

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Autumn 2007

The President's Letter

At the time of writing, I find myself with only a matter of weeks remaining before my tenure as President draws to a close. It is remarkable how quickly the period passes. Looking back over the past few months, I sense a strengthening bond with the School. This is in part a reflection of the attitude of the Principal, John Weeds, who is very much a person who seeks to engage with all stakeholders in the School, and partly the success of a number of support projects. Most notable of these have been the Enterprise Awards, which saw a doubling of the revenue available thanks to a new benefactor, and small capital projects to improve the Pavilion and support the Art Department.

We have also been able to support the School's largest sports tour to date, to South Africa, and several other cultural activities whilst there. Finally, ORs continue to support sporting and academic activity through individual donations and provision of medals, including athletics medals for three short distance events sponsored by Michael Maule and one for the shot putt by John Gardiner. Our own events calendar has been full with OR soccer, cricket, rugby and golf punctuating the year.

These many successes can be attributed to a determined group of ORs who continue to give a great deal of their time and effort to the Association and the School. I personally have come to rely upon them, having found the task of balancing a full military career away from Reading and commitments to the Association to be quite challenging at times. There remain a number of outstanding issues that I would hope to close, or to have established a direction of travel, before the AGM. Firstly, we are engaged with the Committee of the Redingensians Sports Club to increase our revenue from the Sonning ground as the Club seeks to expand: construction at the site will provide a windfall and there will be higher rents for the mobile telephone masts. Secondly, the website has continued to stutter somewhat and we have not capitalised upon the opportunity it presents. With the help of two of the younger members of the Council, I hope to develop a new site with greater utility in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to make mention of two stalwarts of the Association. We celebrated the 90th birthday of Frank Terry this year and I had the pleasure of sitting next to him at a lunch organised in his honour at Henley. His memory and mind remain as sharp as ever and those present were treated to a thank



you sung with humour and panache. More sadly, the ORs lament the passing of Kerr Kirkwood; he held a pivotal role in the Association for many years and is commemorated by the two Kirkwood Awards to boys which are given annually at the School Presentation Evening. He set a fine example and will be sorely missed.

May I wish all the readers of the Old Redingensian good health, continued success and remind you of the AGM and Dinner at the end of November. The Principal has agreed that we can hold proceedings in Reading School, with the Dinner in Big School, which I am hoping will encourage a large attendance.

This edition of the Old Redingensian represents the second issue this year, an objective of the editorial staff and credit to the hard work and commitment of Ken Brown and Chris Widdows; I applaud their enthusiasm and effort.

Floreat Redingensis

Neale Jouques

Enterprise Awards 2007

There has been further generous support from ORs for the Scheme. The Panel will only grant money, however, if they consider the case made out to be worthy. Some applicants this year have given far too little information. The criteria for awards has been restated accordingly.

The OR Association's Panel (Michael Maule PP, John Illman PP, Tony Waring PP, Buffy Price PP and John Weeds, Principal) individual awards this year are as follows:

Name	Year	Amount	Name	Year	Amount
Matthew Beddow	11	250	Alasdair Matthews	8	150
Michael Carson	12	50	Luke McSweeney	13	150
Douglas Cave	11	150	Suhan Rajkumar	10	250
James Clifton	11	50	Jonathan Riley	10	250
Niall Crean	11	250	George Sandford	8	50
David Ellis	12	250	Harry Srirathan	11	50
Josh Gemmil	8	250	Arthur Truslove	12	50
Joe Hales	7	50	Matthew Tsim	12	250
Aiden Hempson-Jones	11	250	Andrew Warby	10	150
Oliver Jest	13	500	Christopher Wells	12	250
Michael Langford	13	250	Edward Wimble	8	50
Alexander Lau	11	250			
Jieyun Lee	11	250	Total		4450

The major award winner is Oliver Jest; a report of his experience will appear in a later edition.

Notes and News

Clive Rowden (1938-43) has stepped down, at age 80, as a Conservative Councillor for St Nicholas Ward, Earley "to give younger people the chance to get involved". Clive's legendary energy is still much in evidence aboard his sports bicycle around the town.

Past President GWO Price obtained the addition of the name of J W Haines to the Headmasters' Board in the lower corridor. JWH was Acting Headmaster for the year, following the untimely death of A T Davis, that elapsed before H E J Bristow began his reign.

John Haines' legacy to the School is commemorated by a plaque, "The Haines Faculty of Science", in the Science Block. The legacy was directed to be used for the benefit of science and cricket at School.

Stephen Pollard (1990-97) is now a Flight Lieutenant in 99 Squadron based at RAF Brize Norton. Over the last 3 years he has been flying a C-17A, as captain, to and from Iraq and Afghanistan.



John Haines plaque

G L Guppy (1963-70) is the Master of the Reading Old Boys' Lodge for the year 2007 – 2008

Notes and news (continued)

The 80th birthday card sent on behalf of the Association to V R C Payne referred to his unique distinction as Past President, having been both boy and master at School (and for good measure 20 years OR Honorary Secretary). As Frank Terry wrote in the School Magazine of January 1984 “others in their time may have served the School longer; none ever served it better”.

Tony Waring (1940-46) PP weekly brings his long experience of public service to bear as one of the five strong jury in the Reading Chronicle column which gives opinion on matters of the day.

Rex Hora (1959-65) has been campaigning for a railway museum in Reading and for the return of the fireless steam locomotive Huntley & Palmers No 1 (the Biscuit Factory operated a pair between their premises and Reading Station); No 1 was unearthed in a Somerset shed and Reading Borough Council has commissioned a condition report.

Roger Titford (1966-73) continues to research the Victorian sporting scene in Reading with particular emphasis on the genesis of Reading Football Club. His 1992 book *“More than a Job”* is on the shelves of Reading Local Studies Library alongside other works on Reading FC by that Club’s official historian David Downs (1952-59).

D R T Sherwill (1943-49) has moved to Cyprus tiring not only of the weather in the UK but also of petty bureaucracy. Our Membership Secretary earned David’s thanks a few years ago for retrieving his cricket flannels from the Keeton Pavilion where he had left them. Not just any cricket flannels – this pair once belonged to Ken Barrington of Surrey and England imperishable fame (and born in Reading, of course). David does not say if they endowed him with any of KFB’s immovable presence at the crease.

Graham Jones (1942-53) has obtained his MPhil in Town Planning from the Bartlett School of Architecture which is part of University College, London.

The distinguished Emeritus Professor E A Vincent (1930-36) held the Chair of Geology at the University of Oxford from 1967-86; the eighth person to do so. Remarkably, he was not the only OR to hold that chair, Sir Joseph Prestwich, a pupil of Richard Valpy, also did from 1874-87.

The owner of the Saint Rose Nursery on the Island of Grenada, John Criswick (1950-57) is a leading horticulturist whose expertise has been used in the “Isle of Spice” display at the Chelsea Flower Show. He seeks news of School contemporaries Rex Edwards, “Titch” Crisp and Michael Jerrold.

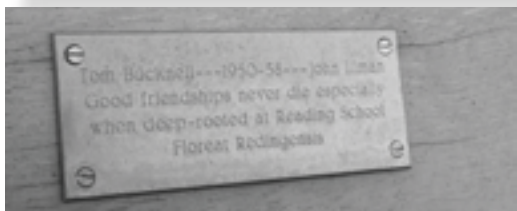
Julian M Johnson (1974 -81) has been appointed Professor of Music at Royal Holloway College from 1 September 2007. He is a composer whose work has been broadcast by the BBC, has written widely on music, is a regular speaker at international academic conferences and in 2005 received the Dent Medal of The Royal Musical Association for “outstanding contributions to musicology”.

Notes and news (continued)

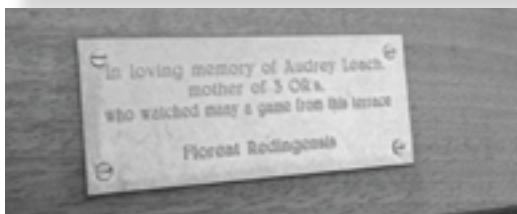
The brass plaques on the 8 new benches on the terrace bear the inscriptions below:



IN MEMORIAM
K.R. NORTHWAY OR 37-41
Floreat Redingensis



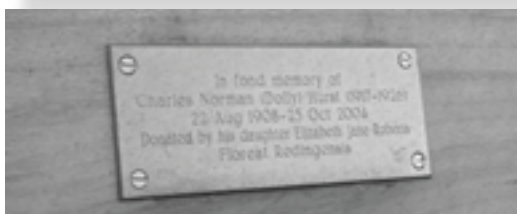
Tom Bucknell... 1950-58... John Illman
Good friendships never die especially
When deep-rooted at Reading School
Floreat Redingensis



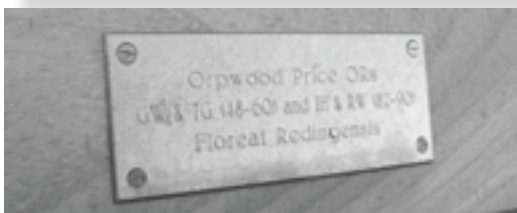
In loving memory of Audrey Leach
Mother of 3 ORs
who watched many a game from this terrace
Floreat Redingensis



Charles Shields Brown
OR 1924-27
Commemorated by his three OR Sons
A.J.S., K.C., and I.R., Brown
Floreat Redingensis



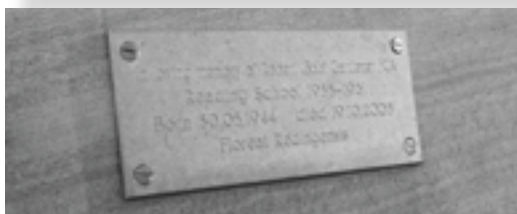
In fond memory of
Charles Norman (Dolly) Hurst (1917-1926)
22nd August 1908- 23 October 2004
Donated by his daughter Elizabeth Jane Roberts
Floreat Redingensis



Orpwood Price ORs
GW and TG (48-60) and IH and RW (82-90)
Floreat Redingensis



Three Generations of Maule OR
Henry and Eric 1930's
Michael 1950's
Matthew 1980's
Floreat Redingensis



In loving memory of Robert (Bob) Gardener FCA
Reading School 1955 – 61
Born 30.05.1944 died 19.10.2005
Floreat Redingensis

“England’s Least Known Composer”

Michael Wild LGSM (1940-48)



“Wild, you make me wild!” I was greeted by Mr Poole on my first day as we lined up at Junior School. I didn’t think it was particularly funny then and never have on any occasion it has been used since. Mr Poole was never one of my favourites (especially when he told me off for standing outside my own garage in Marlborough Avenue when he was ordering people about in the St John Ambulance). I remember little about Junior School except that I was absolutely terrified of Mr Peach and his well known Friday caning line-ups. My mother’s ‘Stage Mother’ techniques must have started by then as, mysteriously, I had a carol solo restored to me that had been taken away. Later I found out about my mother’s determined letter stating that I had a far better voice than the other boy! In later life my mother’s letters became a feature and years afterwards I discovered that I passed into the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) mainly through a letter my mother wrote to Sir Kenneth Barnes, the Principal, extolling my (in her eyes) brilliance.

In Senior School I lost no time in approaching Mr Nightingale outside the staff room and begging him

to be considered for the Operatic and Dramatic Society. What initiative! I wish I’d managed to be so pushy in my later stage career. I was at once into holiday rehearsals for *Patience* (1943) and as Derek Thomerson was indisposed – so I believed – I was allowed to sing the part; but he returned, fit and well, and that was that. Incidentally, I was sad to see that he was not mentioned in Frank Terry’s excellent history of the Society (*Old Redingsian* May 2003, Ed). My voice developed quickly and I did get the lead as Phyllis in *Iolanthe* (probably my best ever performance) but I still regard Thomerson’s voice as the best boy soprano I have ever heard. Before coming to Reading School he used to sing in Westminster Abbey Choir. What a pity we have no recordings of these events. I was honoured to be the first winner of the Boulting Medal and was pushed by Mr Kemp to try for a scholarship to Oxford University. But no, I had to leave and go straight to RADA. A mistake, as a lot of the best jobs at the BBC are ‘jobs for the boys’ from university days.

I have to thank two telephone calls for the most momentous events in my theatrical life. In the late Summer of 1976, Richard Schulman (the General Manager of the Shaftesbury Theatre) telephoned and asked if I would be standby pianist for *Mr Laurel and Mr Hardy* at London’s Mayfair Theatre. I asked him what that involved and he said, “Well, Michael, you’ll get paid every week for doing nothing as our pianist is not likely to be off sick.” I agreed; two days later I was told “the pianist couldn’t get out of a pantomime contract and so would you take over?” This was a Wednesday and he then informed me that there were only about five music cues (there turned out to be 75). This gave me Thursday to Sunday to rehearse before opening the following Monday (also acting in various small parts). It was a nightmare. I was quite the wrong sort of pianist (they needed Honky Tonk) and every night I had a custard pie thrown in my face. I used to say, “It took me thirty years to get on the West End stage only to have a custard pie thrown in my face every night”. One night a woman in the audience shouted out, “Don’t do that... he looks nice.” That didn’t go down well with the two guys playing the name parts. Worse still, at the first night party on the stage the actor Andrew Cruickshank said, well within their hearing, “Your piano playing was the best part of the show.”

The other momentous phone call was when I had the courage to telephone Richard Schulman; this eventually led to my musical *Maggie* being presented in the West End starring Dame Anna Neagle and the 1977 Laurence Olivier Award going to Anna Sharkey in the title role.

How did I get there after leaving Reading School in 1948? Success certainly didn't come overnight as it does in Hollywood films about lives of struggling composers. Prior to my National Service in the RAF I spent two terms at Junior RADA in Highgate travelling up from Reading each day. After leaving School with some dramatic glory the Principal suggested to my mother that I had no future in acting or the theatre. My dear mother (never to be outdone) immediately flourished an ecstatic write-up on me from the Boulting Brothers but to avail. The Principal *did think* that I might make it as a composer; I had written the music for a ballet of Guy de Maupassant's short



Maggie. Anna Neagle and Barrie Sinclair

story *The Necklace* presented with some success at the Embassy Theatre in Swiss Cottage. So it was decided after the RAF that I would try my luck at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. When I went to audition I was met by Professor Marriot who in the lift asked if I was nervous. "Indeed I am" I said "Well you needn't be" he replied "because you're in." "But I haven't done my audition yet" I said. "Don't worry about that... we are desperate for men." I wish all auditions were like that.

I spent the happiest two years of my life at the Guildhall, the highlight being a revue I wrote with Australian Jim Murphy in which (the now Dame) Eileen Atkins tap danced and Richard Thorpe, an *Emmerdale* stalwart, was a chorus boy. The long road to 1977 and *Maggie* had included my first musical *Pardon My Prejudice* (the first ever of Jane Austen) presented at the Everyman Theatre in Reading. The Mayor and Mayoress



Iolanthe. MJW as Phyllis, Robin Sewell as Strephon (1944)

came to see it and, when I was introduced, asked me "Has Jane Austen written anything recently?" I was completely taken aback but managed a "No, not very recently, I believe." The BBC broadcasted an enthusiastic excerpt forecasting a great future for me and indeed it almost opened in the West End when London Management took it up. Alas, they dropped it when they heard a Broadway version was going on (the Broadway one ran for two weeks).

