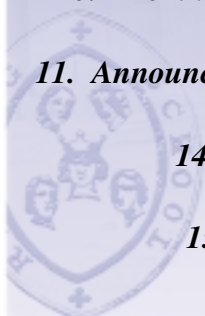


April 2002

The Old Redingensian

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A Letter from the President - 2002

If you do not yet possess a copy of 'Old School Ties', the book written by John Oakes and Martin Parsons about ORs from the Victorian era to the end of the First World War, I encourage you to buy one. Not only is it a jolly good read but also John Oakes' royalties are being donated to the Big School appeal.

At the book launch in the New Library at School John Oakes quoted Guiseppe di Lampadusa's saying: "If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change". This is certainly true of the OR Association. The question is, in which direction?

The days when membership of the ORs provided the large number of old boys who stayed in the locality with the opportunity to play cricket and rugby and a social venue in which to meet others who had been to the school have largely gone. Now, the majority of boys leaving school move out of the area, at least initially, when going on to higher education. We still maintain strong links with the Old Redingensians Rugby and Cricket Club but those organisations are now open and largely supported from outside the Reading School Alumni. We still own the grounds and its facilities and there is a flourishing Rugby squad of ORs who participate in the Berkshire Floodlit Cup events. I know that John Illman, our Vice President, would like to foster more local sporting events for ORs living in the vicinity and a limited number of Rugby, Hockey, Cricket and golfing events already take place.

On the other hand the principal objective for which our association was founded "to advance the education of the pupils of Reading School by providing or assisting in the provision of educational, recreational or other charitable facilities for their use" is more important and worthwhile than ever.

The School is currently setting standards of excellence in education which are probably unprecedented in its long history and which placed it in the top 5% of all secondary schools in the country. The recent OFSTED inspection was laudatory in its assessment of the School and Staff and pupils are to be warmly congratulated. Elsewhere in the journal the Head Master will provide more information on the School's progress. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to quote, verbatim as required by OFSTED, that the report states "The Quality of leadership and management provided by the Headteacher is outstanding". I have made it clear that he has the support and admiration of the Old Boys.

To support this remarkable school which is our Alma Mater the Association itself must thrive. We need a substantial and active membership to maintain the core activities of the Association and to meet the basic costs. Above all we must thrive if we are to maintain our Charitable activities such as providing Scholarships,



Dudley Bruton

prizes, the highly valued Enterprise Awards and from time to time mounting major efforts such as the current Big School Appeal. We need to offer more and we must recruit more members.

Members receive a journal twice a year. This is in many cases the only contact which members have with the Association and it is our aim to keep improving it so that it becomes well worthy of the modest subscription in itself. Members are automatically notified of sporting and social events and the opportunity to take part is highly valued. Above all the maintenance or renewal of the friendships and fellowships of our school days, a continual association with the school and most importantly, the opportunity to repay the school for what it has done for us should be compelling reasons for joining the Association.

A membership sub-committee has recently submitted its first report to the Council. Apart from specific proposals to attract Year 13 (i.e. 6th Form) leavers to join, the committee emphasised the use and value of the OR website in bringing ORs together. Paradoxically the website enables ORs to keep in touch with the school and OR events without joining the Association but that seems to be an investment worth making. We also welcome any OR to OR events whether members or not. We hope and believe that it will encourage people to join rather than have the opposite effect. There is some evidence from the events which took place in Denis Moriarty's year that contact with old friends and acquaintances who are members of the Association can be a most persuasive factor in getting non-members to join.

We are also hoping to forge links with others who are part of the Supporting Community of the school, in particular the Parent's Association and the Staff in the belief that we can do more for the School collectively than independently. To this end we will be inviting members

of the Parents' Association, the Reading Foundation, Governors and Staff to apply for tickets for the OR Reception which, courtesy of Lord Roper OR, will take place in the House of Lords on Friday 21st June between 7 and 9 p.m. We also hope that all OR MPs will wish to attend. If applications exceed the places available we must, of course, give precedence to members of the Association and their guests.

Only time will tell whether these initiatives will work or whether new ones would be more effective. Our new young member of Council, Mark Lyford, has already made valuable suggestions regarding the recruitment of younger ORs and catering to their interests and has joined the membership sub-committee. It is clearly important that we should attract younger members and that they should play a major role in the direction of the Association.

To develop closer links with the staff of the school the Membership sub-committee proposed that we invite the staff to send a representative. This was welcomed and Ned Holt, the Senior Master and Head of Sixth Form, was chosen. The great value of this appointment was shown by the significant contribution Ned made to the Council's discussions at our first meeting in 2002.

Phase one of the Big School Appeal, initiated by Tony Waring during his presidency and driven on by him when he was Chairman, was successful in ensuring that adequate funds were available to cover the expenditure of £17,000 or so required to meet the initial objectives of restoring stained glass windows, cleaning the stonework and providing comfortable stacking chairs. While the small surplus at the end of Phase One has continued to grow and the total subscribe is now in excess of £26,000 much more will be needed if we are to achieve our objectives and "bring back the shine to Big School".

The Council has asked John Illman to carry on the work so aptly initiated by Tony and with the title of Appeal Director John will liaise with the School to prepare a budget and programme of work and most important of all will raise the necessary money which is likely to be double that which has already been subscribed. We wish him every success. If you have not already made a donation please consider doing so. No sum is too small to escape our gratitude but the larger the better.

Tony Waring was the prime mover of the Big School Appeal. He was aided by many others, notably John Oakes, Chris Widdows and Stuart Jackson who produced the initial Appeal material and by Stuart Jackson and Peter Dingwall who provided early guidance. Stuart's detailed strategy documents will, I'm sure, be an enormous help to John Illman in the future development of the Appeal. Pete Dingwall has joined the Council this year and it is the opportune moment to note that every single member of that body made a contribution to our lively first meeting.

Here I would like to say that Denis Moriarty's extremely successful Presidential year, sadly clouded by the sudden and unexpected death of his wife,

has made a very significant contribution to the awareness of the ORs to the work of the Association and the desirability of supporting the Appeal. The moving Remembrance Day service and the equally moving but celebratory unveiling of the memorial plaque to Charles Kemp will remain in the memory as highlights of Denis's year.

Throughout the year he was ably supported by the Chairman, Tony Waring, and the Officers of the Association, not the least by our equitable, cheerful and efficient Social Secretary who sees that our social events always run smoothly.

That there were so many ORs at the unveiling of the Kemp Memorial, in the presence of his two sons, Ian and Roger, the former sadly dying only two weeks after the event, meant that the Annual Dinner that evening was attended by ORs from far and wide. They heard Tony Nokes, our principal guest and Chairman of the Reading Foundation, speak of its role and work as Trustees for the land and buildings of the school. Working closely with the School and Governors the Foundation makes a significant contribution to new developments such as the new John Kendrick building as well as maintaining the fabric of the

Waterhouse building beloved by ORs. It is pleasing to note that the Council is permitted to nominate three members from their number to serve on the Foundation.

Recently Tony Waring made the suggestion that we should foster regional groups of ORs. Some already exist, such as the Australian and the USA groups, and Kerr Kirkwood is meticulous in keeping in touch with these groups as well as individual ORs enabling me, as President, to meet and contact them when it is helpful to do so. If anyone out there wishes to start a group in his region, or for example at University, the Council would endeavour to help as much as possible. Indeed any suggestions you may have to foster the growth and the work of this Association would be most welcome.

Finally, as a relative newcomer to the Association, let me pay tribute to all my predecessors on Council and in office for the foundations they have laid for us to build upon. To misquote Sir Isaac Newton slightly "If we see further than our predecessors it is because we are standing on the shoulders of giants".

*Floreat Redingensis
Dudley Bruton*

THE HEAD MASTER'S LETTER

School Inspection

I have decided to begin my article in this newsletter by referring to the inspection of Reading School carried out by a team appointed by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) from 5th until 7th November 2001. The team consisted of 13 inspectors. They observed 100 lessons and conducted 59 sets of discussions with members of staff, governors, other adults and students/pupils. I shall make a few comments about the report here. If ORs are interested, a summary of the report can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governing Body, Sandra Provan (Tel.0118.901.5600). The full report can also be obtained from Sandra. It is a bulky document and a small charge will be levied for producing a copy (£2). The report is also available on the internet on the OFSTED website. The school's unique reference number for the OFSTED site is: 110097.

I have thought about the report we received and I consider the three most pleasing comments to be:

- "This is an excellent school where pupils of all backgrounds achieve standards at the end of Year 11 that are much higher than would be expected given their attainment on entry to the school".
- "The weaknesses in the previous report have all been tackled with single-minded determination and, as a result, all have been rectified".

- "In the school there is a total lack of complacency about its already high standards and as a result standards are rising rapidly".

It is easy to compare the school crudely with others using league tables and statistics, but the conclusions of an in-depth OFSTED analysis are important. Reading School is improving rapidly from its high starting point and is therefore doing much better than similar selective schools. The school strives for excellence and achieves it.

The key findings of the extensive report are summarised as follows:

What the school does well

- Standards of work are very high throughout the school and the examination results place the school in the top five per cent of schools nationally.
- Pupils in Years 7 to 11 achieve exceptionally well as a result of teaching that meets perfectly the needs of high attaining boys.
- Pupils' and students' attitudes to learning are outstanding.
- The school goes to exceptional lengths to broaden and enrich the education of all pupils and students.
- The outstanding leadership and management provided by the head teacher are ensuring that the already very high standards are improving at a rate that is faster than the national average.

Most importantly, the report identifies areas for further development. These are:

What could be improved

- Pupils in Years 7 to 9 do not receive a sufficiently broad education in design and technology.
- The teaching in the sixth form, although very good, is not as good as that in Years 7 to 11.



Andrew Linnell prepares to speak at the Annual Dinner

Many schools would like to have teaching judged to be "very good" overall. The problem for Reading School is comparability because the overall judgement of teaching in Years 7 to 11 was that it is "excellent". Indeed no lessons observed anywhere in the school were less than "satisfactory" and overall 92% of lessons observed in Years 7-11 were "excellent, very good or good" (34% were actually deemed to be "excellent"). 87% of lessons in Years 12 and 13 were "excellent, very good or good" and 50% were "very good or excellent".

