

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Spring 2008



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MA Oxon, FSA, FRHistS, FSA Scot

Head Master of Reading School

Jan 1888 - Aug 1894

The President's Letter

Dear ORs, past and present pupils, parents, staff, and friends of Reading School.

Welcome to this new bumper edition of the Old Red, the magazine of the Old Redingensians Association. The product in recent years of the talents and efforts of Ken Brown, Hon Archivist and Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary, it is packed with material of interest to all those who follow the fortunes of the School. Enjoy it!

This is my opportunity to write to you, since I succeeded Lt Col Neale Jouques OBE as President of the OR Association at the AGM last November. Neale must be the only OR President for countless decades who interspersed his duties with active military service for Queen and Country. He was an energetic and engaging President, and we wish him well, on his recent retirement from the army, in his new civilian job as a senior executive of BAA plc.

As to myself, I revert to the bad old tradition of rather elderly OR Presidents. I attended the School from 1952 to 1959 in County House. I was involved in many of the School's activities, finishing as School Captain until I went up to St John's, Oxford as the Sir Thomas White scholar to read English (and rowing). Afterwards I pursued a career in industry, and latterly was Chief Executive of Fisons plc, now defunct but then a FTSE 100 company. Nowadays I do various non-executive jobs in industry and the NHS. I live near Wallingford with my wife Patricia, and our three adult children have given us five grandchildren so far.

The 2007 AGM and Annual Dinner for the ORs was held, for the first time for many years, in the School, by kind permission of the Principal John Weeds. Dinner in Big School was especially delightful, and was provided in some style by soldiers of the President's command, 13th Air Assault Support Regiment. The organisation of the event was ably handled by the Social Secretary Barrie Shelton, and Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE OR was the guest speaker. This year, without the support of HM Armed Forces, the AGM and Dinner will be held at Sonning Golf Club on Saturday 22nd November.

The key task this year for the ORs is to support the fund-raising initiative of the Principal. We all acknowledge that over very many years the School buildings and facilities have not been kept up to date. New-build development has been piecemeal and

maintenance poor. But John Weeds will shortly launch a serious Appeal for funds, targeting former pupils, parents, and the local community, as well as the local education authority. Top priority will be to fund a new refectory, allowing pupils to escape from the current inadequate outdoor covered space, and several other major developments will follow.



The Principal has commissioned excellent expert reports, which will help the Governing body to draw up an action plan, with the full support of the Reading Foundation, OR Association Council, and current parents. Most schools of the size, quality, and reputation of Reading School have fine modern facilities, and it is time to catch up.

In other spheres, the work of the ORs continues to support the activities of the School, with grants to Cricket, Rugby, Rowing, and Soccer. Adventure trips to Mongolia and Costa Rica have also attracted OR contributions. The regular Enterprise Awards scheme has benefited from a doubling of the funds disbursed to nearly £6000

last year, thanks to the generosity of Neil Thomason OR.

A new OR Association website is under construction, to offer better communications for all. OR Hon Secretary David Cox has retired after several successful years in the job, but continues on the OR Council and as Acting Secretary until a fresh volunteer can be found.

Membership of the Association continues its steady rise, while the finances, under the skilful stewardship of Ian Moore, Hon Treasurer, are in good health. An extended lease for the sports ground at Sonning is under discussion with the tenants, Redingensians Sports Club Ltd, and Past President Rodney Huggins is giving the OR Council his customary wise counsel as Legal Adviser.

Sadly, recent Past President John Illman is at home recovering from a stroke, and on behalf of all ORs I send him our good wishes for a speedy return to health.

May I wish the School continued success in its outstanding results, academic, cultural, and sporting. Floreat Redingensis!

Cedric Scroggs

Notes and News

'The Art of Jeremy Ramsey' by John Russell Taylor is a substantial soft back (ISBN 978-981-05-9403-9) which covers the wide range of Jeremy's (J C G Ramsey 1944-49 West Wing) work.

Ross Brawn (1966-71), Ferrari's former technical director, has joined Honda as Team Principal after taking a sabbatical year. With Benetton and Ferrari he has already been involved with 7 drivers' and 7 constructors' championships.

At the Sovereign's Parade for Commissioning Course 071 on 14 December 2007 T L G Brunwin (1993-00) passed out of RMA Sandhurst into the Army Air Corps.

Blandy & Blandy, of 1 Friar Street, Reading, the Thames Valley's oldest law firm is celebrating its 275th anniversary this year and now employs over 100 staff.. There have been ORs involved from the earliest days and the current senior partner is R G (Richard) Griffiths (1957-64). One of the joint Managing Partners is N C (Nick) Burrows (1969-76).

Haslams Chartered Surveyors, founded in 1838 and at 156 Friar Street since the 1880s, have moved across the road into County House. The former Senior Partner, J H (John) Short (1956-64) is still very actively involved as a consultant and his fellow West Winger J M (Jim) Attewell (1959-63) is also a consultant.

Jacobs, the jewellers, the family firm of I (Ian) Jacobs (1955-60) - another West Winger - now in the splendid setting of Douglas Jacobs House, 25 King Street, celebrate their 60th anniversary this year.



Dexter Montague & Partners, solicitors in Oxford Road, Reading celebrated their first 20 years last November. W H (Bill) Montague (1971-77), former Captain of School, is a founding partner.

A match on 2 February 1946 between a Reading School football XI and a Reading Boys side aroused lively correspondence in the Reading Post after A R (Tony) Waring (1940-46) PP, who played in the School side, sent in a photograph of the team. At least 4 of the Town side later turned professional and one, Johnny Brooks, played 3 times for England whilst on Spur's books.

The recent death of Sir Alfred Shepperd, former chairman of the Wellcome Foundation, who was educated at Archbishop Tenison's School is a reminder of the wartime evacuation of this school to Reading School. All information on individuals would be welcome.

J W M (Mike) Smith (1937-47) PP has written *Kipling's Sussex* a fascinating book, beautifully produced by Brownleaf. Mike has long held senior positions in The Kipling Society and been an acknowledged expert on the county of Sussex.

The trenchant views of the Bishop of Hulme, the Right Rev S R (Stephen) Lowe (1957-62) have again received attention; Christmas, he says, has descended into a great orgy of excess, whilst poverty abounds elsewhere. Bishop Lowe is the Church of England's first Bishop for Urban Life and Faith.

A first edition of *Barnaby Rudge* inscribed by Charles Dickens to his friend Thomas Talfourd in 1841 has fetched \$45,960 at auction. Talfourd - Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd OR - is said to have been the inspiration for the character of Tommy Traddles in *David Copperfield*.

G D (Graham) Beckett (1974-81) - see 'Where are they now?' - mentioned that brother Tony - A D Beckett (1976-83) is working for Dresdner Kleinwort, in Boston Mass, and last year donated a kidney to their younger brother Ollie - O D Beckett (1981-88). The operation was, thankfully, successful. Ollie has just been appointed lead manager of the Henderson Horizon Pan European Smaller Companies Fund.

Notes and news (continued)



Professor Norman Gash CBE (1923-30) (pictured left), Emeritus Professor of History, University of St Andrew's, celebrated his 96th birthday on 16 Jan 2008. We believe Professor Gash is our senior living Sir Thomas White Scholar.

Lt Col Neale Jouques OBE (1978-85) immediate Past President left Her Majesty's Forces on 19 January 2008 and is now Head of Logistics and Engineering at Stansted Airport.

The death has occurred of Nan Lethem, wife of the late 'Jimmy' Lethem, Master at School (PE and Games) 1946-76.



Now that croquet is spreading its appeal - even former deputy prime ministers have been 'pegging out' - memories of C E Kemp's croquet lawn in the Headmaster's Lodge garden are aroused, and readers might like to know that Reading School can claim at least one croquet international; Dr M (Martin) Murray (1953 - 60) (pictured left) has played for Scotland since 1980 and has also represented Great Britain. Martin also won the Croquet Association Men's Championship in 1974, 76, 80 and 82. Last year he was runner-up in the German Open Championship.



Colin Stamp (1938-44) (pictured right) celebrated his 80th birthday last January with a large party. The 7 ORs present naturally treated the company to a rendition of the School Song.

Dr ML (Martin) Parsons (1963-70), Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, continues to write and lecture extensively on children in war. His latest book *WAR CHILD Children Caught in Conflict* is published by the History Press. Dr Parsons is the Director of Reading University's International Research Centre of Evacuee and War Child Studies.

Escape to Paradise is the title of K D (Keith) Minton's (1953-59) new novel.

John Oakes former master of South House, Past President of the OR Association and previous editor of this journal, is Chairman of Shinfield and Swallowfield Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). He also has a new book on the stocks, working title *War Boys*.

Michael Wild (1940-48) presented, with collaborator Arthur Wyman, his musical celebration of Cicely Courtneidge and Jack Hulbert, *Wild About The Hulberts*, at The Bakehouse theatre in Blackheath on 9 March this year.

Raymond L Braham (1942-45) BDS LDS RCS MScD FAAPD is Professor Emeritus - Pediatric Dentistry in the Department of Orofacial Sciences of the School of Dentistry at the University of California, San Francisco, USA.

Alfred Waterhouse, architect of Reading School, many local buildings and much more, notably the Natural History Museum, the Town Hall Manchester and Girton College Cambridge, was the subject of a talk given by Martin S Wise (1960-67) to the Whitchurch and Goring Heath Local History Society in May.



Enterprise Awards 2008

For clarification sake the OR Enterprise Awards – given for a wide range of projects – is in no way connected with the national ‘Young Enterprise’ charity.(which basically aims to provide experience of how business works).

The OR Panel (Michael Maule PP (Chairman), John Illman PP, Tony Waring PP, Buffy Price PP, John Weeds (Principal) and OR councillor Neil Thomason) this year had a budget of £6000. All paperwork has been streamlined and a new promotional poster produced.

OR President Cedric Scroggs and Neil Thomason shared the presentation to each house that took place on 4 consecutive mornings in the third week of January, by kind permission of the Principal who introduced them at morning assembly.

The schedule of awards made for the 2008 year are as follows:

Name	Class	Project	Award
Richard Applewhite	13VLJ	Rowing	500
Ashley Baldry	11S	Costa Rica	350
Dominic Burrell	11W	Mongolia	250
Jonathan Burton	12BCP	Rock Climbing	250
Felix Clutson	13AGM	German theatre	500
Oliver Drew	9C	Electric guitar lessons	80
David Faria	13JH	Bridge	250
Joe Hales	8W	Animals	40
Michael Hodgkinson	12HKB	Chinese language	300
Daniel Kirby	11C	Mongolia	350
Alasdair Matthews	9W	Pony Club	250
James Paul	13JH	Bridge	250
Arthur Romano	9C	Sailing	250
Eddie Romano	10C	Sailing	250
Robert Sassoon	13MD	Bridge	350
Ben Sessions	11E	Cycle length of GB	250
Christopher Stent	11E	Volleyball training	120
Simon Titulaer	11W	Mongolia	250
Christopher Wells	13HKB	Archery	700
Edward Wimble	9C	Kayak	80
		Total	5620

The major award winner, Christopher Wells, is an international archer of considerable promise with the Olympics in his sights, as has the rower Richard Applewhite. All awards are made for individual projects although these may be undertaken within a wider group. The references to Mongolia and Costa Rica are examples; the Reading School boys who are being supported by the Enterprise Awards Scheme will be members of organized groups visiting those countries. Awards are graded in proportion to their merit in the eyes of the panel but the amount given is considerably affected by the standard of presentation. Reports by all participants are made on completion of their projects.

At the time of going to press the report from Oliver Jest who received the major award in 2007 is outstanding. We hope to print this next time and a report from Christopher Wells will also appear in a future edition.

ORs wishing to support the Scheme should contact Neil Thomason or another officer of Council (see rear panel for contact details).

KCB

Headmasters – 4* FP Barnard

By Ken Brown

DR. FRANCIS PIERREPONT BARNARD MA DLITT (OXON) FSA HON FELLOW OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE. HEAD OF ISLINGTON SCHOOL. HEADMASTER OF READING SCHOOL JAN 1888 – AUG 1894. APPOINTED PROFESSOR OF MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL 1908. HON CURATOR OF THE COINS AND MEDALS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. OFFICIER D'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE DE FRANCE. FELLOW OF THE ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. ASSOCIATE OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF FRANCE. MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.



Dr Barnard

Dr Barnard, whose bookplate graces the front cover of this issue, was one of the School's more significant and, indeed, interesting Headmasters. He revitalised the School, more than quadrupling the number of boys in his six years; from a near moribund state at the outset of his tenure he brought the School through the crisis,

re-opened the two boarding wings, established a Preparatory School, laid the scheme for the cricket pavilion and revived tradition.

'Under the steady guidance of Mr Barnard we have been slowly but surely winning our way back to a place among the great Public Schools of England' commented the School Magazine in September 1894 – another institution that this progressive man restored. Unfortunately the 'six year lapse of literary effort' since the magazine had ceased included the first five years of his reign, so we know less of him than we might otherwise. He also wrote the original Bidding Prayer (see below) and was the instigator of the commemorative wall plaques in Big School.

