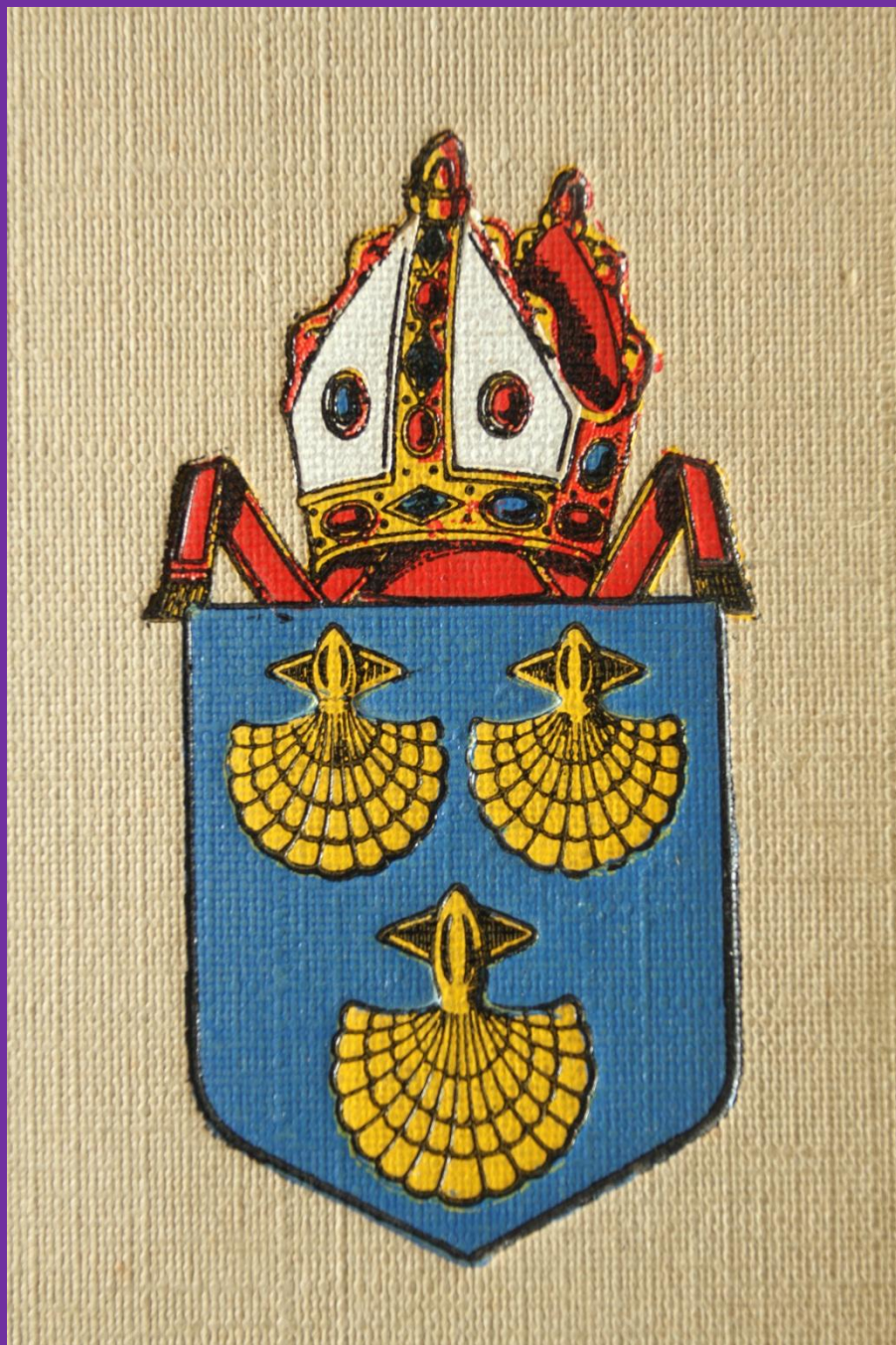


THE OLD REDINGENSIA

Autumn 2011



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Feature Writers in this Issue



The second article – following that in the Spring 2011 issue – commemorating the centenary this year of the Reading Old Boys' Lodge is again written by **His Honour Judge S O (Simon) Oliver (1969-76)** *pictured right*, former Hon. Secretary of the Association (and former Master of the Lodge).

Dr P P (Philip) Mortimer (1953-60), *left*, also contributes to the journal again, this time on pp 36-37. **The Archivist** provides the lead article pp 27-30.

The President's Letter

Returning to the topics in my last letter, much progress has been achieved, thanks to the many people involved.

PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL

There is a noticeable excitement in the School since becoming an Academy. It now has an annual income of nearly £1 million more than it did when within Reading Borough Council control. Together with donations from ORs, Parents and The Reading School Foundation, work has begun on building a new refectory within the quad on its south side.

Also, a one-off grant of nearly £1 million has been obtained and this has enabled overdue renewal of the roof on the Waterhouse building to begin.

90% of A-level passes were A*, A or B and the School maintains its position near the top of the table for all state schools. 23 boys secured Oxbridge places and 16 have been accepted into Medical School.

The School is in very good heart!

THE ROLE OF THE OR ASSOCIATION

Friend Raising Under the overall aegis of **Barrie Shelton** (1950-53), Social Secretary, a number of events have taken place encouraging ORs to become involved and to meet socially.

- **Mike Evans**, former master at School, (1968-2005) organised the cricket weekend with a 6-a-side competition and barbecue.
- The 7-a-side Rugby event was even better attended than last year thanks to **Alastair Wrenn** (1978-85).
- Well supported spring and autumn meetings of the Golf Section were held at Henley and Caversham Heath, arranged by **Will Lunn** (1951-58).
- A rowing fixture between ORs and the School again took place, with refreshments at the boat house, thanks to **Ant Butler's** (2001- 08) continued efforts.

Scholarships Our new policy of awarding scholarships which '*will make a difference*' has been put into effect. One boy, whose change in family circumstances would have forced him to cease boarding and leave the School, is now able to continue.



Encouraging Personal Development In July four ORs held a Careers Day for Year 12, aimed at helping boys with planning their futures. Topics covered included:

- How do I set about choosing a career?
- Higher education and post-graduate qualifications in shaping a career
- Preparing for and managing interviews

Each OR described his own career path. In many ways the boys found this one of the most interesting aspects as it demonstrated the many changes in direction which had occurred and which is likely to be a pattern in their own careers.

The event will be repeated next year and we shall be looking for additional ORs to share their career experiences on the day.

COMMUNICATIONS

OR Connect continues to be developed with a number of ORs registering every week to gain access to the Alumni Section where they can update their personal details on-line and search for friends and other ORs.

www.oldredingensians.org.uk

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Remembrance Sunday Service on 13 Nov The names of three ORs have been added to the War Memorial and to mark this event members of their families were invited. **David Weekes** (1947-53) gave the address and a buffet lunch was held in Big School afterwards.

Annual Dinner on Saturday, 26 Nov This most enjoyable event was held in Big School at 7 pm. The Association's AGM took place at 5 pm and the bar opened at 6 pm. **Ian Hunter** QC (1956 - 1963) was the guest speaker.

WELCOME

Mrs Beverley Taylor has kindly agreed to become Secretary to the OR Council. Beverley is well known to many ORs having been a member of the School staff for 17 years, latterly as Community Relations Manager.

With very best wishes
Floreat Redingensis!
Francis Pocock

Notes and News

C A (Cedric) Scroggs (1952-59) has stepped down as a Governor of the School. At the same time he has decided to call it a day on the OR Council. Cedric has made a considerable contribution to the Association over his five years as a Councillor and was President of the Association in 2008. Members will hope to continue to see him in the future at School and OR events.

I W O (Ian) House (1954-61) contributes eleven poems to a new anthology, *Reading Poetry*, that has been published by Two Rivers Press. Copies are available from bookshops at £10 or direct from Ian at 95 Winton Road, Reading, RG2 8HL, for £6.50, including P&P. Recommended! Ian, *pictured right*, won the White Scholarship in 1961; latterly he taught for many years at Leighton Park School.



In the first week of July, G B Theatre Company again performed Shakespeare at Reading School. *Romeo & Juliet*, on the Monday was played to a considerable audience on the School field. *Twelfth Night* on the Tuesday had to retreat indoors to Big School as the heavens opened and the Wednesday performance of *Romeo & Juliet* was also in Big School, both played to full houses.

The 2011 issue of the St John's College, Oxford magazine *T W* (the initials of the College's founder Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London in 1553 and Old Redingensian) records in '*College Notes*' Benedict Tsz Woon Lo (2007-09) in the list of 2010 distinctions and first class awards (for Chemistry in his case). He appears as well, with Jonathan Daly (2001-08), in the List of 2010 Undergraduate Scholars. The keen eye will also spot that the *In Memoriam* notice for D N C Wood was supplied by Peter Sadler – A P Sadler (1951-58) former Captain of School.

New loading bay restrictions in Friar Street, Reading and surrounds have caused major problems in the area – not least for Hickies Music Shop (you cannot deliver a piano without impeding traffic and pedestrians to some degree, however expert you are...). The Reading Chronicle featured a line-up of protesting traders – the senior (and, we think, most distinguished not least because of the OR tie he was wearing!) being R (Bob) Elphick (1936-44) of Hickies.

M J (John) Childs (1946-53) visited H W F (Hubert) Bunce (1941-51) in West Vancouver earlier this year. Their respective wives, Jill and Mary, received nursing training together at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and the friendship has continued ever since.

A G D (Ali) Lindsay (1995-02) also featured in the local paper recently. He launched a work experience website with two other Loughborough University students four years ago. *Rate My Placement* has become an award winner and has now won £50,000 in Barclays *Take One Small Step* Competition.

The Association once again has a centenarian in its ranks. H G (George) Critchell (1922-27) celebrated his 100th birthday on 15 May. He received cards from HM The Queen and the Membership Secretary amongst others...Many congratulations to him!

D R (David) Downs (1952-59) and N E (Nigel) Sutcliffe (1947-55) gave a talk about the town of Reading's sporting history at the Museum of Reading on 8 September, to launch the *exhibition 'Bikes, Balls and Biscuitmen: Our Sporting Heritage'* which will open in May next year, at the Museum to coincide with the Olympics. David is the official historian of Reading FC and Nigel is a well known local sports journalist.

John Oakes, Master at School (1971-97) is the author of '*Libya: The History of Gaddafi's Pariah State*' which will be published by The History Press Limited on 1 January 2012 and can be pre-ordered now at £9.99 (post free) on Amazon. John served in the Royal Air Force as a regular officer before he entered the teaching profession and has considerable first-hand knowledge of Libya.



W P (Bill) Hellier (2000-07) *pictured* appeared in the Merton College, Oxford, *University Challenge* team that, in a good contest, defeated *University of St Andrews*. A number of ORs have appeared in the past on the programme but who was the last one before Bill? Does anyone know?

For the 12th time since 1898 (and the third in the last decade) the School 1st XI recorded a win over MCC - this time in sensational fashion (see page 25 for full details).

Unrecorded by the journal until now, John Bentley Woodham CBE (1923-28 West House) died in 2008. A career in local government took him, in 1967, to the Presidency of what is now the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy; not the only OR to hold that post – J E Scotford CBE (1950-55) was President in 1996.

The main article in the weekend section of *The Daily Telegraph* of Saturday, 13 August was on village cricket which was described as the game's 'beating heart'. Half the front page carried an image intended to convey the ideal setting for such activities. It was of a match being played in front of *The Barley Mow* at Tilford Green in Surrey. T L (Terry) Cartwright (1955-62) for so long the organiser of the Old Redingensians' Cricket Week in its glory days, played for Tilford from 1997 to 2010, when he hung up his boots for an umpire's coat. The Daily Telegraph picture shows someone suspiciously like TLC fielding at extra cover, but he denies that it is he and claims to be amongst those quaffing beer outside the inn.

This year's Vice President of the Old Redingensians Association Dr M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70) was one of the 3,000 who took part in the 45-mile *Palace to Palace* charity cycle ride on 18 September last. The route ran from Buckingham Palace to Windsor Castle (which can be seen in the background of the photograph, *right*, of Martin (in the dark glasses) and his bike. The event was held in aid of The Prince's Trust, Martin reports that conditions were ideal for cycling. His fund raising page may be viewed at <http://my.artezglobal.com/personalPage.aspx?SID=326723&Lang=en-CA>



Graham Ireland, Director of Music at School 1980-2001, noticed a piece about the Rev Alan Stockbridge (1942-52) – and Chaplain at School 1978-82 (no stranger to this column) – in *The Church Times* last August and kindly sent it in. Since retirement in 1998 Alan has lived in Bavaria. He has written a book: '*Die Kirche von England: the history of a mystery*', written primarily for lay Christians in Germany. One result is a busy calendar; Alan is being asked to give talks on the Church of England to both Lutheran and Roman Catholic gatherings, and he is conducting and assisting in workshops in churches of both denominations. (His wife is a Lutheran Reader).

R R (Roy) Green (1940-45) with two other well-known local historians has produced a history of the Reading Iron Works, once one of the town's major employers. '*Barrett, Exall & Andrewes The Reading Iron Works: the Firm and its Products*' by Roy Green and Jonathan Brown with Tony Corley, is published by the Road Locomotive Society at £5. It is available from The Museum of English Rural Life in Redlands Road and from WordPlay in Prospect Street in Caversham. There are 56 pages on high quality paper, in wraps, and the book is exceptionally well illustrated.

A R Waring (1940-46) in his regular slot as '*The Pensioner*' on the panel in the *Reading Chronicle* which is posed a weekly question, in response to being asked if he remembered his first day at school replied: '*I struggle to recall the very first day, but I remember moving from Primary to Reading School and being overawed by the aura that the school had with its fine buildings. I enjoyed many wonderful years at that school*'.



As it is a while since the organ in the Chapel had an 'MOT' the Association arranged for it to be tuned by the original installer, Richard Bower of Bower & Company, Norwich (*pictured*). It is now, once again, in prime condition and thanks are due to Graham Ireland, former Director of Music at School for his help in arranging Richard's visit.

Graham Ireland also drew attention to the favourable report that P A (Peter) Auty (1983-87) received for his performance in the Three Choirs Festival held at Worcester this year.

The joint managing partner at Blandy & Blandy (the Thames Valley's oldest law firm) N C (Nick) Burrows (1969-76) has, after five years in the post, moved to head up Blandy's Charities, Education and Third Sector Team. Nick also captained the Reading Lawyers Cricket Team (he has played for them since the mid 1980s) which won the 2011 Mortimer Sixes Tournament after finishing as runners up in 2010, the inaugural year.

K D (Keith) Minton's (1953-59) novel *Escape to Paradise* has been previously mentioned in these pages. It is set in Spain – contemporaries will recall that Keith's mother was Spanish and that he has devoted his career to teaching Spanish. No doubt encouraged by reviews of that book, he is writing another novel, *Runaway Winner*, which is aimed at publication next year in time for the Olympics. Meanwhile *Escape to Paradise* is available from The Stationery Shop, Prudhoe or from Edgewell Publishing (Tel: 01661 835330).

Enterprise Awards

Promoting creativity, adventure, leadership, science, and personal initiative.

Awards for 2011 were announced in May and are as follows:

Name	Form	Project	Award
Simon Anderson	12W	To build a parabolic reflector dish	75
Iain Dunn	10E	Visit to World Scout Jamboree in Sweden	200
Tom Fletcher	13S	A church mission to Uganda	500
Harrison Ibe	12S	Producing and directing a low budget action film	200
Ben Lewis	7E	Constructing a motorised scooter	50
Michael Livesey	13S	Assisting at Grace School, Siyabuswa, SA	500
Alasdair Matthews	12W	Stone carving course at Lincoln Cathedral	150
Christopher Mountain	10W	A church mission to Uganda	500
James Popplestone	7C	Trip to Switzerland with 1 st Finchampstead Scouts	200
Matthew Popplestone	9C	Trip to Switzerland with 1 st Finchampstead Scouts	200
Steve Popplestone	13C	A church mission to Uganda	500
Peter Swallow	13W	To achieve a Certificate in Speech and Drama	100
Chengran Xie	12E	To build a parabolic reflector dish	75
		Total	3250

Given the recent bad publicity generated by the tiny minority of British youth during the city centre riots it is highly reassuring to reflect on the qualities and commitment of the Reading School pupils who applied for and achieved recognition for the 2011 Enterprise Awards.

Once again the Old Redingensians Association sought individuals or small teams proposing projects or activities which benefit their personal development. No restrictions are placed on the applications other than the fact that they must demonstrate enterprise, creativity and personal initiative. Projects that benefit a third party and/or make a worthwhile social contribution to an impoverished individual or group do positively influence the OR Awards Panel.

Pupils are advised that they are expected to raise funds through their own initiatives and not just ask parents for money; the OR Enterprise Award tops up rather than covers the complete cost of the activity. The Enterprise Award Budget this year was £5000, with a top award of up to £600, with minor awards from £50. Not all applications receive awards: the Panel's criteria of worthiness have to be met. The quality of each application (which must include a personal undertaking to provide the Association with a full report, within two months of completion of the project) is crucial to the value of the award.

The Panel made awards to 13 applicants (detailed in the table above) as follows:

- Four major awards of £500
- Four awards of £200
- One each of £150 and £100
- Two of £75 and one of £50

Only 65% of budget was allocated and applications were down by 30%. There was a generally disappointing response to the scheme this year which has been discussed in Council. The joint view is that this year's results are a one-off and not the start of a negative trend; however, the OR Enterprise Team, working closely with John Weeds, need to attract a better response to the 2012 campaign.

M H W Maule

There follows a report from one of the major 2011 award winners, Michael Livesey, who travelled to South Africa to assist at Grace School, Siyabuswa. Michael has won a place at St Catherine's, Oxford to read History - Ed

From my first experience of the priority given to cattle on South African motorways, to the non-appearance of my flight on the Dar es Salaam departures list until two hours after it was due to have left, the month-and-a-bit I spent in Africa felt very... African! During the time I was there I met some really amazing (and really nasty) people, paid bribes to security officers in order to get my passport back from them, and handled trillion dollar notes (Zimbabwean, unfortunately). I also saw the selflessness, strong faith and incredible resilience of the vast majority of people – even in the most difficult of situations. While I was out there my organisational skills were stretched way outside my comfort zone (into ‘African time’ area – where all time is very relative) and I came back a completely changed person. This was exactly what I needed as I closed one chapter of my life, and began another. I hope that I was able to give something lasting to some of the people I met in Africa in return.



My trip started in South Africa. I was working, for two and half weeks, in Grace School, in a small town called Siyabuswa. Siyabuswa is in the province of Mpumalanga, which is (by South African standards) fairly under-developed. At Grace School I worked as a teaching assistant, football coach and ran an after-school club. We had organised for around forty children at the club, which ran from 13:00-17:00 every day – so it was a bit of a shock when 200 children showed up. Numbers grew steadily after that, which was a good, but slightly stressful, result. We began teaching English songs and doing small sketches based on Bible stories and themes. It didn't take us long, however, to realise the absurdity of teaching these kids to sing in a part of the world which is famed for its music. Soon, then, our roles were reversed and our hours were spent singing African songs – my favourite of which was ‘Shosholozza’, a song calling Apartheid exiles home. We also ran competitions, dividing the kids into teams and giving prizes – lots of football shirts collected from donors in the UK – to the winners. The kids loved this, and there were just enough shirts to go around.

I think the kids really enjoyed our presence, and would often come to the Bible college where we were staying to spend time with us and give us really nice letters, handmade, with beautiful drawings and brilliant messages inside. I think it was also really good for them to see us doing some menial tasks in the college and school in the evenings and weekends – mopping, window cleaning, laundry etc. They seemed quite surprised to see presence was particularly welcomed was at church on Sundays. African religion is amazingly strong, but strangely the congregations are mostly made up of women. So for both the women and children it was a new experience to see us join in the clapping, shouting, singing and dancing – at both the three hour Zimbabwean service and the six hour South African one which followed immediately. I really believe that we were able to make a real mark on each individual we got to know, which makes me really hopeful that in twenty years' time it will not just be me whose life and outlook has been changed so much by my stay in Siyabuswa.

After leaving Siyabuswa I began a fortnight of travel around southern and eastern Africa – a hugely different experience to the time I spent at Grace School. I went from place to place: Pretoria, Johannesburg, Victoria Falls, Lusaka, the Copper Belt, and Dar es Salaam, before finishing up on the backpacking paradise of Zanzibar. This took me on buses, dhows, ferries, trains and dalla-dallas. Each of these has a unique story behind it: for instance I caught the ferry the day before another from the same company was sunk (killing 200 people) – which even made the headlines in the UK. On the other hand, the TAZARA train ride was the most enjoyable I've ever had. It took me through some of the most beautiful landscapes I've ever seen (such as the southern highlands of Tanzania) and was a great opportunity to get to know both travellers and locals. It is an experience I really recommend to those travelling from Kapiri Mposhi to Dar (about the same distance as London-Berlin), especially as it costs only the equivalent of £22. Although, having said that, it's not a trip for the light-hearted (or those who hate long delays). During this fortnight I was able to do some more voluntary work, which kept me in touch with the real Africa. In Livingstone I worked for two days at the Lusaki orphanage, and joined in on their Wednesday evening five-a-side tournament. And in Dar es Salaam I took part in a charity bike ride through some of the city's poorest areas, organised by the family I was staying with, who work for DFID. One of the places we saw was a slum which regularly voted for the opposition. In return, the government had chosen it as the site to dump the city's waste. The living conditions were, therefore, pretty dire. The image of the children washing themselves in a small stream full of sewage, rubbish and dead chickens is not one that will leave me any time soon. Speaking to the people there I was shocked that their

weekly wage was half what I'd allocated for my daily budget (10,000 Tanzanian shillings, the equivalent of £5). And I was travelling relatively cheaply!

