

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Autumn 2013



*The Reverend
William Charles Eppstein M.A.
1898.*

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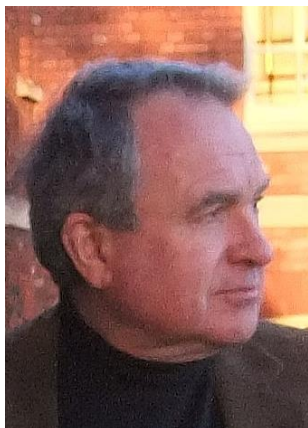


Professor F R (Francis) Terry (1956-63), *left above*, recalls some scout camps with the School Troop on pp 37-39

W E (Will) Lunn (1951-58), *right above*, contributes a short commentary on Philip Hope Percival (p 33) prompted by *Tea Trays Old and New* in the Spring 2013 issue.

The Archivist continues the occasional series on headmasters (pp 28-32) with an article about Revd W C Eppstein.

The President's Letter



My year as your President will be over by the time this letter is read and your new President will be D B (David) Cox (1951-56). I wish him well in his term of office!

Since I wrote in the Spring 2013 magazine much has come to pass, not least a strong beginning to lowering the average age of members of your Council where Ant

Butler (who left as Captain of School in 2008) is now joined by Arthur Truslove, who also left School in 2008, as a full member. We have a new co-opted member Adam Carson (who left in 2010). He will seek election as a full member when a vacancy arises.

The average age of the Executive Committee has also come down slightly with the appointment of Peter Chadwick as Honorary Secretary of the Association. He brings considerable service on Council to the post.

Those attending the Annual Dinner in November will have seen the new Tea Trays hanging in Big School and the screen and projector now installed in the Kirkwood Room.

R C (Bob) Coombs (1952-60) has completed the scanning of the full run of Reading School magazines from inception in 1875 to demise in 2000, and they will be accessible online shortly – as will team photographs of the 1st XV and 1st XI that, amongst others, Bob has also scanned for the electronic archive. He has now commenced scanning the Archive's holdings of School Lists and I, as Archivist, will be spending 2014 revising the Archive Index preparatory to posting on-line.

F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60) has piloted a scheme for sponsorship of the new trees on the terrace in memory of deceased ORs. It is proving most successful and Francis was also behind the introduction of a scheme to finance Masterclasses in certain circumstance, which has been voted in by Council.

2014 will see a special concert in the Chapel, in support of the School, as part of the Royal College of Organists 150 Years Celebration. Please see *Forthcoming Events* on page 15 for full details of this attractive event. (See footnote.)

Please also see page 20 of the School's October online Newsletter *Floreat* and consider what the School Development Director, Frances Greaney, has to say and whether you can help.

On a personal note I was delighted that when the Bidding Prayer was delivered at this year's Commemoration Service at St Mary's in the Butts, it contained the four

new names that have been argued for in this magazine over the last few issues.

The spirit in the School is burgeoning under the Headmaster's leadership and 93% of the 2013 leavers went on to further education, the majority to Russell group universities. Examination results can be found in *School News* on page 19 but readers will join me in congratulating the School in achieving its best ever GCSE results (and a formidable achievement that is).

Mr Robson's strong belief is that 'learning takes place both inside and beyond the classroom', and it is a fact that the range of activities on offer rivals that of any time in the past. We as an Association can share his wish that all Reading School boys should be ambassadors for the School

I want to pay particular tribute to past president Michael Maule. For many years he has been the driving force behind the Association's highly regarded Enterprise Awards Scheme. Michael's efficiency and organisational abilities have, year after year, ensured the smooth running of the Scheme and the knowledge that his advice remains available, if required, is greatly appreciated.

Now I become the 18th surviving Past President of our Association joining the distinguished company of:

1979	ACM Sir Douglas Lowe GCB DFC AFC
1982	F H Terry *
1996	Col J W Chown
1997	Ven P B Coombs
1999	R P Huggins
2000	A R Waring
2001	D E H Moriarty
2002	Dr D M Bruton
2004	J V Oakes
2005	M H W Maule
2006	G W O Price
2007	Lt Col N A Jouques OBE
2008	C A Scroggs
2009	N R Thomason
2010	Maj Gen M L Wildman CBE
2011	F J Pocock
2012	Prof M L Parsons

* *Before the journal went to press came the sad news of Frank Terry's death.*

Floreat Redingensis!

Ken Brown

Footnote: Due to the late publication of this issue of The Old Redingensian many 'Forthcoming Events' have already become 'Past Events' though the usual electronic notifications have been made.

Notes and News

On 5 October K B A Cullen's ashes were scattered in the Garden of Remembrance of the Reading Crematorium. 'Kendo' (1970-77) would have been 55 on that day. The co-editors were privileged to join Kendo's family and a number of his OR contemporaries including N (Nigel) Meek (1970-77), R J (Richard) Bianga (1970-77), N J A (Nigel) Taylor (1970-77), N C (Nick) Gordon (1971-77), S F (Steve) Gordon (1971-76), A (Alan) Matthews (1970-77) and M A (Mark) Dyke (1970-75) at the ceremony.

The School's former headmaster, Mr J I Weeds, now Headmaster of Cranbrook School in Kent was quoted in the national press on 24 August following an ambush of the minibus in which 14 of his pupils and two of his staff were travelling in Tanzania where they were working on aid projects. They were robbed but none were hurt, though understandably they had feared for their lives. Mr Weeds had great praise for their conduct.

Commander K W (Kevin) Seymour (1976-83) was prompted captain with effect from 2 September 2013 to serve on the British Defence Staff in Washington, DC with effect from December. Kevin has served nearly 30 years in the Royal Navy and is now – unless someone knows better – the senior serving naval OR. At School he was a Rugby and Cricket School Colour and Hon Sec of both the winter and summer game. He also gained Rep Hockey colours for the intervening term and held nine (East) House Colours – possibly a record.



Staying with the Senior Service, with effect from December 2013 Lieutenant J A (James) Smith BSc (Hons) MCMI (1994-01) has been appointed as Commanding Officer of HMS BITER, a P2000 Class Coastal Training Craft. Her primary tasking is in support of Manchester and Salford Universities' Royal Naval Unit which will also be under James's command.

Before one future OR even entered the School at the age of 11 this year he had, remarkably, already achieved his maths GCSE – and with an A* grade – whilst at his primary school, Birch Copse. Saleem Rashid is now in his first year, in East House, at Reading School.

The School now produces a 36 pp booklet outlining its extra-curricular programme, which is as strong as ever it has been. There are over 40 regular activities listed, covering the fields of Arts, Drama, Debating, Music, Service Activities, Sport, Clubs and Societies, Spirituality and Contemplation, Events, Trips and Expeditions. In most cases these are run by Staff giving voluntarily of their time and skills at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends, in the time honoured way. About £60,000 per year is expended to meet costs, working out at about £100 per boy each year. Parents are asked for donations – but ORs might also like to lend their support. Contact Frances Greaney fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk.

M R (Michael) Naxton (1959-67) is, with Chris Tarrant OBE (of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* fame, born in Reading and Bradfield educated), one of the new patrons of the Trooper Potts VC memorial Trust which is seeking funds to erect a statue to Potts in the town. At the press re-launch on 23 September and the Fund Raising Ball on 2 November (both held at the Hilton Hotel, Reading) C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62) was the Trust's photographer.

Lt Col A S (Andrew) Tuggey RE Rtd (1958-66) is the nominated High Sheriff for Gwent for the year 2015 and, if his name is approved by the Queen, will take up office in Spring of that year. Andrew remains a Deputy Lieutenant for Gwent and he continues to be Secretary of the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, whose role is to promote knowledge of constitutional matters.

M J (Michael) Wild (1940-48) is negotiating for his musical *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* to go on tour again next year. When Michael originally wrote this two-hander it toured successfully with Jess Conrad in the lead.

A B (Ben) Morris (2003-10), *pictured right*, was one of only six members successful in the 2013 examinations for Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists and received his diploma at the College's annual conferment at Southwark Cathedral this year. Ben also received the Turpin Prize and the Durrant Prize.



The History of Reading Society has published *The Reading Book of Days* which is now in the bookshops at £9.99 and recommended. An event in the Town's history is featured for each day of the year and, as to be expected, Reading School and/or Old Redingensians are prominent in many of the entries.

Dr S G (Simon) Ray (1970-77) BSc MD FRCP FESC FACC originally graduated MB ChB (Silver Medal) from Bristol and went on to train in Glasgow, Newcastle and Vancouver. He took up a post in Manchester in 1995 where he is now Consultant Cardiologist and Honorary Professor of Cardiology at the University Hospitals of South Manchester. He is also Director of Research and Development there. From 2007-09 Simon was the President of the British Society of Echocardiography.

Dr O (Oli) Harris (2004-2006) has been appearing in the BBC Three series *Junior Doctors – Your Life in Their Hands*. He studied medicine at Nottingham University, qualified in 2010 with honours, and is now at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

The golden age of poster art is celebrated in the *The Art Deco Poster* by William Crouse, who includes more than 300 examples of Art Deco design from the '20s and '30s. Amongst them is a striking 1927 image by Tom Purvis for Austin Reed's first London Store. Austin Leonard Reed (1873-1954), the founder of that famous worldwide business, was at Reading School under the Rev William Walker DD and left in 1888.

P (Peter) Batten (1940-49) went along to the 74th Charter of the Rotary Club of Knutsford. He found that the guest speaker was his erstwhile fellow West Winger, and Past President of the Old Redingensians Association R P (Rodney) Huggins (1944-52). (Rodney, pictured on the right of the image, with Peter, was President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland in 1997/98 and President of Round Tables in Great Britain and Ireland in 1975/76, a remarkable double.)



Rodney was also one of the six original founder members The Rotary Club of Loddon Vale which celebrated its 40th year on 2 October 2013 at Sindlesham Court with the Home Secretary, Theresa May, as Guest of Honour. Rodney and his wife, José, were present.

Together with their two daughters Claire and Kate and son Matthew OR (1982-89), M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59) Past President, OR Association and Pamela Maule (née Harris and ex Kendrick School) celebrated their Golden Wedding on 21 September 2013. The celebration spanned two nights in London with a very lively Italian dinner at Signor Sassi in Knightsbridge and on the second night a return for Michael and Pam to Ronnie Scott's Club in Soho for some 'cool jazz'. Congratulations to them!

A H J (Alexander) Webb (2000-07) attended Loughborough University after Reading School and was commissioned into the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment at the Sovereign's Parade held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst on Friday, 13 December 2013, having successfully completed Commissioning Course No 131 there. At the parade the Queen was represented by Field Marshall Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank.

W E (Will) Lunn (1951-58) is offering his framed 1816 engraving of Havell's *View of Reading School and Playground* for £300. Provenance can be discussed with Will on 0118 947 2321 or you may email him at willandsue@talktalk.net.

M C (Mark) Field (1976-83) the current Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster visited the School on 23 September together with his brother D C (Dominic) Field (1982-84) who is a partner with Hodes Weill & Associates. Their father, well remembered by an earlier generation of ORs for his athletic prowess, was Major P C (Peter) Field (1941-51). The Field brothers appear in the image below, their visit coinciding with another party of ORs – here photographed in Big School by Chris Widdows.

Another caller at the School, from Singapore, was J C G (Jeremy) Ramsey (1944-49) who visited the Art Department on 22 October 2013. When Rolex (Singapore) was created, Jeremy became its first Head. He also became a successful painter in oils and funds the Jeremy Ramsey Art Bursaries awarded annually at School.



23 September 2013 I to r:

I G (Ian) Judd (1962-69) Master at School; D C (Dominic) Field (1982-84); M C (Mark) Field MP (1976-83); A J (Arthur) Hedges (1951-56); Major W J (Bill) Hedges (1942-47); Major J M (John) Perry (1942-49); A A (Fred) Barker (1942-49); K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63) President Old Redingensians Association; C F (Christopher) Mountain Vice Captain of School

Enterprise Awards

This year 31 awards were made covering both individual submissions and joint projects. The assessment panel consisted of the Headmaster, Captain and Vice-Captain of School and, for the ORs, Professor Martin Parsons, Haris Hussain and Michael Maule (please see below).

The full list of awards is as follows:

Name	Form	Project	Award
Laurence Bashford	12S	National Youth Music Theatre participation	250
William Clennell	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Edward Clennett	11W	Geography Olympiad Japan	350
Dominic Cooke	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Nathan Gilpin	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Jack Ginger	10S	Marlborough Jazz Festival participation	75
Joseph Grimmett	10C	National Geographic World Championships Russia	350
Stephen Jennings	13E	Disco Equipment	250
Elliott Jewitt	11C	Team Building a Blueberry Pi	25
Alexander Johnstone	12C	Voluntary work in Taiwan	325
Humza Khan	8C	Building a computer	250
Sean Laing	7C	Team Building a Blueberry Pi	25
Jack Lawrence	8S	Making a short music video	75
George Lewendon	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Ben Lewis	9E	Team Building a Blueberry Pi	25
John Livesey	10S	National Youth Theatre Summer School	250
Oliver Meade	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Chris Mountain	12W	Voluntary work in Uganda	500
Akash Narasimha	8C	Building a computer	150
Justin Oh	9S	Technology website	110
Ben Roberts	12W	Judo coaching qualification	50
Neil Shabong	10C	Marine technology	175
Neil Shabong	10C	Website for GCSE language students	100
Ritvij Singh	10E	Website for GCSE language students	100
Jacob South-Klein	11C	World Debating Championships South Africa	350
George Suthon	12C	Spanish language course in Spain	150
Aleksandr Stepanyan	11C	World Debating Championships South Africa	350
Philip Tower	9W	Audio equipment for events	300
Tuhin Varshneya	8E	Short comedy video team	10
Chris Warby	12W	Three Peaks Challenge	200
Roy Zhang	11S	U/16 Chess Olympiad	350
			5195



Of the major award winners, **Chris Mountain** again joined a mission trip to Uganda as part of the outreach work of Finchampstead Baptist Church, continuing the work started two years ago in a Busu village.

Chris Warby (pictured) is an experienced hiker and climber and his award went towards the cost of undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) in aid of the Firefighters' Charity. This he did with a group of friends from the Loddon District Explorers Unit and they completed the challenge with 11 minutes of the 20-hour timeframe to spare, thus attaining gold medals.

Having been successful in auditioning at the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain (in a field of over 4200), **John Livesey**, to fully realise his membership, attended a 12-day acting course last summer with the help of his award and towards his ultimate aim of becoming a professional actor.

Laurence Bashford (*pictured top right*), already an experienced member of the School Drama Club and the Royal Berkshire Academy of Performing Arts, was able with the help of his award to take part in the National Youth Music Theatre's 2013 production of *Variété* at Riverside Studios, Hammersmith.

Aleks Stepanyan and Jacob South-Klein both represented the United Kingdom in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship (WIDPSC) in South Africa at Easter. Although not reaching the finals they performed creditably and with debating once again riding high at Reading School the Association is delighted to have given financial support.

Edward Clennett, who represented Great Britain in the Senior International Geography Olympiad held in Kyoto, Japan, fully justified his £350 award by coming 23rd out of 126 individually (gaining a silver medal) and helping GB to a 12th place finish, their highest ever.

Joseph Grimmett was part of the 3-strong Great Britain team (all three, uniquely, from Reading School) who secured 15th place in the Junior National Geographical Society World Championship held in St Petersburg, Russia.

Alexander Johnstone (*pictured lower right*) spent a month in Taiwan, on a Taiwanese Government Scheme, teaching English to disadvantaged children in rural areas. He was at Youmu Elementary School in the mountains about 45 minutes' drive from Taipei.

Stephen Jennings continued to add to the equipment he uses as a disc jockey and was able to upgrade his sound system. Although he will not be taking his equipment to university he carried out successful bookings over the summer and more are coming in.

Humza Khan built a desktop computer and wrote that the learning curve involved in carrying out the project had provided him with valuable experience that will be of great benefit to him.

Philip Tower's passion is audio engineering. He purchased 2x1000w Behringer B112 Active PA speakers and incorporated them into his audio equipment. They already been put to good use at the School disco and two Wycliffe Baptist Church youth events.



In the last issue of The Old Redingensian it was recorded that M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), (*pictured left*) a past president of the Old Redingensians Association, is stepping down after a decade of dedication to the Enterprise Awards Scheme. That has involved the planning, implementation and detailed running of the programme each year, latterly in coordination with Frances Greaney of the School staff. Each year Michael has also drawn up the timetable and designed the distinctive posters which annually advertise the Scheme at School, in addition to serving on the assessment panel. Tribute is paid to him in the President's letter on page 3, but any words would be inadequate to express the Association's debt to him.

Now, the day to day control and administration of the scheme is firmly in the hands of H (Haris) Hussain (1995 – 00) an Association Council member who also has the advantage of being a staff member at School (he is head of Computer Science and Engineering) with Professor M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70) Chairman of Council (and School Governor) working closely in support of Haris.

They are preparing the launch of the 2014 Enterprise Awards Programme which will be reported in the next issue of this journal.

Promoting: adventure · science · leadership · creativity · initiative

Tea Trays Old and New

Tracking the Tea Trays No 26: The Boulting Brothers



When boarders in South House, it was suggested that the Boulting Brothers had 'set up the first Film Society to be found in a Public School'. They had certainly found their niche: adept at scripting their own films, behind the camera, and producing and directing (roles that they often alternated) the identical twins were to become the exemplars of independent film production in British Cinema. John served with the International Brigade in Spain and both brothers were commissioned officers in the Second World War, soon assigned to service film units where they made a valuable contribution to the war effort. *Brighton Rock* (1947) was a landmark for the twins but they remain best known for their series of satirical comedies (*Private's Progress*, *Lucky Jim*, *I'm All Right, Jack*, etc.) which employed a host of home grown stars, Ian Carmichael,

Richard Attenborough, Terry Thomas, Dennis Price, John Le Mesurier, Irene Handl and Miles Malleon, amongst them. The twins presented the Boulting Drama Medal for the best actor in the annual School play.

KCB

Tracking the Tea Trays No 27: His Honour Anthony Patrick Babington

His obituary in *The Independent* described Anthony Babington as 'an object lesson in how a human being can conquer adversity'. Left for dead on the battlefield at Arnhem, with horrific injuries, he achieved an almost unimaginable triumph of mind over matter. Born into an Anglo Irish family in 1920, a descendant of the brother of the ring leader of the plot to assassinate Elizabeth I, he joined the Royal Ulster Rifles at the outbreak of World War II. From wounds which paralysed him he learned to walk and speak again through sheer determination and, despite being left with a paralysed right arm, a limp and a stutter, he became an outstanding writer and lawyer. He sat his law exams after eight months in bed with tuberculosis and had hardly entered chambers in Middle Temple when a further year's illness descended resulting in the removal of half a lung. He was to further endure a ruptured appendix and peritonitis before becoming in 1964, one of London's youngest metropolitan stipendiary magistrates. In 1972 he became a Circuit Judge. He was a fighter for human rights and active in International PEN which befitted the influential writer he became. His works deal with human frailty and reveal a noble compassion. For the *Sake of Example* (1983) is perhaps the best known. Babington was long sustained by his loving relationship with the children's writer, Josephine Pulein-Thompson, and was a Past President of the Old Redingensians Association.

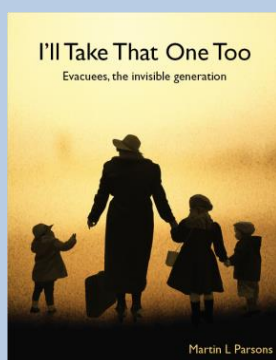


Advertisement

In 1998 Professor Martin Parsons, Past President of the OR Association, had his book *I'll Take That One* published. Subtitled *Dispelling the Myths of Civilian Evacuation, 1939-45* it was an in depth examination of *Operation Pied Piper*. For the past 15 years Martin has carried out further extensive war-child research in the UK and overseas and has gained access to previously closed documents and private papers. As a result he has produced a new extended edition entitled:

I'll Take That One Too

The book is available at £18.99 from bookshops or direct from the publishers DSM.



Events

5th Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend – 29 & 30 June 2013

Despite best efforts and encouraging weather, attendance on both days was again disappointing this year and an attempt to hold a special reunion on the day for leavers from the years 1991-94 had few takers (in marked contrast to the 2008 Leavers Barbecue following the Rowing (see below)).

However, the quality of the cricket and the enthusiasm of the players was high. On Saturday the School XI fielded by Sports Master Mark Roca took on the OR XI brought by Mike Evans (OR Council Cricket Rep and former Second Master at School) resulting in a win for the School, against the odds on the day. The match was affected by the weather which produced a damp pitch and a late start. A low scoring game was won by the young School side by 2 wickets, numbers 9 and 11 carefully knocking off the last few runs.



The six-a-side tournament on Sunday, again under the aegis of Mike Evans, saw six teams playing on a knock-out basis between 10:30 am and 6:30 pm, concluding in front of the marquee with Mike presenting winners' medals to Team F (the 2011 Leavers left) captained by James Berger-North before the cricketers fell on the bar, and the barbecue ably operated by Mange Bien.

A splendid performance on the Terrace by the Reading School Jazz Band, courtesy of Director of Music Richard Meehan, was hugely appreciated. Tours of the School were available, the Kirkwood Room open to visitors, and a continuous film loop played in Big School. KCB



Class of 2008 Five-Years-On Barbecue – Saturday, 13 July 2013

A busy Saturday for OR commitments with the OR Boat Race rolling into the afternoon for the Class of 2008's Five Years On BBQ held on the terrace at School. Beers chilled, BBQ fired and sun shining - all was set for an enjoyable afternoon of reminiscing and socialising amongst school-leavers of five years ago. Just over 40 ORs turned up, along with a small number of present and former staff, which made for a very pleasant atmosphere. An impromptu game of cricket on the field with the sun setting finished the event off nicely, with the majority rambling into town to carry the night on. This is the second Five Years On event and was, judging by reports received, a success - hopefully next year will be even better. Ant Butler

London Drinks Evening – Thursday, 5 September 2013



A decade ago the run of 'London Reunions', usually at *The City Pipe* ably organised by Tim Reece (now living in Cardigan) came to an end. Ned Holt (Staff 1982-12) this year has attended monthly gatherings of ex pupils at *The Cheshire Cheese* in Fleet Street and this generated a suggestion that the OR membership, particularly those London based, might again appreciate the chance to meet on an informal basis in London. Peter Chadwick undertook to organise this (with *The Cheshire Cheese* habitués warmly invited).

