# THE OLD REDINGENSIAN



King of England Benefactor of Reading School 1486

#### The President's Letter

I am delighted to have been accepted as President of the OR Association for 2007 and to contribute to the institution that is Reading School. In so doing, I am conscious that, whilst I have been a Council member for the last two years, I have been very much "in absentia" due to work commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership and outline my thoughts upon our direction for this coming year.

For background, I was a pupil at Reading School from 1978-85 and influenced by several Masters who are now pillars of OR life such as John Oakes, Bob Lewis and Mike Evans. I ended my time at the School as Captain of West House and Cadet RSM of the CCF. Commissioned into the Army in 1987, I have served all over the World and currently command 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps, based in Colchester. We are part of the Air Assault Brigade and deployed on operations in Afghanistan last summer. I am married to Jackie and have two children, Adam who currently attends Colchester Royal Grammar School, and Gemma, who will start at the Colchester Girls High School (also a grammar) this September.

In my time on the Council I have been impressed by the selflessness and commitment of a determined band of Association members who organise and drive the events upon our calendar. Much of this work is time consuming and unseen but is essential to ensuring the vibrancy that makes the Association such a success. I am delighted that individuals such as Chris Widdows, David Cox, Adrian Leach and Ian Moore have agreed to continue in their roles and salute the efforts of Gareth Price and Michael Maule in making the Council what it is today. Fresh ideas and perspectives are essential to maintaining that momentum and we have been fortunate to find several new members for Council this year, who each have much to offer.

To my mind the Association is both a club and a support organisation. The former allows many of us to continue friendships forged in our teenage years and to form new relationships with individuals, of whatever age group, who share a common educational bond. The latter allows us to give something back to the School both philosophically and in terms of resources. The support to recent capital projects, including last year's refurbishment of the Pavilion, combined with the growth of the Enterprise Awards scheme are tangible demonstrations of our commitment to pupils and School alike. John Weeds, the new Headmaster,



is very positive about harnessing our support along with Governors, parents and the Foundation to realise further benefits for the School.

I intend to follow the programme of sporting and social events that has become familiar to the membership but look to increase attendance where possible. I also hope to expand Cricket Week to include additional activities that will appeal to other elements of the Association. The backbone of any plans is the membership and we will look to continue the growth in members by resurrecting previous initiatives such as the "shepherd" scheme and appealing directly to boys in their final year. Finally, I feel that we might benefit from understanding how other organisations approach these issues and will look to forge links with similar old boys clubs.

I trust this gives you a feel for my views and would welcome any feedback you might have.

Floreat Redingensis!

Neale Jouques OBE

## **Enterprise Awards**

The OR Association is again financing Enterprise Awards in 2007, with this year a budget of £6000. Major awards will be up to £500 and minor awards up to £150.

The actual size of the poster reproduced opposite is 420mm x 296mm and one has been placed in every classroom. They are in full colour against an attractive Reading School blue and white background.

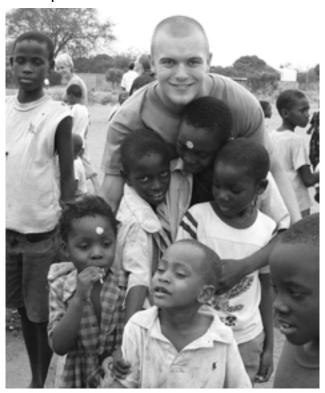
Students' applications for 2007 are now being evaluated by a panel of Michael Maule, John Illman CMG, Tony Waring, Buffy Price and John Weeds, Headmaster. Members will be kept informed by the journal.

The last issue gave details of the awards for 2006 and feedback from successful applicants has indicated the importance that the OR Council place on the scheme and the belief that it provides immediate and invaluable opportunities to Reading School boys. An example may be drawn from a cogent report written with insight and humour by James Barry who visited Tanzania. He describes his trip as 'life changing' and indeed, 'the best experience of my life.'

There have been some generous gifts from ORs to help finance the scheme: it has proved to be money very well spent indeed and a practical way to bring positive benefits to the boys and the School.



Craig Nightingale, one of the two 2006 major award winners writes below about his experiences.



## Life in Africa

Life in Africa can be described in one word, incredible. The first part of my trip was to South Africa, near a town called Tzaneen. I worked at the Riverside Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre, here we helped all sorts of injured or orphaned animals, but worked mainly with primates. There were over 400 vervet monkeys, and several orphaned baboon babies which needed our care.

The aim of the centre was to rehabilitate these primates, and eventually reintroduce them into national parks and game reserves in troops of up to 40 members.

This centre received no help from the government, no funding, and if anything was hindered by the long-winded bureaucracy involved in releasing animals back into the wild in South Africa. The only way the centre kept operating was through charitable donations, and the efforts of volunteers. That is where I came in.



I lived in the centre and worked for them in return for food and accommodation. Our days started by cleaning all the monkey enclosures, including a large enclosure filled with over 30 baby vervets. We had to go into the enclosure and clean the floors, branches, and swings in the area. Meanwhile, babies were jumping all over us, playing with each other and with us.

The rest of the day would be spent on a range of jobs. These might be micro-chipping new/young monkeys, building new enclosures, collecting food for

the animals, or helping with operations and general healthcare of the monkeys.

The baby baboons needed a lot of help. They were animals which had been taken away from the mothers to be kept as pets; people would kill the mother, and then take the baby. However, they soon found that they were not the best pets, and would call us to come and take them away. We would have to try and replace their mothers by bottle feeding them, and caring for them. We would interact with them to try and teach them the sort of life skills they will need in the wild.

At the end of my time at the centre, I left with a new respect for the people who do this job through vocation, and a great sympathy for the animals.

My next stop was Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Here I worked at the Lion Breeding and Rehabilitation programme, under 'African Impact'.

In the first half of the 20th century, there were over 500,000 lions roaming around Africa, but, now the population is closer to 20,000. This is due to man developing the land which used to be the lions' home; furthermore, hunting and killing of lions is not illegal in most places in Africa.



The aim of this project was to reintroduce a population of lions into the national parks, to help increase the number of lions, and, more importantly, increase their genetic diversity.

We spent our days walking with the lions out in the bush, teaching them how to live in the wild. This included social interactions, hunting, and defending their food. It was the most incredible experience of my life. We interacted with the lions as if we were all part of a big pride, including disciplining them, being affectionate, and ensuring that there was a strong mutual respect between us and the lions.

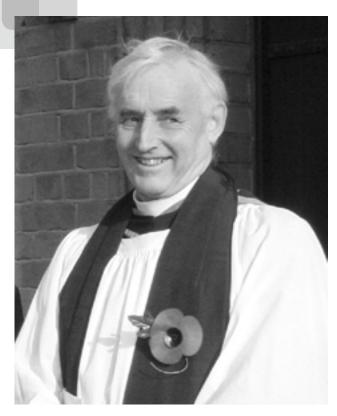
When I tell people about this, they often assume that the lions were tame. This certainly was not the case. Firstly, there is no such thing as a tame lion, but secondly the whole point of the programme was to keep them wild so that when they got old enough for the later stages of the programme, they would be self sufficient.

We also helped in local schools to educate the children about the wildlife that lives around them, and the role they have in making sure that this amazing environment is not lost to man's greed. We even got a chance to help out at an orphanage in Zambia. Here the unofficial AIDS rate is near 80%. These children had nothing, with very little hope of ever having a prosperous life, yet they never stopped smiling. If you

ever need a reminder of how ungrateful we are, then look no further than these children who cared only for a friendly face, a hug, just some love. This was the most uplifting experience I have ever come across, it was impossible not to leave the orphanage feeling a new sense of appreciation for life and everything in it

The way the lion programme worked was by taking cubs from their mothers at 6 weeks old, and then to this centre, where they are hand reared. Here, people pay money to come and see the lions up close. This is a necessary evil, as it is the only form of income for the organisation, although this extra human contact is not that beneficial for the lions' development. Once the lions reach about 18 months old, having been taught the basics of hunting, they go onto the next stage which teaches them all about night hunting. After this, they go into stage 3, where they are released onto a 10,000 acre piece of land in groups of 10-12, and make up their own pride. Here, there is no human contact, but plenty of prey species on which to hone their hunting skills. Stage 4 happens a couple of years later, after the pride has had cubs and brought them up in a completely wild environment. These cubs are then taken from the pride at the age of 2-3 years old, and put in the national parks to replenish the lion populations. It is a long term project, aimed at restoring the lion to his rightful place, as The King of Africa. Craig Nightingale

## **Notes & News**



The Association is pleased to welcome Rev David R Hemsley AKC (1945-55) as the new Honorary Chaplain. David had made an all round contribution, particularly to East House, when he left school. He spent two years in the REME and then trained for the priesthood, being ordained in Bristol Cathedral. Not only has he many years experience of parish life but he has also served extensively on school governing bodies. He is the brother of Lt Col P R Hemsley (1943-51) and the son of G R Hemsley (1917-23).

One time Membership Secretary Michael Naxton (1959-67) author of The History of Reading School and a former director at Sotheby's, appeared on the recent Channel 5 TV programme Victoria Cross Heroes in his role as Curator of the Ashworth VC Collection, which is overwhelmingly the largest of its kind.

Simon Oliver (1969-76), who was a long serving Honorary Secretary of the Association, is now sitting as a Recorder at Reading Crown Court in addition to his other duties in the field of education and family law.

Mark Field (1976-83) MP, for the Cities of London and Westminster, Guest Speaker at the 2006 Annual Dinner, has announced his engagement to be married. Mark and his brother Dominic (1982-84) are the sons of the late Major Peter Field (1941-51).

R A Wicks (1978-83) has been commissioned as a late entry officer and will be deploying to Afghanistan shortly, as a Captain in the Royal Anglian Regiment.