The school is currently producing an OFSTED Action Plan with the Governing Body so that continuing improvements can be secured.

Saturday Morning School

There has been wide-ranging and detailed discussion over the past months again about the viability of maintaining teaching on Saturday mornings. The Governing Body asked

staff if they wished to see the ending of Saturday morning school. The vast bulk of staff expressed an opinion (unlike in political elections). Over two thirds of both the teaching and non-teaching staff wished Saturday morning school to stop. The Governing Body has resolved that the school use a five-day teaching week from September 2002. The school staff is now implementing this resolution.

There can be very strong opinions on both sides of this argument. In the past, discussions have been very extended and acrimonious. This time the decision was just about abolition and there was no attempt to look at alternative curriculum models. The school day will start at the same time and finish five minutes later in September 2002 and there will be nine lessons taught each day. The lessons from Saturday morning have thus been displaced and added to evenly to each day. There will be no change in the curriculum from September.

It is the desire of the school community to retain the unique character and ethos of the school through this change. Indeed this is one of our key and pivotal aims. Change is always with us, and the speed and volume of change is ever increasing. One of the key issues relates to changes in the profile of the staff and problems relating to the recruitment and retention of good staff. The staff has a higher proportion of younger staff (many with young families) and many more female staff. They have other priorities at the weekend. To ask staff to work a 6-day week in the current difficult situation regarding the supply of good teachers is not a strong recruitment feature.

Reading School will always be willing to embrace change and make the difficult decisions required to keep it a top state-maintained school. The considered decision of the school community is that this important change is necessary to our future development.

*Floreat Redingensis
Andrew Linnell*

THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

The Charles Edward Kemp Memorial

*"Let Us Now Praise
Famous Men"*

By Denis Moriarty



Charles Edward Kemp

Charles Edward Kemp, the distinguished Head Master of Reading School 1939-66, was born just over 100 years ago on 18th November 1901. There had been muttering in OR circles for a long time that 'some there be who have no memorial'. The time seemed ripe to remedy this and commemorate C.E. Kemp. His two

sons, Ian and Roger, who himself was at our school, were wholly sympathetic and enthusiastic, and I resolved soon after assuming the Presidency of the OR Association in 2001 to co-ordinate a project that would bring this to fruition. With the approval of the School, the Head, the Governing Body and the Foundation and with the help of the Council and the unswerving support of the Membership Secretary, Chris Widdows, we decided on a limited appeal to a select number of ORs arrived at through personal knowledge, memory, hunch, and the scouring of lists. We made some mistakes - understandably by the very nature of things, not all Heads hit it off with all of their charges, and others we omitted to contact would certainly have wished to subscribe and to these we proffer sincere apologies.

The response was overwhelming. We were able to commission a piece of one of England's finest carving stones, from Hopton Wood, and it was to be handsomely lettered and decently carved by the hand of Kevin Cribb, son of Lawrie, one of the last apprentices of the famous sculptor and letterist Eric Gill (died 1940). The stone is sited at the foot of Big School stairs just outside the Head's former study where he sometimes would hover in gown and mortarboard on his return from morning chapel.

We had announced our gathering with the School bell swung from the Waterhouse tower, and at 3 p.m. on 1st December 2001, in the company of about 80 people, representatives of the School, the Governing body and subscribers, Roger Kemp, accompanied by his brother Ian, unveiled the memorial. The dedication and School Bidding prayer were led by our retired Archdeacon, the Venerable Peter Coombs. Frank Terry delivered an elegant panegyric, a focused, vivid and affectionate



*Denis Moriarty flanked by
The Venerable Peter Coombs (R.)
and Frank Terry (L.)*

evaluation of the Head who had appointed him, and the present Head, Andrew Linnell, read from Ecclesiastians XLIV, whose opening phrase 'Let us now praise famous men' is the memorial's inscription. The short ceremony concluded with collects, one ascribed to William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, a son of Reading and historically of our school, and another to the College of St Augustus at Canterbury, a favourite prayer of C.E. Kemp. Finally we sung the School Song, resonant and lusty in that sympathetic stairwell acoustic.

Sparkling wine was served in Big School, acquaintances renewed and exchanged, some amongst them returning to the School for the first time in many years. Rightly, properly and appropriately, Charles Edward Kemp now has his memorial in the School he loved and served so well. Floreat Redingensis.

Note.

Those ORs who would have wished to subscribe, and rightly feel they should have been approached - and to whom we extend our apologies, can still do so, as it

were, by association, in contributing to the Big School Appeal, which is intended to refurbish the whole area in and around Big School itself. We can be sure that C.E. Kemp would have enthusiastically applauded and endorsed this School - OR initiative. By thus saluting him at this late stage, such a gesture can reasonably be regarded as something of a memorial contribution to our former Head Master.

Who's Who

By Denis Moriarty

It was when my wife, made CBE for her services to education, was first listed in *Who's Who 2000*, the biographical directory of high achievers (with some hereditaries thrown in) that I asked myself "why are 'they' there and I'm not?" I became more and more intrigued, though not paranoid, and so when the Old Redingensians Association graciously asked me to assume their presidency in 2002, I turned my attention to our old school's constituency in the Big Red Book. I thought it might be fun to use my privileged office to try to meet as many as possible, no rallying pressure, no fund raising, just a friendly drink. I was encouraged by my friend of nearly sixty years - at school, university and a Royal Berkshire too, P.C. Stevens (1944-54) and the equally enthusiastic, indefatigable, good humoured Christopher Widdows, our Membership Secretary, who took upon himself the burden of research. Zealously he went about his work, producing a list of 46 names, 2 of whom sadly died in the interim, Roy Boulting, the well known film producer, and V.G. Wellings QC, the former President of the Land Tribunal. The recently elected MP for London Westminster we included; the 2001 intake will only make an entry in 2002.

There were 7 parliamentarians (2 former members, a Cabinet minister, the present Chief Secretary to the Treasury, a Shadow Spokesman, 4 Conservative, 2 Labour and the present Liberal Democrat Chief Whip in the House of Lords). We can count clutches of 7 academics and professors, 7 senior civil servants and 2 diplomats, 4 practising barristers (2 judges), 4 clerics (2 Bishops), 4 distinguished in business and 3 in medicine, 2 in local government, 2 in broadcasting, television and journalism, 2 senior armed service officers, 4 knights, a Venerable and a Chaplain to the Queen. There were 2 sets of brothers, Bishop S.R. (1957-62) and P.M. (1957-64) Lowe, J.E. (1950-55) and G.B. (1955-60) Scotford.

We fixed a date at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in November 2001 for a glass of sparkling wine, and I was supported by our Chairman, Tony Waring, our president elect, Dudley Bruton, and Christopher Widdows, convenor extraordinary. By definition all those invited are busy people and dispersed, and it was inevitable that we mustered only about 24, just over half

our number, although we had responses, often interested and enthusiastic for the idea, from all but 2 we were able to contact. Sadly, none of our politicians were able to join us (though we had apologies during the evening from the Lobby). Otherwise a good representative cross section was present, and the occasion proved, I hope and trust, of interest and fascination, as well as enjoyment in seeing who each other were and how they had arrived.

For my part I was intrigued to explore this constituency, and was delighted by the warm response and the support of my OR Council colleagues. Not by any means are all our Who's Who members of the Association, nor was it our intention to make them feel that they should be, but to ponder shared experiences that link us one to another. It is a constituency of which I believe we can be very proud, in its numbers and variety of achievement and it reflects the unpretentious commitment to public service and business activity and beyond which Reading School inspires and means to us all. We can salute their achievements, many of which were founded in no small measure in their time at Reading School.

I hope in due course a successor may revive and refine the idea; I shall not be there but now better understand Who's Who, Who's not and perhaps why. On the day I left office, Andrew Linnell, the present Head, showed me the draft of his entry in 2002. We congratulate him personally on the honour and on the recognition it brings to his office as Head of Reading School.

"02 Centenary" Luncheon

By Peter Stevens

At School in the 1950s, some of us invented a fantasy world, set some fifty years earlier and based on the proposition that civilisation underwent a fundamental change in '02 (i.e. 1902). This realm of the imagination which exercised a more or less profound influence upon us, owed something to Gilbert and Sullivan (many of its inhabitants were in "H.M.S. Pinafore" in 1954), something to "Peter Simple" of the Daily Telegraph, and something to "1066 and All That". It was however more Yeats than Yeatman (i.e. Christopher Yeats, 1943-54), who was its principal architect. Its archetype was a retired Indian Army Colonel, whose supposed views were our criteria.

Fifty years on, a proposal by Denis Moriarty, Immediate Past President of the OR Association, to commemorate "02" by a Centenary Luncheon at an early date in 2002 attracted a gratifying measure of support - some of it slightly bemused. Most of those invited are now retired from their "principal" careers, shown after their names below.

On Thursday, 3rd January 2002 the following met at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, London SW1: -

R.A. Alexander (Educational Administration); P.B. Eiddick ("The Guardian"); J.D. Gardiner (National Trust Manager); R.P. Huggins (Lawyer); W.A. Mackereth (Army Officer); D.E.H. Moriarty (BBC Producer); M.J. Oakley (Lecturer); G.W.O. Price (Actuary); M.J. Rogers (Business); M.L. Shattock (Educational Administration); A.C. Simons (Lawyer); C.P. Smallbone (Business); P.C. Stevens (Educational Administration); M.J. van Brugen (Lawyer); D.J. Weekes (Clergyman); M. Wolfers ("The Times"); C.A. Yeats (Advertising).

Apologies for inability to be present were received from: -

A.W. Barker (Army Officer); D.J. Jordan (Chartered Accountant); J.C. Luker (Business); J.F. Hodgess-Roper (Lord Roper) (Politics); B.J. Thompson (Army Officer/Veterinary Surgeon).