That was the first of many letdowns I had before *Maggie* finally got on the boards. My musical *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was within 10 days of the start of rehearsals for the Adelphi Theatre when a backer withdrew and it collapsed like a pack of cards. Three years ago my musical of the life of Josephine Baker

was set to go with Diana Ross; that too never got off the ground though there is hope in America again at the moment. Such is the nature of the business.

Like most people I've had my highs and lows and, despite not having had enormous success, I wouldn't change a thing. MJW



The Yeoman of The Guard. MJW as Jack Point, Denis Moriarty as Elsie Maynard (1948)

Michael Wild was perhaps the most gifted performer amongst some exceptionally talented individuals that the School Dramatic and Operatic Societies were able to draw upon in the 1940's. The title of his article is an ironic reflection on a profession, demanding great stamina and persistence, where rejection is more frequent than acceptance – even of those meeting with West End success. Michael has written over forty musicals some, at least to date, unperformed. He began composing music at age 12, shows no sign of stopping and acknowledges a debt to Fred Griffin. His great love is classical music, above all Haydn. In the Musical Theatre "Pardon My Prejudice" was a landmark, Michael providing book, music, lyrics and piano accompaniment; in the Reading production his father, Wilfrid, a talented amateur, acted the part of Colonel Forster. However his two-hander "The Complete Wives of Henry VIII", which Jess Conrad toured, is a particular favourite; he believes his strength is in the ballad form. Michael remains unsure whether the collapse of Cleethorpes pier into the sea, shortly after his appearance there in "Hello Dolly", was anything to do with him.... Ed

A CD of Michael's Carols and Musicals is available from Dress Circle, 57-59 Monmouth Street, London, WC2H 9DG Telephone +44 (0)20 7240 2227.

Just before *Maggie* got into the news I recall a drama student put her hand up and said. "Mr Wild, are you going to be a star?" "That's a very difficult question to answer" I replied. The self assured young madam responded with "No, don't evade the question. Are you going to be a star?" "Of course I am" I countered. "What makes you so sure of that?" she challenged while all the others waited eagerly for my answer. "Well" I replied "if you're not sure you are going to be a star you shouldn't be doing this anyway. Maybe you never will be but if you don't believe that you will be you are wasting your time." Not a perfect answer but the sort of thing I usually don't think of until afterwards.

More recently my published children's musical of *A Little Princess* was performed in Canada and in December 2006 my new carol *Hark, Hark, what sound is this?* was premiered in concert at the Concert Artists Association in Covent Garden.



Events

Question Time 12 March 2007

'Question Time' was inaugurated in 2003. The panel of ORs this year was again chaired by John Illman PP and included Buff Price PP, Neil Thomason (1966 – 73), Mike Oakley (1944-54) and the ORA President, Lt Col Neale Jouques and Vice President Cedric Scroggs. As usual the questions on topics of the day from the audience of senior Reading School boys were both thoughtful and challenging. Big School will again be the forum in 2008.



The Audience in Big School



*Scroggs, Price, Thomason,
Jouques, Illman, Oakley*

18th Annual Sussex Luncheon 28 April 2007

ORs, wives and friends met at the Boathouse, Amberley, on a glorious Spring day providing a wonderful run through the fresh green English countryside seen at its glorious best. The chair was taken by our President, Colonel Neale Jouques who, after we had enjoyed the usual splendid luncheon, gave us a brief rundown of the OR year so far, (and did a good deal to reduce our average age). Frank Terry, now firmly over 90, was his usual sparkling presence and the 40-strong assembly included the Headmaster John Weeds and his wife Sarah.



Rolly Martin and John Chown

The Headmaster gave an upbeat assessment of how he found the School, but expressed his firm intention to concentrate his efforts on several areas where improvements are clearly necessary – new science laboratories, followed by a new sports facility and dining area. Clearly this is likely to need financial support at a greater rate than has been available to the School in recent years and the Headmaster expressed his confidence that the ORs would join other supporters of the School in assisting these improvements come to fruition.



The Headmaster's Assessment

The luncheon ended with the usual round of stories and we all look forward to our next meeting in this delightful corner of England. (An occasion well worth putting in your diary as soon as next year's date has been settled.) Gareth Price

(The 22 ORs present spanned 5 decades at School. The company had an almost even split of sexes –Ed)

Roman Camp, Merville Barracks, Colchester 1 August 2007



Lt Col Jouques and guests

Ken Brown, Buffy Price and Chris Widdows were guests of the OR President, Lt Col N A Jouques OBE RLC, at 13 Air Assault Support Regiment's finals of their Inter Squadron Boxing Competition. Under his command 13 Regiment has gained a fine boxing reputation which reflects both Neale Jouques' enthusiasm for the sport and determination for excellence.



The Winner!



At ringside

As to be expected organisation and hospitality was magnificent. Less expected was the high quality of boxing; from an entertainment point of view it put many of the professional bouts we see on our screens to shame.

Neale Jouques' own standing with the Regiment was clearly demonstrated by a surprise presentation made to him, at the end of the tournament, to enthusiastic cheers.

For we three guests it was a privilege to be amongst young men and women who demonstrate so very clearly how things should



Heavyweight action

be – can still be – in this changing world. We were also impressed with the new Merville Barracks complex which will comprise 134 buildings when complete.

A long night in the mess, comfortable quarters and a marvellous army breakfast rounded off a most enjoyable experience.

KCB

Presentation Evening 13th September 2007

Presentation Evening (formerly Speech Day) in the Great Hall of the University of Reading had OR President Lt Col N A Jouques as Principal Guest. Mr I L Martin Vice-Chairman of the School Governors coordinated the proceedings. The Mayor of Reading Councillor C Maskell made the usual presentation of the £10 yearly stipend to the Principal Mr J I Weeds.

The Principal's second Annual Report recorded both success in the past year and radical plans for the future; with the key issue the provision of accommodation for Science in all its aspects.

Lt Col Jouques address included much drawn from his service in Afghanistan, which found a very eager audience indeed. He praised the progressiveness evident at the School which, without conflict, retains an aura of timelessness which many old boys find on their return. He referred to the support of the Old Redingensian Association for the School.

The Captain of School, Anthony Butler, delighted with the discovery that his position entitles him to grazing rights for a goat on the School Field, gave a stylish and humorous vote of thanks to Principal Guest, Mayor, and Parents; and also to Mrs J O Readings (Mathematics), organiser of this event for the final time, after many years.

A reception for guests after the proceedings included a number of ORs and 4 Past Presidents of the Association.

The prize giving incorporated OR Enterprise Awards to 28 boys and the various OR prizes including those endowed by the late Kerr Kirkwood, whose death is recorded elsewhere in this journal.

KCB



Left, Mr Martin thanks Lt Col Jouques and right, the Captain of School's presentation to him.



Duncan Cook (Year 13) receives the Kirkwood Bursary for all round contribution to School life

BCT Peru Concert 3 August 2007



Big School echoed to the beat of African drums and dancing feet, accompanied by the voices of over 40 members of a mixed choir. Comparatively privileged young members of one Third World, African community were performing for the benefit of the very under-privileged young people of another Third World, but South American country – Peru. It was very appropriate for me, personally, that the School which had given me the education to enable me to enjoy the privilege of travelling the world, provided the link between two chapters of our history overseas. As a member of the Foreign Office, I had had interesting and challenging postings in both Nigeria and Peru, as well as many others in Africa, South America and Europe. And here we were, all 3 continents, working together for the benefit of some of the least privileged.

The Thomas Adewumi International College Choir, dancers and traditional drummers from near the new capital of Nigeria, Abuja, performed “*Nigeria – a Journey of Survival and Hope*” magnificently, sonorously and rumbustiously for the British Community Trust, Peru for under-privileged young Peruvians. It all came about because one of the original trustees of the BCT, Dr Roy K Lillyman, who



John and Liz Illman with Dr Roy Lillyman

was a teacher in one of the outstanding British schools in Lima when we first founded BCT over 10 years ago, is now Principal of Adewumi College. As well as the 6 performances the College was giving in S. England,

he offered to give one free for the benefit of the BCT. Thanks to Mr. Weeds, the Headmaster, who agreed to the performance being given in Big School free of charge, we were able to raise £800, which will all go to finance BCT courses in Peru.

The BCT had originally considered setting up a home in Lima, but, after consulting those who already ran homes there, decided that vocational training courses would be more effective in giving occupants of existing homes the opportunity of getting a foot on the bottom rung of the employment ladder. If not, they have to leave the homes when they are 18 – which means back on the streets, with all that that implies!

Having set up the BCT also here in the UK under the Charity Commissioners (Reg No 1084228) after our retirement from the Foreign Service, we now have an active board of trustees here, who help to raise



funds for the training courses in Peru. Our partners in Lima now run courses for gardeners, nursery-nurses and hairdressers – and we are now looking to move into textiles. We also help environmental projects in Northern Peru (in the name Tom Bucknell OR (1951-59) late Treasurer of the BCT) and have assisted the building near Cusco of a home for the victims of rape and their babies.

So, thank you to Adewumi College; to Reading School; to all those who, hopefully, enjoyed the concert; and all others who have contributed to the endeavours of the BCT – and, we hope, will continue to do so in the future.

John Illman

Editor's Note: John Illman CMG OR (1951-59) PP, a former ambassador to Peru, and his wife Liz are founders of the British Community Trust for Peruvian street children www.britcommunitytrust-peru.co.uk.

The Wells Library

The building was erected on the old “VMA Green” as a memorial to Dr Joseph Wells OR MA DCL (see below) and opened on 17 May 1933, as The New Science Library, by J F Stenning, his successor as Warden of Wadham, with the whole school assembled for the ceremony and Dr T Franklin Sibly (Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading and Chairman of the Governors) presiding. Aldermen, Councillors and many friends of the School were present.



The Headmaster was President of the Science Library with J L Sylo-Jones and W E Mowton as Vice Presidents, the latter being the “hands-on” master. The first librarian was F J Dix and distinguished names of his successors include G W Series and G D Pinker. All the librarians complained from time to time that popular science and, particularly, “Autocar” and “Wireless World” dominated the borrowing!

Dr Wells had willed the money for the building, which also provided much needed working room for the senior boys: its original purpose changed, for the first time, early in the second world war when the Science Library decamped to temporary quarters, not returning (to a redecorated Wells Library) until late 1945. This interregnum was perhaps to do with the billeting of Archbishop Tenison’s School (*can someone enlighten us? Ed*).

Eventually the Science Library departed finally (E L Moore having reconstituted the School Library in splendid fashion) and in 1951 one room became the Prefects’ Common Room equipped with, amongst other luxuries, five Lloyd Loom armchairs and a wireless.

In the writer’s time the room on the left was an all purpose glory hole cum locker-room with the room on the right a place of some formality lined with photographs of previous prefect groups. Here the Prefects’ Executive Committee met, consisting of the four House Captains (plus the School Captain if he was not a House Captain). The



KCB Wells Library 1962

seniority was School Captain, Vice Captain, Third Prefect, Fourth Prefect. (this also determined the order for the daily march into Chapel, after the congregation was seated but before the Chaplain entered).

A duty of the Third Prefect was to be Hon Sec of the Exec Committee and thus custodian of the Minute Books which were kept in a triangular corner cupboard. The writer had the interesting experience of finding that his father (C S Brown (1924-27)) had been hauled up before the Exec of the day on more than one occasion and summarily dealt with.

So it continued for many years until the left hand room (Room 15) became a careers office and the right hand room (Room 16), eventually, a teaching room. In order to record accurately these later usages and the dates of change we would welcome more specific recollections.

KCB



MEMORIAE
JOSEPHI WELLS
JVR. CIV. DOCT.
SCHOLAE REDINGENSIS
OLIM ALVMNI, DEIN RECTORVM PRAESIDIS
COLLEGII WADHAMENSIS CVSTODIS
VNIVERSITATIS OXONIENSIS VICECANCELLARII
QVI MORTEM OBIIT MCMXXIX AET. LXXIV
HANC BIBLIOTHECAM
IPSIVS MVNIFICENTIAE DEBITAM
REDINGENSES BENIFICII MEMORES
DEDICAVERVNT
MCMXXXII

TRACKING THE TEA TRAYS – No 2



‘Joey’ Wells attended Reading School from 1872-75 and there his brilliant academic career was cradled.

Open Classical Scholarship to Queen’s College, Oxford
First Classes in; Classical Moderations 1877
Litterae Humaniores 1877
Modern History 1880
Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford 1882
Warden of Wadham 1913
Vice Chancellor of Oxford University 1923

This most distinguished of ORs was characterised by loyalty, not least to his old School of which he had been Head Boy. At his death in 1929 he was a long serving Chairman of the School Governors and had been President of the OR Club for 30 years, having served as Chairman before that. The demands of high office did not weaken his devotion to Reading School which continued unbroken for 57 years.

“Undoubtedly the companion among my contemporaries with whom I was happiest was Joseph Wells of Wadham, the most wise and sweet-tempered man I ever knew” (Sir Charles Oman *“Memories of Victorian Oxford”*)

KCB

The Principal's Letter

In my second year as Head of School it may come as a surprise to know that I am no longer the Headteacher, but the Principal of Reading School. In my view, Reading School has more in common with a university college as much of the work that we do is of degree level standard. We also now have a collegiate management structure for large areas of the curriculum. In short, we are different from most schools and we share the aspirations of the university in the way that we educate our students.



We operate an Experience of Work programme to give our A-level students a meaningful and challenging preparation for professional life beyond university. For instance, 13 of last year's Year 12 went to France for experience of work in a foreign language. We are in our third year of Humanities Specialist School status and, as a result, we are richer in IT and other learning resources than we have ever been. The Comenius project on recycling has taken students and staff to Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Sri Lanka, China and South Africa.

We enjoyed a most successful OFSTED Inspection this year and received a Grade 1 overall rating. The Inspection Team commented very favourably on the ability, intelligence and enthusiasm of the students. Most pleasingly, they talked of the warmth of the relationships between students and staff and the connection between this and the high level of achievement evident in our performance data. I am indebted to all my colleagues for their commitment. I believe Inspections like this are the ultimate test of the team spirit of a school. By the time the Inspectors return in 2010 we do need to have addressed our ability to accommodate our science students in laboratory facilities with the best resources. We also need to have improved our lunchtime dining arrangements. The strategy I have developed with Governors over the last year I have entitled "2020 Vision" in an attempt to encapsulate the clarity of vision we need to achieve our ambitions by 2020.