Francis Pierrepont Barnard was born on 27 November 1854 in Diss, Norfolk, the eldest son of a solicitor and attorney, Alfred Francis Barnard. His family tree includes the founder and first President of the Linnaean Society, Sir James Edward Smith; Thomas Girtin, renowned watercolourist (his maternal great-grandfather); - and Oliver Cromwell.

FPB was educated at St Paul's School and Pembroke College, Oxford and had spent two years as an assistant master at Reading School before becoming Head of Islington School and then, at the early age of 33, Headmaster of Reading School.

His first marriage on 15 April 1884 was to Eliza Smith Pollard who had been born in 1857, the daughter of a cotton manufacturer. She and her sister Isabella Smith Pollard were the co-heiresses of St. Mary's

Abbey, Windermere.

When Barnard became Headmaster at Reading, both Eliza and Isabella came with him. Eliza did not have good health – perhaps Isabella looked after her – and this caused Barnard to suddenly resign his Headship in 1894. So suddenly, in fact, that Barnard took the step of returning to the School to explain his position and quell speculation. He was invited, but excused himself, to the next two Speech Days and thereafter his connection with Reading School seems to have ceased.

He moved, with Eliza and Isabella, into The Abbey (see above) where, in the 1901 census, he is recorded as 'living on his own means.' His establishment included 2 footmen, a lady's maid and a housemaid all living on the premises.

Eliza died (again 'suddenly') on 10 April 1908, in Bedford – circumstances presently unknown – and that same year FPB was appointed to the Chair of Archaeology at Liverpool University and married Isabella, his wife's sister and co-heiress of The Abbey. Such a union, though it might be deemed a little hasty, was not unusual in Victorian times though, oddly, there seem to have been two marriage ceremonies, the first at Kings Lynn and the second at Bourne, Lincs. (Both Norfolk and Lincolnshire were counties with Barnard family connections).



Eliza Barnard

There is more to be discovered about The Abbey, which does not appear to exist nowadays, but before Eliza's death Barnard's address was recorded as 'Bilsby House, near Alford, Lincolnshire; St Mary's Abbey, Windermere' and it is at Bilsby House that he lived until his death.

Until that time he pursued his academic career and his antiquarian interests (with a break during the Great

War when he served in Intelligence, though in what capacity is presently unknown) and he published a good deal including:

Strongbow's Conquest of Ireland (as Editor).
The Casting Counter and the Counting Board.
Satirical and Controversial Medals of the Reformation.
Edward IV's French Expedition of 1485 (as Editor).
The Arms and Blazons of the Colleges of Oxford.

He died on 9 October 1931 at Bilsby House in his seventy-seventh year leaving, under trust conditions, cases of coins and medals and pictures and books to the Ashmolean Museum, portraits and former possessions of his grand-uncle Sir James Edward Smith to the Linnaean Society, heraldic items to the Bodleian Library and Bronze, Silver and plate

to Pembroke College, Oxford. However, his will stipulated that most of these items could be retained by his wife, Isabella, during her lifetime and indeed, 'in view of the uncertainty as to the future of this country' sold or otherwise disposed of by her should she consider it necessary.

Post First World War, FPB's establishment included a Butler and Chauffeur; they may, perhaps, have been the earlier 'two footmen' in later guise, but they give an indication of his style of life.

Isabella, or 'Ella' as she was usually known, did not live to see the outcome of 'the uncertainty' as she died only 3 years later, at the age of 69. How much of the 'Pierrepoint Barnard' bequests remained then, and remain now, it might be interesting to investigate...

Dr Barnard's Bidding Prayer

Let us give thanks to our Heavenly Father, the fountain of wisdom and giver of every perfect gift, for His servants departed this life, who during more than 400 years have laboured, each in his generation, to provide opportunities in the School of this Town for growing in godliness and sound learning;

And herein especially for the pious and charitable memories of John Thorne, Abbot of Reading, and Henry VII, King of England, the founders of the School;

Of Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London, and Sir Thomas Pope, Privy Councillor, the founders of scholarships attached to the School at the respective colleges of St John the Baptist and the Holy Trinity in the University of Oxford;

Also of William Dene; of Elizabeth, Queen of England; of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury; of William Kendrick; of Richard Valpy, some time Head Master; and of all other benefactors of this School.

Almighty God, always to be praised, for the dead as well as for the living, we bless Thy Holy Name for the founders and benefactors of Reading School, and pray Thee to continue their work and prosper it exceedingly.

Give Thy grace to both masters and scholars, that all who teach may be diligent in their stewardship, and that all who learn may so use these Thy gifts in their youth that they may glorify Thee in their manhood, and bring forth fruit abundantly to the benefit of their fellow men.

Guide us all, O Lord, with Thy counsel, and afterward receive us into Thy glory, for the merits of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The reference to Sir Thomas Pope, who does not appear in the current version of the Bidding Prayer, is to the Old Etonian founder of Trinity College, Oxford. From him there were, once, preferred scholarships for Reading boys to Trinity. They lapsed and Barnard tried to revive them, but was unsuccessful. One of his rare failures in seeking to restore the fortunes of the School.

KCB

* *Editor's Note:* Those previous Headmasters dealt with in some detail in the Journal include;

Richard Valpy
George Haydn Keeton
Leonard Cox

(John Oakes in the October 2000 issue)
(Sidney Vines/John Oakes October 2003)
(Martin Murphy October 2004)



Big School as it was in the 1890s

Tracking The Tea Trays No 4



Following announcement on the archive page of the last issue the John Kendrick plaque has now been hung in Big School, the fitting pantheon for this great benefactor of the School and Town of Reading,

Julian Sansum (1982-89) has generously provided the £100 to fund this first of the new 'tea trays'. The Honorary Archivist welcomes enquiries from members who wish to follow Julian's lead.

KCB

The New Commemorative Wall Plaques

John Kendrick's tea tray is one of four new plaques that have now been hung in Big School. The others are for Sir Alexander Galt – see Autumn 2007 Issue – W C Costin and Maj Gen Cowan. Details and images of the latter two trays will appear in the next issue. There was an informal viewing in Big School on Tuesday, 22 April before the Council Meeting; a more structured ceremony may be held later in the programme and members will be kept advised. A further 4 plaques are in preparation; they are for Sir George Pinker, the Boulting Brothers, John Minton and Bishop Christopher Butler.

The image shows the Hon Archivist with Brian Allum, the School signwriter for 30 years, in Brian's workshop in Woodcote, on the day that he, the Membership Secretary and Past President Tony Waring collected the first four new tea trays.

KCB



Events

The Commemoration Service 12 October 2007

The Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin again welcomed, courtesy of the Revd. Canon Brian Shenton, a congregation for a service of praise and thanksgiving in commemoration of the Founders and Benefactors of Reading School. The School of the Town was attending the Church of the Town; either may predate the other – it is not certain – but that they are the two oldest extant institutions of Reading there is little doubt.

Dr Neil Applegate, School Chaplain, welcomed the Mayor (Councillor Maskell) and the Clergy procession and gave the Bidding Prayer.

The Principal read from Deuteronomy 8: 1-18. There followed the Anthem *'I Give to You a New Commandment'*, beautifully sung. Indeed the music this year was especially fine, from the fanfare composed by School Director of Music Philip Aspden through the introductory flourishes on brass, before some rousing hymns, to the closing Organ Voluntary (Organist John Challenger Esq)

At the lectern, Chris Widdows OR (1955-62) spoke powerfully of the *'Noble Voices of the Past'* who were being celebrated, of those who had contributed to a wider sphere than their School, and of the many who had made the ultimate sacrifice. Anthony Butler, Captain of School told vividly of the rites of passage his School life had brought and how, like many before him, he now knew how fortunate he was to have attended Reading School. Vice Captain James Kennedy gave the second reading.

Prayer was led in some instances by senior boys and the recently established and worthy innovation of reciting the names of ORs who had died in the last year was likewise undertaken by them.

From the pulpit Rev David Picken of All Saints Church, High Wycombe delivered a sermon calling for a positive view of our country and reminding the congregation that good communities need strong foundations and we all should endeavour to take pride in achievement but try to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Guests were invited to the Civic Centre for tea after the service. Councillor Maskell, Reading born and bred, generously opened the Mayor's Parlour; there, amidst the trappings of office, is a splendidly framed print of the Denys Hinton picture of the School and the roll of former Mayors which, of course, numbers many Old Redingensians.



Mayor and Mayor's Parlour

KCB

Remembrance Service 11 November 2007



Canon Dominy

The OR Association's Annual Service of Remembrance in the School Chapel was led by the OR Chaplain, Rev David Hemsley. There was a good turnout with 80 people attending – even though the weather was modestly inclement. (We were drenched with rain just before the service but having done its worst the rain, at least, went away).

The sermon was preached by Canon Peter Dominy OR (1947 – 55), who focused on the changing nature of warfare over the years and suggested that today's wars were no longer fixed battles, as in the World Wars: progressively wars are becoming more the battle for hearts and minds of the participants and the populations we seek to defend. Without winning the underlying arguments peace will never be achieved. While this did not mean that the deaths and injuries suffered individually by our service people were individually any the less, he suggested that those of us not directly involved in the warfare, would need to be involved very much more in the arguments that give cause for the wars – and to do something personally to attempt to solve the problems involved.

Our President, Lt Col Neale Jouques OR, read the lesson and the wreaths were laid on the three memorials in the Chapel by Neale Jouques, Gareth Price OR and Fl Sgt Luke Day of the School CCF. A smart guard of honour was provided by boys from the School, which added greatly to the occasion.

Mr Michael Woods FRCO played the organ with considerable gusto and the singing of the hymns showed that old lungs can still make a goodly sound.

The familiar conclusion was rendered not by ORs but by the Captain of School, Anthony Butler, who proclaimed the Act of Remembrance and Lewis Anderson (11E) who sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The involvement of boys from the School and the presence of Mr John Weeds, the Principal, in the congregation were very much appreciated by the ORs and guests present.

After the service members of the congregation were entertained in the Staff Common Room and many reminiscences were exchanged – for well over an hour.

The OR Council are most grateful to the Principal for the continued use of the Chapel for our annual service, and to all who took part and contributed to this special occasion.

Gareth Price

(G W O Price (1948 – 56) is a Past President of the OR Association – Ed)

The 119th Annual General Meeting 24 November 2007

The outgoing President, Lt Col N A Jouques OBE RLC took the chair at the meeting of 27 officers and members (and one guest) in the Middleton Room at Reading School. The Hon Secretary, D B Cox, reported apologies for absence from 23 members. C J Widdows, Membership Secretary, read the names of ORs known to have died in the preceding year and one minutes silence was observed by the company.

The minutes of the 118th AGM were passed nem. con. and the Officers' annual reports, written and distributed beforehand, were then considered.

Lt Col Jouques emphasized the continued success of the Enterprise Awards Scheme, plans to support the Rowing Club, to develop the website and to reciprocate the strong support for the OR Association shown by the Principal.

The Hon Secretary's detailed report included his decision to step down from the post for personal reasons (to the regret of all present), and the Trustees Report and Accounts, presented by the Hon Treasurer I R Moore revealed a most healthy situation.

The membership level had remained stable and the representatives for Athletics, Cricket, Golf, Rugby and Association Football were all able to report a successful completion of the year's programmes, despite some weather problems, notably in Cricket Week.

Three resolutions to effect necessary revisions of the Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association were explained and unanimously approved by the meeting which then moved to consider the election of new Officers and Councillors.

C A Scroggs was appointed President for 2007-8 and warmly praised Lt Col Jouques for his most successful year of office. All other Officers, and the Hon Auditor, were reappointed with the exception of Vice President and Hon Secretary, which posts remain temporarily vacant. N A Jouques and D B Cox were approved for a further 3 year term as Councillors and N R Thomason for a 3 year term to replace retiring Councillor G W O Price.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.40 with further thanks to The Principal for allowing the use of the Middleton Room this year.

KCB

Note: The makeup of Council as we go to press includes an additional councillor, Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE. (General Wildman was profiled in the Spring 2007 issue of The Old Redingensian.)



N R (Neil) Thomason (1966-73 West House) was Vice Captain of School where, inter alia, he won an RAF flying scholarship. At St John's College, Cambridge he was a member of the University Air Squadron. Flying remains a passion; he has flown in many air displays, often leading a formation and has also performed solo aerobatics.

From designing accounting systems he moved to derivatives trading in the City, and also in New York and Tokyo where he met his Japanese wife Kimi. They have one son.

Neil has accepted appointment as Vice President for the current year.

Annual Dinner 24 November 2007



A rare opportunity to hold the Annual Dinner in Big School arose this year, with the availability of the catering skills of the 13th Air Assault Regiment RLC, courtesy of Lt Col. Neale Jouques OBE OR and the Principal Mr John Weeds. Overcoming the problems of a hot meal in Big School is, of course, as nothing to the regular production of the same on the plains of Afghanistan etc...and there was rather less flak to contend with. Indeed the 81 present, with very little exception, were full of praise for the venture. The quality of the food was much higher than the usual 'civilian' fare, certainly.

The incoming President, Cedric Scroggs, presided; Rev David Hemsley said grace and Big School itself provided the atmosphere, many topics of conversation, and even more memories.