The following were remembered: -

M.J. Austin and M.J. Prout, both deceased.

Grace ("Benedic nos, Domine") was said by the Reverend David Weekes. The chair was taken by Denis Moriarty (with delightful informality which set the tone of the occasion). An excellent Club Luncheon with appropriate wines was enjoyed. The Loyal Toast (drunk in Club Port) was followed by the toast "Reading School" (drunk - an outstanding experience in itself - in an '02 Madeira presented by an Anonymous Benefactor). The School song was sung, followed by a spontaneous rendering of "For He is an Englishman".

Reminiscences and reflections (both sober and scurrilous) were exchanged. Tributes were paid to "Kipper" Kemp and the Staff (especially "Archie", "Sugar", "Birdie", "Timmy", "Stret", "Jock", "Gunner", Martin Savage, George Vale, - and Frank Terry) for their benevolent and beneficial influences.

Appreciation was expressed for the School's building and furnishings, and of its ethos and the manifold benefits accruing from the friendships made there. The occasion was wholly enjoyable, powerfully evocative, and deeply memorable.

"Floreat Redingensis."

The 2002 Bi-Annual Reunion of Australian ORs

By Ted Robson

The Australian Branch met on Saturday, March 2nd in beautiful 22 degree, sunny weather, at the delightful coastal fishing town of Merimbula on the southern NSW coast. The dinner was held at the Black Dolphin motel, set in grassed and well-treed grounds with spa, gym and pool.

Those attending were: Mac Evans (47-53), Mike and Alison Jones (57-64),



Back Row:
Mike Jones 57-64 Joe Radcliffe 62-69
Peter Webb 50-55 Mac Evans 47-53
Tony Maskell 46-49

Front:
Don Tice 37-39 Ted Robson 38-46
Roy Russell 36-41

Tony Maskell (46-49), Joe and Sheila Radcliffe (62-69), Ted and Alex Robson (38-46), Roy Russell (36-41), Don Tice (37-39), Peter and Colleen Web (50-55).

A large number of apologies were received: firstly and sadly John Clift (42-48) who is very sick due to injuries sustained in a fall in Cyprus in 1999; John Cummings (52-57) whose wife is very ill; David Cousins (37-41) who had calving cows to attend to; Margaret Aust, widow of Bunny (22-30) and Lorna

Cousins, widow of John (37-41) who attended our Melbourne Christmas dinner last year; Nick Fried (66-74) who had birthdays and calls of God to attend to; Paul Whiteway (56-65) who had spent \$400 on Grand Prix tickets; Felicity Montgomery daughter of P.G. Sizer (28-31); Charles Tice (31-38) whose wife Zita is not well; Alan Tice (32-39) who is also not well and Ron Peddley (44-51) who had family commitments. Mac Evans' wife, Pat, came to Merimbula but came down with a nasty virus on the trip from Melbourne and was unfortunately confined to bed. The wives of both Tony Maskell and Don Tice had domestic commitments in Sydney.

Tony Maskell proposed the toast to the 'Queen of Australia' (who was in Australia attending the CHOGM, a thousand miles up the Coast from us). Roy Russell, our senior member, proposed the toast to The School and spoke of the pleasure we had all had in attending such a school, the fact that it is attaining such outstanding academic excellence and the value of the history it represents.

Ted Robinson read the welcome letter from the President, Dudley Bruton.

Dudley had outlined the importance of the OR Association and the need to expand it. He had emphasised the importance of groups such as ours in providing good reason for joining the Association and maintaining the bond of friendship, fellowship and pride in the School. The President also outlined the Big School Appeal and the need for funds and noted that some contributions had already been received from Australian members. He mentioned the OR Reception in the House of Lords on June 21st which Ron Peddley and his wife will be attending. The School Song was sung lustily and the Australian verse (by Charles Tice) was especially rendered.

Animated conversation took place recalling events and personalities of the School as well as subsequent careers. It was noted that those around the table represented every year from 1938 to 1969. The large amount of memorabilia sent by Kerr Kirkwood was displayed on a notice board and avidly read and viewed. The material, which would not fit on the display board, was circulated around the table. A menu was autographed for the Association's records and forwarded to Kerr.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2001



71 Old Redingensians attended the Service of Remembrance and dedication of names on the War Memorial in the Reading School Chapel on 11th November 2001 at 10.45 a.m.

The Ven. Peter Coombs led the service, which was taken from those used when the WWI and WWII War Memorials were dedicated. The names of C.B. Major and H. Louth, which had been added to the 1914-18 Memorial, and that of G.M. Pocock, which had been added to the 1939-45 Memorial, were dedicated.

The address was given by Denis Moriarty, the OR President, who spoke about the War Poets, and an excellent speech on 'Reading School and the Great War' was given by Dr. Martin Parsons who talked about the research for his book 'Old School Ties'. The lesson was from the Wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 3, verses 1-9 (King James Version) and was read by Dr. Dudley Bruton, the Vice President of the ORs. James Williams, an organ scholar of Reading School, played the organ superbly. The sum of £175 was donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal from the retiring collection.

Cyril Bisdee Major, a 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, the East Yorkshire Regiment, had been reported missing in the School Magazine of April 1917. He will have seen action during early

February and March 1916 and the battle of Albert between the 1st and 13th July 1916. He was killed in action on Sunday 5th November 1916, aged only 19.



Denis Moriarty Laying the Wreath

Pte H. Louth of the 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders was killed in action on Sunday 9th May 1915 and is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial in the Pas de Calais, which contains the names of over 13,000 men who were killed around the Le Touret area before September 1915. He joined Reading School in 1900.

Captain G.M. Pocock died of wounds received during the Burma campaign.

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OUR SCHOOL

1952 Looking Back

By Roy Seymour (52-57)

Sitting on a bench on the terrace waiting to be called for my interview for one of the greatest opportunities in my life, I happened to see M.E. Howe-Jones and M.B.M. Birchall playing for the 1st XI. They would become two of my heroes. Not only did they look the part, they played the part so magnificently. I wanted desperately to be part of this. Nervously I answered the questions from Kemp and others, carefully remembering to say "Sir" each time. My mum would be proud.

Come September I rode my trusty Hercules into the Addington Road bike shed, hurried past the Prefects' Common Room and into the corridor to find 1C. The door bursts open. The great Benny Dowse enters. I was officially at Reading School. At the end of the first day I knew why it was one of the best schools in the country. "Fanny" Frances only spoke in

French, and why did some of the boys already know what he was saying? This was not going to be easy.

1952 was the year that Alfred Sutton Primary would send a record ten boys to Reading School: - A. Anderton, A.J.S. Brown, R. Ewing, M.R. Harrison, D. George, D. Hopkins, R.G. Jones, R. Ruskin, J. Sessions and myself.

We all made it through unscathed, give or take some detentions, a few Cs and some berating from Streather, Nightingale and "Bonk" Redington (were his war stories really true?). Who could forget the demand "Ninepence" from "Boney" Griggs if you were unfortunate to have forgotten your lunch ticket, or the deadly accurate chalk missiles from Milburn, not to mention the sting of the whistle from Benny if your head wasn't down in the scrum. These and other memories never fade. Looking back, the thrill was real, and everything that went with it was awesome.

(Roy Seymour is Honorary Secretary of the USA Branch of the Old Redingensians Association.)



A composite picture of Reading School
R.H.B. 1946

BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Smith OR PP (1937-47)
Vice President of the Kipling Society

Old School Ties

By John Oakes and Martin Parsons
Published by DSM 2001
Price for ORs £13

Never have the "noble voices of the past" called to us so clearly and with such immediacy than with the publication of this splendid book. It is an uplifting account, carefully culled from the archives, of the courage, patriotism, dedication and discipline of our predecessors, generation upon generation. We must feel humbled by their achievements in the face of appalling adversity and wonder whether were we to be called upon we should respond with similar fortitude. I have a feeling that the broad-ranging preparation for life which Reading School has ever provided would help us meet all the challenges that life could throw at us. Of course such dedicated service was equally apparent in the years from 1939-45, in the Korean war and in subsequent national crises, and perhaps one day we will be able to absorb a further set of chapters in the chronicle of Old Redingensians.

This fascinating volume makes a marvellous start and John Oakes and Martin Parsons deserve congratulations and gratitude not only on the way they have allowed OR's to speak directly to us, but also on the carefully annotated details of the context in which their adventures



Martin Parsons

and sacrifices were set. With the gradual demise of Empire the opportunities for globe-trotting service have lessened, although I think that there is a wealth of experience amongst us which might be tapped by future authors. The delight taken by so many to write back to school - to the Headmaster, Housemaster or Editor - with news of their doings and with a nostalgic appreciation of life at school is clearly evident. Such leisured contact may well be lost in an era of instant electronic communication, but perhaps it could be revived so that generations, as yet unborn, can learn what life was like in the second half of the twentieth century. What to us might seem to be unspectacular could provide those who are to come with insights otherwise lost forever.

The book helps us to pay tribute to those whose photographs, mostly from school teams and so like our own souvenirs of schooldays, gave up so much, or indeed all, for the values inculcated during the formative years. For those whose life was cut short by Boer commandos or the unspeakable horrors of Flanders and Gallipoli or by the terrors of sinking in an icy sea, it would be nice to know how their lives were fulfilled. But in most cases the records simply do not exist. For those whose names appear on the Roll of Honour in Chapel this is a salutary

reminder of what they gave in their all too brief lives, and reinforces our respectful debt of honour.

When OR's meet together reminiscence is all, and this tradition is amply evident in Old School Ties. We are all indebted to the authors for their work which can only evoke admiration in us for the lives of those who trod the boards in Big School, larked in the quad, strove on the field, sang lustily in Chapel or scoffed in the tuckshop. I'm sure that many readers will find particular coincidences of place and work to have extraordinary parallels with their own experience. For me it was a delight to learn that an OR inherited the mantle of the Civil and Military Gazette which once nourished Rudyard Kipling, and of those working on the irrigation and other projects which so intrigued him. Life in Sind, Punjab and North West Frontier seems to have changed but little apart from the disappearance of the sahib, and it was no surprise that a school match in Kashmir even then should be ended by a disputed goal with an appeal in a wholly irrational way.