He chose *The Ship Tavern* in Holborn where a dozen or more duly gathered, including Ned Holt, and Frances Greaney of the current School staff. Furthest travelled was John Savage from Bristol. In contrast Adam Lee came the short distance from his job in the Treasury. Adam was also the youngest OR present with the senior member, by a very short head, being David Steer.

Class of 1952 Reunion and Golf Day – Tuesday, 10 September 2013

The fourth reunion of the Class of '52 was held at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Mapledurham on Tuesday, 10 September 2013.

In all 17 attended (*per image below plus John Sessions - Ed*) and everyone enjoyed some lively banter and reminisced (as far as they were able) in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Attendees came from as far away as Wales and the Midlands (*and 16 apologies were received – Ed*). Discussions continued during a sit-down meal and old colleagues were remembered during the evening.

Six golfers took part in the Annual 1952 Intake Cock House Cup, which this year was won by East House, with some impressive scoring.

The weather was kind and the course more forgiving than last year.

All in all a great day.

D F Sturrock



Back row: David Downs, Colin Burton, Duncan Sturrock, John Marcham, Trevor Smith, David George, George Potter, Clive Windebank and Norman Sharp

Front row: Philip Hoffer, John Stevens, Michael Cleere, Barrie Sloan, Brian Wallis, John Lewer and Peter Latto

Forthcoming Events



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 10 November 2013

The OR Chaplain, Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) will preside, and the guest preacher will be Revd D T W (David) Salt OR (1941-50). As usual all ORs, current pupils, staff and **their families**, are welcome in the Reading School Chapel and for light refreshments afterwards in the Refectory.

AGM & ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday, 30 November 2013

As in 2012 the Bar and Reception will be in the Refectory, the Dinner in Big School (again organised into tables of 8, so friends and contemporaries will have the opportunity to sit together). For provisional bookings, please contact **Barrie Shelton**, Social Secretary, at **Underwood, White Hill, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3AA** tel: 01491 573431 social@oldredingensians.org.uk. Tickets will be £36 (£30 for students) and dress lounge suits. After the dinner the bar will remain open until midnight. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 5.00 pm, for the information of those members wishing to attend. The bar will open at 6.00 pm and diners are requested to be at table in Big School **promptly at 7pm**. The event is restricted to ORs, Reading School staff and former staff.

13th Fifty-Plus Years On OR Reunion Luncheon – Tuesday, 21 January 2014



This luncheon is not organised by the Association, being by the private invitation by D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) and P R (Peter) Fiddick (1951-57) to their friends and contemporaries. It is held at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall each January. A report will appear in the Spring 2014 issue.



10TH OR FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 2014

At the time of going to press the date for the President's Shield match has not been finalised.



OR GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING- Wed, 19 March 2014

The Spring meeting will take place at Henley Golf Club, Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 4HG. New players are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the meeting please contact **Steve Johnston** at sjj@kjandp.o.uk or tel: 0118 9470477 (office).



150 FOR 150 ORGAN RECITAL – Saturday, 5 April 2014

The School Chapel is the venue for one of the 150 recitals which will this year celebrate the 150th anniversary of The Royal College of Organists. ORs are invited to support the School by making reservations (£10 per head) directly with the Membership Secretary (see contact details on rear cover).



CLASS OF 2009 FIVE-YEARS-ON BARBECUE

Preparations are being made for 20 July to hold the BBQ and bar at School. This event will be open to all ORs who left the School between 2002 and 2009. Those planning to attend please email Ant Butler antbutler@gmail.com.

The Spring 2014 issue will provide details of: the remaining events planned for 2014 viz **Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend**; the 6th **Annual ORs v School Boat Race**; the **Autumn Golf Meeting**; the 11th **OR Festival of Rugby**; the **London Drinks Evening**; **Remembrance Sunday**; the **AGM and Annual Dinner**.

Details of all of the above will also be posted on the website www.oldredingensians.org.uk. The Old Redingensians Facebook group is a further source of information for its members. The editors are always pleased to hear of, and give publicity to, informal or other gatherings of OR age groups etc.

The Boulting Brothers Drama Medal



The only way to tell the Boultings apart was to remember that John wore spectacles...

The Reading School Dramatic Society has records dating from before 1800 and the plays put on under Dr Valpy (1781-1830) were major social events in the town of Reading. Even in the last century the annual production in December was for many years a week long 'must see' event, reported in the local press.

The identical twins J E (John) 1928-31 and R A (Roy) 1929-30 Boulting, who became such significant figures in the history of the British film industry post World War II, were South House boarders at School. After seeing M J (Michael) Wild (1940-48) acting in the 1946 production of *The Admirable Crichton*, (they considered him 'every inch an actor') they were inspired to award a prize for the best individual performance in the School play.

The Boulting Brothers Drama Medal was first awarded for the following year's production. Michael was still at School and won it, receiving it at Speech Day, 1948 under the title of the *Boulting Brothers Prize for Dramatics*. By the next year the entry on the Speech Day programme read *The*

Boulting Brothers Drama Medal and so it was to remain, with the Boultings often present in person to judge the performances and sometimes being represented, or accompanied by leading names in the film industry. Richard Attenborough, Sheila Sim, Constance Smith and Barry Jones all came to the School play at one time or another.

In 1951 no one was adjudged sufficiently outstanding to receive the medal but annual award of the medal continued until 1967 when records would indicate that only intermittent revivals occurred. The table on page 13, with accompanying notes is the writer's interpretation of events but any corrections or further information would be greatly welcomed.

Year	Winner	Role	Play
1947	M J Wild	Mrs Hardcastle	<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>
1948	R G Oldland	Raina Petkoff	<i>Arms and the Man</i>
1949	D E H Moriarty	Celia	<i>As You Like It</i>
1950	D B Moore	Peter Cauchon	<i>St Joan</i>
1951	Not awarded	-	<i>The Would-be Gentleman</i>
1952	E N Hey and D E H Moriarty	Mrs Malaprop and Faulkland	<i>The Rivals</i>
1953	J R Cartwright	Sir Toby Belch	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
1954	C E W Deacon	Algernon Moncrieff	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
1955	D G Collis	Dogberry	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
1956	D G Collis	The Mayor	<i>The Government Inspector</i>
1957	W G Robinson	Harpagon	<i>The Miser</i>
1958	N J Alldridge	Nell	<i>The Knight of the Burning Pestle</i>
1959	J A Pearson	Puck	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
1960	J A Pearson	Raina Petkoff	<i>Arms and the Man</i>
1961	M J Lambden	E K Hornbeck	<i>Inherit the Wind</i>
1962	D Ormrod	Lieutenant Commander Stanford	<i>Morning Departure</i>
1963	M L Wildman	Everyman	<i>Everyman</i>
1964	S J Walter	Thomas Cromwell	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>
1965	D R Bowgett	Miss Evelyn Whitchurch	<i>The Happiest Days of Your Life</i>
1966	P McDonough	Richard III	<i>Richard III</i>
1967	A P Vaux	Brand	<i>Brand</i> see Note 1

In 1966 Headmaster C E Kemp retired and under subsequent headmasters the tradition of the School Dramatic Society focusing on an annual production underwent erosion and change. Periods of neglect there were but notable productions, such as the Greek plays put on in the Lent term for some years, dramas by individual year groups, and increasing co-productions with local girls' schools, meant drama at School remained very much alive. Nonetheless, the concept of awarding 'Initials' to leading players and the very title of the 'Dramatic Society' was lost along the way. A new era was ushered in when drama became a GCSE subject in 1991 and the strictly extra-curricular nature of dramatic performances at School ceased to be.

Year	Winner	Role	Play
1968	Not awarded?	-	<i>The Tempest</i>
1969	Not awarded?	-	<i>The Playboy of the Western World</i>
1970	M D Fenner		<i>Henry IV Part 2</i> see Note 2
1971	No School play reported		see Note 3
1972	No School play reported		see Note 3
1973	No School play reported		see Note 3
1974	Not awarded?		<i>Androcles and The Lion</i> see Note 4
1975	Not awarded?		<i>An Inspector Calls</i>
1976	No School play reported		
1977	Not awarded?		<i>The Queen and The Rebel...</i> see Note 5
1978	Not awarded?		<i>The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew</i>
1979	No School play reported		
1980	No School play reported		
1981	Not awarded?		<i>Comedy of Errors</i> see Note 6
1982	No School play reported		
1983	Not awarded?		<i>The Anniversary/The Real Inspector Hound</i>
1984	Not awarded?		<i>Unman, Wittering and Zigo</i> see Note 7
1985	No School play reported		
1986	No School play reported		
1987	No School play reported		
1988	No School play reported		see Note 8
1989	Not awarded?		<i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> see Note 9
1990	J N Cheshire	Benedick	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> see Note 10
1991	D Zarmalwal and R A M P Naxton	Dr Steiner and D'Arcy	<i>Curse of The Werewolf</i>
1992	C G Brooks	Christ	<i>The Easter Mysteries</i>

There is no record of the medal being awarded after 1992, which seems an appropriate cut-off point as with GCSE Drama exams from 1991 and Year groups increasingly putting on plays; the writer believes it is reasonable to accept that post 1992 productions rightly belong in a separate category. It should be recorded that in 1993 a 'Drama Performance Award' made its appearance at Speech Day and for some years such awards have been made annually across the year groups.

Note 1: In 1967, as audiences were falling, it was suggested that future plays should be for 3 or 4 performances only.

Note 2: Michael Fenner was 'awarded the Boulting Medal for services to School Drama' rather than for his role as Henry. (Michael - M D (Michael) Fenner (1964-71) is today a professional actor.)

Note 3: However, the Lent Term in each year had a 'Greek Play' following the first put on in 1967 and 1968; but these, it seems to the writer, should be considered a separate series.

Note 4: Staged for 5 days in March. From this year what might still be termed 'The School Play' was no longer confined to December and 4 nights became the more usual run.

Note 5: Staged by *Reading School Amateur Dramatic Group*.

Note 6: The School Magazine reported that the School Play had been 'revived by Mr Rothbart'.

Note 7: Interestingly, the Boulting Brothers attended (the play was put on for 3 nights in December and co-producer E (Edward) Young (1978-85) recalls that they were most attentive, courteous, and helpful with advice – but does not think there was any discussion of the medal (John Boulting died the following year).



Note 8: The magazine feature *WE THINK* commented on 'the notable lack of a Dramatic Society'.

Note 9: The magazine refers to 'a revived tradition' and the play was put on over 4 nights. At this time there were hopes (which came to nothing) of a 'C E Kemp Hall' to be erected in Craven Road and to have amongst its facilities a new stage.

Note 10: At Speech Day it was stated that The Boulting Drama Medal was given in memory of the brothers and was being awarded 'for the first time' (!!). Roy Boulting, incidentally, did not die until 2001. This year it was also questioned why no 'Colours' were given for dramatics....

The medal itself was designed by Donald Ashton and each recipient was given a replica to keep. Illustrated is one of the two medals won by D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54). We are grateful to Denis for the opportunity to demonstrate what a handsome and well-wrought item it was. The question must be where is the original medal now? If it can be traced, then display in the Kirkwood Room will surely be appropriate. KCB

Where are they now?



By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

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

M J M JENKINS (SOUTH HOUSE & WEST 1970-77)

Mike was an under officer in the CCF and was awarded a Commandant's Commendation for services. He won a Royal Navy flying scholarship and gained his private pilot's licence whilst still at School and studied physiology at Kings College London graduating in 1980. He joined the RAF in 1981 and after training was selected to become a jet instructor at RAF College Cranwell. In 1985, 'Jenx' qualified as a Harrier pilot and after 3 tours in RAF Germany, went on to command No 20 (Reserve) Squadron. After deployment as Commander British Forces Turkey for the second Gulf War he returned to RAF Wittering as station commander. After completing a MA in International Studies, Mike was promoted Air Commodore in 2006 and deployed for nine months in Afghanistan setting up the air command and control systems for ISAF. In 2007 he returned as Assistant Chief of Staff A3/A5 Headquarters Strike Command. Since 2010, he has been instrumental in the SDSR, defence reform and development of the new Joint Forces Command; being one of the key writers in the design paper and retained as Head of Transformation to deliver the command which was declared IOC April 2012 and FOC April 2013. In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, this year, he was advanced from OBE to CBE. Mike has now retired from the RAF and is a Director of Uncertainty Group which assists companies to deal with ambiguity or unforeseen events. He continues to fly and plays guitar in a rock band. Mike is married to Tessa (a GP) with 2 children and is the younger brother of P L G Jenkins (1967-75).

R C BROWN (EAST HOUSE 1958-65)

RC was Hooker, represented Berkshire at U/19 Level and was reserve for the South and South West Counties. He was also School Wicket Keeper and played for Berkshire U/15's. The School XI improved greatly, he says, when RC was succeeded by his brother-in-law N J (Nick) Barton (1961-68). Inspired by L T N (Cod) Hardy, RC started to read Chemistry at Grey College, Durham but switched to Politics, Psychology and Economics. He chairs an investment house in Bristol, RC Brown Investment Management (RCBIM) where using scientific method, he developed a unique investment process. RC lives in Somerset and has been married to Diana (nee McClatchey, ex Abbey Junior School) for 37 years. They have a daughter who teaches French and a son, who is an investment director of RCBIM. RC captained his village cricket club, Weare, for many years.

B LEIGHTON (COUNTY HOUSE 1945-50))

Brian was one of 10 County Scholars to join Reading School in 1950. He was not particularly distinguished either in sporting or academic terms but was a member of the CCF, was once in County House Cross Country Team and won the Cambridge School Certificate Mathematics Prize in 1950. Outside School he was an active Scout. As his parents could not support him into the Sixth Form he left in 1950 to work as a trainee accountant in Reading Town Hall. He studied hard by correspondence course but accountancy was a profession he did not eventually pursue.

In 1952 Brian joined the Army for a 3 year regular term and became a Sergeant Instructor in the Royal Army Educational Corps. He saved enough money to go for teacher training at the College of St Mark and St John, Chelsea, without needing parental support. After college Brian taught in secondary schools in Stevenage, Ipswich and Epping, twice as a Head of a Maths Department. He also taught Maths in further education in the evenings and opened the first adult education centre in Harlow New Town for Essex County Council.

The world of adult and further education became his focus and he was appointed Principal for Adult Education for Waltham Forest in 1964 and Inspector for Further and Adult Education with Kent County Council in 1971. He added to his qualifications – a Diploma in Adult Education from Nottingham University (1966) and a research Master of Philosophy (1975) from the same university.

In 1977 he was appointed Senior Staff Inspector for Adult Education and Youth Work with ILEA. Advised to find less stressful work opportunities after heart surgery in 1986 he nonetheless ran a half marathon the following year. Brian then became Principal of Alston Hall Residential College for AE in Lancashire and also served two terms as Chairman of ARCA (the Adult Residential Colleges Association) retiring from both roles in 1997.

After retiring from full-time employment Brian has held consultancies with the BBC, the YMCA, North Yorkshire County Council and Manchester City Council and in the voluntary sector served three periods as a parish clerk, held two company secretary posts, a management role at a local village centre, and has been twice chairman of the Northern Chamber Orchestra for which he has also acted as manager.

Sport

Redingensians RFC Limited



Berkshire's top rugby union club continues to thrive and its status as a community club to grow. The 1st XV, aiming to go one better than last year and achieve promotion from National League Three South West, lost their difficult opener at Barnstaple but bounced back immediately the following week in their first home game, beating local rivals Bracknell by 18 points to 12. A win not only netted them 4 points in the League but brought them the Berkshire Cup for the fifth time in six years.

Director of Rugby, Mike Tewkesbury, and 1st XV Captain Owen Root, will be hoping this result is a pointer to an ultimately successful season.

Off the field, initial approval has been received from the Rugby Football Union for the plans to provide high specification changing facilities, treatment areas, and club rooms to augment the Clubhouse facilities which are now forty years old. The project is expected to be delivered within a budget of around £650,000 and all ORs/past players who would like to contribute, should contact:

Andy Lynch
Chairman, Redingensians RFC
Old Bath Road
Sonning
READING
RG4 6TQ
Email: development@ramsrugby.com

Fifth OR vs RSBC Boat Race – Saturday, 13 July 2013

Now in its fifth year, the OR vs Reading School Boat Club race goes from strength to strength. This year saw the School racing in its first non-wooden VIII, whilst the ORs were handicapped by racing in something dating from last century. Despite this, the ORs scored another victory over the School in a convincing dash for the finishing line, the race having to be cut slightly short by the presence of a flotilla of kayakers also trying to race. The regatta trophy, kindly donated by Phillip Rothbart (*former master at School – Ed*), was, once more, handed over to the winning OR VIII. As ever, though, the day is just as much about the racing as it is about ORs, boys and staff catching-up and making new friends over a few drinks and a BBQ, kindly supported by the OR Association. Huge thanks must go to Steven Longstaff (*Master i/c Rowing at School – Ed*) without whose unwavering support and dedication to RSBC over the last few years, the boat club probably would not still exist. Thanks also to Anurag Aggarwal (*a former Captain of School – Ed*) for arranging the OR crew in addition to university and summer work commitments.

Ant Butler



10th OR Festival of Rugby – Saturday, 7 September 2013

Jelf Insurance Brokers Ltd. kindly renewed their sponsorship of this event and the President was pleased to welcome Simon Corderoy, his wife and baby son, James, to the School on the day.

The tournament once again proved popular and exciting, with six teams of past leavers competing. The 2007 leavers eventually triumphed, beating the 2011 leavers by 27-5 in the final - the last of ten most enjoyable matches.

The Jelf Challenge Shield was presented to the winning Captain Will Clarke by Simon Corderoy. The top image, below, shows Will and the team, with R W (Bob) Lewis (Staff 1976-10) on extreme left.

Bob Lewis who has done so much to build the Festival up from its beginnings, reminded all present that this year's occasion was dedicated to the memory of the late John Vaughan (Staff 1970-03). The John Vaughan Tankard for player of the tournament was won by Sean Conroy and the Clacy Cup for the School player of last season by Hugo Liu (*centre image*). After the presentations the President gave a short speech of thanks (*lower image*) to all concerned in the organisation of the tournament, the players and supporters.

Alistair Wrenn staged the event for the ORA (and once again oversaw sales of refreshments in the gazebo which also doubled up as the 'scorer's box'); Alex Beckey, Director of Sport at School, put together the tournament; Frances Greaney, Director of Development at School, gave help on the day, and we are most grateful to Mr Anderson Springer (father of two rugby playing ORs) for sending in the photographs used to illustrate this piece in the absence of Chris Widdows, on holiday. KCB



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Reading RG1 4BN



OR Golfing Society Autumn Meeting 25 September 2013

The Autumn Meeting of the Golf Society was held at Badgemore Park Golf Club. near Henley

We were again missing some of our regular members, but those taking part were lucky to have a fine bright day and made the most of the scenic Badgemore course. It was generally fairly level with a few steeper slopes and a fair number of bunkers to test our skill!

Afterwards Jack Holt presented the prizes:

Winner of the Bucknell Trophy:

Runner-up:

Nearest the Pin Plaque:

The Lunn trophy (for lowest stroke score):

(The longest drive trophy was not awarded)

Chris Quartly 34 points

Jack Holt 33 points

Chris Quartly

Neil Hunt 88 strokes



*Jack Holt with Chris Quartly
(above) and Neil Hunt (below)*

Those taking part were:

Nick Burrows (1969-76), Richard Childs (1971-78), Jack Holt (1948-53), Neil Hunt (1977-84), Steve Johnston (1979-86), Will Lunn (1951-58) Gareth (Buffy) Price (1948-56), Chris Quartly (1970-75), Alistair Wrenn (1978-85).

There were 12 apologies.

All enquiries for the Spring 2014 Meeting should be made to Steve Johnston (Assistant Secretary) Email: sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk
New recruits welcome! WEL

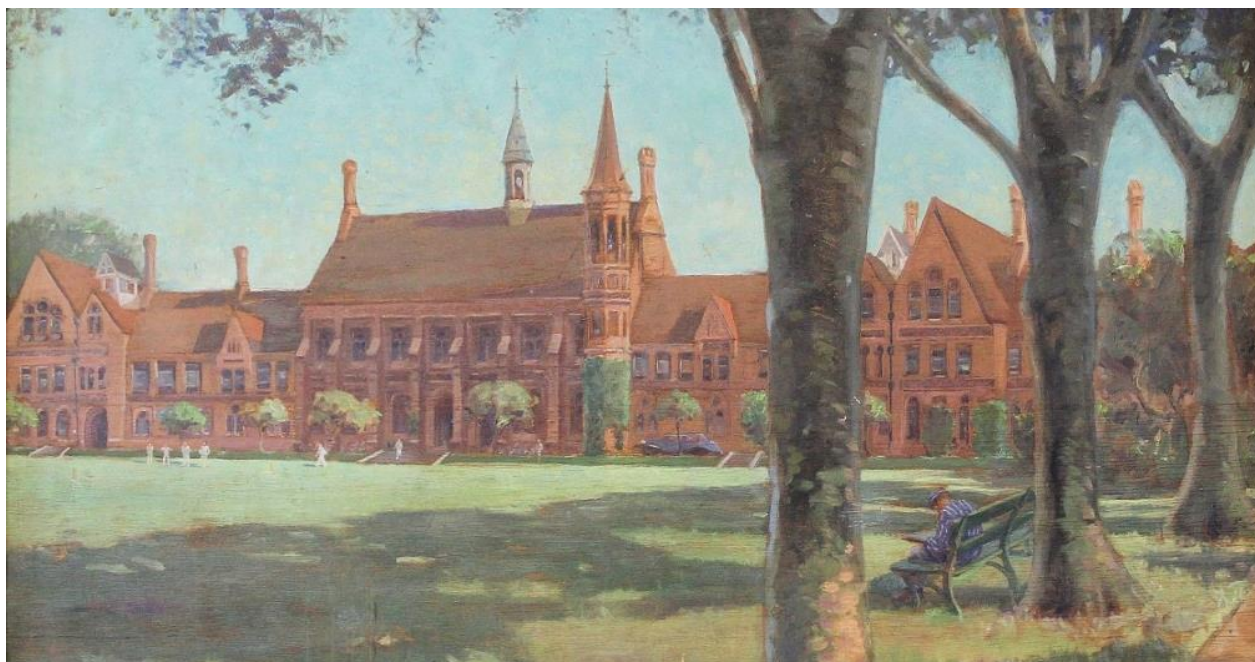


TAILPIECE....