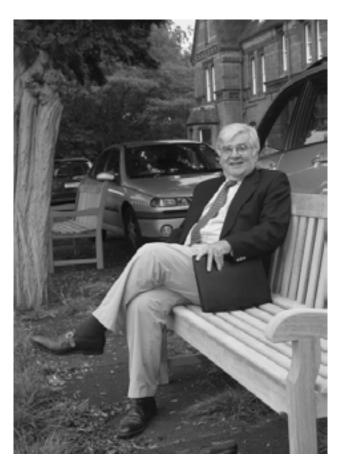
Dick Wilder (1934-39) who died in 2001 (obituary The Old Redingensian October 2001) was a most likeable man who maintained an enduring interest in the School. In 1993-94 he was President of the Old Redingensians Association. A memoir of his life up to 1946, that he had prepared, has now been issued, with some additional material, as a 44 page booklet, by his son George. George, and Dick's widow Pat, who is the copyright holder, have generously decided to donate proceedings from the sale of the booklet to the Old Redingensians Association. Some notes on life in Reading 1923 -1946 Reading School 1934-1940 and The Royal Navy 1942-1946 is available at £2.75 post free direct from George Wilder, Kelvin, Toppesfield Road, Great Yeldham, HALSTEAD, CO9

4HD. Cheques should be made payable to George Wilder.

Two former masters, who also worked selflessly for the Association over many years, and are both Past Presidents, reach illustrious landmarks this year. Frank Terry – FHT – on the staff 1946-82, will be 90 on 5 April and Vic Payne – VRCP – OR (1938-45) on the staff (1959-83) will be 80 on 13 August.

Also 80, (27 February) is Kerr Kirkwood former editor of the journal and indefatigable Hon Sec of the Association.

Following receipt of donations from six ORs and the families of two late ORs, eight new hardwood benches now adorn the terrace in front of Big School, and nearby areas. Suitable brass plaques have been affixed. This initiative, supported by Council, was carried through by Michael Maule, with the practical end of providing replacements for benches that have fallen into disrepair. (The OR Council welcomes all such ideas to help meet immediate needs of the School).



One of the new benches (John Oakes received no fee!)

## MAJOR GENERAL (Rtd) MURRAY LESLIE WILDMAN CBE BSc(Eng) CEng Eur Ing FIEE FIMat MinstD OR (1958-65)



Maj Gen and Mrs Wildman

Murray and his twin, Peter, (now Gp Capt Wildman RAF (Rtd) and living in France) were in South House. His school career was one of all-round achievement, from Captain of Boats to the Boulting Medal for Drama; but for the purposes of this snapshot it is most significant that he also rose to become CSM of the Corps.

Maj Gen Wildman spent 34 years in the Army, graduating from RMCS Shrivenham, being commissioned into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and operating mainly in the logistics and equipment support field. Senior appointments included Director of Equipment Support MOD, Defence Adviser to the British High Commissioner in South Africa, and Director General Whole Fleet Management MOD.

Currently he is Chairman of the CCF Association, President of the TA Rifle Association, Chairman of Fundraising for the Army Benevolent Fund in Wiltshire and deploys his expertise, as a Defence Consultant, through his company Defence Business Solutions Ltd.

Murray married Lindsay in 1974 and they now live in Salisbury and France. He finds time for a wide range of interests including his passions for skiing and for classic and sports cars.

The School Corps, founded in 1900 and historically a strong contingent, is now of reduced numbers and an 'out of hours' activity. It is a tribute to those concerned that high standards have been maintained and a matter of pride that one of its own is now Chairman of the CCFA; a doughty defender to count upon. By a happy coincidence the School contingent is presently affiliated to REME – Murray Wildman's old Corps.

In 1906 the School Corps was inspected by Earl Roberts of Kandahar VC One hundred years later this duty fell, aptly, to Maj Gen Wildman. KCB



## OLD REDINGENSIANS ASSOCIATION

#### OUR MISSION

To maintain and develop an active and diverse old boys' association capable of fully supporting the pupils and staff of Reading School.

#### OUR AIMS

- Through a clear reflection of the Social and Sporting needs of all age groups to encourage ORs to become more involved with social meetings, events and activities.
- Whilst helping to maintain the School's heritage, ensure a modern approach to all activities and communications, ensuring younger age group participation.
- Encourage adventurousness, creativity and leadership in
- pupils, mainly through the support for overseas sporting tours and the Enterprise Awards initiative.
- Fully support the Headmaster and Staff and actively develop working links with Governors, Reading Foundation, Parents & Friends of Reading School.
- Ensure that all our transactions demonstrate financial and legal probity.

#### **Events**

#### 19 October 2006 - ORs Revisit CCF Field Day



Lynx Helicopter taking off from Caesars Camp

Wing Commander Tom Walter, Officer Commanding Reading School CCF Contingent, kindly allowed your Editors to observe 'Exercise Alpha' and the General Inspection of the Corps – this year held 'in the field' - on Field Day, near Tweseldown in the Aldershot Training Area so familiar to cadets down the years.



CSM Passenger

At 11:30 hours on a rain-sodden, but ultimately clear and pleasant day, ex Staff Sergeant Brown and ex Corporal Widdows arrived where Headquarters had been established to be welcomed by Wing Commander Clive Cousins, Cadet Harkirit Bopharai and Captain (Rtd) Graham Sale, once of the Royal Greenjackets, who

lends his long military experience to the Corps as Administrative Officer.

Ian Judd OR (1962-69) and a Master at the School since 1975 was i/c victuals and we were soon clutching mugs of tea and finding our first School field day for 40-odd years wholly familiar. Back then we might have been part of a Pioneer Party sent out the night before; that this no longer happens seems eminently wise...

Exercise Alpha involved six teams, rotating between six stands to undertake a dedicated exercise at each. They were assessed for their success in the task, military skills, timekeeping, teamwork and tactical movement, and found that there was a Major General – M L Wildman OR - reviewing their performance.

Woven into the schedule was a very different activity;

from the eminence of Caesar's Camp, Captain James Barr of the Army Air Corps took parties of cadets aloft in a Gazelle helicopter. We accompanied Wing Commander Walter – admiring his enthusiastic handling of the minibus – on the run out to see the first flight and found Deputy Head Ashley Robson determined not to miss this occasion to compensate for not having been present when Alex Warner OR famously landed an Apache helicopter on the School Field.



Maj Gen Wildman addresses the final parade

The Contingent was scheduled to parade back at HQ for 15:00 hours. We were impressed by their drill and appearance, the haphazard terrain and difficult conditions underfoot not withstanding. CSM Josh Passenger (who plans a career in the Royal Navy) must take credit for this performance under the eyes of Major General Wildman, himself a former CSM of the Corps.

Major General Wildman took 'SMILE' as the theme for his address Skill, Motivation, Initiative. Leadership and Enthusiasm - a mnemonic he has found relevant throughout his career. He stressed the importance of effort and enjoyment and his belief that the purpose of the CCF (and Major



Maj Gen Wildman

General Wildman is Chairman of the Combined Cadet Forces Association) is to turn cadets into better citizens. He was very well received and given, loudly, the customary three cheers.

We thank Wing Commanders Walter and Cousins who enabled us to have a most interesting (and nostalgic) day. KCB/CJW

#### The Commemoration Service

The annual service, in memory of the School's Founders and Benefactors, was held on Friday, October 13th. The town thronged with Reading School boys making their way to the Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in the Butts; one of those rare occasions when they are seen en masse outside the School. This spectacle is much as it ever has been; largely grey suited, noisier perhaps — but this is arguable — less tidy, certainly. The modern boy likes his shirt outside his trousers, if he can get away with it, and to have his tie anywhere above the first button below his shirt collar is anathema to him, until, that is, a corporate sense of occasion is impressed upon him.

The School Chaplain, Rev Dr. Neil Applegate, welcomed the large congregation, which included guests and the Mayoral party, and gave the Bidding Prayer. The first reading was by the Headmaster, Mr. John Weeds, and a later reading by the School Captain. The sermon was delivered in practiced fashion by former Headmaster, Dr Peter Mason, now Principal

of Stamford Endowed Schools. Prior to the sermon, two personal tributes were given.

The first was by Duncan Cook of Year 13, reflections made in an impressively assured manner, and the second by OR President Buff Price who compared



'then' (his schooldays) with 'now'. As with the boys coming through the town there was difference in detail, but little in essence. Human clay does not change, and fortunately there are still schools such as Reading to mould it.

The music throughout was of a high order, appropriate to our Minster Church – founded AD 979, and another constant feature of Reading. After the service, guests attended a reception in the Mayor's Parlour. KCB

#### Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2006

A crisp and bright November day found the congregation in Chapel more varied, and larger, than in recent years. The deep significance this occasion emphasised by the usual presence of serving ORs, amongst them Lt Col N A Jouques (1978-85), lately returned from Afghanistan. The Headmaster, Mr John Weeds MA, was present and among the guests Maj Gen and Mrs Wildman.

The Ven Peter Coombs PP OR (1939-47), Hon Chaplain OR Association, presided, and introduced Revd Colin Hill OBE OR (1939-44), former Chaplain to HM The Queen, whose sermon included well received reminiscences of

School and Military life. He spoke with persuasion of the need to teach the succeeding generation a belief in public service; he regretted the prevalence of 'the stunted soul in the well nourished body'.

Gareth Price OR (1948-56) President of the OR Association read the lesson, and the morning was



Maj Gen Wildman, Lt Col Jouques, Cadet F/Sgt Illiff, The Rev Canon Hill, Gareth Price, The Ven Coombs

enhanced by the organ playing of Philip Aspden, Director of Music, and the sounding of the Last Post, and Reveille, by Lewis Anderson (Form 10E).

Tea and biscuits were served afterwards in 'Junior School' (now the Music School). KCB

#### The 118th Annual General Meeting 25 November 2006

Thirty Officers and Members, and one visitor, were at Thames Valley University, Crescent Road, Reading, for the AGM chaired by Michael Maule. Apologies for absence were read out by the Hon Sec, David Cox.

All present stood in silence for one minute, to mark the passing of twenty-one members during the last year, before discussing and approving the minutes of the previous AGM.