This attractively produced book is one to be savoured and is most highly recommended.



Hon Treasurer next in line for a signing by John Oakes

LIVES OF DISTINCTION

Occasional articles about the lives and careers of Old Redingensians.

Peter Townsend OR (1944-48)

British merchants had been in the Middle East since the Levant Company was formed in the 16th century. As finance became more sophisticated British banks followed trade. One of the most successful was the British Bank of the Middle East. It was with this Bank that Peter Townsend made his career. Peter is currently writing about his experiences in a book for private circulation and has kindly given us permission to publish some parts of his first draft. Peter will be well known to ORs as the Hon Treasurer of the Old Redingensians Association for a number of years.

Some extracts from Peter's story follow:

Bahrain

There was still rationing at home when, on the third of January 1953, I flew by BOAC to Bahrain. Derek Bage, whom I was nominally replacing, met me. I was driven to the bank's bachelor mess in Manama, the capital of Bahrain. I started work in the morning. The bank I worked for was called the British Bank of the Middle East. It had started as The Imperial Bank of Persia in Victorian times with a Royal Charter.

I was to be put in charge of the Treasury and Current Accounts. I was given several days to take over. So from being a lowly trainee in London I was now an "officer of the bank" with fifteen staff under me. Apart from the cashiers, who were all Bahraini Arabs, there were some seven or eight Indian or Pakistani ledger keepers in the department. They were contracted staff recruited on the sub-continent.

The world I had entered was the afterglow of the Empire melt down. Apart from Saudi Arabia the whole south side of the Gulf was nominally dominated by HMG, which was responsible for the original set up imposed to protect India. India had now been given independence but it took until 1970 before all the Sheikhdoms and Sultanates were given complete



Dubai - The Pearl fleet coming in

independence. And it was a world of keeping up appearances.

Bahrain had some oil and was relatively prosperous. It had been an ancient civilisation (Dilman). The Ruler's family, the Khallifas had ruled the island for some 200-300 years. The population was a mixture of Sunni Arabs and Shia citizens of Persian origin. Iran had laid claim to the island for decades. Manama had a modestly prosperous air. There were lots of mosques. The shops were full. The buildings were stone built then plastered or whitewashed but there were still Bahrainis living in Baresti dwellings, i.e. houses made from woven palm fronds.

Although I was not aware of it at the time there was a movement for political change and one of the leaders of that was the Bank's Commercial Assistant, Abdulaziz Al Shemlan a tall dark Arab with, I was told, connections to the Palace. Later he was arrested and deported to prison in St Helena. He was only released when his case was taken to the Privy Council. I remember him in the office but particularly

as centre half in the bank's football team, for which I played in goal on that occasion, against our Al Khobar office side.

I had enough to live on well but not enough capital for a car. Staff on their first tour did not have overdrafts or bank loans without good reason. My salary was £600 pa plus a local allowance; there was no taxation. So I walked everywhere or went by taxi.

There were not that many European or American residents outside oil company compounds. Of those the British were in the majority and they usually occupied executive and managerial positions as part of their lifetime career. British integrity was taken for granted. You could nearly always pay by, or cash, a cheque in a shop without proof or question even if the shopkeeper did not know you. There were not that many Indians and Pakistanis either as these were mainly employed on fixed contracts. It was rare for British wives to work at that time. The coming of oil money and the independence of the various Gulf States changed the position.

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During my brief stay I was moved up to be i/c cables and foreign transfers. George Davy, a fellow trainee in London came to take my place. He arrived by Comet I, the "York Peter" that was to crash a year later. After some six months I was posted to be accountant Dubai.

Dubai

A creek divided Dubai township into Deira on the south and Dubai on the north. Deira had until fairly recently been a separate Sheikdom. That is until the Ruler of Deira had a wedding reception when the Dubai Ruler and his tribesmen surrounded them and after a bloody battle took over Deira. The Dubai side was difficult to drive to because of soft sand so to get there everyone used the frequent and cheap ferry service from Deira. There was an abundance of rowing boats plying for hire readily available. These were called abbras. It was usual to take a seat rather than hire the whole abra. Outboard motors were not then used.

The first thing to greet you on the outskirts of Deira was an overpowering smell of dried fish. This was caused by mountains of small sardines left to dry. Bedouin traders bought this protein for consumption in the hinterland and it was also exported to Germany for making into cattle feed. After a time you never noticed the smell. There were very lean cows and goats wandering about. These ate anything going including discarded paper cement bags. There was no rubbish disposal system but then there was little that was thrown away.

The twin towns had whitewashed houses built mainly of coral slabs. Old houses were invariably built long and narrow as the length of wooden poles dictated the width of rooms. These had been brought to Dubai in dhows from East Africa as part of the traditional triangular trade, Gulf, India, East Africa and back to the Gulf, making use of the seasonal trade winds. The pole ends poked out of the houses at roof level and were always left untrimmed. Some houses had wind towers. These diverted the on shore breezes into the house and they were an architectural feature adding a distinctive dimension to the scene.

Among the many buildings on the creek there were shops, houses, the winter and summer palaces, the Bank, Gray Mackenzie (the shipping agents), mosques and the customs. It was a busy scene with dhows coming and going, abbras crossing, moored dhows being loaded, lighters waiting for the next cargo ship to arrive. The sea around the creek mouth was very shallow and boats 'moored off' and were serviced by lighters.

There was no public electricity supply and water came by lorry in tins from brackish wells some distance away. The local population wore Arab costume, labourers wore only a lungi, an oblong cloth worn round the waist with possibly a vest; some elderly citizens of Iranian origin wore the old Persian dress banned in Iran by Reza Shah. All local women wore masks and shaddas, ground length dresses that completely covered them. Local houses did not have lavatories. The creek was used instead for washing and as a latrine.

My social duties included calling on the Ruler at the Summer Palace accompanied

by Easa Gurg. Easa was our leading Arab officer who acted as the commercial adviser to the Manager and was the general interpreter and go-between. The Ruler, Sheikh Said, sat on the floor, as did we. There was etiquette to follow. I tried out my few words of formal greeting learnt from my Arabic tutor in Bahrain. A general conversation followed. Then a servant brought in Arabic coffee and the customary two cups were drunk. Then came incense which one wafted into one's imaginary beard. That was the signal to depart.

Every day the Ruler sat on the floor in his palace or outdoors on the sand to hold a Majlis. Anyone could bring their concerns to him. It was a completely democratic arrangement. The Ruler would hear the problem often whispered in his ear and would then dispense justice or advice or even money. He was a wily man and if he wrote anything on these occasions he would write it very small and then tear round the writing so that nothing could be added.

We were frequently invited to the Palace for meals when foreign dignitaries such as visiting Admirals paid courtesy visits to the Coast in their warships. These meals were known as "mutton grabs". One helped oneself sitting awkwardly on the floor, shoes having been discarded at the door, trying not to show the soles of one's socks as this was considered very impolite. The food was laid out on platters and usually included roasted sheep, boiled chicken and rice. These were eaten with one's right hand and one was often passed favoured pieces by one's hosts, but I was never handed a sheep's eye. There was sometimes a bowl of broth, which was drunk from a communal spoon, and sometimes bowls of tinned fruit again eaten with a communal spoon. When all had eaten, the food was taken off to the women's quarters and to the household for them to share. Nothing went to waste.

We had few visitors but one I remember was Hammond Innes. Ostensibly he had come to my desk to cash a cheque but he spent the whole time asking about slaves. He even wanted to know if we had any working in the bank: He never got round to cashing the cheque. He had come from Bahrain on a frigate with his brother-in-law who was the captain.

The bank was in Deira by the abra station. It was a one-storey building; the rear backed onto the creek. There was a wooden seat outside the rough wooden bank door where the guards sat with their rifles and bandoleers. Inside to the left there was a room curtained off where the manager sat and another room for the Commercial Assistant, Easa Gurg. (He has been for many years the UAE Ambassador to the UK and is a multimillionaire). Then the main hall featured the chief cashier, of Persian ancestry, who wore the old Persian formal dress. He stood at his desk under the bank's wind tower with an assistant cashier. I had a desk under a fan; there was a window to my left looking over the creek. Ledger keepers sat in front of me. Further along was the WC. This was a wooden door with a toggle latch set into the wall on the creek side. On opening the door the floor consisted of a concrete slab with a hole in it cantilevered directly over the water, and there was a tin can with a string attached to it; the whole was surrounded by baresti matting.

At that time the currency of Dubai and other Sheikdoms in the Gulf was the Gulf Rupee. This was administered by the Indian Reserve Bank. The notes were the same as the Indian Rupees used in India except that they were a different colour. We were all part of the Sterling area. Our Dubai trade was entrepot; we imported goods, say piece goods from Japan. A very light import duty was collected by the Customs. Some goods were consumed locally or were sent by camel train to the interior but most were put on dhows to be sent to small ports across the water in Iran. Many of the main traders had family connections and some had branches in Iran. The Ruler made a hunting trip to Iran each year to sweeten the Customs authorities there. There was also an export trade of gold by fast dhow to the sub-continent.

For the goods exported the financial circle was eventually completed by the arrival of used traveller cheques from Ceylon. At that time, before extensive air travel was common, passenger liners from the Far East, New Zealand and Australia would call at Colombo. I never did understand the financial connection between Iran and Ceylon but the terms of trade were such that we were always accumulating rupee notes for redemption in India. In consequence several days a week, Easa the head Ferash (messenger) would sit on the floor in front of my desk. A tailor in the Souq prepared cotton covers to fit Ghee tins. Easa would fill the tin with bundles of notes, close the tin, sew up the cotton cover and seal the resultant package with the bank's brass seal. He kept a bowl of sealing wax on the boil. The notes were then taken to the Post Office across the creek in Dubai for dispatch on the next BI boat to Bombay.