Nonetheless, one thing I picked up at every step along the way was how, despite the problems east Africa faces, faith remains totally alive. Religion went much further than the nine hour church services I mentioned earlier. Prayers are said before every bus/taxi/ferry journey. Although the number of accidents (such as the ferry capsized) makes putting your lives in God's hands before each journey a bit of a necessity, it was nice to be in a place where the right answer to the question '*are you religious*' is '*yes*'. People were so ready to share their experiences of God working in their lives and were always so thankful to God, even though – in a Westerner's eyes – they owe him much less than we do. This was the biggest culture shock for me – although having chickens pecking the floor around your feet as you race round a hairpin bend on a dalla-dalla comes pretty close!

I could have spent years in Africa, and if I had been running on the African clock, which runs so slowly and only ever according to its master's needs, I would have done. But Anglo-Saxon time, which always seems to be in such short supply, dictated that I return. Nonetheless, the shortness of my stay forced lessons on me much faster; my outlook has never changed so much in such a short time. More than anything, I am so thankful for the opportunity I was given for that change. MAL

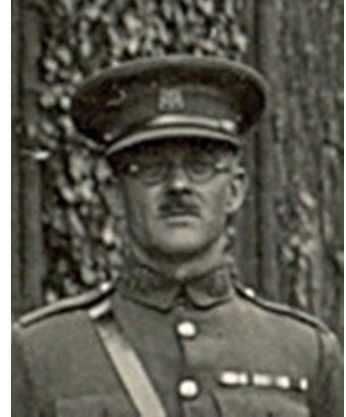


The Royal Berkshire Regiment



Previous articles have concerned the numerous ORs who have served as Royal Berkshiremen, but it has not all been one-way traffic. The School has benefited from the Regiment, too, on occasion. An instance is in the personage of Lt Col David Blake Maurice DSO CBE, himself an OR, who will be the subject of a future article in this journal; there are certainly others, also - but ORs at School from the mid-thirties to the late sixties would surely thank the Regiment most of all for **Regimental Sergeant Major Eli David Rollings BEM.**

'Sarge' (pictured right in 1939) came to the School in February 1935 after 20 years in the British Army including active service in the Great War (he was wounded) and three separate periods of three years as Drill Instructor at Brock Barracks. He was also *'an excellent instructor in shooting'* and had spent time with the Army Motorcycling Team at Aldershot. He succeeded another long serving and well liked instructor to the Corps, RSM W H Ives of the 1st Norfolk Regiment - *'Old Dick'*.



In the 1954 News Year's Honours List he was awarded the British Empire Medal for long and devoted service to the Corps (presented at the School by Major General J M W Martin CB CBE, GOC Salisbury District. In 1964 he received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Service to the Territorial Army and the Cadet Force.



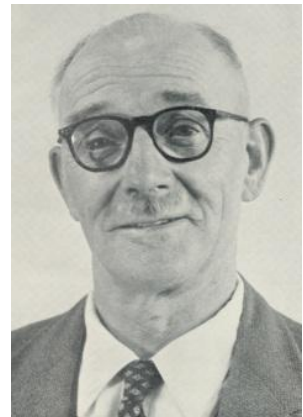
In 1962 Sarge officially retired and his great popularity was recognised by gifts from Officers of the CCF, from Cadets, from Staff and from the OR Club: in fact, he carried on until the appointment of RSM G E Terry (Hampshire Regiment) in September 1965.

The above is but the outline of a career; it does not reflect the qualities of a man held in not only respect, but deep affection by generations at the School. His authority was never challenged because he knew his job and maintained the highest of standards in discharging it over three decades. More than that, whilst he would not want the description of a 'father figure' he could be that,

and often he was, or simply a friend, because he had a rare understanding of how the young soldier, whether boy, or young man, whatever his background, thinks and feels. Sarge's career spanned name changes in the Corps from OTC to JTC to CCF - all the same to him. (He is pictured at work in the Armoury above.)

Anecdotes about RSM Rollings abound and they come in a variety of versions. The best known might be his single-handedly taking on a Messerschmitt flying over the School field in WW2 - but why don't readers send in their own favourites stories for airing in the next issue? Please do that. (Incidentally during WW2 Sarge held an Officer's Commission, as Lieutenant in charge of the Home Guard detachment based at Reading School.)

Eli Rollings was born in Egham, Surrey in 1897, the youngest of three children. He married Miss May Turner in 1919 and, secondly, in 1954, Mrs Dorothy Emily Saul who also worked at the School. When Sarge left the School he took a hospital job to supplement his small pension. After Dorothy died he lived alone, but at the end entered a residential care home. He died on 9 August 1980, in Reading, aged 83.



KCB

Events

Tilehurst Mixed Club Outing 14 May 2011

These reunions, which started in 1997, bring together former members of a youth club attached to St Michael's Church, Tilehurst in the period 1950 to 55. Many members were girls who attended Kendrick, or Abbey, or St Joseph's; many of the boys were at Reading School (almost exclusively, of course, in West House).

The co-editors, with their wives, were privileged and delighted to attend part of this year's programme (the 7th reunion) on the River Thames. The weather was pleasant, if a bit breezy and at 11 am we boarded the Salter's 'Steamer' (though they do not 'steam' anymore, of course), 'Mary Stuart', at Caversham and glided in leisurely fashion down river to Henley. At 1 pm we disembarked at the River & Rowing Museum for lunch in their Terrace Café, rejoining the boat at 2.30 pm and arriving back in Reading at 4.30. Chris and Linda, Trish and I had thoroughly enjoyed meeting ORs and non ORs, their wives and companions, and sharing the joie de vivre that such occasions generate amongst old friends. A very pleasant outing!



The full programme for the reunion stretched over the weekend and included dinner at Quattro Ristorante Pizzeria in Prospect Street, Caversham, on the Saturday evening and a buffet lunch in Tilehurst the next day.

ORs and their wives on the river trip (e & o, let us know!) were: K P (Keith) Annand (1946-54) and Janet; K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63) and Trish; Dr M J (Michael) Duck (1945-55); A K (Alan) Jefferis (1947-52) and Doreen; D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54); R S (Roger) Scotford (1944-52); Col B J (Brian) Thompson (1944-54); R J (Ron) Tillen (1943-49) and Gwyneth; C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62) and Linda. The ORs are pictured below alphabetically or on the editorial page. The rest of the party appear in the slideshow of the trip which can be viewed on the OR website.



Marian Wheeler, a protagonist of the first reunion, widow of S/Ldr J (John) Wheeler (1944-50) and mother of J K (Jonathan) Wheeler (1968) was also present on the trip. ORs who could not attend were C P (Chris) Smallbone (1944-54) and M J (John) Childs (1946-53) and, through illness, R I H (Robert) Halliwell (1944-52) and R J B (Jeff) Broadhurst (1943-48). (*Sadly Jeff has since died – see 'In Memoriam' on p 54. Ed*).

This most enjoyable reunion was organised by Alan Jefferis.

KCB

Summer Festival Weekend 25 and 26 June, 2011.

The Festival took in, on the Saturday, the **School v ORs** cricket match which is reported on p 25. The Sunday saw the burgeoning cricket **six-a-side competition** of which details may be found on p 32.



Social Secretary Barrie Shelton's arrangements were blessed by a day of gloriously hot sunshine. There were picnickers on the boundaries and a concentration of spectators gathered around the marquee, which provided a pay bar (supervised by Ian Clark of Redingensians Sports Club) and barbecue. Music was played by School musicians '*Richard and Jonathan*' and the usual tour of the School was led by Vice Captain of School, Cameron Cook (*in the LRC – library – pictured below*). The day was temporarily interrupted by a landing on the School field of the local Air Ambulance helicopter.



It is fully expected that the six-a-side tournament will, like the very successful OR rugby 7's, go from strength to strength. If in the future visitors can attend on only one day of the weekend the Sunday is certainly not to be missed!

KCB



Richard & Jonathan



The Air Ambulance



School Tour - Canning Cabinet



Preparing the BBQ



Picnickers



Class of 1952 Reunion & Golf Day - Tuesday, 26 July 2011



Back row l to r: Trevor Smith; David George; Norman Sharp; Jim Webb; David Hopkins; Alan Rowland; David Downs; George Potter; Peter Latto; John Marcham; Colin Burton

Front row l to r: Clive Windebank; Phil Hoffer; Peter Lewis-Jones; Duncan Sturrock; Barrie Sloan; Michael Maule; Mickey Cleere; John Lewer; Cedric Scroggs

Ten golfers of the 1952 Reading School intake attended at Caversham Heath Golf Club at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 26 July 2011. After coffee and a chat they wandered up to the 1st tee where photos were taken of the three house teams. These were: *(and where are you, Boarders? - Ed):*

COUNTY HOUSE	Peter Latto; Jim Webb; Cedric Scroggs; George Potter
EAST HOUSE	Alan Rowland; Mickey Cleere; Phil Hoffer
WEST HOUSE	Barrie Sloan; Duncan Sturrock; Trevor Smith

The format was to be a Bowmaker with all Stableford scores counting. County would be deducted 25% for having an extra man.

Following a very enjoyable round of golf in dry, but overcast, conditions West House were declared the winners with 75 points. Caversham Heath is a long course (6,400 yards off the yellow tees) with over 100 bunkers. These took their toll and the scoring was not very good. Nevertheless all enjoyed the game and the camaraderie.

By 3:30 pm ten other 52'ers joined the golfers for a chat and pre-meal drink. These were John Lewer, Dave Hopkins, John Marcham, David George, Michael Maule, Peter Lewis-Jones, David Downs, Colin Burton, Clive Windebank and Norman Sharp.

Dave Hopkins had brought several photos and other items of memorabilia including the Speech Day programme for 1955. Some of these items will appear on the website in due course. During this very pleasant hour Duncan Sturrock was kind enough to collect the fees for the day and a waitress took the food orders. We were called in to eat at 4:40 pm in the club's dining annex which is very nice and overlooks some of the course. At the 52'ers reunions there is no seating protocol which encourages even more mingling.

Following the one course meal and coffee Barrie Sloan rose to welcome all to this 2nd annual reunion. A special welcome was afforded to the 8 first timers at this event. There then followed a brief report on the website during which all were urged to send their biographical information to John Cummings for inclusion. Regular perusal of the website was also encouraged. The result of the golf competition was announced and then Barrie briefly reported on the present condition of Graham Jerrold and Frank Moreland who have not enjoyed the best of health recently.

Finally, the assembly was invited to remember those boys of the 52 intake who have passed away, these being: Alan Anderton, Jim Thompsett, Ken Bywaters, Paul Bessant and Colin Meheux. Our guys then stood and raised their glasses in a toast to 'Absent Friends'.

Photos were then taken of the whole group and of those who had been in Forms 1A and 1C. This concluded the business section of the reunion but the gathering went on for another 75 minutes before breaking up altogether at 7:15 pm.

All involved seemed to have enjoyed this reunion immensely. This was particularly noticeable amongst the new participants. They may have been anticipating a slightly formal or even stuffy affair. What they found was a group of very old friends, reminiscing about school days but also laughing and joking as only old friends do.

Next year is the 60th anniversary of our intake at Reading School. It has already been suggested to me by Tony Collins that we might consider holding that reunion in September to reflect the actual anniversary. No doubt other members of the group will have suggestions as to format, venue etc and these should be passed along to John Cummings or to Duncan Sturrock, who has already volunteered to organise next year's event.

Speaking on my own behalf I would like to thank all those who attended, not just for being there, but also for making it such an enjoyable occasion.
Barrie Sloan

Editors' note: Those of the 1952 intake who have not yet registered with John Cummings are urged to contact him at john1941@class-of-1952.com (or Barrie Sloan at barriesloan43@sky.com). You will then be able to access the Class of 52 website which apart from other interesting information carries a varied selection of images (by Peter Latto) of the above event.

Careers Day Seminar 7 July 2011

Francis Pocock describes this event in his President's Letter on p 3. It took place in The Music School (Junior School) and was introduced by the Principal, Mr John Weeds. The Old Redingensians who spoke to Year 12 during the various modules were: F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60); Dr M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70); A J (Alan) Voyle (1953-60) and Dr P P (Philip) Mortimer (1953-60).



A Scattering of Ashes on 8 July 2011



The obituary of Jim Carey (1936-40) appears on page 47. In July the co-editors had the great pleasure of meeting his daughter, Elizabeth Cross, with her husband Bob, and their daughter Sophie, with her friend Ashley Howard.

It was the day of Sophie's graduation from the University of Reading, and Chris Widdows – in his role of Membership Secretary – had arranged for the family to visit the School after the ceremony so that Jim's ashes could be scattered in the rose border by the south wall of the Chapel. The family have made a donation which the Association will expend on the Chapel.

Jim, the victor over most difficult circumstances in early life, referred to Reading School as his bedrock in troubled times and never forgot what he considered his extraordinary good fortune in receiving his education there.

Chris, with wife Linda's advice, had chosen a rose bush as the gift of the Association, and a small and appropriate tag was inscribed. Ashley wielded the spade to plant the rose, and the family scattered the ashes, in an informal simple ceremony.

Jim Carey in many ways exemplified how a grammar school education could transform a life; how proud he would be of that part of his family, *pictured above*, gathered by the Chapel on the 8 July – his daughter Liz, a Deputy Headteacher at Torquay Girls Grammar, his son-in-law Bob, recently retired Headteacher of Stokeinteignhead Primary School, and his granddaughter Sophie, who is also entering the teaching profession. Jim's humility would probably prevent him claiming any credit for the success of his family. They, of course, know better!
KCB

Forthcoming Events



8TH OR FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2012 At the time of going to press the date for the President's Shield match has not been finalised.



OR GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING 2012 MEETING At the time of going to press the date and venue for the Spring meeting are not yet fixed. Those ORs who think they might like to play – and new blood is always welcome – please contact Will Lunn, Hon Sec of the Society (Tel: 0118 947 2321 Email: golf@oldredingensians.org.uk)



11TH FIFTY-PLUS YEARS ON OR REUNION LUNCHEON This luncheon is not organised by the Association, being by the private invitation by D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) and P C (Peter) Stevens (1944-54) to their friends and contemporaries. It is held at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, and will take place on 17 January 2012.

Where are they now?

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

R H ANSTEY (BOARDERS 1947-52)

Former Captain of School Boats, Roger rowed for Bristol University when they were UAU Champions. After National Service in BAOR and graduation in 1958 in Chemistry and Physics, Roger joined BP (for whom he also rowed) at Teddington, married Barbara and was posted to Aden Refinery. Two years later he became a research scientist at Sunbury and was Project Leader and patent holder for a commercialised process to extract linear hydrocarbons from kerosene and gas oil distillates. Following a spell in the City he held posts as Works Shift Manager and then Safety Superintendent at the Baglan Bay Petrochemical Works, Emergency Services Superintendent at Sullom Voe Oil and Gas Terminal, then three years as an Offshore Installation Manager in the North Sea. Roger became HSE Manager in BP Norway and then Head of Loss Control in BP Exploration International Operations. After retirement in 1992 he worked for BP and BHP as a consultant in Crisis Management and Management Systems in Vietnam, Australia, and finally Azerbaijan (2001/04). Roger stood for parliament, in the Liberal interest, in Portsmouth Langstone (1970) and Swansea East (1974), was a Councillor in Swansea and, after retirement, in South Hams where he also chaired the Governors of Ermington Primary School. In 1994 he joined Rotary International which now occupies most of his time. He lives in Dibden and has 2 children and 5 grandchildren

N P SEALEY (COUNTY 1968-75)

Nick retired from the Royal Navy in March as a Commodore. He went to Dartmouth from School, then read Mechanical Engineering at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. From 1979, he spent much of the next 20 years at sea in ships ranging from Frigates to Aircraft Carriers. Ships ranged from 1950s vintage proving a challenge to keep running in their dotage; others were brand new and he took ARK ROYAL and SOMERSET straight from the builders yard. He completed two sea training appointments: the first training junior officers; the second on the Operational Sea Training Staff. His final engineering appointment was as the Senior Marine Engineer in the Surface Flotilla. Over the last 10 years, he had a succession of appointments with 'Planning' in the job title. Nick says this means '*matching the quart pots of political and military ambition with the rapidly draining pint pots of resource*'. In his last appointment he led the tri-service planning team within Defence Equipment and Support in Bristol. He is now working for the Financial Services Authority in Canary Wharf where he undertakes prudential regulation of Building Societies.

So we can inform contemporaries we ask members to send news of themselves to K C Brown, Pearmain, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, Tel: 0118 327 9917 or email: kcbrown11@aol.com.

Our senior member, George Critchell (1922-27) – see p 4 – has reminded the editors of his (rather successful) attempt to track down the 1922 scholarship intake (see Reading School magazine May 1992 and *The Old Redingensian* Spring 2008 follow-up. A similar en bloc approach might be interesting to try if any member seeks information on a particular form.

The Reading Old Boys' Lodge Centenary Part Two: just another lodge?

By Simon Oliver

This second article, of three, recounts the events and identifies the guiding lights of the lodge's first 100 years. It is adapted and updated from Len Cheyney's 1986 history – Ed.

Reading Old Boys' Lodge (No 3545) was consecrated in Big School on 24 of October 1911, by the Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, Right Worshipful Brother J T Morland. About 120 brethren from a great number of lodges attended. From the first regular meeting on 6 December 1911 the lodge met in Big School five times a year until 1990 when it moved to Sindlesham. The minutes of the last meeting at the School (24 November 1990) indicate that the School Song was sung '*with vigour (tinged with regret)*' by all present.

The lodge was formed for masters, ex-masters and former pupils of Reading School and others whose service to the School was deemed to entitle them to admission. In 1918 the privilege of membership was extended to ex-masters and former pupils of Kendrick Boys School which, in 1916, had amalgamated with Reading School.



Of the 15 founders W Bro B St J Warren-Hastings is pre-eminent, as the moving spirit, first master and, eventually, treasurer. (The 'jewel' - pictured - that was given to him to mark his year as the first master of the lodge was rediscovered in 1983.) He was also a founder and first Principal of the *Reading Old Boys' Chapter* which was consecrated in 1938 and also met in Big School until 1990. But for him it is doubtful whether the lodge would have survived the early days. The first secretary, W Bro G Marcus Love, was to be the last of the founder members to die (in 1952).

Amongst School staff who became members, one of the most active was Revd Arthur Keeble, secretary from joining in 1916 until, save for a year as master, his death in 1951 aged 83 – a grand period of 35 years. He brought single-minded intensity to the task of developing the lodge by obtaining active support from many distinguished masons, who became joining members, and by delivering a constant supply of candidates for initiation. To commemorate his memory, the lodge purchased two chairs which stood under the clock in Big School. When the lodge moved to Sindlesham the two chairs and Secretary's table were sold to W Bro Arthur Burrows for £100. Not long before W Bro Burrows died in 2006, W Bro Ron Kellman took them to Sindlesham where they were restored and are in current use (and returned to Big School for the centenary meeting).

In 1938 the lodge sponsored the *Reading Old Boys' Royal Arch Chapter* and 12 founders were again headed by W Bro Warren-Hastings. Another prominent founder of this Chapter was W Bro J LI Sylo-Jones, the School Second Master and a stalwart supporter of the lodge since his initiation in 1920. He was the first secretary of the Chapter and retained that office until his death in 1956.

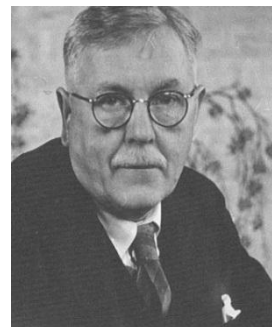
The lodge, in 1947, was one of the first to join the newly formed *Federation of School Lodges*, an internal organisation for old school lodges. The members have always actively supported this organisation and, in 1952, the Federation's 5th Annual Festival was held at the School. W Bro F A Wilson was joint secretary of the Federation and in 2011 the lodge's active involvement continues through W Bro Clifford Payton who is on the committee. Other local school lodges are *Aldworth* (Reading Bluecoat); *John Roysse* (Abingdon); *The Acre* (Windsor Boys) and *Trevelyan* (also Windsor). We have met together over the years and - whilst there has been a long and friendly rivalry between Reading School and Reading Bluecoat School - since the late 1970s Reading Old Boys' Chapter has also very happily drawn membership from Aldworth Lodge.

The 50th Anniversary Jubilee meeting in 1961 was a great occasion, attended by the Provincial Grand Master Lt Col Ingham-Clark and his full executive. So many attended the meeting that the stage in Big School had to be used! The master of the lodge, W Bro Lt Col G H White, offered the chair to W Bro Dr W C Costin who led the brethren in an Act of Thanksgiving and Commemoration. After the meeting, the Jubilee

dinner was at the Masonic Hall in Greyfriars Road; the toast of the guests was responded to by W Bro Sir Howard Roberts, Clerk and Solicitor to the London County Council.