The Chairman, supplying the Report of Council for 2006, referred to a financially satisfactory year, the support of many OR and School initiatives and the continuing success of the Enterprise Awards Scheme. Comments of the outgoing President, Buffy Price, were followed by prolonged applause for his leadership in office.

Ian Moore, Honorary Treasurer, presented the Trustees Report and Accounts which, following questions answered to the satisfaction of members, was accepted with no votes against.

Membership Secretary, Chris Widdows, now administrating a total membership of 1,156 was warmly thanked, both for his report and dedicated work. The

Social Secretary and various Sports Representatives were all able to report success in numerous events – all recorded in this journal – promoted over the last year. Cricket Week, in particular, was outstanding in both playing and social terms, a tribute to Terry Cartwright and Andy Northway, and in 2007 will again provide the background, and be part of, major events on the Association's summer calendar.

There followed the election of the President and Officers for 2007(detailed on our rear cover), and of five new members of Council, brief profiles of whom appear below. In addition two retiring members, Terry Cartwright and Alistair Wrenn, were unanimously reelected, and Messrs Evans, Lunnon and Northway continue their terms of office.

Following re-election of the Auditors, James Cowper, a vote of thanks was given by John Illman CMG PP, on behalf of the Association, to retiring Chairman, Michael Maule PP, for his exceptional contribution, year on year, in the most senior and demanding offices of the Association.

The meeting then closed, there being no further business. KCB

#### **Profiles of New Council Members**



#### N A (NEIL) BROWN (1994-01)

Neil was an active member of West House, taking part in the elocution and music competitions at every stage of his school career, as well as representing the School at both hockey and rugby.

After leaving school, Neil went to the University of Southampton, where he read law; it was during this time he found an interest in computing and communication, resulting in a change in career path from family law to IT and intellectual property. Besides studying, Neil held an executive position in the Students' Union, taking responsibility for the wide range of societies at Southampton. He also participated in a variety of stage and open-air shows, advising on the use of special effects and teaching and performing with the juggling club.

After graduating, he attended law school in Guildford for a year, before joining Vodafone in 2005, where he is currently half way through his two year training contract. On completion in September 2007, he hopes to remain with Vodafone, providing legal support to their research and development team. Neil currently lives in Earley.



#### **DRIHO (HUW) PRICE (1982-89)**

After Reading School Huw studied medicine at Cambridge University and The Royal London. After qualifying he worked in and around London before doing assignments in Australia, Burma and Morocco. He is now a registrar in the HIV / GUM Clinical Directorate of the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital which is the largest specialist HIV unit in Europe, enjoying a worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence in both the care of HIV-positive patients and a wide range of associated clinical research.

Huw is the son of Buffy Price (1948-56) PP.

#### C A (CEDRIC) SCROGGS (1952-59)

Cedric is a former School Captain (1959) and Sir Thomas White Scholar at St John's College, Oxford. On graduation in English he joined AEI-Hotpoint moving to General Foods in Banbury and then to Cadbury's in Birmingham as Marketing Director. His next move was to British Leyland as Cars Marketing Director shortly after nationalisation. Subsequently he was Managing Director, Fisons Scientific Equipment Division, and eventually Chief Executive of Fisons plc.

Cedric has held numerous non-executive directorships, including with Caradon plc, The Milk Marketing Board, Genus plc (where he was Deputy Chairman), Montpellier Group plc (as Chairman), Sarginsons plc (Deputy Chairman), Muller Dairy Ltd, Huntsworth plc and several NHS Trusts. He is a former Visiting Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. He lives near Wallingford with his wife Trish. They have three children, all married and five grandchildren.



#### **B (BARRIE) SHELTON (1950-53)**

Always a keen sportsman (and goalkeeper for the 1st XI during another period when Association Football flourished at School) Barrie was a playing and committee member for both the OR rugby and cricket (Capt 2nd XI) clubs. More recently he has rowed as a veteran novice for Henley RC. After the Oxford School of Architecture his career embraced work on contracts as diverse as a missile complex and domestic extensions. He was also chairman of the Planning Committee for Remenham PC. Married with one daughter, now, in retirement he collects 78rpm gramophone records and plays in the Tropico Steel band. A previous officer of the ORs he served on Council in the 1960s and 70s.

#### **W E (WILL) LUNN (1951-58)**

Will has been elected for a full term but is of course no stranger to Council service, with a profile appearing as recently as the Februarys 2006 issue of The Old Redingensian.



#### **Annual Dinner 25 November 2006**



John Weeds, Oliver Jest, Mark Field

The Social Secretary, Adrian Leach (1975-82) enabled 71 members and guests to enjoy each other's company at the Thames Valley University, in Crescent Road, (formerly Reading College, and the same venue as last year). Most of the practical facilities that are so hard to find together, are provided here.

OR President Lt Col Neale Jouques OBE (1978-85) proposed the Loyal Toast, and responded to the toast of the OR Association proposed by Rodney Huggins PP (1944-52). Mark Field MP (1976-83) was this year's guest speaker proposing the toast to the School, and the Headmaster, John Weeds MA responded. (Members were pleased to see Mrs Sarah Weeds and Mrs Mary Chaplin, School Governor, amongst the guests).

Oliver Jest, Captain of School, received the customary OR gift from the President, and the occasion was also used to make a presentation of an engraved glass tankard to the retiring Honorary OR Chaplain, The Venerable Peter Coombs PP (1939-47). A short appreciation of Peter appears below.

The School Song was enthusiastically sung, and there was ample time, both before and after the meal, for discussion, reminiscence and laughter. KCB







R L Towner (2nd), M H W Maule (1st) and R P Lunn (3rd) re-enact the 100 yards Open of 1959 (you just can't stop 'em)

## The Ven Peter Coombs MA - A Short Appreciation

Peter entered the Junior School in 1939, and left in 1947 as School Captain, Captain of the 1st XV, CSM, and Captain of West House, setting the standards of leadership that he still maintains.

After National Service (he was commissioned) and teacher training and practice, he gained a degree in Theology at Bristol University and studied further at Clifton. There followed a curacy, two incumbencies, a Rural Deanship and two postings as Archdeacon before his retirement in 1995. In 1997 he served as President of the OR Association, and since his year of office has led nearly all the major services at School that have involved the ORA, including the annual Remembrance Service.

He accepted the role of Chaplain to the OR Association in 2002 and now, though only his birth certificate gives testament to the prospect of his 80th year, he considers an appropriate time to step down has arrived. We nonetheless hope and expect to see Peter and Catherine just as often as we did before. KCB/CJW



#### Gambit



C A Nightingale

The British Correspondence Chess Association celebrated their Centenary last year. The summer number of their magazine 'Correspondence Chess' included 'the story of a very special member – Cyril Nightingale', to whom they devoted no less than eight pages.

Better known to ORs as 'Birdie', C A Nightingale taught at school for 40 years (1920-60). Whilst his reputation as a chess player was well known, perhaps few realise that in the world of correspondence chess he had been something of a Titan, setting 'astonishing records'.

In their Handicap Tourney, which he twice won, he was a prize winner for 15 seasons, with numerous 'best games'. He played in, and won, Knockout Tourneys, challenged for honours in Trophies Tourneys, competed in European tournaments, the Irish C C Championships and, in his last season with BCCA (1950-51) the British C C Championship.

Additionally he was very active 'over the board', and not only in BCCA. teams. He was Secretary of the Berkshire Chess Association from 1935-50 and a member of Reading Chess Club, regularly playing board 2 or 3 for Berkshire and winning the Cadogan Cup (Berkshire Individual Championship) in 1946.

The BCCA. remain eager for information on 'Birdie' – so reminiscences, please, on him and on chess at School in general. It dates back a very long way as an organised activity and its 'Van Meurs' Cup was the gift of a noted exponent of the game. By the 1930's – under 'Birdie' – the School regularly won the Berks/Bucks Shield and, with the award of the British Chess Federation Shield became one of the leading chess schools in the country. D K Green (1931-37) was playing for Berkshire whilst at School and was eventually runner-up in the British Boys Open Championship.

C E Kemp, Headmaster during most of 'Birdie's' time was another very distinguished player, notably in the field of problem chess. What of other individuals and achievements? We ask you to let us know.... KCB



## **School News**

#### The 2006-2007 School Year

There are 878 boys in the school, at present, distributed between four houses.

Captain of School is	O D Jest
Vice Captain of School	H F Hoskins

Captain of County House H F Hoskins
Captain of East House M Mikhail
Captain of School House M O S Wilson
Captain of West House D P Haynes

The teaching staff comprises the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, four Assistant Headteachers and 62 other teachers. Additionally, the visiting teaching staff include a French Assistant, a German Assistant and 15 Music specialists. There are 19 Departments including Careers, Citizenship, Drama and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Economics and Business Studies, Information Technology, and Technology, in addition to PE and Games, Music, Art and Design, and traditional academic subjects.

Support staff – administrative and others – number 29. The CCF also has the administrative services of a retired officer.

The School Year divides into Michaelmas (Terms 1 & 2), Lent (Terms 3 & 4) and Summer (Terms 5 & 6). There is a break between each term. The School Week runs from Monday to Friday.

Whilst boys are taught in subject classes each also has a tutor to oversee all their work. Tutor groups are arranged by House, as follows:

7C	7E	7S	7W	(First Year)
8C	8E	8S	8W	(Second Year)
9C	9E	9S	9W	(Third Year)
10C	10E	10S	10W	(Fourth Year)
11C	11E	11S	11W	(Fifth Year)

The above average about thirty boys each. The sixth and seventh years (12 & 13) break down into 16 Tutor Groups of about 17 boys each, again on a House basis. Thus Tutor Group 12/13 JBE has 18 County House boys and 12/13 JHC the remaining 17 County House boys in those years; - the initials being those of the Tutor.

The School Day starts at 8.25 am with registration, followed (depending on the daily arrangement for Year and House) by Chapel, Assembly or Tutor Group at 8.30 and the first period of work at 8.50. A second period follows before break (5 minutes) at 10.10, two periods before a 25 minute break at 11:30 and two more before lunch at 1.10 pm. Afternoon registration is at 1.55, period 7 starts at 2.05 and the final period ends at 3.25.