After the Loyal Toast and the interval, the Toast to the Old Redingensians Association, given by Rodney Huggins, was responded to by the President. The main guest of the evening, Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE OR (1958-65) then gave the Toast to The School accompanied by an amusing and thought provoking speech. (At least – since much of his address was concerned with the exchange of identities practised with his twin, Group Captain Peter Wildman OR (1958-65) from their schooldays onwards – we assume it was Murray speaking to us...). The Principal responded.

Cedric Scroggs made presentations of glass tankards to the retiring President, Neale Jouques, and to the retiring Hon Sec, David Cox, and then read out a letter from Roy Seymour (1952 – 57) sending greetings from the ORs of the USA branch who promised to 'raise a glass in honour of all ORs and the School'. The Captain of School, Anthony Butler, having been given the traditional cheque, made a well received speech.

The Hon Archivist took the opportunity to speak of the forthcoming additions to the 'Tea Trays' adorning the walls.

The cook soldiers of 13th Air Assault Regiment and the waitress team added greatly to the occasion by their cheerfulness and efficiency. Neale Jouques and Social Secretary Barrie Shelton deserve many congratulations for their organisation of the event which posed particular problems in planning and preparation. Like swans they sailed on with apparent serenity whilst paddling furiously 'under water'.

KCB



Images from the Annual Dinner in Big School

Top: Table 7 (recent leavers) - Maj Gen Wildman - Table 4 Centre: Presentation to David Cox - Toastmaster Rodney Huggins - Presentation to Neale Jouques - the Principal, John Weeds, with David Cox Below: Catering Staff - Captain of School, Anthony Butler – Field Kitchen in the covered quad



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

1. 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.
2. Whilst helping to maintain the School's heritage ensure a modern approach to all activities and communications ensuring younger age group participation.
3. Encourage adventurousness, creativity and leadership in pupils mainly through the support for overseas sporting tours and the Enterprise Awards initiative.
4. Fully support the Principal and Staff and actively develop working links with Governors, Reading Foundation, Parents & Friends of Reading School.
5. Ensure that all our transactions demonstrate financial and legal probity.

As It Was – Reading School 1939 – 45

By Peter Coombs

(An Address given at the School's Act of Remembrance on Friday, 9 November 2007)

World War 2 began on Sunday, 3 September 1939. Four days later - on the Thursday of that same week - I slowly wended my way up the drive to begin my school career. I am not sure if I was more nervous about the start of the war than I was about starting at Reading School. The fact I am here today shows that I survived both experiences!

Life at School during the war years was a strange mixture of the routine and the regular combined with the unusual and the unexpected. Mostly routine. Between 1939 and 1945 very few lessons were missed owing to enemy action. If the Air Raid Sirens sounded we descended into the air raid shelters. Deep and dank they ran down the east side of the school field - from East Wing House down to Erleigh Road. A gap was left so that the Cricket Pavilion could still be used. The game must go on. The game did go on! In June 1942 the talented 1st XI defeated a strong MCC team. That seldom happened even in peace time. That win raised school morale generally. Good news always did.

Our air raid shelters did enable school routine to be followed with comparatively little interruption. Some lessons and a few exams took place there. Adolf Hitler may have been a dictator, but the great thing was not to let him dictate the school timetable. He never did.



RSM Rollings



*Damage caused by the bombing on
10 February 1943*

When we did go into the shelters - one lone person stayed outside. In the middle of the school field - carefully avoiding the cricket square - stood Regimental Sergeant Major Rollings, Royal Berkshire Regiment. The RSM was the Cadet Corps' permanent Instructor. There he was with steel helmet, gas mask, tripod and Bren gun - searching the skies for enemy aircraft. None ever came his way but there he was - a solitary figure of defiance. (*'Sarge' did, later, claim to have potted a Messerschmitt from the School Field! – Ed*)

Ironically, when one stick of high explosive bombs did fall on Reading on 10th February 1943 killing 41 civilians outright no sirens sounded. The solitary low-flying Dornier bomber gave no prior warning. Our shelters were empty! It was the beginning of afternoon school. In one of the Physics labs the floor trembled, the windows rattled (some flew open), then came the sound of the explosions. We looked at each other knowingly. The lesson went on.

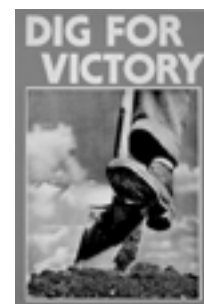
Normal school life was only possible because of the leadership of the Headmaster and the dedication of the staff. If younger members were called up they were often replaced by others coming out of retirement. In the middle of the war the school welcomed Miss Morgan to the staff of the Senior School. 'The first female teacher', noted the school magazine, 'for 800 years'. But by no means the last.

Every other Saturday evening the School Debating Society met in Big School. On 16th November 1940 - halfway through the proceedings the sirens went. Those present made their way home in the blackout. The Minute Book simply recorded: 'Debate curtailed by air raid warning. Resumed in Room 16 Friday, 22 November. Motion lost by 10 votes.' Next business, please.



How did Reading School assist the war effort? Here are my three 'F's:

Finance. Over the 5½ war years the School raised no less than £62,000 through the War Savings Scheme. That would have been enough to build over twelve Spitfires - although not all the money raised went to strengthen the Royal Air Force. According to the Retail Price Index that £62,000 would today be valued at £1.8 million. A magnificent sum for one school to have raised.



Food. Food, in wartime days, was often in short supply and much of it rationed. 'Dig for Victory' was the nation's motto. We dug! Much of Morgan Road was turned over to allotments used - with varying degrees of success - by students, staff and parents. Each autumn we picked potatoes at the University Farm at Sonning. A day off school for this - and some pocket-money.

Forces. But, of course, the greatest contribution the School made towards peace and freedom was the provision of men for the Forces. 'Men' did I say? Mostly they were just turned 18. 'Boys' is nearer the mark.



The World War II Memorial in the Chapel

During the war years the Cadet Forces flourished. On a typical Thursday afternoon there would be on parade in the Quad some 215 cadets in khaki; out on the terrace another 35 in Air Force blue; 250 in uniform, under military discipline and in training. Across the world just under 1,000 Reading School boys served in the armed forces, mostly in positions of leadership.

Of that (nearly) 1,000, no less than 67 were decorated for bravery (most of these being RAF aircrew), 31 were Mentioned in Despatches and 121 boys and 2 masters were either killed in action or died of wounds. 121 of the original 1,000. That is: one in eight.

What, of course, brought the war closer to home was when the news came through of the death of a boy we had known at school. One of us. But just a year or two older. One day, it might be - us.

But, thankfully, the war ended. Across the nation church bells rang out. The prefects made sure the bell in the School Tower joined in. On VE night victory in Europe was celebrated by the floodlighting of the front of the School from the terrace. A wonderful sight.



Big School floodlight on VE night

Because for 800 years Reading School has been shaped by Christian tradition the Chapel was, of course, the appropriate place for a Thanksgiving Service led by the Headmaster. Its

themes were Remembrance and Dedication. We remembered those who had given their lives to bring about peace. We were invited to dedicate our lives to the service of others, even if it meant sacrifice.

My words this morning have been about the past. Sixty years in the past. But the past is never past. It is always with us. We need to remember its lessons still today. Service and sacrifice. For you and for me.



Archdeacon Peter Coombs (1939 – 47), pictured left, is a former Captain of School and a Past President of the Old Redingensians Association.
(Editor's Note)

The Seventh “Fifty Years On” Luncheon



Thirty friends and contemporaries lunched on Wednesday 30 January 2008 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London at the invitation of Peter Stevens and Denis Moriarty.

It is highly gratifying that so many are willing to make the journey. Among the “further flung” were Robin Fabel from Alabama, USA; John Gardiner from Elche, Spain; and David Weekes from Fife, Scotland. But whether from overseas or Greater London, it was an extremely good forgathering of those who had shared the joys and sorrows of growing up – not just in “Godliness and sound learning” (pace The Bidding Prayer), but in personal, physical, and social maturity. As on previous occasions, those present reaffirmed the inestimable benefits gained from Reading School. The intervening years fell away, the subsequent experiences of a diversity of careers lost their importance, and in memory all were again collaborating and competing in form room and lab., in The Seekers and the scrum. What remains is the strongest sense of comradeship arising from shared experience – whether of triumph or disaster.

Some of the subsequent reactions of those present capture the spirit of the event:-

“an excellent and happy occasion”: Tom Arie:

“the luncheon feast..... memorable as usual.... can’t wait for next year”: Dudley Bruton

“every one is better than the last, which should be impossible...”: John Perry

“it was a great delight to meet so many old friends, and also several ‘new old friends,’ and to have the opportunity to exchange happy memories and talk of events past and present.”: Chris Webber

“memorablethe victuals were abounding and excellent....the 1958 Armagnac was fragrant and delicious (a kind of Mary Archer of spirits).”: Michael Wolfers

All were welcomed, on arrival, individually by the hosts and particularly Gerry Knight, David Rodgers, and Chris Webber, attending for the first time. Denis introduced the Club’s Banqueting Manager, Mr Joe Inglott, at whose capable hands, and those of his staff, an excellent meal was enjoyed fully in accordance with the Club’s high standards. The School Grace, Benedic nos, Domine..., was said by David Weekes.

During luncheon, conversation ranged widely as always. After a short intermission, Denis as “President for life” called upon Colonel Brian Thompson to propose The Loyal Toast. Prefacing this duty with some reminiscences of Biology at School and life in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, loyalty to Her Majesty was duly reaffirmed in the Club Port and in the hearty singing of The National Anthem. Next, after some further reminiscences of life at School and in the medical profession, Dr Dudley Bruton proposed the toast to Reading School – “Floreat Redingensis” – drunk in the 50 year old Armagnac donated by the impenetrably Anonymous Benefactor. The School Song was sung with customary fervour but was there a dissident “weaker” from across the table – implying some still hadn’t learnt the second verse?!



Comment and reminiscence were invited in rotation round the table. These were prompted by the circulation of a collection of photographs of Masters – and also of RSM E D Rollings, BEM of honoured memory – taken from School Magazines of the 1950s recovered by Bob Alexander from his loft. The military note running through proceedings was emphasised by John Perry, who spoke of the invaluable work of Combat Stress (the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society) for which he invited support. John Roper commented that the age group of those present included the last cohort to do National Service

and thus – together with those who volunteered for the Territorial Army and Reserve Forces – to have some appreciation of the demands of armed conflict; no member (*or scarcely any – Ed*) of recent Governments had served in the Armed Forces, which had all too frequently been sent into action under-manned and under-equipped. This, and the inadequacies of Government provision for the Education and Health Services, met with general disapprobation.

Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary of the OR Association, showed an example of the new “tea trays” to be displayed in Big School in commemoration of distinguished ORs of more recent generations, including Major General D T Cowan and Sir George Pinker.

As is now traditional at these lunches, led by John Gardiner there was a fervent rendition of *“For he is an Englishman.”*

Where the School is concerned, “Buffy” Price and others in close and regular contact reported continuing success in academic, cultural, and sporting performance, in circumstances of changing values and constraint upon resources. Those present accepted and indeed welcomed change in order to meet prevailing conditions, and extended their support to the School and its Principal – while regretting the loss of the time honoured title of ‘Head Master’. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

Floreat Redingensis!

Peter Stevens



Clockwise from top left: Michael Wolfers; David Weekes; Charles Hoile & Peter Fiddick; Denis Moriarty; Robin Fabel; Peter Stevens; Mike Oakley; Tom Arie; Mike Van Brugen; Robin Oldland; The Banqueting Manager with Peter Stevens; Chris Widdows with David Rodgers; Brian Thompson & Gerry Knight (seated); Dudley Bruton; Chris Webber; Bob Alexander; John Perry; John Gardiner. **Also present were:** Fred Barker; Rudolph Bissoletti; John Lambourne; Gareth Price; John Roper; Mike Shattock; Anthony Simons; John Stevens; David Wilkins; David Wise. **24 sent their apologies for not being able to attend.**

The Principal's Letter

As we approach the business end of the year, my thoughts turn naturally to the academic prospects of this year's examination groups. I have particularly high hopes for the current Sixth Form leavers (Year 13) who were notably successful in this year's round of Oxbridge interviews for admission. Thirty-two of our students received offers! A quite outstanding achievement, I am sure you will agree. I am equally sure you will want to join with me in wishing them every further success with their forthcoming A-levels. I have been particularly impressed with the contribution of Anthony Butler and James Kennedy - Captain and Vice-Captain of School respectively. They have played an active part in Governing Body meetings as representatives of all the students in the School and have dutifully attended OR Council. This is an indication of how schools and their culture are changing. Quite rightly students have a much greater say in the way they are taught and the way they are managed. As Principal, I regularly attend Student Council meetings and listen to the boys' views about conditions in the School and what could be improved. This goes some way towards explaining key aspects of my vision for the future of the School: improving facilities (I hope in the shape of a new Refectory) providing greater curriculum choice and ensuring the highest of standards in teaching and learning. The boys here deserve nothing less. They, in common with boys and girls in other high achieving schools, have the gifts and talents to make hugely valuable contributions to the society of the future. We owe it them to do our best for them.

