS

NOVEMBER 2006



RICHARD VALPY

HEADMASTER OF READING SCHOOL

1781 - 1830

The President's Letter

I am pleased to report another lively year for the Association. In practice one has to pen this note prior to the end of the year but by now all the planning for the balance of the year is in place, so one can write with a fair measure of confidence. However, what I would say at once is how much the Association owes to its hard working Council and particularly to the Executive Committee. Apart from irregular meetings the Executive meets four times in the year to prepare for the four regular meetings of the full Council. So taking a leaf out of the OR Golf Society's book, we arranged "bacon butties" at 8.30 a.m. to go with copious cups of coffee to help our endeavours. I am most grateful for all the support I have received from everyone.

The Association paid for the repainting of the Keeton Pavilion on the School field and the replacement of many of the broken tiles on the roof resulting from "sixes" over the last few years. In addition, as part of all this, we arranged for the pavilion clock to be overhauled and restarted. This was a particular pleasure to me as I find non-working clocks are a complete anathema. We are now looking at the cost of painting inside the pavilion to complete the job and so make the whole place so much more pleasant to use and in which to entertain visiting sides. The school budget is pared to the bone, this sort of activity always falls to the bottom of the School's own priorities and is just the right sort of thing for ORs to undertake.

This summer there were two tours undertaken by the School where we were able to assist to a modest extent – a cricket tour to South Africa and a rugby tour to the Argentine. I went to the send off of the Rugby tour from School on 6th August – three staff and nearly 30 boys. Win or lose, these trips are such an experience for the boys that they are well worth supporting. But I would like to record our thanks to the staff who organised the trips and went to take charge. Not an easy challenge and I hope they came back with not too many grey hairs.

The other major activity was the annual Enterprise Award Scheme, where the ORs financially supported some 30 separate activities that boys have undertaken outside school. It is only with your support that we can help to fund these activities.

As for our members we are keen to encourage activities by the younger element and here we have again sponsored an association football event, the climax of which was a game between the School team and an OR XI which the OR team won 3-1, and a Rugby 7's event at the beginning of this season. Again, I would record our thanks to members of the school staff who helped with the organisation of these events. For our more sedate members we have had two golf days which have been most enjoyable but we could always do with a



The President, Buffy Price, with his granddaughter Orla

few more entrants. I can thoroughly recommend these events and hope, if you play, that you will contact the Golf representative so that you get on the circulation list. As in former years there will be a Remembrance Sunday Service on 12th November in the School Chapel led by The Venerable Peter Coombs (39-47) assisted by The Reverend Canon Colin Hill (39-46). We would be glad to welcome all who can come along and for light refreshments in the Music School after the service.

For many years the Association has maintained a website but the Executive decided that it badly needed a revamp. Our new Honorary Secretary, David Cox, kindly agreed to front this effort and, with the help of outside expertise, the new site went live on 10th July 2006. If you haven't checked it out, do please have a look – www.oldingensians.org.uk. However, nervousness with the "allseeing eye" of the Information Commissioner's Office meant that the previously displayed useful list of OR email addresses was withdrawn. The firm intention is that very shortly all ORs will be invited to agree that we can hold their individual email addresses and that these can then be made available to other ORs. However, to appear on this list, we will need your positive agreement, and the intention is that the list will only be available in the members' section of the website. You will gather from this obfuscation that I am reaching the limit of my understanding of this problem: I can only assure you that I shall be pressing for a speedy resolution of this irritation. We need the website to reflect members' requirements and it has been made clear to me that email addresses are one of those requirements.

I would record the most generous bequest of £2,500 to the Association from the estate of the late Stuart Jackson (43-49). The Council are actively considering how best to spend this money in a way we feel he would have approved. Members will appreciate how valuable such bequests are to our activities: and I could perhaps mention that such donations bring full relief from the claws of the Chancellor's Inheritance Tax - an added incentive.

There are many other matters I could have mentioned, but there is one further I must record. The appointment of Mrs Patricia Daniels as the interim Head Teacher to cover the year until a new long-term appointment was available, caused a measure of concern in many quarters. This proved wholly misplaced. Others will report on her contribution to the progress of the school. For the ORs, I would put on record our lasting thanks for her totally positive attitude towards the ORs. It has made my year particularly enjoyable and I was delighted that the Council gave her a framed copy of the Havell print of the School when she attended our Council

meeting at the end of the summer term. We wish her a long and fulfilling retirement. From 1st September the School has a new Headmaster, Mr John Weeds, and I have every hope that our relations with him will be equally cordial.

As many ORs will know, for the last 6 months our Vice President, Neale Jouques (78-85), has been serving in Afghanistan. The Council is delighted that he has returned safely and is able to be present at the AGM on 25th November.

Finally, my thanks to all of you who have supported the Association over the past year.

Floreat Redingensis!
Buffy Price

School News

Those ORs who examine the school league tables in the national press will know that results for the School at A level and GCSE were once again amongst the best in the country. Staff and governors also take pride in the assessments of so called value added, which set out to measure what students achieve in comparison to students across the country with similar levels of achievement in their earlier stages of education. These recently introduced assessments, which many believed would show selective schools to add little to their pupils' performance, have in fact reflected even more positively on the School's performance than have the raw results.

A further yardstick for excellence now available is provided by the various subject 'Olympiads' offering gold, silver and bronze awards for the highest achievers in the tests set. In the Biology Olympiad this year Reading School gained the highest number of these awards of any school in the UK, a particular triumph for Mary Clare Maunder's department and for the students involved.

Statistics, however, are less important than the annual question of whether leavers are able to progress to the courses and universities they have chosen, and this year's cohort were particularly successful in this respect. Almost all gained places on first-choice courses at top universities, including seventeen at Oxford and Cambridge.

Of course, if examination results were its only achievements Reading School would have lost its distinctive identity. One of the tasks of the School management is to see that alongside the ever-increasing pressure for the pursuit of academic excellence, pupils continue to have time to enjoy themselves and to take part in a wide range of other activities. Though the cricket and rugby teams were relatively young this year, both made considerable progress, leading up to their overseas tours reported elsewhere. A major triumph came when a relatively modest cricket season was turned on its head by an emphatic victory against the MCC, the first such success for many years. Football too is now firmly embedded in the sporting programme. The 1st XI won the Gibbs Cup for invited schools from Berks, Bucks, and Oxon.

Elsewhere the School's drama continues to flourish under Jo Capon's leadership, and Philip Aspdon, the new Director of Music, has already produced some outstanding concerts, and continued to encourage pupils to develop their own enthusiasms, ensembles and performances. The sixth form barbershop quartet, for instance, has been a highlight of the year, and has recorded a CD of its work. Outside term time pupils have had the chance to enjoy several organised trips, among them visits to Morocco, Tanzania, and China. Further visits in preparation include Iceland and Croatia. Many of these trips include some time working on projects in local communities.

Finally, one of the greatest pleasures of the year came from four boys in their GCSE year (year 11). Under the guidance of Vivienne Jenkins, their Business Studies teacher, they entered a team in the national business based competition run by the IFS Proshare Investor Programme. Over 7000 other schools across the country entered teams, most of them sixth formers, yet the Reading School quartet went to the finals where they won first prize of a trip to New York and £2000 for the School.

As ever, some staff have left the School. Nuala Ashcroft has reached a well-earned retirement after twenty-five

years teaching languages, both modern and classical. It is also a measure of the School's success that young teachers should progress to promotion, and we said goodbye in July to Jillian Stanley (Geography), Helen Linton (Biology), Susan Stephenson (Drama), and Llinos Williams (History), all of whom take on new responsibilities elsewhere. Alan Sturrock, too, will be much missed for his contribution to both boarding and sport, and he goes to take up the leadership of both these areas in Grenville College, Devon.

Ned Holt, Head of 6th Form

Mrs Daniels is presented with a copy of the Havell print of Reading School in recognition of her unfailing support of the Association; with Michael Maule and Buffy Price



A Letter from Mrs Patricia Daniels

It is difficult to believe my year as Head Teacher is over. I have been fortunate. I have worked in education for almost 40 years and I cannot conceive of a more satisfying and enjoyable way to end my career than to have led Reading School, albeit for just a short time.

I came to the School experienced in working at a senior level in the State system and well prepared to jostle with all the politics and conflicting pressures that head teachers face today. My year has indeed been demanding. At the same time, there has been so much goodwill shown to me that it has been a hugely satisfying and rewarding time and, above all, great fun.

As I said at last year's Presentation Evening, I believe the School owes some of its success to the fact that it is a kind of extended family and that the Old Redingensians have an important role to play in this. You help to maintain its traditions and its ethos by

involving yourselves in the School, with annual awards for enterprise and achievement, with cricket and rugby and with careers talks and advice for sixth formers. Your officers and members are also a source of expertise and advice for the Head Teacher. I have greatly appreciated all of this contribution during the year.

On a more personal note, I have particularly enjoyed being invited to your social events during the year, from the formal dinner in November to the sunny lunch in Sussex. As the first woman Head Teacher at Reading School, compounded by my coming from an all-girls comprehensive, I feel sure some of you must have had reservations. However, you have always made me feel that I am among friends. Thank you, Old Redingensians, for all your support and for the kindnesses you have shown me. I am privileged to have led the School during this period.

Patricia Daniels

A Profile of the New Headmaster

Mr John I Weeds MA MPhil NPQH

John read Classics at Pembroke College, Cambridge and later gained an MPhil from the School of Education Management at Nottingham University.

He started his career in the independent sector by teaching Classics at Hampton School and Bolton School (Boys) before becoming Head of Classics and Housemaster at Bedford School in 1993. He gained his first appointment in the maintained sector when he became Assistant Principal at Slough Grammar School in 2000. He later became Deputy Head with responsibility for the Curriculum.