School Clubs and Societies meet in the lunchtime or after school. Games are spread throughout the week though major sports fixtures are normally scheduled for a 2.30 pm start on the appropriate day.

#### Some Recent Activities...

The 1st XV captained by Oliver Jest enjoyed a mixed season: W 5 D 0 L 6
Two wins in the Daily Mail Cup brought the School up against a Wellington College side that is currently

amongst the best in England. A competitive first half gave way to a heavy defeat for the School which heralded a losing streak to the end of the season. Mark Mikhail was voted Player of the Year.

Though there were relatively few fixtures the School's representative Basketball sides had a successful term.

The Sixth Form staged "Dealer's Choice" by Patrick Marber over four nights. The play is set in a London restaurant and explores the lives of six men. It was an extracurricular production acted, directed and produced by the boys.

Four members of the Bridge Club have been selected for the British under-20 squad.

Year 13 (once the 7th Form) have 17 boys with offers from Oxbridge dependent on their A Level results. The School have been ranked in the top 1% for progress in the sixth form on the current 'value added' assessment.

Ben Pennington (13AGM) and Christopher Hansford (13BCP) gained a silver and a bronze respectively at the British Physics Olympiad.

Mandarin is now offered as an after-school option. With schools in Iceland, Belgium and Poland there is a partnership with the 'the No1 1 High School, Xian', an establishment with over 8000 students. Parties of Chinese teachers have visited the School and a party of pupils from the partner school in Iceland, also, following the School's visit there earlier in the year. A group will attend language school in Kunming, China, this summer.

Local links are also vital to what the School is trying to do. Local secondary schools are now sending students for after school booster classes, and Redlands Primary School has a flourishing after school club once a week in the Library run by Reading School boys. Others visit Newtown School to deliver parts of the Primary School National Curriculum in Science. At the opposite end of the age range a 'silver surfers' computer club, using School facilities is provided.

Entrants in the national 'Young Enterprise' competition have to form, promote and manage their own company. One of the School's teams – eight 16-17 year olds whose company 'King of Clubs' specialises in running events – is the Reading Area winner and goes forward to the County finals on 10 May. They were judged to be of 'exceptional calibre'. Another Reading School team 'Spark' won the Thames Water Environmental Achievement Award.

In July the Science Club will go to South Africa to erect the wind turbine that they have been building on Tuesdays at School for the last two years.

Under the funded Comenius Programme the School is working with four other schools (in Belgium, Poland, Germany and Norway) on an environmental issues scheme project. In November the Polish school was visited, in April Belgium will be visited and next September Reading will be hosts.

Work Experience Week for year-12 saw ten Reading boys and ten Kendrick girls working in a Paris suburb while living with local families. Placements included schools, restaurants and the local Maison de la Presse.

(From information supplied by E S Holt, Head of Sixth Form; D T Swan, Master i/c Rugby; D R W Carrick, P E and Games; Mrs J M Capon, Drama & PSHE; Mrs H K Bradley, French; S J Longstaff, Chemistry; Mr M J Ruddick, Physics and others – Ed)

## The Headmaster's Letter



Now that I have been in post for over six months, it seemed high time to reflect on events to date and share some thoughts with you about where we are at the moment and where I would like us to go. For the second year running, we have been ranked the highest performing boys' state school in the country, after final publication for the DfES Performance Tables in January. Our performance both at GCSE and A-level in terms of raw results and value-added has been improving year-on-year and was once again of a very high order last summer. The challenge is to sustain this level of achievement and define the quality of our provision in increasingly subtle ways. That is why I am so delighted about our value added performance.

My first impression of the boys here is that they are highly intelligent, talented in at least one art, science or language (if not several) and often have an engagingly laconic sense of humour. Colleagues on the teaching and support staff have been unstintingly warm and supportive, whilst Governors and the Foundation have certainly listened appreciatively to my ideas, even if they have not always agreed! Gone are the days when a school Headmaster with a vision was regarded as a potential danger to society. Today having a vision is the very essence of the job! During the course of this term I have been celebrating with parents the key data about our examination performances, but also sharing some of the aspirations I have for the School over the next few years. So it seems only appropriate to share

with you, our Old Boys, some of the themes in the visionary thinking I have been doing over the last few months with senior colleagues and Governors alike.

There is something ironic about a school which, in academic terms, can compete with and surpass some of the very best schools in the independent and selective school sector, finding itself with an accommodation crisis and a potentially serious inability to renew and refurbish in key areas of its fabric. But this is the reality for Reading School today. It is not an exaggeration. Yes, it is possible to provide high quality teaching and learning with limited resources - we ourselves have done this successfully and, frankly, nobly for a number of years. But there comes a time, perhaps once in a generation, when we have to look around and ask: "Don't our boys, Old Boys, parents and teachers deserve better, after all the hard work and commitment which has been put in to gain for us our outstanding academic reputation?" I think we have reached that moment. In fact, I know it.

So what can be done? The first thing I have worked on is the production of a coherent, holistic strategy for the development of the School site as a whole. A Conservation Statement, a form of site survey but with a historical perspective, has been produced which has identified those areas of the site which could sustain development in a way which would not fall foul of the Heritage lobby. This I have shared with all the key stakeholders of the School - Governors, ORs, parents, teachers, pupils. This Statement will have been submitted to English Heritage before you read this and we will know if we can go to the next level – the drawing-up of some architectural plans for improved Science accommodation and a combined Sports Hall and Refectory. Such a strategy, if it comes to fruition (and I very much hope it does!), will of course come at a price. That is why I spend a lot of my time building a network of support for the School in the public and private sectors and ensuring that we do not miss the boat when opportunities come along to expand provision and gain funding for doing so. This will not on its own be sufficient, however. That is why I propose that we go into "Campaign mode" from September and embark on a major fundraising appeal; one that is professionally run and which draws on all those with a vested interest in seeing the School continue to grow in stature. A good way to start such a campaign is to devise a slogan to attract attention and unify support. I have always thought that Reading School was a good school with the capacity to be great. How about: "Good to Great"? Do let me know what you think! John Weeds

#### The Archive

Our School is significant in both the history of education and the history of our country. Clearly, in this context, the preservation and coordination of records is a responsibility. Modern technology allows storage and accessibility as never before. Your Council fully supports proposals to work with the School to achieve a dedicated Archive. Progress will be reported.

The Association is always grateful to receive printed and pictorial matter and ephemera of any sort relating to the School, and we have posted such a notice on the OR website, together with a request that 'spring cleaners', executors etc, particularly bear this in mind. All such items should be sent to K C Brown. Honorary Archivist, 11 Easington Drive, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3XN who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 966 7013 or by email at KCBrown11@aol.com.

Amongst material reviewed and acknowledged since our last issue there is an attractive etching of the School by A E Wardle. It was issued in some numbers but so far we have not been able to date it. Can anyone help?

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

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

The Wardle Etching



## A Naval Occasion

#### By Ken Brown

My good friend David Steer OR (1955-63) lost an uncle on HMS Hood. David, an old Portsmuthian as well as an old Redingensian, retains strong ties with his birthplace and from time to time joins the table organised by his cousin – that same uncle's daughter – at the annual HMS Hood Association reunion dinner.

The 48000 ton 'Mighty Hood', at one time the largest warship in the world, was sunk on 24 May 1941 by the German ships Bismarck and Prinz Eugen in Denmark Strait. All but three of the one thousand four hundred and eighteen strong crew perished. An OR, the splendidly named Merlin Ridge, once of West



Wing, was among the lost. David was aware of my interest in Merlin and I was delighted to receive an invitation last year from his cousin, Jeannie Winter, to join her table at the reunion dinner.

There were medals aplenty on display, the top table was

dinner-jacketed and possessed senior officers, and a KCMG for its guest of honour; but there was no hint of stuffy formality among the ninety or so present. This was a family occasion for those that had shared, however vicariously, in the life of a great ship on a great cause, and the appalling loss of young lives.

One of the latter was Merlin Francis Ridge, the son of Francis and Prudence Ridge of Berkshire. He was twenty-five years old, not long at sea, serving as a writer and hoping to get his commission. He was also engaged to be married. Merlin Ridge had been a boarder in West Wing from September 1930 to the end of 1933. He gained School rowing colours. Joining the London and Lancashire Insurance Company he became a chief clerk. Much leisure time was taken up with hockey of which he was a keen and able player for the Exiles club, and its Secretary for some years. This solid start in life was, as for so many, disrupted by the Second World War, when he joined the Pay Department of the Royal Navy.



At the dinner, in the Royal Sailors Home Club, Merlin's individual photograph, with brief details was displayed, as indeed was the same for each one of those fourteen hundred and fifteen lost shipmates, stretching far around the walls. Hard copies of the substantial website devoted to the Hood, books, documents and ephemera provided comprehensive information.

The President of the Hood Association, Ted Briggs MBE, is one of the three survivors of the sinking, now, indeed, he is the last remaining. When the Hood went down he was an eighteen year old; his life since has, I suppose, been defined by his extraordinary survival on that day in 1941.

But there were others present who had served on Hood before she was lost – the oldest being the remarkable one hundred and five year old Ex CPO William Stone, who was on board as long ago as 1922 and is robust, not only in mind and body, but in voice. He sang solo, as he is always called upon to do, to the assembled company – appropriately 'Abide with Me' and 'All the Nice Girls Love a Sailor' – tunefully and powerfully.



Ted Briggs and Bill Stone signed my menu, as did the Vice-Chairman Commander Keith Evans. My interest had been caught, while Cdr Evans was proposing the toast 'to absent friends', when he mentioned his own service on the Hood as a Paymaster Midshipman in 1938-39. I knew that another OR, Paymaster-Lieutenant D L Blowers had joined Hood in July 1938, so Keith Evans must surely have served under him (and both received postings elsewhere within a year or so of the fateful date). I buttonholed the Commander after the speeches; 'Oh, yes, I remember him well – 'Laundry' Blowers we called him'. Unfortunately I never learned why as, Keith revealing that he had been at Pangbourne Nautical College, local reminiscence then took over.