Our staff was local Dubai citizens of Arab or Persian origin and Indian clerks recruited for us by our Bombay Office. These clerks were provided with passages to and from India and their accommodation in Dubai. We were the university for the local staff where they learnt about foreign business and were able to use that knowledge to good effect when oil money arrived. Nearly all, if not all, our local clerks then are now multi-millionaires.

Our Bank was the only one in the Trucial Coast; there was no bank of last resort to fall back on, so we had to make sure that we always had sufficient cash on hand. The manager was 26, I was 23 and our leading Arab, Easa Gurg, was in his twenties. We had no visits from external auditors but a bank inspection took place about every two years from the travelling inspector who had been a senior manager.

We opened for business each day except Fridays and Eids. The bank was open to the public in the mornings. In the afternoons paperwork was completed and the day's transactions were balanced and then checked by me. On Wednesday evenings it was my duty to see that all the books balanced and agreed with the General Ledger that I posted each day. A cable was then sent to London showing our financial position. The Manager accompanied by the Commercial Assistant visited merchants in the souqs several afternoons a week.

Pearl fishing was then an important local industry. The Pearl fleet, with three crews on each boat, left for the pearl oyster grounds and stayed out for the season. There were three crews as, in turn, one

crew dived, one crew handled them and one crew rested. When the fleet returned the whole town came out to greet them. The boats were rowed into the creek with banners flying to the ululations from the waiting womenfolk. Diving was done without artificial aids. It was an arduous job and when oil was discovered the divers left for other work. The pearls were natural and the success of Japanese pearl culture also led to the decline of Gulf pearl fishing.

At Eid times the manager, Easa Gurg and I would call on the Ruler in his palace and on customers to offer greetings. This would take several days to achieve. For Divali we similarly called on our Indian merchants. When it came to Christmas we were in turn called upon. As everyone sat on the floor in those circumstances we were short of cushions but a word to Sheikh Rashid, the Ruler's son and later Ruler, soon put that right, as a consignment of cushions arrived from the palace.

In the spring of 1954 Tim Hillyard of D'arcy Exploration (a BP company) came to negotiate for offshore oil exploration rights. The on shore concession had been granted some years before to the Iraq Petroleum Company, IPC, who operated through their subsidiary Petroleum Development Trucial Coast but despite several drillings nothing worthwhile had been found. In the spring of 1954 I went on local leave to Bahrain in order to buy household supplies and was surprised to receive a cable to bring back two lakhs of rupees. I did this. Tim Hillyard had hired two dhows and, with the cash I had brought, sailed to the island of Abu Dhabi. There he handed it over to the Ruler Sheikh Shakbut for the rights to look for the oil that is now produced in such abundance. So that was my part in the story of Abu Dhabi's oil. I brought the money!

Sheikh Shakbut on receiving the money said airily, after secreting some under his bed, "just put it in my account". There were no roads to Abu Dhabi and the sand was notoriously soft in places. Abu Dhabi is far from Dubai. Fortunately it was spring and with the spring tides it was possible to drive along the beach provided a good speed was kept up so as not to sink in. Ross and Easa Gurg with guards set out to bring the money back. They were overdue and I went to meet them with my rifle and a guard in case that they had got into trouble but all was well.

It was normal to see Sheikh Rashid and his young sons Sheikh Maktoum, Mohamed and Hamdan training their hawks with lures. One time I was playing in goal for the Bank team against a team from Sharjah when they were near by on a slight knoll. Sitting there too was Tim Hillyard. I didn't

notice anything particular so was interested to see in the next edition of Country Life a letter from Tim to the effect "strange behaviour of hawk pouncing on a football in flight".

A month after the half-yearly balance of 21st September - we still used the old Persian calendar for the Bank's financial year - I left for my new posting, Damascus.

Damascus - 1954/6

Damascus was an eye-opener for me. It was a complete contrast to Dubai. The houses were modern with electricity and running water. The roads were tarmacked and had pavements. There were cars and buses and trams. Men and women walked about in European clothes though they often wore more conservative garb in the countryside. There was a railway a station and football stadium. In short it was a modern city. I lived up the hill from the old city at the top of the Abu Rumani Avenue, a handsome wide boulevard with modern blocks of flats, well made and well designed. At the top was the Place des Cannons and my flat was nearby just past the Egyptian Embassy in a quiet road.

I made my call on the British Embassy, signed the book and left my card. My arrival in Damascus had caused some consternation as the Group Captain Townsend was in everyone's mind. The ambassador's wife was advised who I was and all was well. There were several girls in the embassy and I married one of them a year later.

The Bank was in the old city in the Souq area. The staff were all Syrian apart from the manager and myself. They were charming and friendly. About half were Moslem and half were Maronite or some other Christian sect, although religion was never an issue. We had male and female staff, a change from the all-male staff of Dubai. All the books were hand posted. Much of our business was the discount of trade bills of exchange. These bills had to be paid by the dates shown plus 3 days grace or they had to be officially protested that day. I kept those bills currently payable in a combination safe. One day I just could not get the safe to open and it was imperative that the bills were available otherwise they could not be protested if needed be. A locksmith from the Souq was called in. He turned the safe over drilled through the concrete and steel, put his hand in and opened the safe. It was then repaired and never malfunctioned again in my time. Years later after we had been nationalised I revisited the office and

sat at my old desk, remembering the combination I idly tried it out and opened the safe. No one had changed the combination in the intervening years.

It was a magical time for me. Damascus held a large British and American Embassy staff as well as UN personnel and British company representatives with their families. It was a stable time politically after the previous dictator had been ousted. We all mixed socially with the local Syrians. Apart from balancing days and poker nights, I could accept the many party invitations. After drinks there was always a dance often into the small hours. IPC ran a pipeline across Syria from Iraq and we had the occasional visit to the nearest station for a cricket match.

Damascus is set above an adjoining oasis, called the goutta, fed by the river from the mountain above. It was a beautiful area, so beautiful that Mohamed was said to have refused to visit it as he was waiting to enter Paradise only when he died. The old city itself was full of interesting buildings going back to Roman times. It is claimed to be the oldest continually occupied city in the world. It still boasts the Street called Straight where St. Paul was let down in a



Armed Guard outside the Bank

basket. There were many Roman and Crusader sites to visit in the area and we even climbed Mount Lebanon.

Not long before I left Damascus when my first three-year contract ended there was a football match between the Syrian and the Turkish armies. At the match Col. Adnan Malki, an ambitious young officer, was assassinated. His house was close to my flat and I can remember very clearly the family's wailing. This event was the signal for a political change. The democratic government was very shortly overturned and the Baath Party took over power in a coup. That was in 1955 and they have been there ever since.

In 1956 I left for my four and a half months leave. I immediately received a £100 rise to £750 pa in accordance with my contract. I had saved enough money to go on leave. Molly had to stay for a couple of months to finish her contract and then we were married.

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FROM THE UNIVERSITIES

By Tom Whipple

A year and a half from leaving Reading School, and our excuse for not getting a job or degree is rapidly dwindling. A brave few are still travelling the world - giving Africa the benefit of our school painting skills, or recreating sixties communes in Thailand ("I swear, it was just like in that film with Leonardo Di Caprio"). Some have even cunningly managed to marry the two - prolonging the travel whilst convincing themselves that they are doing something vaguely productive. I occasionally hear of Karim Rushdy and Jon Holloway, doing some course or another in deepest China, and Ian Lindsay is studying in Chicago trying to pretend he is old enough to get a drink. Apparently his university is so well equipped it has its own power plant.

But it is Steven Ball - currently in Australia - who is the most impressive. He has attained almost mythical status in his absence. Wild stories fly round about him giving up the idea of university, emigrating permanently, and earning a fortune barbecuing shrimps in Ramsey Street. Which, having met him in the pub on Christmas Eve, isn't actually far from the truth. But for most, all that is left of the GAP year is stories - like someone in Kuala Lumpur who managed to gamble away all his worldly possessions including his plane ticket home and, depending on your interpretation of the local language, the promise of his

kidney. The vast majority though has wisely avoided situations involving blackjack and dodgy Malaysians, instead scattering to disparate universities throughout Britain.

One thing Reading School did exceptionally well with regard to Oxford application was in the preparation it gave for bizarre tradition and absurd formalities. Nevertheless, no matter how many Commemoration Services or speech days Alex Williams attended (and, to be frank, it was probably less than the regulation amount), nothing could give him a foretaste of the ridiculousness of his college's once-a-century ritual, whereby the entire student body watches the Fellows chasing an imaginary duck through the college quads. And with academia of that calibre how dare people suggest that Oxford is in decline?

Does anyone remember the spate of garage bands that popped up amongst our year group when we were 13 or 14? Various guitar groups that, diplomatically, hid away in Big School, would embarrass themselves at the annual spring fayre? Or the cutting edge 'Itchy Bollocks', spawned as a tribute to 'Period Pains', the Abbey School group who once got played by John Peel and were the subject of a whole double page Daily Mail spread about the fall of society? Well one of them still survives. The Living Proof with Nigel Sainsbury, Alan Stacy et al is apparently building upon its performance in Alleycats three

years ago and - artistic differences aside - may even get a gig. Sometime.

Despite my cynicism about the whole thing, it seems that three years playing at soldiers and learning how to kill people in the CCF did reap rewards for some people. Tom Brunwin occupied most of Christmas flying planes and, doubtless to improve his chances of pulling, going round bars pretending to be a pilot.

I myself seem never to be able to get away from the influence of the school. With astonishing regularity I recognise people in and around Cambridge only to realise that they ran the house music team when I was a junior, or one of the big year tens who tripped me up in the first year outside French. Just last term when late for lectures I had the surreal experience of meeting Harry Hughes from the year below me, both of us wondering, in much the same way we used to when late for our tutor period with Dr. Nicholson, whether it was better we didn't turn up for lectures at all.