Those attending the Rowing on 13 July (see p15) had an added treat – the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight of Avro Lancaster, Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane wheeling low over the Thames Promenade to admiring applause!

The Headmaster's Letter



As I reflect on the School year completed, my first as Headmaster of Reading School, and consider the year ahead, I am grateful that there are many constants amongst the inevitable changes. One such is the Old Redingensians Association whose support is unwavering. ORs also feature strongly on our governing body, on the Reading Foundation and in the Parents' Association.

The School has outstanding staff – ORs amongst them – and our teachers and associate staff work unstintingly to support our pupils in fulfilling their potential. A hero of mine, Albert Camus, after receiving his Nobel Prize for Literature, wrote to his old school teacher to say that without him he could not have achieved it. I greatly hope that the Reading School boys of today will be able to reflect on their successes in later life and conclude that they had been enabled in great part by their own teachers – and I hope there will be a steady stream of those old boys visiting their School as members of the OR Association!

In last year's GCSE's examinations Reading School was placed tenth nationally amongst State schools, had the highest placing in German of any boys' Grammar School and indeed achieved our best ever results which bucked the national trend. At A Level the placing was ninth in the State School listing (League Tables become positively attractive when one's school is near the top!). Of the 2013 leavers 93% went on to University, the majority to Russell Group Universities.

Examination success becomes ever more important in the society of today, but Reading is a School and not a factory; it will continue to aim to provide first rate free education to equip boys to take their places as leaders of that society. The boys actively seek to do good beyond themselves and we are proud of the dynamism that they bring to the many extra-curricular activities undertaken and the integrity that they demonstrate. We want our boys to be ambassadors for our school, indeed we are proud of our boys when they represent the School and even prouder when they represent their country, as in Geography and Chess recently. The School News pages which follow provide information in those respects.

On the opposite page you will find details of the refurbishment of the technology laboratories and of the next phase in our planned development of School facilities. We are determined to keep pace with the requirements of the times in the provision of such facilities but bricks and mortar will not be sufficient on their own to meet our perceived obligations; the Reading School Strategic Plan 2013/2018 can be accessed via www.reading-school.co.uk and expands upon three key themes: Excellence, Integrity, Leadership.

We respect tradition but remain open to innovation and improvement. We want to sustain excellence and enhance provision. We shall maintain a practical philosophy which recognises the spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimensions of education as well as the academic.

Ashley Robson

Headmaster, Reading School



The 1125 Fund - Update



Frances Greaney (pictured) School Director of Development

reminds all ORs that they should please contact her if interested in making a donation or need to know more. Frances will be happy to let you have more details and to discuss recognition of your gift. You can contact her at: fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk or phone her on: 0118 9015600 ext. 272.

Haris Hussain, Head of Computer Science and Engineering writes:

Over the summer holidays, the two former Technology and Design laboratories were refurbished to provide two multi -purpose Computer Science and Electronics laboratories which can also be used for teaching Physics.

The refurbishment includes the new benching, computers, oscilloscopes and printed circuit board manufacturing that we need to teach the latest Computer Science and Electronics curriculum. We now have 68 students studying these subjects at GCSE, and 19 studying Computer Science at A Level, and we expect these numbers to grow in future years as our capacity increases.

The biggest difference is that we can now properly support students involved in app development and in robotics. With the help of Year 11 parent, Simon Ward, we have recently been awarded a generous grant of US\$5,000 by the Verizon Foundation to run the First Lego League in the UK. We now have a team of Year 7 students working on their robot for the competition.



Another crucial part of the refurbishment is the additional space we've been able to create from under used areas of both laboratories. This is now used as an independent study area for Sixth Form students working on projects during their free periods and this is helping them to take a more collaborative approach to study and problem solving.

Phase Two of the refurbishment project, converting the old wood workshop into two additional electronics and computer science laboratories has been delayed by the complexities of fitting a mezzanine floor into a Victorian building. This meant that we needed additional surveys on the floor and roof prior to conversion. However, we are now aiming to have the work under way by December with an expected completion date of early March. I would like to thank all the parents, alumni and other donors who supported the project so generously. Through their help, we were able to gain a significant grant from the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund, which will cover over half the renovation costs.

Steven Longstaff, Head of Chemistry writes:

The C3 Chemistry laboratory (*right*) had a major facelift over the Summer holidays thanks to a generous grant from the Reading School Parents' Association. The work included new flooring, benches sanded and re-polished, walls and ceilings painted, and new lighting installed. The response so far from boys and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, as they find it a much nicer brighter place to work.

We are awaiting delivery of new display boards and storage trays. These will provide a splash of colour in the lab, and will allow a greater amount of student involvement in chemistry lessons and experiments, which will help their learning enormously. As a department, we really appreciate the support of the Parents' Association in improving the life of the School. As well as the financial support for refurbishment such as this, having such positive and committed involvement is a great confidence booster for staff.



The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association continue to urge members to give their support.

Cheques should be made payable to Reading School Charitable Fund and Bank transfers made to Sort Code: 30-67-99 Account No: 40733560. Donation forms are available from Frances Greaney (contact details above).



School News

In the A level results for 2013 Reading School appeared in 9th place (Kendrick 25th) in the table of 393 state schools published in The Daily Telegraph. The percentage of passes at A*, A or B was 91.83%. Last year the School was 8th. In the GCSE Daily Telegraph table of selective state schools Reading School was 10th (but 4th in the 'boys only' schools on the list) with 100% A* to C passes and 84.98% being A* or A. Kendrick was 5th in this list.

17 boys will go to Oxbridge, per the table below, compared with 19 last year.

Oxford	Cambridge
Harry Davidson New College (Music)	George Brabyn Sydney Sussex College (Mathematics)
Matt Greaves Trinity College (Mathematics)	Dan Brock Churchill College (Natural Sciences)
Ben Jones Worcester College (Medicine)	Sebastian Cutler Pembroke College (Economics)
Tushar Kelkar Balliol College (Economics PPE)	Alex Fairclough Peterhouse (Engineering)
Hugo Lu University College (Economics PPE)	Joe Moneim Downing College (Medicine)
Maruthi Malladi University College (Engineering)	Colm Murphy Magdalene College (History)
Robert McCausland New College (Physics)	Tadhg Piotrowski Queens' College (Natural Sciences)
Levi Tebbutt St Hilda's College (Economics PPE)	Andrew Raison St Catherine's College (Natural Sciences)
	Arthur Romano Trinity Hall (Engineering)

Another 14 boys have gained places at medical schools as follows:

Maximillian Balogac Cardiff	Matthew Roberts University College London
Nikolai Ciecierski-Holmes Cardiff	Jack Roe Manchester
Janarthanan Ilangovan Leicester	Oliver Russell University College London
Liam Johnstone Imperial College London	Chiho Song St George's London
Yusuf Karmali Queen Mary University of London	Alexander Sutcliffe Leicester
Dheeraj Narendra Imperial College London	Sunil Tailor Cardiff

The School aim to have 50 runners in the Reading Half Marathon on 2 March 2014.

Berkshire U/18 Chess Team which won the National Championship in 2013 had six Reading School boys and one OR in its team of eight.

In the National Schools Chess Championship 2013 Reading School reached the last four (of 130 entries) by defeating Eton College. In the final they were runners up to Manchester Grammar School who took the title for the third year in a row. In 2011 the School also finished as runners up to MGS.

Roy Zhang (Year 12) led the English Chess Team, and his brother Anthony (Year 7) led the England Chess 2nd Team in the 2013 World U/16 Olympiad, in China, to 34th and 36th place respectively.

A rider to Matthew Wadsworth's fifth placing (see the Spring 2013 issue of *The Old Redingensian*) in the U/12 World Chess Championship; 1/2 a point more would have seen him crowned World Champion.

The Great Britain Team that secured 15th place out of 54 in the Junior National Geographical Society 2013 World Championship, in Russia, was for the first time drawn entirely from the same school – and that school was Reading School. The team was Joseph Grimmett (10C), James Woolahan (9E) and Joshua Blake (8E).

In the Senior International Geography Olympiad, held in Japan, Edward Clennett (12W) (GB) came 23rd out of 126 and gained a silver medal (GB finished 12th, its highest ever placing).

Alfred Wong (11E) with a score of 51 points out of 60 in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, run by the UK Mathematics Trust was amongst the top 40 performers in the country. Also gaining a distinction for being amongst the top 25% of each year group competition were William Davies (9E), Minghua Yin (9W) and Roy Zhang (12S). Six other Reading School boys gained Merits.



Public Speaking and Debating is an ever more prominent activity at School and more and more boys are entering the LAMDA examinations, 52 alone in the Micheltoms Term. The LAMDA exams cover two main areas: developing skills to speak in public and personal development. At School there is a weekly debate programme and there are also inter-school debates. Captain of Public Speaking is George Prove.

The Inspire Lecture Series (funded by N R (Neil) Thomason OR (1966-73) featured Dr Alexander Kumar FRGS talking of his experiences at Concordia, the Antarctic Research Station, studying the effects of extreme climates on human physiology.

The end of the two year Exchange Programme with Frydenhojskolen of Denmark was marked with a buffet party in the Refectory. In 2012, 30 Year 9 students visited Danish host families and in 2013 those same students hosted the Danes in turn.



The Reading School Parents Association has completed both the Observatory Garden Project and the Reading Generation Project (to enable all boys to read for pleasure) and started on the refurbishment of a chemical laboratory and improving outside play equipment. This year's programme – under Mel Horton, Chair RSPA – includes a cultural event (The International Evening), the Annual Careers Evening and, as usual, the two big fund raisers, Spring Fayre and Uniform Shop.

Profiles of the School Governing Body can be read at <http://www.reading-school.co.uk/5/governors> .

Reading School Jazz Band have been selected to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham on July 6th – one of ten School Bands selected.

The Combined Cadet Force Officers are presently: Major Simon Donegan, Contingent Commander; Wing Commander Tom Walters; Captain Peter Hurst; Captain John Flexman; Lieutenant Andrew Ferguson and Flt. Lieutenant Graham Jones. They are supported by a number of helpers from the Regular Army and Royal Air Force Units. Strength of the Corps is approaching the 100 mark. Training is on



Thursday afternoons and there is a considerable range of outside activities including exercises, field days and competitions in shooting, signals and military skills. This year, a particular honour for the School was the House of Lords chamber event on the 29 November for which Corporals Omar Uwais (12W) and Aleks Stepanyan (12C) were selected to make a contribution from the floor. Corporal Uwais was one of the two cadets to represent **all** the country's Army Cadets in the debate (each arm of the service had a male and female representative). He is seen above speaking from the despatch box in the House of Lords.

Office holders for the 2012/13 School Year are:

Captain of School	Domenico Cullura (School) <i>(right)</i>
Vice Captain of School	Christopher Mountain (West) <i>(left)</i>
Captain of School House	Chris Poon
Captain of East House	Joseph Tichband
Captain of County House	Richard Sullivan
Captain of West House	Ethan Kenwick



Captain of Public Speaking	George Prové	CCF Senior Army Cadet	CSM Richard Sullivan
		CCF Senior RAF Cadet	Sgt Conor Black

The School year started with 101 staff, including part-timers, working at the School. The teaching staff comprises the Headmaster, Deputy Headteacher, and two Assistant Headteacher as their Senior Leadership. There are then five College Leaders for the various disciplines and 56 other teaching staff including the various heads and deputy heads of departments. The four houses are headed by:

School	Mrs J M Green	County	Mrs L Hall
(East Wing	Mr C Nicholas)	East	Mrs V Geraghty-Green
(South House	Mr C J Evans)	West	Mr M R Cooper

Mr Christopher Nicholas (*pictured top right below*) is the new House Master of East Wing, replacing Mr Ben Coggan (*pictured bottom right below*), who has taken a position as Head of House at Yateley School, Hampshire, after teaching at Reading School since 2004. Mr Nicholas teaches Geography.



Teaching staff who have left are:

B D Coggan, Rita Curran, Hannah Hayes, Rhiannon Powles.

Teaching staff who have joined are:

S Allen, Chunlian Greenfield, M J Kearle, Maria Trujillo Delgado.

Associate staff who have left are:

Amanda Hutchison, Sandra Provan, D Singh, M Small, T Walter.

Associate staff who have joined are:

C Burnham, Ania Dimpleby, Shelley Gwyther, Amanda Moore, I Sharma, Major S Donegan.

Gap student:

N Marshall-Lobb.



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



Old Redingensians on the School staff are, *l to r*:

Reverend C J (Chris) **Evans** (1990-97),
H (Haris) **Hussain** (1995-00)
I G (Ian) **Judd** (1962-69) and
C P B (Charles) **O'Halloran** (2007-09) who returned to the School as a cover supervisor for the Michaelmas Term only.

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).



The 1920s and 30s had been a comparatively successful period for Reading School rowing but the stop/start history of the Boat Club produced another period of abeyance during the second world war. It was restarted in 1949 by R (Jock) Jessop, who had joined the staff in 1945 from Newbury Grammar School to teach Geography. He was a former Reading University oarsman and Captain of Rowing at Wantage Hall. For a time the facilities of the University Boat Club just downstream of Caversham Bridge were used. The School boats in storage at Henley were recovered and brought up to Reading.

The above photograph of the Boat Club dates from that 1949 year and, once again, readers are invited to help the Archivist by identifying those missing from, and by amending where necessary, the list below (compiled speculatively by D M (Dudley) Bruton (1948-51) PP).

1	Mr Jessop	11	Russell	21	—	31	Dance
2	Griffin	12	Heath	22	Swanson	32	Luker
3	Gadsby	13	Ramsay	23	—	33	Barnard
4	Burkham	14	—	24	Moran	34	—
5	—	15	—	25	Coles	35	Newton
6	Johnson	16	—	26	Bunce	36	—
7	—	17	Butler	27	Coles	37	Wadhams
8	Lowe	18	—	28	Shelmerdine		
9	Anstey	19	—	29	—		
10	—	20	Stevens	30	—		

D D Swanson was Captain of Boats and T C D Gadsby Vice Captain, in 1949, and the 1st IV was completed by R H D Griffin and M I Burkham with R H Anstey as Cox.

The University allowed training to take place in their fixed and moving tubs; Mr Bradbury of the University was enthusiastic in support and lent his time as a coach. L T N (Cod) Hardy who had been on the School staff since 1942 and Mrs Muriel Jessop oversaw the tubbing and Mr Jessop took charge of the Fours.

A 1st and 2nd IV were formed and a further four crews followed. Races were rowed against RUBC, Abingdon, Reading RC, Culham College and Sir William Borlase by the 1st and 2nd IV, who both acquitted themselves well, and the 3rd IV won their only fixture (against Bluecoat).

By 1950 the first House competition since 1942 had been held, and won by East. In Lent Term 1950 an VIII was acquired and School rowing was set to embark on a successful decade for the Club.

With reference to the image of the relay runners in the last issue, Tom Arie (Professor T H D Arie (1943-52)) thinks that fourth from left is J V Mack (1941-50) who was later killed in Malaya during his National Service and is commemorated on the panelling in the School Chapel. However, fourth and fifth left appear to be wearing day house shirts and Mack was a South House Boarder – any other suggestions?



The equipment in the Kirkwood Room referred to in the President's letter consists of an Epson Short Throw Projector, Dry Wipe Whiteboard, Nuvo Speakers and Amplifier. It is similar to that installed in the West Wing Conference Room and we are most grateful to Gareth Sellwood and Marcus Bishopp of the School IT Support Department for assistance in sourcing the equipment. Gareth, the Network Manager, has provided a laptop to enable archive material to be displayed on screen.

The copy of Trevelyan's English Social History mentioned in the panel below is inscribed *To Peter Coombs, Captain of Reading School 1946-47, a token of gratitude and goodwill. C E K. 29.VII.47.* It was a leaving present from Headmaster to School Captain and is thus an 'association copy', in book trade parlance, and a most welcome addition to the archive.

Revelations, also presented by Peter, is the Summer Term (1946?) issue of a slightly subversive typed magazine – also referred to within its pages as *The Reading School Chronicle* - does anyone have any other issues or recall it?

As promised in the Spring 2013 issue of this magazine we reproduce below both the conventional signature and the musical signature of F C (Fred) Griffin (Staff 1945-70) from the items kindly given by Prof. A A (Alan) Johnson (1940-49).

We thank the following for additions to the Archive

Dr D M Bruton (1948-51) PP	For his 1949 RLSS Bronze Medal
M I Burkham (1947-51)	For Boat Club memorabilia and Jock Jessop's Notes on Rowing
The Ven P B Coombs (1939-47) PP	For School brochure/English Social History/Issue of <i>Revelations</i> .
Via F Greaney (Staff)	For a Cache of Hockey fixture cards and related material.
W J Hedges (1942-47)	For his Cadet Pairs Trophy Medal won at the 1947 Bisley Meeting
A J MacTavish (Staff 1966-70)	For the Henley Royal Regatta programme for 28 June 1967.
J M Perry (1942-49)	For his Cadet Pairs Trophy Medal won at the 1947 Bisley Meeting
Simon Sizer	For plate, two prints, two books, rugby tie from the estate of his father, P G Sizer (1928-31) PP.
A R Waring (1940-46) PP	For HMS Pinafore (1945) programme, plus photographs and items from his presidential year (2000).
C J Widdows (1955-62)	For RS Christmas card from the previous Headmaster's era.
G H Wilkins (1946-52)	For Fred Griffin's (see above) manuscript setting the words of Chesterton's <i>The Donkey</i> to music for a concert at which Geoff sang.

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.**

Bisley 1947



Shooting, both on ranges and via postal matches was an established sport at Reading School by 1908 (when shooting "colours" were first awarded).

THE ASHBURTON SHIELD, competed for annually at Bisley since 1863, is the Holy Grail for School Shooting VIII's nationally. The School first entered its VIII in 1902 and performed with credit over the years despite the limitations that the School's miniature range and often outdated equipment imposed in terms of preparation and the ability to compete with the major shooting schools.

However, alongside the main competition runs the Cadet Pairs Competition, and here glory has been achieved by the School's Cadets. In 1928 the School Pair finished 4th – the best result until 1947 when L/Cpl. Hedges and Cadet Perry were placed equal first, though because of the count out rule eventually classified second.



The photograph (*left*) was published in the Daily Telegraph and shows them competing in the CADET PAIRS at the 500 yards firing point on Century Range.

In the photograph John Perry is 9th from the front, then comes RSM Rollings ("Sarge"), "spotting" through a telescope, and, beyond him, Bill Hedges is writing down his last shot.

John, now Major J M Perry (1942-49), and Bill, now Major W J Hedges (1942-47), have generously presented their medals to the Archive and they are now exhibited in the Kirkwood Room.

Both John and Bill gained their School Shooting Colours that year and Bill, in winning the Giles Ayres Cup (the School's premier shooting trophy) with a highest possible score achieved something that had not been done before. Quite a year for him, and what he did not reveal at the time was that the Giles Ayres killed in WW1 (Lt G F Ayres at School 1897-01) was his mother's cousin, her maiden name being Ayres.

The cup was presented in 1901 by an earlier Giles Ayres (Lt G Ayres, later Captain, Royal Berkshire Yeomanry – also an OR) and the first winner was C Harrison Jones. Some history of the Cup may be found in the School magazine of May 1996*. KCB

The image of Bill and John (*right*) on their visit to the School in September 2013 is extracted from the group photograph that can be seen on page 5.



* Supplied by W E (Will) Lunn (1951-58) whose father P (Peter) Lunn (1921-27) became majority shareholder in the firm of C & G Ayres Ltd. Both Will and his brother R P (Rodney) Lunn (1954-60) were Shooting Colours at School and won the Giles Ayres Cup in 1958 and 1959 respectively – Ed.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment



Alec Pendock Aveline CBE MC (17 October 1897 - 31 August 1982) was a career soldier who retired, after forty years' service with the Regiment, in the rank of Brigadier.

He was the only son of Sydney and Gertrude Aveline of 107 Castle Hill, Reading and whilst the 1901 Census (alone) records his name as Alexander, he appears to have only used 'Alec' throughout his life: though at some stage in his Army career the nickname 'Ack' took firm hold. The name 'Aveline', incidentally, is of French origin and means 'hazelnut'.