D L Blowers (OR 1919-28) had moved on in time to avoid the tragedy of the Hood: remarkably his brother Lt Cdr A F Blowers (OR 1919-24) had in 1939 survived the sinking of the Royal Oak, the first great naval loss of the war.

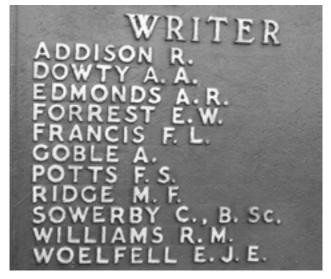
Indeed the Paymaster branch, RN seems to have a special affiliation with Reading School. A gold medal for the best examinee for the rank of Paymaster

Sub-Lieutenant was instituted in memory of Staff Paymaster J T Gedge, an OR reportedly the first British officer to be killed in the Great War when he went down on HMS Amphion 2 days after Great Britain declared war on Germany in 1914.

After the dinner, David and Jenni Steer and I stayed overnight at the Royal Beach Hotel, and the following day we visited the magnificent Portsmouth Naval Memorial. It is not often that day boys will pay tribute to a boarder, but we felt a strong sense of fellowship with Merlin as we stood, in pouring rain, before his name on panel 57, column 2. I renewed that fellowship later in the year with a visit to the Hood Memorial Chapel at Boldre in the New Forest.

#### Postscript:

The 2005 Trafalgar celebrations permitted a number of the public, to the exact tally of her crew on the day of the battle, to be on board HMS Victory. David Steer and I were amongst them and fell to wondering if there may have been an OR in Nelson's Band of Brothers 200 years before - on board Victory, perhaps not; elsewhere in the battle, maybe so. Intriguingly, Mary Russell Mitford in 'Belford Regis' (Reading) has a tale of a boy, Tom Lyndham, who, from the school of 'The Good Doctor' (Valpy), goes to sea and becomes a fighting Captain in the Napoleonic Wars. Was there a real life model for Tom...?



Part of Panel 57 Column 2 Portsmouth Naval Memorial

## Sport

#### **Annual OR Prizes For Reading School Athletics**

The number of annual OR athletics prizes awarded on Reading School's Sports Day has increased from two to five. The existing two Farmery Medals for 800m and 1500m commemorate Wing Commander H R Farmery OBE (1927-36) and his outstanding athletic achievements at School especially over the middle distances. The three new Maule medals are for the shorter distances: 100m. 200m and 400m.

Secretary of the OR Masonic Lodge. His son David (1964-71) attended Reading School.

The three new medals were sponsored by Michael Maule (1956-59), an erstwhile School Athletics Colour, whilst he was Chairman of the OR Association. They commemorate his late father's athletic achievements at School between 1926-35.



The Farmery Medals



The Maule Medals

In 1936 Henry Royston Farmery had the distinction of being the first boy at Reading School to win the open mile, the half mile and quarter mile in the same year. He was also a member of Reading Athletic Club: but for the events of the 1939-45 war he might have added full international status to the Club's roll of honour. He also played for the School 1st XV and later for the Metropolitan Police.

H R Farmery gave very loyal service to the OR Association, served on the OR Council and was

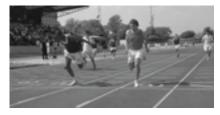
E H (Eric) Maule was a contemporary of H R Farmery and in later life a close friend of the family. A very good all rounder, he excelled at rugby and in 1934 was reported as having captained the most successful School 1st XV for eleven years. He played cricket for Berkshire whilst still at School and also represented the County at athletics. Eric was Champion of the Sports twice, Captain of Athletics and, as his son Michael was to do, won the Open 100 yards and 440 yards. He was also long jump and high jump Champion.

#### **Sports Day 2006**

Reading School Sports Day was held, at Palmer Park, on the hot Friday of 12 May between 1.00 pm-3.30 pm, organised by Darren Carrick, Director of Sport Reading School, and supported by a well organised team of Teachers acting as starters, timekeepers, recorders, announcers, marshals and judges. The

stands were filled by a raucous highly supportive and partisan group of pupils.

There were track and field events in all age groups and, whilst enthusiasm sometimes exceeded talent, a number of personal bests were achieved and some school records were broken.



Abraham Osho winning the 100m Maule Medal



Rory Buckley winning the 200m Maule Medal



Steven Garrett winning the 400m Maule Medal



Richard Chaytor winning the 800m Farmery Medal



Richard Chaytor receiving the 800m Farmery Medal from the OR President

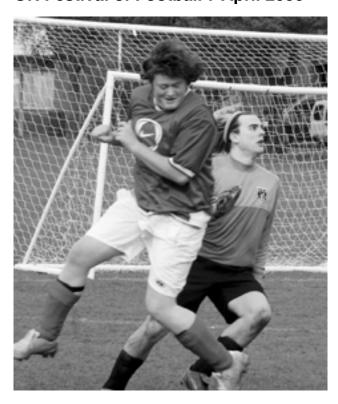


Henry Hoskins winning the 1500m Farmery Medal



Henry Hoskins receiving the 1500m Farmery Medal from the OR President

#### **OR Festival of Football 7 April 2006**



This is the second year of full support for the expanding soccer initiative at Reading School and based on the inaugural years experience we initiated a Five-a-Side Tournament together with a School XI vs. OR XI match competing for the President's Shield, which was held at Morgan Road on a chilly grey Friday 7th April.

The Five-a-Side teams were provided by Team Tilbury, Team Williams, Team Krauze and Team Hoare and based on a 'Round-Robin' tournament, with the final between the top two finishing teams and was contested at the half time of the 'big game'.

Memorably a number of five-a-side players also featured in the XI game. This year the winners were Team Hoare. Harry Hoare, also the skipper of the OR XI provoked, cajoled and motivated his fives

squad to challenge their tired limbs to ultimately come through as winners. No quarter was given, competition was serious and the Five-a-Side Winners medals justifiably earned.



This competitive 'no quarter' theme was also reflected in the School v OR XI President's Shield game. With the success of the Gibbs Cup still a recent memory, a win for the School was anticipated. This was not to be however and despite the huge effort on the part of the School XI, OR skipper Harry Hoare, though tired by his five-a-side success, managed to lead his

team of very athletic players into a strong position and won for the second year running. Well done the ORs but we have a feeling that 2007 will bring an even more serious challenge as no-one enjoys being beaten three times in a row!



School: Richard Chaytor, Daniel Wright, George Elsey, James Williams, .Robin Brown, .Alex Pearce, .William Neale, .Martin Jubb, .Daniel Strasburger, .Sean O'Brien, .Phil Chimes, .Rory Buckley, .Shane Lyons, .Ben Beattie, Olamide Olafe.

ORs: Tim Lo, Jimmy Lloyd, Chris Stephens, Mubin Ahmed, Martin Tilbury, George Hoare, Leon Simpson, Sam Walters, Thomas Bailey, Harry Hoare, Ali Stock, James Lattimore, Steve Underhill, MHWM





Team Hoare

Reading School Team

#### From the School's Director of Sport, Darren Carrick

The 2005/2006 season saw a major growth in football at Reading School, with the game being played from under 12 through to Seniors. To the Old Boys (even the more recent ones), football in the lower forms has, until now, been practised as a 'dark art' at break and lunch! This first full season, if you will, has been very pleasing to me as Master i/c Football. Despite it being viewed as a development year, the staff and boys have achieved a great deal and for their contribution I am very grateful.

The Juniors took some time to gel as teams, but finished the term strongly against difficult Claires Court sides. The u14, u15 and u16 sides have been

exceptional, losing only one league game each in the entire term, with the u15 reaching the district final.

Senior football has seen the 2nd XI undefeated in the league, finishing as champions. The 1st XI won the Gibbs Cup beating Aylesbury Grammar School 3-2, and also beat Lord William's School, who reached the last eight of the national u18 trophy.

I truly hope that we can build on this achievement in the new season and congratulations and thanks to the ORs for all the support especially the Festival of Football which has now become an annual event.

#### The Autumn OR Golf Meeting 13 September 2006

The Golf Society held its Autumn Meeting at Reading Golf Club on a fine September day. A rather smaller number than usual were able to attend but nevertheless the Stapleford Competition produced some fair results.

Winner Rudolph Bissolotti 33 points
Second Chris Quartly 32 points
Third John Steels 28 points
Longest Drive Rodney Lunn 14th hole
Nearest The Pin Rudolph Bissolotti 8th hole

At lunch Rodney Lunn presented the prizes accompanied by his usual amusing anecdotes. After lunch several members played a further 9 holes to complete the day! All were pleased that

OR President, Buffy Price, also played. The Spring meeting will be held at Henley Golf Club on Thursday, 19 April. WEL



Gareth Price, Nick Ray and Rudolph Bissolotti

#### Rugby

Redingensians RFC have secured promotion to South West One. The Club is "open", nowadays, of course, but leases the OR Sports Ground on the Old Bath Road from the Association. ORs do remain involved

and our Autumn issue will contain a curtain raiser to the 2007-08 season when the Club will be playing at the highest level in its history.

## Where are they now?

#### By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

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

#### **A S J BELSHAW (WEST 1985-92)**

From Cambridge University (St John's) Andrew trained with Arthur Andersen, qualified as an accountant, moved to Ernst & Young, and is now Commercial Manager at Xansa, an IT Solutions firm. His commitment to the Church, fostered through the Christian Union at School, continues; he is a trustee of Christian Community Action and REAP Resettlement Agency. He is married to Rachel and they live in Aldermaston with their two small daughters Hannah and Megan.