Although the lodge has always been of limited membership, it has played a full part in the wider aspects of masonry, especially in the Province of Berkshire. For example, in 1969 - 1970 four members of the lodge held a number of senior Masonic appointments, being in charge of three 'orders':

William Conrad Costin - *right* - was Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Oxon; Provincial Grand Mark Master, Bucks and Oxon; and Inspector General 33 Degrees, Berks, Bucks and Oxon. A former Captain of School he was initiated into the lodge in 1920. He became President of St John's College, Oxford in 1957. The influence of W Bro Costin in Berkshire Freemasonry has probably never been analysed, but the extent of his involvement was remarkable. Whilst he was never master of the Reading Old Boys Lodge, he was master of *Apollo Lodge* (the University of Oxford Lodge) no less than five times (he died in October 1970 a few months after the Old Boys Lodge meeting which had celebrated his 50 years membership. *The Conrad Costin Lodge of Mark Master Masons* was founded in 1975 in his memory).



Leonard Frank Cheyney - *right below* - was Provincial Prior, Knights Templar, Oxon, Berks and Bucks. He was born in July 1901, amongst the last pupils who attended Kendrick Boys School before amalgamation with Reading School in 1916, and initiated into the lodge on 7 April 1926. He was twice master, a founder of the Chapter in 1938 and Provincial Prior of the Knights Templar for 21 years. In April 1991 the lodge celebrated the 65th anniversary of W Bro Len's initiation; on 13 April 1996 his 70th year as a mason, and his 96th birthday was marked by the surprise visit of Provincial Grand Master Digby Woods. Len died in March 2000 the Father of a lodge fortunate indeed to have had such a man in its ranks.

James Edwin Bignal - *left below* - was Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Berkshire. Initiated into the lodge in 1931, he was twice master, and became the most senior mason in Berkshire in the craft degree. The 50th anniversary of his initiation was celebrated by a visitation to the lodge on the 7 February 1981 by the



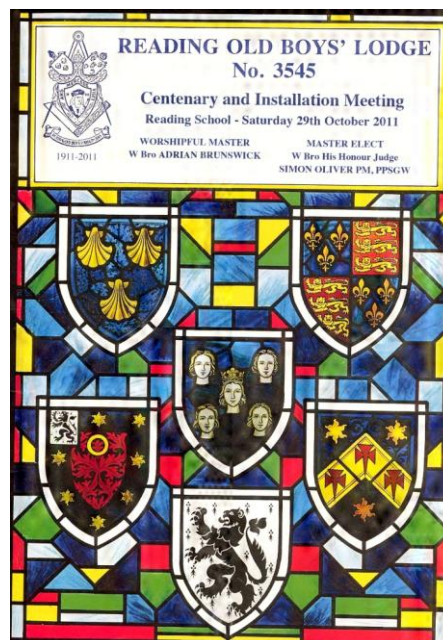
Provincial Grand Master Bro Brigadier Flavell – *centre above* - attended by his Wardens and a huge retinue of senior Berkshire masons, when Jimmy Bignal was presented with an engraved glass goblet. His retirement as DPGM was marked by a presentation within the lodge at the 75th Anniversary Meeting; he celebrated 60 years in Masonry in 1991. In gratitude for his work *The Berkshire Lodge of Gratitude (No 9210)* was sponsored by Reading Old Boys' Lodge. (It could not be named the '*James Edwin Bignal Lodge*' for procedural reasons. Jimmy became its first Immediate Past Master. He died in 1994. (There is another lodge named after an old boy of the School. *Sir Thomas White Lodge (No 1820)* founded 6 June 1879 is the

lodge of the Old Boys of Merchant Taylors School. Sir Thomas White was Lord Mayor of London in 1553, founded St John's College, Oxford, in 1555 and was one of the founders of Merchant Taylor's School.)

Francis Alfred Wilson was Provincial Scribe E (secretary), Royal Arch, Berkshire. He was the lodge secretary for 24 years, having followed Arthur Keeble's 35 years. Thus for nearly 60 of the first 75 years, the office of secretary was held by only two occupants. Frank Wilson died in 1974.

The next secretary was W Bro Roy Farmery OBE who also died in office, in 1982. He was succeeded by W Bro Brian Parsons who remained in post until 1988 (refusing to be the fourth secretary to die in office!) He was twice master and to mark the first occasion, in 1976, during which he managed to attend nearly every installation meeting in the Province, he presented 3 silver goblets, which are used at festive boards. Brian died in 2006.

His successor, W Bro Gordon Preece, retired as secretary in 2000, after 12 years. In 2009 Gordon was made an honorary member of the lodge, on the 50th anniversary of his membership. Sadly his health prevented him attending the lodge for the last two years of his life. He died in January 2011, the last member of the lodge who was present at the 50th anniversary meeting.



The 75th Anniversary meeting took place on 1 October 1986 during the year that the School was celebrating the Quincentenary of its refoundation. The meeting was attended by the PGM and very many senior masons. The Act of Thanksgiving and Commemoration was led by Revd Chris Clarke.

The lodge was able to return to Big School for **The Centenary meeting** - below - on 29 October 2011 when the PGM and very many distinguished masons also attended. The Centenary programme cover - above - was the same as that used for all events in 1986 (including the lodge's 75th anniversary meeting) and the Act of Commemoration almost identical to the one used 25 years ago. There were 138 people at the meeting, and it was an excellent evening.



It is fair to say that Reading Old Boys Lodge is a small lodge but one which punches above its numerical weight. An example is the seniority achieved by masons such as Costin, Cheyney, Bignal and others. Indeed, from reading the minutes it is apparent that nearly all of the active past masters have been honoured with an acting Provincial Grand Rank. In 2006 alone there were four acting Provincial officers in the lodge. The lodge also nurtured a member, W Bro Derek Fletcher, who became the first District Grand Chaplain of the *District Grand Lodge of Bermuda*. He made occasional visits to the lodge, the last being in April 2005. Derek died in 2008.

In June 2011 the lodge website: www.readingoldboys.org.uk was launched. There is a Facebook page (readingoldboys). To find out more about Reading Old Boys' Lodge, contact Simon Oliver at sj-oliver@hotmail.co.uk or on 07545 521801. SJO

The Principal's Letter



As the nights draw in and the leaves descend, it is pleasing to review the School's achievements over the summer. We have progressed in a way which we could only have dreamed about a year ago. Our project to build a dining hall is now well under way, with the Quad for the time being resembling a battlefield but nevertheless on the verge of a much-needed transformation. Visitors will have noticed scaffolding shrouding the main School building while the roof is repaired and in places re-tiled. I am also pleased to report that refurbishment of the Physics labs and South House Maths Block has been accomplished most efficiently. Much of this work is due to our success in securing government funding as a 'Converter Academy' and, not least, to the outstanding generosity of donors to our 1125 Campaign.

In September I met with OR Council to share with them our successes this year and to give a flavour of our plans for the future. A group of our Year 10 boys have produced an excellent, hi-tech graphic of the shape of things to come. It is so important to talk with and listen to our students about what they would like to see change and improve. I have a hunch that we are about to witness further momentous changes to the School site, especially to our Science and Sport facilities. Watch this space!

I have also discussed with OR Council ways in which the Association may be able to assist those of our students who require financial help or are deserving of bursaries in Expressive Arts pursuits. We have achieved another set of good results in examinations this year, just meeting our academic targets by gaining 90% A*-B at A-level, 80% A-B at AS-level and 80% A*-A at GCSE. We are also delighted that all 23 Oxbridge candidates achieved their offer grades and 16 students have been accepted into medical school.

Clearly we are flourishing, let's show the country what we are capable of over the next year!

John Weeds
Floreat Redingensis!
Principal

The Stevens' Gift

In his Spring 2011 Letter the Principal referred to the generous gift from P C (Peter) Stevens (1944-54) of a first edition print of Edmund Havell's 1816 portrait of The School. The handover duly took place, in Big School, on Saturday, 25 June this year when Peter, with Rozia, met Mr Weeds, Rodney Huggins (Foundation Chairman), Ken Brown (Archivist) and Chris Widdows (Membership Secretary). The print is an especially fine one and has been in the Brain/Stevens family for generations. It will be hung in a place of prominence; a suitable plaque will be inscribed; and the Association will have a Hinton print of the current School buildings placed in a suitable frame to complement it.



The School Campaign for the 1125 Fund - *Update*



The School has appointed Frances Greaney (*pictured*) as Director of Development to take the campaign forward. She writes as follows:



I feel very privileged to be taking up the post of Director of Development at Reading School at such an exciting time in its illustrious history. Academy status is providing extra, and much-needed, revenue funding, and **Phase One** of the 1125 Fund development plan is becoming a reality. There is a palpable feeling that everyone in the School community is pulling together to build a better future for the boys.

Work started on the **new refectory** in early July. The covered area in the quad has been dismantled and, as I write, the footprint and pillars of the new building are in place (*see facing page – Ed*). By early February 2012, the boys will have a dry, warm place to eat and socialise. It will also be a great venue for future alumni gatherings.

The development of the refectory is a huge credit to all the ORs, parents, staff, governors and members of the Foundation who contributed so generously with their time, expertise, and, not least, their donations. Particular thanks are due to those members of the Old Redingensians Association who have been involved in the Development Board - Richard Childs, Rodney Huggins Michael Maule, Neil Thomason, and Murray Wildman.

The support of the whole School community was crucial in winning a grant of £700,000 from the Young People's Learning Agency recently. Having already raised over £400,000 from alumni and parents, we were able to demonstrate that we can implement the project within the tight timeframe that the Agency demands. This is enabling us to move quickly to the next two phases of the development plan, which will bring **sports** and **science facilities** up to 21st Century standards.

Financially, these are much bigger challenges, as each phase will cost around £2m. Governors, senior staff, and trustees of the Foundation were presented with some outline proposals at their planning day in early July. The architects are now working up some detailed proposals, so that they can make a decision in the autumn whether to concentrate on sport or science for Phase Two.

As with Phase One, we will seek institutional funding where possible. However, most of these bodies will expect us to raise match-funding from within our own community. So the continuing support of alumni and parents is vital, if we are to win the substantial grants from trusts and government agencies to provide the science labs and sports facilities that our boys deserve.

If you would like further information about how you could become involved, please see below. (If you are visiting the School you are most welcome to call into the Development Office.)

Finally, I'd like to introduce the other half of the development team, Anna Fowler (*pictured*) who has recently taken up the post of Community Liaison and PR Assistant.



Floreat Redingensis!
Frances Greaney

The Development Board:

Chairman: Mrs Claire Toms
Dr P C H (Philip) Mitchell
Mr R P (Rodney) Huggins
Mr J I (John) Weeds
Ms F (Frances) Greaney
Prof M L (Martin) Parsons
Mrs V (Virginia) Cullura
Mr R (Richard) Childs

School Governor
Chairman of School Governors
Chairman Reading Foundation
Principal, Reading School
Director of Development, Reading School
President, Old Redingensians Association
Parents Association
Parents Association

The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association continue to urge members to give their support. As previously mentioned there is no lower limit to donations: £25, for instance, is very acceptable. For more regular donations, many families, and some ORs, have set up monthly/quarterly Standing Orders; the certainty of

receipt of monies given in this way, whilst the Campaign lasts, is obviously useful to the Development Board; for example, a regular £10 (or whatever amount is chosen) greatly assists funding projections.

Cheques should be made payable to: Reading School 1125 Fund and Bank transfers made to: Sort Code: 30-67-99 Account No: 27039460. Standing Order forms are on the website (www.reading-school.co.uk) or are available from Frances Greaney (fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk) or Anna Fowler (afowler@reading-school.co.uk) in the Development Office at Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW (tel: 0118 901 5600 ext 246).

Stop Press: The School's first golf day at Sand Martin's Golf Club on Monday, 19 September was a resounding success and raised £4,000 for the 1125 Fund. The winning team *Risk and Reward* consisted of ORs A T (Andrew) Bucknell (1977-82) and D I (Derek) McAllan (1977-84) and their friends Gary Potts and Steve Netherton.

The New Refectory at Reading School

In July, work started on the new refection following the successful completion of fund raising for Phase I of the Development Programme (see *The School Campaign for the 1125 Fund* on p 18). The series of photographs below record various stages in the demolition work required in the quadrangle and the building of the new facility. An article appeared in the Reading Chronicle together with an image of the Chairman of Governors, the Principal and three pupils, all in hard hats standing in front of a JCB and looking suitably purposeful.

It also contained the statements that:

- *'the....school.....has never had a dining hall'* which, of course, is simply incorrect. From 1952 for nearly half a century the refectory was situated in the old Junior School (and of course the three boarding houses each had their own dining room. Nowadays the remaining two dine together in South House).
- *'It is going to be much better than the tuck shop'* ORs of a certain vintage should understand that the latter refers to a temporary affair, **not** the magnificent structure of splendid gastronomic memory that was sadly demolished in 1993 to make way for the Page Building, having been a haven for the hungry boy – and master – for well over 60 years.





School News

Putting aside arguments about the use of league tables per se, the School in eighteenth place (one above Kendrick...) of the 429 state schools A level results published by The Daily Telegraph fared a little worse than last year (when they were placed fourth). The percentage of A* achieved was 28.26% (last year 35%), the percentage of A*, A and B grades together was 89.35% (last year 95%). Grammar schools filled the first 21 places.

23 boys will go to Oxbridge, per the table below, compared with 19 last year; amongst them the 2010/11 Captain of School, Anurag Aggarwal who gained 4 A*s and 1 A grade.

Oxford	
Anurag Agarwal: Merton (Economics and Management)	Charlie Roe: Mansfield (English)
Peter Baddoo: St Hilda's (Maths)	Sam Sharp: New College (PPE)
Harry Campbell: Oriel (History)	Michael Smith: Pembroke (Maths)
Cameron Cook: Lincoln (Law with French Law)	
Tom Downes: Jesus (Chemistry)	Cambridge
Josh Fleming: Hertford (PPE)	Tommy Brass: Emmanuel (Chemical Engineering)
Daniel Haile: Wadham (History and Economics)	Josh Fidler-Brown: Emmanuel (Economics)
Tom Hardwick: Wadham (Biochemistry)	James Lamming: St Catharine's (Natural Sciences)
Philip Herbst: Merton (Law and German Law)	Sam Molina: Gonville and Caius (History)
Michael Livesey: St Catherine's (History)	Eddie Romano: Trinity Hall (Veterinary Science)
Chris O'Halloran: Worcester (Geography)	Josh Wade: Pembroke (Chemistry)
Alex Pike: Wadham (Physics)	Tom Wayland: Magdalene (Medicine)
Henry Reeve: Merton (History)	

Another 16 boys have gained places at medical or veterinary schools as follows:

Will Atkins: Queen Mary's	Shiven Lakhani: St George's
Matthew Byers: King's College, London	Luke Mason: Birmingham
Alistair Fraser: Birmingham	Bhavik Mistry: Birmingham
Sunil Gida: St George's	Tom Morgan: University College, London
Kane Hartland: University College, London	Alok Prasad: Imperial College, London
Martin Hollox: Birmingham	Greg Thomas: Birmingham
George Huntingdon: Sheffield	David Walters: University College, London
James Knapp: Liverpool (Vet Science)	Dafydd Watterson: Leicester

Harry Davidson (11C) has been offered places at the Royal College and the Royal Academy of Music Junior Departments.



Jonathan Davies (12E), *pictured*, is becoming an outstanding schoolboy athlete. To recent triumphs he added in July, the Intermediate Boys 3000 metres title in a time of 8 m. 33.49 s. at the English Schools' Track and Field Championships in Gateshead. He followed this with victory in the UK Schools Games in Sheffield; his time of 8 m. 44.70 s. was more than 5 s. ahead of his nearest rival. Jonny has now won all the major races that he entered this year. He is the fastest in his age group in the UK and the 11th fastest of all time. In the Spring '12 issue of The Old Redingensian there will surely be more Davies achievements to report, following the Cross Country season! Meanwhile, he has been chosen to take part in Dame Kelly Holmes' next *Future Stars* education day at Loughborough College.

Jonathan Davies was selected to represent England at athletics. Steven Popplestone (13C) and Richard Lee (Form 13E) have represented Wales Mens team in lacrosse. Dominique Sandy is a current French lacrosse international – so it was logical for the School to form a lacrosse team in their first ever match Reading School beat Shiplake College 9-0! Scott Proctor (8W) played in the group final of the National Volvo Matchplay Golf Tournament.

Year 10 geographers had a three day field day trip to Slapton Sands in April.

The School now has a functioning observatory.

Once again RS boys shone in the Biology Olympiad: Josh Wade (13E) **Gold Medal** and in the top twelve in the UK; James Lamming (13E) **Gold Medal**; Tom Wayland (13E); Eddie Romano (13C); Luke Mason (13C); Peilong Dong (13C); Samuel Dyson (13S) all **Silver Medals** and Alok Prasad (13S); Greg Thomas (13S) and James Lacy Smith (13E) **Bronze Medal** winners.

RS were one of 1000 schools taking part in The Times National Spelling Bee this year; they have won all their rounds and now go into the semi-final.

The School Chess Team captained by Robert Starley overcame Dr. Challenor's GS in the quarter finals of the National Chess Schools Championship to take them to Uppingham School on the 7th July where they defeated RGS Guildford in the semi-final but were unable to overcome Manchester Grammar School in the final. MGS – alma mater of C E Kemp, outstanding chess player and Headmaster of Reading School 1939 – 1966, thus took the title for the fifth time. 153 schools entered this year. The exceptional achievements of Matthew Wadsworth and Roy Zhang are detailed in the editorial on p55.

At Sports Day seven new year group records were set – amongst them 5.81m for the Year 10 long jump by Daniel Trussler (West House) breaking the Colts record set up in 1968 by Brown L, also of West House.

Office holders for the 2011/12 School Year are:

Captain of School Jonathan Stancombe (School) (*left*)
Vice Captain of School William Oster (West) (*right*)

Captain of School House Henry Gardner
Captain of East House Ben Morris
Captain of County House Luke McNickle
Captain of West House Matthew Hall



Captain of Rugby Chris Mansfield
Captain of Football Michael Chang
Captain of Boats To be announced
Captain of Cricket To be announced

CCF Senior Army Cadet Sgt Dan Beddow
CCF Senior RAF Cadet Sgt Andrew Coombs

There are currently 104 staff, including part-timers, working at the School.

The teaching staff comprises the Principal, Vice Principal, and three Assistant Principals as their Senior Leadership. There are then six College Leaders for the various disciplines and 57 other teaching staff including the various heads and deputy heads of departments. The four houses are headed by;

School Mrs J M Green
East Wing Housemaster Mr B D Coggan
South House Housemaster Mr C J Evans
County Mrs L Hall
East Mrs V Geraghty-Green
West Mr M R Cooper

The 36 associate staff includes the Business Manager, Administration Department (11), the Finance Department (2), Estates and Property (4), Development (2), Learning Resource Centre (3), IT Support (2), Lab Technicians (4), Cover Supervisor (2), Exams (1), CCF (1), Music (1), the two Boarding House matrons and a gap year student.

Teaching staff who have left are:

P M Aspden, A J Bullard, Flora Burrows, Esther Canosa-Pereira, Claire Coltellini, Samantha Coull, G M Dance, A G Male, A Stoneman, Alexandra Voulcaris.

Marie-Pierre Ancel, Victoria Brierley, S Bywater, R Meehan, Elizabeth Tate, P Teixeira.

Associate staff who have left are:

Helen Catchpole, Amanda Hutchison, Ian Rossborough, Beverley Taylor.

Associate staff who have joined are:

Tania Christie, Anna Fowler, Frances Greaney, Alison Jackson, Danuta Parsons, D F Singh, Amanda Snow.

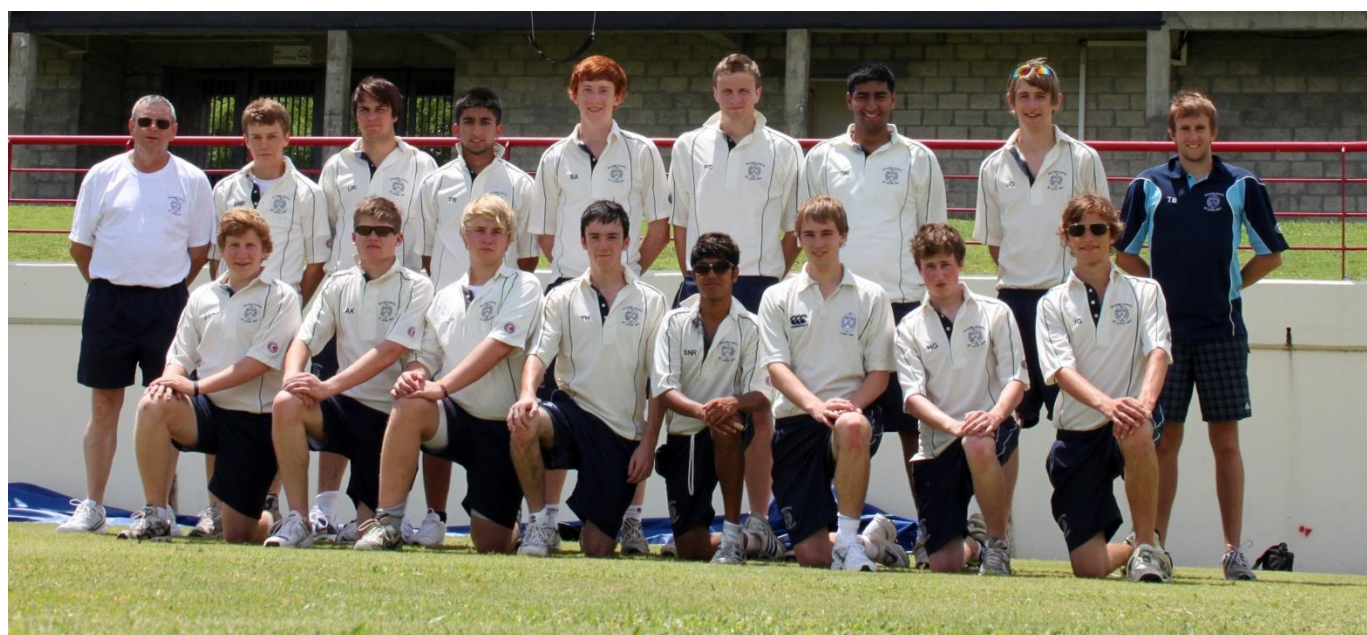
This year's Gap Year student is:

D Gush.