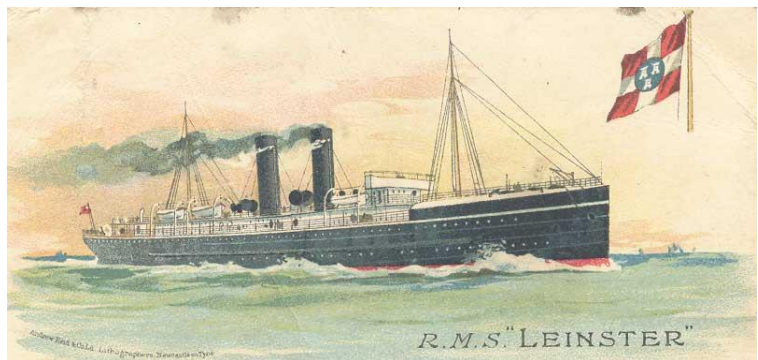
There were several Avelines at Reading School over more than one generation. Alec was the last, attending from 1909 to 1915, initially in Town House and subsequently, when the House system was revamped, in West, which he captained at Rugby, lifting the House Challenge Cup at Speech Day in 1915. He also played for the School 1st XV in 1913-14 and 1914-15, being captain in his final season '*a hardworking forward sometimes displaying considerable dash*'. Four of that team died in the First World War and two others, including Alec himself, were wounded. His

summer game was cricket, successfully at House level but rarely leaving the School 3rd XI to appear in the 2nd XI. Alec also gained School Shooting Colours, was a Sergeant in the Corps and became a School Prefect. He was elected a Member of the Debating Society but attended infrequently – though he was among the opposers of the motion on 21 November 1914: '*In the opinion of this House conscription neither has been, nor is, necessary for this country*'.

In 1915 he became a gentleman cadet at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and, as 2nd Lieutenant A P Aveline joined the 1st Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment in France in October 1916.

In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross, the citation reading: '*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led a raid against the enemy's trenches with marked ability and succeeded in capturing fifty two prisoners. He has at all times set a fine example*'. The action was at Courcellette on the night of 4/5 February 1915 and was remarkable in that the raiding party had to cross three rows of concertina barbed wire, 2.5 feet thick and that the prisoners brought in numbered more than the Berkshires who returned.

In April of the same year Alec was wounded in the foot at Oppy Wood and evacuated to hospital in England. After a period of light duty with the 3rd Militia Battalion of the Regiment in Portsmouth and Dublin he returned to the 1st Battalion in October 1918. Unfortunately, the troop ship in which he sailed was the ill-fated *RMS Leinster* which was torpedoed in the Irish Sea with the loss of over 700 lives. Ack was the last man to be rescued.



He remained with the 1st Battalion during its tour in the Middle East and India which included operations in Iraq, North West Persia and Waziristan. From 1925-1929 he was seconded as Adjutant to an Indian Army Unit. There followed a home posting to the 2nd Battalion in Aldershot.

Around this time a number of London Territorial Regiments were removed from their parent Units and affiliated to Home Counties Regiments: the Royal Berkshire Regiment was assigned the 10th Hackney Battalion and had to find a regular officer as Adjutant - and one who could cope with the difficulties inherent in such a change of loyalties. In the words of an obituarist '*Ack was an ideal choice: his warm personality, combined with his professional competence and strength of character turned what might have been an unhappy misalliance into a successful marriage*'. By the time he went back to the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, the 5th Battalion (as the Londoners had become) was fully integrated in the Regiment.

Major Alec Pendock Aveline married Sheila Fletcher Mossop on 4 December 1936 at the Garrison Church, Moascar, Egypt. They had one son, Gordon.

From Egypt Ack went to command the detached C Company in the difficult conditions of Nicosia, Cyprus. He brought it through unscathed to re-join the 2nd Battalion in Lucknow.

In 1940 Ack was promoted to command the 2nd Battalion, The Border Regiment on the nomination of the GOC-in-C Eastern Command, India, whom Ack had greatly impressed on a tactical exercise. His promotion was rapid during the Second World War and he was given command of a Brigade in 1944.

His particular qualities of leadership were again brought into play during the end of the British Raj in India and the fraught division of the sub-continent into India and Pakistan. Again in the words of an obituarist *'British troops, long separated from their families, were only anxious to get home. The problem had become an administrative instead of a tactical one: bitterness and hatred on the one hand and lassitude on the other, called for exactly the qualities of leadership in which Ack excelled.'* His command of 165 L of C (later Deolali) Sub Area brought him a CBE.

Ack retired from the Army on 22 April 1948 and enjoyed a long and active retirement. He became commanding officer of the Berkshire Home Guard and lived in an attractive cottage in Eversley, dating from the 17th century. He remained a member of the Old Redingensians Association until his death in 1982 at the age of 84. He is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Eversley, Hampshire. Sheila survived him by a further ten years. A final word from Ack's obituarist: *'Ack was the embodiment of all the best virtues of a regimental officer. He spent his whole service with troops and they repaid his care for them with deep affection and profound respect.'* KCB

As usual we urge readers to visit the Regimental Museum per the advertisement at the foot of the page. The image below shows a detail from one of the display cabinets. The plate portrays Brock Barracks rather handsomely and behind it can be seen a wartime issue of a familiar magazine! The Editors



THE RIFLES (BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE) MUSEUM

The repository of archives and history of the Royal Berkshire Regiment can be found at:

The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, SALISBURY, SP1 2EX

A visit is highly recommended. The curator is Major S G (Simon) Cook OR (1966-74)

www.thewardrobe.org.uk

Headmasters – 5* Revd W C Eppstein

By Ken Brown

THE REVD WILLIAM CHARLES EPPSTEIN MA DD FELLOW OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY FELLOW OF THE ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE AND ST JOHNS COLLEGE, OXFORD. HEADMASTER OF READING SCHOOL 1894-1914



William Charles Eppstein, whose 1898 Bookplate is depicted on the front cover of this journal and described on the rear cover, followed Dr Barnard (see *The Old Redingensian Spring 2008* – Ed.) as Headmaster of Reading School. Barnard had brought some stability to the School after Reverend William Walker's troublous reign, but remarkable though Eppstein proved to be the old tensions between School and Town remained and were destined to cause his resignation after 20 years of striving to maintain excellence. He became Headmaster in August 1894 and left on 31 August 1914, by which time he was 50 years of age.

He had been appointed from within the School, having joined as an Assistant Master earlier that year, and had the support of his fellow masters; so the signs were auspicious. (There was not to be a similar internal appointment until that of the present Headmaster Mr Ashley Robson BA PGCE MBA.)

Eppstein was a man with private means from a family with connections with what is now Iraq. He was born in Baghdad on 8 February 1864, the son of Revd J M Eppstein, missionary and British chaplain. From 1874-1879 he attended the English School and from 1880-82 he was at Lord Williams's School, Thame, something else he shares with Mr Robson (see *The Old Redingensian Spring 2013*). In 1882 he went up to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge with an Exhibition in Mathematics and Classics. He became Scholar and Librarian in 1884 taking mathematical tripos in 1885 and

coming down with a BA (MA 1889). In 1898 he also became MA (Oxon) at St John's College, Oxford; FRAS and FRMS in 1904: BD and DD in 1905.

His first teaching post was at Hinckley Grammar School between September 1885 and Christmas 1886, followed by the South Eastern College Kent (ie St Lawrence College, Ramsgate), where he was second master, from January 1892 to Christmas 1893. From January 1894 to Easter 1894 he taught at Bradfield College and from Easter 1894 to August 1894 he was a Master at Reading School. In that latter month he succeeded Francis Pierrepont Barnard as Headmaster of the School at a salary of £400 – plus a capitation fee of £1 per boy – per annum. Revd Eppstein taught Mathematics, History, Literature and Scripture.

He typified the 'muscular Christian' Headmaster of whom the epitome was Thomas Arnold of Rugby – a man much admired by Eppstein, and whose prefectorial and house system he employed. He was energetic and enthusiastic, a staunch imperialist and a defender of good manners and the public school ethos.

He was also a good sportsman and turned out in both the School Cricket and Association Football XIs and the Rugby XV: he revived the Boat Club (and coached it himself), strengthened inter-house competition, was instrumental in the resuscitation of the Old Boys Club and was a founder member of the Reading Old Boys Masonic Lodge. He was responsible for the establishment of the Cadet Corps in 1900. During his time the School buildings were augmented by the cricket pavilion, the physics laboratory, the lecture room and the armoury. The teaching block on the east side of the quadrangle was built, new science, art and workshop facilities opened in 1912, the same year as the Junior School was built at the foot of the drive (replacing the old premises on Southern Hill). In 1902 a tuck shop opened.

Under Eppstein the boarding houses grew from two – School (now South) House and West Wing – with the re-opening of East Wing and the addition of a number of boarding houses outside the School site (variously, Wanstead, Talfourd, Valpy, Laud, Shandon and Berwyn. Cromarty House was also to open off-site, but after Dr Eppstein's reign, and by then the other 'small houses' had all closed).

Between 1894 and 1904 he increased the School Roll from 96 to 220 and the following year 18 boys passed into Oxbridge, 17 into the military and naval academies, three into the Indian Police, two gained eastern cadships and one a student interpretership – a total of 41. There was indeed a high rate of academic success but financially the School was known to be failing whilst the local competition such as Marlborough, Radley, Bradfield and Wellington were seen to be prospering.

In 1903 the Board of Education survey found the standard of education **excellent** (though very classically orientated). Eppstein was given much praise and the Assistant Masters described as '*an efficient body*'. Lack of a proper library was criticised as was the financial situation:- the Board called for assistance from the Town Council. It was to be ten years before that happened – because the investigating committee turned the proposal down in 1904.

Following the Board of Education's survey Eppstein, having already spent £4,500 of his own money, asked for the mortgage debt, standing at £18,000 in 1882 to be cleared. Basing his remarks on Queen Elizabeth's Charter of 1560 that charged the Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough with some financial responsibility under the Crown (though 300 years on the extent of the responsibility was at least arguable) he probably fanned the flames of dissent by stating '*the Corporation has taken an interest, more or less intermittent, in the School; but however much it may have neglected its duty in the past, the fact is not altered that not from historical associations alone, but, morally, it is bound to look after the welfare of this School*'. At the least it is understandable that Eppstein felt that he could not continue to administer the School via his own bank account in the new circumstances.

The Board of Education also recommended that to relieve the School of its mortgage debt (for the site and buildings of the School) it be transferred '*by scheme to the Town Council in trust for the School*.' After two years of legal delays this was approved by the King *in council* on 29 February 1908. The School became essentially a maintained school with the status of a public secondary school for boys and its administration passed to the corporation. The Mayor and Councillors were trustees of the School as well as Officers of the Borough and the conflict of interests is obvious.

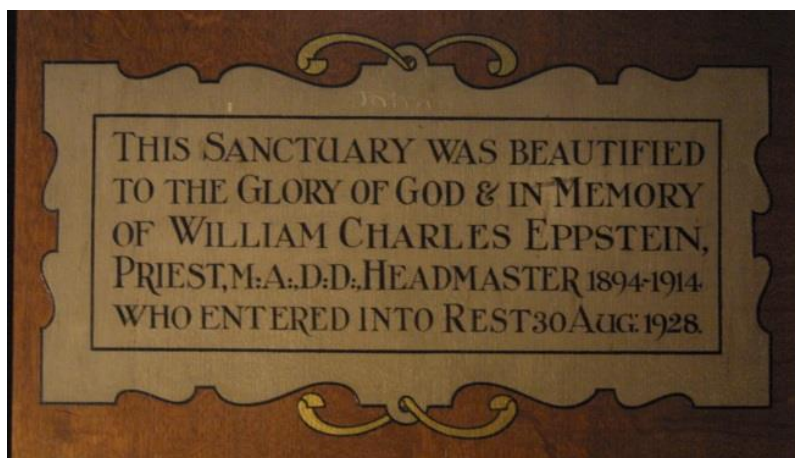
Because Eppstein was paid on a capitation basis he still needed to attract as many boarders as possible. With the total number of boys around the 200 mark at best in the year to 1913, it was clear that the School's facilities were still being under used. Proposals first aired in 1904 then reappeared and the Town Council's suggested solution came as a bombshell to Eppstein. It was to amalgamate Reading School and Kendrick Boys School. Kendrick had poor facilities and a great many boys in a small area; Reading School had fewer boys on a very much larger and well equipped site.

Open warfare broke out between the two schools sets of supporters and the eventual announcement in the School Magazine that '*the Battle of Armageddon has been fought – and lost*' was dramatic but gives an idea of the importance of the issue for those involved. The anti-brigade were bitter that the one sidedness of the decision nine years earlier – by a bare majority - to hand over the grounds and building of the School unconditionally to the Town Council (who held a mortgage far less than the actual value of the property) had come home to roost with such a vengeance. The Council had reneged on their promise to rebuild the Kendrick School and in effect presented a *fait accompli* having given grants to improve the facilities of Reading School (a promise they did at least carry out).

Dr Eppstein was appalled by the prospect and resigned. He was an unashamed supporter of elitism and those for the merger wanted the School to benefit **all** boys in the Town. From Reading School supporters there was almost total opposition, indeed the proposal was seen as madness. The rather sad aspect, that is not often expressed, is that those supporters of Kendrick School did not wish **their** ethos, either, to be changed. In the event what happened was an absorption of Kendrick's 208 boys into the Reading School ethos as it was developed under the forward looking, but classically educated George Keeton (see *The Old Redingensian* October 2003 – Ed) – once on Eppstein's staff as an assistant master. Keeton's patrician outlook in fact endorsed the public school spirit, but his diplomatic skills and personality ensured that he could cope with the new circumstances: Eppstein simply could not.

He chose to leave and went to teach for a short time in Bradfield before becoming Rector of Lambourne, Essex, to which Living he had been presented by his old Cambridge College. Dr Eppstein died at Lambourne on 30 August 1928, after a long illness. A funeral service was held in the Chapel on 4 September that year with The Mayor and members of the Town Council present: he was interred at Caversham Cemetery (the pallbearers were ORs plus the long serving School porter, John Grover).

A memorial fund was set up, and in due course the Headmaster was able to report that 'The Eppstein Memorial Fund has enormously improved the altar and sanctuary' (ie in the School Chapel). On the following page is the open letter that Dr Eppstein wrote to his pupils upon resigning as Head Master.



My dear Boys

In bidding you farewell, I do not want to dwell on the circumstances which necessitated my resignation. Everyone with any practical knowledge of Schools is strongly opposed to the policy the majority of the Governors has decided to pursue. They and I may be wrong, and the new Scheme may provide for the educational requirements of all the boys in the Municipal area; the new Scheme may be more economical, which to many is a far more powerful argument than the provision of sound education. With this I am not concerned now, but simply to bid good-bye to you, and the boys who have occupied your places during the past twenty years, in whose intellectual and physical development and, above all, in whose character-growth, I am and always will be most deeply interested. When one has lived and worked only for the School, taking no part or very little part in other work outside the School grounds, and when one has rejoiced over every University and scholastic success and over every cricket or football match won by the School for twenty years, you can quite understand how hard it is to realize that this has now come to an end.

Twenty years have witnessed great changes. When I succeeded Mr. Barnard in 1894, I found a small well-organised School. Foundations had been solidly laid on soil greatly disturbed seven or eight years before, but much remained to be done. In those twenty years, aided by Mrs Eppstein and Mr Newport and other Members of the Staff, I tried to build up a School not unworthy of the best traditions of the past. By slow degrees the numbers went up till we had over two hundred in the School and a larger number at the Universities than for very many years. We competed, not unsuccessfully, with the larger Public Schools in the Oxford and Cambridge Board Examinations. In 1900 I started the Cadet Corps and built the Armoury; only those who have been through the School know the splendid work done by Captain Crook and the Officers of our O.T.C., the efficiency of the Corps, the excellent show we always put up at Bisley, in spite of our difficulties in the way of finding ranges within reasonable distances. Soon after I came, the cricket pavilion was built and all these years boys have been coached in cricket and football, so that to-day there are few, if any, Schools of our size with teams as keen and efficient. The Physical Laboratory was built a few years afterwards and the Modern Side was developed in consonance with newer educational ideals. House competitions were instituted for the first time and a noble number of silver trophies now belong to the School. Much has been done to improve our Chapel: a new organ was built, electric light installed, new Communion Table, reredos and lectern were provided, and twelve new stained-glass windows were placed in the Chapel. All this by means of private subscriptions or donations. So that on this side neither my Staff or I can be said to have been negligent of the true and best interests of the School.

The Honours Boards in Big School testify to the good work done, and I know of nothing more inspiring than for a young boy to see, in that fine Hall, the names of men who not only distinguished themselves at School, but whose subsequent life is one of great social and civic Service.

And now I cut myself adrift from all I love best and have treasured most, because I cannot bow the knee in the House of Rimmon, I cannot prove false to a God-given trust, and loyally undertake to carry out a policy which I think wrong. Though I shall suffer heavily financially, there is after all something more important than money; an easy conscience is, to my mind, of more value than the coveted position of Head Master of Reading School. I am going back, for a time, to Bradfield College, where I was an Assistant Master, thankful in many ways to be free from the atmosphere which I have been compelled to breathe for some years past, but more grieved than I can express to part from you whom I have loved so well. For after all - I am writing as your old Head Master - there are no more delightful creatures than English Schoolboys, and I have found none more delightful than those at Reading. I have always been proud of my boys: proud of their clean and honourable lives, proud of their keenness and pluck, and proud of the way they play a losing game; and I do not shirk at this hour to play a losing game too. Some of you, to whose parents I feel I owe a special responsibility that there may be no uncertainty in the future of their education, are coming with me; to those who are leaving School and who are remaining here I say, try and think kindly of one who, with all his faults, did always think of your welfare, both of mind, body and soul. Remember the best traditions of the School, and try and bring into the new School the high ideals of the old. Remember that though I cut myself off from the School, I do not want to cut myself off from you, but will always have a warm welcome for any of my Old Boys.

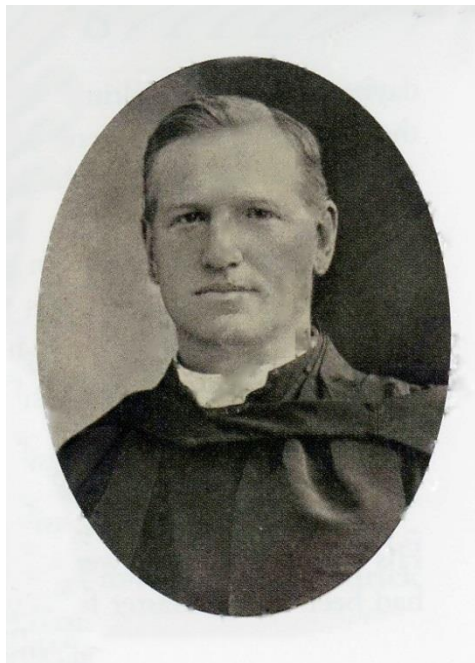
God bless you all.



Yours affectionately,

W. CHAS. EPPSTEIN

Postscript – Eppstein the man



The letter on the previous page suggests the type of man that Eppstein was. The term 'Victorian' is often used in a disparaging sense to indicate a stuffy, narrow-minded individual, indicting a whole generation whose attitudes may have contained such traces but whose attributes surely outweighed their shortcomings.

Dr Eppstein was of his time and certainly informed by his upbringing in the missionary church. His marriage was reportedly a happy one, perhaps partly because his wife, Margaret (Madge) Beatrice née Bolton, was herself the daughter of a clergyman. They had two sons, John and Maurice (see notes below) and two daughters, Mary and Marjorie. (Dr Eppstein, incidentally, was spared by his resignation of having to read out in Chapel the death of his son Maurice and of his nephew, William Reginald Eppstein (see notes below) both casualties of the First World War.)

At Cambridge he had been in his College boat, in his College XI and XV; sport played an important part in his life and his beliefs. A former pupil, Arthur J Wooldridge who was in County House from 1910-14 recalled Eppstein's 'lusty innings' against the MCC 'when the groundsman, Whichelow, got a century and Pullen-Burry 20 in five fours'. Wooldridge also recalled Mrs Eppstein's active involvement in the School, particularly School music (where Eppstein would join in

'most vociferously in the Gilbert and Sullivans').

Reverting to the less attractive concepts of Victorianism, Wooldridge certainly gives the lie to any suggestion of stuffiness on Eppstein's part. Indeed he says 'my chief recollection of him was his great sense of humour'.

This article refers on page 28 to the broad range of subjects that Dr Eppstein, trained in mathematics and the classics, taught. He also found time to edit *Poems of Thomas Gray* which was published by Blackie and Son Ltd in 1911.

Sport was important to him all his life and, in addition to cricket, rugby and golf featured prominently. With regard to the latter he joined Upper Clapton (Rugby) Football Club in 1887, captaining the side in seasons 1888-89 and 1889-90. Their fixture list, then, included Wasps, St Bartholomew's Hospital, Sidcup, Harlequins A and the Civil Service. He also appeared for London. He was still a member 41 years later at his death in August 1928. In 1891 he moved house to Stowmarket and played his rugby in Suffolk but was nonetheless elected the first president of the Upper Clapton Club for 1891-92 to a position he held for 3 years.

Later, Berkshire Wanderers joined the Upper Clapton fixture list and when at Reading School Eppstein played for the Wanderers as did his successor as headmaster, the England rugby international, G H Keeton.

As for the former, Eppstein was present, for instance, at the meeting in the Queen's Hotel, Reading on 11 July 1899 which formed the first Reading Golf Club (playing, over nine holes at Norcot Farm, where Ranikhet Primary School later stood: intentions to expand to 18 holes were scuppered by the Great War and the club closed in 1918).

As Chaplain, Bro. Revd Dr W C Eppstein was a founder member of the Reading Old Boys Masonic Lodge 414 in 1899 and was Master of the Lodge in 1913.