#### **H W F BUNCE (COUNTY 1941-51)**

Scouting, the Natural History Society and the Field Club were an appropriate School background for Hubbie Bunce's lifetime as a forester in Canada, Brazil, China, Pakistan and Indonesia. He left the forest consultancy Reid Collins in 1993, for semiretirement as a partner in a one thousand acre tree farm. With that now sold, he is fully retired except for his 30 year membership of the Canadian Forest Inventory Committee, a body dedicated to accounting for all the trees in Canada (is he actually counting all the trees in Canada? – Ed). Hubbie is an alumnus of Syracuse University, married to Jill, with two married sons and a daughter, and four grandchildren. He invites any OR visiting West Vancouver, BC, Canada to telephone him on 604 922 2995.

#### R O CLOKE (EAST WING 1955-60)

Richard spent his career with Barclays Bank (as did his late father O W Cloke MBE OR (1923-29). He retired in 2003 as a Director of Barclays Capital and Head of Transaction Management, and lives in Brentwood. Ian Toole (1955-62) was his best man when he married Carol in 1969. Now their two sons and one daughter are themselves married, two of them to Australians, and Richard and Carol have three grandchildren. He is a keen gardener and traveller and plays golf – activities curtailed recently when he fell off a ladder and damaged a heel, necessitating surgery. We wish him a speedy return to the greens.

#### D J FOSTER (SOUTH HOUSE 1954-62)

David, son of F S (Freddie) Foster (1916-21) taught at Ellesmere College after taking a classics degree at Bristol, became Head of Classics at Norwich School and Deputy Headmaster at King Edward VI School, Southampton. In 1997, then at The Atherley School, he took early retirement. Throughout his career he coached sports teams; contemporaries will recall him, particularly, on the cricket and hockey fields and in the boxing ring. At University he took up basketball, later coaching at a high level and, for twelve years, organising the Easter International Basketball Festival in Southampton. The daughter of his first marriage is also a teacher; David now lives in Devon and, from his second marriage, has two teenage sons at Torquay Boys' Grammar School, where his Spanish wife, Marisol, is Head of Modern Languages.

#### P A FRYER (EAST 1956 – 63)

Philip is still actively singing around West London, and is Chairman of the Chorus of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He is Conductor of the Ryde Chorus, Isle of Wight, and recently sang Evangelist in Bach's St John Passion in Chiswick. Philip was Head of English for many years at Presentation College, Reading, but now teaches Maths and Drama at Orchard House School, Chiswick, following the untimely death of his second wife, Trim, on the IOW, where they were planning for retirement. Philip had 12 years as Sales Manager for Sun Life Financial of Canada, and was then Harbour Master of Island Harbour for two years. He still has a house, and a Bavaria 37, Trim V, on the Isle of Wight.

#### **D A OWEN (COUNTY 1939-45)**

Having joined National Provincial Bank, in Reading, from School, National Service intervened and David was subsequently posted to Singapore in the rank (somewhat unappreciated by Regulars) of Sergeant on the Financial Advisers Branch. Rejoining the NP in London, 8 career postings followed – such is the way with banks – before he retired in 1989, from what had become the National Westminster Bank, as Senior Manager of the Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton branches. (David once, at a dinner, sat next to the Chairman of Nat West, the late Lord Alexander of Weedon, unaware that he, too, was an OR). Three years on, and the Bank asked him to come back as a senior outplacement consultant. Now David and his wife Joan enjoy cruising, undeterred by experiencing Hurricane Madeleine in 1995, and he represents S W England on the Cross Party Campaign for Independent Britain. David lives in Devon and his brother, Brian (1942-49) in Sussex.

#### D C POLLOCK (WEST 1955-62)

After studying law at Southampton University David was articled at Kingsley Napley – where Sir David Napley became Senior Partner. He broadened his experience at Monsanto Chemicals Ltd and with a firm of solicitors in the Home Counties before joining Laytons in Lincoln Inn where he became Litigation Partner and remained until retirement in 1999. Recently he has moved house from Teddington to Ascot. He and Janet have 3 sons all pursuing careers, the youngest now married. Music is a deep interest together with photography and a love of travel launched at School, when he won the 1962 Laud Travel Scholarship which took him to Athens.

#### **L O RICE (EAST WING 1939-44)**

Ladislas was Captain of Boarders when he left School, and CSM. He graduated from the LSE and won a scholarship to the Harvard Business School. His career, which he deprecates as 'untidy', was in fact distinguished, culminating as Chairman and CEO of the Burton Groups – now known as Arcadia. After holding non-executive directorships across the spectrum- private sector companies, investment trusts, the NHS, US Mutual Funds – he is retired (or 90% so), living in Hampstead and with a house in Tuscany. His son and daughter – Ladislas is divorced –have provided two granddaughters and a grandson.

#### TRACKING THE TEA TRAYS - No 1

Major Sir Richard Keane Bt of Cappoquin House, Co Waterford, now in his 99th year, writes that the plaque in Big School commemorating his ancestor, Sir John, has some inaccuracies.



Sir John had become KCB in 1815 – later advanced to GCB – but he did not succeed to the baronetcy which passed through his elder brother's line. Additionally it was as Baron Keane of Ghuznee, not Ghuznel, that he was gazetted. Burke's Peerage bears out both points and so the latter appears to be error, rather than a local variant spelling, and the former misunderstanding. We are grateful to Sir Richard for his help.

From comments by his contemporaries Sir John seems to have been a singular character indeed; we may return to him in a future issue. KCB

## Reunions

#### The Senior Generation

The Australian does not always wear a tie - nor a shirt for that matter. ORs, of course, may be relied upon to show them the way, as demonstrated in our picture of K C Moore (1922-30) and H G Critchell (1922-27) meeting on Adelaide Railway Station. Both of them came to School with the 1922 Scholarship intake.



K C Moore and H G Critchell

Our other picture shows B H Powell MBE (1924-31) and his cousin K P Stevens (1927-32) at Phyllis Court Club, Henley, to celebrate the latter's 91st birthday.

We salute all four, and the rest of the healthy crop of nonagenarians that the Association membership records reveal. The senior OR of all may not be a member, of course. Probably there is a centenarian or three entitled to wear an Old Boys tie; we should dearly like to know...



B H Powell and K P Stevens

#### **A Canadian Tour**



Rodney Huggins, Hubbie Bunce, John Childs and Ron Peddley

In September, four ORs met in West Vancouver, Canada at the home of Hubbie Bunce (1941-51). Ron Peddley (1944-51) had travelled from his home in Noosa, Queensland, Australia with his partner, Wendy, to Europe and UK in the summer. They then joined up with his old school friends Rodney Huggins (1944-52) and John Childs (1946-53) and their wives, José and Mary, to participate in a grand tour. They started in Calgary and Banff, then travelled by train through the Rockies to Vancouver where the reunion took place in the lovely home of Hubbie and his wife Jill, overlooking English Bay. Afterwards, the intrepid travellers embarked in the Norwegian Wind and went up the Inner Passage in glorious weather to South Alaska visiting Ketchikan, Juneau and Skegway, taking in the magnificent Sawyer Glacier, finally returning to Vancouver for a farewell to the Bunces. RH

#### **Ted Webber's Visit Home**



A nostalgic trip "home" last September embraced many locations with family associations and culminated in a visit to the old School kindly arranged by John Oakes and Chris Widdows.

I knew that my former haunts in West Wing had been converted for administrative purposes, but that did not prevent me from fronting up with suitably padded nether regions to an imaginary Mr Streather in his study, cane at the ready! The most exotic person of those days in WW was Rudolf "Sacco" Bissolotti of golfing fame, with whom I shared a dorm. A most charming prefect showed me around other parts of the School; the library is now an impressive resource unrecognisable from 50 years ago, but the armoury is unchanged. East Wing is still a boarding house but everything seemed so much smaller - and more comfortable. I was sad to learn that the Play, Opera and Sing-Song are no longer fixed events in the School year.

On returning to Australia, I contacted OR convener, Mike Jones, in Sydney. We live 1100 km away, north of Brisbane, but it transpires that the annual OR Australian reunion is held in Noosa near to us (when "Mexicans" from south of the border flood north to escape what passes as winter down south). It will be on 15 June and should be a great day!

E S Webber (1942-49)



Ted "suitably padded"!

#### The Sixth "50 Years On" Reunion Luncheon





Denis Moriarty - con brio

A record 32 friends and contemporaries from the '40s and '50s accepted Denis Moriarty's and Peter Steven's invitation to join them at The Oxford and Cambridge Club in London on Tuesday, 23rd January 2007 for their sixth 'Fifty Years On' Reunion Luncheon.

It was a very happy occasion, and a great pleasure to see so many of our schoolfellows. As on previous occasions, memories of our schooldays were evoked, and reminiscences of subsequent experiences were exchanged. The company was entirely congenial, and the setting suitable to a gathering of former pupils of "an extraordinary school for the sons of ordinary people" – a description originally applied to Christ's Hospital, but legitimately appropriated to Reading School in return for the diversion of the Kendrick Bequest, and the influence upon the lives of those present of Frank Terry, an Old Blue, now approaching his 90th birthday, to whom messages of congratulation and good wishes were sent.



Robin Fabel and John Roper

The proceedings were directed by Denis Moriarty with his customary blend of firmness and good humour, which set the tone of the entire event. In view of the record attendance, it was agreed that there should be no obligation upon anyone to speak, but the usual "round the table" pattern should be broadly followed, with those wishing to take up a particular topic signalling "to catch Denis's eye".

The Grace "Benedic nos, Domine..." was said by The Reverend David Weekes, who first pronounced it as Captain of School in 1952. Then followed an excellent luncheon, to the accustomed high standard of our Club, which prides itself on its table and cellar.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by A A ('Fred') Barker, the senior member present (in fact, John Perry is 53 days his senior, Ed), and the National Anthem was most heartily sung. The Toast to Reading School was proposed by Christopher Yeats to universal acclaim, and the School Song sung with equal fervour. As at previous luncheons, the Toast to the School was drunk in a 1954 Armagnac donated by our Anonymous Benefactor, whose identity remains veiled in impenetrable secrecy.