The programme of curriculum reform gathers pace; this year we introduce computer science at GCSE; we prepare for the new A-level from 2008 and the International Baccalaureate from 2009. I believe the Baccalaureate is tailor-made for the talented all-rounder. By the end of next year parents will be able to access data on-line about their son's academic performance; this will be extended, it is hoped, to attendance and behavioural records. I am not sure that all boys will be delighted at the prospect!

It is public knowledge that we are one of the top performing maintained schools in the country and this summer's achievements again bear this out. In value-added terms, we calculate that we have performed better than any of those schools against which we are benchmarked. Our profile shows that we are performing at the top end of the 10% of schools which have the best track record nationally of adding value in the classroom. In terms of university applications, all 118 of our leavers have courses to attend from 2007 or 2008 at leading universities, 14 having gained Oxbridge places this year.

On the sports front, the 1st XV enjoyed a mixed season last year but did proceed to the later rounds of the Daily Mail Cup before falling bravely to Wellington College. The U15 soccer team won the International Schools Tournament in Cape Town this summer. We became U19 Berkshire badminton champions for the seventh time and U16 champions as well. Tom Fright of Y12 represented Northern Ireland at the decathlon in the recent Four Nations Athletics tournament – a significant honour. Looking ahead, the 1st XI cricket squad will be going to Grenada in July 2008. Sponsorship would be very gratefully received.

The School's key resource is its teachers and I am grateful to them for their dedication, diligence and professionalism. It is this in large measure that produces our excellent results. Also, the School could not successfully function without its Associate Staff (formerly known as Support Staff). The Parents' Association is enormously supportive and the contribution of the OR Association in so many areas continues to be much appreciated.

We have made considerable improvements to our existing facilities in the last year, thanks to the generous support of the Reading Foundation. Canopies have been erected to ease our lunchtime accommodation issues, a new modular building has been built to house a wide range of teaching activities, the Junior School is being converted step-by-step into an Expressive Arts complex. The Erleigh Road boundary is to have new and attractive fencing with a secured gate to the Drive.

My challenge is to persuade all bodies concerned with the School to join in an overarching plan for systematic improvement and renewal and to devise together a funding plan that does not depend solely on Government grants.

John Weeds

School News

Anthony Butler (on the left) is Captain of School and James Kennedy Vice-Captain.

Another school year has started, and there is determination to offer the best state school education possible. To quote from the May 2007 Ofsted report "Reading School is outstanding. It enables students to achieve extremely well not just academically but also in other ways. Standards at the school are exceptionally high at all stages"



The following gained Oxford and Cambridge places:

Oxford: Tom Butcher (Somerville) Music, Robert Coello (Jesus) Maths, Duncan Cook (Jesus) Economics, David Criddle (St. Antony's) Theology, Bill Hellier (Merton) Chemistry, Ryan Hocking (Jesus) English, Henry Hoskins (Jesus) Law with French, Kieron Hudson (Keble) Chemistry, Zihao Xu (Merton) Economics and Management.

Cambridge: Christopher Hansford (Queens) Mechanical Engineering, Christopher Patrick (Girton) Maths with a choral scholarship, Ben Pennington (Clare) Natural Sciences, Christopher Riddick (Churchill) Economics, Kenneth Yu (Fitzwilliam) Computer Science.

The School remains a selective school within the State maintained sector and acts as its own admission authority. No fees are charged for day places and boarders (about 10% of the total) do not pay for tuition.

Staff leavers include:

Dick Owen and Bob Brough to retirement. Helen Colson to be Head of History at King's School, Gloucester, Dan Swan to be Director of Sport at Shiplake College, John Emerson to be Head of Science at Leighton Park, Catherine Grant is moving to live and work in Paris, Lorcan O'Brien to RGS Guildford, Rachael Wilkin to be Head of Classics at Rokeby School.

Both Mr R G Brough and Mr R G Owen were on the staff for more than 30 years and appreciations of their careers will appear in the spring 2008 issue of this journal.

The School has Humanities Specialist status (see below) and is also an official partner school of both Microsoft and Akhter; both cases bring a significant increase in resources and learning opportunities.

Last season's Cricket XI had a tough season, achieving 4 victories out of 14 matches. The match against MCC, who declared at 174 for 8, saw the School lose 7 wickets rapidly, but then stubbornly hold out until after 6pm albeit falling well short of the MCC total. Encouragingly, 12 boys remain for the 2008 season which promises better. A tour to Grenada will also be undertaken.

Jeremy Ramsey OR (1944-49) has given one of his works, a landscape, to the School and it has been hung in the Learning Resources Centre (Kendrick Building).

The Young Enterprise entrants "King of Clubs" who progressed to the Berkshire finals last May, after coming first in the Reading area finals, did not win but managed to achieve the ICSA award for corporate governance.

Mr D W Castles, Head of Geography, was the RITA (Reading Initiative for Tsunami Action) representative for all Reading schools in Sri Lanka, coordinating their aid distribution.

Mr T R Tucker, Physics, well known for his photographic skills, recently had his work featured, accompanied by a profile, in *Professional Image Maker*.

Air Ambulance

On Friday 6th July the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance G-TVAM, piloted by Alf Gasparro, made an official visit to School to meet the boys, various visitors (including Rob Wilson MP) and staff and were afterwards entertained, courtesy of the Principal, to light refreshments in the LRC. The School Field has a landing 'H' for the air ambulance when it is on call to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and Head of Operations Mark Ainsworth brought Paramedics Andy Colledge and Spencer Winch - who is an OR - with him to talk about their work.



Spencer Winch OR and colleagues



Mr D W Castles (Head of Geography) with Chinese teachers

China Day

Thirty trainee teachers from China staying at Reading University and all Year 8 (second formers) spent a whole day in July immersed in Chinese culture and language. Visiting ORs were impressed both with the lively and courteous approach to teaching taken by the Chinese and the School's facilities in the various departments being used. Classes in Mandarin, Calligraphy, Tai Chi, and Geography were all under way.

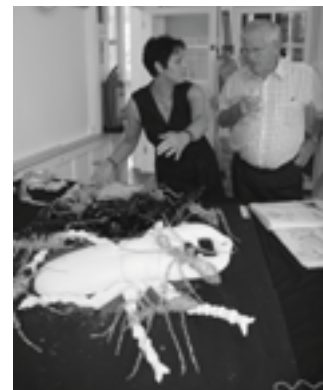
Robotics

On the same day the OR visitors were able to see a Year 10 (fourth form) class programming robot kits to navigate, traverse and measure. The kits are supplied by BP through their school link programme and the company have run a number of events this year with the School. Mr A J Fermor (Technology) and Jeremy Hardwick of BP supervised.

Both above events took place during Humanities week. This has become an increasingly important part of the School year, since the School officially became a Specialist Humanities College in 2005 under the guidance of Mrs M A McDonald. This year the week also included the annual Holt School and Reading School joint 6th form Challenge of Management Conference (aimed at developing management skills in the world of work), sending delegates to the International Student Summit on environment issues, and studying the operation of a travelling theatre group in all its aspects.

GCSE AS & A level Art Exhibition

The Editors were able to view the considerable achievement of the 2007 Art Examination classes on 12th July in Junior School (where the Art Department, under Mrs G S Willoughby, is relocating). Refreshments were provided and a large number viewed some impressive work, amongst which that of Alex Cook and Pablo Calvo (who is to study Architecture at UCL) were particularly noteworthy. A second cabinet for the display of pupils' work has recently been funded by the Old Redingensians Association.



Mrs Ghazala Willoughby explains an exhibit

Presentation Evening is reported elsewhere in the journal but we conclude 'School News' with a photograph (below) taken on that occasion of Assistant Headteachers Mrs M A McDonald, Director of Teaching and Learning and Mr E S Holt (OR), Head of Sixth form, with Lt Col N A Jouques President OR Association, the principal guest of the evening. Both teachers have now been on the staff for 25 years and were duly congratulated by the Principal, Mr Weeds.



With thanks to those members of staff who supplied information to enable this section to be compiled. Contributions, for the Spring 2008 issue should be sent to School Liaison correspondent Mr J M Evans, 1 Skerritt Way, Purley-on-Thames, Reading, RG8 8DD. Telephone: 0118 942 4578. Email: judevans@aol.com.



'Look Wide - Look Forward - Look Deep'

Scouting at Reading School Part 1

This year is the centenary of the Scouting Movement and there are now more than 28 million scouts in 216 countries. The Reading School Troop was formed in 1926 with nearly 50 members in 7 patrols; Swift, Lion, Kangaroo, Wolf, Peewit, Fox and Seagull. About 30 boys went that year to the first Summer Camp, in Milford-on-Sea.

A full history of the Troop – and the Junior School Wolf cubs – waits to be written but, the next few issues of this Journal will contain various members' reminiscences and some facts about the Troop, which has had an important impact on numerous Reading Schoolboys. It hasn't produced an astronaut yet (of the first 29 astronauts 26 were former Scouts) but has certainly provided a bedrock for many in their course through life.

The Group Scoutmaster from 1926-1948 was Mr A L Grigg assisted variously by Mr C A Nightingale and Mr B C Warner. Mr S G Timms took over from him, with Mr M G Hinton and Mr J W Liddell helping, and Mr Hinton then assumed the reins in 1951, with a senior troop having been formed under Mr Liddell.

The very first Troop Leader was L W Morris, the first 1st Class Scout (1927) J N Bullingham. In 1930 the County Challenge Flag was won and placed in the School Chapel, and in 1931 the troop had its first King's Scout in T P Sandford. By 1950 there were no less than 7 King's Scouts in the troop (a record for Berkshire); as the reminiscence below is from one of them, this seems a suitable date to pause until the next issue.

(to be continued)

KCB

55th Reading (Reading School) Scout Group By David R Butler (1941-51)

I came to Reading School as an eight-year old in September 1941 and was placed in Form IA, under the care of S G ('Timmy') Timms. Timmy was also the



Timmy

Cub Master of the School Cub Pack, which I joined straight away. I remember little of the meetings but I do remember the summer camps which were held at the Morgan Road playing field next to the Scout Hut.

We slept in WW1

bell tents and ate under canvas and enjoyed playing games all over the field led by Miss P N Bailey, the youngest and most athletic of the staff of the Junior School. I remember earning badges such as first aid, swimming and cooking. I finished as a 'sixer'. One event which I remember vividly was a rally of Scouts and Cubs from all over Reading held, probably, in the summer of 1943 or 1944, in the grounds of the old Abbey ruins: the reason for the event, I cannot now recall. *(anyone ? – Ed)*

Cubs were a good introduction to the Scouts and it was on starting in the Senior School, and joining the Scout Troop, that Scouting became a really important part of

my early life. Indeed, I look upon A J ('Bony') Grigg of all the masters of that time having had the greatest influence on me. He took every opportunity to follow closely Baden Powell's principles of training in self-reliance and self-discipline through the patrol system. He generated in all scouts a love of the outdoors; camping, hiking and expeditions. He allowed and encouraged the more senior Scouts to run things. When in camp, he insisted that each patrol in turn cooked for him. We learned to cook well!



Bony

I remember Bony once telling us of when, in the 1920s, he had taken the Scout Troop to the Isle of Wight for its Summer Camp. There were other school troops camping there at the time and Baden Powell himself, the Chief Scout, paid each of these camps a surprise inspection visit. Bony

told us that BP's report of his visit in the Scouter magazine had, rather disdainfully, told of "one troop even using primus stoves for cooking"! Bony knew that BP was writing of the Reading School troop. From that time, all cooking at camp was to be on wood-fires alone. We learned how to keep our tinder dry!

My memories of the Scouts are marked by the camps, the very first of mine being at Whitsun 1944 in a field near the Round Oak at Padworth. We

used this camp site quite frequently as it was a perfect place for games and adventure, being surrounded by woodland and within walking distance of a lake for swimming. We obtained beautiful water from a spring at the edge of the adjacent wood. This first camp, although for only two nights, was magical for us 'tenderfoots' which included Hubert (Bunkie) Bunce and (probably) also R E (Bob) Coles, Jim (Tubby) Talbot and Brian Upton. We held our one-week summer camp that year at Padworth too. Bony Grigg lived a brief walk away from the camp site at Mortimer West End and he normally slept at home, leaving the camp in the hands of the Troop Leader (Vic Payne) and the Patrol Leaders, including P G (Piggy) Francis.

The war in Europe was very active in the summer of 1944 and Padworth was near many RAF airfields used for troop carrying. The skies were often filled with Douglas Dakota aircraft and gliders. During training operations the tow-ropes would be dropped near these airfields and we would find some of these ropes in the woods surrounding our camp site.

By the following summer the war in Europe was over and we were able to start camping further afield. We



David Butler, Foster Jones, Jim Butler (April 1950)

had summer camps at Hambledon Park, east of Henley, Withypool on Exmoor and Llandogo north of Tintern in the Wye Valley. We also camped often in the grounds of Sir William Mount's house at Wasing Park and at Milestone Wood, then the Reading Scout Association's district scout camp site in Caversham Park – now a housing estate.

Of these summer camps, Withypool in 1947 (I believe) was the most memorable and exciting. We felt truly

isolated within Exmoor. The site was at Newlands Farm, a couple of miles upstream of and on the northern bank of the River Barle on a level field beside a bight in the river and below a steep wooded bluff. We had travelled by train from Reading, changing at Taunton to land at Dulverton nearby. I remember the farmer showing us where we could find a spring for water, which we dug out and cleared. It ran clean for the whole of our 10-day camp. Piggy Francis was Troop Leader. We swam in the river, made rope bridges and runways and played games, roaming over the wild countryside. One clear memory I have is of the farmer's son, about my age. His strong Somerset dialect made him very difficult at the start of the camp for us Reading boys to understand - and probably vice versa! By the end of the camp, we had learned enough 'Somerset' to understand each other.

By 1947 we were hiking and camping during many of the half-term holidays (Saturday to Monday) and at Easter and in the summer. By the time I was 18, I had camped sometime during every month of the year except December. David (Sally) Salt was becoming the leader of the troop and his enthusiasm spread to us all. In February 1947 (*see note below – Ed*) he organised an expedition to Hannington, a small village some 1,000 feet up on the North Hampshire Downs above Kingsclere. The warden of the Youth Hostel there had asked Sally for help in establishing a Scout troop in the village. Those of us who went were, I believe: Sally, my older brother Jim (J E) Butler, Foster (F E) Jones, Hubert Bunce, Tubby Talbot and me. We left school at the normal time of 4:00 pm on the Friday. Sally, who lived at Mortimer, went direct to Hannington by way of his home. The rest of us went to Alexandra Road, where Jim and I lived, to change into Scout uniform (shorts) and pick up our camping gear and bikes. We set off to cycle in the dark into what seemed to be a gale-force westerly wind. It was a hard cold ride. As we approached Hannington, and climbed higher, it became colder still and we formed the idea that, instead of camping in the grounds of the hostel we could stay in comfort in the hostel itself! We found Sally already at the hostel but, unfortunately, there had been a mistake with the dates and the warden was not there: the hostel was closed and locked.