He was certainly a man of many parts but his life's work was Reading School and it must have been bitter indeed when his principles caused him to resign. (Ironically, ten years before, Francis Barnard, his predecessor as Headmaster, had written congratulating him that no school in England had taken away more honours during the year in comparison to its numbers, with the exception of Rugby. In that same year Eppstein revealed that he had declined two offers from other schools, stating that he 'had no intention or desire to leave the School'.) He had reached a pre-eminent position in his profession for he was elected Chairman of the Headmaster's Conference in 1913, with the conference itself to be held at Reading School: almost in that moment of achievement his career came to its untimely end.

Let the late L F (Len) Cheyney OBE (1912-16), Past President of the Old Redingensians, have the last word. He said of 'the kindly Rev Dr W C Eppstein... I remember him shaking hands and saying good-bye to every one of us individually; he knew us all.'

Notes:

- **John Charles Newport Eppstein** was born on 26 May 1895 and grew up in the School although he was not an OR (his father sent him to Wellington). He became Director of the British Society for International Understanding and General Editor of their series of survey handbooks. Under his impulse the Atlantic Trade Association was set up and he became Secretary General. In the 1953 Coronation Honours List he was awarded the OBE. He died on 2 April 1988.

- **Maurice William Wallis Eppstein** OR (1905-06) was born on 8 November 1896 and as a Flight Sub Lieutenant RNAS was killed in action on 12 May 1917 in the raid on Zeebrugge.
- **William Reginald Eppstein** OR (1906-09) was born on 21 January 1891 and as a Captain Durham Light Infantry was killed in action at Dichebusch, Ypres on 4 September 1918.



Photograph by

THE HEAD MASTER AND STAFF.

Mr. Tom Brint, Jun.

The above image is taken from *Reading School Views and Groups* which was in the booksellers in 1904. Though not captioned the group is well nigh certainly Dr Eppstein's staff at the start of the 1903/4 School year and thus neatly half way through his tenure of office. G H Keeton, who was to succeed Eppstein as Headmaster had just left for Fettes having been two years on the Reading School staff. He was replaced by H A Turner, a young OR who had been Captain of School; he will be one of the younger occupants of the back row. H S Crook, not far into a long career at School, is third from right in the back row and the others in that row (though who is who have yet to be identified) are variously H Diemer, J C Thorpe, A W Gundry, L G W Wilkinson, Rev A J Skinner, G R Joyce, Rev J Henson and possibly Dr W Boggis or J C B Tirbutt. The Headmaster is flanked by R Newport on his right. In terms of length of service it should be J C Thorpe on his left though this needs to be verified. All in all, a puzzle which remains to be sorted out! KCB

- **Source material** for this article draws heavily on School magazines of the period and additionally particular acknowledgements are due to Michael Naxton's *History of Reading School* and John Oakes' and Martin Parsons' *Reading School – The First 800 Years*
- **Editor's Note***: Those previous Headmasters dealt with in some detail in the Journal include;
Richard Valpy (John Oakes in the October 2000 issue)
George Haydn Keeton (Sidney Vines/John Oakes October 2003)
Leonard Coxe (Martin Murphy October 2004)
Francis Barnard (Ken Brown) Spring 2008)

Philip Hope Percival (1886-1966)

By Will Lunn



Philip Percival was at Reading School from 1896 to 1901 under Dr Eppstein. His career as a professional hunter in East Africa and leader of safaris for many notable clients including Ernest Hemingway, George Eastman and Baron Rothschild has already been well documented in various books. By any account he became a legend in his own lifetime, thanks partly to his famous clients, partly to Ernest Hemingway dramatizing him in his book *The Green Hills of Africa* and being a founder member of the East African Professional Hunters Association (EAPHA).

This association was particularly influential in the development of wild life conservation and eventually wild game hunting was abolished altogether in Kenya (see *Tea Trays Old and New*, Spring 2013 issue – Ed).

As far as I know Percival returned home to England in the late 50s/early 60s and appointed C & G Ayres to act as his agents in receiving, and unpacking an incredible number of stuffed trophies at the firm's depot in Friar Street, Reading. These included lions, tigers, cheetahs, antelope, water buffalo, etc to name a few. Also 2 x 8-9ft elephant tusks on ebony plinths with silver banding!

I first saw them myself when my father Peter Lunn OR (1921-27) took us to see them covering a good part of a complete floor in our main store (*C & G Ayres Ltd was the family firm – Ed*). All were beautifully preserved in glass cases with staring glass eyes and elephant grass with their names taped to the glass.



Percival's favourite big game rifle and his 'last hope' double-barrelled pistol were kept in my father's office and frequently examined by my brother (*R P Lunn (1954-60) – Ed*) and me!

Eventually all the glass cases were sent to sale although numerous antelope horns and other trophies were kept for the family but never claimed.

One large trunk of hunting films from the 1930s was given to the School and M C Savage (*Master at School 1939-76 – Ed*) took delight in showing these in Big School. A further cabinet of butterflies ended up in the Geography department (*does anybody know what happened to the films and the cabinet of butterflies – Ed*). Philip Percival died in 1966 at the age of 80.

WEL

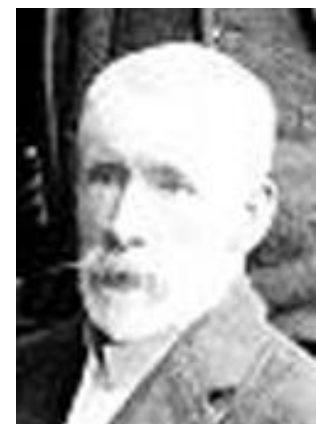


Those wishing to learn more about Philip Percival should refer to *Tea Trays Old and New* in the Spring 2013 issue of *The Old Redingensian* and, for first-hand information, Percival's own reminiscences were published in 1997 under the title *Hunting, Settling and Remembering* – compiled from manuscripts prepared before his death in 1966 (*pictured right is Percival in older age*).

The other images in Will's piece show Philip Percival as a young man, the holster for his 'last hope' double-barrelled pistol and the badge of EAPHA which was mounted on the bumper bar of his car. The badge has 'East African Professional Hunters Association' inscribed around the rim and shows an elephant against a background of Mount Kenya, and above the motto 'nec timor nec temeritas' (neither fear nor foolhardiness).

Incidentally, Percival was not the first famed hunter educated at Reading School. One of Dr Valpy's boys, Horace (Horatio) William Wheelwright (1815 – 1865), was an English hunter who spent many years of his life in Australia and Sweden and was a significant naturalist and writer (under the pseudonym 'An Old Bushman').

KCB



Commentary

The Old Redingensian Spring 2013

The Archivist notes that Dr Boggis (**Some Reading Musicians**) who drowned in the Thames on 1 October 1911 is recorded as having left the School on 30 September 1911. Whether that entry simply reflects his last day of work or is indicative of a sadder story we do not know. The first music master at Reading School when it opened on the present site in 1871 was Mr W H Strickland but in 1872 he was replaced by Mr F Peel B.Mus Oxon who had been organist at Watford Parish Church. He had attended Magdalen Hall, Oxford and St Mark's College, Chelsea and was late master of Mrs Fuller's Endowed School, Watford. Mr Peel was succeeded as Music and Choirmaster by Mr A F Booth in 1876, Mr Booth by Mr R Ellis in 1877 and there followed an almost yearly turnover in the post (though sometimes a separate choirmaster, organist, or instructor in piano etc was employed). Messrs Davis, Varley, Cay, Morgan, Pearce, Gale and others, some highly qualified, came and went. J C B Tirbutt preceding and overlapping Dr Boggis's early years, brought some stability but it was not until Dr Edmund Osmond Daughtry arrived in 1911 that a settled music staff became the norm rather than the exception.

D A (David) Youens (1944-52) thought that the piece on the Morris Motors visit (**Notes and News**) had been written by M J (Michael) Culham (1943-52). Michael firmly refutes this so we are no further forward. Someone must know!

David was also pleased to see the mention of Dr E M Morgan (**From The Editors**) as Dr Morgan would be his candidate for inclusion in the Bidding Prayer on the strength of the part Dr Morgan played in saving the School from the comprehensive system. He makes a good case.

8 Midweek, Tuesday, July 15, 1986

DOWN MEMORY LANE

I WAS THERE WHEN THE BOMBS FELL

MANY people will recognise the picture showing bomb damage at the end of Friar Street, leading into Market Place (in your *Midweek* edition of July 1) but probably only a few can say they are in it.

It was 4.20 pm on February 10, 1943 when, due to the mist, the German plane was flying low and dropped about five bombs and machine gunned the town.

Henry Cooper and Sons, quantity surveyors' offices were on the second floor in the centre of the picture. One bomb completely destroyed the back of our offices and killed about 50 people in the adjoining British Restaurant; another bomb went on into Blandys Solicitors office opposite where firemen are seen fighting the fire.

We managed to escape by climbing up and getting through the roof over the Arcade, and coming down in another building. I am seen in the group on the right checking that all the staff were out and not seriously injured. They are Maurice Wright, Barbara Eastor, Peter Warner and Desmond Watt.

I have many memories still vivid, of that afternoon.

The other two pictures shown were obviously taken in summer time and not concerning the War as the Sun blind opposite the old Town Hall is intact and the shop windows of Somerset House are not broken.

CHARLES R KING,
Clevemede,
Goring.



In connection with the bombing raid on 10 February 1943 (**Notes and News**) Chris King (an Old Carthusian) has kindly supplied the two items shown. His father C R (Charles) King, the writer of the letter, was at Reading School from 1925 to 1928 in County House for which he gained Rugby, Cricket and Running Colours. He was also a School Shooting Colour, competing in the Ashburton Shield. Charles joined Henry Cooper and Sons of Reading – the world's

oldest firm of quantity surveyors, founded in 1785, on leaving School. He eventually became Senior Partner and was invested with the OBE at Buckingham Palace in 1968.

Concerning the photograph of Form 1B, 1931 (**The Archive**) the Archivist subsequently found that D H Spurgeon had not, as stated, left School in 1932 but, sadly, had died that year. Apart from the Sewell family who recognised the seated figure of G W (Wally) Sewell, no further identification has yet been made. So, the quest continues. Incidentally, Miss O'Reilly's Christian names – unknown of course to the boys surrounding her in the picture, and probably to most of her fellow members of staff also – were Annie Sterling.

Col B J (Brian) Thompson (1944-54) was related by marriage to Eddie Hughes (**Obituaries**). Indeed Brian's sister married Eddie's elder brother, Norman, and Brian has three nieces from that union.

Dr P P (Philip) Mortimer (1953-60) commenting on Andrew Bohman's 'excellent article' (**Some Reading Musicians**) lamented the closure of The University of Reading's Music Department and the general cutback on music in schools and universities (not, thankfully, something of which Reading School stands accused). Philip says that the Memorial to Sir Hugh Allen in the Cloisters of New College, Oxford refers to 'a devoted musician...who used his talent and the singular force of his personality in strenuously promoting the love and practise of his art' and somewhat regrets that Sir Hugh is not around today to fight the cause!

Still on the subject of **Some Reading Musicians**, what was to become *The University of Reading* had its beginnings in 1892 as the *University Extension College in conjunction with the Schools of Science and Art, Reading* (contracted in Spring 1893 to *The University Extension College, Reading*). In 1898 this was simplified to *Reading College* and a copy of the report of its Council for 1897-98 has come into the Archivist's possession. It states that the Department of Music opened for the first time in session 35 - 1897-98 – and that the first Director of the Department was indeed Sir Walter Parratt, so the editorial note 'unverified' against the suggestion in Andrew Bohman's article that such was the case may now be withdrawn! Incidentally, the star student in that first session was Miss Violet Lindars who became a noted music teacher in Reading and was a sister of Reading School's musical prodigy H R (Hermann) Lindars (1909-16).

The 1948 Cricket Bat

Brian Leighton (see also *Where Are They Now?* on page 14) has solved a mystery raised in *The Old Redingensian* before, viz what happened to the 'Bradman' cricket bat presented to the School by J R (John) Kynaston (1919-26?). Brian writes as follows:

I believe it was in the summer of 1950 that Tom Dollery graced the School for some form of festival cricket match. It could well have been ORs versus the School 1st XI (it was probably H E Dollery's XI v an OR XI for W G Bott's benefit on 9 July 1950 – Ed). It was my last term at the school and I recall this cricket bat being the subject of a raffle. We all entered the raffle for a modest fee and I learnt some time later that I had won. I seem also to recall that I went back to school to collect the prize after I had left.

The only significance to this story is that the bat, a very fine instrument with a very thick sweet spot, had been autographed by the 1948 Australian Test Team. I kept it for a couple of years before deciding that, since I would be unlikely to afford such a bat of my own, I would use it. This I did for the best part of 20 years as a regular player in village cricket teams. Needless to say the signatures on its face did not last for long but it was much enjoyed by me and many another amateur cricketer over the years. It lasted well but was eventually broken in use.

My regret now is that I have been the instrument of destroying a little part of Reading School's history. At the time I had little regard for life at the School because I had been bullied physically by boys and verbally by teachers, largely because I was a poor physical and nervous individual following serious head injuries in a road accident a year or so before starting at Reading School, and because I was a rather scruffy boy from the country. I saw the cricket bat as a trophy won against the odds.

As further testimony to the benefactions of Edgar Milward to Reading School (**The Legacy of Edgar Milward, Autumn 2012**) it may be noted that when the Old Redingensians Association raised c£40,000 to refurbish Big School just over a decade ago, the largest single contribution to the Appeal - £2,000 – was received from The Edgar Milward Charity. Thus Edgar still benefits the School, even in death, for the transformed Big School (achieved under the leadership of past presidents Tony Waring, Dudley Bruton and the late John Illman) splendidly reinforced the image that the School presents to the boys, to prospective parents and to visitors.

L A (Leslie) Adams (Master at School 1972-97) - Head of English – took the editors gently to task for heading the last issue's errors list as Erratum (singular) instead of Errata (plural); so we didn't get away with that particular clanger....

Errata Spring 2013

Code: (c) = inconsistency of expression; (e) = factual or grammatical error; (v) = error in layout

Page 14	(v)	Semicolon omitted between Alexander and Dermot in 3-image caption
Page 15	(e)	B Shelton's postcode is HA suffix not AA
Page 33	(e)	Doctor Boggis was appointed in October 1904 – not 1905
Rear Cover	(v)	Point size was incorrect in the final two lines

The Bookplate of Norman Gash

By K C Brown



Professor Norman Gash CBE FBA FRSL FRSE FRHistS was at School from 1923-30 and died in 2009 (see *The Old Redingensian* Autumn 2009). He was one of the foremost historians of 19th century Britain and the breadth of his scholarship - which extended well beyond the boundaries of his chosen subject – is well illustrated by the following anecdote; as a major in Army Intelligence travelling in Europe in connection with the Nuremberg Trials he found himself alone in a train compartment with another well-known academic. Neither spoke the other's language but both were able to converse happily in Latin during the journey of several hours duration....

Norman Gash's extensive library, at his home in Langport, Somerset was dispersed after his death to various sources but a number of his books were kindly presented to the Archive by his daughters, Harriet and Sarah, and others were purchased by the writer who was delighted to subsequently receive from Harriet Gash a packet of her father's bookplates, an (oversized) example of which is pictured below. The bookplate was a gift made in the early 1950s to Professor Gash by his wife, Dorothy.

Professor Gash's plate is pictorial showing the sun and moon shining above the tree of knowledge round which a serpent coils and beneath which a skull nestles in the roots. The tree is half in lightness and half in darkness. Various there is symbolism for both good and evil, enlightenment and ignorance, the mortality of man etc. Perhaps the designer and etcher, Józef Sekalski, implies that Norman Gash was one who enlightened man's ignorance by imparting wisdom and learning. There may be some play on the Professor's name - Yggdrasil, the tree of life, is traditionally an Ash; serpent in Hebrew is *Nahash*.

The writer has reproduced most of the information about the designer, which follows, from the *Encyclopaedia of British Artists after 1945*; and gives due acknowledgement here.

Józef Sękaliski (1904-72) was a painter, printmaker, designer, illustrator and teacher, born in Turek, Poland. He studied medicine for several years but gave it up to study, from 1929-34. at Wilno University's faculty of fine art. He then painted church murals until, in 1937, he became head of a studio in Lodz. In 1940 he escaped from occupied Poland and travelled to Budapest, where he held a very successful print show depicting the burning of Warsaw.

Further travels took him to France where he enlisted in the French-run Polish Army, was captured and escaped to Scotland where, in 1942, he rejoined the Polish Army. Sękaliski settled in St Andrews and became a member of a wood engraving circle and built up a reputation as a book designer and etcher. (Professor Gash became a lecturer at St Andrews University in 1946 later becoming Professor of History, Vice Principal of the University and Dean of the Faculty of Arts.)

In 1957 Sękaliski began to lecture in printmaking at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee. He was elected a member of the Scottish Society of Artists and exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Royal Scottish Academy and elsewhere. KCB



Camping with the 55th Reading Scouts, 1957-60

By Francis Terry

My first experience of camping with the 55th Reading (Reading School) scout troop was in September 1957. The troop was in something of a transitional stage, with 'Bony' Grigg, for many years the Scoutmaster, having retired and the leadership consisting principally of Geoff Moore (the Music Master at School) and David Wanstall (who taught modern languages), the latter having joined the staff at the start of the 1956/57 school year. The Vice-Lieutenant of Berkshire, Sir William Mount, had offered to accommodate the summer camp on his estate at Wasing Place near Aldermaston. (Sir William's daughter Mary was, incidentally, the mother of the present Prime Minister, David Cameron PC MP)

As I was returning from a family holiday, I missed the organised transport from Reading and my father took me on the Thames Valley bus to the nearest point on the A4; from here, it was a three mile hike to the site, carrying my kit-bag. My father (F H Terry, member of staff 1946-82) then walked back to the A4 to catch the bus home. The camp was on an open grassy slope with a stream at the bottom providing a plentiful supply of fresh water. Cow-pats were a prominent feature of the site, with attendant flies, I recall. Each patrol (there were four, each with its own tent) chose a pitch at a discreet distance from HQ, a former World War II bell-tent used for scout leaders accommodation and the stores.



The Curlew Patrol, to which I had been assigned, consisted of H P (Huw) Thomas as patrol leader, B A (Brian) Hawkins, D C (Derek) Patience and myself. On setting up camp, Huw Thomas, son of Harry Thomas the biology master, caused a stir by producing a hammer and nails with which he fashioned benches and a table from logs that were found around the site. This was a complete break with the traditional scouting culture which relied on rope lashings for any form of constructional work, but significantly increased our standard of comfort. Huw's table can be seen on the nearside of the image, left, which shows P J (Peter) McCowen's younger brother, a non OR who had been allowed to come to the camp, cleaning a billy-can. Each patrol collected its daily supplies from HQ and did its own cooking over an open pit fire. After breakfast, everyone gathered round the flag-pole for flag-break and prayers, followed by announcements about the

day's programme. This might consist of an outing or hike, organised games and plenty of free time for hunting firewood or doing chores. The latter included cleaning smoke-blackened billy-cans, washing clothes or digging latrines. In the evening, there was often a camp-fire with community singing and cocoa before bed.

Two memories stand out. First, I think this was the last occasion on which the 55th Reading performed initiation ceremonies on its new recruits, including Mr Wanstall who was then a scouting novice. The 1957 ceremony was considered by older hands, who were familiar with the japes and humiliations inflicted on previous recruits to be pretty tame. Even so, it was faced by the recruits with nervous anticipation. They were led blindfold, one at a time, into a circle of the assembled troop, stripped to the waist, painted across the chest and back with their nickname in grease-paint and finally doused with bowl of cold water. There wasn't much more to it than that, but the practice was terminated after the influence of Michael Holmes, who joined the staff to teach History, in September 1957, began to be felt in the Troop which he was to serve long and well.

Second, I recall the night game in which blindfolded patrol members were driven by a devious route to an unrecognisable location in open country some distance from the camp. The challenge was simply to find the way back with the aid of the stars and a compass. The Curlew Patrol was fortunate: we started off down a faint track which dropped steeply down through dark woodland, only to emerge providentially with a view of the camp-site in the distance. One other patrol, led I think by A B (Alan) Pinniger, headed in the diametrically opposite direction, and it was some hours before a search-party picked them up.

The 1958 summer camp reflected the much more ambitious regime instituted under Michael Holmes, Geoff Moore now concentrating on activities for the Senior Scouts who were establishing a distinct identity. (David Wanstall was to remain with the Troop for another before leaving in 1959 to join the staff at Bradford Grammar School). Great Tower, the camp location above Bowness on Lake Windermere, reached by overnight train from London. Each patrol had a large box made from wooden planks and fitted with handles at the corners. Inside were billy-cans, kettles, stoves, tents and other paraphernalia for camping, in all a substantial weight for young lads to manhandle. The boxes and other gear were loaded into a pantechnicon

at the scout hut in Morgan Road on the afternoon of our departure; we met it at Euston station later in the evening, the troop having travelled up from Reading by rail.

We humped our equipment to the brake-van on the train, and went to our compartments ready for departure at about 11:00 pm. Not much sleep was had – such was the excitement of an overnight journey – and 5:00 am found us stumbling off the platform at Windermere station to be met by another pantechnicon, hired by ‘Sherlock’ to take us to the camp-site. This was in a very attractive wooded area overlooking the lake.



Regrettably, the rain scarcely let up during the whole ten days of the camp (or so it seemed) and outdoor activities were rather curtailed. We did climb Coniston Old Man, I remember, reaching the starting point by travel in the pantechnicon. Lengths of stout braid had been knotted round the wooden struts that lined the lorry interior, so providing something to hang on to while we scouts sang songs and hailed bemused passers-by as we peered out over the raised tail-board.

During this camp, I undertook the 14-mile hike including an overnight stay under canvas, which was needed to qualify ultimately as a ‘First Class Scout’. Patience and I set out with our rucksacks to follow a route roughly around the north end of Lake Windermere to a point on

the opposite side from where the ferry brought us back to Bowness. It was a true test of endurance, as we plodded through the incessant rain, keeping notes for our log-books and in the evening struggling to light a fire to prepare our supper. Suffice to say that we passed the test....