As I reflect on the past year's high points, aside from the academic, I think in particular of a number of events which will be of interest to ORs. The most poignant of these was our first Service of Remembrance on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday itself when Peter Coombs addressed our junior boys (Year 7-9) about his time at School in the War years. His audience was transfixed by his reminiscences - especially the one about the Physics lesson that continued as usual, even while Reading was being bombed from the air! We are so grateful to Peter for the time he devoted to this occasion. I look forward to the Service becoming an annual event. Later on in November, the Annual Dinner was a delight. Big School was transformed into the kind of banqueting hall a medieval monarch would have felt at home in! It gave us a glimpse of what we could do with this area for the purpose of future entertainments. You will also be interested to know that in aid of Sport Relief we arranged a Fun Run around the outside of the School site by all the boys and many staff - including me. How I ended up doing it three times, I shall never know! On the last occasion I was accompanied by a Smurf, a Nun and a Star Wars stormtrooper. I suspect these were Sixth Formers in disguise, but one can never be too



sure! The fact that the School raised over £3000 as a result means there is a strong likelihood of us having more of the same kind of events in the future. I am also delighted that the Reading School tradition of commemorating notable former pupils continues. The recent installation of four new 'tea trays' is an indication of our shared commitment to the School's past. This is so important when one comes to plan for the future. My gratitude to those ORs who have actively supported me in getting fundraising for the School off the ground knows no bounds. My thanks go particularly to Cedric Scroggs, Neale Jouques and Michael Maule. I also thank those ORs who double as Foundation members and in some cases School Governors for their support in the deliberations about this matter. I will say more at the Annual Dinner in November, but it is clear that we are getting somewhere. I am sure ORs generally will want me to share with them how they can continue to support the School to best effect.

Finally, you will want to know if I consider the School to be in rude health. The answer, I believe, is a resounding "Yes!". We are hugely oversubscribed for entry into the School at 11 and even more so for places in the Sixth Form. We are Berkshire County senior soccer champions - congratulations to the 1st XI! The recent A-level drama production of *Animal Farm* was simply outstanding, whilst the Lent Term Music Concert was of the highest quality. There is an abundance of excellent art work on display around the School. In addition to all that, we fare pretty well in examinations too! Long may that particular tradition continue.

Floreat redingensis, floreant discipuli et doctores,
vivat princeps.

John Weeds
Principal

School News



The School's record 32-place offers at Oxbridge attracted press attention and a visit in January to the Principal, John Weeds (second left), by Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Schools (second right), with Rob Wilson MP (first right) for Reading East, who said "I am very proud to have on my doorstep not just this, the best boys' school in the country, but also the best girls' school' (Kendrick), Ned Holt (first left) the Head of Sixth Form, (who is himself an OR (1966 – 72)), said "this is a particularly successful year group who have been enjoyable to teach – they've been challenging, in the best possible sense". The achievement was also featured live on Southern TV, including interviews with some of the boys.

A Geography and Drama Departments party went to New York during the October half term, visiting Ground Zero and taking part in a workshop on Broadway, amongst other things.

On Friday, 9 November last the School held a Remembrance Service in the 'Quad', with boys drawn up in Houses on 3 sides of an open square and a dais on the 4th side (in front of the old 'Quad Library'). Drumhead services were held in the quadrangle during the 1930s; but this successful revival is a modern innovation by the Principal, who introduced the service and intends to make it an annual event.

The service was led by the School Chaplain, Dr Applegate, and Bidding Prayers by Prefects. The Captain of School delivered the Act of Remembrance, Lewis Anderson (11E) sounded the Last Post and Reveille. A wreath was laid by a representative of each House, then collected and marched to the Chapel War Memorial by a CCF detachment.

A compelling address, on Reading School during the Second War, was given by Archdeacon Peter Coombs OR. It is printed, in full, on pages 13 & 14.

'An Evening with the Sixth Form' on 22 November showcased their dramatic talents in a series of monologues and duologues and very high praise was given by the visiting examiner for the Drama Department's production of *Animal Farm*.

A Reading School Team (Luke Stacpoole, James Bradford, Suhan Rajkumar) won the local Senior competition in the first round, last December, of the annual 'Rotary Youth Speaks' which is a nationwide event.

The 16 best performers in the British Mathematical Olympiad (Round 1) attended a training camp in Hungary in the Christmas Holidays with their Hungarian equivalents. We are pleased to report that Tom Cappleman (Y13) was amongst the British contingent. Additionally, 5 gold medals were achieved in the Chemistry Olympiad by Reading boys, and another, Ian Ross, joined the Biology Team in India.

The School's Sixth Formers are volunteering to instruct Primary School teachers on how to play tag rugby, to increase participation in next year's tag tournament. London Irish player, Gary Johnson, helped the Sixth Formers mount the initial tournament for Primary Schools, which took place at the School this year.

There is now a House Competition for the School's 'Young Enterprise' companies. The first winners were East House who produced glasses with the school crest (some may still be available...)

Preview of cricket season 2008

Michael Carson, Captain of Cricket writes; “Having enjoyed a moderately successful season last year with a very inexperienced team, I am looking forward to a much improved season this year, with players benefiting from playing in a settled squad for a second year. As well as a strong pace bowling attack, the addition of a couple of strong batsmen who are new to year 12 will no doubt make us a stronger team all round.

My goal is for the team to remain unbeaten in all of the games against other schools which, despite being ambitious, is perfectly achievable with the players we have. This still leaves the games against the ORs, the Berkshire Gentlemen and the MCC, which are usually the most enjoyable games to play in for all the boys (especially if we can repeat the performance of two seasons ago!).

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the season is the tour to Grenada and as it will be my second tour with the school. I know that it will be a brilliant opportunity for all the boys to experience such a different culture and to play on a test match ground. Providing that we win a few games. I am sure that it will be a great success.”

(The team welcomes support from ORs on match days. The OR Association is sponsoring the tour to Grenada – Ed)

Staff Leaving Notices

R G Owen (1970–2007)



Dick Owen, who retired in 2007 after thirty seven years teaching Mathematics at Reading School, is one of the most dependable and sensible of men. That was no doubt, why the then Head Master, Andrew Linnell, asked him in 1998 to take on the crucial role of Assistant Head with responsibility for admissions. Admissions policy and practice are a minefield, with constantly changing rules and full of potential dangers, not least legal ones, for a school in charge of its own entrance examinations. In the contemporary jargon, Dick was “a safe pair of hands”, and proved it time and time again over the last decade. But Dick’s contribution to Senior Management went far beyond this one role. He initiated widespread links with feeder primary schools, shouldered responsibilities for the whole of Key Stage Three and, not least, gave wise advice to colleagues across a whole range of issues.

Dick is the quintessential team player. In the Maths department he was not only an outstanding and devoted teacher, as his pupils constantly testify, but was loyally supportive to his colleagues, who all had the utmost trust in him. Dick’s contribution to the Maths department, above all in the last two decades of constant pressure and change, has been a major factor in its achieving, and then maintaining, the outstanding level of success for which it is known nationally.

A great believer in getting to know his pupils outside the classroom, Dick’s contribution to the school’s extra - curricular activities has been second to none. As Head of West House from 1985 to 1999 he was a gently firm tutor to a generation of young entrants, and a strong encouragement to more senior participants in, and organisers of, house teams. Dick’s contribution to Reading School cricket deserves an article in itself. A keen player himself (his wicket keeping prowess took him into the Berkshire side on several occasions in the 1980s), he was in charge of the 1st XI from 1977 to 1993 and coached a school team in every year of his career. He was responsible for many a young cricketer going on to enjoy the sport at club level. Badminton and Chess also flourished under his guidance, school teams winning local and county - wide competitions year in year out. And he rarely missed a school ski trip.

Phew! Just to write about Dick’s career is exhausting! He has certainly earned the long and happy retirement that his friends and colleagues all wish him.

M Evans

R G Brough (1970–2007)



Bob Brough joined Reading School in 1970. It may come as a surprise to ORs who encountered him in the second half of his career that he was appointed to teach full – time History. Within only a few years however he had made it clear that he came with his own views of how his teaching at Reading School should progress. He was quick to offer his O level group an alternative to the long established Tudor and Stuart syllabus, and when Modern World History was eventually fully established in the curriculum his advice as a teacher and as an experienced examiner was invaluable.

Amending the teaching of History was not enough however, and in the early eighties came Bob's greatest contribution to the school's curriculum. Having pursued an Open University Economics degree with first class honours, in his own time, he introduced the subject into the A Level options. By the time of his retirement last summer, the subject was firmly established among the most popular, and most successful, A Level subjects. He remained for generations of economic students, both a popular and highly respected teacher.

One measure of this has been the steady increase in the number of students wishing to pursue the subject in some way to degree level.

Reference to classroom teaching however, will not relate to the experience most cherished by many students who were never taught by Bob at all. In 1984 he organised a cultural visit to the USSR, and from then until his last years in School, "Brough Tours" became a feature of Reading School life, running at two or three trips a year, and covering most of Europe at one time or another. Bob has contributed to many other areas, to hockey, the bridge and model railway clubs, but as a traveller he is as legendary in the offices of the companies who promote overseas tours as he is with the countless Reading School students who participated in them. He will be much missed by students and colleagues, but has earned a long and happy retirement.

E S Holt

Mrs M A McDonald BA, MA (Director of Teaching and Learning) (English), and an Assistant Head Teacher, has now left the staff and an appreciation of her career will appear in the Autumn 2008 issue.

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



'Look Wide – Look Forward – Look Deep'

Scouting at Reading School Part 2

In the last issue of the Journal recollections of 55th Reading (Reading School) Scout Group reached 1950. The Troop was now long established, many different annual camp sites had become familiar and the Scout Hut at Morgan Road was beginning to age.

The hut, in fact, had been opened in 1927 by the County Commissioner, Major Sir Frederick Carden Bt JP, with great ceremony and using a specially made key with a bronze model of a scout on its shank. Another bronze, a statuette, was given in 1936 by OR Scouts for presentation at Speech Day to the winners of The Patrol competition. The first winners were Falcon Patrol led by D J Hinton (1931-39), now Professor Denys Hinton MSC AA Dip.L. (Hons) FRIBA. He later became Troop Leader.



Other Troop Leaders over the years whose names still strike a chord include Leader Hawkins, George Pinker, Vic Payne, Matt Mattingley, John Hodgess-Roper... many Scouts continued their association with the Troop when they became ORs – the Sandford brothers for 20 years, or more, at Camps etc.

Both the Troop and individual members had gained various distinctions over the years, not least B A Cullingford and J Goddard who, in 1947, were awarded the Silver Cross of The Boy Scouts Association for gallantry in attempting a rescue from drowning.

David Butler's article in the Autumn 2007 issue recalled how those early decades culminated in a record number of Kings Scouts in the 1940s. Central to those thriving years was D T W Salt who left School in 1950. He had been in the Troop since 1944 and while still a schoolboy became an Assistant Scoutmaster.

Another of David Butler's contemporaries, who also became an ASM while still at School, is **H W F (Hubert) Bunce (1941-51)** who sent in the following anecdotes recalling those early post-war years.

"The Tiger Patrol camped at Wasing Park, Aldermaston for a week. As patrol leader I felt that because milk was a good food, and because it was available cheap i.e. subsidized by the government at 6d a pint, we should use it in all our cooking, including porridge, that traditional camp item. Milk, added to porridge, in a metal billycan cooked over a campfire without burning was completely beyond our talents. No matter how hard we tried or how careful we were the Tiger Patrol ate burned porridge every morning for a week.

In 1950, as Assistant Scout Master, I had the honour of organizing the food supplies for the annual Scout Camp under the leadership of Scoutmaster "Scruffy" Hinton, to be held at Withypool, on Exmoor. All arrangements were made with the various shops in Lynton and Lynmouth in good time. Unfortunately there was a most unusual weather event in which a vast amount of water fell out of the skies on these two towns. The suppliers of our food were struggling to survive, let alone help us. The only thing to do, just before the Troop was due to arrive, was to quickly find a new set of shops, in drier locations, to provide our needed foodstuffs.

The Scout Hut at Morgan Road was not necessarily the warmest place in the winter. Fortunately there

were two amazing pieces of equipment called Tortoises. I discovered that they loved to eat coke and in exchange would provide a great heat. If the damper was left open and they were fully stocked, they would also attain an unearthly reddish-orange colour. As at camp I had always enjoyed maintaining a good cooking fire, so it was no chore to do likewise in the Morgan Road Hut. No one seemed to complain and I never saw the bill for the coke.

One winter I discovered that there was to be a Scout gathering during the Christmas holidays at a place called Bryn Bach in North Wales. Having obtained the needed approvals and having hitchhiked to the specified rendezvous, I joined a mixed gang of scouts in the back of Willie Jones's lorry for a hair-raising, exciting ride along mountain roads bounded by sheer precipices. The accommodation was luxurious, cabins rather than tents. We hiked to Blaenau Ffestiniog, a slate mining town, where we were billeted with miners' families, before being taken into the mountain. Its whole middle had been cut away, except for the giant pillars of the natural rock left to hold the roof up. The highlight was to experience the miners blasting the slate in the huge caverns within the heart of the mountain. Scouting was fun."

Since inception, Mr Grigg had been the driving force of the Troop. He deemed an appropriate time to step down was when, on the death of Lord Baden-Powell, the new system of Scouting was introduced in 1948.