Our most distinguished participant was The Rt Hon The Lord Roper, now sworn as a Privy Councillor but remembered as John Hodgess-Roper, to whom



John Gardiner - with gusto

congratulations were extended and who in return expressed the hope that all those present would in due course reassemble to sing "Nine hundred years and more have passed..."

In the ensuing conversation, two themes predominated:

our great good fortune in having been educated at Reading School; and our desire to contribute more positively to the School's future maintenance and development as a selective school. (More specific information on practical ways in which to help would be welcome from the School authorities).

Appreciation was expressed to our Masters, especially to E L Moor, recently deceased; "Archie" Meads, the insufficiently – recognized backbone of the School's administration as Second Master for many years; Michael Hinton, still happily living in retirement as a clergyman in Kent and having recently published "The Hundred Minute Bible"; "Jock" Jessop; "Isaiah" Hardy; "Stret"; "Ben" Dowse; John Liddell; and the musical duo of Charlie Davis and Fred Griffin.



Derek Russell, Brian Thompson, Peter Stevens and John Childs

Advancing years were betrayed by our increasing concern, at the national level, over the current debasement of values – the extremes apparent in poverty and wealth, in crudity and cultivation of public behaviour. In present circumstances it is more than ever necessary to "Look to the light, strive for the right".

The proceedings concluded with a Musical Entertainment performed by Denis Moriarty and Bill Mackereth, comprising excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan, and John Gardiner's spirited rendition of "He is an Englishman".

Present: Bob Alexander, Fred Barker, Dr. Dudley Bruton, John Childs, Prof. Robin Fabel, Peter Fiddick, John Gardiner, Tom Gould, Dr. Edmund Hey, Ted Hobday, Charles Hoile, David Jordan, The Rev John Lambourne, Peter Long, Brigadier Bill Mackereth, Denis Moriarty, Mike Oakley, Major John Perry, Gareth Price, Dermot Rooney, The Rt Hon The Lord Roper PC, Derek Russell, Prof. Mike Shattock, Tony Simons, John Stevens, Peter Stevens, Colonel Brian Thompson, Prof. Brian Upton, Mike van Brugen, The Rev David Weekes, David Wise, Chris Yeats.

Floreat Redingensis! Peter Stevens (1944-54)

## Commentary

#### - The Old Redingensian November 2006

The Headmaster's profile brought to mind the career of an OR once commemorated on a 'Tea Tray' in Big School. Two hundred years ago the lexicographer Dr John Lemprière was also a classicist of Pembroke College (albeit Oxford, in his case) and a Headmaster. He too taught at both Reading School and Bolton School. There the similarities, hopefully, end for Lemprière's conduct was in many ways notorious. A future issue will examine his life in detail.

The piece on John Minton (1932-35) was well received and it was particularly pleasing to hear from J B Levien (1928-34) who was also a boarder in West Wing. (Captain of Boarders and Vice Captain of the School – Ed). His uncle, the legendary Rev E G Levien and thus Minton's Housemaster, took a continuing interest in his pupil, visiting him on occasions and trying to help the artist in his personal difficulties.

Conflicting claims were made about the predecessor of the Keeton Pavilion's new clock. For the record it was the gift of the Parents Association. The official presentation was made, in May 1954, by their President, Colonel Field. Unfortunately, the

ceremony was torpedoed by terrible weather. In 1986 the Pavilion became a memorial to George Keeton, Headmaster 1914-39 as part of the Quincentenary initiative.

Coverage of overseas reunions was thought a little perfunctory. There is certainly a place for fuller reports, if the material is provided. The work put in by ORs abroad in organising, corresponding and maintaining links is considerable.

Denis Moriarty's tribute to 'Elmer' Moor brought much praise and, with it, more memories of this fondly regarded master – including the 'I thought it was funny at the time' incident of the potato in the exhaust pipe of Elmer's auto-cycle.

John Liddell's obituary notice can be augmented by reading 'In the Art Room', the memoir by Mike Oakley (1944-54) that appeared in our October 2003 issue. John's son. Adam Liddell, has kindly donated a number of photographs of the Art Room in 1953., a group of which we reproduce here.







## **Obituaries**

#### **MICHAEL HOLMES MA**

#### Reading School Master (1957-65)

Michael – to boys, inevitably, 'Sherlock'- died on 10th May 2006, aged 78, after an eighteen month long battle against a recurrence of cancer. He joined the staff to teach History and Scripture, in September 1957 and had considerable impact, winning the respect and affection of his pupils by the constancy of his demeanour, which was austere but fair and leavened by kindliness and humour. He was enthusiastic in all that he did and led by example, qualities that boys admire.

One of twin brothers, he was born at Earls Colne, Essex, in 1927 and attended the local grammar school, followed by military service, in 1946-48, much of it in Egypt working on 'Enigma' machines. After Pembroke College, Cambridge, he taught at Uppingham and then at Reigate Grammar, and also made a marriage that was not destined to last.

Michael had natural authority in the classroom and the facility of bringing his subject to life and communicating his enthusiasm. This was not just the exercise of ability but also constant effort to reach the less responsive; something, perhaps, of the good churchman determined to reach his flock.

Outside the schoolroom he played a full part on the games field, coaching Hockey, Cricket and Rugby. He was a mainstay of the staff Hockey XI and famously innovated the summer cricket tours to Essex that live in the memory of many, and continued after he had left the School.

It was entirely within his character that he was a Scoutmaster of the very sort that Baden-Powell surely envisaged. In this sphere he became 'Skip' instead of 'Sherlock' and with the achievement of a new scout hut at Morgan Road and the creation of a range of social activities for the Troop, scouting at School, with the aid of Messrs. Warburton, Merlane and Wright, flourished mightily.

He played bridge, as other colleagues, Vic Payne, Rex Bowley and Frank Terry, will recall, and with all this, and more, still found time for a private life.



It was not quite as private as he thought, for the whole School had given the seal of approval to his courtship of Gill Findlay, the assistant in the Bursars Office, and rejoiced at their marriage.

In 1965 Michael left to become Deputy Head at Chichester High School for Boys, and four years later he became Headmaster of the Crypt School, Gloucester – an ancient foundation – from which he finally retired in 1990 with a life of achievement in his profession to look back upon.

We are indebted to Mrs Holmes for an insight on Michael's 'retirement' activities – painting, singing with the Cotswold Savoyards, travel and walking; service as a Magistrate. He never entirely left our community, returning to School from time to time, attending OR dinners and being part of the memories of many.

He leaves Gill, four children and five grandchildren; he will be much missed.

KCB

#### **WILLIAM FREDERICK RHODES (1942-46)**



Bill was a grand and humorous fellow, a sportsman in all respects. He played rugby for the Berkshire Wanderers, cricket, tennis and golf. His career was disjointed, but interesting, starting in insurance but thereafter embracing, on his own account, fast food restaurants, agricultural lime, selling sausages (which gained him the nickname 'Purity Rhodes') and his own transport company. The latter took him and his employees all over the continent. He became fluent in French and based a motor yacht in Poole Harbour, taking his family on many adventures.

In Salisbury he bought a pub – hiring the band of the Blues and Royals for the opening – but soon after retired and found a pleasant life in the USA while retaining an apartment in Pangbourne and active membership of the Goring Golf Club.

His wife, Adrienne long predeceased him and he leaves his partner of many years, Marijke, and his sons Steven and Timothy. Bill died on 17 September 2006 aged 77 and his brother Ken – K J Rhodes OR (1943-49) – was among the many who celebrated his life eleven days later.

Colin Stamp



At The George Hotel, Pangbourne: singing the School Song for Bill, I to r Ted Webber, David Shorter, John Illman, Colin Stamp, Charles Kirby, Ken Rhodes, Ken Brown and Dennis Jones.

#### **RICHARD ERNEST VANDERPUMP (1929-35)**



Dick, a chartered surveyor, was London born but came to Reading in 1919. He and his elder brother T F (Freddie) Vanderpump (1925-32) were West Wingers. When war came in 1939 he was training as an auctioneer and estate agent.

Captain Vanderpump's war was an active one. As a qualified signals officer who then went through Gunnery School he served in the East African Armoured Corps in a variety of armoured car squadrons. At the end of the war he used his long

leave to see more of Africa, taking a 'scenic route' home to Aldershot and demobilisation.

After initially rejoining his old firm, he established Vanderpump and Wellbelove in 1947 just after marrying Joyce Francis. The company became well known in the area and Dick an active member of related professional bodies. He had no connections with the firm after retirement but continued to serve as Sheriff Officer for Berkshire: the removal of women squatters from Greenham Common was one duty which fell to this office. For 25 years he was a trustee of the Reading Municipal Church Charities, he held office in the Royal British Legion and maintained regimental links.

In retirement he indulged his love of family and travelled extensively – including Africa again – being fit and active until a fall 18 months before his death.

Joyce died in 1993 and Dick is survived by his two daughters, five grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Dick Vanderpump died on 4 July 2006 aged 88.

KCB

## **ROBERT SAUNDERS JONES (1927-33)**



Bobby was born on 9 September 1919 and entered Junior School in 1927 with his elder bother, Donald (1927-32, obituary Reading School Magazine July 1947). Both were in South House but later transferred to East House before leaving for Leighton Park. Donald and Bobby shared a talent for sport and for music. Both played rugby for Berkshire. Donald's exploits have been recorded elsewhere; Bobby played also for London Welsh and for the ORs.

During the Second World War Bobby was commissioned in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and later attached to the Indian Army, serving in India and the Maldives.

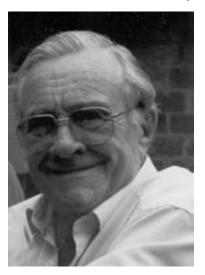
Post war he became a professional singer with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at the Savoy Theatre and also toured with them in North America. Later as a company representative, working mainly in the building trade in the North West of England, he met and married Barbara. Together they had three sons, Donald, David and Roger, and Bobby continued to sing with local opera and music societies, as a hobby.