But now I have been informed that that self-same tutor room, outside which we used to loiter nervously, has disappeared. Bounders Hall - its squalor a better preparation for university life than any of Mr. Holt's pep talks - is no more. It seems that Saturday morning school is for the chop too. Along with County's previous form room in the Horsa Huts, it now appears that Mr. Linnell's desecration of our childhood is complete.

SPORT

Cricket

By Mike Evans

Caversham & Redingensians Cricket Club

You will recall that the Redingensians C.C. and the Caversham C.C. merged two years ago. Despite the inevitable teething troubles it can be said with confidence that this merger has been successful on a number of counts. Firstly the two clubs have been saved from oblivion - I believe the situation was no less than that. Secondly, the personnel have welded together socially: it is a happy club. Thirdly the new club's second season has brought significant success on the field. The Saturday First XI won its division of the Thames Valley League and has been promoted and the Second XI also won promotion by means of a nail-biting victory on the last day of the season. All this is not to say that difficulties do not exist, particularly where committee work is concerned, but it has been a good start.

OR Cricket Week

We are very grateful for the continued and generous support from ORs through their Council for OR Cricket



From the private collection of Will Lunn

Week. The fact that this event continues to give a lot of people a lot of pleasure and brings a number of ORs together is not least due to that generosity. We hope to see you during this year's event which begins on Monday 22nd July 2002.

Terry Cartwright and Mark Lyford will be running the event. They will be most interested to hear from you if you wish to play. Contact Mark Lyford at 19 Richmond Road, Reading, RG30 2SP. Telephone 0118 903 0800 or email Marklyford@directwines.co.uk

OR Golf Society

By Rudolph Bissolotti
Hon. Secretary O.R.G.S.

The autumn 2001 Meeting was held on 11th October at Frilford Heath, John Downes' home club.

The law of averages did not apply when it came to participation as we would

normally expect 20% of our regulars to be unavailable at one or other of our meetings but on this occasion the percentage was near 50. We were to be 9 but one member called off the day before, due to illness, which kept us with 8 and the Secretary with the headache, as he had quickly to change the format of play having already bought prizes for the 9 participants format.

His first decision was to forgo the competition for the President's Jug. This was partly due to the small 'field' but mainly so that he could hold the trophy for a full year seeing that he had invested so much money in golf tuition fees which enabled him to win the trophy in the first place. Instead, more prizes were available to be won, and we were most grateful to Jack Holt who presented us with two dozen golf balls as prizes.

As the venue was some way out of Reading, and to allow participants time to wend their way home at a reasonable hour, we had our main meal at lunch instead of at the end of the day, which found reasonable support. As a result we played a 9 hole Stableford competition before lunch, the result of which was:

Winner with 19 points:

Rudolph Bissolotti

Runner-up with 18 points:

Chris Quartly

Nearest the pin: Colin Evans

The afternoon competition was a 4 ball better ball Stableford, the result of which was:

Winner with 46 points (a very good score): John Steels and Chris Quartly

Runners-up with 40 points:

Rudolph Bissolotti and Colin Evans

Nearest the pin: Chris Quartly

We wish to express our appreciation for

the financial support we have received from the OR Council and seeing that the President 2002 is one of the members we look forward to even bigger and better things in this respect during his year in office! Also, Will Lunn's photography, both of action shots and group poses, are much appreciated.

Our Spring Meeting has been booked at Reading GC for June 13th; the Autumn date and venue has yet to be decided.

If you wish to play and are not on the Hon. Secretary's mailing list please call **Rudolph Bissolotti - Telephone no. 020 7834 9132**

Hockey Report

The School hockey season has been interesting. It is hoped that the OR match to be played on 21st April will be well attended. Anthony Falkus, the new coach, is having a notable effect on Hockey in School and deserves our support.

The story so far...

By S. Stent

At the start of the year it was out with the old and in with the new, with only one member surviving from the previous year's squad. The new-look Reading School 1st XI, with eight Berkshire U18 players, one South-East England player and all under the watchful eye of new coach Anthony Falkus (Southgate), promised a great deal.

Beginning the season with a comfortable 5-1 victory over Pangbourne, the team went on to notch up seven victories, three defeats and three draws. At the Berkshire

U18 Indoor Tournament, Reading breezed into the final, beating Wellington 4-0 along the way and proving conclusively that revenge is indeed very sweet. A spirited performance in the final took a match against a strong Desborough side to penalty-flicks, where our luck ran out (although we all know we could've done with a few more German players in the team).

Three days later, we shook off cramp and fatigue to play in the Berkshire round of the RAF Cup, which despite its name was a five-team league. Three straight victories left us in the unenviable position of needing a draw against the still-fuming Wellington to finish top. Once again, the match went right down to the wire, and the defence, inspired by some virtuoso goal keeping, held firm against an onslaught of short-corners to pull off a gripping 1-1 draw. This qualified us for the next stage of the tournament, the 'Divisionals', to be held in Southampton on March 3 (wish us luck!).

In preparation for the day, we underwent some 'light' fitness training during the half-term week, and were rewarded for our efforts with a tie against England U18... Girls. As only true gentlemen do in such situations, we let the girls walk away with a 5-2 victory, although in truth they were the more disciplined side (perhaps because our players had their eyes on more than just the ball for most of the match). This was promptly followed by a 6-2 defeat at the hands of the Hockey Association, where despite a disappointing result the team showed some encouraging signs of 'sexy hockey', boding well for the future.

You can visit the reading school hockey club web site to catch up with the latest results at:

www.readinghockey.freemove.co.uk

ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES & NEWS

Tony Waring Retires as Chairman

To know when to retire is very important. Too soon and you do not see your work come to fruition. Too late and you irritate your colleagues. To retire at the top with your major achievements realised and the good will of your colleagues is given to few of us. Tony has managed it. His contribution to the Association has been enormous, though, as with icebergs, only some of it has been readily visible.

He has been Chairman of the Association three times. His Presidency came between periods as Chairman, thus completing an unprecedented stint in high office. He made administrative and organisational adjustments designed to meet the challenge of change, whilst keeping the traditions and values he learned at Reading School.

His greatest achievement as Chairman has been the Big School Appeal. It has reached near £ 28,000. Phase one of the work is complete. The Association is poised to



Tony Waring (L.) in conversation with Canon Hill at the Who's Who

support the next phase of restoration during the forthcoming summer vacation. It should be clearly noted that the whole thing from conception, team building, planning, advertising, and execution of the initial phase was in his hands and the

praise for a good job done is due, therefore, to him. He has seen to it that the next phase of fund-raising is in the capable hands of John Illman.

He has supported the Old Redingenian, the

Journal of the Association, through changes which were not immediately acceptable to all. He encouraged the Social Secretary in the setting up of the successful organisation for the Annual Dinner at Reading College. He made the crucial appointment of Ian Moore as Hon. Treasurer, supported Cricket Week, the ORs Rugby team, the West Wing Reunion, the re-instatement of Remembrance Sunday Services and numerous other events. He did his level best to help K. Kirkwood in keeping the Archives going and would, if that were his nature, regret that he was unable to see it into suitable premises.

His administration of the OR Enterprise Awards must have been, and we hope will continue to be, a source of great pride to him. He sometimes returned from his day on the Magistrates' Bench with a feeling of despair about the future of civil society.

The reports he has received over the years from holders of Enterprise Awards must have done much to restore his faith in young people. He took great pride in instigating the Kirkwood Awards and raising the funds to keep them going.

His great achievement as President was to arrange a Civic Reception for ORs in the Mayor's Parlour. This was an event that not only saw the refreshment of the ancient connection between the Town and our School but also ensured the publication of 'Old School Ties', the book about ORs, which he encouraged and supported through his contacts with the local press.

Whilst he was giving unstintingly of his time to the ORs he was an active JP, a governor of Ryeish Green school, a busy family man and an enviable gardener. I

have one complaint. He stole my only decent joke to end his inaugural speech as President.

He was capable of doing hard labour behind the scenes and then emerging as the suave host and accomplished public speaker. He never forget to say thank you, was always ready to forgive mistakes and to help those in difficulty.

There are many who have attempted to persuade him to continue as an office holder with the Association and he has promised to think about returning after a year's rest. He has the good sense to realise that the way to the graveyard is paved with the headstones of indispensable men. He will cultivate his garden for a while with our thanks and best wishes.

The Big School Appeal

The work in Big School will commence with the removal of the old stage during the forthcoming summer holiday. In fact the demand for space engendered by the increase in public examinations is so acute that some of the stage extensions will be removed this Easter. The next phase of the work will be the redecoration of the walls and ceiling and the completion of the work on the windows.

There is some uncertainty about what lies below and behind the stage but, providing there are not too many skeletons, we can look forward to the restoration of the decorations with great pleasure. There is good reason to look at the lighting arrangements with care and we will, we know, be joined by the Parents' Association which will wish to help with the sound system. It is the closer co-operation with the Parents' Association, the Governors, and the Reading Foundation that our President and Vice President have set themselves to encourage.

At the time of writing the fund stands near £26,000. After meeting our commitments for work done so far, we have around £8,000 with which to go on to phase two. Clearly we need more money to complete



The new chairs in Big School

the work properly. Even so that is a marvellous response. The Council of the Association, the Governors, the Head Master and Staff all extend their thanks and appreciation. We have, however, undertaken to support the restoration of an historic part of the School and we know well that our members will not wish to see the work poorly done. In old photographs the ceiling of Big School appears to have been intricately decorated. The floor under the stage will need to be brought into the same state as the rest, or vice versa.

As for the Association, it was felt that we should seek out someone of outstanding ability and with a fine record to take the Appeal foreword. It was with that in mind that our President persuaded John Illman CMG to take on the job of Director of the Appeal after Tony Waring had retired. We have included an donation form with this copy of the Old Redingensian. If you have already contributed to Appeal please ignore it. If you have been thinking of a donation please use it and return it to the Hon. Treasurer as soon as possible.