2011 CRICKET TOUR TO SAINT LUCIA

The following report is by Roland Cox, the representative for Gulliver's Sports Travel on Saint Lucia:

Reading School Cricket Touring Group consisting of 15 players (ages 16 - 18 years old) and two staff members arrived in Saint Lucia on Tuesday, 19 July, at Hewanorra International Airport, Vieux Fort. The group was accommodated at the Bay Gardens Inn, Rodney Bay, Gros Islet; the tour lasted 15 days, ending on Tuesday, 2 August, when the group departed for the UK.



Tour Party: *Back row l to r* Mr Alan Walder; Jason Passmore; Isaac Richardson; Taha Butt; Simon Andersson; Robert Cassie; Govind Nair; Joe Downes; Mr Tom Bellinger **Front row l to r:** Richard Talbot; Alex Kukstas; Joel Walker; Theo Hosegood; Zak Raza; James Berger-North; Harry Gannon; Josh Gemmill.

This was perhaps the most packed cricket tour we have had for a while with activities filling up most of the stay in Saint Lucia.

Reading School, who previously toured Saint Lucia in 2004, was scheduled to play eight matches, but because of rain they ended up playing seven (one 40-over, three 35 overs, one 30-over and two Twenty20s), winning three, losing three and one being abandoned due to rain but Reading winning by the Duckworth-Lewis system.

They began their tour with a comfortable victory by 23 runs over Anse-La-Rayé Under 19 team at the Mindoo Phillip Park but were beaten the next day by a Castries Under-19 team at the Beausejour Cricket Ground. Two days later they were brushed aside by seven wickets by the Dennery Under-19s at the Dennery Cricket Ground, but were frustrated the next day because rain caused play to be abandoned with 63 more runs required for victory from 18.4 overs with all wickets in hand against a South Castries Under-19 team at the Mindoo Phillip Park.

Reading School's fifth scheduled match, against a Gros Islet Under-19 team at the Gros Islet Playing Field, was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to heavy showers. At that point the fixtures were revised and that meant playing matches (including two Twenty20 games under lights) on three consecutive days. In the first Twenty20 match, Reading School defeated a Gros Islet Under-19 team by 5 runs, but the local team bounced back with a vengeance in the next game to be victorious by eight wickets with 28 balls remaining. A return trip to Dennery the

next day produced the most exciting and closest encounter of the tour as the visitors won a nail-biting thriller by one wicket off the final delivery of the match. The memory of that match, I am sure, will last forever.

A tropical wave in the region produced heavy showers the night before, as well as on the day, causing the eagerly anticipated final scheduled match against a Senior Ladies National Team at the Beausejour Cricket Ground to be abandoned without a ball bowled.

While playing, the English lads never lost the excitement, enthusiasm, and joy of living and that made a huge difference on the tour. To them sporting and non-sporting ventures just provided opportunities to have fun and this attitude just became infectious.

When they were not engaged on the cricket field, the group took the opportunity to get a good mix of what Saint Lucia had to offer. They participated in the now popular Gros Islet Friday Night Street Party, which had an added flair because of carnival activities, a Deep Sea Fishing Expedition which had to be aborted because two of the members fell sick on the way out, the Rainforest Sky Ride in Babonneau, where they soared to great heights and glided among stoic tree trunks, shopping at the Castries Market in the capital city, the Half-Day Jeep Safari Expedition which had them on an exciting ride to the island's interior in an open-topped Land Rover. They got the chance to see rural country life and fascinating scenery. Along the route to Micoud, where they enjoyed the cooling effect of an exquisite waterfall and a natural pool for a cold refreshing bath, they were able to sample a local farmer's freshly picked fruits (oranges, pineapples, five-fingers, ripe bananas, golden apples), coconut water and sugarcane. And last but not least, they were engaged in a Catamaran Boat Cruise along the west coast of the island down to the historic town of Soufrière. The boat cruise package included a cruise through Marigot Bay on the way down, a close-up view of the twin peaks (Gros Piton and Petit Piton), a visit to the Sulphur Springs (the world's only drive-in volcano), a tour of the Coubrille Estate, a sumptuous buffet lunch, and swimming and snorkelling at the Anse Cochon beach. On the way back they encountered heavy showers which ironically injected more fun on the boat which they had to themselves. Sunday, 31 July was truly a fantastic day.

Their final night was occupied with a BBQ dinner at the hotel. There was plenty to eat and drink; the end of tour awards took place; and the overwhelming consensus was that the visit had been a successful and fun-filled one.

On tour the group experienced all kinds of weather conditions – heavy showers, high winds, very hot days, overcast skies and near perfect days on sea and land. It was indeed a great experience being in the company of two wonderful gentlemen (Alan Walder – the tour manager, and his assistant Tom Bellinger) and fifteen exciting and interesting lads for two weeks.

Roland Cox

(Gulliver's Sports Travel is one of the UK's longest established sports tour operators and Roland Cox looked after the School tour party in St Lucia. The Old Redingians Association contributed to costs and to the extremely well produced souvenir brochure of the tour – Ed)



With particular thanks to Mr E S Holt, OR and current Senior Master, who has once again supplied information to help in the compilation of *School News*.



2011 – A Remarkable Cricket Season

It has been a particularly successful season under the management of coach Mark Roca and captain Govind Nair. Two matches will be of especial interest to ORs writes E S (Ned) Holt:

25 June: School v ORs. *School:* J Walker, S Parsons, H Gannon, G Nair, J Singh, I Richardson, R Cassie, T Butt, J Berger-North, J Downes, R Koshal. *ORs:* M Leary, C Alexander, M Bazeley, A Koshal, T Walder, I Razaq, A Carson, N Gash, U Akram, B Coggan, G Ghoddusi.

School 274-3 declared. **ORs** 222 all out. The School won by 52 runs.

The School had to deal with a challenging opening spell from Usman Akram, but by lunch-time had settled into control. The key to this was a huge score of **181 not out** from **Stuart Parsons**. There may have been some feeling among the boys that, having scored their runs quickly, they could press on to 300, but captain **Govind Nair** took the positive step of declaring for 274, a decision from which his team would reap the dividend later.

The OR response started well, with captain **Michael Leary** the second man out for 51 on the stroke of tea. For most of the next session the School's spinners worked their way through the middle order. The adventurous declaration now brought its reward. A fine innings of 65 from 2010 1st XI captain **Adam Carson** kept the ORs more than up with the required rate, and the run-chase continued to the fall of the ninth wicket, when a later declaration might well have led to the ORs settling for a draw. As long as Carson was there an OR victory remained possible, but he was finally caught on the boundary, leaving the School ample time to apply themselves to taking the final wicket.

The School's victory had come from a positive declaration and the intelligent deployment of their spin bowlers, backed up by good fielding. They had won because they were prepared to risk losing. John Haines would have approved.

28 June: School v MCC. *School:* G Nair, H Gannon, J Passmore, S Parsons, J Singh, Z Raza, S Andersson, J Berger-North, I Richardson, T Butt, J Downes

MCC 299-9 declared. **School** 300-1. The School won by 9 wickets.



Stuart Parsons and Harry Gannon stand before the Haines Scoreboard showing their record first wicket partnership. Stuart went on to score 212 not out. (see Editorial)

the second double century any schoolboy has scored against the MCC. His young partner, **Harry Gannon**, kept him company admirably almost to the end, and is a most promising prospect. The MCC reverted to more defensive field placing and reintroduced their quicker bowlers, but to no avail. The target of 300 was reached for one wicket with time to spare.

E S Holt

Editor's Note. The season started with the 1st XI, captained by Govind Nair winning their first 7 matches (with Stuart Parsons hitting an unbeaten century against Shiplake College) and at its conclusion victories had been achieved in all but one of the season's fixtures. Then came the successful tour to St Lucia described on p22. A memorable year!

For Valour



The Reading Civic Society – of which the co-editors of this journal are both members – are supporting the fundraising for a memorial to 'Reading's only VC'. Trooper Fred Potts was a truly remarkable man, who apart from his enforced trips abroad with the British Army (most notably to Gallipoli) spent his entire life in Reading.

M R (Michael) Naxton (1959-67) was one of a number of speakers at Reading College on 30 September in support of the project, when he gave a riveting talk on the Victoria Cross. Members will be pleased to know that Michael did gently point out that the town of Reading could claim **another**, and earlier, holder of the VC, in Hastings Edward Harington OR who, whilst not indigenous to Reading as Fred Potts indubitably was, received his education at Reading School.

Harington has not yet appeared in *Tracking the Tea Trays*; he will, but, meanwhile, below is the poem about him written by P C (Peter) Stevens (1944-54) that appeared in the School Magazine of January, 1954. Autre temps, autre meures, but it remains a worthy effort.

HASTINGS EDWARD HARINGTON, VC

Bengal Artillery.

(Won at the final Relief of Lucknow.)

Under the ramparts, fast in the ruined tower,
Harington rallied and cheered his men to the fight,
Resisting the hordes of the mutinous Sepoy's power,
Strong to preserve the laws and maintain the right.
The time came. Coolly he headed the charge
On the captured guns that pounded the crumbling walls
Sheltering a desperate hope but a courage large:
They won, and their names re-echoed in Valour's halls.
They achieved their ambition, recaptured the captured guns,
And broke the force of the mutiny round Lucknow;
A handful of proud, strong and determined ones
Whose memory dies and is fading even now.
But they did not fight in vain, for of that seed
Which they strove to plant and tend, has come to be
A plant of strength in the hour of a nation's need:
Still shines their pride, their strength, their courtesy.
A concept of greatness, of honour and honest truth,
A faith in their God and the right of their country's cause,
A greatness, standing from commoner things aloof,
Strong in defence of freedom and peaceable laws.

*This they had learned in their youth, and we
Who fill the places which they filled before,
Must learn, as they did, through our lives to be
True to our School's tradition, peace or war.*



Harington was a lieutenant with the Bengal Artillery when he won his VC in 1857. In a later action he was wounded and returned to England to recover his health, which he did and went back to duty in India as a captain with the Sikkim Field Force. He became adjutant with the 6th Battalion Bengal Artillery at Agra and there he died of cholera. He was 28 years old.

KCB

The Old School

By Ken Brown

'The past, to many of us, is not just a thing to be dismissed with a kick' (A L Humphrey 1926).

When an Old Redingensian thinks of his School, it is, naturally, the buildings in Erleigh Road that he sees in his mind's eye, but when he reflects on the School's long heritage or sings the School song's opening lines: "*Eight hundred years and more have passed since Reading School was founded*" what he sees, if anything at all, is at best muddled. He might recall the Havell print of 1816 showing, in the Forbury, the School buildings of Dr Valpy's time but he is largely unable to describe the School before that. In other words most ORs have at best a hazy idea of the School's whereabouts in its first five hundred years and more!

As the great safeguard of any society is the continuity of its institutions, this article is an attempt to give a clearer understanding.

The School is the oldest of the institutions that survive from Henry I's foundation of Reading Abbey. It may possibly be even older than the Abbey and have originally belonged to the Canons of a Collegiate Church. Be that as it may the School's accredited history shows that it started in 1125 as one of the secular functions of *The Abbey of Reading Dedicated to the Virgin and St John the Evangelist* founded in 1121 by Cluniac monks under



the patronage of King Henry I – Henry Beauclerc (*pictured*), that 'almost perfect model of a king', who took the deepest interest in its growth in the fourteen years before he died in 1135 and was buried before the High Altar of the Abbey. (His death was famously

attributed to a 'surfeit of lampreys'; more specifically he died after three days of agony with food poisoning caused by that primitive eel-like marine creature).

Reading is a town that grew up around the Abbey – at the time of the Conquest, Reading consisted of about thirty homesteads only; indeed, Wallingford was then Berkshire's leading town. The greatness and significance of Reading Abbey and its part in the making of England and of Reading should not be underestimated. It was the largest individual employer in the town but this is about the least of it.

Henry had purposed that the Abbey should be of **unequalled** magnificence. Certainly, its eventual landholdings were stupendous, stretching even into Scotland. The buildings themselves were vast and the grounds extensive (*see impression on centre pages*).. It consisted of a group of conventual buildings clustered around a superb church and encircled by a massive wall on three sides (with the Kennet and Holy Brook on the fourth). For four hundred years, and under thirty one abbots (some sources say twenty-seven) the Abbey "*contributed to the progress of education, of literature, of art, of commerce, bringing the life of the Burgh into touch with the life of the nation*" writes Dr J B Hurry, and (to paraphrase him further): would that those who today populate Reading appreciate how deeply their town and their great School are historically and inextricably interwoven with the religious, political and social heritage of the British Nation.

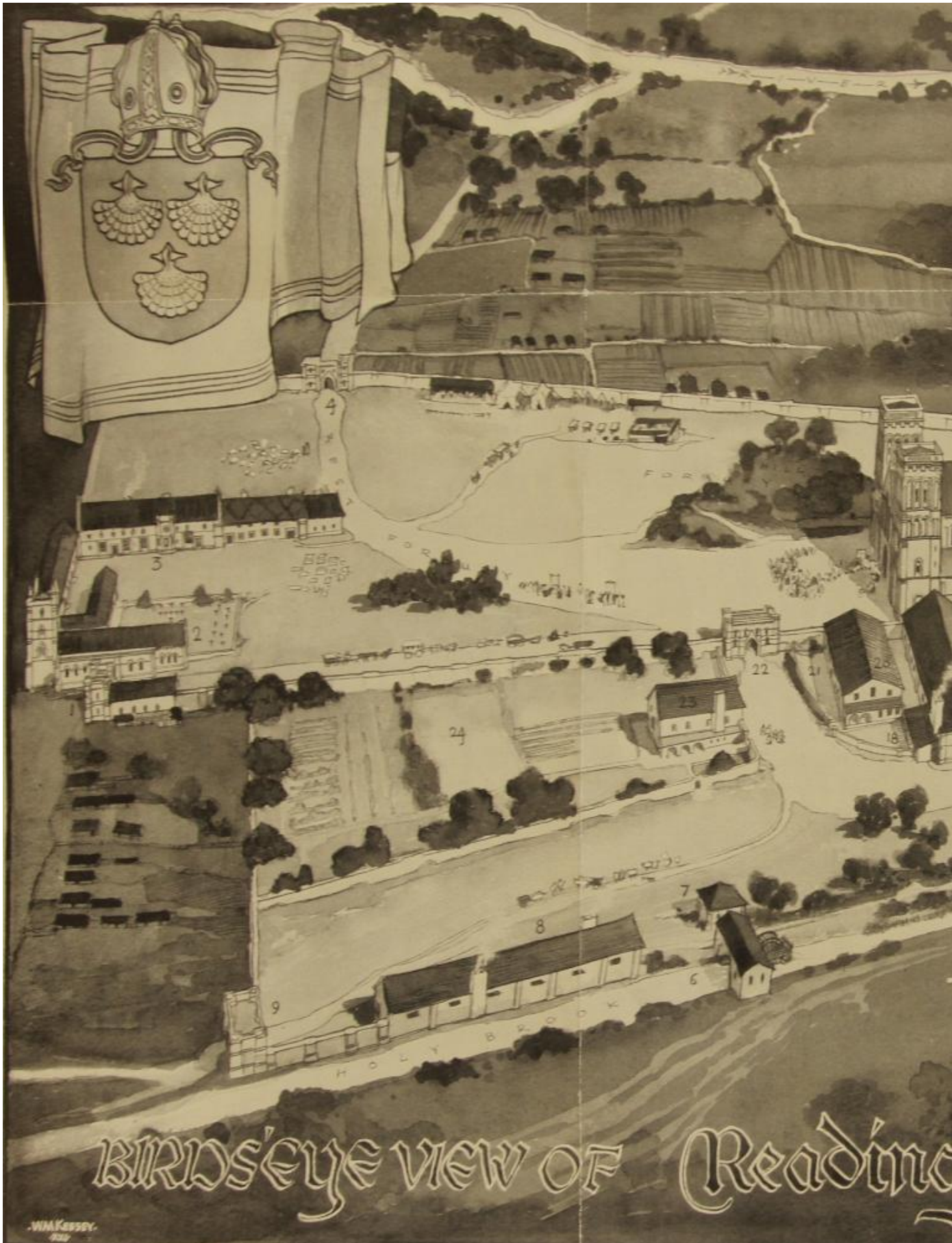
To provide a little context, in the "*nobile et regale monasterium de Redyngne*" (the Abbey Church of which was consecrated by Thomas A Beckett when Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of King Henry II):

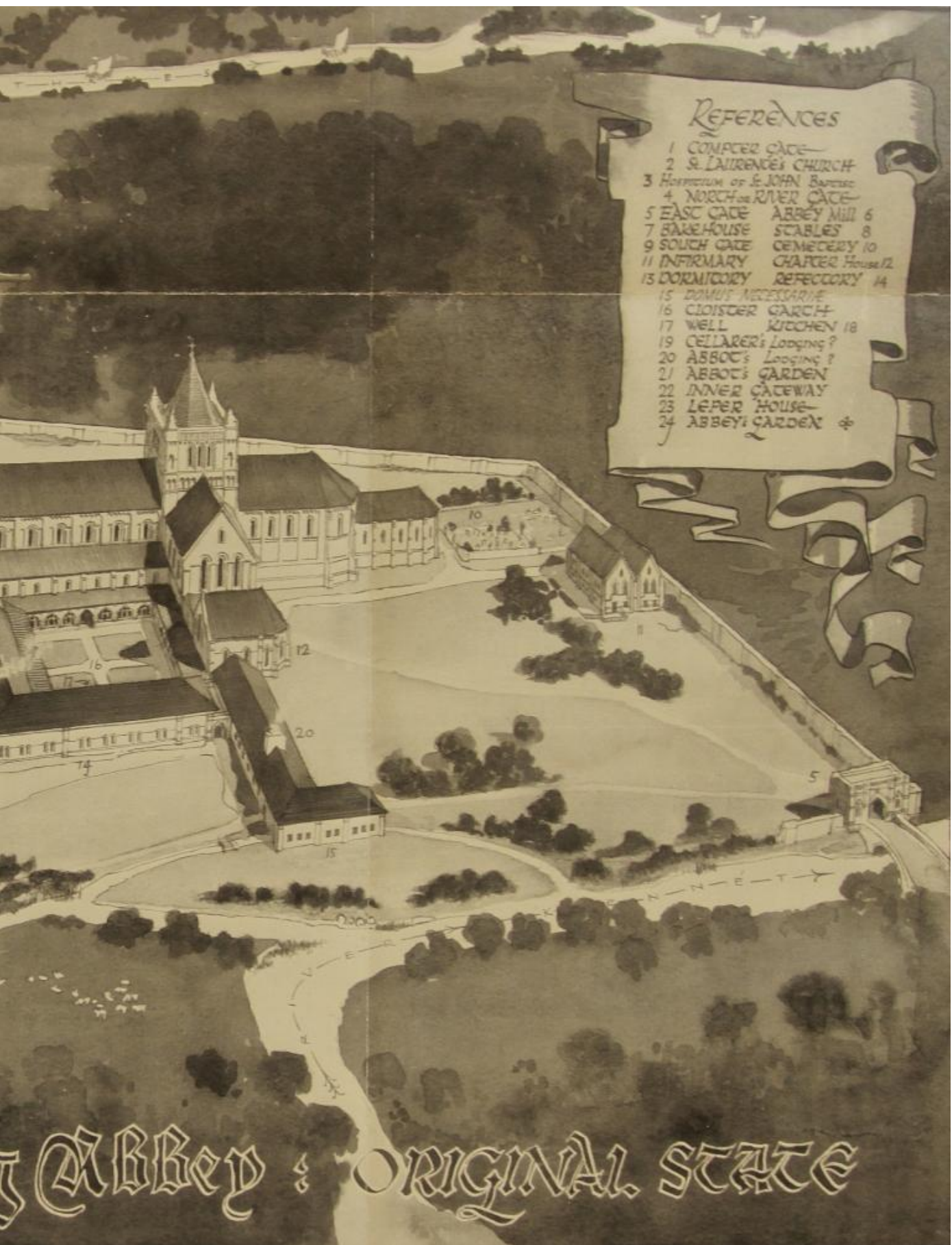
- The King's Council met.
- Parliaments assembled.
- Royal marriages were celebrated (1359 John of Gaunt to Blanche of Lancaster) and honoured (1464 Edward IV to Elizabeth Woodville).
- Royal burials were held (apart from Henry I; his Queen Adeliza; William of Poitiers and Constance of York, it is claimed that some remains of the Empress Matilda lie there).
- The Patriarch of Jerusalem offered King Henry II the crown of Jerusalem if he would raise a crusade against Saladin.
- The monastic library (the 'cloisters library') was so well regarded that it was entrusted with the custody of the State Archive.