They became grandparents and one of their three grandsons, Thomas Jones, found himself at Reading School, in Cricket Week 2002, playing for Bowden CC the Cheshire side that Sean Walters OR brings down for this annual fixture. Tom was lbw just short of his century, a dismissal that meant the match resulted in a a tie - a thrilling tie - but also gave Bobby one of his KCB/CJW proudest moments.

To Barbara and the family, including Bobby's sister, Jo Netley, we extend our condolences.

Robert Saunders Jones died on 1 April 2006 aged

#### **JOHN RILEY JARVIS (1936-41)**



John was born on 22 July 1927 and will be remembered by many at his family motor business which was in Christchurch Road, Reading for so long.

At school he was in County House (son Andrew was in West Wing) and later transferred to East Wing; he was a keen rugby player. On leaving school, he joined the family business and then enlisted in the Royal Navy. On leaving the services, he re-joined the family business and became Managing Director, eventually merging with the Penta Group.

Always a cheery and generous character, he was severely handicapped about five years ago by an accident on the golf course. This left him reliant on crutches until his death in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

A devoted family man, he is greatly missed by all who knew him. He leaves a widow, Joan, a daughter, two sons and eight grandchildren.

John Jarvis died on 30 June 2006 aged 78.

Geoffrey King

#### **BRIAN RIGHTON ABURROW (1955-62)**



At School Bunny was a 3rd XI stalwart and leading wicket taker. He followed cricket all his life though replacing it, in playing terms, with golf, being an original member at Mapledurham; he was on a golf course when he collapsed and died.

Other interests included Bridge, Racing and Formula One and he was a man who delighted in certain routines; fondly recalled by his family were fixtures such as The Daily Telegraph, 'time for a small gin' (after listening to The Archers) and Sunday lunch.

In 1961 he had won the Butler Essay Prize and in 1962 a LEA place at Reading University to read geography. By 1966 he had taken accountancy examinations and went into practice in Reading. He had, however, diverse ambitions and satisfied them, in part at least, with a state of the art Alfa Romeo dealership in Oxford Road and, later, a restaurant at Emmer Green. After the dealership closed he

joined an IT company, Wordplex, and subsequently, to the time of his death he operated a computer sales business.

Bunny and Marjorie, who were divorced, had two children, Natasha and Alexander. Latterly, he lived at Grove, Wantage. There were a number of ORs at St Mary's, in the Butts, for the funeral, including 8 direct contemporaries.

Brian Aburrow died on 21 April 2006 aged 62. **KCB** 

#### **DAVID WILLIAM SIDWELL BSc CEng MIEE ARCO (1963-70)**



His contribution at School was, supremely, to its strong musical tradition but both the Boat Club and the Scouts also have good reason to remember 'Sid'. He gained representative Rowing Colours and was Hon Sec of Boats, helping in a much needed refurbishment of the Boat House during one of the Club's periodic low ebbs. In the Scouts he become a Patrol Leader, having joined the 55th in 1965. He was also a School Prefect.

Musically he was outstanding, singing and playing harpsichord and flute in addition to the piano and organ that he studied under Fred Griffin. He drew praise for performances in many concerts, Reading the Secondary Schools Music Festival, and for his lunchtime organ solos at St Laurence's - where he alternated with his peers Christopher Renshaw and Peter Callister. With Michael Canning he was joint secretary of the Music Society and he took County House to a victory in the 1969 musical competition the margin of which was a major factor in ending Boarders fifteen year tenure of the Cock House Cup.

At Aston University he read Electrical Engineering and was assistant organist at Moseley Parish Church and then, as his father before him, joined the Railways being a Chief Telecommunications Engineer by the time he took early retirement in 2003.

He had gained Associate Membership of the Royal College of Organists in 1983 and had been Organist and Choirmaster at various local churches, most recently Newbury Parish Church. He taught the organ (indeed introducing the School's current Director of Music to the instrument), founded and conducted the Ascension Singers and was for ten years organist to Schola Cantorum. Of the many cathedrals he played in, Hereford was his favourite.

From an early age his two sons 'helped' him at the organ stool. They were his pride and joy and that they returned fierce pride in their father was demonstrated in the tribute they made at his funeral service.

David Sidwell died on 3 April 2006 aged 53 and leaves Alison and their two sons, Ben and Tim. KCB/CJW

#### In Memoriam

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

#### W T (Bill) Knight OBE (1928-37)

Consultant Engineer Died 18 January 2006 aged 86

#### K J (Keith) Scott (1951-57)

Research Chemist Died 6 April 2006 aged 66

#### **R E J (Bobby) Daubeney (1939-46)**

Linguist

Died 29 November 2006 aged 78

#### **B** (Brian) Parsons (1949-55)

Electroplating Consultant
Died 2 December 2006 aged 68

#### P E L (Paul) Temple (1928-37)

Interior Garden Designer Died 30 January 2007 aged 86

#### Mrs Barbara Dennis

Headmaster's PA (1960s) Died 16 February 2007 aged 81

#### Henry Charles Malkin CBE (1933-40)

Captain of School, Captain RN Died 12 March 2007 aged 85

#### Col H F C (Harry) Kimpton CBE (1924-29)

Royal Marines

Died 25 March 2007 aged 95

#### Walter (Wally) Stroud (1925-31)

Local Government Officer Died 18 April 2007 aged 92

#### Sir George Pinker KCVO (1935-42)

Surgeon Gynaecologist Died 29 April 2007 aged 82

## Cricket Week 23 July - 27 July 2007



ORs – do come along; no prior arrangement is necessary (unless you want to play).

This year's OR Cricket Week will be held at the School immediately after the end of term – i.e. during week commencing 23 July. There will be a full five-day programme of all-day games and spectator support every day is a help to the team and a chance to meet old friends. The Wednesday will provide a light hearted social gathering on the OR calendar that can be enjoyed by family and friends eating alfresco and with, we hope, musical entertainment.

A couple of years ago we ran an ad in this magazine to try to entice young ORs to participate in the OR cricket week. It was marginally successful, but we require more! The 'regulars' are getting well past their playing prime and we need a further infusion of young talent.

If any readers are interested in playing – or want more information on the festivities – please contact either Terry Cartwright: 01428 602992 terryc@whiteoaks.co.uk or Andy Northway: 0118 962 1541

and y. nor thway @heritage bathrooms. com

We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Updates will be posted on the OR website as the week approaches. TLC

## From the Editors

The Old Redingensian is currently produced by the Editorial team of Ken Brown and Chris Widdows, with Mike Evans as School Liaison correspondent for the journal.

The two issues per year will now be designated 'Spring' and 'Autumn'. For well over a century the School Magazine carried news of the ORs. It ceased as a termly publication in 1996 and Kerr Kirkwood transformed the typed OR newsletter, which was another longstanding source of information, to magazine format. Subsequently, under the editorship of John Oakes, from February 1999, the present style has evolved.

To take account of members' views we do need suggestions, original contributions, comment and feedback. For such as the 'In Memoriam' page, personal reminiscences help immeasurably in compiling subsequent obituaries. If we are not to appear age stereotyped then members of all vintages down to the most recent school leavers must hammer on our door. Don't be shy!

Elsewhere there is mention of archive material. We reinforce the plea made, not least because this journal also relies heavily on a comprehensive archive. Additionally, there is a growing 'film library'. Anyone having film with some School content is asked if we may borrow it - to copy onto DVD and then return (with a free copy of the DVD).

That which goes into The Old Redingensian also goes onto the OR website, which is presently in the process of thorough reassessment. News of this (for both users and non-users) will also feature in these pages. Meanwhile it can be accessed by visiting www.oldredingensians.org.uk.

Council wish to assess the requirement for a new printed membership list. It would not be economically sensible unless there is demand. Cost would be set as low as possible but, to enable the decision to be made, those in favour of a new printing (up to, say, a maximum of £5 per copy) are requested to email or write to Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary, please.



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Clarendon House, 59-75 Queens Road Reading, Berkshire RG1 4BN www.jelfgroup.com Tel: 0118 983 9800 Fax: 0118 983 9848

## Officers for 2007

## President Lt Col N A (Neale) Jouques OBE RLC

Tel: 01206 369740

Email: 140jouqu@armymail.mod.uk president@oldredingensians.org.uk

#### Vice President C A (Cedric) Scroggs

Tel: 01491 836188

Email: CASPriory@aol.com

#### Chairman Lt Col N A (Neale) Jouques OBE RLC

Tel: 01206 369740

Email: 140jouqu@armymail.mod.uk chairman@oldredingensians.org.uk

## Honorary Secretary D B (David) Cox

Tel: 0118 958 6311

Email: david@dbcox.freeserve.co.uk secretary@oldredingensians.org.uk

## Honorary Treasurer I R (lan) Moore

Tel: 0118 969 1597

Email: ian229@hotmail.com treasurer@oldredingensians.org.uk

## Membership Secretary C J (Chris) Widdows

Tel: 0118 962 3721

Email: CWiddows@aol.com

membership@oldredingensians.org.uk

## Social Secretary Barrie Shelton

Tel: 01491 573431

Email: barrie@barrieshelton.wanadoo.co.uk

## Honorary Archivist K C (Ken) Brown

11 Easington Drive, Lower Earley

READING RG6 3XN Tel: 0118 966 7013

Email: KCBrown11@aol.com

Editorial Team: c/o Chris Widdows, 21 Bulmershe Road, READING, RG1 5RH Tel: 0118 962 3721 Email: cwiddows@aol.com

## www.oldredingensians.org.uk



The 'refoundation' of the School (essentially marking its emergence as a 'Free Grammar School') is dated to 1486 early in the reign of Henry VII.

The quincentenary celebrations of 1986 included the unveiling, by Her Majesty The Queen in Big School on 19th May, of a splendid bust of Henry sculpted in resin bronze and glass fibre by Martin Lorenz, then a Reading School Parent. He based his work on the terracotta bust (now in the Victoria & Albert Museum) that the Italian High Renaissance Sculptor Pietro Torrigiano (1472-1528) made from Henry's death mask.

The Lorenz bust is currently in the Human Resources Learning Centre (Kendrick Building) and is pictured on the front cover of this issue.