The Forthcoming House of Lords Reception

Lord Hodgess Roper will be our host at the OR reception which will take place in the Cholmondeley Room and on the Terrace of the House of Lords at 7 p.m. on Friday 21st June 2002. The Head Master will be present and the House of Commons will be represented by Mark Field, MP, OR.

We hope to extend the opportunity to the Reading School Parents' Association, the Governors, the Reading Foundation and the Friends of Reading School if we have a few places remaining after the OR applications have been received. It is an

OR function and we hope that our wives, friends and partners will be able to join us. The House of Lords is in a fascinating position at the moment. It will be interesting to see the place before even further efforts are made to change it. Apart from that it should be a good party. There is an application form included in this issue which you are urged to complete and return to the Hon. Social Secretary as soon as possible so that he can judge how many places to make available to other groups.

The John Bristow Memorial Service


A service in memory of John Bristow, sometime Head Master of Reading

School, will be held in the School Chapel at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday 18th May 2002. The service will be led by the Venerable Peter Coombs, Chaplain to the Old Redingensians Association, and Graham Ireland OR will play the organ. There will be tea in Junior School afterwards. Please be in Chapel by 3.15 p.m.


Please make sure that you telephone the Head Master's Secretary on: 0118 9015600 or e-mail:

admin.readingschool@reading.gov.uk if you are attending and wish to join Mrs. Bristow for tea in Junior School.

We need to have some idea of numbers for catering purposes.



READING SCHOOL SPORTSMAN'S DINNER



In aid of the School Rugby Tour to South Africa, August 2002

Guest Speaker


Phil Bennett

Wales, British Lions & the Barbarians

Four Course Dinner


Wine provided by


Laithwaites



Auction & raffles of sports memorabilia including:

- Signed London Irish shirt
- Signed Leicester shirt
- Fred Truman cricket ball
- Signed England rugby ball





READING SCHOOL

Friday 31st May, 2002

Tickets ~ £37.00

For further details & tickets
contact Reading School
Physical Education Department

0118 9015600

ORs Hockey Match

Old Boys Hockey Match
Sunday the 21st April at
Reading University Astroturf
Push back 2.00

After match Teas and Beers at the
County Arms

Anybody that is interested in playing
could you please contact:
Ant Falkus a.s.a.p. 07780 997 410

Changes to Council

The Rev. Canon C.A.C. Hill and Mr. G.R. Holloway retire on rotation from the Council. Colin Hill has been researching into the Whigift foundation during this last year or so and we hope that his researches have been brought to a happy conclusion. The prestige of having a Chaplain to the Queen on our Council has not gone unnoticed and we thank him for his support. Geoff Holloway has been able to bring his considerable experience to bear on our deliberations. He was invaluable during the trying times when the Appeal was in its early stages.

Will Lunn has retired from his temporary seat on Council, which he filled for two years following the untimely death of Alan Hatch, and has returned for three further years. He has joined the Recruitment Committee, which has been making plans to increase the membership.

Peter Dingwall (59-65) and Mark Lyford (82-89) have joined the Council for three years. Peter is Assistant Secretary of the Institute of Actuaries and has completed a distinguished career in the RAF, rising to the rank of Wing Commander before retiring. Mark is a Consultant with Fine Wines and is well known in Rugby and Cricket circles.

Ned Holt, presently Senior Master and Head of Sixth Form at School, has also joined the Council. That alone should help us with the recruitment of young leavers, a problem which successive Councils have wrestled with for a very long time indeed.

W. Keith Morgan

MD, FRCP

K. Kirkwood writes "One of the signs of advancing age is when one remembers vintage years of boys at school who shone, both in the academic and sporting spheres. So it was for me with the leavers of the year 1948. They include John W. Chown (Army), P.E. Townsend (Banking), M.J. Wild (Drama), P.B. Coombs (the Church), and J.S. Sadler (Business). In the field of medicine W.K.C. Morgan has achieved an international reputation in lung diseases and has recently advised us that he is now retired as Emeritus Professor of Medicine of the University of Western Ontario, London ONT.

At school he played in first teams in Cricket and Rugby. He was in West House and won House Colours for swimming and athletics and was Captain of Boxing.

He studied medicine at Sheffield University (1948-53) and graduated with honours. He subsequently wrote a thesis and was awarded his MD in 1961. From 1956 to 58 he was in the RAMC at the Connaught Chest Hospital. He subsequently went to the University of Maryland as an Instructor and rose to Associate Professor. In 1967 he went to Morganstown as Director of a USPHS faculty dealing with occupational lung diseases. In 1978 he moved to London Ontario and became Head of the Pulmonary Disease Division of the University of Western Ontario. He was also president of the Canadian Thoracic Society for a time.

He is married to Barbara and has 'three middle aged progeny' two of whom are resident in Britain and one in Canada. We send him warmest congratulations on his outstanding career."

Ian Kemp

Less than three weeks after attending the dedication and unveiling in the School of the memorial plaque in honour of his father, Ian Kemp, elder son of Charles Edward Kemp, died after a long illness borne with courage, fortitude and exemplary cheerfulness.

The ORs were represented at the Thanksgiving Service, which took place at St James' Church, Gerards Cross on 20th December 2001, by Dr. Dudley Bruton, the President, who conveyed our condolences to Ian's family. They were touched by the presence of a representative of the Association.

The Venerable Peter Coombs

OR PP (39-47)

Peter Coombs has kindly consented to adopt the roll of Chaplain to the Old Redingensians Association commencing this year. He has consented to lead the Service of Thanks for the Life of John Bristow, which will take place in Chapel on 18th May 2002.

The Annual Cricket Tours of North East Essex 1961-70

Michael Holmes is trying to arrange a get-together of cricketers who went on the Essex Cricket Tours. He mentions John Short, John Scofield, Rodney Alexander and David Hill in particular.

Michael would be pleased to hear from them and any others who were still at the School when he first started the Tour. His address is:

**50 Green Lane
Hucclecote
Gloucester
GL3 3QX**

OBITUARIES

ROY BOULTING (27-32)

Roy Boulting became a famous film maker and the obituaries in the broad-sheets just after his death covered his career admirably and are likely to have been read by ORs by now. His school career at Reading appears to have had some of the characteristics noted in those of an artistic bent.

Frank Terry has written us the following based on stories told to him by the great Sugar Saunders, his predecessor as Head of History, who, Frank warns, could not resist improving a good story.

"Roy and his twin John were boarders in South House. Roy was quite a good scholar and a useful cricketer but I have heard it said that he 'didn't get on with his house master'. That was probably Harry Poole who taught in Junior School.

Roy's school career was brought to an abrupt end by what Saunders called "the episode of the cops in the shrubbery". In 1931-32 there was a strong pacifist movement in the Country, supported by the intellectual Left. The Oxford Union caused a sensation by approving the motion "This House would not fight for King and Country". Sassoon and Owen had been producing their anti-war poems based on their experience during the Great War, and "Cry Havoc", a book by Beverly Nichols, won great acclaim. Roy Boulting, like many other young idealists, was caught up in the surge of opinion and he wrote, printed and distributed a pamphlet urging boys in the School OTC to resign and declare themselves pacifists.

George Keeton, the Head Master, was appalled. He was a traditionalist who had served in the army himself and regarded the OTC - along with the Chapel - as one of the chief bastions of the School and of the Nation. He sent for the police who (according to Saunders) concealed themselves in West Wing shrubbery until the moment when they could pounce on the miscreant guilty of the crime of sedition (alienating the allegiance of HM Forces). As a result of all this Roy was asked to leave and departed.

However, he seems to have borne no grudge, for in the late forties when he and John had won fame with their film of Graham Green's novel "Brighton Rock" and were now making "The Guinea Pig" (a story about a working class boy sent to a public school), they approached Birdie Nightingale, regular producer of the School Play, and asked him if they could come and make some recordings in Chapel of the boys singing the end of the hymn "Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing". Permission was given and the recording was used in the sound track of the film.

This led to the Boulting Brothers offering to present the School an annual medal for the best performance in the School Play. They came themselves, either together or singly, for the next few years to see the plays and announce the winners of the medal at the supper held in the Tuck Shop after the show. Our President for 2001, Denis Moriarty, won the award twice, in 1949 and 1953. When Roy and John could not come themselves they sent stars who were currently working for them, such as Richard Attenborough, Robert Morley, Alistair Sim and Barry Jones.

The connection faded after Mr. Nightingale's retirement about 1958. The rest of Roy's career is well covered in the newspaper obituaries. He was probably the most widely known OR since Archbishop Laud."

VICTOR C. WELLINGS QC (31-37)

Victor Wellings was born in 1919 and passed away peacefully in June 2001. He was at Reading School during the Headship of Keeton. He was a prefect, house captain and sergeant in the OTC. He was awarded house colours for Rugby. He went up to Exeter College, Oxford and graduated with a BA Honours in the of School of Jurisprudence.

Between 1940 and 1946 he served in the 17th DOGRA Regt. and the Intelligence Corps (Indian Army). He served mainly in the Far East and rose from Lance Corporal to Captain.

He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1949 and was a member of the Lands Tribunal between 1973 and 1988, becoming President in 1989 and remaining in that post until 1992. He was best known as Editor of "Woodfall's Law of Landlord and Tenant", the standard reference in the UK.

He lived in Witchurch-on-Thames in Oxfordshire. He enjoyed fly-fishing as well as being Captain of Goring Golf Club. He leaves a widow and three sons.

PHILIP HENRY HARVEY (32-34)

On leaving Reading School Philip qualified as an electrical engineer and joined Metropolitan Vickers in Manchester. He remained with them until WWII when he joined the RAF. He served with Coastal Command based in Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. He emigrated to South Africa in 1958 and settled in Greytown, Natal.

The Harveys were a Reading School family. Philip's two younger brothers were educated with us. John died in 1970 and David is now retired and living in Wales. David's son, also called John, was here briefly in 1958.