Kings and Queens of England were frequent visitors to Reading Abbey; most often of all Henry III (1216-72) - at least once a year, frequently three or four times a year and often staying for weeks on end.

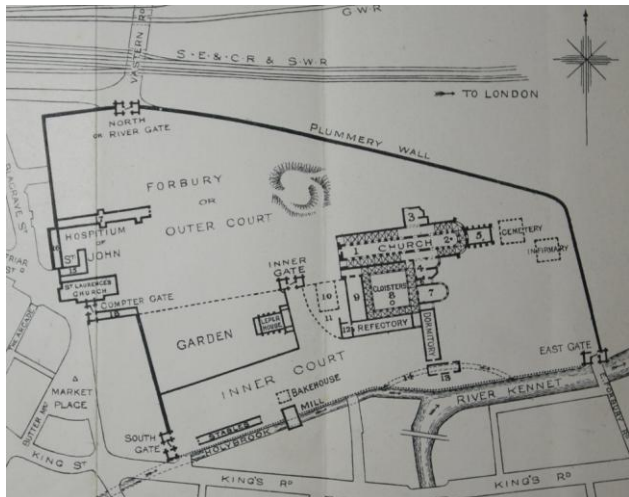
The Abbey was a rich and civilising influence indeed; and through the School '*Henry's Foundation still lives on.... and still helps to mould human lives and to foster high ideals of Service*' (J B Hurry again).

The earliest locations of the School within the Abbey are not established. Probably different parts of the large site were used according to the seasons of the year – but the Cloisters (145 ft each way, in the shape of a quadrangle south of the nave of the Abbey Church) were where the monks sat reading, transcribing, illuminating and teaching.





After the closure of the Hospitium of St John* its buildings were designated for the use of the School and its Great Hall became the schoolroom. The North Chancel of St Lawrence's Church (previously the chapel of the Hospitium) was set aside for the use of Reading School. The western part of the Forbury (see *plan below*) was to house the School for a further four centuries until it moved to Erleigh Road in 1871.



(*The Hospitium was originally erected by Henry Beauclerc but moved and re-built between 1189 and 1193 on a larger scale by Abbot Hugh II - Hugh D'Anjou, Abbot 1180 to 1199, when he became Abbot of Cluny, i.e. the Mother Abbey - the better to entertain the large number of travellers visiting and the poor who took advantage of the hospitality offered by the monks - refreshments and lodgings were available to all. It lasted until 1438, when it was again rebuilt, but it then declined and was closed in 1480.)

Reading School, or the *Abbey School* as it was sometimes called, became a Royal Grammar School of King Henry VII in 1486, when he re-founded it as a '*Free Grammar School*', and stayed in the Hospitium until the disestablishment of the Abbey in 1539, and afterwards when the School had passed to the Crown and "*became in a sense a Royal School*" (Hurry).

Following the disestablishment, the other buildings remaining on the site of the Abbey nonetheless continued as a centre of influence because:

- Henry VIII converted some of the Abbey buildings into a Royal Palace.
- Edward VI, Queen Mary, and Philip of Spain all visited.
- Queen Elizabeth also often stayed at the building, indeed it became known as *The Queen's House*.
- Charles I escaped the plague in London to become the last royal user of the Palace in 1621.

However, a decline second only to the disestablishment occurred with the wholesale

destruction caused in the Civil War during the 1643 Siege of Reading.

Some twenty years after the disestablishment, Reading Town Council had created a 'new' town hall by inserting an upper floor into what had been the refectory (ie the Great Hall) of the Hospitium. The lower floor of the building continued to be used, and remained the property of Reading School.

Between 1785 and 1786 the 'new' town hall was dismantled because of structural weakness and replaced **on the same site** by the first of several phases of building that today make up Reading town hall.

(It should be understood that the building of the Hospitium that survives today, and was used by the School as an additional dormitory, is but the central building of a much larger whole that could accommodate 400 people; much of that range (see *plan again*) was located where Reading town hall now stands.)

In 1716, Headmaster Haviland J Hiley built a house near the School for himself and for boarders; in 1784 it was purchased by private subscription and presented to the School. Dr Valpy (Headmaster 1781-1830) added to this School House and built a large new school room near to the existing school room under the town hall. Hiley's building remained until 1866, when it was condemned as unsuitable for public requirements (it was pulled down around 1877). Headmaster since 1839, Robert Appleton, resigned and for four years the School remained closed while the Reading School Act was procured and the new buildings on Erleigh Road's ten acre site, erected.

Appleton's successor, Dr Thomas Stokoe, commenced operations there in 1871. To quote J B Hurry once again, on the School, '*During its long history it has produced very able men to do God, the King and the Church Service and all who value the influence of noble tradition in education will subscribe to the hope that a long and useful future may be in store. Floreat Schola Readingensis in plurimos annos!*'

To which may be added '*Strong towers decay, but a great name shall never pass away*' – (Park Benjamin)
KCB

Acknowledgements:

The opening quotation by A L Humphrey is taken from his lecture on *The Streets and Street Lore of Reading*. J B Hurry's various writings on the Abbey are invaluable; the *Victoria History of the Counties of England (Berkshire Vol II)* authoritative and, a major source, as ever, Michael Naxton's *The History of Reading School*.

Tea Trays Old and New

The following four commemorative wall plaques have now been hung in Big School:

Francis Jeune MA DCL	Vice Chancellor, Oxford University, d 1868
John Lempriere MA DD	Lempriere's Dictionary, d 1824
Major Sir Arthur Salisbury Lawrance KCMG KBE DSO	Governor and Commander in Chief of the British Somaliland Protectorate, d 1965
Col Thomas William Rory Pearson CB DSO TD DL	Welsh International Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Squash and Golf player, d 1957

The following four will also be in place before the end of the year:

Peter Paul Dobree MA	Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, d 1825
John Jackson BA FRS DD	Bishop of London, d 1885
Sir Edward James Dodd CBE	HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, d 1966
Right Rev Arthur Cayley Headlam CH MA DD	Bishop of Gloucester, Principal of King's College London, d 1947

In preparation are:

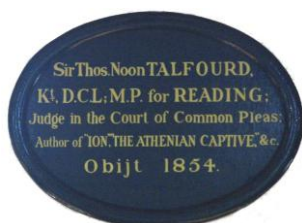
Douglas Albert Guest CVO FRCM Hon RAM FRCO FRSCM	Organist Emeritus of Westminster Abbey (Organist and Master of the Choristers 1963-81), d 1966
Robert Scott Alexander, Baron Alexander of Weedon QC FRSA	Lawyer, Chairman National Westminster Bank, President of MCC, Chancellor of Exeter University, Chairman of the RSC, Trustee of the National Gallery etc., d 2005
Leslie Eric Saxby	England Rugby International, d 1956
Lt Col Dr Martin Edward Meakin Herford DSO MBE MC & Bar	The most decorated doctor of WWII, d 2002
Austin Leonard Reed	Founder of the Austin Reed Group d 1954

Tracking the Tea Trays No 18: Griffith Higgs



The Dictionary of National Biography favours 'Griffin' over 'Griffith', for both are used for this English churchman who lived from 1589-1659, but it is the latter Christian name that has adorned his Tea Tray in Big School since it was first hung in the 1890s. After Reading School he went to St John's College, Oxford (BA 1610) and there his long association with William Laud no doubt commenced. He became a fellow of Merton College (MA 1615) and senior proctor from 1622 to 1623, a task demanding the 'great courage' for which this man of small stature was noted. From 1627 to 1638 he was chaplain to Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, sister of Charles I. He became DD at Leiden in 1630 and through Laud's good offices eventually Dean of Lichfield in 1638. He was compelled to resign that post after the outbreak of the Civil War and returned to Oxford; when that city surrendered, his estate was sequestered. He is remembered for his scholarship, personal virtue and for a number of written works including a life of Sir Thomas White OR. He made various bequests, including to South Stoke where he was born and where he is buried in the chancel of the church. He died unmarried *'the type of don for whom bachelordom is the true vocation'*. KCB

Tracking the Tea Trays No 19: Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd



Much has been written about the remarkable Talfourd (1795-1854) and much more will be. For the purpose of this brief nod towards his 'Tea Tray', suffice it to say that he was a judge, author and politician who was born in Reading, the son of a brewer. He became a judge of the Court of Common Pleas; MP for Reading in 1835 and again in the elections of 1837 and 1847. His legal writings were highly regarded, his dramatic works less so but with notable exceptions, *Ion* (1835) in particular. Whilst success, indeed fame, in three spheres, the legal profession, the literary world, and politics are accomplishments enough for any man, there was something more about Talfourd which made him unusually estimable. Perhaps that his friend Charles Dickens modelled the character of Tommy Traddles in *David Copperfield* upon him might provide an indicator. In 1931 a bust of Talfourd was unveiled in the Sessions Court at Reading. KCB

Sport

Annual OR Prizes at School Sports Day 4 May 2011

This year Sports Day for the Seniors (Years 11 12 & 13) was held at Morgan Road and the Juniors (Years 7 8 9 & 10) competed separately at Palmer Park, 7 July.

Farmery Medal	800 metres Seniors	D C (Dan) Brock	East
Farmery Medal	1500 metres Seniors	J S (Jonathan) Davies	East
Maule Medal	100 metres Seniors	J D H (Jamie) Lacy-Smith	East
Maule Medal	200 metres Seniors	W A P (William) Moore-Kelly	West
Maule Medal	400 metres Seniors	C J (Chris) Allan	School
Gardiner Medal	Shot Putt Seniors	C W P (Chris) Mansfield	School

Cricket Week(end) 25 and 26 June 2011

The Saturday: Old Redingensians XI v School - The report of this match appears on p25.

The Sunday: Six-a-Side Competition

Michael Carson's team defeated Mubin Ahmed's in the final. The other four sides were captained by Tom Jacob, John Grimsdale, Mark Lyford and Michael Leary. Former Deputy Headmaster at School and current OR Councillor J M (Mike) Evans once again co-ordinated the organisation of the tournament itself and presented the trophy and the winners' medals, referring in his speech to the standard of play which, particularly on the batting front, he considered had exceeded that of last year.



8th OR Festival of Rugby 10 September 2011

Once again, Mr Alex Beckey, Director of Sport, presided and Alistair Wrenn (1978-85) organised for the ORs: and once again the tournament was a resounding success.

On an overcast day, with intermittent showers, eight teams took part representing leavers from 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 – and two sides from 2011. Referees were from the School staff – Messrs Beckey, Bellinger, Coggon, Evans, Roca, and David Gash the gap year student from New Zealand.

An excellent final between 2008 and 2011A saw the older side touch down within the first minute through Martin Fisher who followed with another, converted, effort. Dan Conroy scored a third straight from the re-start and then ran in another from deep in his half before the break. Four tries without reply! Experience counts for so much in 7s rugby and whilst the younger side started strongly after half-time with a try from James Ephraim (who took a severe knock but picked himself up) and there followed a period when they threatened strongly, Sean Wright eventually scoring a second try following a scrum, there was to be no great turn around - not least due to some wily tactics from the older side. Indeed 2008 gained a disputed fifth try, after some lazy defending by their opponents, to bring the final score to 35 - 12.

Speeches and presentations followed, as below, all to loud applause.



Goss Shield

(Tournament Champions) – presented by Alistair Wrenn
Better Late Than Never *above centre*

Vaughan Tankard

(Player of the Tournament) – presented by Bob Lewis
Alex Wright *above left*

Clacy Cup

(School Player of last season) – presented by Alex Beckey
James Ephraim *above right*

OR Golfing Society Autumn Meeting - 30 September 2011

The autumn meeting was held at the Caversham Heath Golf Club, Mapledurham near Reading. An exceptionally fine hot day and a long testing course gave everyone a chance to demonstrate their golfing skills! Rodney Huggins kindly presented the prizes as usual! WEL

Winner of the Bucknell Cup	Paul Falinski 36 pts
Runner-up	Chris Quartly 34 pts
Tankard for the Longest Drive	Steve Johnston
Nearest the Pin	Paul Falinski
The Lunn Trophy (for the lowest stroke score)	Chris Quartly 91



I to r: R P Huggins (1944-52); A G Steels (1949-54); J Holt (1948-53); G W O Price (1948-56); C F Quartly (1970-75); W E Lunn (1951-58); S J Johnston (1979-86); A Wrenn (1978-85); P E Falinski (1960-67); R Childs (1971-78); A J Downes (1947-52). Also played (but not shown) N C Burrows (1969-76); N A Hunt (1977-84); C A Scroggs (1952-59)

Rowing: School v ORs 23 July 2011



The third annual boat race, on a warm and sunny day, resulted in a victory for the ORs (again) by four lengths. (*School on the River, pictured left, by Tom Shore.*) Although the anticipated Staff crew did not materialise, this year the race was rowed in coxed fours, allowing for a second string race which the ORs also won, but by less than a length.

Afterwards a leisurely barbecue was enjoyed by the crews, their friends and other assorted spectators, including ORs Ian Judd, Cedric Scroggs, David Cox, Ian Moore and Ken Brown. Messrs Longstaff and Rothbart supervised the School crews and an enjoyable day was had by all. KCB

	OR 1st IV	School 1st IV
Bow	Peter Yu (01-08)	Jacob Wellman
2	Ant Butler (01-08)	Jack Monheim
3	Anthony Mayne (08-10)	Mike Thomas
Stroke	James Horscraft (01-08)	Nick Peddle
Cox	Ed Mills (03-10)	Neil Potter
	OR 2nd IV	School 2nd IV
Bow	Tom Talbot (02-09)	Joel Walker
2	Sam Lysons (01-08)	Anurag Aggerwal
3	Arthur Truslove (01-08)	James Lamming
Stroke	David Foxwell (02-09)	Greg Chojecki
Cox	Ed Mills (03-10)	Jacob Wellman



Inside the Boathouse

Reading School Boat House Renovations

The O R Association has been thanked for the grant provided to enhance the Boat House. Following the erection of a new and secure fence, the sign was removed earlier this summer to be cleaned, sanded, painted and varnished. The wood cladding and the sliding doors have also been cleaned, repaired and repainted. The Boat House has now stood for 50 years on the Thames Promenade upstream (west) from Caversham Bridge. ORs who have never seen it will find the walk a pleasant one! *Thanks to A (Ant) Butler (2001-08) for supplying the detail and images below. - Ed*



BEFORE: RSBC sign covered in algae, moss and peeling paint.



AFTER: RSBC sign with a new lease of life, painted by pupils at School



BEFORE: OR VIII in front of RSBC before repairs and repainting – evidence of graffiti and poorly kept wood cladding (7 July 2009)



AFTER: The RSBC Boat House after repairs and painting (26 September 2011)

OR Barbarians (Rugby 7s)

In 2009 the OR Association granted £500 to get the new club started but, since that season, there has been no activity to report and the website has not been updated.

Redingensians RFC Limited

Last season was the best ever for the club which, whilst its roots as the club for Reading School old boys remain and should never be forgotten, has become a true community club of which the whole Reading area should be proud.

Pre-season preparations included the employment for two sessions a week of Tony Lester, the Great Britain Olympic sprint relay coach, working with Redingensians head coach, Mike Tewkesbury, to produce a rugby-fit squad in pursuit of this season's aim for the 1st XV (The Rams) – promotion.



Image courtesy of Gareth Jones/Sport-alive.com

The 1st XV opened the season on 3 September at home to Bridgwater and Albion in National 3 South West with a 38 – 15 win and, as this magazine goes to press, they are lying third in the table and challenging strongly.

Ex-Bracknell fly half W J W (Will) Clarke (Reading School 2000-05), *pictured left going for the line*, is amongst the recruits at Old Bath Road this season and made an immediate impact on his debut for the 1st XV against Barnstaple.

The club continues to field sides for every age group from 7 to 18 plus a colts squad and 5 senior teams, a community ethos which has made it one of the largest clubs in the country. On any Sunday hundreds of children and youngsters can be seen playing rugby at Old Bath Road.

The club chairman is A T (Andy) Lynch, OR (1971-78), Captain of School Rugby in 1977 – when he gained Berkshire U/19 recognition – and a former long term stalwart of Redingensians RFC 1st XV (which he captained in two separate seasons). John Cook, Captain from 1968 – 71, became Hon.Sec. in 1974 – and the driving force of the 'Open' club taking it into the modern era and to what it is today: one of the heavyweight clubs of England's South West. John has announced that this will be his final year as Secretary; he can be immensely proud of his achievements. KCB

Further information is available from www.redingensians.com and the quarterly online Newsletter at www.ehack.co.uk/r RFC.

Advertisement

Looking for a Venue?

The Redingensians Club House has a large hall, available for hire in the day or evenings, conveniently located just off the A4.

Licensed bar and kitchen facilities

*** PARTIES * MEETINGS * TRAINING * COURSES * DISCOS ***

Redingensians Rugby Club
Old Bath Road, Sonning, READING, RG4 6TQ
Contact Ian Clark 0118 942 5705 (Day) or 0118 969 5259 (Evenings and Weekends)



A Jog around Whiteknights

By Philip Mortimer

It is doubtful whether anyone can accurately date the origin of the Reading School Long Run. Personally I can only vouch for its annual occurrence in the 1950s, but its history must stretch much further back, probably to the re-founding of the school in the 1870s. Then, the exemplar would have been Dr Arnold's Rugby School run as described by Thomas Hughes in 'Tom Brown Schooldays'. In that narrative the 'Barby Run' is a set piece in which Tom, East and Tadpole join Brooke and the other seniors in the chase. During it '*many a youngster [began] to drag his legs heavily, and feel his heart beat like a hammer*'. The upshot of that long run was that the three boys returned to school late and were up before 'The Doctor'. He, great man that he was, of course treated them magnanimously.

('Tom Brown's Schooldays' is set in the 1830s. The Barby run (which still continues) was, at that time, a nine and a half mile hare and hounds affair. Reading School's Cross Country history remains to be written, but it is probable that there were events similar to the Barby in Dr Valpy's day; certainly, paper chases continued when the School moved to Erleigh Road. There was a Hare and Hounds Club. The more formal - and demanding - 'Long Runs' also started in Victorian times with the senior championship being contested over 10 miles and the junior over 6 miles. By the 1950s, the distances were shorter, but not as short as today's races. - Ed.)



A senior Long Run – the 'off'

Reading School's Long Runs, 1950s vintage, were neither very long, nor for some of the participants more than a jog, often with discreet interludes of walking. They began (avert your eyes, Oh ye Health and Safety officers!) with the several dozen competitors stretched across Addington Road at the back gate of the school ready for the 'off'. The first 400 yards along that road and up the steep pull to the top of Redlands Road then rapidly separated the sheep from the goats. In fact a betting man watching the field of runners from the verge of Christchurch Green could already have wagered who was likely to win the race. It was at that point that the route of the run left the highway and the runners veered into the muddy depths of Whiteknights Park.

Whiteknights Park was by that time in the possession of Reading University but it had hardly been developed at all so that it offered a semi-rural environment such as Tom Brown and co. might have recognised as suitable for a 'chase'. The permission to venture into the park was probably owed to the chair of the School governors of the day, Jack Wolfenden (he of the famous report that led to the decriminalisation of homosexual acts). *(Sir John Wolfenden, Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading and Chairman of the Reading School Governors (1951-63) may well have ensured continued permission to run through Whiteknights, but it had been part of the course long before his time - for instance the 1933 Long Runs were described as taking place in the 'First Year of the New Course; Whiteknights and Mr Colebrook's fields'. - Ed.)*



Here a digression must be allowed so as to outline the history of the then semi-wild expanse of the park. The principal house, gardens and surrounding three hundred acres had been bought by the fourth Duke of Marlborough for his son, the Marquess of Blandford (*pictured*), at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Blandford was a young aristocrat typical of the Regency period, extravagant with money and passionate in his enthusiasms, in his case for books, music, horticulture and the wives of his friends. He developed the park as his country seat, laying out further formal and informal gardens and building greenhouses, arbours, grottos and cascades. He also imported plants from the Americas and the Far East so that at one point Whiteknights was almost designated the national botanical centre that Kew Gardens has since become.



*Lord Blandford's folly
(A view of Whiteknights from the woods, by T C Hofland 1819)*

The Marquess was erratic in his politics. He was violently opposed to Catholic Emancipation and was so angry when Wellington conceded it in 1828 that he became, in opposition to the Duke, one of the main movers of the Great Reform Act. Only then did Blandford revert to his ultra Tory stance. When he succeeded his father as the fifth duke, the Whiteknights estate (which he had bankrupted) was sold off, by 1840 the house had been pulled down and in 1867 it was split into six parcels of land for leasing. One of these, 'Foxhill', was bought and built on by the architect of Reading School, Alfred Waterhouse. *(Alfred is seen sitting with his family in its garden in the photographs on p 8 of the last issue – Ed.)* Traces of the 'wilderness' and ornamental grotto that Blandford had created survived into the 1950s to add to the interest of the course of the School's Long Run through the park. The wide ornamental lake still of course remains.

The surviving runners issued forth from the park beyond Foxhill at the top end of Eastern Avenue, and the run was then completed via Erleigh Road. For the truly competitive there was a final sprint up the School drive.

Others will know (which I do not) at what point this regular Lent term event was terminated. *(It still continues, but nowadays in Prospect Park – a more challenging course than it sounds, and the setting for Berkshire County Championships in the past – Ed.)* Only a school situated in an entirely rural setting would nowadays dare to hold a long run of the kind described above; but there will be many readers of this who can recall their participation in Reading School's version of this event. At the time, they can have had no idea that they were treading on the Marquess of Blandford's treasured plants.