We pitched the tents on the snow-covered ground. In the morning there was the severest frost. We struggled to get water. We made our wood fire. We cooked porridge but this froze solid on our plates before we had finished it. Oranges and eggs were frozen solid. We decided, it turned out quite prudently, to return home a day early! The wind had moved to the east and into our faces again! But our ride this way was mostly downhill and it was daylight. Later, that night, the blizzards started. There was much snow in Reading but, up on the Downs the roads were blocked and the villages,

including Hannington, were cut off for many days. This was the beginning of the big freeze of 1947.

About this time, the Boy Scout movement made many changes in its organisation. It introduced Senior Scouts for the older Scouts and made its highest proficiency award, the King's Scout (now Queen's Scout) badge, much more difficult to achieve. David Salt inspired a number of us - Jim Butler, 'SB' Butler (no relation), Foster Jones, Hubert Bunce and me - to join him in aiming for this award. This we all achieved in 1949 and we went to London in November that year to receive our awards. I believe there were some 1,000 King's Scouts from around the country there and that this was the first investiture under these revised regulations. We stayed on board RRS Discovery, Captain Scott's polar vessel, at that time the Boy Scouts' flagship, moored on the Embankment in London. The investiture was given nationwide



l to r Foster Jones, David Butler, David Salt, Stephen Butler, Jim Butler

publicity. As a group, we visited the Tower of London and had tea with Lord Rowallan in the Painted Hall at Greenwich. The following year, we proudly represented the Troop, the School and the Scouts of Reading at the St George's Day parade at Windsor Castle in front of the King and the Royal Family. I represented the Troop at Windsor the following year too.

In the late 1940s, Timmy took over as Scoutmaster from Bony Grigg and Michael (Scruffy) Hinton joined

in leading the Troop. Johnny Liddell, who had joined the staff as art teacher, became Scoutmaster of the Senior Scout Troop. I remember these two youthful teachers playing important roles in sustaining adventure activities. On one occasion, when some dozen Scouts from the Troop camped at Milestone Wood to form a working party, we were given the task of erecting the site's main flagpole. Scruffy, who was by nature actually a rather neat person, tidied the halyards by tying them to the top of the mast. We dug the hole, erected the mast, backfilled and then realised what Scruffy had done! At the insistence of the Scouts, he had to climb the flagpole to release the halyards. He did it well, and in good spirit, and we Scouts enjoyed it!



Michael Hinton

Johnny Liddell came with us on my final expedition with the School Scouts - a two-week 100-mile camping hike over Exmoor, from Watchet along the coast to Ilfracombe and returning by an inland route. It was a most memorable trip, partly because of the wonderful and varied natural scenery, the great walking and the companionship. I remember playing cards in our tents when it rained continuously for three days. I remember Johnny Liddell hurtinging his back and us more senior Scouts sharing his load. And, at the end, I remember saying farewell to 10 years of boyhood Scouting with the 55th Reading (Reading School) Scouts and to all it had given to me. It happily led me to become a Scout leader myself for 12 years, trying to remember and to do what Bony would have done.



Johnny Liddell

DB

The Met Office website shows that from 22nd January to 17th March 1947 snow fell every day somewhere in the UK. In the February, when David and his companions camped at Hannington, only twice in the month did the night minimum temperature at Kew Observatory rise above zero degrees centigrade.

David's logbook for Patrol camp, at Wasing Park in April 1950, records inter alia the menu for 7 days. Tea and supper are repetitive, but breakfast nicely varied. Lunches were obviously sustaining though the stew followed by figs might not have been the most popular meal of the week! Ed

Where are they now?

By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

So we can inform contemporaries we ask members to send news of themselves to K C Brown, 11 Easington Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3XN, Tel: 0118 966 7013 or email: KCBrown11@aol.com.

D R BUTLER (EAST 1941-51)

On leaving school, David studied Civil Engineering at Southampton. Following National Service in the Airfield construction Branch of the RAF, which took him to Germany, he worked on design and construction of flood protection works in East Anglia and highways and bridges in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. In 1964 he joined consulting engineers Scott Wilson with whom he spent his career. Initially he was concerned with the design of the M6 motorway in Westmorland and then was responsible for the design of other road projects in and around the Lake District. In 1964, David moved to south-east Asia. He was based mostly in Hong Kong; but also lived and worked in the Philippines and Malaysia in a time of rapid economic expansion and great demand for capital works across the region. David was responsible for the planning and design of Hong Kong's first motorway, new town developments, harbour works, bridges, tunnels and light rail transit. He became a Partner and Managing Director of Scott Wilson's Asia-Pacific business, an International Board Director, and played an active rôle in professional affairs. With his wife, Carole, he retired in 1996 to Colyton in East Devon.

R A FORD (EAST 1952 – 59)

Bob studied history at Bristol, then embarked on a lifetime career in teaching. He retired in 1996 after serving 25 years as headmaster in three very different schools including a school that served RAF Coningsby at the time that Mike Elsam (1952 – 58) was the Commanding Officer. Bob has been happily married to Ann for 43 years. They have 2 children, both lawyers, and 3 grandchildren. Bob and Ann are now living in rural France and there, at a friend's barbeque this summer, Bob founding himself sitting next to John Cox another Old Redingensian (J D C Cox (1959 – 62). Bob Ford remains in touch with Brian Palmer (1952 – 56) now retired in Cornwall and Roderick Ewing (1952 – 59) who currently lives in Seattle.

N J REYNISH (EAST 1959-65)

Having gained degrees in Sociology and Education (Sussex, Nottingham and Bristol), Nick's first career was teaching A-level Social Sciences plus Life Skills Education in a variety of schools from small progressive boarding to huge urban comprehensive. After brief excursions into expedition-leading, marketing and hotel management, 20 years ago he set up his own business, Tyndall Maps, producing customised maps to order. Recently divorced, he lives in the Somerset countryside. His son Dominic is about to qualify as a doctor, while his daughter Natalie is completing a degree in Equine Business Management. OR contemporaries can contact him on nick.reynish@hotmail.com.

J M JOHNSON (SOUTH HOUSE, 1974-79, COUNTY HOUSE, 1979-81)

Julian Johnson MA DPhil (see also Notes & News) studied Music at Pembroke College, Cambridge and Dartington College of Arts. He was a Lecturer in Music at the University of Sussex and then a Fellow and Tutor in Music at St Anne's College, Oxford and Reader in the Faculty of Music. He is now Professor of Music at Royal Holloway, University of London. His wife Julia runs a ballet school in Sussex where they still live with their teenage sons Ben and Sam, both rugby players. Julian enjoys running on the Sussex Downs and mountaineering remains a passion (he is happier on a snow face than a beach).

S P SMITH (WEST 1986 – 93)

Former West House Captain Steve, having gained an OR Enterprise Award, spent 10 months of 1994 in Africa with the Church Army. He studied theology at Durham University and nowadays he and his wife Gwyn are with AMG (Advancing Ministries of the Gospel) in Uganda. They are settled at Agape Baptist Church, Ntinda, and Gwyn is expecting their second child.





Through the gate

Reading School in English Literature:

Dr Valpy, Miss Mitford and Mr Galt

By Philip Mortimer

It is invidious to ask which were Reading School's golden years. Judging by the current academic successes reported in the national press and *OR* magazine, it may be most accurate to answer: 'The present ones'. There are, however, eight hundred years and more to consider and we ought possibly instead to refer back to the long headmastership (1781-1830) of Dr Richard Valpy. On his retirement the *Reading Mercury* wrote "In the golden age under Valpy, families were attracted to Reading by the reputation of the School. Men of social and public standing were proud to have been his pupils".

This was a time when boys sent to Harrow School were left to the mercies of prefects as capricious as Lord Byron, and some at Eton College were beaten to within an inch of their lives by Dr Keate. Valpy was also an enthusiastic flogger and was caricatured by a former pupil (*Rev Benjamin Bockett* writing as "*Oliver Oldfellow*" in "*Our School*" – Ed) as "Dr Wackerbach", but he seems otherwise to have presided over a civilised regime at Reading School, anticipating much of what the next generation of headmasters achieved at schools such as Rugby.

A witness of Reading School in Dr Valpy's time was the essayist and playwright, Mary Russell Mitford (1787-1855). This is not the place to rehearse at any length the life story of Reading's best known literary figure, but at the age of eight, Mary Mitford won £20,000 with a lottery ticket. Sadly, her father squandered

Thereafter, through much of her adult life, Miss Mitford strove to support her wayward father by writing plays and submitting articles to periodicals. Her most successful essays were published in five series, between 1824 and 1832, as *Our Village*. They describe Three Mile Cross and its environs, and the last of them were written there from the humble house beside the present Swan Inn to which she was by the 1830s reduced. The essays are a delight and imitated many times since, though never surpassed. Soon after, in 1835, Miss Mitford published a further collection of essays about the town of Reading itself, which she calls *Belford Regis*.



Mary Russell Mitford

The main interest to us of *Belford Regis* lies in the references to Dr Valpy and his school. Miss Mitford admired Valpy and in an essay in the collection she lays her praise on with a trowel. 'The school of schools in Belford, that which was pre-eminently called Belford School of which the town was justly proud and for which it was justly famous' is how she described Valpy's establishment. Of the Doctor and Mrs Valpy she wrote: 'If he were beloved by his pupils, his sweet and excellent wife was almost idolised'.

Valpy, Miss Mitford enthused, was well versed in the Greek and Elizabethan dramatists and 'hence arose the Greek plays of Reading School'. For the three months before each of these productions, the boys were drilled for female parts such as Alcestes, Electra and Antigone. 'Fancy a quick and lively boy learning to tread mincingly, and carry himself demurely, and move gently, and curtsy modestly, and speak softly, and blush, and cast down his eyes, and look as like a girl as if he had all his life worn petticoats', Miss Mitford wrote.

The tradition of boys taking female parts continued at the School, if intermittently, for more than a hundred years. In my time, the walls of the corridor along the East side of the school quad displayed photographs of the casts of dramatic productions, mostly Gilbert and Sullivan operas.



Mary Russell Mitford's house in London Road opposite Kendrick Road

this in gambling and in high living of which the only surviving mark is the fine residence he acquired with his daughter's lottery proceeds in the London Road.

What they had in common with Dr Valpy's productions was that the female roles were played by boys. Thus, in HMS Pinafore (1954) Miss Buttercup and the sisters and the cousins and aunts were all boys dressed for the parts. This never gave rise to the snide comments that it might in present more knowing times.

Dr Valpy was the first of several nineteenth century Reading School headmasters who had to struggle to keep the school solvent, from which arises another literary reference. John Galt (1779-1839) is a now neglected novelist who was raised in Ayrshire but then made his way in London society. He was an associate of Byron which, assuredly, Miss Mitford was not (although her father may have met the poet at the gaming tables).

Galt was a man 'of hot temper, rough tongue and somewhat overbearing...disposition' who wrote satirical novels about lowland Scottish life and pre-reform Westminster politics which somewhat resemble the sardonic journalism of *Private Eye*. He also speculated in development schemes in Canada and, rather as with Miss Mitford's father, money seems to have run through his hands like water. In 1829 'application was made to him for the immediate settlement of whatever debts he owed, and more especially by Dr Valpy of Reading, to whose care the education of his three sons had been entrusted. The Doctor being an old personal acquaintance Mr Galt calculated on some leniency on his part until he could set his house in order'. But no: 'a formal demand by the Doctor's solicitors showed that none was to be granted. An arrest was the consequence'. So, for the sake of the £80 Galt owed Valpy, Galt spent several months in the King's Bench Prison. Valpy was a stern creditor, as perhaps he needed to be.

Imprisonment would probably not now be the fate of a Reading School parent who defaulted on a boarder's fees. Many parents, since 1944, have been very grateful that the school still flourishes and that their



John Galt

children are educated at state expense. Recalling young Mary Mitford and her lottery ticket, we may reflect that there can nowadays be few higher prizes in the 'lottery of life' than to have been a pupil at Reading School. PPM

Editor's Note. Pupils of Dr Valpy's era included Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd – who often visited Mary Mitford – and William Frederick Deacon, both part of a rich seam of literary talent of the time. John Galt's "Annals of the Parish" is regarded as a significant precursor to a style of writing still much used today; his three Reading School sons all played prominent rôles in Canada, particularly the youngest (see below).

TRACKING THE TEA TRAYS – No 3



It is recorded that there was a plaque in Big School to Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt (1817-93) but it is not there now. Perhaps "High Commissioner for Canada in London" was deemed insufficient distinction.

Galt was far, far, more than that; it has been said that "the life of Alexander Galt is a history of Canada in the 19th century". He was one of the Founding Fathers of confederation, declined the invitation to form his own administration, but was the Dominion's very first Finance Minister.

He was also a major developer and railway pioneer and – shades of his father – adept in print. A new wall plaque should surely be hung. KCB

Sport

3rd OR Festival of Football 30 March 2007

This year there was no five-a-side tournament but the President's Shield was again contested between an Old Redingensian XI and a Reading School XI, as reported by OR Team Captain Harry Hoare (1997-04) as follows;

The grey March weather did little to dampen the competitive attitude as the OR team looked for their third successive victory in the annual OR vs School football match. Things started brightly for the School team with neat passing in midfield and confident running down the right side. Robin Brown at full back proved equal to the task. It wasn't until Chris Tucker's introduction after 20 minutes catalysed the ORs who started to create chances. Steve Underhill at forward had reason to rue a golden opportunity. A deep cross found Underhill at the back post but his downward header bounced agonisingly over.



The deadlock was broken soon after when a spell of School pressure provided Dan Strasburger with a chance to take the lead. His cool head and neat finish saw School take the lead. It looked as though they might add to this however makeshift centre-back Ali

Stock distinguished himself alongside Chris Stephens and half time approached with the score remaining 1-0. Step forward George Hoare with a bouncing ball fully 35 yards from goal. The shot dipped and swerved as it flew past the helpless School keeper to level before the break.

A few half time tactical changes bought chances at both ends and Chris Devine made several smart saves in the OR goal. At the other end Martin Jubb enjoyed increasing amounts of space to demonstrate his skill and vision. As the 1-1 score persisted legs tired and gaps started to appear in both defences with Stephens again showing his worth through last ditch tackles. Brown's unequalled desire saw the full back foray forward, tussling with School Captain Phil Chrimes; both players received bookings.

As tempers ran high the pitch grew sodden and the standard of football waned. Superior School fitness began to tell but with 3 minutes left the game looked set to end in a stalemate. In a flash as the ORs failed to clear the ball was swept home by Liam Carter and the day was won. Harry Hoare's cameo was of little use as the ORs desperately piled forward in search of an equaliser. The result was put beyond doubt though as William Neale found time and space in the box. He made no mistake with the finish to seal a 3-1 victory.

School claimed their first win to make the series 2-1 after OR victories in 2005 and 2006.