The image above shows D A (David) Henderson, E J D (Julian) Hill and Derek Patience with Lake Windermere in the background. The image below right from that same Bowness camp shows the Curlew patrol, in a brief interlude between rain showers, attempting to rustle up some lunch, while the bedding is aired on the line; l to r: M J F (Michael) Cullen, David Henderson (wearing a tam-o'-shanter, though the trees behind make it look like a flowery hat), Brian Hawkins the patrol leader, C J (Chris) Wright and Derek Patience. The altar fire has been lit and Henderson is using a flat piece of board to fan it into life.

The Curlew Patrol, by now under the leadership of Hawkins, organised its own camp for a few days at Padworth in the Easter holiday of 1959. Henderson had joined the patrol, replacing Thomas who had moved to the Seniors. We drew water from a spring and roamed the countryside searching for fire-wood, four youngsters completely independent and unsupervised by any adult. Anyone familiar with the old-style of paraffin-fired Primus stove will know that they had an alarming tendency to emit bursts of flame up to three feet in height, if not handled with care. One evening Hawkins was making cocoa for the patrol on his Primus, unwisely situated inside the tent. Suddenly, the stove erupted, causing Hawkins to dash outside and unfasten the tent flies in double-quick time, and so narrowly averting a conflagration.



I also remember the unseasonably warm weather, which prompted Henderson to declare that a place must be found where we could bathe. We set out for what looked, on the map, to be a pond which might suit. It didn't, but Henderson decided that a narrow, muddy stream which we had followed for some distance might be an alternative. Naked, he prepared to immerse himself, when Patience gave the alarm: a pair of young female riders were almost upon us, quite unaware of what lay ahead. Grabbing his shorts, Henderson fled for the undergrowth, ending what had always seemed (to me) a doubtful enterprise from the start.

North Wales was the destination for the 1959 summer camp, again reached by overnight train from Euston. Dawn found us changing at Afon Wen, near the Caernarvonshire coast before arriving at Portmadoc where

once again the local pantechnicon ferried us to a camp-site above Black Rock sands. We fitted up our 'gadgets' – a pedal-operated underground refrigerator, an altar fire (built from handy chunks of granite around the site) and a larder for supplies. Michael Holmes, as a keen walker, had mapped out an intensive programme of hikes, beginning with a two-day walk which patrols tackled individually, carrying their tents and overnight gear with them. Seeking the village of Gell, along our intended route, we enquired of a local housewife for the right path to follow. She answered 'Gell? You go back to Criccieth and catch a bus', deflating our navigator M J (Mike) Lambden who had recently joined the patrol.

Next followed a climb up Cnicht, by way of preparation for our ascent of Snowdon two days later via the Upper Pyg track. As often happens, the summit was in clouds, and a number of us were nearly lost before reaching the summit hotel. Descent was via the Watkin path. On Sunday, the entire troop attended morning service in Portmadoc, with a trip on the recently reopened Ffestiniog Railway in the afternoon. Black Rock sands gave plenty of opportunity for bathing and exploring the caves, accessible at low tide, and several excursions were made there on free days. Another long hike traced the route of the closed section of the Ffestiniog Railway, eventually reaching Blaenau Ffestiniog whence the pantechnicon returned us to camp.

Next year, 1960, Michael Holmes's inspiration seemed to have temporarily flagged, and he invited the patrol leaders (myself now among them) to accompany him on a day tour of prospective sites for a summer camp in Sussex. The consensus favoured Poynings, on the South Downs above Brighton. The weather was good, and supplies of fire-wood excellent – so



good in fact that the newest member of the patrol, S N Heavens, had his socks badly singed while drying them over the fire, after he had fallen into a watery ditch. Apart from the usual hikes, we made a visit to the Carthusian monastery near Cowfold where we had a memorable insight into the strict regime of the monks. A mural stretching the length of the chapter house wall, and depicting the martyrdom of the Carthusians at the dissolution of their London monastery in 1536, made a vivid impression.

The image from the 1960 camp, *above*, was taken, I think, at Ditchling Beacon and we were debating which way to go from there. The line-up, l to r, Mike Lambden, Chris Wright, Julian Hill, Michael Cullen and I R (Ian) Brown.

Living under canvas in those days was a formative experience for us and despite hardships – and even a touch of homesickness for some younger members – we enjoyed ourselves. Yet we were entirely dependent on our own efforts to make fires, to cook meals, to wash and repair clothes, keep ourselves fit and rub along with our fellows. The patrol leader was directly responsible for his flock, while supervision from above him was invariably very 'light touch'. Camaraderie was strong, reinforced by the collective memory of past adventures and songs with humorous words sung to some well-known tune. Camping equipment, by present-day standards, was cumbersome and primitive: canvas would let water if touched from the inside, so a fly-sheet was highly desirable; ground-sheets were seldom very waterproof and there was no indoor refuge in the event of severe weather. I do not say that we took serious risks, by the standards of the day, but camp life brought us 'up close' to the natural environment and scout-craft taught us to make the most of it.

FRT

Editors Notes: When Francis was at School, boys were universally referred to by surnames only. The editors have inserted initials and (believed) Christian names to help identity at this length of time. All corrections welcomed! Masters referred to in the text are:

Mr A J Grigg BSc King's College, London (Staff 1921-56) – nicknamed 'Bony' (Mr Grigg founded the School Scout Troop in 1926)

Mr G C Moore BA University College, Cardiff (Staff 1954-60) – nicknamed 'Mekon'

Mr H M Thomas BSc University of Wales (Staff 1949-64) – nicknamed 'Harry'

Mr D R Wanstall BNA Emmanuel College (Staff 1956-59)

Mr M Holmes MA Pembroke College, Cambridge (Staff 1957-65) – nicknamed 'Sherlock' (or 'Skip' in the Scouts)

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

R F Seymour
15 Westgate Drive
ANNANDALE
NJ 08801
USA

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



EUROPE

European Organiser – Peter Wildman (1958-65)

P G Wildman
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81430 VILLEFRANCHE D'ALBIGEOIS
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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
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Australia

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Email: specialty@bigpond.com



CANADA

Canadian Organiser – Bill Hedges (1942-47)

W J Hedges
Suite 303
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ON M1M 1T7
Canada

Tel: +1 416 261 1271
Email: bill.hedges58@gmail.com



Class of 1987 Brisbane Reunion

This image was taken on 22 June 2013 at a barbecue (the School Song was sung...) before these five ORs, at School together from 1987 to 94, headed off to the Suncorp Stadium to cheer the British and Irish Lions on to their 23/21 victory in the first Test against Australia. There will more about each of them - K L F (Keith) Duncan and C (Chris) Thames who both live in Brisbane, A B (Alex) Haslam and J (James) White who live in Sydney, and H A J (Howard) Masters who was visiting from Hong Kong - in the Spring 2014 edition of *The Old Redingensian*.



Malta Story



On 23 March 1944 Lieutenant General Sir William Dobbie GCMG KCB DSO visited Reading School; he was greeted by a guard of honour provided by the Junior Training Corps (JTC) commanded by Capt F H C Redington MC (Staff 1922-59), on the General's right above. Just out of sight behind Capt Redington is Cadet CSM A J Johnson (1938-45) and, later, (Staff 1953-59) and the Corps Regimental Sergeant Major Eli Rollings follows up.

General Dobbie was Governor of Malta 1940-42 and from January 1941 the island was under siege by the Germans and Italians (over 1000 air raids took place in that year alone). Its central geographical position had made it a strategic British base in the Mediterranean war and Hitler was determined to invade. Resistance was steadfast, 693 Axis aircraft had been shot down by July 1942 and finally Hitler abandoned the attempt. By the time a convoy sailed into the Grand Harbour in November 1942, without loss due to the Royal Navy, the Maltese had had 35,000 homes destroyed, there had been 1,550 civilian deaths and 450 killed in the Garrison. King George VI awarded the George Cross to the Island, the first and only GC given to a community for courage and endurance.

By all accounts General Dobbie's address to the JTC was inspirational, the School magazine reporting that he 'gave a graphic account of the defence of Malta, enlivened by many touches of personal reminiscence. In inconvenient isolation, a thousand miles from a friendly port, with four antiquated fighters from the time of Noah, only sixteen guns and four battalions of infantry, they expected immediate invasion by sea and air, but only saw the Italian navy once.'

General Dobbie ended by expressing his conviction that Malta had only been saved by special divine intervention and told how much he owed, from an early age, to his faith in Jesus Christ.

The cadet second from right in the image above is David Pollitt who became a career soldier, served in Malta and in 1956 married a Maltese lady, a union which lasted more than 56 years until his death in 2013. Colonel David Pollitt's obituary appears on page 45.

Obituaries

PHILIP GEORGE SIZER (1928-32)



There were four Sizer brothers at Reading School and in 1947 at St Peter's Church, Caversham, Philip, the eldest, married Iris Maule, the sister of E H (Eric) Maule (1926-35) and H R (Henry) Maule (1923-33). He was therefore uncle to Eric's son, M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), a perhaps unique case of an uncle and nephew both being past presidents of the Old Redingensians Association.

Philip was born in West Drayton in 1918, the family moving to Reading three years later when he entered the Junior School at age 10 and left from Form Lr.iv.M.C, when he was fourteen, to work for a meat wholesaler. In 1937 he joined the Territorial Army and saw service throughout the 2nd World War in the Royal Artillery; he served abroad in Italy, through the horrors of Monte Cassino and was the first British Officer into Florence when it was liberated. Subsequently he served in Greece.

Post war he joined his father in the family printing business, OSCO in London Street, Reading, prospered and became Chairman of Reading YMCA, Reading Madrigal Society, Bucklebury Festival Choir, Greyfriars Church Choir and Berkshire Wanderers RUFC. He was a member of the Prison Board of Visitors, and a magistrate for nearly three decades eventually becoming Chairman of the Reading Bench. He had a large and productive garden: he was able to do so much, he believed, because of the unwavering support of his wife.

When he retired in 1983 he continued to travel widely and tend his garden. In 1996 Phil and Iris moved to Blue Anchor, in Somerset, where gardening continued and visits to the opera in Bristol became a great pleasure.

His youngest brother, Brian, liked to say that Philip was 'the most educated with the least education of the four of us'. He read avidly and inherited his lifelong love of music from his father, particularly for organ recitals and for the piano. He sang in the choir of his local church; had a strong preference for the King James Bible and was a member of the Prayer Book Society.

Despite leaving so early he was a staunch supporter of Reading School and became President of the Old Redingensians in 1980. He was 'a man of extraordinary energy who was always keen to improve the condition of something or someone', approached every task with enthusiasm and determination and gave wherever he saw a need. In 2010 he went into a care home in Taunton, suffering from dementia and spent his last year at Eastleigh Care Home in Minehead. Iris died two months before him although, due to the advance of his illness, Philip was, perhaps mercifully unaware of it. He is survived by their children Vanessa, Simon, Felicity and Brian, ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Philip Sizer died on 26 December 2012 aged 94.

KCB



Philip Sizer (centre), presiding at the OR Annual Dinner in his year of office, flanked l to r by Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe GCB DFC AFC (Past President), Dr Gerard Vaughan (MP for Reading South), John Haines (acting Headmaster) and Councillor Charles Sage Mayor of Reading (Vice President)



Floreat Redingensis!



JOHN WILLIAM MICHAEL SMITH (1937-47)

Mike was in East House at School, becoming a Prefect, winning 2nd Cricket Colours for play in the 1st XI, House Cricket and Swimming Colours and a clutch of Initials – School for Dramatics, Seekers and Elocution, House for Chess. He became Senior Ordinary Member of the Debating Society (for which he received a Character 4 years running), was a School Librarian, a Magazine sub-editor: an East House, Philatelic Society and Sing Song Committee Member; Hon Sec of the Field Club; a Patrol Leader in the Scouts and a leading cadet in the ATC – amongst other things! These wide interests informed the later life of this near renaissance man.

On leaving School Michael did his National Service, spending it as a photographer in the Royal Air Force, and afterwards entered Reading University where he graduated with a Geography degree and a DipEd, having also found time to play hockey in the successful University team of those years.

He decided on a career in teaching and commenced it at the newly established Royal Pakistan Air Force Public School 7,000 feet up in Lower Topa, NW Frontier Province, Pakistan, which looked across to the Himalayas. The school was run on the lines of an English boarding school.

On his return to the UK he became Senior Geography Master at King's School, Peterborough before joining the staff of Seaford College, where D W (Matt) Mattingley (1936-43) was also on the staff. In September 1964 he was appointed lecturer in geography at Brighton Teachers Training College, and the following year his book *Essentials of Modern Geography* was published by George Philip & Son Ltd (Mike was a prolific writer and followed that text book with several Ladybird books, many papers and monographs – and other publications mentioned below). In 1982 he retired from his position as Head of Curricular Studies and Director of the PCGE course at Sussex University. At that point he had had nine books published since 1965.

He started lecturing part-time at the Centre for Continuing Education at the university and also became Vice Chairman of the Whiteway Centre, Rottingdean, which offered adult education courses. Having retired from teaching he lectured intensively particularly on the literary heritage of Sussex. He made no fewer than 29 voyages as a guest lecturer on the cruise ship *MV Hebridean Spirit*.

He became Chairman of the Council of the Kipling Society (which he also served as Honorary Secretary and later as Vice President), wrote *Rudyard Kipling: The Rottingdean Years* and was closely involved with the TVS production *Kipling's Sussex – a Fragile Paradise*. Mike was particularly associated with the National Trust at Batemans (Kipling's erstwhile house) and the Rottingdean Preservation Society Museum and Art Gallery. He became President of the Village Fête.

In 1997 he published a new revised edition of *Sussex Cavalcade* by Arthur Ankers and his two great interests were combined in 2008 in the handsome book *Kipling's Sussex*, which is a fine memorial to Michael's work.

Colonel John Chown (1941-48) PP writing in 1995 when Mike became President of the OR Association said: 'Every cultural group, civic society, history or local history association in Sussex knows of Michael Smith. He is the person they want to talk to them about the landscapes, the historical geography or the literary heritage of the County.....he is the acknowledged expert in this field.'

Mike was a loyal Old Redingensian. He had been Assistant Honorary Secretary of the OR Club from 1948 to 1953, proposed the toast to *The School* at the OR Dinner in 1992 and became Vice President of the Association in 1994 to Matt Mattingley (Mike's career had thus coincided with Matt's at School, University, Seaford College and now the OR Council for over 50 years).

Mike married Audrey Jean Crouch (once of St Joseph's Convent School) on 2 April 1955, at St John's Church, Reading and many members will fondly recall their joint hosting of the OR Sussex Luncheon (founded by R J (Dick) Wilder (1934-39)) for the last 13 of its 20-years run. Mike's affability and enthusiasm and Audrey's grace and charm were a combination guaranteeing success to those enjoyable occasions.

Michael is survived by Audrey, his children Shirley and Andrew, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. The funeral service at Rottingdean was at the charming church of St Margaret opposite another of Rudyard Kipling's former homes, The Elms. Michael's lifelong friend (and best man at his wedding) The Ven P B (Peter) Coombs (1939-47) PP gave a moving address to a packed church. Other ORs present were the co-editors of this journal, Colonel Chown and his nephew Dr D (David) Neuhaus (1967-74) and G H (Baggy) Taylor (1937-47)

Michael Smith died on 29 January 2013 aged 84.

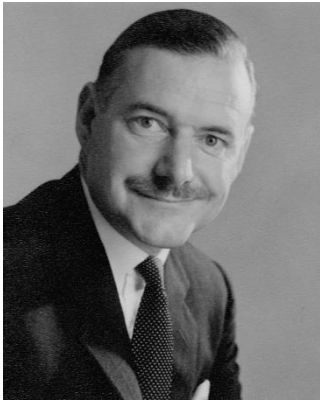
KCB



Floreat Redingensis!



MAJOR DENIS JACK SAVILL (1934-38)



Denis Savill was a member of an army family (see pp 26-27 *The Old Redingensian* Spring 2013) and came to Reading School with his younger brother, G P (Peter) Savill (1934-38). The brothers were both close and competitive and their careers, particularly at School, to some extent marched together.

Denis rendered great service to his House, West, of which he became Captain, particularly in cricket, rugby, athletics and boxing. He made an early mark in his first year helping, West to the Junior House Rugby Championship, scoring tries from centre, and also to the Junior House Athletics Championship with wins in the U/15 Cross Country, 440 yards and 800 yards. In the summer he won his House Cricket Colours and was to be a prolific scorer in House matches and become West House Cricket Captain, twice lifting the House Cricket Championship Trophy at Speech Day.

primarily a strong cross country runner; at rugby he became 'an attacking full back' with his 1st XV 'Character' in 1938 reading '...Positioning good, and fielding excellent. Tackling much improved'; cricket was his great love and he was established in the School 1st XI by 1937 as '...a reliable all-rounder'. He became Hon Sec of School Cricket and Vice Captain of the XI in his final season. During 1938 he received special praise for an innings of 85 against Whitgift. His 'Character' that year included the phrases '...an excellent bat' and 'excellent field with strong return to the wicket'.

As a boxer he won the Senior Featherweight title in 1936 and, though having to retire from the Senior Lightweight Final, in 1937 he was adjudged the Best Senior Boxer, thus taking the Waldron Trophy. Injury hampered him in his last year at School but his record was secure. Denis was a School Prefect and a Corporal in the OTC. On leaving School he joined the OR Club and was soon playing cricket for them against a School side which still contained brother Peter as a 'Colour'.

Denis's lived in Brock Barracks where his father was serving. He told Denis that the Second World War was going to be a long one and that he should join up – which Denis did on the day that war was declared. (Peter following not long after in 1940 and both of them so joining their elder brothers, Melville who was to become Colonel, and Reggie, killed in Palestine whilst a Captain, who were career soldiers and products of Sandhurst).

Denis Savill, Private, was posted to the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, but after OCTU, managed to become a Royal Berkshireman, the Regiment of his original choice. He was commissioned by 1941 and 174430 was to serve the Regiment until 8 June 1959 when it merged with The Wiltshire Regiment to become the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment in which he finally retired from the Army on 5 September 1959.

As a soldier Denis saw service in Burma, attached to a Nigerian Regiment in the later years of the war and steady promotion to Major. In that rank he was serving the Regiment as OC in Goslar in 1956 with the British Army of the Rhine. There he was regarded with affection for the kindness and patience he showed to five OR Subalterns then in the Regiment. Cyprus followed where Denis was attached to 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment as adjutant. He was Mentioned in Despatches for gallant and distinguished service on the Island between July and December 1958.

Denis retired from the army in 1959 and after working for both Rootes and Wills enjoyed his long retirement which centred around family activities and his continuing interest in sport, not least in the fortunes of Arsenal.

Denis had married Patricia McNee (Patsy) in Marylebone, in 1947 (Patsy's sister, Joyce, had married Denis's brother, Melville, in 1939). There were six children of the marriage, Angela, Denise, Michael, Crispin, Dominic and Bob.

After considerable ill health, from which he constantly bounced back, Denis finally succumbed after four cardiac arrests and two pacemaker operations in his last twelve months. Patsy predeceased him in 2012 and he is survived by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Denis Savill died on 23 May 2013 aged 93.

KCB

Shown right is the Reading School Cricket 1st XI of 1938, Denis's final year in the team when he was Vice Captain and Hon Secretary. Those pictured are -

Back row I to r: Mr W G Bott (Cricket Professional); G P Savill; Baylis D R; J W Warsap; Hawkins L W; Adams J; Davis H J

Front row I to r: J Caudle; D J Savill; C R Tice (Capt); K E Hartley; D E Glason

(Initials after a name indicate the player had gained School Representative Colours. Initials before the name indicate full School Colours)



KENNETH GLADSTONE SMITH (1927-36)



Kenneth was born on 2 March 1919 to Dorothy and John Smith, a second generation employee of the Great Western Railway. He had a younger brother, P L (Peter) Gladstone Smith (1930-38) a well-known crime correspondent for the Sunday Telegraph, who died in 1977.

At Reading School Kenneth became a School Prefect and Captain of East House, Hon Sec of School Chess, Hon Sec of School Music (Initials), was a librarian and a member of the Debating Society. (When an OR he returned often to debates: on one such occasion it was reported 'K G Smith (OR) cut the motion into pieces, then tore up the opposition'.)

In 1939 he registered as a conscientious objector and was exempted from military service provided he undertook agricultural or forestry work. He chose the latter.

On the 6 July 1947 he married Alice Greening from Salford, whom he had met at Dawlish on holiday the previous year. That same year he began work as an assistant actuary at the National Coal Board. Three sons, Roger, Martin and Nigel were born in 1948, 1951 and 1955 respectively.

Kenneth qualified as an actuary in 1949 and moved the family to Scotland in 1955 where he became Secretary of the Scottish Division of the NCB. He returned to England in 1960 to work for GEC and the following year commissioned the building of 26 Woodcrest Road, Purley, Surrey, where he spent the rest of his life.

In 1967 he took charge of the British Steel Pension Scheme, in 1977 became Chairman of the National Association of Pensions Funds and also Director of Pensions at Reed International. He was a member of the Occupational Pensions Board and the City Takeover Panel, and on the Council of the Institute of Actuaries.

He retired in 1984, but there followed spells as adviser to, or member of, the Royal United Kingdom Benefit Association, the Midland Bank Pension Scheme, the Methodist Finance Board and the Pensions Trust for Charities.

Religious observation was at the centre of Kenneth's life and he was a lifelong member of non-conformist denominations including the Methodists, Congregationalists, Church of Scotland and Baptists, and since 1961 had attended Coulsdon Methodist Church where his memorial service was held.