He has worked for a number of professional bodies, including the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the OCR Examination Board and the Joint Association of Classical Teachers. For the QCA he is a member of the A-level Subject Criteria Review Group (Classics) and for the JACT he chairs the Examination Review Group.

John is a keen follower of sport, particularly rugby with the London Wasps, and enjoys a wide range of music, from Sacred Choral to Bluegrass, depending on his mood!

He is married to Sarah and has three sons - Tom, Henry and Jamie.



Mr John I Weeds MA MPhil NPQH

OR Enterprise Awards

Once again The Old Redingensians Association has financed The Enterprise Awards, in total awarding a record amount of £2,800.

Awards were of two types:

Major awards of up to £300 and
Minor awards of up to £50

Awards are for projects or activities which will benefit pupils but which have an educational, charitable, sporting or cultural purpose.

As in previous years, awards could be for an individual activity or as part of a group project.

The money could be used for travel, course fees, for equipment or anything directly related to the chosen activity. For example an award could be used to help pay for a place on a cricket or a hockey coaching course, or travel to a place which might help with a school exam project, or conference fees for a particular event.

Applications were completed by Friday 24th March 2006 and the results announced on Monday 24th April.

The award could be used at any time up to the end of April 2007.

The Enterprise Awards Panel consisted of Head Teacher Mrs Patricia Daniels, President Gareth Price and three OR Past Presidents Tony Waring, John Illman and Michael Maule.

Extracts from the applications of the top two individual Enterprise Award winners

Kruger National Park Africa by Craig Nightingale (13ADW)

I am going out to Africa for two months this September; one month will be spent in South Africa at the Kruger National Park and the other in Zimbabwe at the Victoria Falls.

At the Kruger National Park I will be helping the rehabilitation of different species of monkeys. I will also be involved with helping at an elephant orphanage. At Victoria Falls I will be helping with the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned lion cubs with an intention of releasing them back into the wild with the tools and knowledge of how to look after themselves.

These conservation efforts are crucial to maintaining the gene pool of these more and more endangered species.



The top two Enterprise Awards winners (Craig Nightingale and James Butler) with Michael Maule and Mrs Patricia Daniels

Christian charity Mercy Ships by James Butler (13JH)

I am going to spend six months of my gap year with the Christian charity Mercy Ships, an NGO that provide free healthcare to LEDCs through the use of large ships which they have converted into floating hospitals.

I will be serving aboard the Africa Mercy, a brand new hospital which used to be a 500 ft. rail ferry and will go into service in May 2006. My primary role will be as Dining Room Steward, working in the galley and serving food to the crew and the patients, but I will also be able to get involved with patient care on the wards, and observe the volunteer doctors performing procedures and operations. The Africa Mercy will be going to Ghana in May, to the port of Tema. I will join the ship in Tema in September before it moves along the coast to the city of Takoradi, where it will stay for another five months. I will return home around the time that the ship leaves Takoradi in March 2007.

Overseas Sports Tours Reading School Rugby Tour to Argentina and Chile 2006 Tour Manager's Report

After photographs of the tour party on the School terrace had been taken, we finally set off on Sunday 6th August for Santiago, Chile with high expectations and dreams of a successful tour. What do we mean, however, by a successful tour? If your measuring stick is results, then 3 wins out of 4 matches speaks volumes for the commitment and endeavour shown by all of the 25 members of the touring party.

St. Peter's School, Vina del Mar	Won 38 – 3
Bradford College, Santiago	Won 26 – 3
St George's School, Buenos Aires	Won 14 – 5
St Gregory's School, Buenos Aires	Lost 0 – 5

Behind these results are a number of moments on the field, such as Sam Price's two tries against Bradford College, and Nick Potter's try against Bradford College with almost every player handling the ball before the final touch down. To win matches, however organised, aggressive tackling is essential and while Sean Conroy's thundering tackle against St. George's, 2 metres from his own line (as any fly-half should!!) will stand out in my mind, Craig Nightingale consistently showed his defensive qualities in every match he played and was a great influence on the younger players in the party.

To complement the success on the field there were many memorable moments off the field which added to the richness of the tour. The wonderful settings of



the pitches we played on in Chile surrounded by mountains; flying over the Andes; the view over Santiago from the top of San Cristobel; Johnny and Ken joining the handkerchief dance after the game at Bradford College; the sombre cemetery containing the mausoleum of Eva Peron in Buenos Aires; the noise and excitement of the Boca Juniors Football Stadium, home of Diego Maradona, and celebrating Mr Sturrock's birthday in the hotel at Iguazu. However, it is the visit to Iguazu Falls that was undoubtedly the highlight of the tour. Words cannot describe, or photographs adequately portray the wonder of this natural phenomenon. To view the Falls from the Brazilian side, then the Argentinian side, and finally experiencing the exhilarating speed boat ride under the Falls was something we will all remember with awe and we got very wet!!

We must, however, remember that behind every tour there are many important contributions. I would like to thank our many sponsors, particularly the Old Redingensians Association and other old boys; Chris



Jobson and Kev Rennell who enabled our boys to look so professional in the kit they provided. On tour, our senior boys Alex Carlsson, Craig Nightingale, Jack Dougan, Steve Young, Johnny Davies and Rohan Mehra were excellent role models for the younger players. The selection committee of Alex Otterburn, Ken Onwuka and Craig Nightingale were astute and yet accommodating

in the team choices for all four games, and both Alex and Ken led by example when captaining the side. The coaching staff of Mr Sturrock and Mr Jones worked tirelessly on and off the field in preparing the players for each game, while Karin kept us all in line and constantly reminded us of the need to maintain the balance between playing rugby and cultural experiences, throughout the two weeks. Every team needs support, and it was great to see the Carlsson family on the touch line to see every game and to share the Iguazu experience with us.

Finally, my lasting memory will be the sense of pride I felt whenever I spoke after matches on behalf of the touring party, and whenever I saw team members in classrooms of our host schools talking to the 5 and 6 year old Argentinian and Chilean children and even signing autographs! All were outstanding ambassadors for Reading School on and off the field and I know that they, like me, will never forget the Rugby Tour to Argentina and Chile in the summer of 2006.

R. W. Lewis

Reading School Cricket Tour to St. Kitts 2006

Tour Manager's Report

The aspects of a tour to the Caribbean that stand out more than anything else are the terrific welcome we receive wherever we go and the genuine friendliness of the local people. Whether on the field of play, in a restaurant or just relaxing on the beach, the people of St Kitts were always ready to chat and show an interest in the boys of Reading School.

The tour party was based at Marriott's Hotel – huge, and of a scale totally unrepresentative of the island. The facilities offered were extremely helpful in our first week, when overnight rain affected a number of our scheduled games. The boys were able to get 'lost' on site without staff worrying about where they were, and entertained themselves in the pools, playing volleyball, beach football or just making friends around the hotel. The first week saw only two games and we were able to go on a number of trips and activities around the island as a result of not playing. The second week saw cricket



return and we played on four consecutive days, the last two taking place at Warner Park. Every boy played at least once on the newest test match ground, and in years to come will undoubtedly say "I played there!"

The cricket offered different experiences for all of the squad. We played 6 and lost 6, but not for the want of trying – more for the inability to adapt our batting to wickets that required patience and perhaps a little less impetuosity off the front foot. I am certain we came across one or two boys who will represent the West Indies at some level. A name that will entertain us some time in the future is Kieren Powell, a sixteen year old left-handed opening batsman from Nevis. Luckily he got bored when he had 48 and tried to hit our skipper into orbit. Well bowled, Adam! But my memory from the cricket will always be a small 12 year old boy of St Kitts, batting in the middle order of the National U19s, and effortlessly straight driving our 18 year old opening bowler one bounce to the boundary straight back over his head – wonderful!

Alan Walder



John Minton and Reading School

Francis John Minton 1917 - 1957 (Boarder, West Wing, 1932 - 1935)

By Ken Brown

In the 1940's John Minton rose to considerable prominence as a painter in the School of 'English Romanticism', his interpretations ranging through the lyrical, abstract and near baroque treatments. His exhibitions attracted much attention and natural ability as a lecturer and teacher made him a celebrated tutor of the Royal College of Art from 1949 onwards, not least for the affection he inspired in so many. Tragically, he felt himself to be increasingly out of touch with international fashion and took his own life, in 1957, with an overdose of drugs. His early death, at the age of 39, was reported as 'a tragic loss to English draughtsmanship and painting'.

He had developed his early talent in Mr. Barkus's classes at Reading School. This article considers Minton's career at School where he entered IVc in 1932, as a boarder in West Wing, and to which the bare record of his valet's notice in 1935, when he left from VI Modern with his Higher Certificate, does not do justice. Years after leaving school he is said to have told a friend that he loathed school life. Of course, as educational ideas began to change, such an assertion became almost de rigueur for those who had attended boarding schools. As his personal demons and fragile self esteem overwhelmed him in his final years, and chaos ruled, perhaps he vehemently denied to himself the possibility that the framework of conformity at school, in which even a free spirit has to operate, had been a saving grace for which there was no equivalent to rescue him in his fatal downward spiral.

That is speculation, but the evidence of his school career is that he showed character and courage, was popular and integrated well – and indeed he returned for at least one pre-war OR dinner. The School Magazine for April 1933 has the Dramatic Society's production of 'The Merchant of Venice' as its frontispiece. Minton, as Nerissa, is on the far left and 'showed some talent and may do well next year'. He certainly did, graduating to the centre of the front row in the following year's production of 'Saint Joan' in which he played the Dauphin and 'gave a very spirited rendering of a difficult part', and in the year after that 'created much amusement' (as Tilburina) in 'The Critic' – front row again in the Magazine frontispiece.