Mr Timms replaced him (the Junior School Cubs had been disbanded that same year) and, in 1949, the Troop was split into two sections. Baden and Powell, followed by the establishment, in 1950, of a Senior Scout Troup with two patrols, Scott and Mitchell, under Mr Liddell as Scoutmaster. A third patrol was soon formed. By this time Mr Hinton had replaced Mr Timms and the Group was sixty strong. The Baden and Powell sections were reunited to form a single Troop of 7 patrols under Mr Hinton.

Other masters had assisted from time to time, for instance BC Harvey to 1939 and JS Price, briefly, in 1940, but now the burden began increasingly to be lifted by the supply of experienced seniors. Edmund Hey, 'Rikki' (1942-49), now Dr E N Hey, joined the Group in 1952 as a 'Rover' instructor. M J Prout, 'Prog' (1947-52), became an ASM the same year, beginning his long association with the 55th as an OR.

Also in 1952 a Group Colour was dedicated in the School Chapel. In 1953 A D 'Kim' Bull camped at Farnham in the Woodlarks Camp for handicapped Scouts and Guides – and found W J (Jack) Sandford OR in charge. Jack, holder of the Silver Wolf – Scouting's highest award – was involved as, first, the Chairman and, later, a trustee of the Camp for many years.

Mr Hinton left, for Lancaster Grammar School, in 1953 – on a high note, as the 55th was not only one of 4 Troops of the county selected to give a demonstration of Scout ceremonial at the Chief Scout's Rally in Windsor Great Park, but was adjudged by Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, to have given the best demonstration.

M J M Brown joined the School Staff in 1953 and took over from Mr Hinton as Scoutmaster of the Junior Troop. The next year Johnny Liddell left for a post in Bournemouth, and the new Music Master, G C Moore took over from him as Scoutmaster of the Senior Troop. A further ASM was acquired when D R Wanstall joined the staff in 1956.

In 1957 no less than 46 Proficiency Badges, a record, were gained, the new 55th Reading Troop Magazine was started, there were 5 Queens Scouts in the Senior Troop and the decision was taken to start a Rover crew. A new colour was presented (and dedicated in the Chapel) by the parents of Peter Rackley OR (1946-54) who had sadly died in an accident during service in the Merchant Navy.

Another Peter, P J Evans (1954-58) was awarded a letter of commendation from the Chief Scout for saving a man's life after a road accident. The letter was presented to him in a ceremony held in Big School. Then Mr Brown left the staff and Michael Holmes joined – one history and scripture master for another. The inaugural meeting of the Rover Crew took place in 1958 with S B Butler OR the leader. Mr Wanstall became SM of the Junior Troop, with Mr Holmes ASM, and Geoff Moore SM of the Senior Troop. Kim Bull, by now an OR, became an ASM.

In 1959 David Wanstall left and Michael Holmes replaced him as Scoutmaster; the following year Geoff Moore left and he was replaced as SM of the Senior Troop by S J Wright, who had recently joined the Staff. A new era – to be examined in the next issue – was beginning.

KCB



Scouts in the 1920s leaving for their Summer Camp

(Reminiscences of Scouting in the 1950's, 60's and 70's are now invited – Ed.)

Where are they now?

By Ken Brown

After an idea by Tony Waring OR PP

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

G D BECKETT (EAST WING 1974-81)

Captain of Rugby, Hockey, and a prominent member of the Cricket XI in his time, Graham went on to captain Ealing CC and is a regular at Lords – he is a playing member of MCC – for Tests, often meeting School contemporaries there. He also played rugby for Rosslyn Park and hockey for Surrey, and Hawks which he captained. He is a project manager with a masters degree in Construction Management. Recent work for Kier International has taken him to Mexico (an aluminium plant) to Tobago (a hospital) and Jamaica (boutique extension) the latter two allowing opportunities for football and cricket (he was able to play at Sabina Park). At present he is in Romania building a shopping centre and trying to keep fit by running round a lake in Bucharest, playing golf on a six hole course (3 holes were bulldozed by Ceausescu to punish some skiving employees...) and touch Rugby.

D S CLARKE (COUNTY HOUSE 1932-39)

Don left School after the outbreak of WW2 and spent the next 6 years as a radio officer in the Merchant Navy. His father died during the war so Don came ashore to keep his Mum company, and rejoined the staff of Barclays Bank in Southampton District. His career took him to various branches and his final appointment was as Manager of Lymington branch. Along the way his marriage to Betty produced 'one delightful daughter, Hilary'. He maintains (with unconvincing modesty) that his greatest success as a banker has been the 25 years so far completed in retirement.

M C HUGHES (WEST WING 1968-75)

Erstwhile Captain of Boarders, which House he led to victory in the Cock House Cup competition, Martin attended Surrey University and has made his career in the Hotel trade. He married Susan, in Lichfield, in 1978 and they have two daughters Gemma and Melissa - both now in their mid twenties. Martin remains in touch with his Best Man N J Sergeant OR (1968-75). They are both Season Ticket holders

at Old Trafford. (*Why? Oh why?.....Ed.*). Martin manages The Swan in Knutsford, which has a 70 bedroom Premier Inn adjacent, but retains a property in Lichfield.

F E JONES (COUNTY HOUSE 1940-50)

National Service in the RAF followed School, and then Foster was able to continue his education (University Coll. London, and Coll. Of St Mark and St John, Chelsea) and embark on his teaching career. Early on, in the East End, he recalls how start of term had to await the return from Kent of hop-picking families! Back on home ground he spent 10 years as Head of Physics at Alfred Sutton Boys and then moved to Colchester – where he still lives – as Head of Science in the town's leading comprehensive. Meanwhile, he had built a part-time business in antique maps and views (such as that at the end of *School News* – it once appeared in the ILN and so he knows it well). He has now retired and sold that business, although he continues with a little picture framing. He occupies his time with part-time coach driving for schools and private hire and running his vintage 1927 Humber tourer. Contact is maintained with DR and JE Butler and DO Forder from Reading School days.

J A PEARSON (EAST HOUSE 1959-65)

Outstanding actor at School, perhaps most memorably as Puck, in 1959, for which part he won the first of his two Boulting Drama medals, John took Modern Languages at Oxford (Queen's) and then embraced poverty in India, where he became fluent in Hindi. It all led to a return to Oxford, a first in Theology, and a radical reappraisal of his views. In 1977 he married Lyn and took a post at Bristol Cathedral School where he taught for thirty years; French and German, of course, but also Drama, R.E., Japanese, Psychology.... he held senior positions and was, inter alia, highly commended in the 2001 Teacher of the Year Awards and credited in the 2006 Good Schools Guide with the best results in A level Psychology of any Independent School in the country. John has 3 daughters, a son and a three year old granddaughter. The latter, since his retirement in 2007, increasingly occupies his time, which is also now spent on family history. And the acting? – largely in the classroom, he says, although at his retirement 'do' his speech (in rhyming couplets) did include parts of Puck's last speech....

D D THOMAS (EAST WING 1957 - 64)

Dale became an RAF pilot in 1968 and spent most of his 19 year career as a captain on the C-130 Hercules at RAF Lyneham, taking part in several campaigns including the Cyprus airlift, the Rhodesian operation and the Falklands War (where he managed to avoid being shot down by "Sharkey" Ward who was in East Wing at the same time as Dale) *Cdr N D Ward DSC AFC RN (1955-62) Sea Harrier pilot in the Falklands - Ed*

He left the RAF in 1987 and joined Britannia Airways where he has been ever since, now a captain flying holidaymakers to various destinations around the globe.

He is unmarried, and lives just outside Henley-on-Thames, indulging his various hobbies of golf (at which he represented the RAF), tennis and Bridge.

A D R THOMAS (EAST WING 1959 -66)

Adrian, brother of Dale. went directly to Dartmouth, after leaving School, to begin a twenty year career as a helicopter pilot with the Royal Navy. He was initially in an anti-submarine role, went on to become an instructor and spent time on search and rescue duties on the south coast. He enjoyed two seasons with the "Sharks" Royal Navy Helicopter Display Team and also holds the AFC.

After leaving the Navy he joined Bristow Helicopters, in Aberdeen, flying oil industry workers to oil rigs in the North Sea. This included several years based in Norway where once again he was involved in Search and Rescue. He still lives in Aberdeen with his wife, Christine, but no longer with his five grown-up children who have taken up various career paths around the world. Now semi retired he enjoys sailing, hill walking, golf and choral singing.

Tony Waring writes: 'Where are they now? Form Upper V A 1945'

Most of my school time memorabilia has long since been assigned to the bin. Just two items have survived the intervening sixty-two years, namely School Reports (41-46) and the Register of Pupils (Blue Book) for Michaelmas Term 1945.

The Reports issued at the end of each term had sections which were completed by the Form and Head Master with headings marked Progress, Diligence & Conduct and categorised A to C. Head Master Kemp used red ink and underlined any adverse comments!

Referring to my Blue Book there were 28 pupils in Upper V A and of those I am aware that 6 have died – David Lincoln-Gordon OBE, W K C Morgan (Professor of Medicine), Bob Petty (Dentist), Bill Rhodes (Company Director), Peter Stenning (Company Director) and Peter Watkins (Sales Manager). I still enjoy occasional contact with Brian Cullingford (Company Director), David Pollitt (Colonel RA), Colin Rogers (Family Business), Brian Sharp (Company Director), Gerald Malkin (Company Director), Paul Munday (Drama and Music Teacher) and David Russell (Musician).

This leaves 14, with 3 of whom I have lost contact - John Dawkins, John Ede and Peter Pond – and 11 with whom, since leaving School, have never had any contact whatsoever – Alford, Clifford, Griffiths (actor), Grimes, Mayes, Peters, Rackham, D M Russell, Swire, Wernham and Wills – where have they disappeared to?

I would like to hear from anyone who can fill the gaps of 1945 Upper V A Class.

H G (George) Critchell (1922-27) writes recalling his piece in the May 1992 School Magazine about the 1922 Scholarship intake which comprised himself and 27 others. That piece engendered replies accounting for over half the number: the destinies of a dozen remain unknown; L G Allen, D S C Champ, A H Crawley, E V J Girdler, R J Hawkins, M Hayne, C R Kelly, D A Newbery, C I Pearce, A W W Souch, H W Stratton, N M Wicks. Can anyone supply ANY information at all so the picture may be updated – or even completed?



The Erleigh Road Boundary



The old grey fencing along Erleigh Road, a disgrace for some years (through vandalism and graffiti rather than age, a microcosm reflecting modern behaviour) has been replaced by substantial and well chosen iron fencing, complemented by an electronic gate at the foot of the Drive.



In an ideal world, a brick wall sympathetic to Waterhouse's design of the School buildings would surround the premises, but this is an admirable substitute and far more in keeping than the unsightly and forbidding equivalent along Addington Road that was erected a few years ago.



The Memorial Service for Sir George Pinker KCVO FRCS FRCOG at St Marylebone Parish Church on Tuesday, 23 October 2007

A congregation of 600 paid tribute to a great man one sunny day in last October. The company was distinguished, those eminent in the medical profession and in other walks of life, a crowned head, and many entitled to a coronet amongst the assembly.

Sir George's sons, Ian and Rob, spoke eloquently, a grandson likewise, and Sir George's colleagues, Alasdair Fraser and Roger Marwood delivered addresses both impressive and humorous. The

both co-ordinated by Sir George's daughter, Cathy Steward.

George Pinker was a true son of Reading, (albeit born abroad, because his father was the Far Eastern representative of Suttons Seeds) educated at No IX School before Reading School and provided with special tuition from Reading University – arranged by C E Kemp – to prepare him for the medical profession. All led to unparalleled achievements in his field, a practice at 96 Harley Street and eventual retirement at the age of 70.



St Marylebone Parish Church

What manner of man was he who achieved the highest rank in his calling with such apparent ease? Certainly the ease was deceptive as he worked with great dedication and energy. He was an innovator – for instance he oversaw 9 Royal births in hospital when all such had previously been at Royal residences. He was a remarkable teacher and a tireless charity worker: a philanthropist with an infectious sense of humour, a gift of modesty and a man of the greatest discretion. Sometimes these qualities were manifest together; it is said that he was not, for example, above slipping out of his Harley Street door in Arab dress to evade the Press.

Throughout he was a man of great loyalties – not least to Reading School – and the best of family men, one who loved creating and designing in house and garden; sailing with his children; poetry (Wavell's *'Other Men's Flowers'* never far from his hand); and to whom music was deeply important. (His fine baritone voice had adorned St Mary's Hospital Operatic Society which he had taken upon himself to revive after the War).

There was another quality; stoicism. In retirement he suffered the sadness of his greatly loved wife's physical decline and death, and of his own debilitating illness, with fortitude, humour and determination – the hallmarks of Sir George's exceptional and inspiring character.

KCB

London Chorus, directed by Ronald Corp, with mezzo soprano Catherine Wyn-Rogers were magnificent. The clergy spoke with rounded phrase and the service was conducted in an atmosphere of affection and admiration against a soaring backdrop of Bach, Elgar and Parry.