HABH

The winning team was W Neale, L Bryant, L Dyson, P Hegarty, D Strasburger, H Dhanda, S Green, D Hayes, P Chrimes (Captain), Liam Carter, L Kaire. (D Wright, manager)

Both sides lunched in the South House dining room and the OR President, Lt Col Neale Jouques, made the presentations and thanked Lorcan O'Brien and Ben Coggan of the School staff for organising and officiating, this year, in the absence of Darren Carrick.

OR Golfing Society

Spring Meeting 19 April 2007



Results of the Stableford competition for the Huggins Claret Jug at Henley Golf Club (on the fine and challenging course designed by 5 times Open Champion James Braid and now in its centenary year) were;

John Steels 38pts, Rodney Lunn 37pts,
Buffy Price 35pts.

John Steels also achieved Nearest the Pin and Rodney Lunn both Longest Drive and Lowest Gross Score.(83).

The subsequent lunch and prize giving in the Clubhouse was chaired by Rodney Lunn.

Those competing are shown above, L to R:

Rudolph Bissolotti (1944 – 50), Colin Evans (1949 – 55), Rodney Lunn (1954 – 60), Gareth Price (1948 – 56), Frank Brazier (1955 – 62), Nick Burrows (1969 – 76), John Steels (1949 – 54), Will Lunn (1951 – 58),

Autumn Meeting 26 September 2007



'The two Rodneys'

Members gathered at breakfast for the Individual Competition over 18 holes of the undulating course at Calcot Park.

Results:

Nick Burrows 38 points and Alistair Wrenn 38 points (Trophy to Nick on count-back)

Longest Drive; Alistair Wrenn;
Nearest The Pin; Richard Heskins

Rodney Lunn presided at lunch and Rodney Huggins presented the prizes. WEL

Will Lunn, Secretary of the OR Golfing Society, can be contacted at golf@oldredingensians.org.uk. New members are always welcome.

Annual OR Prizes at School Sports Day 4 May 2007

On a perfect day for running, jumping and pressing stop watches the grandstand at Palmer Park was the source of incessant cheering and encouragement to participants from the four houses, County (wearing blue rather than the purple of yore), East (red rather than cerise), School (a West Wing shade of green) and West (still with their traditional daffodil yellow).

Organisation was outstanding and the programme proceeded with precision under the aegis of Mr Swann and his officials. Competition was enthusiastic and the relays in particular provided some fine finishes. Michael Maule PP was on hand to make the OR presentations for Open Champions as follows;



Moffatt MacLennan and Alex Lawrie, Year 10

The Farmery Medals;	800m D C Weekes (School)	2m17.8s
	1500m H F Hoskins (County)	4m39.9s

The Maule Medals:

100m A R Cooksley (West)	11.6s
200m R E Morgan (County)	23.4s
400m D F Conroy (School)	55.4s

The Gardiner Medal:

Shot Putt C J A Springer (West)



Far left: Claude Springer receives the Gardiner Medal from Michael Maule.

This last is a new medal for Putting the Weight given by J D (John) Gardiner (1947-55), shown near left, a former Captain of School and, amongst many sporting distinctions, holder of the shot putt record for some years. KCB

OR Cricket Week 23 – 27 July 2007

For the first time in many years, the 2007 cricket week was marred by the rain that has caused so much disruption around the country this year. In the event Monday's game was cancelled anyway and there was no game scheduled for the Tuesday. Wednesday (Festival Day) was rain-free for all but one 10-minute interruption and ORs who attended saw an enjoyable match. They were treated to an exciting finish which went to the wire. Batting first, the ORs were indebted to current and former teaching staff and the evergreen John Grimsdale for a competitive total of 231 for 7 declared. Kensington showed great tenacity, in spite of losing wickets regularly and continued their pursuit of victory to the final over – losing with five balls remaining. The spin of Walters, Sainsbury and Northway occupied 44 of the 50 overs bowled and accounted for nine of the wickets to fall.



Dick Owen and Terry Cartwright

The two-day game against Bowdon from Cheshire was badly rain-affected, though some time was made up with a late finish on day one and an early start on the second morning. Despite fielding an apparently strong side, the OR batting line-up failed to fire once the openers were parted. Camidge made a quick 58 out of 91, but it then took a late flurry from Owen and Kennealy to give the first innings some respectability. The visitors' captain, Sean Walters OR (1976-81), was the pick of their bowling with 4 for 37 from 13 overs. Bowdon's number 3, Ashling was 84 not out overnight and looked certain to reach his century before being LBW for 99 the next morning. ORs started their second innings 45 behind and looked well placed at 108 for 2, thanks to aggressive hitting from Dewey and Bushell, but a post-lunch collapse saw eight wickets fall for 54 runs, leaving Bowdon the relatively simple target of 117, which they achieved for the loss of only two wickets in 18 overs.

As ever, we are indebted to the Headmaster for allowing us the use of the school facilities, which were again excellent and to the OR Association for the very generous grant which enables us to meet costs.

Details for Cricket Week 2008 will appear on the OR website and in the Spring edition of The Old Redingensian.

Terry Cartwright

RESULTS

ORs beat **Kensington** by 14 runs. ORs 229 for 7 declared – A. Walder 59, J. Grimsdale 44, M. Bossart 31, R. Owen 22 n.o.; Kensington 215 all out – A. Northway 5 for 52, P. Sainsbury 3 for 64

ORs lost to **Bowdon** by 8 wickets. ORs 179 all out – J. Camidge 58, R. Owen 35 n.o., J. Kennealy 27, J. Moore 24 and 162 all out – R. Dewey 70, M. Bushell 34

Bowdon 224 for 9 declared – J. Kennealy 3 for 46; and 120 for 2



4th OR Festival of Rugby 8 September 2007

It is an ill wind etc. – and the awful summer at least allowed the old boys 7-side tournament to be played on a first class (and yielding) Big Pitch, not the usual sun baked dust bowl of an English September.

This was surely a factor in making this the most successful tournament so far. Seven age grouped teams covering two generations of Reading School boys (a potential eighth team having sloped off to the World Cup in France) produced fast, exciting and skilful rugby.

The Trophy Boys, drawn from 2007 leavers took the Goss and Co Shield, which was again presented by Michael King (1957-63) who has “been” Goss and Co for so many years and is unfailingly supportive of the School. John Vaughan (Staff 1970-03) – the most fabled Welsh rugby playing master since Gwyn Francis – awarded the John Vaughan Trophy to Will Clarke, Captain of *The Trophy Boys* as ‘Man of the Tournament’. Bob Lewis (Staff) presided over the tournament and as has become the custom on this occasion, presented the ‘Clacy Cup’, for the School’s ‘Player of the Year’ last season, to Mark Mikhail, now an OR and a player in the tournament.



The Goss Shield Presentation



The John Vaughan Trophy Presentation



The Clacy Cup Presentation



The Trophy Boys

Bob Lewis also shared refereeing duties with the new master i/c rugby Alex Beckey. Alistair Wrenn (1978-85) again coordinated the event for the OR Council and, to universal applause, ran the beer tent.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, well supported (not least by 4 Past Presidents of the Association), and well worth a picnicking visit next year.

It is rumoured that that the consumption of lager and curry into the early hours was no less than formidable.

KCB

Caversham and Redingensians Cricket Club

The above is, of course, the name under which the open club which replaced Old Redingensians CC now campaign. The 1st XI (captained by Andy Northway (1977-82)) finished 3rd in the Marrant Thames Valley League Division 4b in 2007 but the 2nd XI bottom of Division 5a. Their present meagre numbers are causing huge practical difficulties to them 'pulling their weight' in the Redingensians set up at the Old Bath Road sports ground. Cricket's continued existence there is, sadly, under threat.

Redingensians RFC



This year sees the successor to Old Redingensians RFC play in Division South West 1 (ie "Level 5") having been promoted as last season's champion of South West 2 (East). They are the only Berkshire club to field 5 senior sides on a regular basis, and The Tigers, The Cubs, The Old 'Recks and The Horde all had successful seasons last year; the Sevens squad also played with distinction, both in the UK and abroad. Additionally there are no less than 7 junior sides; U/13, U/14, U/15, U/16, U/16b, U/17, U/18 and a huge Mini (U/7 to U/12) section, all playing a full fixture card – juggling 3 pitches is a major problem!

The readers of this journal, of course, number representatives of nearly every team the Club has fielded since its inception in 1924 and will be glad to know that ORs do remain involved at all levels, including many Vice Presidents and supporters. The committee meet in the Gwyn Francis Room, with Gwyn in his Welsh International shirt gazing down from his portrait; the names of Easby, Huggins, Martin, Rowden, Ball, Jones and Taylor are on the exclusive list of Life Members, and the long serving Secretary, John Cook, is a member of a family closely associated with the School. Michael King's firm, Goss & Company (now part of Jelf Group), is the long time sponsor.

In this new season the 1st XV, under captain Jez Flynn, is competing with many semi-pro sides; the Club are charging gate money and has many new problems to address; expenditure on additional parking, for instance, is necessary.

Only once in 40 years has the 1st XV beaten Maidenhead (1983 captained by Andy Lynch OR, who won 15 caps for Berkshire and is still heavily involved with the Club). Maidenhead were the second opponents this September and we can report a resounding 38-5 victory. We hope also to report a successful season in the next issue of this journal. KCB

If you wish to become a Vice President of RRFC (£30 per annum) please contact the Editors.



Gwyn Francis

“Birdie” Nightingale

A Memoir By Keith Minton (1953 - 59)

My memories of Mr Nightingale are clear. We called him “Birdie” with no disrespect as all our teachers had their nicknames and they would not have been complete without them. I didn’t realise at the time that he was in the late evening of his career at the School, having taught there for over thirty years before I arrived in 1953. He retired in 1960 the year after I went on to University. (Liverpool, Hispanic Studies- Ed)

Mr Nightingale was a character, more memorable to a schoolboy than the more orthodox teachers of the time. I remember his rather untidy grey flannel trousers and tweed jacket, the old bike he came to School on complete with cycle clips, the home rolled cigarette that seemed always to be dangling below his chin - and the fact that he inspired in me a love of English and English literature that has never left me since.

I knew he played chess in Junior School at the end of the drive. He and Mr Kemp, the Headmaster, were famous for their skill at the game (which I have always admired, but lacked the concentration to be really good at). Mr Kemp was distinguished for being able to play numerous people at once and beat them.

Mr Nightingale taught me in form 43. He had the daunting task of trying to get not always willing youngsters to learn and enjoy English, especially English literature. I still remember *Fresh Fields*, our poetry book, and discovered there that great little poem *Heaven* (“Fish fly replete, in depth of June...”) by Rupert Brooke. We had to read 50 pages a week of *Great Expectations*, which is not my favourite Dickens’ novel; but I still remember it, we were taught it so well. That, and Shakespeare’s *Henry IV Part One*, we read in class so slowly that some of us grumbled: “Can’t Birdie get a move on?” But after it all we knew it, and remember it, which is what teaching is surely about.

Birdie had his system for keeping order in class; all teachers need a method. His was the “Plus” and “Minus” scheme, and if we answered well we could get up to “Plus 2” marks which he would enter diligently in his mark book. If we misbehaved or did noticeably badly, there were “Minus” marks and too many of those meant detention. I do not remember getting a detention from him; my sins lay more in arriving late and forgetting things.

We used to enjoy talking to Birdie out of class. Two of his most memorable tales centred round the radio programmes some of us loved to listen to. His favourite programmes he told us, with pride, were *Toytown* and a *Life of Bliss*. Auntie BBC, where are these programmes now? I have not even heard them with *Journey into Space* on BBC Seven. Or have I missed them? (Please tell me someone.)

It was good to read about Mr Nightingale and see his photograph and the brilliant cartoon that brought him instantly to life. Seeing them transported me instantly to 1954 and the temporary classroom at the side of the school (near the cycle sheds) where we listened - and laughed - at Birdie’s magic classes.

KDM

Others made contact about “Birdie” for instance Andrew Bohman (1944-51) who writes vividly elsewhere on many of the masters, and Major Sidney Vines (1930-39), who although never taught in form by Birdie, remembers him, in particular, through Chess. School finished at 4pm but Chess with Birdie was such fun that 2 or 3 hours after School would pass in total absorption; this clearly supports Birdie’s reputation for making lessons enjoyable – such a quality in a schoolmaster! Ken Smith (1927-36) gave a valuable insight on Birdie’s philosophy of life and we quote him below;

“He was responsible for an outstanding production of Shaw’s *St Joan* with D K Green as Joan of Arc and John Minton (the artist) as the Dauphin. He aimed to follow this with the same author’s “*Androcles and the Lion*”



but pressure on the Headmaster (G H Keeton) by the evangelical lobby, who were anti-Shaw, prevented this. He apologised to Shaw and received one of his famous GBS postcards in reply.

As an “enlightened” agnostic under a strict disciplinarian headmaster and a conservatively orthodox establishment, life cannot have been easy for him in the mid-30’s but his sceptical free thinking provided a fascinating example for many of his pupils.” *‘Birdie’ in a nutshell?* – Ed

To conclude ‘Nightingaliana’ for this issue there follows a piece that appeared in ‘Class of 1960, The Year Book’, edited by Robin Davis and Francis Pocock, produced for the reunion of that year’s leavers that took place in March 2001.

Birdie Nightingale’s Dictation

At the beginning of each academic year Birdie gave each of his classes, except those doing A level, this dictation. The rules were very simple.

First attempt:	Meticulous correction by The Master.
Second attempt:	More than five errors – a detention.
Subsequent attempts:	More than one error – double detention.

Learning accelerated rapidly!

Dictation A Speech This exercise must not be omitted. Do not lose it.

All committees would occasionally benefit from a definite principle to fulfil all really necessary business immediately and with intelligence. The entire amount of one’s principal debts should be religiously paid as a regular practice at the earliest opportunity. No family should mischievously practise independent and separate privileges in economic affairs. Neither governments nor parliaments can exaggerate their authority to deprive us of our acquired possessions illegally. One would be extremely surprised and embarrassed at the woolly arguments of a too prejudiced character whose representative opinions led him to suppose that the tyranny of any despotism preferred to choose whether to suppress or supersede him for comparatively minor offences. Consequently I recommend that the man who suggests and sincerely believes that these liberties of ours are a desiccated legend without rhyme or rhythm should be politely guided across to the neighbouring headquarters of an accommodating friendly skilful and probably athletic police officer acquaintance or psychologically minded sergeant-major until he has there received for his medicine a professional analysis of the ancient and beautiful constitution of Great Britain. The preceding reigns of anointed monarchies and Christian dynasties have, like the monasteries, completely disappeared from the scene, and modern behaviour has usually succeeded in dividing off the weird tragedies which originally occurred in Mediterranean countries, from contemporary occurrences and physical achievements with unparalleled ease and efficiency and without conscious disappointment, disapproval or beginning of grief.