The literary section of the School Magazine saw ever increasing contributions, both written and illustrated by him, until he was the mainstay of those pages. After a

1933 effort, 'Ships', he began to write lengthy pieces with titles such as 'Les Caractères', 'De Balneo Nihil', 'Magnus Malum Ignorantia', which have a humorous fun poking style that deepens to a slightly darker sardonic wit by the time of 'The Tale of the Green Apples' in 1935. All of these contributions smack of schoolboy humour but are above its usual run. They are not all attributed but appear to spring from the same source – F.J.M.

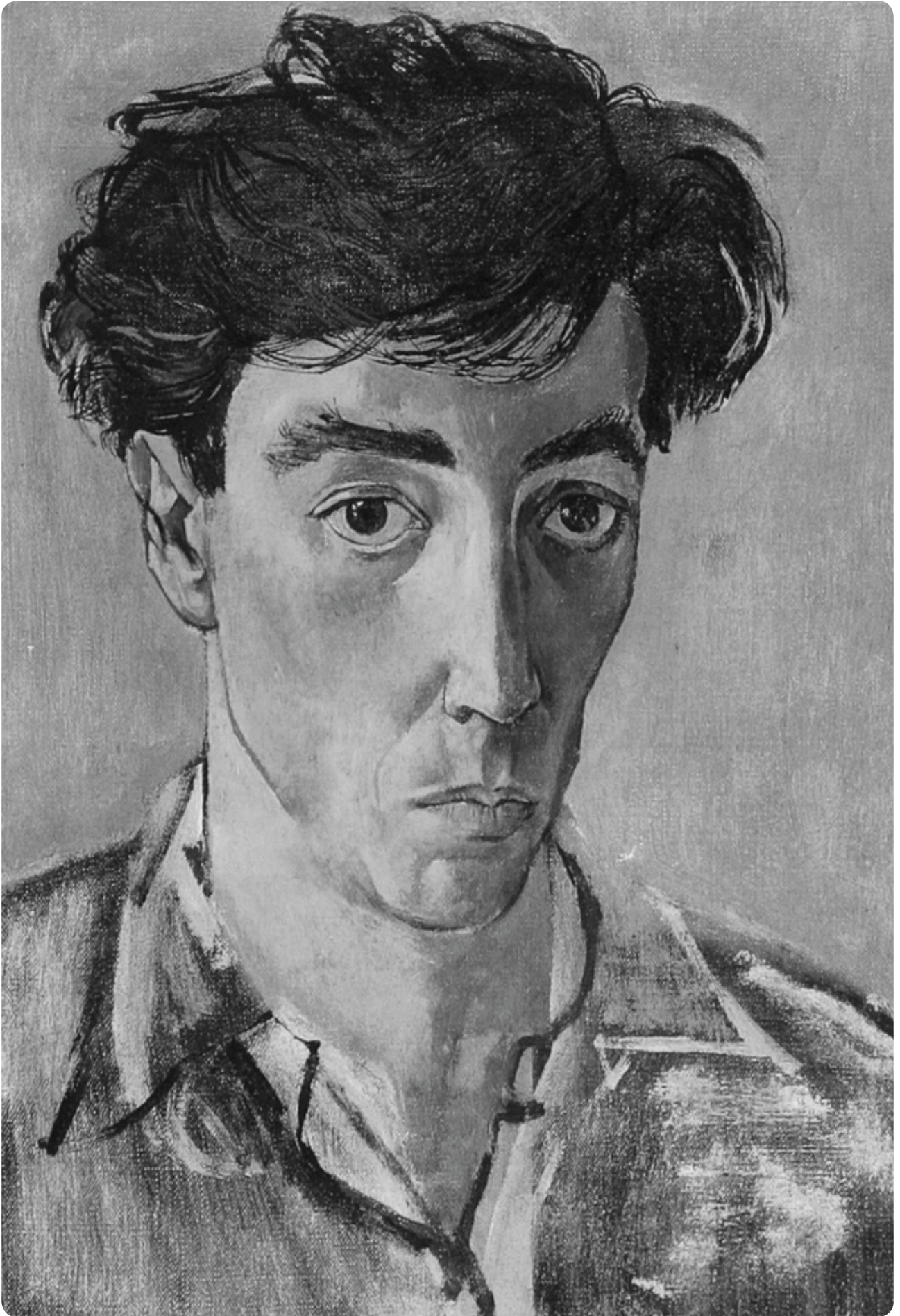
Incidentally, one piece refers to the 'moustaches of a certain tall and eccentric prefect'. Who was that? Another, intriguingly, to the 'tragedy of the West Wing rhubarb'. Something to do with the building of the new swimming baths perhaps? There is a poem on the fire that broke out in the new school buildings can anyone enlighten us on this event? In 'On writing an Article for the School Magazine' (1934) there occurs a striking phrase 'the maddening serenity of Reading School'. Maybe this reveals something of the inner Minton.

All the foregoing, and some of the activities described below, may fit well with the usual image of the 'artistic temperament' but F.J.M. did not confine himself solely to that sphere. He was, for instance, a member of the O.T.C., passing Cert. A and gaining the rank of corporal before he left School.

Yet another Magazine frontis (July 1935) featured the prefects. There is Minton, rear row right, as one of the 12 House Prefects (not a School Prefect – 8 of them), an appointment which surely throws further light on his approach to school life.



Whilst he does not show much on the 'games' front he did gain House Running Colours (and thus a rare mention in Boarders House Notes), being the sixth, therefore



John Minton - *Self-Portrait* 1953 Copyright Royal College of Art, Photograph courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery

final, scoring member of the Boarders victorious team in the 1935 Long Run. F.J.M. was not amongst the first ten to finish but had been in that echelon at Pearman's Lane. That same year he appears on H.C.L. Mason's team which gained the runner-up spot in the nine-a-side Rugby at Morgan Road, a competition which featured regularly on the calendar at that time. In his very first year there is a report of a Junior House cricket match (Boarders v West) which includes 'Minton 29'. If this is F.J.M. – and there never again seems to be reference to cricket – it was a useful knock at that level.

Minton spoke in the Debating Society (on one occasion 'heatedly') and became a member of Seekers, though that did not stop him lampooning that society in some of his magazine pieces. He also wrote and produced for the sing-song (incidentally West Wing could boast its own Dramatic Society in those days), joined the Music Society and was a sub-librarian.

Additionally he was twice placed 1st (sharing on one occasion) in the VI Form section of the elocution competition. At Speech Day he was a regular recipient of prizes, stepping up in 1933, 1934 and 1935 and taking away, at various times, awards for English, drawing, history and elocution. In 1933 he received his prize from Dr. Headlam, the Bishop of Gloucester, an OR who had left the School as long ago as 1876. Now an even longer time has passed since Minton himself left, but he remains a vibrant figure in post war British art.



His painting has gained an enduring reputation but I have chosen to illustrate this short piece with another aspect of his work, for which his exceptional draughtsmanship and pleasure in line – what has been termed the 'calligraphic' nature of his work – made him eminently suitable; book illustration. The dust jackets shown here, alas in black and white, all have vibrant colour, another Minton hallmark. Book illustration has sometimes been thought an inferior art and the book illustrator not always given his due. Practitioners such as Minton give the lie to this and explode the narrow

prejudice of such thinking. Minton was quite prolific, for instance 23 dust jackets for the publisher John Lehman alone and others for most of the main British publishers. Some complement plates and illustrations within the books.



Such work is by nature of commission. Similar strands may be pursued in respect of his film (and other) posters, advertisement drawings, stage designs and other work, all of them demonstrating the rich talent of this painterly all-rounder who, long ago at Reading School, wrote about his taste for apple turnovers and limejuice & soda from the Tuck Shop. His adult life was to be bedevilled by indulgences of much more sinister effect, leading to his death.



In John Bratby's 1962 novel 'Brake-Pedal Down' Minton is the basis for the character Rocky Minetown. Our picture of F.J.M. as a schoolboy is far preferable and one hopes it is, in essence, a truer one.

Peru Calling

When Buffy Price contacted me about the West Sussex Reunion and found out I was still in Peru, he suggested I send a letter from there; so here we are – saludos del Peru!

I was the British Ambassador in Peru 1995-99 and my wife, Liz, and I have maintained an interest in that country through the Anglo-Peruvian Society in London, the Anglo-Peruvian Trade and Investment Group and a charity which we founded called the British Community Trust (BCT). This was the third time we have returned since my retirement to follow up these interests.

Peru is at the moment in the throes of a not very gentlemanly election campaign. This is not only because two ladies are among the frontrunners but also because the current polls leader is a radical, ex-military, nationalist, self-styled man of the people. Both these trends are features of the current South American scene after elections in neighbouring Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, and Venezuela. When I was in the country, foreign investors were actively encouraged and in 1996 Peru had the fastest rate of economic growth in the world (albeit from a very low base). Policies outlined by the current poll leader, Ollanta Humala, would undoubtedly deter foreign investment and thereby undermine Peru's development. One must hope that, if elected on this radical ticket, Humala may feel strong enough to moderate the implementation of policies which he currently advocates to attract the populist vote.

Peru has not been lucky with its leaders. Agrarian reform implemented by a left-wing military regime undermined Peru's thriving agricultural potential. Alain Garcia, currently the candidate in third place, but still a possible winner, followed industrial policies which still leave proven corruption charges hanging over his head. Even



Roots Fund - Tom Bucknell Project - Productive projects developing the Amazon



John Illman

President Fujimori, who led Peru's economic rebirth in the 1990's, is under house arrest and, although as I believe he may be innocent of the corruption charges against him, he was guilty of allowing his chief adviser, Vladimir Montessinos, to milk the country's economy.