The memorial service and splendid reception afterwards, at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists were triumphs of organisation,

ORs at the Service included Sir George's elder brother Ken (1930-36) with his own son Martin (1956-57) John Gore (1936-44), Derrick Fisher (1936-44), Sir Frank White (1938-44), Revd. Brian Goss (1939-50), John Ashton (1940-47), Denis Moriarty (1943-54), Dr Dudley Bruton (1948-51), Gareth Price (1948-56), Chris Widdows (1955-62), Ken Brown (1955-63).

Derrick Fisher writes as follows:

“I was privileged to be a friend of George Pinker and his family for over 80 years.

He was 2 years older than me, and we grew up together in the 30s and 40s, attending the London St Methodist Church and Wesley Church in Queen’s Road with our parents. We sang in the Church choir together.

Sir George’s Mother, ‘Queenie’, was christened ‘Queen Elizabeth’ – what an amazing omen for her son’s future role as Surgeon-Gynaecologist to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II!

It is extraordinary that in as dynamic and important a discipline as gynaecology, one man dominated the field for so long in Britain, and indeed, throughout the world. He was appointed a consultant at the incredible age of 34 and was the youngest ever surgeon gynaecologist to the Monarch.

One reason for this was undoubtedly his formidable intellect, yet his exceptional successes derived largely from his human qualities. These qualities were clearly apparent from his days at School. He always treated boys, both his own age and younger, as though everyone was his special friend. Some of the prefects, in those days, seemed to treat younger boys as a lower form of life. As a prefect, George was not like that. He always found time to help anyone who needed advice or support, with great patience and courtesy always softly spoken, so polite, and so understanding.

In the early 1940s, as teenagers, we ‘firewatched’ together all night, about twice a week. It was not unusual for George to be dissecting a toad, or a fish, or a rabbit, all the hours until dawn; but he was still never late for School or Chapel.

Sir George always had a wonderful sense of humour and also a sense of what mattered. He was a man of great modesty with a complete absence of pomposity; and a beaming, reassuring smile.

He was, in short, not just a brilliant physician, but also one of the nicest people one could hope to meet. The guest list for his 70th birthday party at Grosvenor House included many ladies who had



Derrick Fisher with the portrait of Sir George commissioned to mark his Presidency of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

been his patients, from the humblest to the noblest (two Queens, a Princess, several Duchesses) – all had so much to thank him for.

Amongst many charitable works ‘*Wellbeing of Women*’ (initially ‘*Birthright*’), that he created at the Royal College of Gynaecologists, was perhaps the most dear to him. It funded key research in gynaecology and Princess Diana was a keen patron. This recalls a story I read about him being seen at Balmoral by the Press shortly after Prince Charles married Diana. They assumed George was there in a professional capacity and became very excited. In fact he was simply a holiday guest of the Queen.

Sir George never failed to acknowledge his debt to Reading School and, in particular the huge encouragement and support given to him by our Headmaster C E Kemp, Esq, M.A.”

A Memorial to Sir George Pinker at School is clearly desirable and, indeed, has already been suggested by Denis Moriarty PP. The OR Council have agreed with the School that a ‘Tea Tray’ will be hung in Big School and Derrick Fisher has generously offered to fund this most appropriate recognition of a great OR – Ed.

A Notable Athlete; W H Pike (Town House 1901-08)

By Ken Brown

A small exhibition – see picture – was mounted in Big School on the day of the OR Annual Dinner in November to celebrate the centenary of a Reading Schoolboy's triumphant athletic achievements. It was prompted by the purchase from a Midland Antique dealer of the Barometer awarded to W H Pike for winning the Half Mile Open at the School's 1907 sports. (Such a trophy is typical of the athletics prizes awarded by schools and clubs before the Great War.)

In 1908, apart from once again carrying all before him on Sports Day, he won the Half Mile (in record-equalling time) and the 120 yards Hurdles in the Public Schools Athletic Sports at Stamford Bridge. That year Reading School held the Public Schools Championship in Athletic Sports, 'thanks to Pike' as the Headmaster, Dr Eppstein, proudly reported on Speech Day. The trophies received by Pike that day are shown in the framed photograph. *Sporting Life* was of the opinion that 'but for his exertions in the Half Mile' WHP would have lowered the record for the Hurdles in his first heat.



Rear: Challenge Shield 120 yards Hurdles (time 17 4/5 secs)

Left Centre: Challenge Cup for Champion School

Right Centre: Challenge Cup for Half Mile (2m 3 1/5 sec. = record)

The fourth trophy is the cup for the Championship of the Sports at Reading School – 'Victor Ludorum.'

Wilfrid Holton Pike was born on 3rd February 1891 in Cowes, Isle of Wight, the son of a Bank Manager. By 1901 when he entered Reading School, his family were living at 194 Kings Road, Reading; he was a day boy. He was a formidable athlete at School, and Victor Ludorum in 1908. A contemporary wrote, 50 years later, 'I remember WHP striding round the Mile as if his long legs were stilts, and wondered when he played Polo for India later if his feet trailed on the ground. Great day, Sports Day!' (Incidentally, WHP was not the only OR Polo International; another Army man, Joey Atkinson was a notable Captain of the England team.)

The next photograph shows Pike in the first of his 3 years in the Cricket XI. He is flanked by two famous contemporaries. Owen Nares, on his right, was a very fine cricketer who became an actor manager and one of this country's supreme matinee idols – a term he intensely disliked! S H Stevens, on Pike's left, was a multi-talented sportsman, some think Reading School's greatest ever, who captained Cambridge and England at Hockey.

After he left School, Pike lived in Southampton and then, briefly, his address was c/o County Surveyor, Shire Hall, Nottingham, before he was caught up in greater affairs. In 1914 he joined the Hampshire Regiment and that year, as a 2nd Lieutenant, sailed with the 5th Battalion to Karachi. The Battalion remained in India for the duration, no doubt luckily for WHP. After hostilities ceased he transferred to the Indian Army, attending Staff College in Simla in 1924, where he was also present at the fancy dress dance, given to honour Lord and Lady Erleigh's visit, attired, it seems, 'as a gaunt and gigantic Chinaman.'



WHP served with the Deccan Horse, the Baluch Regiment and Indian Army Ordnance Corps. From time to time he was in the UK: in 1929 we find Captain Pike playing cricket for the Free Foresters. Before the First World War he had played for the ORs in Cricket Week and this continued, for instance he played against the School in both 1933 and 1934 (by which time he was Major Pike) and he also played in the 1933 MCC team against the School.

Shortly after the Second World War Wilfrid Holton Pike retired and in 1949 we hear of Lieutenant Colonel Pike in the winning pair, for the second year running, of the Calcutta Cup Golf tournament at St Andrews, where he was by then living. He had been elected a member of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews in 1945, and remained a member until his death. He was also a member of the St Andrews Club and played in many of their tournaments.

Col Pike became a prominent citizen of St Andrews, with a particular interest in golf course maintenance and layout. He died at his home, 3 Queen's Terrace, on 18 December 1960, leaving his wife, Violet Lind Pike, and a daughter.

KCB



Wilfrid Holton Pike

Sport

4th OR Festival of Football 4 April 2008

Football is now the School's major sport in the Lent Term and rapid progress has been made; this year the 1st XI won both the Berkshire League and the County Cup. The annual fixture against the ORs is featuring increasingly skilled teams. The 2008 match brought the tally of wins to 2 apiece with the School receiving the winners' medals from M H W Maule PP.

The following report has been provided by OR Team member, **Alistair Stock (1997–04)**;



The sun awoke from its winter slumber on the 4th of April as a modest crowd gathered on the School Field to watch the School versus Old Boys Football match. The Old Boys faced a considerable challenge from a School XI, who had comfortably won the County Cup and League this season, and immediately came under pressure from the start of the game as School passed the ball around the pitch confidently. They soon found their feet but it was the School who fashioned the clearest chances in the opening twenty minutes, twice striking the bar with shots from outside the box. As the 'veterans' settled into the game they looked increasingly solid at the back, and though the School looked dangerous on the break in particular, it was the Old Boys who enjoyed the better of the remainder of the first half with little end product.

The second half was a little disjointed and difficult as both sides made a number of changes which disrupted the flow of the game, but it lit up with around twenty minutes to go as Phil Chrimes struck for the Old Boys to make it 1-0. From nowhere the midfielder cropped up and hit a fine rising shot from the edge of the box leaving the goalkeeper with no chance. Unfortunately for the Old Boys, this only served to take the Schoolboys up a gear. Almost immediately the team of (relatively) young guns eased their way into the Old Boys' half and Anthony Ellis wriggled his way through a crowd of players and slotted the equalizer home. Then, with only five minutes left on the clock, the School team was given a golden chance to win the game. A cross was adjudged to have been handled in the box and Sam Green stepped up to place home the winner from the spot. Though the Old Boys rallied and pushed forward, the fitness (or lack of!) the team clearly showed through and the game finished 2-1 to the present day Reading School.



The OR XI



The Winning School XI

Although the result was not what the Old Boys had wanted when they strolled from the pavilion before the game, it was a great game to play in and watch, and all credit should go to Martin Jubb (Old Boys player/manager) and Darren Carrick (Reading School coach) for organizing the two teams and event superbly. Here's to an overdue Old Boys victory next year!

AS

OR Golfing Society Spring meeting 30 April 2008

On a very wet Wednesday morning 13 ORs – a satisfying increase – played at Reading Golf Club with the following results:

The President's Jug - Nick Burrows (37 points)
 Runner-up - Chris Quartly (31 points)
 The Lunn Trophy (for under 45s) - Stephen Johnston
 Longest Drive - Nick Burrows
 Nearest the Pin - Rudolph Bissolotti

Lunch in the Clubhouse was followed by two excellent speeches by the President, Cedric Scroggs, and Rodney Lunn. Gratitude was expressed to the OR Council and Ian Jacobs for their kind sponsorship.

Sadly Rodney Lunn has decided he will be unable to continue his lead role in the Society, so the committee members will now be Will Lunn (Hon Sec), Gareth Price (Past President) and John Steels.



*Nick Burrows receives
The President's Jug*

Those wishing to compete in the Autumn Meeting (local course, to be advised) should contact Will Lunn at golf@oldredingensians.org.uk. New members are always welcome.

WEL

Redingensians RFC Ltd

The Club had a successful season. Of the 5 senior sides the 5ths finished fourth in Thames Valley Invitation League C West, the 4th XV won Thames Valley Invitation League A, the 3rd XV were fourth in Berks Bucks and Oxon 2 South and the 2nds won BBO Premier – only losing one game.

The 1st XV achieved their objective of survival in their first season in South West 1; a good start was followed by a lean spell, taking them close to relegation, but a late recovery ensured safety. Local rivals Reading were relegated. The 5 senior sides were involved in 116 games altogether. To crown the season both the 15-a-side Berkshire Cup and the Berkshire Sevens were won

The Junior and Mini sections continue to be populous and successful (U/16s won the Berkshire League with U/15s runners up). Redingensians are currently thriving at all levels, a reflection of the spirit and enthusiasm within the Club.

KCB

Caversham and Redingensians CC

For the 2008 season the 1st XI will play in the Marrant Thames Valley League Division 4B and the 2nd XI in Division 6A.

KCB

'Curious Incident in Reading School Long Run'



Dollery, Terry and White

The fine sporting career of the great 'Tom' Dollery included an interesting controversy.

Under the above heading the local press wrote in 1932 of 'three boys, two from West House and one from County House, who figured in an incident unparalleled in the history of the School by linking arms and finishing the course together.'

The Games Committee met to decide whether the three, H E Dollery, E H C Terry (County) and J G White should be disqualified. After deliberation it was decided that the three should re-run the full 5½ miles which, a few weeks later, they did 'in the presence of the Headmaster G H Keeton and a big crowd of boys and many townspeople.' Fifteen yards from the end Dollery broke away to win from White, with Terry third.

The writer was part of a similar incident thirty years later. Although the Boat Club had first claim on me I turned out for the Cross Country VIII whenever rowing conditions in the Lent Term allowed.

In 1961, against Lord Wandsworth College, I was leading D M Shepherd (a reversal of the all too usual order) when we emerged, clear of the pack, from the fields onto Upper Redlands Road. Shepherd, team captain, having seen that the three pursuing runners were ours, called to me to stop which I did, reluctantly, at the top of Eastern Avenue where we waited for them to catch up. The image shows the five of us in the School field about to finish 1st equal. Jimmy

Lethem and Co were furious and I believe it was only the opposition's Master i./c. conceding the race (the sixth man home, M R Baron, was also ours, thus giving Reading School a maximum score) that saved us from disqualification.

It was made clear that such a thing must not happen again and a previous, unspecified, incident was evoked with the implication that we should have known better. Perhaps this was an assumption that the affair of Dollery, White and Terry was somehow a collective memory for all Reading School runners!