Written in ninety minutes on the twelfth of February in the nineteen hundred and forty eighth year A.D.
Remember isosceles, phenolphthalein and paraffin.

An Ode to Birdie

I have a spelling chequer
It came with my pea see
It plane lee marks for my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot see

Each thyme when eye have struck the quays
I weight for it to say
If watt I rote is wrong or rite
It shows me strait a weigh

As soon as a miss take is maid
It nose be four two late
And I can put the err or write
As this rime demon straight

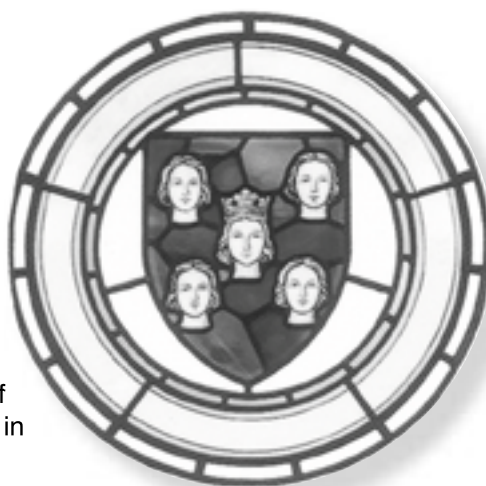
I’ve run this poem threw it
I’m shore your policed to no
It’s letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!



The Archive

Dr P P Mortimer (1953-60), author of the article on page 22, is a prominent virologist. A former Captain of the School he was, inter alia, Captain of Athletics and of Cross Country. In 1959 he won both the Long Run and Mile. (Second in both events was P W Whippey, and for those who say that nobody remembers a runner-up, the Archivist certainly does, having filled the same positions to D M Shepherd in 1961!)

Philip Mortimer has probably never seen the two photographs of him, below, which were taken by M A Free (1955-62) and are now in the Archive – good examples of the type of material sought.



PPM in the Long Run



PPM Mile

“The school of schools....
of which the town was justly proud,
and for which it was justly famous...
second to none in reputation.”

Mary Russell Mitford writing in
Belford Regis (her name for
Reading)

We are grateful to: Mrs Celia Free for film of the 1962 CCF Inspection and many photographs.
Mrs Gill Holmes for film of the 55th Reading Scout Troop 1958-65
Mrs Diana Haines for boxes of film slides and negatives
J D (John) Gardiner (1947-55) for a number of photographs

J C Savage (1959-66), son of Martin Savage, former Second Master and House Master (South House), kindly gave Messrs Brown and Widdows a film show at his house in Coalpit Heath, Bristol and all the film is in the process of being transferred for the film library.

We are grateful for all the above and hope it inspires others to make contact if they have material for the archive, either to gift or to have scanned and returned. **Items should be sent to K C Brown, Honorary Archivist, 11 Easington Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3XN who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 966 7013 or by email at KCBrown11@aol.com.**



Meanwhile, house photographs for J G Fry's tenure of East Wing (Jan 1921 to Dec 1932) are currently being scanned and the boys identified (there are no captions). Many will appear on the scroll (pictured) of East wingers who served in WWII: this also has been rescued – in a sadly dilapidated state – and scanned for the Archive.

The “Tea Trays” in Big School are to be augmented; the last century is scarcely represented – members' nominations are welcome (exceptional public service should be the main criterion). From earlier times It is proposed that John Kendrick should have a plaque, and the case for Sir Alexander Galt is made on another page.



Galt

Willingly to School (Part 1)

Reading School from 1944 to 1951 – Impressions that Remained

by Andrew Bohman

An evocative memoir of life at Reading School in the nineteen-forties by my old friend, Alan Johnson, has encouraged me to add my own memories of entry into this world, for hardly a week has passed without my thinking back to those days, and especially to the men who taught us.

Accepted for entry in September 1944, there followed a busy period buying sports clothing, grey flannels, the elegant blazer (oh! what bliss to put on that cool article), cap (less rapture), glistening pencils and pens – even a fountain pen was a rare item then, and had to be fought over at Golders in Broad Street. Aertex shirts were popular, and my first cricket flannels, purchased from Bott in the Pavilion, were of pre-war quality, fleecy and immaculate.

I had been bird-happy at my primary school, Park Lane, and looked forward to new challenges and opportunities. These I found in plenty, despite the restrictions of war-time. Our diet was, I suppose, austere. Certainly there were few treats, but the diet was applauded later by dieticians as being particularly healthy.

My first day began with a trolley-bus ride from Tilehurst to Eldon Road, a brisk walk up to the school gates, past the lodge and up the impressive drive to the school far away at the top. Cloisters and quadrangle, masters hurrying by in gowns (gosh), groups of boys talking in a new language it seemed, ribbing each other, joking and insulting – all was magically new and came well up to expectation. Charlie Davis, unknown to me then of course, joked heartily with a group, and a boy asked my friend Searle his name. He misheard it, or chose to, and pointed him out to his friends as “Cyril”. A new word emerged, an adjective, used liberally; “Tric”, short for terrific, I supposed. “That’s Tric good” one heard on all sides. Later in life, in a Lancashire school, the in-word was “Belting”; “It

was a belting game”, often of Rugby football, or “He was a belter”. Such words seem to belong especially to boys. Do girls have their own, I wonder? I also wonder whether words like “tric” survive to this day, or have others succeeded them? It would be interesting to know if Reading School today has a language of its own.

My first form teacher was J G Fry, an avuncular man who initiated us into how to fit in with school life.

He taught Latin, and this was quite a hurdle to start with. ‘Archie’ Meads, a cheerful and encouraging man, taught French, and displayed a remarkably clear blackboard technique with a piece (broken to just the right length) of Cosmic Antidust chalk. His wavy underlinings were



Archie Meads



P G Edwards

a thing of wonder, and practised assiduously by me at home. ‘Piggy’ (P G Edwards) taught Geography, and I remember how fond he was of Mexican Ponchos, expressed with a generous spray of saliva.

E J Woodford, known as ‘Booby’, on account of his well-known admonition, “You great booby”, initiated us into parsing, and we spent many lessons analysing increasingly complicated sentences. He was the first and last person I know to use a stylographic pen – an already antiquated device – which used a stylus on a spring, leading into a reservoir of ink (blue-black of course) fed into a fuselage, there is no other word, by a dropper. It splattered more than it wrote, but Booby was addicted to it. It was all-of-a piece with his



E J Woodford



J G Fry

blue serge suit, rounded collars, and large boots. I'm not sure that he wasn't a snuff-taker, but if he wasn't, he should have been.

AJ Grigg, laconic and sad, taught us Physics, and excelled at demonstrating practical experiments, vividly remembered to this day. Charlie Davis took us for singing, and having discovered I had absolute pitch, and a squeaky voice, delighted in getting me to sing solo in front of my form-mates, always resulting in hilarious laughter. I must say I resented this, but it probably did me good. Charlie had a kind heart and a peppery disposition. He later let me take photographs of various cups I won in Festivals, with his Leica. This was my introduction to miniature camera photography.



Andrew Kelson

Other masters, who had been at school in the twenties and thirties, in many cases, included Andrew Kelson, who was filmed in *Fame is the Spur*, as the Butler, produced and directed by ORs John and Roy Boulting, and who let me accompany him when he sang songs like *La Procession*, by César Franck. He was famed for punning. I enjoyed these, but there were groans from others. He had an immense physical presence. 'Daddy' Lamb taught Maths and would often nonplus me by saying learned things like, "Of course you know that music is based on the numbers 1-3 and 5, don't you Bohman?" I always agreed hurriedly, but only knew what he meant much later. F B Chapman taught Physics, and wrote a standard work, *Flute Technique*, published for years by OUP. Two masters who came, went, and came again – I know not why – were A D Records, and 'Willie' White. Mr Records often accompanied me up the drive on the way to school, talking about music, as did P C Miller – an erudite classicist who talked to me



Daddy Lamb



F B Chapman

again – I know not why – were A D Records, and 'Willie' White. Mr Records often accompanied me up the drive on the way to school, talking about music, as did P C Miller – an erudite classicist who talked to me

earnestly about *Der Wanderer*. As I had no idea then who the Wanderer was I could only listen politely, but remembered the occasion when I played this work by Schubert much later. Willie White was a champion lacrosse player who taught Maths. He invariably illustrated his examples by referring to chocolate – squares, rectangles. On the only shameful occasion I was sent out of a class for eating, Willie passed by, and kindly asked the reason for my exclusion. "Eating, Sir", I replied. Willie's eyes gleamed. "Chocolate?" he asked.



Mr Streather

an appellation which would be unthinkable today, was a tall, broad-shouldered man with a large tongue which he chewed continuously, and a habit of making a growling sound in his throat before speaking. And when he spoke it

Mr Streather always held his right hand aloft when making pronouncements of importance. These edicts assumed enormous significance when accompanied by a solemnly intoned "Shall you please!" 'Bonk' Redington,



Bonk Redington



Sugar Saunders

was my housemaster, and taught History with passion. It was impossible to imagine him in any other occupation. I saw him mildly put-out, only once, when a boy pronounced Marlborough as spelt, and Macaulay with an accent on the first syllable. I think it was Dr Arnold who said that boys should be taught by men who were not ordinary. I think the good doctor would have approved of our schooling.

was usually an impatient "Pens down, everybody!" Ken Brown has recently told me that his nickname derived from his saying "Bunkum" earlier in his career ('All Bunkum boy, bunk' – said with a faint Derbyshire intonation - Ed). Sugar Saunders

The Headmaster, C E Kemp, dignified, yet short of



C E Kemp

stature, was always seen in gown and mortarboard. Boys straightened up when he passed. Many people say "What?" at the end of sentences. I later read that George III said "what, what?" But 'Kip' (for such was he to us) said "the what?"

This was new to me. And I actually heard this God-like creature ask for "a cuppa" in the Tuck Shop ("the what?"). This was quite a shock to me. The Tuck Shop was then run by Mr & Mrs Ruddick. Besieged by us at break, utterly delicious hot squares of lardy cake were sold from vast wooden cases, supplied by Parslows in the town. Later in the day boring fish-paste sandwiches, and toast, had to satisfy those of us staying for clubs and societies, and incredibly weak lemonade.

It is inevitable that certain teachers should have an especial appeal to pupils, an appeal which can be a mixture of personality, humour, knowledge, appearance, and, it must be admitted, *je ne sais quoi*. The master who had the greatest effect on me, and whose voice and sayings I still think about now, was 'Birdie' Nightingale. His English lessons were memorable. He always had time for us and our enquiries. I vividly remember, during a passion for autograph hunting, shyly asking him for his, tendering my leather-covered book of coloured pages, very popular then. It was at the end of a lesson, just before morning break, when he was probably dying for his coffee. He sat down with me, and within about two minutes had written:



Birdie Nightingale

*Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast.
If Andrew's savage, then 'twill soothe him best.
If music be the food of love – play on!
Beware! too much gives indigestion*

At times savagely iconoclastic, he would thrill us with his daring; but I think it was his wide reading and constant use of quotations which was so enthralling. To read Shakespeare with him was to experience every shred of meaning and emotion. And what a worker he

was! Opera and play rehearsals during lunchtimes and after school, Chess Club, Debating Society, Music Society, House meetings, he never seemed to rest – all apparently nourished by a funny pipe, or endless hand-rolled cigarettes of choking ferocity. His example has been one of constant inspiration to me all these years.



Gwyn Francis

Another remarkable character was Gwyn Francis. A highly organised teacher of French, with an eagle eye, he occasionally manufactured awesome displays of temper if he felt we were becoming slack.

He would fly round the room exhibiting every symptom of impatience, even assuming a red complexion, until we were properly shaken up and stirred. Then a marvellous calm would ensue, and 'Fanny' (for such was his nickname in those days of political incorrectness) would resume his teaching as normal. Such occasions, though rare, were truly stimulating to teacher and taught.



Sidney Taylor

Sidney Taylor taught me French in the Sixth Form. A suave, charming, kindly Yorkshireman, man of the world, he would treat us as fellow club members, even telling us about wines and meals he'd had, and actually mentioning liqueurs

(bliss!). This was very flattering. And when he took us to the Glendale cinema, or the Odeon (pronounced, of course, OD-AY-ON) to see French films such as *Poil de carotte*, *Jour de fête*, and (dare I say it?), *Ruggles of Red Gap*, we were right behind him. And when Sid, a cricket-lover if ever there was one, solemnly told us one day that, yes, cricket was wonderful, but Music was even more important, I felt I could hold my head high – not that I had many problems in that direction. Montesquieu's *Lettres Personnes* was one of our set books – a strange choice, surely – but Sid steered us through it, and Racine. As with many outstanding teachers, one felt that, if push came to shove, Sid would take our side, such was his identification with us and our world.

Several masters joined the staff following demobilisation from war service. They were a different breed from the older masters. For a start, they were men who had recently given themselves to defending their country, (*though*



Frank Terry

many of the older masters served in the First War – Ed) had seen the world and were now bent on making up for lost time. First of these was the vital figure of Frank Terry, he of the twinkling grey eyes, the possessor of a fine voice, wonderful in the classroom, revelling, it seemed, in every moment of his life. He gave us lists of modern novels to read – a real eye-opener to me



Ray Jessop

– and read our juvenile efforts with sympathy. I now think that humour was one of his greatest attributes as a teacher, and I remember his wit, and his appreciation of what wit we could occasionally conjure up. He introduced me to the songs of Peter Warlock, for which I have always been grateful. And there was Ray Jessop who brought Ordnance Survey maps to life by taking us on bicycle tours to prove what the maps said was true. J D Melsom awakened my interest in Science. He made a great impression on me by his meticulousness over scientific language and note-taking. At the end of each term he would give us a list of some twenty questions relating to the chemistry of domestic situations, to solve before the next term. Michael Hinton took a small group of us, in the Sixth Form, for Medieval History – a new development, I think. He blazed with enthusiasm, and introduced us to Stubbs' Charters, infangtheof, and I don't know what else. He used to take us to lectures at the University given by Professor Stenton, and visiting historians.



Martin Savage

When the lecturer asked, at the end, if there were any questions, Mr Hinton always asked one, and from the lecturer's response, we could tell it was a good one, and felt proud of him. But I doubt whether he ever

recovered from my response to a question I was unable to answer, "It's self-explanatory, Sir". I certainly haven't and blush even now to think of it.

Martin Savage helped me enormously with the Latin which needed remedial treatment later on, and I remember two pages in our exercise books entitled "Hints for the Helpless", and "Titbits for the Terrified".

Almost from the beginning of my days in School, I came under the influence of Fred Griffin, and it is to him that I and many other musical boys owe so much. The Friar Tuck of Reading School, he took over my musical studies, even contriving to supervise my practising. I had daily contact with him. His secret was an intense interest in the boys in his care – really, in every respect of their lives – and this intensity, coupled with his musicality, indeed passion for music, made progress inevitable. This was, indeed, total immersion.