PPM

(A more graceful sport than cross-country running had its place during Blandford's ownership. William Fletcher, the author of Reading, Past and Present, writes (nearly 200 years ago), that archery 'this elegant and once favourite amusement amongst the female nobility in this country, takes place at stated periods in the summer, in those delightful, and at one time splendid gardens in White Knights'.

For those interested in the one thousand years history of Whiteknights (or Earley Whiteknights or White Knights as it has been previously known) a number of books and articles have been written including Mary Soames' 'The Profligate Duke' published by Collins, 1987, which this article draws upon and Smith's 'A History of Whiteknights', University of Reading 1957 – Ed.)



The Archive

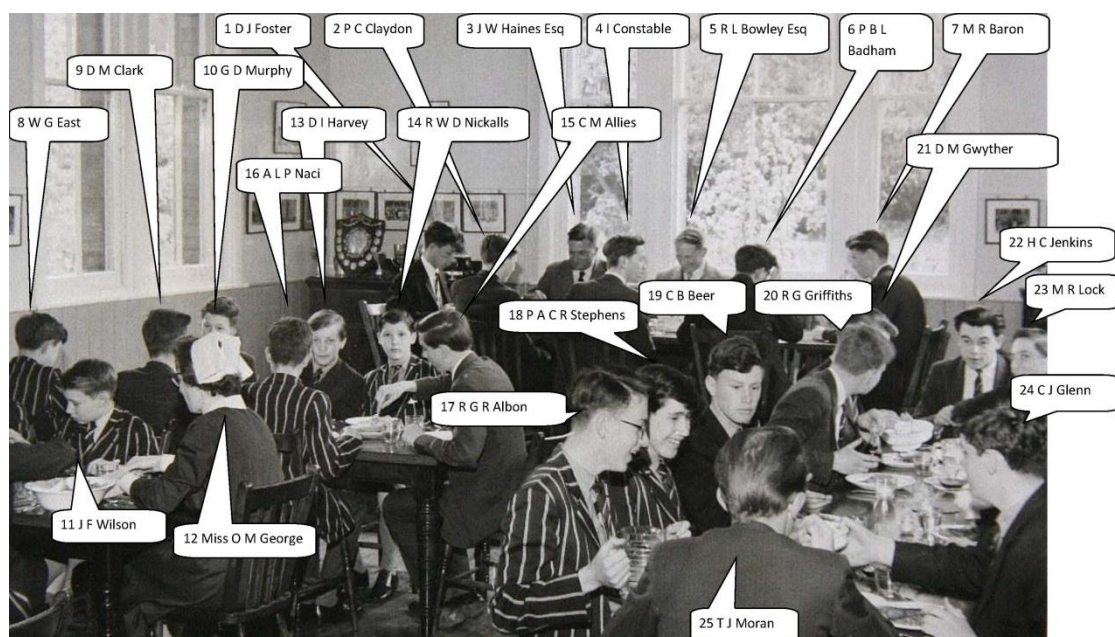
"The school of schools... of which the town was justly proud, and for which it was justly famous... second to none in reputation."

Mary Russell Mitford
writing in *Belford Regis*
(which was her fictional name for Reading).



Alan Stuck (1943-51) was the first to confirm that the photograph on p 41 of the last issue did indeed show H B Carr (who had, Alan recalls 'a very distinctive style of running') with R E A Steward in pursuit.

The image, on the facing page, of the South House dining room in Summer 1962 brought nostalgic recognition from ex-South Houser D A (David) Hartley (1948-52) – known as 'Jammy' at School for obvious reasons, who wondered why the dais on which the top table used to be elevated had been removed. (*but had it? –Ed.*) D J (David) Foster (1954-62) and Dr R W D (Dick) Nickalls (1960-67) mainly identified those shown in the key below, with others contributing, although there remain queries over numbers 2, 8, 20 and 21 in which the names given reflect the current majority view. In total there were 39 boys in the House at the time, incidentally.



J W ('Sugar') Saunders Master at School 1915-55, Housemaster of West House for 36 years, writing to W J Milne (1930- 37) (see obituary on p 42) in May 1941 mentioned, amongst much news of ex-pupils, 'We now have a regular monitorial system; they do all the dirty work, so that prefects are being described as "retired monitors"'.

The first **monitors** (15 of them) made their appearance in 1937. The appointed monitors for a time had their own common room and there was a **head monitor**. The Archive has little information, and fewer pictures, of the monitorial body over the years; all information and indeed images, indeed, will be most welcome now that monitors are a thing of the past. They had continued as an appointed body until February 1965 when all 7th formers became monitors automatically, a system that continued until Michaelmas Term 1993 when it was replaced by the title 'Sixth Form' for all boys in years 12 and 13. '*Duties and Privileges remained.*'

School prefects existed from the earliest days at Erleigh Road, ie 1871, although they were known as **Praeposters** until into the 1880s. There was a secondary body of **house prefects** which was effectively replaced by monitors – although the house prefects actually continued until the end of the School year 1939-40. The most senior boy has always been the Captain of School and he and the Vice-Captain together with the captains of the houses (which they themselves may also have been) formed the **prefects executive** – the next in line the 'third prefect' being Hon Secretary and the 'fourth prefect' the Treasurer of that body.

The system nowadays has returned to a body of School Prefects (who wear a blue tie with small School crests on it) and, since 1995, House Prefects (who wear a tie similar in design to the old prefects tie but with the narrow stripe in house colours). There is no Executive Committee.

Pictured is the front wrap of the 1857 first edition of *Our School* by 'Oliver Oldfellow MA.', which some will know is subtitled: *Scraps and Scrapes in Schoolboy Life* and concerns excerpts from the author's nine years – during which he rose to the top of the School - under Dr Valpy, whom he both revered and held in considerable affection. The author's real name was Benjamin Bradney Bockett and he employs fictitious names, not only for himself, but for all characters, places, etc. Now the book has been republished by Kessinger Legacy Reprints as a hard bound facsimile and can be ordered over the internet at £17.50 post free. Interestingly, the facsimile is of a copy which (at any rate in 1932) was held in the Bodleian Library and bears the legend: '*This copy was given to me by the Rev. B B Bockett, the writer. The Ms notes are his. Rich Hooper*'. The latter name leads to other Bocketts (once of Southcote Lodge, as B B B was - the youngest of thirteen children) but the really interesting thing is that the Ms notes, where readable, identify the actual names of the persons and places that B B B writes about.



The above was of considerable interest to Ken Wood, great great great grandson of Dr Valpy when he visited the School, from New Zealand, with his wife, Marion, and cousin John on 14 September. After being shown around the current buildings by Senior Master Ned Holt OR the party was taken into Reading, by Archivist Ken Brown, Past President John Oakes and Membership Secretary Chris Widdows and shown the site of the School when it was in the Forbury, the surviving part of the Hospitium of St John, St Laurence's Church, the plaque marking the site of Valpy's School House and parts of the Abbey Ruins. Lunch was taken at The George Hotel in the Dickens Room, appropriate on several counts; Dr Valpy often dined there; the forerunners of the Association, who styled themselves '*the noblemen and gentlemen of Reading School*' (who met annually for 50 years, latterly in memory of Dr Valpy) used The George as their base – and, not least, because Charles Dickens is understood to have modelled the character of Tommy Traddles in *David Copperfield* on Valpy's pupil, Thomas Noon Talfourd (to whom he dedicated the book). The Archivist's copy of the 1816 Havell engraving of the School was used, in conjunction with *Our School* as a conversation piece



Left: The Archivist and Mr Wood identify the Hospitium (seen behind them) on the Havell print.

Right: Mr Wood and John Oakes talking at lunchtime in The George with the Havell print beside them



We thank the following for additions to the Archive

D A Baker (1940-48)	For 27 School magazines between Dec 1940 and Jul 1951 inclusive
J D Gardiner (1947-55)	For 20 mounted photographs and three unmounted photographs
K R F George (1931-37)	For numerous magazines, School lists, ephemera and a splendid copy of Coates' <i>History of Reading</i> for the library
I W O House (1954-61)	For a copy of <i>Reading Poetry – An Anthology</i> (Two Rivers Press) 2011
Prof A A Johnson (1940-49)	A chemistry text book used by J N Spencer (1935-38) who was killed on active service with the RAF in WW2; and a volume of Chopin waltzes once used by Dr E O Daughtry, Music Master at School from 1913 until his death in 1943.
Mrs Valerie Rowden	For 11 neckties which belonged to her late husband Clive Rowden (1938-43).
M J van Brugen (1942-53)	For 73 School magazines spanning the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s
A R Waring (1940-46)	For an East House colours blazer badge
K Wood (see above)	For a copy of Enderby Settlement Diaries (limited edition No 571 of 1000)
Mrs Marilyn Wooldridge	For photographs and other material concerning R H C Fowler (1916-25)

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, Archivist, Pearmain, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 327 9917 or by email at kcbrown11@aol.com.**

Commentary

The Old Redingensian Spring 2011.....and previously!

'Mistakes we've made a few....' The editors' ambition to produce an error free *Old Redingensian* was not realised with the Spring 2011 issue, because, apart from the odd random bracket etc:

- **Feature Writers** p 2: A dreadful solecism - Adam Wright's College being at Cambridge University is, of course, St Catharine's – not St Catherine's (which is in the other place).
- **Notes and News** p 5: It is Dominique – not Dominic – Sandy.
- **Forthcoming Events** p16: Barrie Sloane's email address was rendered incorrect by spelling 'Barrie' as 'Barry' – we hope that those trying to contact him electronically quickly spotted the error.
- **Forthcoming Events** p16: F J DE GEX was a Brig Gen when he died, not a Maj Gen.

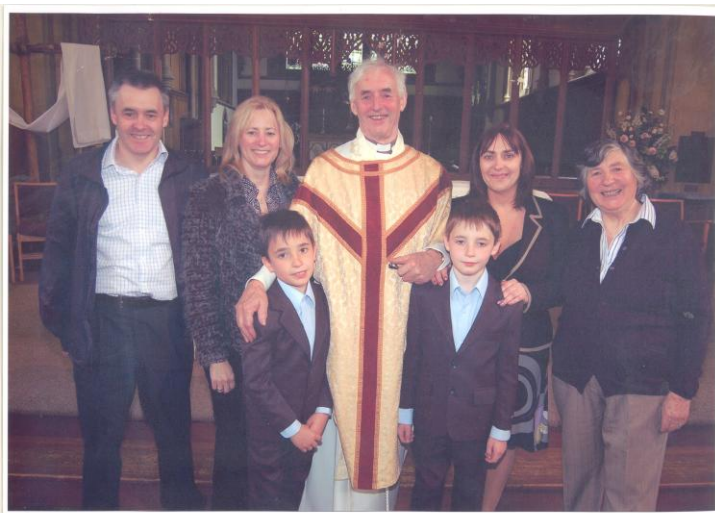
Reference **The Reading Old Boys Lodge Centenary: Part I**, Michael Barrott (1966-73) hazards that the laying of the foundation stone was a Masonic Ceremony because:

- The Prince of Wales was keen to promote masons (he became Grand Master in 1874).
- The Masonic Ceremony of 'cornerstone laying' was popular at the time because it gave pomp and circumstance to a foundation (the Church of England Prayer Book, by contrast, does not contain a specific service for such events).
- Most of the local civic leaders would have been masons and would have chosen a masonic ceremony as the obvious thing to do.

So, perhaps, the reasons for masonic involvement were not *'unclear'* at all, but just in line with the fashion of the time – albeit, in the case of Reading School, implemented on a grand scale.

Another positive identity of R E A Steward (**Archive** p41) was made by Dr H W F (Hubert) Bunce (1941-51). He has more than School memories of Alan Steward. 'Stew' conducted the wedding service of Hubert and Jill (Godden) at Oxford in 1960. (See also **Commentary** p44 in the last issue).

Further confirmation of the high esteem in which Dr E N (Edmund) Hey DM DPhil MRCP (1942-49) was held – see obituary in *The Old Redingensian* for Autumn 2010 – comes with the news that the British Medical Journal has now published a lengthy appreciation of his life and works; a considerable mark of recognition for anyone in the profession, but surely only to be expected for the remarkable Edmund Hey who, had he not had such anathema to personal publicity, would no doubt have become a familiar name and been showered with the type of praise and offers of honours that he so disdained.



Notes and News last time around mentioned the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) the Chaplain to the OR Association. The celebration of his ministry at St Peter and St Paul Church, Buckingham, included a procession representing the many parishes that David has served and was followed by a party. The picture left of David and his family was taken on the day and shows *l to r*: his son, Vincent; his elder daughter, Claire Clark; David with his grandsons Alex and Sam; his younger daughter Kirsten and David's wife Grace. Alex and Sam are Vincent's two sons. Many congratulations to David.

German teacher John Malpas ('Fritz' to most former pupils, but 'Herr Lehrer' to some – Keith amongst them) last time round. He lived around the corner from Keith in Caversham.

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

R F Seymour (Hon Sec, US Branch)
PO Box 382
SOMERVILLE
NJ 08876-0382
USA

Tel: +1 908 238 1020
Email: yors862@cs.com



Europe

European Organiser – Peter Wildman (1958-65)

P G Wildman
La Valette
81430 VILLEFRANCHE D'ALBIGEOIS
France

Tel: +33 563 79 55 23
Email: wildthings81@gmail.com



Australasia

Australasian Organiser – Mike Jones (1957-64)

M M Jones
11/388 David Low Way
Glen Eden Beach Resort
PEREGIAN BEACH
QLD 4573
Australia

Mobile: +61 (0)428 440 029
Email: specialty@bigpond.com



The **USA** West Coast Dinner and Reunion will take place in the San Francisco Bay area of California in February or March 2012, but the date remains to be fixed as this issue goes to press.

Those ORs who live in France have had a contact in Graham Fenner for some years, although there is no formal organisation. It is thought useful to maintain this facility and, indeed, to extend it to other mainland **Europe** ORs should they wish to make contact with their fellow ex-pats. France seems a sensible option to continue as the focal point, but to give Graham a break Gp Capt P G (Peter) Wildman RAF (Retd) (1958-65) has agreed to take on the new role – see details above.

If the take up is there, ORs in **Australasia** will have their 2012 reunion on 16 June and their 2013 reunion on 15 June in Noosa. In each case the plan is for a 12:30 lunch on the Saturday – and a life-saving breakfast in Peregian on the Sunday! The venue for 2012 will be *Trio's* on the jetty at Tewantin (a fish and steak restaurant primarily) www.trios-on-the-river.com/index.html. Itinerant ORs and their partners are welcome (contact Mike Jones and book your place).

Mike and Alison Jones are contemplating permanent settlement in Noosa – meanwhile, Mike has been undergoing some repairs in hospital and the editors are delighted to report that he is recovering well.



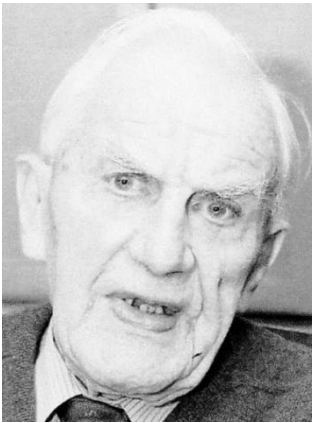
Old School Tie (left) Silk £15

OR Association Tie (right) Polyester £10 Silk £15

Available from: Chris Widdows, 21 Bulmershe Road, READING, RG1 5RH
Cheques payable to: Old Redingensians Association

Obituaries

WALTER JOHN MILNE (1930-37)



Wally Milne was born in Reading in 1919 and attended Reading School from 1930 to 1937 where he took a full part in the life of the School. He was a 1st XV Colour and played in one of the strongest teams that ever represented the School. (*Michaelmas Term 1936 P10 W9 L0 D1 points: for 188 against 54 - Ed*) He was a very keen oarsman in the School boat (*School Colours 1936-37 - Ed*) and also rowed with Reading Rowing Club. Wally was a leading member of the Debating Society (*character 1936-37 and SOM - Ed.*), Hon Secretary of Seekers and a sergeant in the OTC. He took a keen interest in natural history and wrote a paper on birds which received favourable notice in the local press. He loved to fish for trout and grayling in the Kennet. (*The 200-page paper, entitled 'Bird Life in and around Reading' won Reading Corporation's Senior Laffan Prize - Ed*)

In 1937 Wally was awarded an Exhibition to Selwyn College, Cambridge to read History. The Master of Selwyn reported that he took a full share in College activities and was elected Boat Captain in 1939. (*Milne had won the Freshman's Sculls; in 1938 he stroked the Selwyn Boat that came fifth out of 130 in the London Head of the River Race with E M (Sam) Hall (1928-35) at 2 - both he and Hall also rowed in the Cambridge Trial Eights that year - Ed*)

He was destined not to complete his third year, due to the outbreak of the Second World War, and was called up in November 1939. Following Officer Training at Bulford, Wally was commissioned as a 2nd Lieut into the Royal Berkshire Regiment in September 1940. He was subsequently transferred to the newly formed Reconnaissance Corps in December 1940 and spent time in Northern Ireland and in Iceland training in winter warfare in possible readiness to support the Russians on the Eastern Front. That was not to be and the Corps moved to Porthcawl in September 1942, where the 49th Reconnaissance Regiment was formed, Wally appointed Adjutant and promoted Captain.

The Regiment prepared for the invasion of Europe and in June 1944 Wally landed on D Day+11 near Arromanches in Normandy. Early in the invasion Wally was moved from 49 Recce Regiment to replace the Brigade Major of 147 Brigade who had been killed at Cagny. The Brigade fought for eleven months from the Normandy bridgehead through northern France, Belgium and Holland. Wally was mentioned in despatches in March 1945; to his irritation a promotion from 'acting' to 'full' Brigade Major was blocked by Montgomery who wanted someone who had been to Staff College, something Wally was too young to have done. When the war in Europe ended in May 1945 he was in Holland in the Hilversum area.

In June 1945, Wally was promoted Major and appointed GSO2 (chief administrative officer) at the newly established Rhine Army School of Infantry in Sennelager. Here he spent some very happy first weeks of peacetime surrounded by other successful wartime officers who were now engaged in training the next generation of soldiers.

In October 1946, Wally said farewell to the Army – which had taken seven years of his life. He often said that he was very fortunate during those years – too young for Dunkirk, not sent to the Far East, trained for winter warfare on the Eastern Front that, in the event, did not require the British Army's participation, and then put into HQ functions rather than frontline combat due to his strong academic qualifications and administrative skills. He was accepted into the Colonial Service but, tired of waiting for a posting to a shrinking Empire, he took a job assisting a stockbroker in London. Then, following two years working in Cliftonville for a hotel group, Wally was appointed General Manager at the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in November 1948, thus beginning a 36-year career which allowed full expression of the many skills, intellectual and practical, that he had developed through childhood, university and the army.

The Hayes became one of the leading centres in the country for theological conferences, including diocesan clergy schools, student conferences, annual gatherings of Church Assembly Councils, mission societies, and almost every sort of Christian youth conference. Countless committed Christians, not to mention thousands of other people, committed to various worthy and social causes have attended the Hayes Conference Centre at some time. It became a household name in the Church.

Wally retired in 1985 to the Derbyshire village of Brackenfield where he created a fine rose garden with over 160 varieties. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 67 years, a daughter, Penelope, and three sons, Adrian, Julian and Robin.

Wally Milne died on 28 September 2010 aged 91.

Robin and Adrian Milne

JOHN VIVIAN RODERICK(S) (1939-42)

Born in Maida Vale in London on 2 September 1923, John was the younger brother to his sister, Paddy. He grew up in West Hampstead attending Westcroft Preparatory School with his life-long friend Douglas Holloway, subsequently moving together to Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, aged 13, for about three years until the outbreak of the Second World War.

His father died when he was just 16, but his guardian, Conrad Costin a distinguished OR (*William Conrad Costin (1906-12) former Captain of School - Ed*) encouraged him to join Reading School (along with Douglas (1939-40)) entering VMB in September 1939. He was in County House, whose Committee he reached and for whom he gained House Colours in Athletics and Swimming and was selected for the House Boat in his final year. He was a Sergeant in the Cadet Corps, and a School Athletic Colour. (*At Sports Day 1942 John won the 100 yards, the 120 yards hurdle and the 440 yards; in most years that would have been sufficient to secure the Victor Ludorum (Championship of the Sports) - but John was runner up; Gerry Horler, outstanding schoolboy athlete, pipping him to the title. John, as County House Senior Sergeant, also collected the Efficiency Cup (Platoon) on Speech Day 1942 - Ed.*).



Costin (who became President of St John's College, Oxford) wanted John to go to Oxford University and although he sat the Oxbridge Exams his heart was not in it, preferring instead to join the Army.

He was selected to go to OCTU in Kettering and was listed as 'Gunner RA' by December 1942, subsequently gaining a Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant a few days after his 20th Birthday in 1943. Nine months later he was sent to France two days after the D-Day Landings. He saw action in Northern France until the end of the War, after which he served as a Captain in both Egypt and Palestine in the KOSB. Whilst in the Army he distinguished himself as an athlete in both track and field events, but always hated long distance running.

He left the Army around 1946-47 and became an Articled Clerk in a firm of chartered accountants (Wade Harrison), in the City. He sat the professional examinations to become a Chartered Accountant and achieved a high position, coming 13th out of around 1,500 entrants.