KCB



*M D Smith, K C Brown, D M Shepherd,
R L Towner and G B B Scott*

More Nightingaliana

Ode to a Nightingale

*I know a bird who sings a lot,
I also know he should be shot.
With his plus threes and minus twos
He makes us mind our Ps and Qs....*

Above is as Keith Minton (1953-59) remembers – and apparently 'Birdie' read it aloud and proceeded to give it a 'crit', marking down the scansion... Keith cannot recall if there were more than the above 4 lines. (*Can anyone? - and who wrote it? Ed*)



T L (Terry) Cartwright (1955-62) recalls Birdie's excellent method for distinguishing between the noun and verb in similar sounding words such as licence/ license, practice/practise – just remember advice/ advise! (*viz 'c' marks the noun – see Fowler – Ed*)

Commentary

The Old Redingensian Autumn 2007



The full page photo image on page 23 looking 'Through the Gate' of the Cloisters originally appeared in the School magazine of July 1942 and was the work of Mr A T ('Decca') Records, the Master whose peripatetic career puzzled Andrew Bohman (*Willingly to School Part 1*). It was all to do with difficulty in finding a house in Reading. Mr Records had joined the staff in 1939 but left temporarily in 1945 for Latymer Upper School and was living in London when he returned in late 1946. He could not obtain planning permission for the plot of land he had bought in Caversham Heights and found the strain of travelling down each day too much; he took a post at the Quintin School in Regent Street; his health was not good and he died in January 1951. Incidentally, the part in *Fame is the Spur* (for which Andrew mentions Mr Kelson was cast by the Boulting Brothers) was apparently not shown 'owing to its political implications'.

A J (Tony) Wright (1934–41) wondered if Andrew knew if it was 'Daddy' Lamb who always quoted "*Never take two bites of the cherry*" – but Andrew does not recall this. Tony also calls for reminiscences of 'Lonny' (H Lonsdale MA).

Feedback on the Dinner in Big School was enthusiastic. There were however significant difficulties for the organisers. R L Towner (1954-61) regretted the late announcement which left little time for 'tables' to be formed; this is an aspect which has been addressed this year. (*see notice on rear cover - Ed.*)

A footnote to the history of Reading School Dramatic Society; the Boulting Brothers (see image right), who were then directors of Charter Films Ltd, decided to award a medal when they saw Michael Wild (*England's Least Known Composer*) as Lady Mary Lasenby in the 1946 production of *The Admirable Crichton*. Indeed the Boultings wrote the review in the School magazine giving high praise to Wild who they considered of great theatrical promise and 'every inch an actor'. There was delay for a year while the form of the award was decided and Michael was then given it for his performance in the 1947 play,...; had the medal been struck in 1946 it would have been in his possession in consecutive years.



Professor A A (Alan) Johnson (1940-49), pictured left, writes 'I first realised that Michael Wild was a talented composer one day when he played some of his work for me on the piano in a wooden shack known euphemistically as the "Annex" where Charlie Davis used to teach. Michael probably does not remember the occasion but it made an impression on me'.

Alan Johnson could not help adding a few words about "*Birdie*" *Nightingale*. 'He was our form master when I was in Lower VB, but I remember him best for his English classes and, especially, for his instruction on Shakespeare's "*Tempest*". Unfortunately for me, he identified the monster Caliban with a scientist and sweet Miranda with a student of the liberal arts. Since everyone understood that he was taking a dig at me, the nickname "Caliban" has stuck, even to the present day.'

Willingly to School (Part 1), drew much praise. Alan Johnson again; 'Andrew Bohman's excellent article captures the characteristics of many of the staff as we knew them in the 1940s. I have a vivid memory of standing at the entrance to Big School listening to Andrew playing a Mozart sonata with consummate artistry on the School's old Broadwood piano when he was quite young and we were as yet unacquainted.' H G Critchell (1922-27) comments that like Andrew he came to Reading School from Park Lane – but 22 years earlier: nonetheless they shared 12 of the masters mentioned in Andrew's article. (*The editors came to the School 33 years after George Critchell but even they shared half of that 12!*)



Alan Johnson also recalled that *The Wells Library* was used as a study and a recreational area by boys of the Science Sixth in the late '40s, with bridge a favoured occupation under the tutelage of L T N 'Cod' Hardy. Occasionally, the Head, C E Kemp, would visit for a game of chess. Less cerebral was table tennis; the photo is of Ian Mathews and an, as yet, unidentified partner. Can anyone help?

David Lawrence says that the Wells Library was the first building he entered at Reading School when, in 1949, he had his entrance interview with C E Kemp, and 2 others, in the right hand room. One of the questions asked was 'How many

tuppenny-ha'penny stamps can you buy for half a crown?' (That 1949 intake was the last which also took entrants from the Junior School) The next time that David went into the Wells Library was in 1956 to hear from the Prefects' Executive Committee that he had been made a monitor. He says that there were then 12 prefects based in the building with the 18 monitors having a room immediately east of the Cloisters.

Peter Rado (1954-62) thinks that, before the prefects gained both, the monitors had the left hand room before their move to the west side of the Cloisters. (Peter became a prefect, but gained some early unsought knowledge of the Prefects' Common Room in front of the Prefects Executive, who were unhappy with an essay he was set in detention. The subject was 'Rivers' – intention fairly obvious but Peter decided to write instead about a *boy* called Rivers!

The obituary for Sir George Pinker referred to his RMC service at the British Military Hospital in Alexandria; in fact, it was at the British Military (Alexandra) Hospital in Singapore. We regret this error and the misspelling of Brian Parsons' Christian name in his obituary: and for giving, in *The Archive*, the wrong page number for Philip Mortimer's article *Reading School in English Literature*.

Now It Can Be Told

Less fondly remembered than most of the Masters in Andrew Bohman's article 'Willingly to School – Part I' were Charlie Poole and 'Swisher' Peach, not only by Michael Wild (see Autumn 2007 issue) but by Tony Wright, Ray Braham (who considered Peach to be 'the epitome of a martinet') and others. Bernard Messias (1939-44) suggested that a tale of sweet revenge might be heard from Major S H Vines (1930-39) and such indeed proved to be the case....



Essy Steel and Sidney Vines

Sidney Vines recounted how he, Georgie Burrows (1931-40) and Essy Steel (1931-39) went down to Junior School, 'broke in' (simply by lifting the latch) and knowing that Mr Peach always had to reach above him to get his cane, removed it from its resting place and played around a little. Then they broke it into three and each took one of the pieces. Essy – Esslemont Steel whose obituary appeared in the May 2005 Journal – kept his piece hanging on the wall for about 40 years!

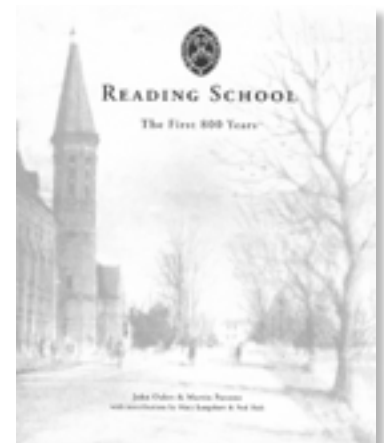
KCB

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

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The Archive

The **Physical Archive**, apart from items held in the Berkshire Record Office, Reading Central Library, the School Library and by certain officers of the OR Council, has been for some years in the West Wing cellars. Conditions there are not acceptable and a self storage unit has therefore been rented pro tem. The objective is a suitable dedicated area on the School premises in due course.

Ongoing also is, most importantly, the development of the **Electronic Archive** ie the transfer and scanning of all items and records into digital format, a lengthy but essential procedure to enable research by future generations.

Easily accessible material is also vital both in producing this journal and answering the increasing number of enquiries received by the Association.



*"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).*

Prof Alan Johnson (1940–49) has sent photographs of Table Tennis, and Upper IIIB in 1944 (pictured)



Top Row: ?, Mackey, Baggaley, Saul, Crowder, Neill, Manning A R, Harvey, Holland. **Second Row:** Manning M, Johnson, ?, ?, Halliday, Groombridge, ?, Hardcastle, Cohen, Hall **Third Row:** Jones, ?, Rutherford, ?, Matthews, Langford, Davies, Wells

Can anyone fill in the gaps? (The relevant School List would suggest that the candidates are amongst: Freer, Gibbs, Hawthorne, Meyer, Perry, Rees, Sanders, Smallbone, Stafford and Taylor.)

The form master, Mr A D Records, Alan Johnson tells us, took and processed the photograph thereby giving Alan his first instruction in darkroom techniques.

We also thank:

David Downs (1952-59) for a team photograph of the Junior School Football XI 1929-30 (J M Keogh, capt), which turned up at a Thatcham Auction, and for a school cap badge.

Michael Wild (1940-48) for CDs of his 'Carols', 'Josephine' and 'The Complete Wives of Henry VIII'.

David Foster (1954-62) for photographs including the 1961 2nd XV and the first colour photo of South House boarders (1957).

John Savage (1959-66) for a video compilation of the films mentioned in the last issue.

Miss Evelyn Aust for 'Westward Ho!' - a Junior School mathematics prize won in 1929 by her brother H C Aust (1929-38).

Additionally we thank the **W K Pryke estate** for a fascinating archive of his time at School. Included are two copies of 'The Occidental' (Nos 12 and 13) West Wing's extremely well produced magazine of the 1930s. We should like to compile a full set, if anyone can assist, and also of 'The Southern Cross', South House's magazine of the time. Did East Wing also have one – or Cromarty, the Boarding House that existed up until 1932?

Pryke's School reports show that, at least well into the 'thirties, parents had a printed reminder each term that 'School Dress' (is) Dark Grey coat and trousers. Below IVth form knickers if preferred. Ties black or School colours. Such a notice would certainly cause confusion today!

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

Willingly to School (Part 2)

Reading School from 1944 to 1951 – More Impressions that Remained

by Andrew Bohman (pictured below)

When I joined the School in 1944 prefects seemed like gods walking the earth. We obeyed them unthinkingly. They were assured and dignified, wore distinctive blazers and ties, and, in memory, sported splendid buttonholes. In photographs they sat solidly with arms crossed, or stood erect, looking straight at the camera with slight smiles, never openly vulgar or immodest. Any father would have been proud of them, and would have realised that the country, after all, was not going to the dogs. Later in my career this admiration turned to suspicion, and even, I fear, enmity, as they unrelentingly punished me for not wearing my cap regularly enough. I had to copy out pages of Tacitus in an effort to cure me of my aberration. I became, needless to say, adept at removing my folded cap from pocket to head in one swift, seamless movement when the enemy approached.



actor, and showed himself a comedian in one solo sketch in a Sing-Song. He used to pronounce LISZT as LEETST – gosh, how wonderful, I thought. These shows were highly enjoyable occasions – a sort of variety show. I remember accompanying the 1949 one, which started with a chorus of shapely show-girls singing, “We’re the opening chorus, nineteen forty-nine; we’re the opening chorus, standing in a line....” I well remember Frank Terry standing by me at the piano, a little apprehensive when a popular boy-comedian came on, “in case he went over

the top.” He didn’t. Must have seen Frank doing a Lurkio. Other prefects included Claude Cullingford, “Cheese” Johnson, J W M Smith, Collins, Gray, Worsley, Paul Mundy and Chown. How mature they all appeared to us!

One of the most remarkable aspects of school life was the way boys treated each other. There was

a constant respect for others, as people, and also for their abilities, whether sporting, debating, acting, musical performance – whatever each one did. Of course, being a masculine society, there was ribbing, mocking, leg-pulling, but never, in my experience, unkindness or bullying. I still marvel at this, especially as it was a school where sporting activity was held in such special regard.

As a musical boy, with

head full of little else, unattracted by sport, I could have been an obvious target for ridicule. Moreover the Physical Education staff were unfailingly sensitive to my lack of talent or interest, and I had the greatest respect for Mr Black, Mr Lethem, and, earlier, Mr Nelson. Later on, with a family distaste for matters military, (subsequently modified by an unexpectedly happy National Service); I spent Corps afternoons writing essays which I posted under the Staff-Room door at 4 o’clock. These essays were actually read by the staff. I know this because comments would be

One such lordly creature received, however, a humiliating blow in front of a class of third-year pupils. Betty Morgan was sitting at her table when a prefect entered the room, mounted the dais, and put his face close to hers, muttering something we could not hear. She suddenly reddened, and slapped his face hard. The prefect exited promptly. The class was deathly quiet. Eyes swivelled from side to side; heads were lowered to desk-lid height: not a boy moved muscle, but vivid thoughts flashed through heads. Did he tell her she was looking lovely today? Or ask her out? It was a scene worthy of H.M. Bateman. Sadly, we shall never know, unless we ask him. Perhaps, on reading this recollection he will come clean. However, my lips are sealed until the price is right (no deal I’m afraid, Ed)



Andrew, Oliver (Ken) Ballard and John Llyn-Jones c1950

Other prefects are remembered respectfully, even, yes, fondly. D O Forder, tall and reed-like was a talented

made to me the following day. What saints they were! Meanwhile, my class-mates were parading around the school with their 1914 rifles, drilled by Regimental Sergeant Major Rollings, and under the general supervision of Bonk and Major Liddington. I did not envy them their lot, and buried my head in my essays, warm and safe and quiet in the lower corridor. Oh! that Elaine had tripped along the corridor to see me!