There are more positive signs that, despite dubious leadership, Peru's economy continues to grow. We found it remarkable this time that there is undoubtedly a fast-developing middle class, at least, in Lima. This still does not amount to what Margaret Thatcher referred to as "the trickle-down effect", from which the poorest inhabitants will benefit; and it is these poorest, outlying regions which will support Humala's more radical policies and whose views are not representatively included in the polls. The greatest hope is that mining and tourism will continue to grow. Tourism is the only industry from which the poorest areas will benefit, but only if it is developed in an environmentally friendly manner and to the benefit of the local communities. This was what we tried to encourage and was included in the National Tourist Plan drawn up in Fujimori's time. However, this was unfortunately drafted by the Japanese and therefore thrown out when Fujimori and his Japanese connections fell into disrepute.

Some of you may have visited Peru and seen Machu Picchu but there are many equally unique circuits, not least up in the north of the country, up and over the Andes and the Marañon river and around another newly found lost city of Kuellap.

This time we visited Iquitos on the banks of the Amazon in northernmost Peru, but the problem is that those involved in tourism give the tourists little or no time to visit the town before whisking them off in their launches up the massive river. The Iquitenos resent this rape of their heritage and there is a growing movement for independence for Loreto because they feel ignored by the Central Government. We visited the Tom Bucknell Project where the BCT and Barbara Bucknell are funding a project for two young graduates and other young members of the community to explore the nutritional value of local plants, restock a lake with unique local fish and otherwise develop their local environment. I think Tom would have been impressed by what we saw this time.



Children and nurses at the pre-school run by the BCT and the Hand in Hand Trust in Zapallal, one of the poor shanty towns on the outskirts of Lima.



Liz Illman with Engineer Bush and 3 of the students on the latest gardening course he is running for BCT and Jardines de la Paz at their cemetery outside Lima.

We also visited a project near Cusco (but resisted the temptation to visit Machu Picchu for the umpteenth time!) where the BCT is helping the Rose Foundation to build and develop a home for the young (12 to 15 year olds) victims of rape and their babies. In Lima we visited our two gardener training courses developed in conjunction with Jardines de la Paz; with our partners in the training of nursery nurses – the Hand in Hand Trust - we opened another crèche in one of the poorest, outlying areas of the city. We were also able to negotiate the inception of our first hairdressing course, which will start in June, as well as visit some amazing projects by other charities with whom we hope to work in the future. *(Garcia won the election in June 2006 – Ed)*

John Illman
May 2006

Where Are They Now ?

By K. C. Brown

After an Idea by Tony Waring OR PP

The first in a series of articles designed to keep OR's in touch with their contemporaries and which we hope that many will support by sending news of themselves to K.C Brown, 11 EASINGTON DRIVE, LOWER EARLEY, READING, RG6 3XN.
Tel : 0118 966 7013

G.V. BEVITT (EAST WING 1957 – 64)

Geoff, brother of R.N. Bevitt, works in fleet management/ vehicle leasing and lives in Acton. He married Shannon, sister of Tim Denzey (South House), more than thirty years ago and their three children are all making their mark in nascent careers. Both Geoff and his son Guy are long term Reading F.C. season ticket holders and, at the time of writing, are in a state of ecstasy...

A.R. BEX (EAST WING 1958 – 62)

Now in semi retirement in Ramsgate, Anton Bex taught linguistics at the University of Kent, in Canterbury, and, previously overseas returning to the UK in 1986. He lives with his second wife, whom he met in the Sudan and married in 1981. The two children of his first marriage also live on the south coast and he now has two granddaughters – though the structure of language may not be of burning interest to them yet.

A.J.S. BROWN (EAST 1952 – 60)

Shooting, fishing and swimming continue unabated. Retirement from Devon County Council Planning Office has only meant increasing consultancy work which he fits around the demands of his various motorcycles, his lathe – and the five grandsons his two daughters have produced. Tony's myriad interests and unflagging

energy do not diminish, but wife Lizzie keeps it all on track with calm Welsh assurance.

I.R. BROWN (EAST 1958 -65)

More than thirty years in Paris and, latterly, in Geneva with the F.I.S.A., the ruling body of Formula One and motor sport, has brought constant travel and many friendships. Quiet days working with his Canadian wife, Julie, on the small boat he keeps on Lake Geneva, berthed within walking distance of their apartment, are none the less what Ian likes best. Although a pint of bitter in an English country pub still runs it close.

R.H. CARR (EAST WING 1957 -63)

Robert, a noted swimmer like his elder brother, T.J., also plays tennis in all seasons. Home is by the Worcestershire farm of his wife's family, but his own career, after early years in Australia and South Africa, has been in I.T. sales and marketing. Gay and Robert have three daughters, and despite their all marrying in as many years, he is still smiling... just.

J.D.C. COX (EAST WING 1959 -62)

His father, J.A. Cox, was also an East Winger, in the 1920's. John was born in Ceylon and feels strong ties with the sub-continent. But the Cox's are an old English family; one military ancestor lost all his equipment overboard when on his way to fight Napoleon – which will surprise nobody who remembers John. He has lived in North Devon for many years and his son and daughter are now working in London and Germany respectively. John, who graduated from Exeter University, teaches foreign language students and revels in the wilds of Exmoor.

A.J. COTTRILL (WEST 1955 – 62)

Adrian studied civil engineering at university and this took him into the oil industry – but as a journalist on trade papers. For some years now he has been the technology editor of 'Upstream' and, nowadays, he is able to base himself at home in Offenham, near Evesham. But the nature of journalism still requires him to be 'on the spot' at many oil industry events. If, as is often the case, North America beckons, it usually enables him to meet his lifelong friend, J.R. Dale (South House/West). Ann and Adrian have two daughters, grown and flown, but frequent visitors.

A.G. GLOVER (WEST WING 1955 -61)

A lifelong career in the Royal Air Force and then civil aviation and a long and happy marriage to Jenny, which produced two daughters, find Tony now living in rural Buckinghamshire and, for the winter months, at their house in Florida. His 60th birthday was celebrated at Claydon House, a 'surprise party' to which (the writer can vouch) Tony rose with considerable style. Each

table represented career postings, with many friends: Old Redingensians were also there – to say nothing of those from Abbey, Kendrick etc. Nowadays his motorcycle and Jenny's MG TF keep him busy and he also produces a small amount of branded honey each year as, he insists, 'a keeper of bees' (not claiming the loftier description of 'beekeeper').

D.J. STEER (EAST 1955 -63)

Following early retirement, David put his Civil Service experience as a prosecuting officer to good effect and has now served as a Justice of the Peace for some years. He lives in Isleworth, with his second wife Jenni, and after many visits to Australia they now own a property in Perth – where a small OR colony seems to be establishing itself. Despite this Antipodean persuasion the really important topics, for him, have not changed; Portsmouth Football Club and Hampshire cricket. Occasionally he gets out his cricket bat, sighs, and puts it away again.

R.L. TOWNER (COUNTY 1954 – 61)

Bob had a notable career in local government, being acclaimed in the press as 'the man who transformed City of York Council into one of Britain's finest landlords.' As Director of Community Services with 1,500 employees and a budget of £100 million a year, the coveted Beacon Award Status was achieved, which decided him to hand over the reins and retire at the top of his game in 2000. Being Bob, he remains heavily involved on a consultancy and lecturing basis, and supplements his well known sporting interests (now augmented by a fondness for Yorks CCC) by vigorous walking in the Dales and elsewhere. He also remains a dedicated Real Ale drinker – purely in the interest of research he says. Both the sons of his first marriage work in 'IT' and Bob lives at Acomb, York, with second wife Fiona.

J.L. POLLOCK (WEST 1958 – 65)

Julian and Jill Pollock live with their son Jack at Emmer Green. Julian works in the Civil Service and is another lifelong motorcyclist, with a Harley-Davidson as his present steed. Music, travel, and the maintenance of old friendships are central to Pollock family life. A whole new dimension was added with the arrival of Jack comparatively late in their marriage.

N.J. TUGGEY (EAST 1962 -69)

Now sales and marketing director for the information retrieval company, Kardex Systems U.K., Nick lives at Hurst with his wife Kathy. They have three children. His elder brother is Andrew Tuggey and amongst his contemporaries he mentions David Potter, Dave Bridgford and others.

Sport

Cricket Week 24th - 28th July 2006

Report by Terry Cartwright

Four out of four for ORs

Whether measured by the weather conditions, quality of play, results, or socially, this year proved to be one of the most successful ever.

Twenty-six different players participated (ranging in age from 13 to 65!). The ORs scored in excess of 220 every day, with two players scoring centuries and we won all four games. In spite of their defeats, each of our opponents thoroughly enjoyed their matches.

The highlight of Monday's game against The Drones was the batting of Mike Burgess. Son of the former New Zealand cricket and rugby international, Mark Burgess, he is currently on the staff at the School during his gap year. Batting at number 3, he was dropped before scoring and went on to make 138 not out, setting a daunting 284 for a visitors' victory. The astute introduction of left-arm spin from the outset bemused the Drones batsmen and they fell over 100 short of the target.