In retirement both he and Alice undertook Open University degrees and Kenneth remained independent after the loss of his cherished wife, playing his beloved Steinway piano until the week before he died. Indeed this successful and highly organised man left his accounts book completed up until 31 December, 2012. He is survived by his three sons and by grandchildren.

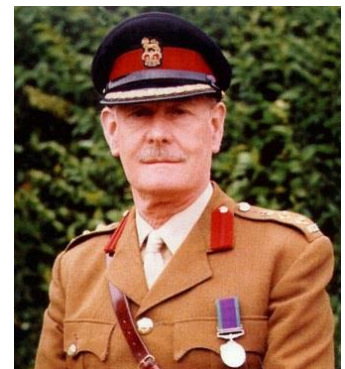
Kenneth Gladstone Smith died on 7 January 2013 aged 93.

KCB

COLONEL DAVID URQUHART POLLITT (RA RTD) DL (1943-46)

A late arrival at Reading School, David Pollitt was a boarder in West Wing where he became a house monitor and made his mark at athletics gaining School Colours in 1945 after a successful triangular match at Leighton Park where he won the 100 yards (as he also did at Sports Day in 1946). He was a sergeant in the JTC and became an officer cadet at RMA, Sandhurst.

David Pollitt spent 32 years in the Royal Artillery and saw service in the UK, Hong Kong, Egypt, Jordan, Malta, Libya, Germany and Aden. By 1957 he was a captain with the Royal Horse Artillery in Melk and in 1963 completed a technical staff course at Shrivenham preparatory to a posting in BAOR. By 1967 he was 2i/c 47th Light Regiment RA in Aden and from 1968-72 an exchange officer at Canadian Headquarters in Ottawa. He retired from the army in 1979, with the rank of colonel.



David then thoroughly engaged himself in his local community and for 11 years was a notable bursar at Bedford High School for Girls, an independent boarding and day establishment. An appreciation of David by Anne Kaye, who was Headmistress of Bedford High during that time, will appear in the Spring 2014 edition of *The Old Redingensian*. He commanded the Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force (1991-93) and became a member of the Bedfordshire, and subsequently, Chiltern War Pensions Committee, Hon Treasurer of the Bedfordshire Branch of the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association and served on the Army Benevolent Fund (Bedfordshire Branch) Committee. David Pollitt was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire in 1993.

On page 41 there is an image of David as a cadet at Reading School being inspected by General Dobbie, 'The Hero of Malta'. A decade later David was to serve in Malta and in 1956 at St Patrick's Church, Sliema he married Edwina (Countess Edwina Crispo Barbaro). He is survived by Edwina, by his nephews and nieces and by many Maltese friends and relations.

Colonel David Pollitt died on 24 February 2013 ages 84.

KCB

TREVOR CHARLES DAVID GADSBY (1943-50)

Trevor's father, Walter, was Warden of Wantage Hall, Reading University, and Trevor grew up there, attending St Joseph's Convent Junior School and then Reading School, both within walking distance.

At School he was a talented all-rounder, becoming Captain of East House, a School Rugby and Rowing Colour – Hon Secretary of School Rugby and Captain of Boats – CSM of the Corps, popping up in House Teams across the board and likewise School Societies: Debating Society, Operatic Society, Hon Secretary of Seekers. Whilst his love of rowing was paramount, he was a very good schoolboy rugby player and appeared in the Berkshire Schoolboys XV and for the South East against the South West. Reading School remained of life long importance to him as did the firm friends that he made there.

His love of travel was encouraged by H M Forces when National Service took him to Kenya, where he was commissioned in the RASC and amassed a fund of stories, often against himself and often re-told with relish! Once out of uniform he found himself very much at home again because he took up the S B Stevens Scholarship to Reading University that he had won at School. He read history and also rowed for the University 1st VIII (including two consecutive years at the Henley Royal Regatta competing in the Thames Challenge Cup).

Trevor graduated in 1954: his career in banking commenced with Barclays Bank; in London he indulged his lifelong love of the theatre – particularly of Shakespeare – and the music of Ivor Novello and Noel Coward, so appropriate for Trevor, a man of urbane, witty and humorous disposition.

He was, also, effortlessly elegant and when a posting to West Africa followed, a good salary enabled him to luxuriate in Savile Row suits (and to order prodigious quantities of books).

After resigning from Barclays, Trevor chose to study again and to indulge his wanderlust. Over three years he grew to know Paris, Perugia and Vienna and learned three languages in that time. After joining Lloyds Bank in Paris, he met and, in 1956, married Christine Gold, an Austrian, to whom he proposed in the Tuileries Gardens. His international career continued and three sons followed; Clement in Monte Carlo, Tom in Biarritz and finally, David, in Woodstock, the family's UK home.

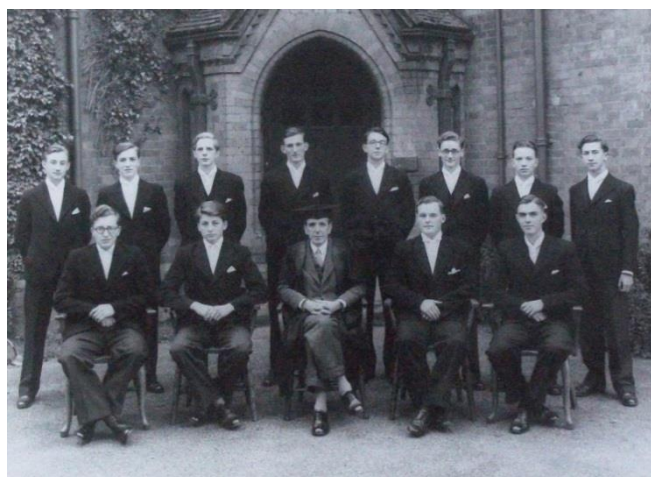
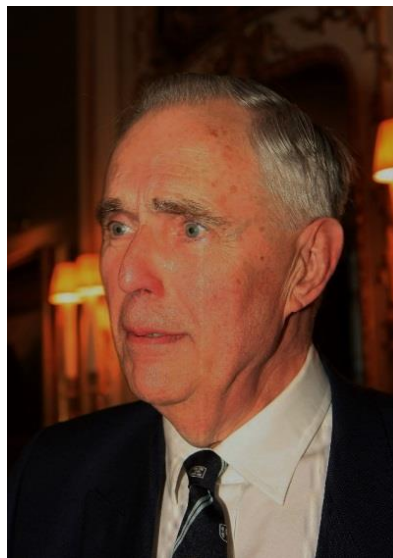
Trevor's work as a Bank Inspector continued to take him all over the world but when he accepted a major promotion to Frankfurt he lived and worked there for ten years while the boys, whose education in England he and Christine had been anxious not to disrupt, visited Frankfurt during their school holidays. These were, in the family phrase, '**Halcyon Days**' for all of them.

When Trevor took retirement there was no slowing down. He returned to old pastures at Reading University to study Medieval Latin and acquired, in fact, a further two degrees and a Masters. He and Christine continued to travel widely, visiting many centres of Catholic faith, and their terrier, Penny, was a great joy and important family member in those years. Eventually pulmonary fibrosis increasingly sapped Trevor's energy and excursions became rare.

Trevor is survived by Christine, his three sons, and four grandchildren. There was a large gathering for his funeral mass on the 8th March, 2013, at the Church of St Hugh of Lincoln, Woodstock, and afterwards in the Orangery at Blenheim Palace, eloquently reflecting the respect and affection in which this popular, warm hearted and most gentlemanly of Old Redingensians was held.

Trevor Gadsby died on 21 February 2013 aged 81.

KCB



The Reading School Prefects in 1949

Back row l to r: D R Ivy; P Knott; B W Goss; D Wilson; K J Rhodes; G R P Thomas; D W B Chippington; M L Stern

Front row l to r: R G Johnson; A A Barker; The Headmaster (C E Kemp Esq); D J Rogers; T C D Gadsby

Rev Brian Goss and David Rogers were amongst the Old Redingensians present at Trevor's funeral mass along with P R (Peter) Mitchell and the editors of this journal.

COMMANDER MICHAEL GARETH KILOH EVANS (1951-55)

Mike's Welsh parents settled in Tilehurst. His father, a bank manager, started the Tilehurst Eisteddfod.

At Reading School Mike was in West House, became a School Prefect, a Lance Sergeant in the CCF, gained representative Rugby Colours and played a full part in the life of the School. As an athlete he was exceptional: he became the Berkshire 100 yards Champion in 1955, the same year that, at Sports Day, he scored four individual victories, the 110 yards, the long jump, the 120 yards hurdle and the 440 yards. He was Hon. Secretary of School Athletics.

When he left from 74 he had an award from Reading University but also had gained a cadetship in the electrical branch of the Royal Navy and chose to proceed to Dartmouth. Whilst there he played regularly for the 1st XV. He then read for an external London degree at RNC Greenwich.

Mike spent 25 years in the Royal Navy as a Submarine Engineer and served on the UK's first nuclear submarine, *Dreadnought*. His research work on safety in nuclear power plants enabled him to pursue a new career after leaving the Navy, in the rank of Commander, which included work in America, following the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, and subsequently in Taiwan, Madrid, the Czech Republic and the Ukraine - apart from various locations in the UK.

He married Angela Cooper at St Michael's, Tilehurst, on 3 October 1959. Mike embraced with enthusiasm any role which gained his interest, fishing, bell ringing, cooking for instance; he became a gymnastics coach and a scout leader when his children became involved in these activities. He possessed a cheerful and entertaining manner, an outlook which did not falter even when he became a full time carer for his wife.

In 2010 Mike moved to Ilkley, near his daughter Susie, when Angela's health deteriorated further. In that time he became a popular member of the bell ringers teams at Ilkley and Addington.

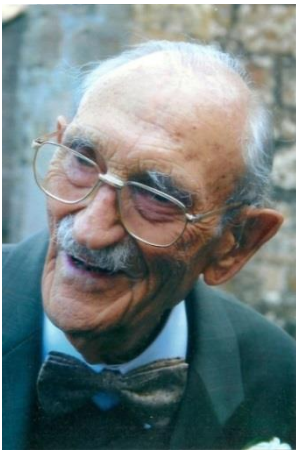
He leaves Angela, a son James, two daughters Charlotte and Susie and grandchildren.

Michael Evans died on 15 July 2013 aged 76.

KCB



JOHN BLOMEFIELD LEVIEN (1928-34)



John was born on 6 May 1915, the son of Robert and Edith Levien who moved to Norfolk in 1922, after Robert's extended Army service, with John and his two brothers, to rent a smallholding. (A love of the Norfolk countryside remained with John throughout his life.) John boarded at a Prep School in Sunningdale before arriving in West Wing at Reading School aged 13.

West Wing in the 1930s harboured not only male but female Leviens. Rev E G Levien (Staff 1925-45), John's uncle, the School Chaplain, was Housemaster of the Wing and his two unmarried sisters helped him with the domestic arrangements. Unusually, John came to Reading School after his younger brother and left before him. (R H (Hugh) Levien was in the Wing from 1926-35 when he passed into Sandhurst.). John became Vice Captain of School, Captain of Boarders, a Shooting Colour and useful all-rounder.

He forsook a place at Cambridge to study Natural Sciences on a Kitchener Scholarship at King's College, London, intending to teach. When he was twenty one, his Father died and his perspectives changed: in 1938 he was accepted into the Royal Air Force for Pilot Training on a six year commission, starting on Tiger Moths.

In early 1939 he elected to fly heavy aircraft, moved to Calshot with Coastal Command and in 1940 was posted to 202 Squadron in Gibraltar. He was by then a Flying Officer and aircraft Captain. His very active war included surviving a ditching in the Atlantic and a twenty eight hour flight – he was the only pilot – at around fifteen hundred feet, for which he was mentioned in despatches. He was released from the Service in March 1946 as a Flight Lieutenant.

His post war career was in Civil Aviation, as a navigation specialist with BOAC/BEA, becoming a British Airways Flight Operations Control Officer, eventually retiring as Flight Control Superintendent. In 1941 he had married Louie Beryl (Bette) Squire and they had raised their family of three sons and one daughter in Isleworth. On retirement he and Bette moved first to Windsor before returning to Norfolk in 1978, where John again indulged his love of the Broads, took particular pleasure in Wheatfen Nature Reserve and delight in his expanding family.

Bette died in 2000 and John is survived by his four children, by grandchildren and by great grandchildren: also by Hugh's sons R A (Robert) Levien (West Wing 1960-65) and his brother J K (John) Levien (West Wing 1965-72)).

John Levien died on 30 July 2013 aged 98.

KCB

DONALD STAFFORD CLARKE (1934-39)



Don was born in 1923 in the flat above Barclays Bank in Wanstead High Street, where his father, Leigh, then aged 64, was Manager. He had an elder brother, Ainslie (A B L Clarke, CBE, OR 1934-37 – see *The Old Redingensian* p48 Autumn 2010). Donald was to become a Bank Manager also.

The following year his father retired and bought – on spec. – a house in the depth of the Gloucestershire countryside. It turned out to have no electricity or gas and the River Severn flowing through the back garden: needless to say the boys were blissfully happy there, not least shooting rabbits for the pot with their father.

Both boys attended The Crypt School in Gloucester – a round trip of 16 miles each day on their bicycles – and their parents moved to Reading specifically for them to receive their secondary education at Reading School. Don was in County House and by the time he left, aged 16, was a Corporal in the OTC with Cert. A, had gained his House Rugger and Athletics Colours and appeared in the Dramatic Society production of *Julius Caesar* amongst ‘the citizens and soldiers’. He was also a promising shot, named in the Cadet Pair to compete at

Bisley (the meeting had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of the Second World War).

He followed his father into Barclays Bank, working in Piccadilly and living in digs but aged seventeen went to Marconi to train as a wireless operator in the Merchant Navy and subsequently spent the war on Atlantic Convoys.

Whilst he was at sea his father died, and at war’s end Don went to live in New Milton with his mother and rejoined Barclays Bank. His great friend in the Bank had a sister – and Don married Betty in 1950. Their daughter Hilary was born in 1956. Don became Manager of the Bank’s West Bognor branch in 1966; Rustington followed and finally he achieved his ambition to manage the Lymington Branch which he did until retirement at the age of 57.

He loved golf and was the longest serving member of Highcliffe Golf Club (over 50 years) and captained Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, of which he was also a director.

Betty died in 2001 and despite illnesses and accidents Don remained in his own home with help, until his death, lunching at the Golf Club on Sundays. Some members will recall that he was an attender at the OR Sussex reunions. He is survived by Hilary.

Donald Clarke died on 4 July 2012 aged 89.

KCB

JOHN JEFFERY SHORTER (1945-49)



Born in Reading, where his father worked in the family tailoring business, John entered Reading School in East House, leaving four years later from Lower IIB. He remained very proud of being an Old Redingensian and was visibly delighted to meet many ORs when he visited for the funeral in 2010 of his long-time friend Clive Rowden (1938-43). His uncle was F C V (Charlie) Davis LRAM, visiting Music Master at School for more than forty five years (1907-52). John was one of the ‘chorus of Contadine and Pages’ in the Operatic Society production of *The Gondoliers* in 1949 – musical director, of course, Charlie, who it is reported showed no sympathy for John’s lack of vocal ability simply reiterating ‘sing – Shorter – sing’.

From Reading he went to Chichester High School, the family having moved to Wittering, and thereafter trained as a design engineer through an apprenticeship with Vickers Armstrong at Weybridge. In 1966 he joined Blatchfords, a firm specialising in the development and manufacture of prosthetic limbs where he eventually became International Director. John was considered to have been instrumental in much of the Company’s success

during his time – which included winning the Queen’s Award for Technology and the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation. He is named as an inventor on a number of patents assigned to Blatchfords.

John was a useful footballer and a lifelong supporter of Reading FC, a good golfer, and a keen sailor with his brother Philip.

After cancer was diagnosed in early 2013 he refused all medical treatment and spent his last months in his much loved house by the harbour at Itchenor.

His wife Vera predeceased him by two years and John is survived by their three daughters, Jo, Toni, and Lou and by his grandchildren.

John Shorter died on 13 March 2013 aged 76.

KCB

GROUP CAPTAIN RONALD WHITTAM (1930-38)



Ron was born in Reading on 2nd October, 1921, started his education at St Joseph's Convent in 1926, moving to Reading School Junior School in 1930, moving up the drive two years later. In 1936 while convalescing from peritonitis in Blackpool, where his father had taken him, Mr Whittam was taken ill and died.

Ron was in the OTC, the Debating Society, won his House Music Initials and sang Angelina in Trial By Jury and Buttercup in HMS Pinafore. He also acted with the Dramatic Society and played chess.

Leaving with his School Certificates in 1938, he became an engineer trainee with the GPO and was commissioned 2nd Lieut. In the Oxfordshire Cadet Battalion. When war broke out those officers of age were immediately called up and Ron became Adjutant at the age of 21!

He finished his GPO training in 1940 and was sent to the new Telephone Exchange at Slough where he joined the local Defence Volunteers (LDV). He was in a reserved occupation but was allowed to volunteer in 1941 when the Royal Air Force was

seeking pilots and observers. He was accepted and went to Air Crew Reception where his old sergeant in the OTC H R (Roy) Farmery (1927-36) - later Wing Commander Farmery OBE - was in his flight. Training continued at Cambridge and Hatfield until he was posted to Southern Rhodesia where he was destined to spend the war, gaining his wings and becoming a Staff Instructor. In August 1944 he was posted home, by now a Flying Officer to fly Oxfords at Chipping Norton and then Wellingtons at Tilstock where he broke his jaw and left cheek bone in a runway crash which led to a long period of hospitalisation. When fit he went to Wymeswold as Technical Wing Adjutant.

Ron then became Commanding Officer of Leeds University Air Squadron where he met his future wife, Mary, at a nurses' dance. They married in 1947 and had three children. After a posting at Hawarden he was sent as an Instruments Ratings Officer to the Far East, first to Changi and then Hong Kong.

Before he retired in 1976, Ron had also commanded the Oxford University Air Squadron and a Flying Standards Squadron. Spent two years on Selection Board Duties and three years as Senior University Liaison Officer responsible for graduate recruitment. In addition he had two years as Air Attaché in Hungary (learning the language to colloquial level) and Romania and three years as Ministry of Defence (Air) Liaison Officer with Foreign Air Attachés in London. Ron worked for another 11 years before taking his second retirement, this time from local government service, in 1985.

The funeral service was held at St George's RAF Chapel, Biggin Hill and amongst Old Redingensians present were C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62) and Dr D M (Dudley) Bruton, PP (1948-51). Mary and their first son, Jim, predeceased Ron and he is survived by his other son, David, his daughter, Sue (Mrs Susan Carter), by grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Ron Whittam died on 23 May 2013 aged 91.

KCB



R (DICK) HOUSE (1953-60)



Dick House was in every way a larger than life character. Brought up in Emmer Green he was a popular man who had that rare ability to relate to and get on with people from all walks of life. Having studied Chemistry with Maths and German at Southampton University, he worked as a development chemist for 15 years, successively with Castrol, Midland Silicones, Pfizer and Carreras. In 1978 he joined the entrepreneurial founders of Monarch Adhesives where he managed both product development and production. In 1985 the company was sold to Henkel but it soon became clear to Dick and his two colleagues that they would be better off working for themselves and in 1986 they launched Britannia Adhesives - a successful company in Brentwood, which is still a thriving business.

In 1965 he married Kathleen Hutt, a state registered nurse, and they eventually settled in Mayland, Essex. Dick, an immensely practical person, bought, restored and repaired agricultural machinery and engines. He was also a leading light in the Chelmsford

Amateur radio club, an interest he developed in the Signals Section of the School CCF and later as Hon Sec of the Electronics Society. Both he and Kath were keen gardeners.

Life was not without sadness. His sister, Ann, died aged 48 and his son, Iain, when he was in his 40s but he and Kath were happily married for nearly 50 years. They were doing the Telegraph crossword over breakfast when he died suddenly of a heart attack. At his funeral the church was packed and overflowing such was the high regard and affection in which he was held and, yes, they did play Rule Britannia!

Richard House died on 21 June 2013 aged 70

Francis Pocock

GRAHAM LIONEL HARVEY (1945-55)



The younger brother of D C (Donald) Harvey (1942-52), Lionel, like Donald, entered the Junior School at age 9. He was in County House, became a School Monitor, a Sergeant in the CCF, Hon Sec of the Historical Society, a member of the Debating Society (Character 1955) and Seekers (Initials 1954). He was also the Council for Education in World Citizenship (CEWC) School Rep (and Hon Treasurer of their Reading District Council) and represented his House at Rowing, Rugby, Cricket and Chess.

He went up to The Queen's College, Oxford to study History and Latin and there developed a serious interest in rowing, being in the College VIII that was twice Head of the River in his time and captaining them at Henley Royal Regatta. Indeed he raced in three successive years at Henley reaching the semi-finals of the Visitors Challenge Cup in 1956 and rowing also in the Thames Challenge Cup. In 1957 he again reached the semi-finals of the Visitors and rowed also in the Grand Challenge Cup. In 1958 he rowed in the Ladies Challenge Plate. Lionel was subsequently a lifelong member of Leander Club.

He graduated from Oxford with a History degree and became an early entrant in the computer industry. He married Jennifer Rainey in 1960 at Christchurch Priory (G O (Geoffrey) Tristram, OR (1924-34) was the organist and Donald was Best Man).

In 1969 he became a Corporate Planning Manager at LEX. Whilst he famously turned down the franchise to bring McDonalds to the United Kingdom he succeeded to the extent that he became a Director in 1978 and throughout the eighties and nineties a frequent flyer on Concorde as business took him back and forth across the Atlantic. In 1994 he retired after 25 years of dedicated and well rewarded work for LEX, as Deputy Chief Executive of Lex Service Plc.