The only woman teacher we had was Betty Morgan, later to become Mrs Wormald. A feisty Welsh girl she easily managed us in the third form (no easy assignment, as any teacher will tell you) and became our Pin-Up – not forgetting Elaine, the secretarial assistant, who taught me the meaning of unrequited love. Betty taught English and History, played the piano at lunch-time in Big School, when Birdie wasn't rehearsing, and entered thoroughly into School life. Nearly forty years later, I was standing in a coffee queue at a conference, when, to my astonishment I heard her voice behind me. I confronted her. "How are you, Miss Morgan?" She was flabbergasted, but after a minute or two, when I asked her if she could name her interlocutor, she came out with it. "Bohman!" she said triumphantly. How about that after forty years?

As I wrote at the beginning, I was spurred on to write after reading Alan Johnson's piece in the OR magazine. Since then we have met on his visits from Texas, and spend most of our time, probably to our wives' irritation, talking incessantly about our days at School. Indeed it is difficult to shut us up. Can a tribute be more eloquent than this? The What?

AB

A further article by Andrew will appear in the Spring 2008 Journal – based around his own contemporaries at School. – Ed

Reunions

Frank Terry's 90th Birthday Year

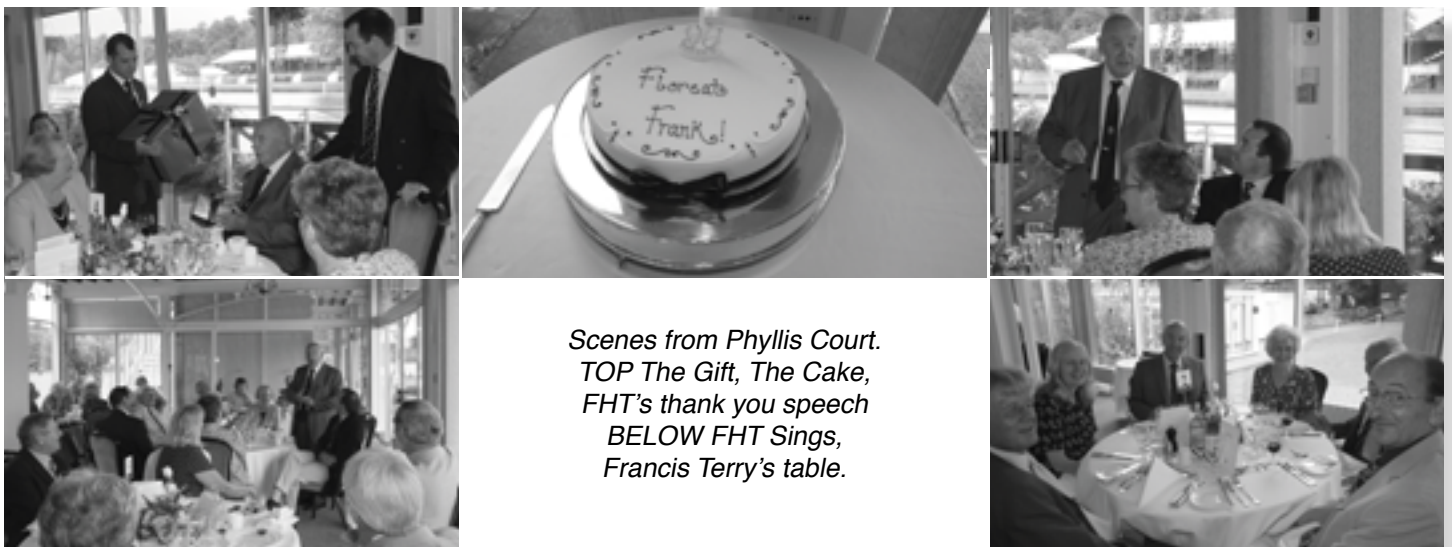
On 28 March 2007 Frank Terry, Master at School (1946-82) was given a London Lunch by former pupils and colleagues to celebrate his 90th birthday. Coordinated by Denis Moriarty (1943-54) and Francis Terry (1956-63) a total of 41 attended the **Oxford and Cambridge Club**, Pall Mall, a stylish and appropriate setting. After Grace said by the Revd David Weekes (1947-53) a delicious meal was enjoyed. *Happy Birthday* was sung, the toast '*Frank Terry at 90*' was proposed by Rt Hon Andrew Smith MP (1962-68) and Frank responded with '*Reading School*'. After a spirited rendering of the School Song conversation continued until the company finally dispersed. CJW



LHS Top, Raymond Thomas with FHT, Below, David Weekes and David Cox, CENTRE Philip Mortimer and Josh Tyler, The Cake!, RHS Top Andrew Smith and Denis Moriarty toast FHT, BELOW Phil Fryer and FHT

On 15 June 2007 Frank, a Past President of the Old Redingensians (1982), was given a birthday luncheon by the OR Association. The venue was the Riverside Pavilion of **Phyllis Court Club** Henley-on-Thames, secured through the good offices of the late Peter Townsend (1944-48). Its fine views of the Thames contributed to a most happy occasion.

Amongst the members and their ladies were no fewer than a further 8 Past Presidents and the current President, Lt Col Neale Jouques, hosted the gathering. Frank (as has been known before) sang splendidly for his supper, bringing both the house down and proceedings to the perfect conclusion. KCB



*Scenes from Phyllis Court.
TOP The Gift, The Cake,
FHT's thank you speech
BELOW FHT Sings,
Francis Terry's table.*

SEATING PLAN

Hoyes Terry Greene Gould FUT Merrill Hend Payne Holt Field

Berkhoff Gould, T. Burkham Thomas, B. Blank

Thomas, R. Fried, T. Gould, E. Harkness, W. Harkness, H. Bachman Mortimer

Fried, D. Goritt Haynes Evans Finger Con van Bruges Worches

Tyler Scruggs Bachman Norton Bill

Cannon

STREET HALL WIDEN

Upon retirement in 1982 Frank wrote a verse or two of farewell, the last two lines of which were “In time to come – my final plea – think kindly of FHT.” Well, at present, we still do!

Overseas Reunions

There are currently 100 members living overseas. Regular reunions are held in USA and Australia. There have in the past been occasional reunions in India, Singapore and elsewhere. Canadian ORs, for logistical reasons, have failed in previous attempts to form an overseas branch, but that country and France are amongst the fastest growing domiciles for overseas ORs. Should anyone wish to act as a convenor for an overseas branch in any country he should contact the Membership Secretary.

Australian Reunion 15 June 2007



Left to right: Eric Burrows, Wendy Peddley, Marguerite Webber, Ted Webber. Roy Russell, Alison Jones, Mike Jones, Ron Peddley.

The above met at the Vanilla Café in Noosa and the smiles are testament to the occasion! Regardless of the logistical difficulties Australian ORs are urged to keep in touch with Mike Jones (specialty@bigpond.com.au).

USA Branch

Roy Seymour, Secretary of the Branch, has written to pay tribute to the late Kerr Kirkwood. Roy doubts that the USA branch would have been formed without Kerr's support, interest and energy.

A reunion is planned for March 2008. Any OR moving the USA should contact Roy at Yors862@cs.com.

Commentary

The Old Redingensian Spring 2007

The photograph at the head of page 27 showed John Roper with Dr Edmund Hey – not Robin Fabel – and Wally Stroud (*In Memoriam* page 34) died on 15th, not 18th, April. The editors apologise for these errors, and also regret that a few copies of the Journal had imperfections in two photographs, due to the printing process.

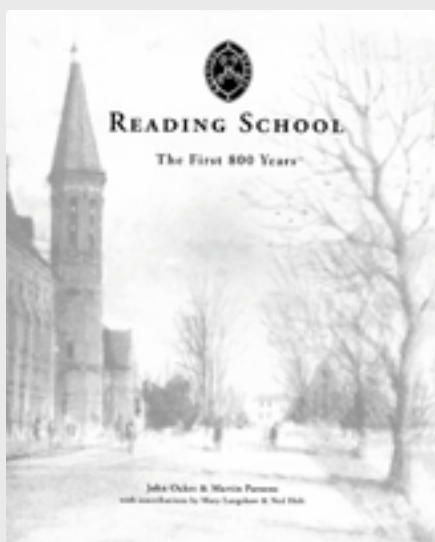
A Naval Occasion stirred many memories. Mrs Peter Glason wrote of her husband (and brother-in-law Denis), Peter having entered the Royal Navy, with his friend Peter Ayling (*all East House - Ed.*) in the Paymaster Branch. P J E Tomkins (1942-47) served at Victoria Barracks (how many ORs enlisting for National Service were processed through 'Vicky' Barracks?). During his time one of the three "Hood" survivors served there; a posting which perhaps had compassion behind it. Major John Breadmore (1934-40) applied for a job at the London and Lancashire Insurance Coy when he left School, and was interviewed by Merlin Ridge. His family knew the Ridges; the sinking of the "Hood" was a sad day in the Breadmore household, indeed.

No evidence of an OR at Trafalgar, yet, but there is a lead on Mary Mitford's original for "Tom Lyndham" which is being pursued... Meanwhile, Trafalgar and Reading School have at least one connection; the Commander-in-Chief of the French Fleet, Admiral Villeneuve, was a prisoner of war in Reading, (as were many French, though the Admiral actually had privileged quarters at The Grove in Sonning) and he dined with Dr Valpy (perhaps behind those bay windows, shown on the right in the Havell print of the School, which is where the good Doctor usually entertained).

"Birdie" Nightingale reminiscences abounded and we have printed a further piece on him elsewhere in the journal.

No sighting, yet of a current OR centenarian – though the Rev Edward Allen, who died in 1898, was one (the oldest OR of the time). A pupil of Valpy, at School when Waterloo was fought, he suffered delicate health, thought to be incurable heart disease, in his youth. Consequently, he had to give up work in 1839 and retired to Devon. It is recorded that he then "disappointed all expectations by living to become a Centenarian."

The Cryptian (magazine of The Crypt School, Gloucester) carried many tributes to Michael Holmes, their Headmaster from 1969 to 1990 and a Reading School master from 1957 to 1965, not least to the notable part he played in saving the Crypt from the fate that has befallen so many grammar schools.



This attractive softback, with 104pp and 70 illustrations (many in colour), by John Oakes and Martin Parsons, was first published in 2005.

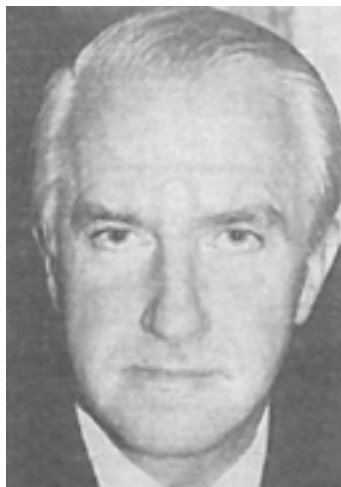
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Obituaries

SIR GEORGE (DOUGLAS) PINKER KCVO FRCS FRCOG (1935-42)



G D Pinker was Vice Captain of School, when he left, and Captain of East House, where he gained House Rugby, Rowing and Athletics Colours. He was Hon Sec of the Prefects, a Science Library sub-librarian, Troop Leader of the School Scout Group and played a part in many School Societies. His Debating Society 'character' in 1942 suggested attributes that might 'carry him some way' and, indeed, his career was extremely distinguished. He became Surgeon-Gynaecologist to HM the Queen (1973-90), Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to St. Mary's, Queen Charlotte's and Bolingbroke Hospitals, amongst other eminent positions.

George Pinker was born in Calcutta, in 1924, and after leaving Reading School from VI Sc A in July 1942, qualified as a doctor in 1947 (St Mary's Hospital London University MB BS London) and was appointed House Surgeon at St Mary's. By 1952 he was a Lieutenant in the RAMC and worked in the British Military Hospital at Alexandria. He eventually returned to St Mary's in 1958.

His appointments were many and prominent; they included the Presidency of the British Fertility Society in 1987 (a decade earlier he had given his full backing to the world's first test-tube baby), the Presidency of the Royal Society of Medicine (1992-94) and the three great offices of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (Hon Treasurer 1970-71, Vice President 1980-83, President 1987-90). There were professorial appointments – he was a fine teacher – and honorary degrees. He co-wrote a number of textbooks including 'the student classic' *A Short Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* (1967). Sir George delivered Prince William of Wales and his brother Prince Harry. At age 48 he was, on appointment, the youngest man ever to hold the post of Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen.

His leisure interests included music, sailing and fell walking. In the 1984-85 year he was President of the Old Redingensians Association.

Supremely, George Pinker was a man of rare humanity; admired, loved and courageous. There will be a report of his Memorial Service in the next issue of this journal.

Sir George Pinker died on 29 April 2007 aged 82. His wife Dorothy predeceased him and he leaves three sons and a daughter. He is also survived by his elder brother Ken – K H Pinker OR (1930-36).

KCB

PAUL ERNEST LAIDMAN TEMPLE OBE (1928-37)

The Times, in its obituary of Paul Temple characterised him as the type of gardener 'who is sufficiently self possessed to enjoy time spent simply with plants but who also engages firmly with the world'.

As a knowledgeable garden designer who led the way in "interior landscaping" for offices he became a leading light in horticulture and landscaping, being a founder member of both the Society of Garden Designers and the Institute of Horticulture. He was on RHS committees well into his eighties and had been a governor at the Welsh College of Horticulture.

P E L Temple was born on 16 March 1920 at Retford, in Nottinghamshire, and when he was six the family moved to Twyford, Berkshire. In 1928 he entered the Junior School as a boarder in East Wing, leaving aged 17 as a monitor, and a corporal in the OTC. Whilst at School his interest in design and building had been encouraged by Mr L A Ruffell.

He first worked with the landscaper Granville Ellis and was involved with a Chelsea Show Garden by 1939. War broke out and he became an Ack Ack gunner in France, Germany and Denmark, ending the war as a Captain.



He had found time during his service to help the famed astilbe breeder, Georg Arends, to smuggle seedlings out of Germany.

While working as a landscape manager at Winkfield Manor Nurseries he met his wife Barbara; they married in 1949 and, shortly after, set up Paul Temple Ltd in Hampton (later moving to Harmondsworth). When Fisons, a client, moved in the early 1950s to their new London offices, Temple suggested putting plants in the reception area, thus effectively initiating an environmental change in offices throughout the land. Paul Temple Ltd developed a complete design installation and maintenance service. That work made him famous, but his flair for arranging plants and his ability to make remarkable displays with rocks and moving water was equally apparent in his gardens at Chelsea Flower Show (Best in Show 1981) and the development of Garden Festivals at Liverpool, Stoke and Glasgow and, with the RHS, the International Osaka Garden Festival 1990.

In 1978 Temple was awarded the RHS Gold Veitch Memorial Medal. He was appointed OBE in 1991. He is survived by his wife and by his daughter, also a garden designer.

Paul Temple died on 30 January 2007 aged 86.