There was no match on Tuesday, but the Wednesday fixture against a strong Kensington side provided a truly interesting encounter for the many spectators who attended the lunch-time inauguration of the renovated Keeton Pavilion. Batting first, the ORs were in deep trouble at 27 for 4, with the pick of the batting removed. Dogged resistance by schoolmaster Dick Owen, ably supported by Nik Kulkani, John Camidge and Jonathan Braid took the Redingensians to 225 all out. Given the strong Kensington batting line-up, this



David Steer and Terry Cartwright



Jerry Grove with his faithful hound Benji

seemed inadequate, but accurate bowling by Andy Northway and Braid saw the ORs home by 32 runs, despite a swashbuckling 68 from Kensington's number nine. The visitors are sponsored by Cobra beer and, as well as copious samples for all concerned, Jonathan Braid received a suitably liquid prize for his all-round excellence. The pavilion refurbishment has been funded by the OR Association and it was good to see so many former pupils at the opening and staying on to enjoy picnics and the cricket. Among the attendees were Mrs Daniels and her successor Mr Weeds, who as the new Headmaster, avowed his support for the future of the cricket week.

Normally, we have a two-day game against Bowdon of Cheshire on the Thursday and Friday, but, because so many OR participants could play only one of the days, the format was changed to two one-day matches. The visitors won the toss each day and elected to bat first, scoring 237 in the first game and seemingly allowing insufficient time for an OR victory. Usman Asif and Martin Bushell had other ideas and shared an unbroken 140 partnership, seeing the old boys home in only 28 overs.

Friday's game provided the most exciting finish. Bowdon declared on 254 for 8 and ORs were cruising with only 30 needed in six overs with five wickets remaining. A flurry of wickets left the last pair needing to score 10 and they edged home with two balls to spare.

Thanks are due to the OR Association for their financial support and encouragement; to the school staff, notably Fiona Dobbs; to groundsman Jerry Grove, who is leaving after 18 years - we wish him a very happy retirement; and to Andy Northway for his unflagging enthusiasm and magic in conjuring up sufficient capable players for each day - without him, the week would have died by now. Having said that, we are looking forward to a full five-day programme next year. Dates have still to be finalised, but will be announced on the website and in The Old Redingensian magazine.

Scores

24th July

ORs 283 for 6 declared – M. Burgess 138 not out; The Drones 158 all out - P. Sainsbury 4 for 44

ORs won by 125 runs

26th July

ORs 225 all out – R. Owen 58, J. Camidge 41, N. Kulkani 40, J. Braid 30; Kensington 193 all out – J. Braid 4 for 76, A. Northway 3 for 35, M. Russell 2 for 26

ORs won by 32 runs

27th July

Bowdon 237 all out – M. Bushell 3 for 14, A. Northway 3 for 51. N. Kulkani 2 for 17; ORs 242 for 4 – U. Asif 102 not out, M. Bushell 54 not out

ORs won by 6 wickets

28th July

Bowdon 254 for 8 declared – S. Woods 2 for 21, A. Northway 2 for 30; ORs 258 for 9 – D. Swan 54, R. Dewey 47, G. Mitchell 45, T. Russell 37

ORs won by 1 wicket

OR Golf

The Spring Meeting of the OR Golf Society

Calcot Park Golf Club on 5th May 2006

Ten OR Golfers met at Calcot Park Golf Club on a fine sunny day and competed — over 18 holes — for the 'President's Trophy'.

The course was in superb condition and some good golf was played, especially by our President Gareth (Buffy) Price, John Steels and Chris Quartly, who finished in that order.

Gareth Price also won the 'Nearest the Hole' Competition with a fine shot across the lake at the 7th to just a few feet! Even the renowned Sir Henry Cotton dunked his ball in the water when he played Calcot Park some years ago!

The longest drive was won by Chris Quartly with a massive drive at the first hole.

After the morning round the players enjoyed a first class lunch in the clubhouse, which was followed by some amusing anecdotes from Rodney Lunn who then awarded the Prizes ably assisted by his brother Will.

After lunch several ORs played a friendly game and of course swapped reminiscences in the Clubhouse afterwards.

Present

John Childs, John Downes, Colin Evans, Rodney Huggins, Rodney Lunn, Will Lunn, Gareth Price (President), Chris Quartly, Nick Ray, John Steels,

Apologies

Rudolph Bissolotti, Frank Brazier, Dudley Bruton, Nick Burrows, Terry Cartwright, Richard Heskins, Jack Holt, Stephen Johnson, Michael King, Cedric Scroggs, John Smith

The day's results were:

President's Jug Competition

Winner (with 40 points)	Gareth Price
Runner up (with 36 points)	John Steels
3rd (with 29 points)	Chris Quartly
Nearest the Pin	Gareth Price
Longest Drive	Chris Quartly

Report by Will Lunn, Golf Representative



*Standing: Will Lunn, Rodney Huggins, John Downes, John Steels, Chris Quartly
Seated: Rodney Lunn, Nick Ray, Gareth Price, John Childs, Colin Evans*

Festival of Rugby

10th September 2006



No holds barred!



Alex Carlsson



*Keven Rennell
(oldest player)*



Grounded



Running man breaches defence



Quick ball



*Gareth Price presents the
Glacy Cup to Alex Carlsson*



*John Vaughan presents his own
trophy to Alastair Lindsay, the man
of the tournament.*



Team X-treme, winners of the Goss & Co Shield

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*Mike King presents the
Goss & Co shield to Alastair Lindsay,
captain of Team X-treme*



Alex Carlsson with his parents

A Third Successful Year

Our Festival of Rugby has proved to be a significant contributor to the link between recent School leavers and the OR Association; so much so that on September 10th a total of 62 Old Boys braved the heat of the day combined with extremely hard ground conditions to enjoy the 7's Tournament.

The competition was once again sponsored by Goss & Co and the challenge shield and winners' medals were presented by Goss & Co Chairman Michael King OR at the completion of the tournament.

The competition included players from 19 to just over 40 and everyone played with commitment and enthusiasm, combined with a strong will to win...there were no prisoners taken on the pitch on the day and many friendships re-kindled in the beer tent following. In fact a number of older OR's, whose playing days are now a memory, ensured that the beer tent was active throughout the day, which concluded around 5 p.m.

The 7's Tournament final was extremely exciting with 2005 winners The Gun Show not quite showing the skills of last year (possibly the previous evening's socialising caught up with them!) and the ultimate winner of this well fought and strongly challenged Goss & Co shield was Team X-treme.

The OR sponsored John Vaughan Trophy presented this year in person by John, and awarded to the man of the tournament as nominated by Bob Lewis, was awarded to Alastair Lindsay for his high standards throughout the tournament.

In recent years the School vs. OR's XV game has had to be withdrawn from the programme, due to the general ruling from the RFU re issues of younger boys playing heavier more competitive OR's (not always the case however!) and it was at this event in the past that the Clacy Cup was awarded.

The Clacy Cup is now awarded to the School's 1st XV Player of the Season and voted by his team mates. The unanimous choice for 2005-2006 season was Alexander Carlsson and he was presented with the cup by OR President Gareth Price.

In his closing address President Gareth Price thanked Goss & Co and Mike King in particular for financial support, Headmaster John Weeds for the use of the school facilities ---Alistair Wrenn (Peanut) for his contribution to the running the bar and general organisation-- then finally Bob Lewis and the school referees for their considerable support in organising the eight teams and running this very successful event. Plans are already in hand to feature this event again in early September 2007.

At the completion of the Festival Bob Lewis, Alistair Wrenn and Michael Maule reviewed the day which had been very well received by the players and agreed that the prime objective had been achieved: to engage the younger Old Boy elements and build membership for the future. A number of the players said that they would have preferred to have the Festival on the Saturday followed by a social activity (BBQ) and Bob, Peanut and Michael agreed to seriously consider this idea next year to be held on a similar week in September.

Michael Maule

Notes & News

The Keeton Pavilion

In 1876 a shed was erected to serve as a pavilion but want of funds did not allow the more permanent building envisaged. Dr. Eppstein became Head Master in 1894 and transformed the school's fortunes; the pavilion was at last completed in 1895 – after a public appeal for funds by the Mayor of Reading.

1986 saw the quincentenary of the re-founding of the School, a year marked by a visit of H.M. the Queen, many happy social events, and the practical measure of a Quincentenary Fund Appeal, to achieve a number of objectives including the modernisation of the pavilion.



The newly refurbished Keeton Pavilion

Work on the 'Keeton Pavilion' was completed by 1989. Electricity was installed, another changing room was added, along with showers, lavatories and a small kitchen – and central heating. All this required extending the whole structure by one third (the 'Bristow Wing' has been suggested, as John Bristow, Head Master at the time, was so much a driving force of the Appeal), moving the clock to a new position and adding a second flight



Professor Alan Johnson visiting from Louisville, Kentucky with his wife Barbara and hosted by Mrs Joan Bristow (right)

of steps. The clock itself was also replaced and the final result was a building both more functional and more graceful than before.

Sixteen years on and refurbishment was badly needed in the way of paint, replacing tiles, making good etc., and the OR Association agreed to meet the costs. Additionally a generous personal donation financed the repair of the clock.

After lunch on a gloriously sunny Wednesday of cricket week 2006 a good crowd gathered on the school field for a ceremony conducted by the President. Amongst those present were the outgoing Head Teacher, Mrs. Patricia Daniels, the incoming Head Master, Mr. John Weeds, and, to everyone's great pleasure, Mrs. Joan Bristow, widow of John Bristow.

As the day was also being used to make an OR presentation to John Oakes, our erstwhile editor, the President asked him to cut the tape and mark the formal reopening.

KCB

Lt. Col. A.S. Tuggey R.E. (Rtd.), O.R. (East 58–66)

Andrew Tuggey has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Gwent and we congratulate him. As befits a former Shooting Colour and C.C.F. Staff Sergeant who passed through Sandhurst, and also graduated from the Royal Military College of Science, he had a fine army career, serving all over the globe. Andrew attended Staff College in Malaya and was our Military Attaché in Latvia and Lithuania.