During this time he moved back to the family house in West Hampstead and, while working in the City, he met his wife, Thelma, whom he married in August 1954.

They bought a farm labourer's cottage in 1959, on the outskirts of Chelmsford, as a restoration project which they spent a year or so doing up before occupying in January 1961. His two sons, Jeremy and Christopher, were born in 1962 and 1964 respectively and in 1973 the family moved to the much loved family home of Swords near Great Dunmow (where he lived with Thelma for the next 36 years).

John was by then working for Vigers Stephens and Adams (timber flooring manufacturers) having joined in May 1969 as Company Secretary. He was soon promoted to Financial Director and ultimately to Managing Director in 1979. However, Vigers fell victim to the adverse economic conditions in the early 1980s and, following a period of temporary jobs, he settled at Phoenix Storefitters; a job which lasted through to his official retirement in January 1989.

However, soon after retiring he set up his own accountancy practice operating from Swords. Always youthful at heart and in appearance, he secured one of his major clients (an international firm of Italian lawyers, Chiamenti Studio Legali) at the age of 70 which, when they found out, surprised them greatly. Aside from his family, work was his principal hobby and interest until his second retirement in 2005 (aged 82). During this period he regularly commuted to London, where his clients were mainly based, sharing a flat in his childhood home in West Hampstead, firstly with Christopher then Jeremy.

John was a sprinter through and through but, ironically, in the end he ran a long steady race. He is survived by his wife Thelma, his sons, Jeremy and Christopher and grandchildren, Hannah and Ben.

John Rodericks died peacefully on 31 March 2011 aged 87.

C J Rodericks

FREDERICK JOHN MALPAS (READING SCHOOL MASTER 1952-88)

'We give a hearty welcome to the following new members of the staff: Mr F E Bleasdale, BA, Exeter College, Oxford (English): Mr J W Haines, BA, Brasenose College, Oxford (Mathematics and Physics) and Mr F J Malpas, BA, Emmanuel College, Cambridge (German).'

The above is from the January 1953 School Magazine; John Malpas - 'Fritz' to his pupils - started at Reading School on the 1 September, 1952 and rose steadily in seniority during his 36 years there until, by the time of his retirement in July 1988, he was the longest serving on the roll of Assistant Masters that used to appear in the old School List (the blue book) each Michaelmas Term.

Born in Emsworth, Hampshire, John Malpas attended the Royal Masonic School, Bushey, from 1935 to 1943, leaving with his higher certificate to go into the Forces in the last years of the Second World War.

In 1948 John took up a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, from which he graduated in Modern Languages; he trained as a teacher in the Department of Education at Cambridge in 1951/2 and gained his Certificate of Education as specially qualified to teach in German and French.

His contribution to Reading School stretched well beyond the classroom. He organised School hockey (and played a leading role each year in the Staff v School Hockey match) and was in the timekeeper's tent at Sports Day for many years. He acted as Secretary to the Masters' Common Room.

He was an enthusiastic House Master of East House from 1959 to 1971 eschewing an authoritarian approach and encouraging a democratic attitude to House politics. He ran the system for School lunches, was business manager for many dramatic and musical productions, and as Careers Master spent many long hours giving boys advice, practical help, sympathy and understanding. J M (Mike) Evans, former Master at School, called him – in the tribute he wrote in the School Magazine to mark John's retirement – 'a true professional'. Tributes from former pupils single him out as a schoolmaster who was humane, even-handed and kindly. J G (James) Linderholm (1975-82) considered him 'an inspiring contrarian' a description that might have appealed; John Malpas was always insistent that both sides of an argument be considered.

John Malpas did not maintain contact with the School in his longish retirement but took pleasure in the countryside and local history (his knowledge of both of which was well known and appreciated by generations of boys at School). He remained resident in Caversham from which he had walked or cycled daily to and fro in his teaching days. He wrote *German Unseens for O Level* (1969) and two small books of local history: *Caversham Names* (1995), and *Caversham Park and Its owners* (1997), amongst others as yet unpublished. Many will remember his interest in archaeology and, perhaps, his finding of a Roman road, which was written up in *Oxoniensis*.

John married Elizabeth (Ilsa) Dömkes in 1949 and they had two children. He is survived by Ilsa and his daughter, Jean Brading. His son, Richard (OR 1969-74) predeceased him.

John Malpas died on 10 December 2008 aged 83.

KCB

WILLIAM BUCKOKE (1935-41)



Bill was born in Ashford but the family moved to Reading where his love of the countryside, fishing and shooting was allowed full reign – indeed he used to cycle across Reading with his shotgun tied to the cross bar of his bike...

At Reading School his skill with a gun gained him School Shooting Colours and he captained the VIII in 1940. Bill carried off the Giles Ayres Cup two years running. He played for the 1st XV, was a School Athletics Colour, captained his House Boat and was an active member of a number of School societies. In his final year he became a Sergeant in the CCF, commanding No V Platoon, was Captain of West House and Captain of School. Before he left he successfully passed the Navy Special Examination.

Starting as cadet RN Bill served throughout the war and remained in the Royal Navy until 1951 when, a Lieutenant, he was invalided out with TB having spent 18 months

in a sanatorium. He had greatly enjoyed his time in the service and especially as a submariner.

Despite the enforced change of career, 1951 was not without its compensations as that year he married Isabel MacFarlan and embarked on a 60 year union which was bring them two sons. He started work in Portsmouth as an articled clerk and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1955.

He became a successful business executive, remaining very much his own man but highly valued for his perception and abilities, particularly as a problem solver. Bill was a director of Gillette, of Braun in Germany and, before returning once more to Braun, of Williams & Glyn's Bank. In the service Bill had always believed that, as an officer, he should be able to do things at least as well as any of his men and in his business life he was noted for his loyalty to all who worked for him and with him.

David Clarke with whose father Bill served in the Navy and whose contribution to this notice is gratefully acknowledged, remembers Bill as a tremendous pillar of strength and support for all those who knew him. Bill is survived by Isabel and by their sons Alistair and Andrew.

Bill Buckoke died on 8 December 2010 aged 87.

KCB

MAJOR JAMES WILSON FYFE (READING SCHOOL BURSAR 1975-85)

Jimmy Fyfe became the Reading School bursar in succession to R W (Dick) Walker OBE, and held the appointment for ten years (a job in which, he said, he had worked harder than ever had to as a career soldier!).

Jimmy was born on 19 September 1920 in Glasgow, with a twin brother who died at birth; he attended Glasgow High School, where he was in the OTC, and took a job with a coal exporter when he left in 1938. He also joined the TA: call up followed in September 1939 and his signals unit was sent to France - from where he returned via Dunkirk. After three years at south coast defence locations he was sent to the Middle East and then India, where he was commissioned. From there he returned to the UK in 1946 in a plaster cast from head to toe following a serious motorcycle accident, and was eventually demobilised in 1948.

He rejoined the TA and then gained a Short Service commission which took him to Beverley (as OC R Troop 6 (Boys) Training Regiment) where he met, and in September 1951, married Esmé Cherry (aunt of T F (Tim) Denzey (1969-76) and his sister Shannon, who is married to G V (Geoff) Bevit (1957-64)). There followed many homes and many postings, including deployment to Suez in 1956, Germany and Libya. In all Jimmy spent 37 years in the British Army. During his service his son Alistair, now Lt Col Fyfe (whose contribution to this notice is greatly appreciated), and daughter, Amanda (Mandy), were born.



Then followed his decade at Reading School. Once in post he quickly settled to the task and ran a most efficient office with Mrs Thelma Hill as his secretary for his entire time at School, which included dealing with the inevitable difficulties that followed the suicide of A T Davis at the Headmaster's Lodge in 1978. Jimmy had the unhappy experience, also, (with F H Terry, Master at School (1946-82) - who attended Jimmy's Thanksgiving Service) of being the first on the scene that day.

In retirement, Jimmy and Esmé moved to Malvern, where they spent many happy years before a further move to Wokingham close to their daughter Mandy. The family was Jimmy's great pleasure; philately remained a lifelong interest; he was proud to be Honorary Life President of the Beverley Ex Boys Association.

The Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on 12 October and the reception afterwards at St Anne's Manor were a fine tribute of thanksgiving and celebration of Jimmy's life: events sadly long delayed because an incident in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where Jimmy died in April (although he had only gone in initially for a hip x-ray) had to be subject to the lengthy legal processes necessary in such circumstances. He is survived by Esmé, Alistair, Mandy and three grandsons Ben, Tom and Hamish.

Jimmy Fyfe died on 21 April 2011 aged 90.

KCB

GRAHAM HUBERT JONES (1942-52)

For most of Graham's life the School was, literally, never far away. Although the family home was in Winnersh when he started his schooling at the age of five, the school he travelled daily to by bus and shanks' pony was Malvern House in Addington Road. Only the latter mode became necessary when, in 1939, the family bought a newly built house in Alexandra Road, Reading.

Graham joined the Junior School and was taught by Miss O'Reilly in the 'Tin Tab'. He sat near to the stove and became 'deputy stoker'. In the following two years, before moving to the Senior School his Form Masters were Mr Timms and Mr Poole.

(Those who lived in the area will remember, and no doubt visited, the farm on the corner of Upper Redlands Road and Elmhurst Road. During the war years, Graham helped out there, milking, driving the cows to pasture, etc. The farm buildings still exist and their preservation is due to Graham's own intervention to prevent their demolition after it had ceased to be a working farm long after the war.)

Graham joined the CCF, took part in some House activities, sang in the chorus of *The Mikado* and played cricket for the School 3rd XI. Cricket was a great interest and he was part of the East House team that won the House Championship of 1952. On leaving School he put a talent for technical drawing to good use with the Directorate of Colonial Survey – mapping the Empire – having passed the necessary Civil Service examination. (During this period in his career he claimed to have found the first evidence for continental drift, by looking at both sides of the Rift Valley. However, he said he didn't know what he had discovered, so fame eluded him!)

Graham then became a Planning Officer for Berkshire County Council and in 1970 became self-employed and was involved in architectural work near and far, including the restoration of Harvington Hall, the moated mediaeval manor house, near Kidderminster. He took evening classes at the Bartlett School of Architecture, part of University College, London, eventually obtaining his MPhil.

Graham met Christine West at Berks County Sports Tennis Club and they married at St Michael's, Tilehurst on 7 September 1963. At first they lived in Maiden Erlegh but they returned to Alexandra Road in 1970, buying the house next to his old family home and there they spent the rest of their married life. They shared many interests, nature, walking, and photography; for Graham his great absorption was his love of architecture.

Throughout, Graham was a loyal supporter of Reading School and the OR Association, regularly attending the Annual Dinner. In 2000 he developed kidney problems and faced the many difficulties of his last years with stoicism and wry cheerfulness, buoyed, he said, when in hospital by being in a bed overlooking the School. Graham was laid to rest in the fine churchyard of St Andrew's, Sonning, where Christine, who survives him, is a bell ringer. Amongst a number of ORs at the funeral were close neighbour D K (Doug) Smith (1931-36), near contemporaries the Rev D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) and B (Barrie) Shelton (1950-53), C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62) and P C (Peter) Chadwick (1979-86) both of whom gave addresses.

Graham Jones died on 25 March 2011 aged 76.

KCB

JOHN ROBERT HARRAWAY (1953-60)



John joined the School (West House) in 1953 and maintained a close friendship with David Norris, Nigel Druce, John Turner and Deryck Lodrick for the rest of his life. He left School to qualify as a Chartered Accountant with Ernest Francis & Co in Reading. He then spent 10 years working in London, including six happy years with Green Shield, before being part of the team launching Argos, the catalogue shops. He moved to the West Country and spent a few years developing practical computerised accounting systems for a small group of companies before establishing his own accounting firm in Tavistock, selling out in 1999 to retire to Crete. Whilst living in Gunnislake, he and his journalist wife, Gail, set up a small travel agency, 'Friends in Crete'. Through their love of Crete and the Greek people they had made many contacts on the island, through whom their business was done. Their marketing material read: 'We've made many friends in Crete and enjoyed the lifestyle away from the beaches and discos. You can too!'. After 20 happy years of marriage his wife Gail died in 1992, and this tragedy was compounded by the loss of their only child shortly

after being born. However, in 1993 at an opera in Vienna he met Hazel a former Warrant Officer in the army. They married in 1994 and built a house in Crete on the acre of land and surrounded it with an attractive garden. They travelled extensively both to see friends and family and to indulge their passion for opera and classical music.

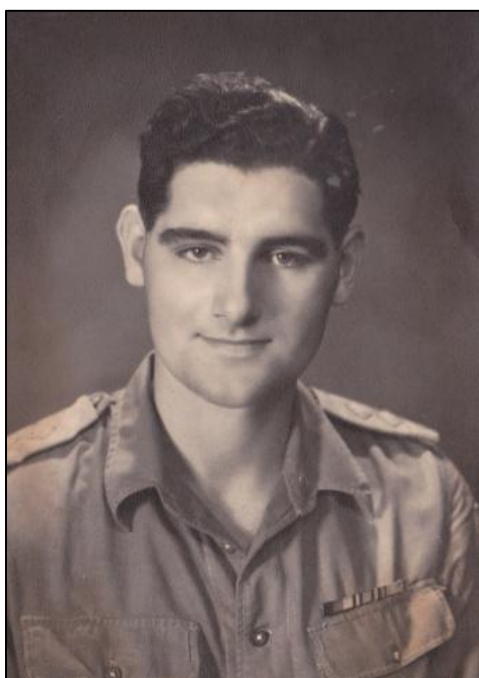
For many years he suffered from poor health and particularly so during the last two years of his life. He survived one crisis after another, becoming known to his friends as 'The Comeback Kid'. This time was an emotional roller-coaster for Hazel, who was with him when he died at home in Crete. In accordance with local custom he was buried two days later.

John was always good company. On a School trip organised by Sid Taylor to Switzerland, when many of us had eaten our provisions by the time we got to Calais, John produced a haversack of comestibles which kept us going during the night until we reached Basle and café au lait et croissants. He kept in touch with his friends regularly by e-mail. They enjoyed his witty, articulate comments on life in Greece, his views on politics, economics and the vagaries of life. Scarcely a week would go by without a hilarious joke winging its way through cyberspace. He was a loveable, larger than life character who will be much missed.

John Harraway died on 2 April 2011 aged 68.

F J Pocock

JAMES ERIC CAREY (1936-40)



In 1947, at the age of 22 years and 3 months, Jim Carey (then attached to the Gold Coast Regiment) was perhaps the youngest major in the British Army; twelve years earlier he had entered Reading School (West House) from a very deprived background. His family lived in a poor part of Reading and life was hard in the extreme, worsening when his mother died at the age of only 35 and his three sisters were fostered. Jim, then 13, stayed with his father who was often away from home to find work and sought solace in drink. Jim, however, won a scholarship to Reading School and that changed the course of his life (it was his second scholarship – the first at age 11 was not taken up because the family could not afford the uniform – a not uncommon story at that time).

Fuelled by the jam sandwiches he brought for lunch, Jim worked hard, loved learning, was proud to be elected form captain by his fellows, enjoyed rugby and chess and never forgot the schoolmasters who had inspired him. Nowadays he would have sailed into University and perhaps become the doctor he would have liked to have been. As it was he left School at 16 and at the age of 18 was in the army with the Royal Hampshire Regiment, seeing five years of active service in Burma and West Africa and rising quickly through the ranks.

Post war, he initially joined the Metropolitan Police but in 1948 took a job at the Eagle Star Insurance Company, in Reading, and there he met and, in 1950, married Mary Ralph; their 60th wedding anniversary fell last year.

Promotion followed until Jim became Branch Manager at Torquay and then Area Manager in Exeter. Overwork then caused a collapse and he took early retirement, buying a house in Paignton with the large garden that he and Mary had always wanted. There they lived for 34 years, with Jim also working in the area as a gardener, caring for Mary's elderly mother and then for their three small grandchildren when their daughter, Liz, started work at Torquay Girl's Grammar School.

Jim's last 15 years were spent in the shadow of ill health, for him heart attacks and a further breakdown, and for Mary severe Alzheimer's. The family made considerable sacrifices to care for them and whilst Mary has had to enter a care home nearby, Jim did rally until the last months of his life.

All his life Jim believed that Reading School had given him stability, security and love of learning. It was totally fitting that his ashes have been scattered by the south wall of the School Chapel (see page 13).

He is survived by Mary, his son Nicholas, his daughter Elizabeth (whose considerable input to this notice is gratefully acknowledged) and by four grandchildren David, Daniel, Sophie and Nikou.

Jim Carey died on 21 April 2011 aged 86.

KCB

ALAN MICHAEL GRANT (1945-54)



Alan Grant's nine years at Reading School were spent in County House. When he left from Form 63, he was on the House Committee, a L/Cpl in the CCF, a keen member of his House XV and XI and had gained School Rep Athletic Colours for prowess in cross country running.

On leaving School he joined Westminster Bank, spending his early career in the Reading and Brighton areas, with an interruption for National Service. Managerial appointments followed and drama too; whilst a Branch Manager in Guildford, Alan faced down and fought with a bank robber armed with a bomb (dummy) and a shotgun (fully loaded). Clubbed around the head with the shotgun (a wound subsequently needing 39 stitches) Alan chased the man, who had fled the premises, down the High Street and brought him low with a rugby tackle. For his bravery he received the Queen's Gallantry Award from HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace. Alan's career continued its upward trajectory, until, as Chief Manager at Brighton, he was responsible for over 70 branches.

His long marriage to Sheila which produced their two sons, Ian and James, came to an end when Sheila died in 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

Brighton Golf Club was an important part of Alan's life. He was a director there and his financial experience was of great benefit to the club. He was also a very keen golfer who became Captain in 1998, and an unfailingly generous host at the bar. At dinner he was very often asked to say Grace, for which he was noted and often delivered in Latin (George Vale's '*Benedic Nos Domine.....*' perhaps?).

In July 2010 Alan married Mrs Valerie Vickers. Valerie had also lost her husband to cancer and both families were part of the same community of Rottingdean where Alan was so popular and active; a Foundation Governor of the local C of E Primary School, a long term member of the Lions, someone who was always willing to help, defined by the ability to combine gravitas with humour and kindness.

He is survived by Val, by his sons, and by four grandchildren.

Alan Grant died on 6 May 2011 aged 73

KCB

DR HERBERT MILLSON PRICE (1930-34)

Herbert (popularly known as 'Herbie') Price was born at sea, on the SS Yorkshire, en route for Ceylon (whence his parents were travelling to take up medical appointments) on 11 January 1921. His middle name was that of the ship's Captain. After twelve years in Ceylon his father returned and became a GP in Reading. Herbert was educated at Reading School, in the Junior School (as were his three brothers, D H (David), R L J (Ronnie) and F S (Freddie)) and then at Blundells; he followed his father into medicine and studied at the Middlesex Hospital. This was during the Second World War and he experienced the Blitz, during which he was a fire warden. He later became a Captain in the TA. His father represented Ireland at Rugby Football twice in 1920 and rugby became Herbert's great passion. When a medical student he joined Wasps where he played hooker in the 1st XV, moving eventually to Windsor, then Reading and continuing to play until he was over 60. He also ran Vandals Sunday sides at Walton.



Herbie joined his father's medical practice, at 1 London Road, eventually taking over from him when he retired, not only the practice but the post of Reading School (later Boarders) Medical Officer. (His father, Dr A H Price, held that post from 1930.) Herbie served the local community in Reading for five decades and was particularly respected in the large Asian community of East Reading.

Other interests included photography, gardening, a keen involvement with Reading Horticultural Societies and with the Medical Museum at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (where some of his exhibits are still on show). He also competed for Berkshire at rifle shooting; he was equally proficient on both miniature and full bore ranges. He regularly shot for the Blundells Magpies in the veteran matches at Bisley and was still achieving decent

scores in his mid-eighties. He became President of the Magpies Rifle Club, was a member of Peppard Rifle Club and later Emmer Green. Boxing was another interest (and he was the Medical Officer for Reading Boxing Club). Herbie is remembered as clubbable, good natured and gentlemanly with a rich store of humorous anecdotes. He is survived by his first wife, Valerie, by his second wife Janet, by three sons and five grandsons.

Herbert Price died on 12 December 2010 aged 89.

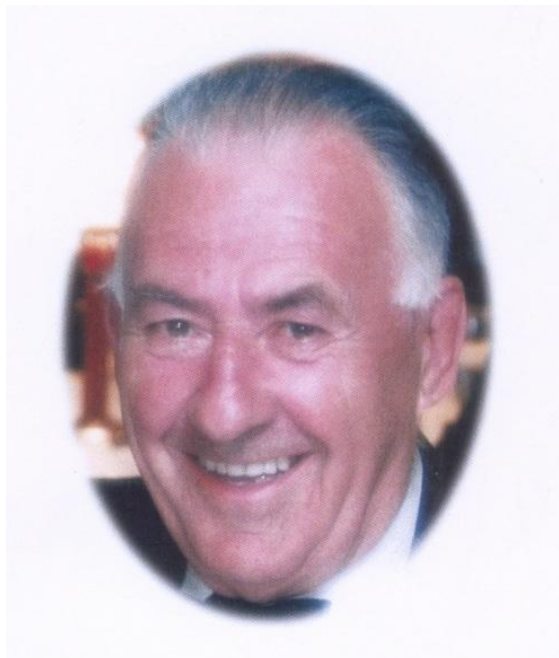
KCB

CLIVE ROWDEN (1938-43)

Clive Rowden was held in affection by large numbers of ORs and friends for his straightforwardness, humour, and general good fellowship.