His personal life was lived to the full; he loved to socialise, was charitable and public spirited and took his large family on trips all over the world. In 1981, by then with six children, he married Rosemary who brought with her three more children. In 1989 he bought Oakleigh Grange so Rosemary could indulge her love of animals (it also had a large barn that became the venue for the frequent parties but also for family weddings, fun and enjoyment). The family trips and adventures continued apace as grandchildren and great grandchildren began to appear and Lionel got as far as taking 32 family members with him on one trip.

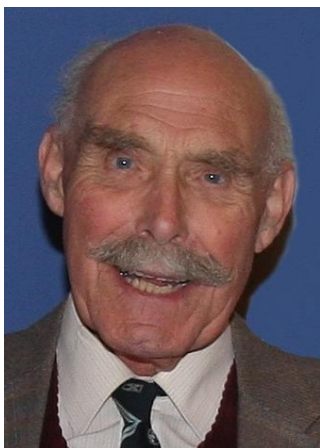
He took great, even obsessive, care in organising his time with spreadsheets for almost everything and relentlessly continued his pursuit of the good life. Despite his relish for that and his determination for him to live everyday as though it was his last he remained robust until almost the end, his sense of fun undiminished.

He is survived by Rosemary and the children – Philip, Carolyn, Jane, Samantha, Robert, James, Catherine, Jonathan, Victoria, by twenty four grandchildren and by great grandchildren.

Lionel Harvey died after a short illness on 16 March 2013 aged 76.

KCB

KEITH GLYN HARRIS TOMKINS (1937-42)



Keith was born in Tilehurst in 1926 and won a scholarship to Reading School where he enjoyed sport, joined the JTC and the Philatelic Society and eventually left from the 5th Form.

After School he continued to play rugby with the Berkshire Wanderers (forerunners of Reading RFC) and at eighteen started a forty-two year career with what became British Telecom and is now BT Group Plc.

He married his wife Josephine in 1954 and they had two daughters, Claire and Helen. In 1964 the family moved to Burghfield where Keith became deeply involved with the Parent Teacher Association, to add to his other interests which included fishing, his allotment, caravanning and his long involvement with the Reading Old Boys Masonic Lodge.

In the Lodge Keith rose through all the offices and was Master in 1977. Ultimately he was Director of Ceremonies of both Lodge and Chapter. He was also a member of Prince Arthur of Connaught Chapter and was held in high regard. Our thanks are due to G L (Graham) Guppy (1963-70), the Almoner of the Lodge for this and other information in this notice. In retirement Keith drove the local handybus (transport for those of restricted mobility) until he was 70. Service to others and getting on without fuss were very much hallmarks of his attitude to life.

Keith developed Huntingdon's disease in recent years and it was whilst he was having respite care that he contracted pneumonia with fatal consequences. He is survived by Josephine, their two daughters, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Keith Tomkins died on 2 January 2013 aged 86.

KCB

KENNETH POWELL STEVENS (1927-32)



The country was blanketed with snow on the day of Ken Stevens' memorial service at St John the Baptist, Little Missenden (following cremation at Chiltern Crematorium) and many expected guests missed the splendid wake held by Ken's daughter Wendy Charles, and son-in-law Peter, at Hunter's Moon, their charming home in Great Kingsmill because they were unable to get through the drifts. Notwithstanding, a considerable number were present, a great tribute to Ken who though amongst the more senior ORs remained loved and admired by many, not least for his unfailing gentlemanly qualities.

He was born in Earley in 1915 and had two elder sisters -and also two cousins, Bryan and Jack Powell (both ORs) who were as brothers to him. At age 9 in the Junior School he was in East House (whose boat he later coxed in opposition to Bryan fulfilling the same function in the West House boat -indeed Ken joined Reading Rowing Club eventually and coxed their 1st VIII in many Thames regattas including Henley Royal Regatta).

Both Ken and his cousin Bryan had been in the OTC at School; they knew that war was coming and joined the Territorial Army in 1938. Ken was a Royal Engineer and war service took him to South Africa, India, Iraq,

Palestine, Egypt and Italy (like Philip Sizer, above, he was present at the Battle of Monte Cassino). He ended the war in the rank of Major.

In 1940 he married Marie Hamlin at St Peter's Church, Earley and in 1947 their daughter Wendy was born.

Ken spent all his business life with the Midland Bank and retired as Manager of the Edgbaston branch. He had started at the Henley-on-Thames branch, studying for his Institute of Bankers Exams at night school; when he came top in the United Kingdom in one of the subjects his employers must have realised they had someone very well worth retaining! He worked for Midland for 43 years (and in retirement was delighted to draw a pension from them for a further 36...)

Ken enjoyed motoring (driving until the age of 93), his garden and was devoted to family life. The death of his wife in 1996 when Ken was 81 was devastating but he set to and mastered what he needed to maintain an independent existence. Always immaculately turned out he did not allow standards to slip. In his later years he found a great friend in Winifred Jones, a widow, but she also predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Wendy, her husband Peter, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Ken Stevens died on 28 December 2012 aged 97.

KCB

PETER HUGH ANDERTON (1953-60)

Peter was the second of three brothers in East House, coming between A J (Alan) (1952-57), sadly killed in a road accident in 1967, and R H (Roger) (1959-66), recently retired, who lives in Stockbridge.

Their parents ran a well-known newsagents in London Road near to the junction with London Street.

Peter represented his House in a number of sports and played tennis for the School 1st VI, gaining representative colours. In 1960 he went to Birmingham University where he claimed to have 'played a lot of snooker' but still graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Russian) degree.

He took a job with a technical publishing company and whilst based in London he travelled frequently to Europe and to the USSR. Then in 1970, he became a financial planner with a chemical engineering contractor, but the course of his life was set when with his first marriage ending he was offered work in Holland.

From 1974 he was resident in Vlaardingen working for 20 years for an international fertiliser company before joining the Port of Rotterdam as a Business Development Manager, where he remained until retirement in 2004. With his second wife, Henny, he had a son, Christopher who graduated in law in 2004 and now works in the Hague. Peter and Christopher shared a love of travelling and sport (especially tennis – Peter continued to play until obliged to stop on medical grounds) and a long cherished wish was realised when he made a trip around the world with Christopher in 2001.

In retirement Peter pursued his interests in travel, gardening, walking, wine and classical music. He was a keen supporter of Rotterdam's great football club Feyenoord (but always kept up with West Ham United's fortunes). He was diagnosed with leukaemia in January 2012 and is survived by Henny and Christopher.

Peter Anderton died on 19 April 2012 aged 70.

KCB



PETER VAUGHAN EARTHY (1936-45)



Peter's father, Luther, started work at Huntley and Palmers at the age of 14, reached managerial status, married Ida, a nurse, and the marriage produced two boys, Pete in 1927 and John in 1929. Both attended Reading School.

Peter's interests were always practical and on leaving School, aged 17 with his School Certificate, he began an engineering apprenticeship at Pulsometer Pumps, although his first wish had been to join the Army. (He had been in the Cadet Force at School and his father was by then in the Home Guard).

He did well, attended night school in London to study electrical and mechanical engineering and developed a keen interest in motor cars. In 1947 Joan Sinclair Dodgson, then 14, attended a party where Pete was present and, a few years later, met him again and they began to share the same circle of friends. The Majestic Ballroom played an important part in their eventual courtship and engagement. In 1953 both Earthy brothers married within a week of one another, Pete at All Soul's, Reading. By then he was with English Electric and he was asked to spend two years in Australia at the Woomera Test Range – so early married life was spent in a comfortable house in Adelaide. His work took

him back to Stevenage, then to Charleton, where, in 1958, their son Tim was born. In 1957 Pete joined Hunting Engineering in Luton. In 1964 Pete and Jo purchased a house at Aspley Heath – with a well-equipped workshop which gave birth to Pete's five inch gauge live steam railway – designed and built by him. He became Project Director at Hunting and in 1975 he and Joan moved to Alderman's Lodge in Aspley Heath.

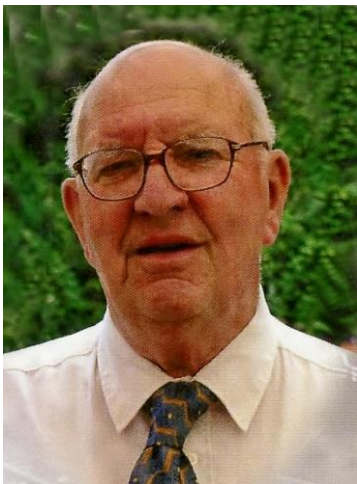
Tim married Linda in 1987, Pete reached the age of 60 the same year, and retired to life as a consultant which gave much opportunity for foreign travel. He joined Probus and the years 'passed peacefully by' ('in the words of Val Lefevre, the celebrant at Peter's funeral, to whom we are most grateful for much of the information in this notice).

In 2004 Pete was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia but was able to continue a normal life and, indeed, make a final house move in 2008 to a bungalow in Woburn Sands (near to Tim and Linda). In 2011 his health began to decline markedly; with the help of Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses he was able to spend his final weeks at home. He is survived by Jo, his son Tim, and his brother L J V (John) Earthy (1939-1949).

Peter Earthy died on 22 May 2013, aged 85.

KCB

GEOFFREY SPENCER LAMBOURN (1940-48)



The doctor who delivered twins to Mrs Lambourn knew that her maiden name was Pilgrim. The babies were tiny and weak and he suggested that they sang Bunyan's hymn together. Geoffrey's sister did not survive the day but he came through and grew to be strong and healthy. From their house in Christchurch Road the family – Geoff had an elder sister - moved the short distance to Northcourt Avenue where he lived until he married Jean Mabel Gray at Wesley Methodist Church on 6 June 1959. (Jean has kindly supplied most of the information used in this notice).

Geoff and Jean set up home in Harcourt Drive and in 1994 made a move to Hilltop Road where they remained for the rest of their married life. Each house move in his lifetime was thus within walking distance of the previous dwelling.

His working life took in British Railways, Sigmund Pulsometer Pumps, Gascoigne's Reading, BT, the University of Reading, Yellow Pages and finally the National Grid which employed him as a courier.

Geoff was a great collector, with Huntley and Palmer's tins, buttons, wind-up toys and railwayana taking pride of place.

He enjoyed sport, particularly cricket which he played for Spencer's Wood and Farley Hill (at Reading School he had been in Division One and was remembered as being a good wicket keeper) and he enjoyed music – he learned to play the tuba during National Service and was in his Station band. He had a fine voice performing the bass solos in Sainsbury Singers productions of Messiah and Elijah, singing in the New Elizabethan Singers, for the choir at Wesley Church and, latterly, at St Patrick's in Charvil and St Andrew's in Sonning.

Unsurprisingly the singing by the large congregation at his funeral at Christ Church, Woodley, was of a high order. Tributes were paid to 'a gentle man with a great personal faith' 'a marvellous Christian and an inspiration to all', 'a lovely man'. He is survived by Jean, by their four children: Jan, Ian, Andy and Chris and by two grandchildren.

Geoffrey Lambourn died on 4 January 2013, aged 81.

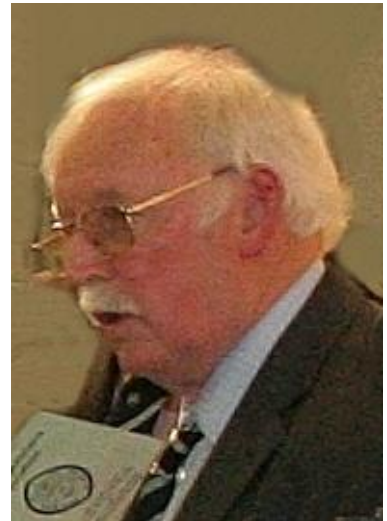
KCB

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PATRICK RIDGWAY HEMSLEY (1943-51)

Pat's father, Gordon Ridgway Hemsley was at School from 1917-1923, a School Rowing Colour and prominent member of the 1st XV whose seasons were interrupted by illness which probably eventually contributed to his early death at the age of fifty in 1955. He was an enthusiastic member of the Old Redingensian Club and the OR crest was his design. His marriage to Lucy produced two sons who both attended Reading School, Patrick and his younger brother, Rev D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) (the present Chaplain to the Old Redingensians Association), and a daughter, Margaret, whose help with this notice is greatly appreciated. A third son, George, sadly died at birth.

Patrick was in East House, became a School Monitor, a Lance Sergeant and a keen signaller in the CCF, a member of the Shooting VIII and Hockey XI and a number of School Societies. With David he was a keen scout: both were members of the St Bartholomew's Troop attached to the church that the family attended. Patrick's fascination with radio took St Bart's to victory in the first ever scout 'radio ham' competition.

Pat was twenty two, and already a serving soldier with Sandhurst behind him, when his father died suddenly and he had the responsibilities of head of the household thrust upon him. Frequent visits home and his traits of orderliness and precision ensured that those matters previously dealt with by Gordon did not become an additional burden upon his mother.



He was commissioned into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and had a long and productive career. By 1959 he was a captain serving with the 14th/20th Hussars in Germany. A year earlier he had married Pamela Agnes Goodway at St Helen's Church, Abingdon who he had met through a shared love of sailing (Pat represented both REME and the Army). Their marriage of over 55 years encompassed many postings in the UK and abroad and three children: Simon Christopher Ridgway, born in 1959; Bridget Mary Ridgway, in 1960 and Timothy Ridgway in 1965.

In 1968, after a decade spent in married quarters they purchased a house in Malvern, but Patrick was to serve for many more years: by 1985 he was a Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commander Maintenance at the Central Vehicle Depot, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury: in 1989 he was commanding the communications division of the Electronics Branch, REME at Malvern. He should have retired the previous year but remained in the service because the Army was so short of electronic specialists.

Patrick became responsible for engineering support for Army Communication systems and finally retired after 42 years service by which time he was the longest serving soldier in REME and the 10th longest in the British Army.

Pat's main hobby was flying; he was a member of the Army Flying Club and family activities centred around sailing, gliding, riding and carriage driving, touring and canal cruising. (Pat became a horseman

partly through his daughter Bridget's urging, and this eventually led to carriage driving.) In retirement he also became treasurer of the Malvern Link Probus Club and was a member of a handbell group who at Pat's funeral played his favourite piece: 'In a Country Garden'.

By the time Pat left the Army he was already suffering from ill health which developed into Parkinson's disease and the eventual need for full time care. He is survived by Pamela and their children Simon and Bridget (sadly, their son Tim predeceased Pat by one month) and four grandchildren. Over one hundred attended the funeral service at St Matthias in Malvern Link which was led by Pat's brother David.

Patrick Ridgway Hemsley died on 27 March 2013 aged 80.

KCB

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to:

Henni Anderton-Walenboer, Mrs Susan Carter, Hilary Clarke, Chris Dunning, Susie Evans, Clement Tom and David Gadsby, Graham Guppy OR, James Harvey, Mrs Jean Lambourn, Val Lefevre, Charles Levien, Rev Ken Lindop, Margaret Tester and Roger Wilson.

We invite others to send in their reminiscences for inclusion in future issues of the Journal.

The obituaries of G A T (GEOFFREY) GROOMBRIDGE (1938-41), LT COL S C (SIMON) FREELAND MBE (RE) (1969-76), A G (ALEC) PARSONS (1925-30), I H (IMRAN) CONTRACTOR (1994-01), D A (DAVID) CHERRETT (1952-58), J (JOHN) PERITON (STAFF 1959-71) (see *In Memoriam* The Old Redingensian Spring 2013) will appear in the next issue of this journal.

In Memoriam

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

Rev C G (Colin) Evans (1940-46)

Minister of Religion

Died 4 February 2010 aged 81

D (David) Gibson (Staff 1975-79)

Cricket Coach

Died 28 May 2012 aged 76

D J (Daniel) Bunting (1961-67)

Investment Strategist

Died 21 November 2012 aged 62

D A (David) Hartley (1948-52)

Administrator Plant Hire

Died 8 December 2012 aged 77

B P (Brian) Kelly (1943-50)

Engineer

Died 7 February 2013 aged 79

F F (Fred) Mautner (1945-46)

Director Wilshire Bancorp

Died 7 February 2013 aged 83

K (Kenneth) Cotterell (1943-50)

Nuclear Materials Auditor

Died 29 August 2013 aged 81

J D (James) Foy (1932-41)

Solicitor

Died 31 August 2013 aged 90

M D (Mac) Evans (1947-53)

Quantity Surveyor

Died 25 September 2013 aged 77

H W F (Hubert) Bunce (1941-51)

Consultant to the forestry industry

Died 4 November 2013 aged 81

T C H (Toby) Davies (2010-13)

Student

Died 17 November 2013 aged 16

W H (Will) Werry (1940-48)

Audit Commission

Died 26 November 2013 aged 84

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



From the Editors

Whilst only covering events and happenings not beyond *Autumn 2013* this issue is very late off the press. It has seen Winter come and go but, as Shelley puts it 'If Winter comes....' and no, the *Spring 2014* issue will not be too far behind, being well advanced even as this editorial is being written. Further, the editors intend to summon all their failing powers and make every effort to have *Autumn 2014*, the final *Old Redingensian* under their regime, to be with the membership by the end of the year. By then the future of the journal will be clear - indeed we shall write further on this subject on this page in the next issue.



Remembrance Sunday is on 9 November in 2014 and the same year marks, of course, the outbreak of the First World War. Many Old Redingensians have commitments to their local churches, British Legion branches, Regimental parades, etc. for the annual commemoration but in this most poignant year we would ask them to, at least, consider if remembering in the School Chapel their fellow Redingensians, 85 of whom it is known died as a result of the Great War (and the numbers of Old Kendricks who fell in that war, and whose memorial is also in the Chapel) let alone the many other OR victims of different conflicts (notably the Second World War), might be allowed precedence this year. We shall urge further in the next issue of this journal.

The electronic gates which nowadays control access to the one way system up the School drive and out via the Craven Road entrance were installed six years ago because Reading School, like everywhere else, needed to tighten control of an ever increasing flow of traffic. Indeed, today Waterhouse's grand frontage can only be seen behind lines of vehicles (staff, visitors, the school mini buses, delivery vehicles that come and go all day long, etc.). For many years Addington Road has been lined with cars belonging to the senior boys: not a bicycle in sight, indeed no bicycle sheds anymore (how do the climate changers and youthful idealists square that one?).

When the present School buildings opened in 1871 the age of the automobile had not dawned and stage coaches still passed along London Road. The horse that pulled the cricket roller once charged off through the gates, roller attached; big social events no doubt attracted a fair number of carriages of one sort or another to the premises; Reading School's own Flashman, John Reginald Burchell, who was to become the infamous 'Canada Murderer', would come down from Oxford to visit the School in a tandem all gloss and glitter, deliberately to flaunt his wealth to former school fellows.

Whose was the first car on the premises? Perhaps that of a progressive parent, as almost certainly staff would be forbidden and one imagines that Dr. Eppstein and his predecessor Headmasters did not drive. Mr Keeton, perhaps, was the first Head to own a car, but his successor Mr Kemp, Headmaster until 1966, did not, we seem to recall, drive at all.

In the 1920s motorcycles were the thing for youngsters and no doubt there were plenty to be seen at School belonging to undergraduates revisiting their Alma Mater (sadly too many obituaries at that time concerned young lives lost in motorcycle accidents). Even in the Co-Editors' time at School, admittedly before the Beatles and the collapse of civilisation, there was scarcely a car to be seen in the School on a normal school day. A vehicle on the Terrace perhaps; one or two further in the region of South House, maybe. Now the victory of the internal combustion engine is complete and it even has to be admitted that there is more than a little of Mr Toad – poop! poop! - in the Co-Editor (Images)'s approach to life on the road.....

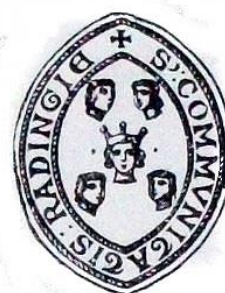


Old School Tie (left) Silk £20

OR Association Tie (right)

Polyester £15 Silk £20

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



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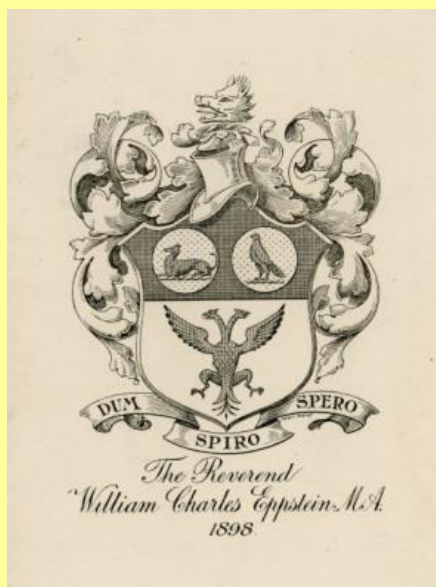
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Personal bookplates, also known as ex-libris, are available to anyone who wishes to place in their book a printed design as a mark of possession. Dr Eppstein's 1898 plate is a spade shield armorial with a leafy mantling. The crest above the helm depicts a boar's head (signifying hospitality). The motto: Dum Spiro Spero (While I breathe I hope) is on a ribbon below the shield which has a top half with a sable background containing two badges, that on the left a greyhound (usually symbolising courage, vigilance and loyalty) and on the right a falcon (indicating one who does not rest until his objective is achieved). The lower half of the shield is white with a double headed eagle, wings spread: usually indicative of two forces joined together. The specific allegorical references were no doubt discussed with Dr Eppstein by the designer who, interestingly, was the Reading born Lawrence Herbert Beecroft. He emigrated to Australia in 1905 and died there in 1951, having achieved worldwide renown for his 1927 portrait of Jesus Christ. Whilst a versatile artist he does not seem to be particularly known for bookplates. Dr Eppstein came to Reading in 1894 so perhaps he had heard Beecroft's lecture in 1895 at Tilehurst, or he may have had some personal connection. Beecroft also painted a portrait of the School.