He now lives in Monmouth with his wife, Clare, where in 1990-1992 he was Colonel of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers. Of their three sons, two are in the Army – the Royal Green Jackets and Sandhurst respectively.

The more attentive amongst us will have heard Andrew on Radio Four's 'The Week in Westminster', talking in his capacity as Secretary of the U.K. Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. (The

C.P.A., which was formed in 1911, now has 14,000 members. Operating under a Secretary General, it promotes knowledge of constitutional matters). This, and a rôle with the Army Benevolent Fund in Gwent, combined with his public service, means that Andrew is one of the ORs very much in the mainstream.

Connections, as usual, abound. Andrew Tuggey's godmother is a sister of another distinguished OR soldier, lately departed, Colonel Arthur Burrows; indeed Andrew treads in the very footsteps of a legendary OR, Col. T.W. Pearson (1885 – 86), a Welsh Rugby and hockey international, who was also a Deputy Lieutenant for Monmouthshire and prominent in that County's Territorial Association in his time.

KCB

Reunions

1955 Generation

John Prince (1955 – 60) again co-ordinated the gathering of contemporaries that has taken place annually at the Roebuck, Binfield, in the last few years. This year, to general approval, the venue changed to the Stag and Hounds, also at Binfield, and their large garden was much appreciated on a warm summer's evening.

KCB



Gordon Wyard, Ken Brown, Richard Attewell, Bob Ross, Richard Vincent, John Prince, Mike Viney, Dave Pollock, Tony Glover (and T.L. Cartwright not in the photograph)

USA West Coast Reunion



Those attending the USA West Coast Reunion on 3 March 2006 were Philip Hight (50-57), Natalie Braham, Ray Braham (42-45), Caroline Longstaffe, Chris Longstaffe (70-77), Jenny Seymour, Roy Seymour (52-57), Emilie Hight, Claudia Lindsay and Richard Lindsay (57-64). Apologies were received from Jim Talbot (28-33).

Australian Reunion



Roy Russell (36-41), Eric Burrows (42-47), Joe Radcliffe (62-69), Ron Peddley (44-51) and Mike Jones (57-64) recover at the beach café after their reunion in Noosa, Queensland on 16/17th July 2006.



Mrs Freda Clarke, Mike Smith, Frank Terry

17th OR Sussex Reunion Lunch

Saturday, 22 April 2006

Forty ORs and friends met at the Boathouse in Amberley for lunch and drinks, all expertly managed by Mike Smith. For a "first-timer" I can only say what a lovely spot and splendid menu. The President offered a few encouraging words about the current activities of the Association: he was followed by a very up-beat talk by the Headteacher, Mrs Patricia Daniels, about the progress of the School. A good time was had by all; long may this function continue!

Gareth Price

The Fifth "Fifty Years On" Reunion Luncheon

The fifth annual "Fifty Years On" Reunion Luncheon for friends and contemporaries at Reading School of Denis Moriarty and Peter Stevens was held on Wednesday, 18 January 2006 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall, London SW1.

Those present were:

Bob Alexander, Fred Barker, Peter Fiddick, John Gardiner, Tom Gould, Charles Hoile, David Jordan, The Reverend John Lambourne, Brigadier Bill Mackereth, Denis Moriarty, Mike Oakley, Robin Oldland, John Perry, Gareth Price, Dermot Rooney, The Lord Roper, Derek Russell, Cedric Scroggs, Professor Mike Shattock, Anthony Simons, John Stevens, Peter Stevens, David L Thomas, Professor Brian Upton, Mike van Brugen, Professor David Wilkins, David Wise, Michael Wolfers.



Peter Stevens welcomes his guests

Obituaries

Evic Leslie ('Elmer') Moor Reading School Master (49-75)

'Elmer' Moor, who died at his home in Wensleydale on 8th January 2006, was one of the surviving masters appointed by Charles Kemp in the period immediately following WW II. His funeral was held on 17th January at St. Andrew's Church, Aysgarth. The OR's were represented by Tom Arie (43-52) and his wife Eleanor.

An Appreciation by Denis Moriarty (45-54)

He arrived, beguilingly young, wavy-haired and with an impish smile and tee-hee laugh, with a sound scholarly reputation – an exhibition from Wigan School to St Edmund Hall, Oxford and a 1st in Classical Mods. He was given the task by C E Kemp of reforming the school library; and this he set about with new furnishings in a spacious room at the west end of the cloisters with zest and enthusiasm. He introduced a seemingly incomprehensible but wholly logical cataloguing system, but most important, an atmosphere of quiet self-reliance and self-discipline into 'private study'. The traditional unruliness and disorder were banished; we learned the beginnings of a habit of a lifetime, a respect, if not a love indeed, of learning and of books abiding in abundance, serenity and calm.

He was at his very best with the A level Latin texts, relishing every line, pondering and polishing every nuance in its context and translation. Thus gently he enthused with a love of language, the poetic or ironic charge, the weight and intensity of a choice of word or phrase. He led us through the purple passages of the hero's passion for Dido in the Aeneid IV; the simile of the great oak - *tum quercus* - stretching down roots into Tartarus in direct proportion to its flourishing canopy above and the ants at work - *sicut formici* - the labourers as they set about the building of Troy. Sheltering from the storm, Aeneas dallied with Dido in the cave, and fantasising adolescents wanted to know what went on. Poetic understatement came the only answer. With these disabling distractions the works ceased – 'cranes hung poised in the sky' – Aeneas has to be warned of his destiny, Dido laments and in her passionate response is undeservedly perhaps sidelined *varium et mutabile semper femina* – a fickle and



changeable thing is womankind. These were issues to debate, stirring stuff. And on to the love poems of Catullus – the passer, the darling sparrow on the journey whence no traveller returns. Equally with Sallust's Catiline conspiracy, taking us back to the intrigues, mutterings and back stabbings of the market place; big issues, too, *salus populi suprema lex* – the safety of the state – an issue with us all too much today. Cicero in full flood turning the mob – if the crime passionel of the crossing-sweeper goes not unnoticed, by how much more those aspiring to putsch against the state.

Leslie Moor brought individual, unusual and unconventional qualities to his profession. Among a wholly male staff, a number of whom had served with conspicuous courage and had been decorated for valour in two World Wars, he maintained, but only when pressed and with modest quiet dignity, his own thoughtful pacifist position earning unquestioning respect. This courage of his convictions had led, a fact little known if at all in school, to his serving a short prison sentence in Wormwood Scrubs, an experience similarly shared by the composer Michael Tippett, whose music Leslie Moor was later to tussle with and enjoy. Radical, liberal and progressive he always appeared, but never strident nor propagandist, always respectful of a differing point of view, strong on guiding moral principles, perhaps modified, but only a little, in his response to experience. For those who did not sign

up for the CCF he offered a book-binding alternative. He was the son of a cabinet maker and inherited all his father's hands-on talents, building throughout his life virginals, clavichords, spinets, lutes and even a crowning achievement a theorbo. He spent many happy hours bird watching and in photography; in this too he was serious and accomplished.

A love of music was central to his life. He was an accomplished keyboard player, and gave full measure to these skills as an accompanist to budding singers in school, and in a lifelong enjoyment of chamber music – the Haydn, Mozart and Schubert repertoire, often in the company of his wife Vivian and friends. He was at first a somewhat reluctant répétiteur for the school's annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas, but emerged as a most supportive coach and a vital presence in the orchestras that played for those productions. He sometimes had legitimate reservations about the orchestral performances; for Koko's encore verse in his 'little list' song of undesirables in the Mikado, he relished a line conceived in an extended diversion in a Latin set books period... 'all orchestras who queer their pitch'... it was prompted by R C Sigee who took a long time polishing it, but tickled him pink in its fruition; we were all helpless with streaming guffaws in response to his uncontrollable giggles at his creation.

We were, however, never allowed to be complacent; there was danger in becoming too embedded, overconfident or content with a limited repertoire. 'There is musical life after Arthur Sullivan' he once said with mischievous affection; 'his name is Henry Purcell'. How right he was; he had little time for the romantics. He explored and could enthuse for modern – Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Britten and Tippett, he loved German lied, English and French song – Duparc, Ravel and Fauré, but his true delight was in the Baroque – Handel, Vivaldi, Schütz and J S Bach. Bach on the radio at his Yorkshire home was a part of a full and fulfilling retirement in the dales he so loved and walked and which eased the passage of his last hours. Music for him was serious and responsible and commanded such a response; its appeal was to intellect, passion and emotion. It should be demanding, and thereby rewarding. He had formidable good taste, rooted in high art, confidently informed; mercifully he never compromised.

He was among the first of his cycling generation to adapt to the new technology of the power-assisted minimotor, and this speeded his 10-mile journey each

way to and from school from his home in Pangbourne. He was wholly practical, enjoyed gadgets, loved his tools and his workshop. He was keenly committed to the teaching of classics and closely identified with the work of the Classical Association. He had an extraordinary and extensive library, dominated by the whole canon of classical texts, musical scores and a wide range of other books revealing of the intellectual, cultivated, gentle, well-read and civilised fellow he was. It was much to his chagrin and disillusion that, during Tony Davis' headmastership – as in many other schools – the study of Greek was withdrawn from the curriculum. He was an assiduous and prompt correspondent, frequently by return, witty, succinct, informative, quip upon quip, apposite and understanding. He wrote beautiful, clear, exact, precise and grammatical English – in a progressively miniscule manuscript – and his speech was no less so – tinged with a delicate but distinct and delicious hint of his Lancastrian beginnings, never wholly lost.