KCB

CAPTAIN HENRY CHARLES MALKIN RN (RTD) CBE MA LLD (1933-40)



H C Malkin entered West Wing, from Dulwich College Prep School, in 1933 and transferred later to County House. When he left he was Captain of School and CSM of the OTC. For each year from 1936-40 he was given a Debating Society 'character' – not always complimentary. He also earned praise as a prominent actor in School Plays.

By August 1940 he was in the Royal Navy, a midshipman in 1941 and serving on Russian convoys. He transferred to the Instructor Branch, attended the Nuremberg War Trials and later saw service during the Korean War. In 1950 he was called to the Bar, having previously obtained a History degree at London University and a degree in Constitutional Law (Inner Temple).

Ships and shore establishments postings included HMS Newport, HMS Kent, HMS Dryad, HMS Ceylon, HMS Belfast, HMS Theseus, HMS Ocean, HMS Bulwark, the RN Engineering College (Keyham), RNC Dartmouth and HMS Ganges.

In 1957, whilst at the Ministry of Defence, he was appointed Aide de Camp to HM the Queen and attended the funeral of Haakon VII in Oslo, as naval representative.

Following some years in Singapore as Naval Attorney at Law he was promoted Captain RN in 1966 and became

Headmaster of the Naval School in Malta. After leaving the Royal Navy he became Bursar for the Church Girls Public Schools. He also served as a school governor.

In retirement at Cromer he was President of the Conservative Club and pursued his interests in history and antiques, visiting London for the museums and the Ballet. He was a member of the Overseas Club and of the Army and Navy.

He is survived by his wife Sheila. Henry and Sheila did not have children but their nephews by Sheila's sister, who married Frank Fenner OR (1940-43), are Mike Fenner OR (1964-71) and Graham Fenner OR (1963-70). He was a caring uncle to two more nephews, the sons of his brother Gerald Malkin OR (1938-47) who provided much of the material for this notice, with brotherly affection.

Henry Malkin died on 12 March 2007 aged 85.

KCB

COLONEL HENRY FRASER CRANFIELD KIMPTON CBE (1924 – 29)



A boarder (born in Beckenham, Kent) Harry Kimpton had made his mark in the OTC by the time he left School: he was also a Shooting Colour, Captain of South House, a member of the Dramatic Society and Seekers and had gained his 2nd XV Colours. The death of one of his 3 brothers, H R G Kimpton, (he had a half sister also) was reported in the School Magazine that same year. He passed the examination for the Royal Marines in 1st place and received his commission on 1 January 1930 spending much of the ensuing decade at sea.

In 1938 he joined HMS Manchester, commanding a detachment of Royal Marines. After war broke out she was involved in operations in harsh arctic conditions in the North Atlantic around Iceland. In 1941 whilst on convoy in the Mediterranean HMS Manchester was torpedoed, losing 100 crew. Crippled she limped into Gibraltar and on to Philadelphia for repairs. This was fortuitous for Harry for at one of the parties on board he met Marjorie, and six years later she became his wife.

Harry next saw action in France and Belgium and took part in the epic amphibious assault on the Island of Walcheren near Antwerp as part of Jumbo Lester's 4 Commando Brigade Headquarters. He was proud to have been involved and over the years returned to Walcheren to attend Remembrance Services. Harry then moved to Burma in January 1945 however within a week of arrival caught malaria which led to pneumonia. He was fortunate to survive. After the war Harry attended Staff College in Camberley and later held senior staff appointments in Plymouth and Malta where he worked under Louis Mountbatten. He was the consummate staff officer; a sympathetic listener, calm and highly organised – qualities coupled with his quick humour and immaculate manner. His final appointment was as Colonel in command at Eastney.

On retirement from the Royal Marines Harry and Marjorie with their two children, Diana and Annie, set up home in Pyrford. Harry commuted to London working with an industrial organisation on the export side but happy family life was all too soon shattered by the sad death of Marjorie. Harry moved to London and home became a smartly furnished flat in Clarence Gate Gardens. He was a 61 year old father with daughters aged 20 and 17. Harry learnt to follow a recipe book so he could entertain friends. He became involved in the Army and Navy Club. He was much in demand as a week-end guest for everyone loved Harry's company.

At one of these weekends he met the second love of his life, Clover. They married in 1980. Harry joined Clover in Brook where they made their home together for the next 23 years. He kept his connections with the Army and Navy Club and at the age of 73 was elected Chairman at the time when London Clubs were struggling. He was a great conciliator and ensured the club was ready to embrace change when he handed over. Classical music and his immaculate garden and, by now, a large immediate family were beloved interests.

More recently they had moved to Pewsey. Colonel Peter Bell, from whose address at St Michael and All Angels, Inkpen much material for this notice has been drawn, concluded; "What an example Harry has set throughout his life with his integrity, stoicism, humour and style. However his real legacy is the love and example he has set to his family. He was indeed the 'perfect English Gentleman'". He leaves Clover, his children and 11 grandchildren.

Colonel Harry Kimpton died on 25 March 2007 aged 95.

KCB

WALTER DENMAN STROUD (1925–31)



Born on 6 March 1915, Walter Stroud went to Alfred Sutton Junior School where, at the age of six, he met his lifelong friend H F Johnson (1925-31). Together they won scholarships to Reading School. Harold Johnson was among the ORs present at Walter's funeral on 24 April 2007. Walter remained extremely proud of the School and had delighted in being present when the Queen visited to mark the Quincentenary of the 1486 refoundation.

His was a successful 40-year local government career in Reading and London. His numerous interests when he returned to Reading in 1986 with his second wife, Win, included Probus (of which he was Chairman in 1999) the British Legion, Caversham Heights Methodist Association and Reading Association for the Blind. He had been a keen crown green bowler. Above all he and Win took keen pleasure in their garden.

Before that return to his roots there had been war service in the RAF, with postings to Iraq, Egypt, India and elsewhere, and work on decoding. He met his first wife, Kay, in the RAF. He had written to the girl he had left behind on joining up in 1939, to tell her he had started seeing a WAF. In 1945 he married Kay and a family, John and Alison, followed. Tragically, Kay died, in 1958, of motor neurone disease; with unstinting help from his mother-in-law and sisters, Walter held his young family together.

In 1964 he again met Win, 'the girl he left behind', in 1939 and they married the following year, both aged 50. Win died in 1993 and again it was the strength of family that helped to sustain Walter. His two children and five grandchildren, in turn, knew that they were Walter's greatest pride and the stories of their family gatherings related on the day of his funeral gave clear testimony to 'a kind, generous and thoughtful man' (in the words of his grandson, Neville, in his tribute).

Walter Stroud died on 15 April 2007 aged 92.

KCB

BRIAN PARSONS (1949–55)

Brian was a sociable and hospitable man who liked to live life to the full. At School he was in West House, gained his School rowing Colours and the Desborough Medal and was also in the Hockey XI. Later in life he greatly enjoyed playing golf.

After School he went to ICI Paints at Slough and his career took him to various firms including Alcan and Robert Cort Ltd before finally setting up his own electroplating consultancy.

In 1961 he married Pauline and they had 2 children, Andrew and Alison, who have in turn given them 3 grandchildren. Most Saturday afternoons were spent at Elm Park (latterly the Madejski Stadium) as a lifelong supporter of Reading Football Club. He was delighted when they reached the Premiership. His many interests included active participation in Whiteknights Masonic Lodge and Reading Old Boys Lodge (of which he was Master in 1977-78).



Pauline and Brian had separated amicably many years ago and then divorced. In 2001 Brian moved to Somerset with his partner, Wendy.

Jazz was played at his funeral last December. It was held at Reading Crematorium and attended by a number of ORs.

Brian Parsons died on 2 December 2006 aged 68.

KCB

WILFRID THOMAS KNIGHT OBE (1928–37)



The Reading School Boat of 1937 was a good one and in the crew was Bill Knight, by then an 'old colour', described in his 'Character' that year as a 'Stalwart of the Boat. Quick and finished in action, a powerful drive and rhythmic swing...' Bill was in West, and the House IV that year were all School Colours and duly won the Rowing bowl, something of a last hurrah as all left School together in 1937. Bill went on to row for Reading RC and always retained his interest in the sport.

He spent the War in the Royal Engineers and was a captain when he left the army. From 1951 to 1976 he worked for the Government of Hong Kong, retiring that year from the post of Director of Water Supplies and moving to San Francisco with his second wife Amy and his family. There, after several years with a firm of consulting engineers he retired again – and became part owner and director of an engineering consultancy.

In the USA he was a founder member of the West Coast Branch of the OR Association attending reunions until he moved to Florida in 1996. In his last years he became housebound but there were grounds for hope of an improvement that was sadly not to be.

Bill Knight died on 18 January 2006 aged 86. He is survived by Amy and leaves 4 daughters, a son, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

KCB

MICHAEL ALEXANDER SALMON (1933–43)

From Junior School to Captain of Boarders and South House, 1st XV Colours, Hon Sec Rugby but, above all, as Captain of Cricket and a 1st XI Colour for 3 seasons, Mike Salmon's contribution to School life was outstanding.

He was also a winner of the Tackling Cup, Fielding Cup, Kicking Competition and held Association Football Colours. Off the sports field his activities included the ATC, Debating, Opera and Dramatic Societies and, behind the scenes, he was on many committees – Games, House, Chapel, Tuck Shop, Sing Song and Magazine.



His brother Gordon (AG Salmon OR (1928-37)), another School Cricket Captain, was lost early in the War serving as a Pilot Officer RAF. Michael joined up when he left School, was trained as a pilot and posted to Canada.

After the War he took a short history course at Worcester College, Oxford and then spent 3 years at Brixton School of Building. He started his career with Boyd and Murley and finished as a surveyor with Courage Breweries. In 1954 he married Kathleen.

His sporting career continued after demobilization; rugby for the Old Redingensians and cricket for Reading, which he captained. He was an established member of the Berkshire Minor Counties side for many years and appeared for the Club Cricket Conference against MCC and touring test sides. Michael was an opening batsman who amassed runs; he scored many centuries.

Occasionally he was seen again on the School Field; for the OR XV; he was in the OR XI that played H E Dollery's side for Bill Bott's Benefit: and as late as 1980 in another OR XI, also containing his eldest son, against the School XI in which his second son was then a leading light; and again in 1981.

In retirement he played golf (Reading Golf Club) and in 2005 he and Kathleen moved to Poole, near two of their three sons (R G Salmon OR (1969-76), J M Salmon OR (1974-81), A A Salmon OR (1976-83), cricketers all).

Michael Salmon died on 16 May 2006 aged 80.

KCB

In Memoriam

Contributions to the obituaries of the following, which will appear in the next issue, are invited.

S J (Stephen) Duce (1986-93)

Geophysicist

Died 8 June 2007 Aged 32

Dr I (Burnie) Burnell (1993-2000)

Hospital Doctor

Died 16 May 2007 Aged 26

J N (Jim) Allen (1932-37)

Inland Revenue

Died 31 Dec 2006 Aged 86

D A (Dennis) Roberts (1940-49)

Managing Director

Died 20 Jan 2007 Aged 75

T V (Tom) Gould (1946-53)

Accountant

Died 5 Jun 2007 Aged 72

J L (Len) Child (1918-25)

Banker (Westminster)

Died 22 June 2007 aged 99

W K C (Keith) Morgan MD FRCP (1937-48)

Emeritus Professor of Medicine

Died 23 Mar 2007 Aged 77

Monsignor P R (Pat) Olivier (1950-57)

Roman Catholic Priest

Died 20 Aug 2007 Aged 68

A B (Tony) Wells OBE (1942-46)

Probation Officer

Died 15 Jul 2007 Aged 77

D (David) Lewis (1953-60)

Solicitor

Died 5 Sep 2007 Aged 65

R A (Ron) Best (1939-43)

Businessman

Died 14 Oct 2007 aged 79



P E (Peter) Townsend (1944-48) International Banker, Watercolourist, former Hon Treasurer and benefactor of the OR Association passed away on 31 May 2007, at home in Henley-on-Thames aged 77. He had known for some time that he was terminally ill and he approached the inevitable with his characteristic dignity, aplomb and understated humour. An appreciation of his life will appear in the next issue.

J K (Kerr) Kirkwood (1937-46) Former Senior Partner of Thimbleby & Shorland, Auctioneers at Reading Cattle Market, held in affection by many, and the revered former Hon Secretary of the OR Association, sometime Editor of this journal and OR Archivist, died 28 August 2007 at Abbeycrest Nursing Home, Sonning Common, which he entered last April. He was 80 years of age. An appreciation of his life will appear in the next issue.



From the Editors

“Headmaster” is an honourable appellation, long the proud title of those who had reached the top of their profession: at Reading School of many indeed; the board in the lower corridor stretches back to John Long in 1486 and there were those unrecorded before.

In these last troubled decades when the burden on masters has become greater and the role of the Head increasingly administrative, many have clung to the title because it indicates the prime motivation of those who hold the office – still a master, still a *teacher*.

John Weeds is now to be known as “The Principal”. Some may be saddened by this, not least because in the same way that “Academy”, (at least south of the border) far from being cutting edge, rather harks back to the second rate of a century or more ago, so “Principal” has a smack of Americanisation which seems unnecessary in our educational system. But successful schools have to use the language of the modern day – and a favoured coinage is now, indeed, “Principal”: and John Weeds, we hasten to emphasise, is both ambitious for the good of the School and still determined to teach whatever his other responsibilities.

A number of magazines are returned after each mailing because changes of address have not been notified. The membership secretary’s ingenious detective work enables most to be redirected; but we gently ask that he is advised of such changes before the event, please.

Old Redingensians regard Big School as the heart of the School and there is a strong feeling that the bust of Henry VII (see the cover of the Spring issue) should return there, to where it was unveiled by the Queen in 1986 with much ceremony and following significant generosity by many ORs.

Only a few replies were received in favour of a new membership list but the Membership Secretary is prepared to issue a ‘print on demand’ version. This will be available from March 2008.

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Beverley Leng (Mrs B J Leng of the Associate Staff of the School) has given invaluable and expert assistance in copy typing various original manuscripts and we take this opportunity to express our appreciation.

The venue chosen for the AGM and Dinner this year on Saturday, 24 November 2007, Big School, represented an innovation (as did the provision of catering by the Royal Logistics Corps, courtesy of OR President, Lt Col Neale Jouques.) Members views, as ever, are most welcome.

Old School Tie
Silk £15

OR Tie
Polyester £10
Silk £15

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This issue's front cover is something of a world premiere. Members of a certain age will recall the design used for the School Magazine cover from December 1948 to March 1951.

This was achieved by tracing an original drawing, building it into a layout, then redrawing it, first to achieve size and, again, to slightly larger size, the usual practice, once, with drawings for line blocks, which could then be photographed onto prepared metal plates.

K E Knight (1938-49) was the skilful artist who undertook these processes but the original drawing was by Michael Wild (see within) who had left School the previous term. Sixty years on it is Michael's original that graces *The Old Redingensian*.