He was Reading born, the eldest of five, and came to School on a scholarship, leaving from East House and VMB five years later, having given some inkling of the enduring athletic ability, that was to continue all his life, by winning the U/13 Long Run in 1939: in 1942 he was second in the Junior Long Run to David Broomfield. He left School before he could make his mark in the Senior Long Run but his talent was enough to bring him the two mile Steeplechase title at the Berkshire AA Championship meeting at Palmer Park in 1951.

Clive initially worked for the Post Office. In 1949 he married Valerie Barnes; by 1951 they were living in Sutcliffe Avenue where they were to spend more than 60 years together and to bring up their three children; during forty of those years Clive worked for Customs and Exercise, commuting daily to London.



In 1950, the early days at the Old Bath Road ground, Clive joined the Old Redingensian Rugby Club and became bound up with its fortunes as one of the Club's mainstays. He represented ORRUFC at all levels in a long playing career, was a staunch committee man, served as Team Secretary, was involved with the building of the 'new' Club House and became Bar Chairman. It was Clive that took the lead in opposing the suggested merger with Reading RFC in the 1960s: Clive was one of the Club's great servants and was deservedly elected a life member.

After his playing days he became a referee, officiating for a number of years and introducing his younger son, Ashley, to the Berkshire Referees Society. Ashley became a first class referee – indeed no one currently has officiated at more Rugby Premier matches than he.

Clive's political convictions and sense of service resulted in him serving for a time as a Conservative on Earley Town Council.

He was physically extremely tough; a familiar sight, cycling into his eighties – at seventy he had ridden his Claude Butler to visit (with his great friend Roger Wilson, of Chichester, who spoke eloquently at the funeral) the War Graves in Belgium and France. Clive had a hard bitten exterior but there was a romantic streak in him that manifested itself in his huge love of the outdoors, a revelling in nature; a belief that adventures were to be had every day. Over many decades much time was spent in the company of a close knit and like-minded bunch of friends with whom he would indulge in the jamming sessions he so enjoyed, appropriate lubrication to hand, Clive's cigarette holder charged with a Senior Service and laughter the order of the day. Another of his talents, that as raconteur, was much demanded and much in evidence on these occasions.

The family, and his friends – knew of his steadfastness, love and loyalty. His bonhomie, essential kindness and common sense, was also apparent to all who have ever been greeted with '*Hullo old sport.....!*' in the familiar, and now much missed, Rowden manner. The many ORs at the funeral included another particular friend from Chichester, J J (John) Shorter (1947).

Clive is survived by Val, his daughter Brenda, sons Nigel and Ashley, together with six grandchildren.

Clive Rowden died on 5 September 2010 aged 83.

KCB

PETER JACK EDWIN TOMKINS (1942-47)



Born in South London, an only child, Peter was nine years old when the Second World War broke out. A consequence was the evacuation of the family to Reading. He joined the Boys Brigade, via the Methodist Church (which remained important to him all his life), and there discovered the bugle, becoming a fine exponent of that instrument. He became also, a drum major. At Reading School (West House) he was in the JTC and gained his Certificate A. He was ever proud of his School.

After working for a time at the London Stock Exchange, in 1948 he joined the Navy, for National Service. After initial training in Wetherby, Yorkshire, he spent 18 months in the enlistment office for Portsmouth Division based at Victoria Barracks. (During his time there many ORs passed through.)

It was as well that Peter possessed a resilient nature and a cheerful upbeat personality, for he was to have more of his share of challenges and setbacks; whilst serving in the Navy he contracted TB Meningitis and, after early treatment at Battle Hospital (by Dr R D Morbey OR (1933-42)) he spent a year in Peppard Chest Hospital. Whilst the medication he received saved his life, it damaged his hearing which slowly deteriorated over the years until he became totally deaf. (One consequence was that he was unable to use a conventional telephone so welcomed the advance of computer technology and the era of email).

After National Service Peter retrained with a manufacturing chemist which supplied surgical appliances. Over many years, in Reading with Bradley and Bliss initially, and then Pryor and Howard in Brighton, Peter worked in hospitals as a qualified surgical fitter (orthotist). By his fifties his deafness had reached a point where he could not efficiently continue with the work and he changed direction, joining the civil service and working for the Home Office for five years before taking early retirement. After his first heart attack, when he was 65, he was advised to move to a seaside environment and the family left their Croydon home for the Worthing area that was so familiar from Peter's earlier career.

At the age of 21 he had met Janet Slade (a St Joseph's Convent Schoolgirl) and in 1955 they married. Peter and Janet brought up a large and close-knit family and, last year, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. At the age of 80 Peter suffered a second heart attack. Whilst he gave up driving he continued to maintain his positive attitude to life in general.

He was well read, greatly enjoyed a conversation and had a love of traditional musicals and light opera (acquired at School and in London after the war). Morecambe and Wise were great favourites. Peter actively encouraged all his children to perform. They in turn had great admiration for his courage, fortitude, humility and humour. In the words of his son, Bill, who with his brother Alan has contributed to this notice: *'He may not have heard but always listened'*.

He is survived by Janet, his six children, fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

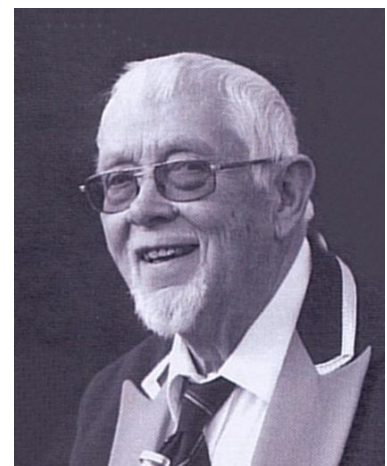
Peter Tomkins died on 11 March 2011 aged 80.

KCB

PAUL WILLIAM MUNDY (1940-48)

Paul was born in 1929 and the family moved to Reading in the early thirties. After Alfred Sutton Primary School he went to Reading School where he took part in a wide range of activities and made his mark both on the sports field, notably as a School Rugby colour and in cultural activities, gaining School Music initials. He was a School Prefect and, like his brother before him, became Captain of East House. He always spoke highly of the School.

Leaving in 1948 he toyed with cinema management (all his life he remained a film devotee) but with his father dying that same year and feeling he should play his part in the household he entered the Civil Service. By this time he knew his life would lie in music and in his early twenties he finally sought a teaching qualification which he obtained through study at Trent Park College, Enfield. His initial teacher training was at Battle Primary where he spent four years and then, after a year at Caversham Secondary, he was appointed Head of Music at Maiden Erlegh School. There he was to remain for twenty eight years becoming also Head of Creative Arts. At Maiden Erlegh he met



Julie Clarke who was the senior mistress of the School (Julie's subject was English). They married in 1965 and their daughter, Rebecca (always known as Becky) was born in 1971.

Paul was a popular, dedicated and inspirational teacher, inculcating a lifelong love of music in many of his pupils. The lavish Christmas productions at Maiden Erlegh School, a fortnight of drama and music, became well known musical events. He promoted Gilbert & Sullivan at every opportunity, starting a G&S Society at the school and mounting a production every year which also involved staff and parents.

Indeed, Paul became one of Berkshire's most prominent musicians; he was a founder of Reading Operatic Society and loved performing. As an instrumentalist he was equally proficient on piano, trumpet and cornet.

After a fine career, he retired in 1990, and he and Julie moved from Whitchurch Hill where they had lived for all their married life, to Taverham, Norwich. There he became a stalwart of the Taverham Brass Band for more than twenty years. His cornet playing came into its own but he also held a number of posts including treasurer and chairman in that period. He was Vice President, and this year Julie was invited and has accepted that post in his stead.

In his final decade Paul faced serious health challenges courageously. He is survived by Julie, Becky and by his brother P R (Peter) Mundy (1937-44).

Paul Mundy died on 12 December 2010 aged 81.

KCB

GORDON THOMAS PREECE (1933-38)



Gordon was a large man in every sense, he could be stubborn, even awkward but believed in service to others, making commitments and keeping them. He was a devoted husband and a private man who disliked fuss. His family hailed from Monmouthshire where Gordon's great grandfather had a coachworks; the family moved to Reading after the First World War and Gordon was born in 1923.

At Reading School he won the Upper IV Modern Form Prize, was in the CCF and left with his School Certificate having made friendships that he maintained all his life. He became a significant figure in both the Old Boys Lodge and the OR Club, serving on the Council and becoming Chairman.

In the Second World War he served in the Royal Air Force as a ground wireless operator in the Shetland Isles.

His passion for motor cycles and vintage cars was nearly his undoing when a motorcycle accident hospitalized him – but he married his nurse, Pat (who survives him), and it was a lasting match: indeed Gordon had met his match.

There followed a life time of vintage car rallies – Bentleys in the rain, hood down – Silverstone from its early airfield state, of caravan holidays all over the UK, walking the moors..... always with a beloved dog; often from rescue homes (Pat and Gordon finally said “No more” but then along came Skye, a Jack Russell cross who is a member of the Preece household still.) Gordon's career as an accountant brought him to Berkshire County Council where he became Deputy Treasurer. On retirement his belief in service saw him become a Voluntary Hospital Driver for thirteen years, out at all hours. That came to an end when having driven a patient to Ascot Hospital, Gordon had a heart attack on the premises at the age of 75.

With Pat he shared a love of local research into woodlands. His lifelong devotion to Freemasonry brought him high office. That may be read about in the current series of articles running in this journal, but Gordon's own view was that masons do charitable work for the sake of helping and not for personal recognition.

Three years ago he fell whilst on holiday; periods in hospital then followed until his death this year. The address at his funeral service was given by G L (Graham) Guppy (1963-70) who in his eulogy about this straight talking man who was many things to many people, declared that he was, above all, ‘on the square’.

Gordon Preece died on 13 January 2011 aged 87.

KCB

VICTOR THOMAS ROLFE (1943-45)

Victor Rolfe's childhood home was in Pitcroft Avenue, Reading and he attended Alfred Sutton School, both Primary and Senior, before coming straight into the Lower Sixth at Reading School in 1943, as a number of boys from Alfred Sutton did during the 1940s.

He was in East House and a L/Cpl in the JTC. He spent two years in the Royal Navy as a radio mechanic and then a forty year career commenced as an electronics engineer, six years at Ediswan and thirty four at Mullards (before retirement in 1988). As electronic projects and gadgets were also Vic's hobby, he was a happy man, and a useful chap to know!

In 1948 he met Jean and married her in 1951; they lived first in Norris Road and then emigrated to Swainstone Road, where his sons Alan and David were born. They returned to more familiar territory, a house in Oldfield Road, where Stephen and June were born, and that remained the family home for fifty years.

Vic's life, apart from family and work, was scouting; he joined the Cubs aged eight; that meant he joined Sunday School – at Anderson Baptist Church – and so the Church began its important part in his life and he became a man of duty believing he had to give to others. Vic Rolfe wrote *'Three Flag Hoist'* (2004) which is the history of the Sea Scouts in Reading. By then he had received the Silver Acorn, at St George's Chapel, Windsor, in recognition of his distinguished service to the Scout Movement at local, district, and county level.

He remained a faithful member of the Anderson congregation, was baptised there and became a deacon. His mission was to integrate scouts with church as part of a scout's duty to God. Vic's life was based on duty – to family, to church and to work and he was a man of faith.

Vic's thanksgiving service, at Anderson Baptist Church, was conducted by Rev Judith Wheatley, whose contribution to this notice is gratefully acknowledged. He is survived by Jean, by his sons Alan, David and Stephen, by his daughter June, and by his grandchildren.

Vic Rolfe died on 21 December 2010 aged 83.

KCB

ERIC PRINCE (1934-40)



Eric was born in the head gardener's cottage at Polesden Lacey estate and came to Reading when his father took up a senior post at Sutton's Seeds in 1925. At Reading School he became a Corporal in the OTC, won house cricket and athletic colours and was a good chess player. He had reached the School 1st XI in 1940, when he left School, and was showing signs of the strong batsman he was to become. He was always proud of having (in his very last days at School) caught out the great H E (Tom) Dollery (1925-32) for 28 (off D H (Dennis) Easby's bowling) in the School v OR's match.

When he left he worked at the Register Office in Reading and then joined the Royal Tank Regiment on call up in 1943. He first went into action in Normandy on his 21st birthday in 1944 and was part of the advance into Germany. At war's end he spent time in the Intelligence Corps until demobilisation. Back in civilian life he joined the Public Assistance Office and this led to a Civil Service career with the Ministry of National Insurance followed by twenty years with the Admiralty before his final assignment in a senior position with the Common Market Board for Agricultural Produce (which became the Intervention Board) based in Reading.

In 1950 he married Joyce Restall (whom he took to an Old Redingensian dance when first introduced by his sister Molly) and in 2010 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Eric and Joyce had many years of retirement spent in their apartment in Tenerife, their caravan in West Wittering and, in later years, the home that they made in Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

Eric was passionate about sport all his life and, above all, Cricket. He was a leading light for two decades of the Old Redingensians Cricket Club and captained the 1st XI in 1960 and 1961. He was a member of MCC and a frequent visitor to Lords. In later years he also became a good bowls player.

Eric's cousin is R J (Ron) Tillen (1943-49) to whom we are grateful for input to this notice, as we are to Eric's son John. He is survived by Molly and by their two sons Trevor and John (who was at School 1967-74), four grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Eric Prince died on 17 January 2011 aged 87.

KCB

PETER ADRIAN REDGROVE (1953-60)



Peter joined Reading School in 1953 following in the footsteps of his father, A L Redgrove, who was Captain of School in 1923 and President of the OR Association in 1964. He was a gifted pupil who could have gained an Oxbridge place. Instead, encouraged by his father, he chose to be articled to a leading firm of Reading solicitors, Blandy & Blandy. Upon qualifying in 1965 he worked in General Practice before joining the New Towns Movement as a lawyer in a team of architects, planners, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects and accountants. The building of Redditch New Town was a major turning point in his life. He played a full part in developing the community, believing that good design and planning can make for a better life. After Redditch, he was the Principal Legal Officer for the Skelmersdale and Central Lancs New Towns, and in 1992 he joined the Treasury Solicitor's Department at its new offices in Taunton to deal with Government conveyancing. Whilst there he and his wife Jane, an Interior Designer, were to create an elegant and comfortable home in a former Georgian vicarage in nearby Langport. Having enjoyed five years of retirement, in 2004 Peter suffered the first of three strokes, which sadly placed restrictions on his life.

Peter had a quirky sense of humour that was well illustrated by his devotion to the Peter Simple column in The Daily Telegraph and the writings of the Irish author and satirist, Flann O'Brien. He enjoyed classical music and over the years was involved with a number of charities. He was a much liked member of the School. One of his friends recalls that he was an excellent chess player and also had a canoe in Sonning and would invite his friends to join him on the river. Another classmate wrote: *'I remember Peter with particular affection because his family used to entertain me when I was on 'holiday' from the confines of East Wing. His parents were kind people and Peter was a gentle soul with a cultivated mind. At his home we'd sit around and play classical 78s from his father's record collection. At School Peter was not a keen sportsman, which was what was esteemed above all else at Reading School in the fifties; he was just a thoroughly nice boy, though, and so well liked by everyone. I regret our paths never crossed thereafter, but people don't change and I can imagine his loss is a very great sadness to his family.'* And indeed our sympathies go to Jane and their two sons, Edward and Robert.

Peter Redgrove died from pneumonia on 15 May 2011 aged 69.

F J Pocock

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to Robin and Adrian Milne (sons of Wally Milne), Chris Rodericks (son of John Roderick(s)), and Francis Pocock (1953-60). We invite others to send in their reminiscences for inclusion in future issues of the Journal.



In Memoriam

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

R L (Rex) Bowley (1955-70)

Master at Reading School
Died 5 October 2010 aged 85

R A J (Ronald) Bennett (1930-31)

Occupation unknown
Died November? 2010 aged 96?

A G (Tony) Sharp (1936-43)

Surveyor and Estate Agent
Died 28 November 2010 aged 83

R D (Rodney) Goodall (1945-50)

Chartered Architect
Died 2 June 2011 aged 76

W N C (Noel) Wiggins (1935-39)

Accountant
Died 21 June 2011 aged 89

J (John) Illman CMG (1951-59)

Diplomat
Died 4 August 2011 aged 70

M E (Martin) Howe-Jones (1944-53)

Company Director
Died 11 August 2011 aged 77

D R (David) Hill (1946-57)

University Lecturer
Died 6 September 2011 aged 73

N J (Jim) Diserens (1943-49)

Engineer
Died 7 September 2011 aged 79

R J B (Jeff) Broadhurst (1943-49)

Banker
Died 24 September 2011 aged 78

C C (Colin) Stamp (1938-44)

Banker
Died 27 September 2011 aged 83

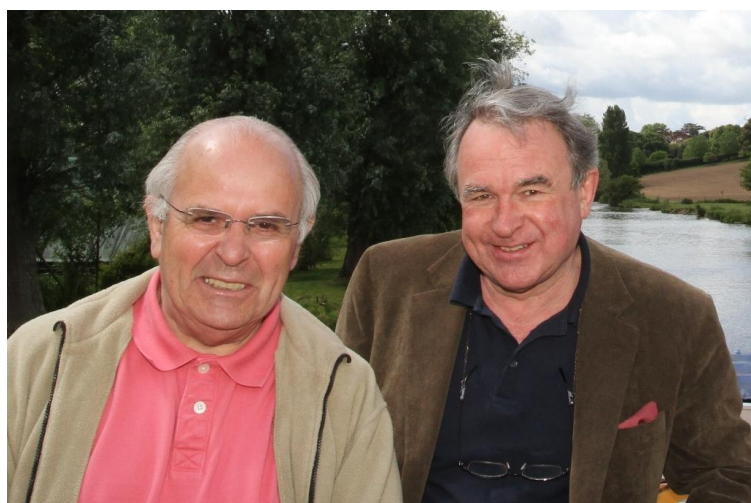
M J (Mike) Oakley (1944-54)

Academic, Artist, Musician
Died 22 October 2011 aged 76

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



From the Editors



The article in this issue concerning the School's beginnings in the Abbey of Reading leads, naturally, we think to a consideration of the present Bidding Prayer; a subject in which we know that the present School Chaplain, Rev C J Evans (OR 1990-97) is particularly interested. King Henry I, Henry Beauclerc, one of the greatest of English monarchs, should surely be considered an early benefactor of the School. Perhaps the first Abbot, Hugh De Boves also. (The last Abbot, Hugh Cook Faringdon will, incidentally, be the subject of an article in the next issue of The Old Redingensian; his links with the School are possibly much closer than is generally known). Of modern day benefactors the most recent mentioned in the

Bidding Prayer is George Palmer; nobody from the later 20th century is named. What of the late Edgar Millward? Certainly a benefactor over many years and whether or not on a scale to merit inclusion in the Bidding Prayer then surely at least deserving of an article in The Old Redingensian? We ask that readers send in any memories, anecdotes, facts, details indeed anything that they may know about Edgar and his family's connections with Reading School.

Now with Academy status, Reading School remains a selective Grammar School providing free tuition for boys within the state maintained sector and is *'suitable for day boys within the Reading area and for weekly boarders'*. It was recently described as *'a thriving and purposeful community, retaining its tradition and academic distinction in times of change'*. So it has done over many centuries (with the odd blip to prevent complacency) to the credit of many dedicated men and, particularly in more recent times, women.

There is, however, never a dull moment. Just as the euphoria of realising the target to enable the new refectory to go ahead was kicking in, came another sort of kicking; protest about the selective nature of the School being resurrected after some years of quiescence. Narrow self-interest was the driver, but our democracy allows this – such argument is legitimate and, once more the School seeks through reasoned rebuttal, added by the weight of numbers, to win the day.

The achievements of individual pupils in academic, sporting and other fields continued to reach new heights and we cite some recent examples below:

- The first group of International Baccalaureate students have completed their course and set standards for the future, not least Peter Swallow (13W) whose result (44/45) places him in the top 0.6% of candidates in the world.
- As can be seen on page 25, Stuart Parsons of West House, (also the House of the great Tom Dollery) has taken his place amongst the finest of Reading School cricketers and with a total of 212 not out against MCC has achieved the 1st XI's highest recorded individual score ever (and first double hundred) exceeding the 187 he scored three days earlier against the ORs, which in turn eclipsed the previous best – 168 scored by Owen Nares in 1906 against Newbury CC.
- Jonathan Davies of East House (see p20) is set fair to eclipse the major School middle and long distance runners of the past – which number such names as W H Pike, the Olympian Martin Hyman, Peter Watkins, and the many fine runners who brought such success to Reading School cross country teams in the 1960s and 70s starting with D M (David) Shepherd, the Dipper twins, etc.
- Further congratulations are to Matthew Wadsworth of East House and Roy Zhang of School House who carried off the U/12 and U/14 titles respectively at the 98th British Chess Championships in Sheffield this year. For any school to boast two British chess champions at the same time is remarkable.

Notes:

1. The photograph of the President on page three was taken by D B (David) Cox (1951-56).
2. As the AGM of the Association took place before publication of this issue the rear cover shows the officers for 2012.



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The illustration on the front cover of this issue depicts the Arms of Reading Abbey: *'the shield of arms bearing the blazon azure, three escallops or'* was granted in honour of St James the Apostle – scallop shells were frequently worn by pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela where his body is believed to rest in the Cathedral.