Leslie Moor, as a teacher, gave freely and generously of his time and guidance, and in the best of school masterly tradition articulated standards, widened parameters and uplifted aspirations. He thrived in the exchange of ideas and the sharing of good conversation. Throughout his life he was stimulated and supported by the devoted and delightful Vivian, wife for over 50 golden years. They had no children beyond numbers of Reading School pupils lucky to have been exposed to his influence and teaching and who went on passing their way later on in life. In the Courtauld Collection in Somerset House in London is a piece of lettering carved by Eric Gill from Cicero de Amicitia, *optima et pulcherrima vitae suppellex inicitia*, the best and most beautiful support of life is friendship.

A number of tributes to 'Elmer' have also been received from which the editors have chosen a few lines:

Keith Minton (53 – 59) writes:

'I remember him very well indeed, he was a "scholar and a gentlemen". He taught me Latin for years, including our "voluptuary" Latin Class in the sixth form when we read Tacitus, Caesar and Virgil. One of the best things I remember about the School was the library with 'Elmer' in charge. It was one of the best school libraries I have seen. I can recall how he used to come to school by bus, often wearing on old grey Mac. (Not so many teachers had cars in those days). Elmer often wore a deer-stalker too, I am pretty sure.'

Michael Wolfers (50 -57) writes:

E.L. Moor was one of those who taught me Latin (I did Latin and Greek to Scholarship Level). One day in class we were set to translate a piece of Latin verse into prose. Since I was a quick worker with the prose translation I did, unbidden, a further translation into rather clumsy and leaden English verse. When my exercise book was returned from marking, my schoolboy effort was not graded. Instead my teacher had written in fine handwriting, alongside my scrawl, an exquisitely elegant English verse translation of the Latin lines. This felicitous memory has remained with me for more than half a century.

Timothy Gorham (64 – 71) writes:

I certainly remember him from my time at School. Not only did he teach me some Latin and Greek but he led a tour to Rome and Sorrento around Easter 1965 which was a first trip abroad. I am glad to say that I still had enough Latin and Greek not to have to study them again when I took up theological studies over 20 years later.

Chris Widdows (55-62) writes:

My recollection is of that dreadful pipe, the smoke from which asphyxiated those of us who encroached within a 20 yard radius.

(A recollection shared by many others – Ed.)

John Gardiner (47 – 55) writes:

When I was School Captain in 54-55 I had to thank the Head Master of Eton who was presenting prizes on Speech Day. E.L. Moor, who was my form master at the time, offered to help with my speech; an offer thankfully accepted I might add. Unfortunately I never kept a copy, but remember the wit he put into my dull prose, especially something about the difference in ages of our respective schools - Reading, of course, being the older. I do remember him with great affection.

COLONEL A.T. BURROWS ERD MBE (28 – 36)

Arthur, who was Master of the Reading School Old Boys' Lodge in 1984, died on 3rd January 2006 at the age of 86. He was the son of T.A.Burrows, Reading's celebrated chief constable between 1922 and 1934, and was the eldest of three brothers who attended Reading School in the 1930s.

He had a fine school career and was successful on the games field, receiving his 1st XV colours and school swimming colours in 1935. He left school to join Southern Railways in 1936.

Like the celebrated Reading School physics master, Ron Liddington, he was granted a supplementary reserve commission in the Royal Corps of Signals in 1939 and later that year found himself serving with H.M. Forces.

He went to France with the BEF and came safely back from Dunkirk in May 1940. He was later posted to India and by 1942 had reached the rank of major whilst serving in the Burma campaign with 17th (Indian) Division, commanded by another Old Redingensian, Maj. General 'Punch' Cowan.

After the war he gained a permanent commission and made the army his career, serving in Suez, Cyprus and Germany. He was appointed MBE in 1958 and posted to Catterick as an instructor. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1960 and, after a spell in the War Office, he commanded 30 Signals Regiment



at Blandford. He was posted to the General Staff Defence network in 1969 in the rank of Colonel.

In 1961 he was the Inspecting Officer at the annual inspection of the Reading School Corps in which he had served as a boy as a Lance Sergeant. He was accompanied by two other ORs, Captain P.B. Mayes and Flt. Lt. D.W.B. Chippington. At the 1963 dinner he made the OR presentation to RSM Rollings on the latter's retirement.

He resigned his commission after 30 years service and obtained an MA in engineering at Downing College, Cambridge. A second career followed when he became Director of the newly formed Police Scientific Branch.

In 1946 Arthur married Elizabeth Kerr Steel, sister of E. Steel OR and cousin of M. Steel OR. Arthur and Elizabeth resided beside the wicket gate entrance to the Morgan Road playing field and were thus able to

watch generations of Reading boys at the tennis courts behind their house.

Sailing off Hayling Island with Peter Ayling OR gave him enormous pleasure and he was a member of Greyfriars Church, Reading, for 40 years or more. He leaves his widow Liz and three sons, Robin, John and Ian.

KK, KCB, JVO

RICHARD (DICK) FAIRBAIRN (29 – 36)

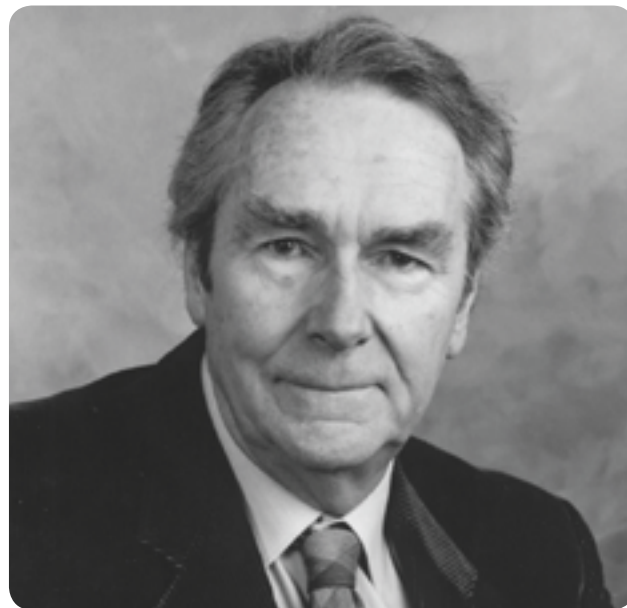
Dick was born on 31st October 1922, the son of an OR, G.G. Fairbairn (02 – 09). He started in the Junior School but only spent two years in Senior School before leaving to become a boarder at the Leys School, Cambridge.

During the war he served in the 14th Army in India and Burma as an officer in the Royal Fusiliers. After the war he joined the family solicitors, Ellis and Fairbairn, for whom he worked, mainly in London, until he retired. Dick followed his father as the Baptist Union's Honorary Solicitor from 1964 to 1986 and was also Honorary Solicitor for the Leprosy Mission.

He was for some years Chairman of the Baptist Holiday Fellowship and also the Chairman of the Retired Baptist Ministers' Housing Society, which he was instrumental in founding in 1975.

He was a member of the Abbey Baptist Church in Reading for over 60 years, serving the church as a Deacon for some fifty years, as Treasurer for ten years and Secretary for a further five years. He served on the Churches Main Committee in London and as a Marriage Guidance councillor in Reading.

He was a member of the Reading Lodge of Union and Chairman of the Larger London Land Company Limited.



In his early years he played for the Reading Hockey Club and in later years was a member and keen supporter of Hampshire Cricket Club. He was a very keen yachtsman and was a life member of the Yealm Yacht Club.

He married Daphne Knight in 1950 and they had over fifty years together before she died in 2001. They had four children, two of whom were ORs, and fifteen grandchildren. He was married a second time to Pat Peakman who survives him. He died on 8th January 2006, aged 83.

Vic Payne

JOHN LIDDELL, HEAD OF ART, READING SCHOOL 49 – 55

John, master printmaker and teacher, was born in Wood Green, London, 6th July 1924. His interest in printmaking was born watching two famous practitioners of the art, Norman James and Douglass Percy Bliss, during his student days at Hornsey College of Art where he studied illustration, design and printmaking for the National Diploma.

Liddell first taught art at a grammar school in Banbury, then in the junior wing of High Wycombe School of Art before coming to Reading School as Head of Art. At Reading he introduced printmaking and built a kiln which led to a foray into ceramics. In 1954 he moved to Bournemouth School of Art as Head of Education. He died in Bournemouth, Dorset, 11th December 2005.

LORD ALEXANDER OF WEEDON (45 – 49)

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Robert Scott Alexander was held on March 16th at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Considered by some as the finest Q.C. of his generation, Chairman of the National Westminster Bank, Chancellor of Exeter University, President of the M.C.C., a Governor of the R.S.C. and a trustee of the National Gallery, the holder of many directorships and the recipient of a host of honours, he attained prominence reached by very few.

Brighton College (and King's College Cambridge) rightly claim him as their own, but his preparatory education was at Reading School, as recalled by David Jordan OR, in these pages a few years ago, who was in the Junior School and also in East Wing with him, and remembered his cricketing ability. R.S. Alexander entered form 1A (Miss Bailey's class) in September 1945 and left in 1949.



The large attendance at the service included I.G.A. Hunter Q.C. O.R. (56 – 63). The wide sphere of Lord Alexander's activities and interests must, perforce, have brought contact with a number of O.R.s, the majority probably unaware of their shared school background. Lord Alexander died on 6th November 2005 aged 69.

KCB

MAJOR ERIC WILLIAM KIRBY (22 – 29)

Eric died in Bisley, Gloucestershire, at the age of 92. He had been deaf and blind for some years and was somewhat frail. A 'lifeline' bell to his neighbour's house was installed in case he fell. His neighbour happened to be the landlord of the Stirrup Cup. Eric said "If I have a lifeline to the local pub I had better practice falling down as often as possible."

At Reading School, he confessed, he was somewhat lazy, deriving his greatest success from the OTC. He joined the Reading brewers, H & G Simonds, after leaving school. As soon as he was able he joined the Territorial Army. He was commissioned and applied, in 1938, for a transfer to the regular army.