DR. GERALD DAVID HORLER (35-43)

K. Kirkwood writes:-

"The announcement in January 2002 of the death of Gerry Horler at the age of 77 revives many war-time memories of his numerous wins at the annual athletics match held each March on the School field, often in bitter cold winds. He ran like a startled hare flushed out of the corn field at harvest time, such was his pace and enormous length of stride! In 1943 he easily won the 800 yards open (time 2 mins. 17 seconds), took second place in the open high jump and then won the open mile with a time of 4 mins. 59 seconds. His younger brother, M.G. Horler, came away with the junior 100 yards prize later in the afternoon. The Horler boys were justifiably proud to be presented with their cups by Mrs. Kemp that afternoon.

The Horlers were an outstanding Reading School family. There were three brothers, John (34-39), Gerry (35-43) and Michael (40-46) and they dominated school activities for a number of years.

Gerry was Captain of School in 1943 and played Rugby, Cricket, boxed, became gym competition champion in 1942 and was elected Secretary of the School debating society. He won the "Sir Thomas White" scholarship to St. Johns College, Oxford.

He joined the RAF during the war through the Oxford University Air Squadron, trained in Southern Rhodesia, as it then was, and became a pilot. He was later posted to special service operations and served in the Middle East until the end of hostilities.

He then returned to Oxford, having

decided on a medical career, and subsequently did his postgraduate training at St. Thomas' Hospital, London. He first practised medicine at Temple Sowerbury in Cumbria and later, for many years, in Battersea, London.

His wife Joy, whom he met at Oxford in 1955, survives him and they had recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They had three children David, Judith and John and four grandchildren."

PETER ROSS GILES (36-46)

Tony Waring writes:-

"Peter entered the School as a South House Boarder and became a day boy in East House in 1939. He left in 1946 to commence his national service at HMS Culdrose, the Fleet Air Arm base in Cornwall.

PRG, as he was generally called, excelled at shooting and, as a member of the School VIII, competed at Bisley and for the Giles Ayres Cup. He became a Platoon Sergeant in the Corps.

After completing his national service he joined the family garage business. Peter's keen eye and precision, backed by the expertise of the garage staff, enabled him, together with P. Rogers OR as navigator, to become prominent in Motor Rally competitions at National and District levels.

Having become Managing Director, he set about a major expansion programme that saw the acquisition of garages throughout the Thames Valley and a move to new upmarket premises.

Pete made his mark within the community by becoming Chairman of Round Table and in 1979 President of Reading Rotary. For his outstanding service to Rotary he was awarded a prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship.

He retired in 1991, shortly after having sold the Reading business to an International plc, but unfortunately his ever-increasing lack of mobility meant that he had to rely on a wheelchair to get around.

PRG was a generous and larger than life character. He fought his illness with great courage. He will be sadly missed and never forgotten."

PROFESSOR ALAN WATSON JP, MA, BD, MB, BS, FRCP, FRC Path, DMJ, DTM&H, EMERITUS REGIUS PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AT GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.

Born February 20 1929, died November 17 2001.

The Reverend Prebendary Graham F. Holly OR (45-46) sends news of the sad death of Alan Watson. He writes:-

"Alan and I were at the Alfred Sutton Central School during the 39-45 war up to our School Certificate. After the 1944 Education Act we were able to transfer to Reading School. We were a minority of pupils accepted to come to Reading School.

Alan must be one of the brightest pupils from the School in the 20th Century. He gained his London Matriculation and his School Certificate and exemption from the first MB on his Higher School Certificate. Thereafter, he went to St. Mary's Hospital Paddington and I went to Culham to train as a teacher."

Prebendary Holly also included an extensive obituary of Alan Watson from the Glasgow Herald which is summarised below. In passing we might pay respect to the 1944 Education Act for it played a part in the life of this talented man.

Alan completed his medical degree at St. Mary's and moved to the Royal Berkshire Hospital as a house surgeon in 1954. From thence he went to

Newbury District Hospital and eventually to Newton Abbot. In 1957 he went to Antwerp and gained a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in preparation for his appointment as medical officer and director of the Baptist Missionary Hospital, Ntand, in the Republic of Congo. It was a time of political unrest and Alan and his young wife Jean had to be rescued by mercenary soldiers from their mission, which was behind the lines of the losing side.

On leaving the Congo Alan returned to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and commenced a career in medical pathology, which would eventually take him to Glasgow University and, in 1985, the Regius professorship in forensic medicine and science. He was the first Englishman to be entrusted with that post. During this period he was to undertake a further stint as a missionary doctor, this time in Nigeria. Again civil war curtailed his mission and he and his wife found themselves, yet again, behind the lines of the losing side and a rebel soldier who was a former patient rescued them.

He was a natural teacher. His popularity resulted in many invitations as top table guest at student club dinners: not bad for an honorary president of the Scottish branch of the Band of Hope. He carried his teaching abilities into the witness box where his testimony was given in a clear manner devoid of jargon. Under his leadership the Department of Forensic Medicine and Science at Glasgow became the largest of its kind in Scotland. Despite the heavy demands of his professional life he found time to serve the community and to support his professional colleagues. He became a JP and a council member of the Medical and Defence Union of Scotland.

He was a notable linguist, being fluent in French, Dutch, Gaelic and the African Languages with which he had contact. He learned sign language in order to communicate with a technician in his department who was hard of hearing.

His Christian Faith was unshakeable and he became a lay preacher in the Baptist Church. He graduated with a bachelor of divinity degree in 1992. Alan ended his remarkable career as a religious consultant and broadcaster with West Sound, the West of Scotland radio station.

JOHN MORLEY OR (36 - 42)

David Morley writes:-

John left Reading School in 1942. Always destined for the family firm (Morley Printing & Writing Service) he spent time at Technical College in Wands worth, then a year or two in Egypt on National Service.

He married Jean Lewis in 1952. Settling in Earley, Reading. They raised three sons, David, Christopher and Peter.

Upon his father's death in 1961 John took over the Company. In 1978 an opportunity to retire early presented itself so, his sons having declined to follow in his corporate footsteps, John sold the business. Four years later, in 1982, Jean and John moved to Aldwick Bay on the south coast.

Living close to the sea front allowed John to spend a great deal of time sailing and walking. Dedicated to travelling as little as possible, John took up various hobbies including woodturning and spoiling his grandchildren.

John died on 15 December 2001.

Editorial

The Head Master's letter gives a summary of the recent and superb OFSTED report on the School. It is very clear, as our President, Dudley Bruton, has said in his letter, this remarkable achievement is first and foremost a product of Andrew Linnell's leadership, supported by the brilliance of his staff. He has rightly focused his school on achieving excellence in the new era.

Andrew also writes about the matter of Saturday morning school, making clear the reasons for its incipient demise, and asserting that Reading School will "always be ready to embrace change and make the difficult decisions required to keep it a top state maintained school". We have a part to play here. OR events, which occur over the weekends, will require more thought.

There are four future events that I would draw to your attention. The Service of thanksgiving for the life of John Bristow will allow us to celebrate the pivotal roll he played in the saving of Reading School. The reception in the House of Lords will be a rare, and possibly historic, opportunity for us to meet. The dinner, at which Phil Bennett will speak, to celebrate 25 years of sport at Reading School will be hugely convivial, and will help to raise funds for the South African Rugby tour. It is pleasant to note that the tour has already benefited by donations amounting to £1,250 from OR sources. The forthcoming Remembrance Service will allow us to pay our respects in our own Chapel led by our own Chaplain.

The dedication of the Kemp memorial, followed so closely and poignantly by the death of Ian Kemp, formed part of a characteristically zestful presidential year for Denis Moriarty. It was followed by an Annual Dinner at which the dining room was filled to capacity and resounding with enjoyment. Both are signs of a renewal of enthusiasm for the event to which our President, Dudley Bruton, had brought Tony Nokes, the Chairman of the Reading Foundation, to speak to us and Dr. Philip Mitchell, the Chairman of the School Governors, to be our guest.

The launch of 'Old School Ties' brought ORs, Friends of Reading School, the Reading School Parents' Association and the Staff together in the New Library. It was organised by Beverley Taylor, the School Librarian, and was helped considerably because it was sponsored by the Head Master and by Fine Wines. Even Andrew Linnell would concede that the latter sponsor was the most influential!

In all this change it is for the ORs to be guardians of the history of the School. In its magnificent response to the Big

School Appeal our Association has demonstrated its interest in the restoration of the Victorian core of the Waterhouse building. We have some way to go before our work here is complete. Even so we must look forward to supporting the Governors in their future work on the fabric of the School. In doing so we might recognise that the restoration of Chapel would be a worthy and important project for us.

In this issue the editors have attempted to offer a forum to a broad spectrum of our membership, from those who are at university and at the commencement of their careers to those who are recalling theirs in the repose of retirement. If we are to recruit more School leavers we must offer them more space in the Old Redingensian.

Prizes and Gifts of books to the School

ORs are sometimes disappointed to find the Prize List at Reading School is full. The School finds itself embarrassed by turning down offers of further prizes because it genuinely welcomes financial help. There are ways in which ORs can achieve their purpose and the boys benefit therefrom. It is best to make sure that the money is well used by offering to support a particular department or particular pressing need. For example, an offer of funds to the Director of Music, which he might spend at his discretion, to support a boy who might not be able to afford lessons or an instrument would be very well received. The funds could easily be dedicated to someone's memory. The Head Master or the Council of the OR Association would be able to help in this regard if consulted. (Via the Head Master's Secretary 0118 901 5600)

Gifts of books for the School Library are most welcome. Times, however, have changed since many of us began to accumulate our own libraries or formed our taste in reading. A call to the Librarian, Beverly Taylor, at School (0118 901 5600) would be the essential first step for those contemplating donations or the purchase of a book to commemorate an OR. Ideally, of course, it would be best to leave the choice of title to her and she will gladly make and affix bookplates as desired.

The OR Web Site is back www.oldredingensians.org.uk

The site has been out of commission for some time since Christmas. It is now back in business though, at the time of writing, incomplete. Brian Titchener, the Web Master, sends his apologies to all those who have attempted to make contact when it was not working.

John Oakes

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Membership Secretary:

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