He was commissioned into the RAOC and in 1939 found himself in France with the BEF. He was on an independent recce when it became clear that the BEF was in disarray and retreating towards Dunkirk. He was evacuated from the famous mole, having just missed a place on a ship which was blown up by Stuka dive bombers.

He was posted to Northern Ireland where he met his wife, Helen, who was to remain with him for 63 years. They were soon parted but after the war she was able

to join him in Austria. He left the army to join his father-in-law in business in Belfast but he was unhappy as a civilian and re-entered the service as a captain in the RAOC.

He was posted to Benghazi in 1953 and worked in mine clearance in the desert. His wife and family were able to join him there. They followed him to a succession of overseas postings, including one in Kenya where he was concerned with clearing the unexploded bombs, hand grenades and other military 'nasties' left behind by the campaign to suppress the Mau Mau.

He retired from the army in the rank of major at the age of 55. He was employed for 10 years in the MOD as a Retired Officer, writing manuals on various types of explosives.

He finally retired at 65 and went with his wife to live in Gloucestershire where he met his old Reading School friend, Malcolm Slay. Helen, who had followed him on his many postings, died about nine months before him.

Eric is survived by his son and daughter, grandchildren and a great granddaughter.



RODERICK HENRY MESSER (28-50)

Roddy Messer, President of the Old Redingensians Association in 1976, passed away in Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, on December 20th 2005 aged 88. He came of a much respected Reading family of timber merchants. Educated at Reading School he, together with E.H. Maule and D.G. Stokes, dominated the games field just prior to WWII, especially at rugby, athletics and cricket.

Roddy was well known in Berkshire cricket circles. P.G. Chadwick recalls his ability as a rather intimidating wicket keeper. He was a notable captain of the OR XI in the 1950s. Frank Terry, who batted at number 2

for the ORs in those days, recalls many partnerships with Roddy who generally batted at 3 or 4. Roddy also played for Berkshire Gentlemen.

At School he was a junior NCO in the OTC. Called up in WWII he was evacuated amongst the wounded from Dunkirk in May 1940. He was a head wound and he carried the shrapnel to his dying day. He attained the rank of major in the Royal Berkshire Regiment at the age of 24.

After the war he returned to Reading and a business career, becoming a director of Goodenoughs, the agricultural merchants. Highly respected in his field, he was elected President of the National Association of Agricultural Merchants.

He took a great interest in Reading Blue Coat School to which he sent his three sons, Peter, John and Ian. He was Chairman of Governors for 17 years and the Messer Library at Reading Blue Coat School is a monument to his outstanding services.

He served the Old Redingensians diligently, not least on the games field, and he was elected President in 1976. Frank Terry writes of him: "We were great friends in the 50s when he was Captain of the OR XI. I admired him immensely for his charm and good sense. Would there were more like him."

Roddy is outlived by his wife Anne, now living in Yorkshire, and by his three sons.

KK, PGC

STUART JACKSON (43-49)

A tribute read at his funeral on 29 March 2006.

Stuart was born in 1931 and brought up in Reading, where he attended Reading School, a very traditional boys' school with which he maintained close links all his life, attending many Old Redingensians' functions and helping to plan fund-raising projects.

He left school in 1949 and went into the Royal Air Force - it was almost school one day and National Service the next - what a contrast! At a time when air travel was relatively uncommon, Stuart regularly flew to the Middle East and the Far East and his National Service days left him with a store of anecdotes and stories on which he would cheerfully draw over the years!

Stuart then attended the London School of Economics where he took a degree in Sociology. His first job was

as a Personnel Manager for the Metal Box Company but he soon decided that he did not want to move around the country and preferred to work in London so he decided to pursue a career in Market Research and Marketing.

Stuart worked for various advertising agencies and companies and then spent several years working for Unilever as a Market Research Manager.

During this time, he married Rachel and in 1962 moved to Welwyn Garden City which he never doubted was one of the very best places to live. Rachel and Stuart had two sons, Christopher and Nicholas.

Another change came a few years later when Stuart



felt that he needed a quieter life, so he gave up working in London and in 1969 went to what was the Hatfield Polytechnic, now known as the University of Hertfordshire, as a lecturer in Market Research and Marketing.

In many ways this was an ideal job for him - he had a natural gift for talking, and at the University he had an attentive audience! He became an accomplished public speaker and could always be called upon to make a speech or give a vote of thanks whatever the occasion.

Due to ill health, Stuart retired early but this gave him time to pursue one of his main interests - politics. He became a Conservative Councillor on the Welwyn Hatfield Council, first for Howlands Ward - told that this was unwinnable as it had always been a Labour seat, he regarded this as a challenge to his marketing skills and got elected. He was a Councillor for the Handside Ward from 1982 to 1986 and became the Conservative Group's press officer. At the same time, he served as a governor of Applecroft and Heronswood Schools.

Stuart was also involved in national politics and belonged to many political groups, including the Bow Group, the Bruges Group and the Britain Club. He enjoyed political debate and advised a number of Westminster hopefuls on developing their careers and election campaigning.

Stuart spent a lot of time writing articles for various pressure groups and political magazines. There was also the writing of letters to the Welwyn & Hatfield

Times - there can be few people here who have not seen a letter from Stuart in the Welwyn & Hatfield Times! He would sit, pen in hand and pad of paper on knee, drafting them until he thought he had got the wording just right. He seemed to be able to write, and indeed talk, at length on almost any subject.

Stuart was always happy to talk to just about anyone - he would regularly strike up conversations with people he knew well and not so well - and was a great joker and lover of comedy. He liked nothing better than to make people laugh.

From childhood, Stuart followed cricket and the fortunes of Reading Football Club. He took particular pleasure in the Ashes victory last summer and would be very happy to learn that Reading are about to be promoted to the top division for the first time in their history.

In the last few years Stuart had increasing health problems, which curtailed his activities, but he was able to maintain his life-long interest in literature and language - books, films, plays, newspapers and television were read or watched with varying degrees of appreciation and criticism.

His last illness was brief and he was in hospital for only a short period of time during which he expressed his appreciation for all the help the doctors and medical staff were able to provide.

Stuart died on 22nd March 2006 aged 74.

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A tribute by Dudley Bruton PP (48-51)

Stuart was a contemporary at school and it was a pleasure and a privilege to have his advice and support when, as OR President, it became my turn to carry on the Big School Appeal initiated by Tony Waring. It was Tony who sought Stuart's advice early on and the success of the appeal is in part a tribute to Stuart.

Having been reintroduced, Stuart and I kept in touch and enjoyed a number of social occasions together, the last being lunch with Gerald Malkin at the RAF Club where we stayed for several hours putting the world to rights.

Stuart was ever positive, energetic and enthusiastic despite illness in recent years. He will be much missed by those who knew him.

In Memoriam

Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Canning

Widow of Geoff Canning PP 1988

Died 28th April 2006

Robert (Bobby) Saunders Jones (27–33)

Professional Singer and Sportsman

Died 1st April 2006 aged 86

James Spurgeon (27–36)

Solicitor

Died 26th March 2006 aged 86

Richard Ernest (Dick) Vanderpump (29–35)

Chartered Surveyor

Died 4th July 2006 aged 88

Michael Alexander Salmon (33–42)

Cricketer

Died 16th May 2006 aged 80

John Riley Jarvis (36–41)

Managing Director Family Motor Business

Died 30th June 2006 aged 78

William Frederick (Bill) Rhodes (42–46)

Died 17th September 2006 aged 77

Brian Righton (Bunny) Aburrow (55–62)

Died 21st April 2006 aged 62

Michael Holmes (57–65)

Reading School Master

Died 10th May 2006 aged 78

David Sidwell (63–71)

Musician

Died April 2006 aged 53

Major Michael Henry Keogh (26–34)

Buyer, John Lewis Partnership

Died 15 February 2005 aged 88

John Mackenzie Keogh (27–33)

Squadron Leader RAF (Rtd)

Died 2004 aged 87

Mike Evans – a correction

I am grateful for Ned Holt's generous profile of me in your last edition, but I must correct one inaccuracy! I was not, in fact, appointed Second Master in 1988 as successor to John Haines. At that stage John Bristow appointed two deputy heads, Tom Ashworth (from Ripon Grammar School) and me, within a term of each other. That remained the situation until the end of Andrew Linnell's first year as Head (1997–8) when Tom, the senior Deputy Head, left to become Head of Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton. Andrew Linnell then restructured the senior management team, with me as the sole Deputy Head, and with the internal title of Second Master.

Mike Evans

September 2006

Old School Tie

Silk £15

OR Tie

Polyester £10

Silk £15

From Membership Secretary:

C. J. Widdows

21 Bulmershe Road

Reading RG1 5RH

Cheques payable to:

Old Redingensians Association

Redingensians RFC

Reading School Old Boys Association founded Redingensians RFC in 1926 and we still maintain excellent links. We are keen to maintain these links between the School and club by encouraging adult participation and support and also ask parents to bring their sons/daughters to the club if they are interested in learning to play Rugby.



Redingensians has 5 senior teams of all playing ability including a Veterans team and a full complement of mini and junior sides. The minis start at Under 6s and juniors go through to Under 19s. We were the first club in Berkshire to receive the RFU seal of approval and have an excellent range of qualified coaches. We are a friendly club who welcome all comers but particularly boys and adults associated with Reading School.

More information can be found on our web site

www.redingensians.info

or from the following contacts:

Andy McCrory **Minis** **0118 9352503**

Alan Jones **Juniors** **0118 9404303**

Gary Reynolds **Director
of Rugby** **01491 570301**

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