Alas, I can only mention a few friends out of many. From Lower Third life onwards there were Barnard, who wrote a splendid essay on Kemal Attaturk, Bryant, Bissolotti, Eggleton, the runner Martin Hyman (*10,000 metre Gold and Olympic Record, Rome 1960 – Ed*), Grover, my special friend Ballard, Tony Berrington, the owner of a magnificent chestnut-coloured “quiff,” Edmund Hey, player of a dignified Elizabethan Pavane, as well as possessing Mephistophelian eyebrows, Pocock, Yeats, Rogers, Carne, J V Mack, who died whilst still at school, Derek Brown, a splendid violinist, Stenning, Totman, Oldfield, Brian Piper, with his love of explosives, David Salt, King’s Scout and future priest, Wilkins, Cole, Michael Austin of wicked wit and decadent manner, Tom Arje, Michael and Denis Moriarty - the last with a beautiful voice and angelic expression, Wild the “star” actor, Bobby Jarvis, Rhodes, Tony Lowe, Coombs, Howe-Jones, Steward, Pat Carter, beloved of all, David and Brian Moore, fine singers both, Tom McGuirk, and Coote Wright-Broughton. Later came Alan Johnson, now Professor, whose pianistic progress was meteoric, Rodney Sigee, pianist, Burkham, who first used the word ‘invincible’ in class - unknown to me then, and necessitating an immediate run to Chambers, Galloway, Alan Sirett, Youens, Culham, E E Moore, a dedicated pianist who soon went to the RAM, and a rather charismatic character with us, I think, for only a short time, called Baker-Bates. I remember this boy being addressed by a temporary master as “Bates.” He replied, lazily, “My name ain’t Bates, it’s Baker-Bates.” We imagined a cigarette lolling from the corner of his mouth, smoke curling ominously upward into the face of the hapless master.

I remember a wounding put-down when I was, perhaps, in the fourth form. Our form Lothario, well-developed, and with dark curly hair, looked speculatively at my blond locks one day, and said (kindly, I’m sure) “I’d like to have fair hair, too, but my girl-friends wouldn’t like it.” This stinging comment still hurts, and if I ever meet the perpetrator (whose name, of course, I remember vividly), I’ll find some way of repaying him – not too painfully, but memorably, like a quick knee in the crutch. But, as I have said before, we were a civilised lot in those days, and such an action would have been unthinkable then. Anyroad, as Bonk would have said, he, like Miss Morgan’s admirer, must remain anonymous. Noblesse oblige. The Editor forbids any bargaining on this score.

In our adolescent years some of us were obsessed with our hair. We were constantly combing it, hoping, I think, for curls. I remember waiting, with my form

outside West Wing, for a lesson there, combing devotedly, when a small boy emerged and said, plaintively, “Please, Bohman, Mrs Streather wants to know if you’d like to borrow her compact?” My friend Rudolph was too highly amused, but this was bearable as I had heard his house-master, Stret, cry, “For goodness sake, sit down and shut up, Bissolotti, you little beast!” the week before, and I had laughed loud and long at his expense.

Digby, a bright-eyed and cheerful boy, once wrote ‘Birdie, tweet tweet’ on the blackboard while Birdie was out of the room. On his return he knew the culprit in the blinking of an eye, and Diggers was over Birdie’s knee before you could say JR, receiving the occasional sharp slap as Birdie carried on cheerfully with the lesson, book in hand. I can still see Digby’s upturned face now, wondering, no doubt, when he would be released. As I remember it he was there a fair time, while Birdie’s left hand held him down, “How long, O Lord, how long?”.

A kind senior boy called Tierney took me under his wing, and gave me a lot of advice and amusement. He played the piano in Big School regularly, and showed a good deal of facility. Some of us, in those days, were impressed by grown-ups, and their behaviour, in offices – displaying, for example, a good deal of leg above their stockings when they crossed their legs – I am talking, of course, of men here, and using a special office talk. They would say “Yaas” for Yes, and we thought this very sophisticated. Tierney went one better. He said, down his nose “M’yaas, m’yaas” in answer to enquiries. I found this addictive, and started to use it at home. This did not go down at all well. A great row ensued, and I stopped doing it. But I don’t think I understood what the rumpus was all about until a considerable time later.

The morning services in Big School or Chapel were an important part of each day. They helped give a feeling of unity and common purpose. Prefects read the Lessons, critically appraised by the ever-watchful Birdie. I remember one being put through his paces on “Sufficient until the day is the evil thereof”. The reader had to convince the master that the stresses were right before he was allowed to go.

On one never-to-be-forgotten occasion, the prefect at the lectern read about filthy lucre. It seemed to some of us that the entire congregation of boys turned with raised eyebrows, and stern expressions, to stare at poor John Luker, a blameless, mild-mannered, modest child, sitting with his form, a blush slowly illuminating his usually pale face.

Very moving for me were the hymns at the beginning, and, more especially, the endings of term. “Lord behold us (or Lord dismiss us) with thy blessing” were words full of meaning. And as for the School Song.....! Words fail me. Whoever wrote it had an unerring sense of key. That song is in D major if ever song was. It is easy these days to scoff at

such things as school songs, but we were proud of it, and to hear it sung by hundreds at functions like Speech Day, made one feel privileged, and part of something which had existed, proudly, for a long time. One of my jobs was to accompany the hymns in Big



Charlie Davis
wearing Andrew's
boater c1950

School Assembly. It was my responsibility to put a piece of paper with the hymn number on the lectern used by the Head. Naturally I chose the tunes I liked best, and I sometimes transposed them up or down to keep everyone on their toes. I remember Charlie Davis, playing the organ in Chapel, suddenly having a rush of blood to the head, and accelerating at a quite alarming speed if he thought we were dragging. It acted on everyone like a dose of musical adrenalin, such was its ferocity, and it certainly stirred us, and

shook us up, early in the morning. Charlie was a very potent mixture-peppery, volcanic even, but ultimately, everyone's friend. On one occasion a single beastly note sounded continuously from the organ, and nothing could be done. The tuner was summoned and the fault was, in organ-world jargon, a CYPHER. The Headmaster, on enquiring as to the problem, misheard the reply, and went around the school saying there was a SYPHON (the what?) in the organ. Some of us felt "we should be so lucky." St. Trinian's was yet to come.

Lunches during the war years were very austere. Sometimes the second course was a small, warty apple with a piece of hard pastry. The Grace favoured by some bright sparks was "For what we are about to leave may the pigs be truly grateful." This food was in startling contrast to the wonderful Berkshire lardy cakes on sale during morning break. Never was food so gratefully received. Parslow's of Reading were responsible, and must surely have been educated at School. (*Don't think so – unless anyone knows better – Ed*). This was favouritism on a splendid scale. Later, after school, toast and sandwiches with meagre fillings were available to those of us remaining for the many societies we could join. I often did not arrive home until the evening, to face another bout of homework. And, of course, there was school on Saturday mornings until 1 o'clock.

I regret, in a way, that I didn't attend the preparatory department as my friends in senior school used to rave about Timmy (Mr Timms), Miss Bailey, Benny Dowse, Charlie Poole, and, somewhat ruefully, Mr Peach, who had an energetic way with a cane, it seemed. But I was lucky in being at Park Lane School, and transferred with boys such as Brian Davey, Colin Chudley, Brian Hills and Ronald Tillen. We were all in love with Sue Llyn-Jones up at High Cross House. I

remember Davey saying that his father said she was the best looking girl in Tilehurst, so we were all on the right track.

I now know that another strength at Reading School was the teaching of poetry. With Birdie, Frank Terry, and Betty Wormald, in particular, we devoured some great poems, and, most importantly, but I fear now unfashionably, had to learn many by heart. Like Latin, this was a discipline I have never once regretted. Great poetry rings in the mind for life, and those deprived of it are lacking for life. It matters not if the reader does not fully comprehend its meaning – the time will come when he may. And if he never had it....

Occasional visits to other schools such as Leighton Park and Kendrick were greatly enjoyed. At Leighton Park then were such highly-gifted musicians as Richard Rodney Bennett, Alexander Goehr, Cornelius Cardew and John Constable – phew! What a galaxy! – and at Kendrick the music mistress was John Dankworth's sister, Avril, whose lecturing abilities I employed later in life. At Leighton Park, the music master became an inspector colleague of mine much later. Our local Music Adviser was John Russell – charismatic, and genuinely interested in the young. He was a great help to me during my school days and beyond, and I salute his memory.

He was often at school as he admired Fred Griffin's work, and used to tease him unmercifully on matters where Fred was inclined to be a trifle prim. Music-lovers will be interested to know that my Professor, Herbert Howells, visited the school to conduct Associated Board Examinations, at which I assisted as companion and accompanist. He and Fred did not get on, but I have no idea why! I remember accompanying David Moore in some Brahms, and Herbert was certainly impressed (with David, I mean!)



Fred Griffin (also
wearing Andrew's
boater)

That gritty character, Bott (to call him Mr or Bill was unthinkable: he was Bott, and that was that), was furious because boys were walking across the cricket pitch. He reported this to the Head, in high dudgeon, and Kip speedily arranged for a printed notice to be placed prominently – PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS. Shortly afterwards it was noticed that Bott had obliterated the PLEASE. A straightforward man who lived for cricket, he eventually had his Benefit.

I was invited to give a piano recital after a year at the Royal College of Music. I prepared my programme, with pencilled timings for my own guidance, and submitted it for typing. Unfortunately I neglected to erase the timings, so that my audience read numbers,

in brackets, after each item e.g. Haydn: Sonata in A flat (20), and Schubert: Sonata in A minor (27). I was told that as he entered Big School, Birdie was heard to say, "I see Andrew's got his marks in advance – typical!" The piano in those days was an ancient Broadwood Grand, not unlike the model Chopin played on his last visit to England in the preceding century. Not ideal for a public recital, it at least had a clear tone, though lacking in power. I certainly worked hard that night, but was delighted to be back on home territory. I had to restrain myself from playing the School Song as an encore (with variations). Had I done so I fear the keyboard would have been very slippery.

Finally I must mention some school characters who have hitherto escaped my net. L T N Hardy taught Chemistry with rigour. Obviously highly-prized by the "specialists", he could be a hard taskmaster to the rest. His strangely-angled spectacle lenses were able to reflect actions in the classroom behind him when he wrote on the board, sometimes resulting in weirdly accurate chalk missiles being fired. I believe the term for this phenomenon is "total internal reflection." We admired his skill, but it was all part of his doing things, as he used to implore us, "Properly". Apart from his expertise in the lab, he was memorable for fly-buttons often adrift, and trousers which were startlingly short. Of course, it must be admitted that men's trousers in those days were ill-fitting, the turn-up being inches away from the shoes. Older masters generally wore tweed jackets and ill-fitting collars and ties. As I remember it, the Headmaster was the only one to wear a smart suit, and wore his mortar-board without tilt – thus maintaining a serious, even stern demeanour. But masters like Birdie and Sugar were characteristically bedraggled, Birdie with a battered trilby, and Sugar with an askew "rat-catcher." Both

flourished walking-sticks, and walked with a sense of purpose, Sugar, especially, with head well forward, in a sort of charge.

Mr Ruffell taught wood and metalwork, kept a spotless workshop, and was a stickler for decorum there. Can you blame him for marking me out as a serious risk when he caught me chasing a chum round the bench with a mallet in my hand? I truly thought the end of the world had come, and was a model pupil from that moment. But there was always a coldness in the eye when he looked in my direction. I made a faultless mahogany toothbrush holder, but was not allowed to use it at home as it was considered unhygienic. My whole body was behind every thrust of my chisel when I made it, a technique learned from him, and one I have used, rather self-consciously, ever since, despite jeers from my occasional observers. Every technique this master demonstrated was completed by him saying, "Like so." He was also the owner of a lovely Riley.

"Jackie" Newman, the Chaplain, was a dear, kind man, who cried "Glory be" and "Hey-ho" for no apparent reason, as well as other strange exotic calls. Apart from his religious duties, he was respected for his boxing knowledge, the results of which he bore in later life as he rounded corners head first.

I hope that these random reflections may evoke responses from my contemporaries, and even encourage some to add their own. It has been a joyful task to do, and a grateful, though inadequate tribute to a remarkable school, and those who served it so faithfully. I can truthfully say I have never come across its equal in over fifty years of experience.

AB

Willingly to School (Part 3) *will appear in the next (Autumn) issue. It will consist of a pictorial compilation of as many (all it is hoped) persons and places mentioned in Andrew's article that we are able to assemble. Readers are asked to help by sending in images/photographs – particularly of any of the individuals named. (Photographs will be returned if requested.)* Ed

Tracking The Tea Trays No 5



'The little firework of Canterbury' has been dead, from the executioners axe, three centuries and more and was first buried at All Hallows, Barking, by the Tower (in which he was incarcerated for 4 years). After 18 years his coffin was exhumed, taken to Oxford and interred before the altar in the chapel of St John's College.

His cause, in which he failed, was to sustain the absolute rights of Charles I. He is significant for his radical approach to the English Church and as the last great controversial Archbishop of Canterbury. He had also been a notable President of St John's; Dean of the Chapel Royal;

Chancellor of Oxford University, and of Trinity College Dublin; Bishop of St David's, then Bath and Wells, then London.

Ever since his death on the block, at the age of 71, historians have alternately eulogized and reviled him. His political power became so great that, it has been said, had he succeeded in his aims he might have become 'the Richelieu of England.' He retained 'a lifelong affection for his old school' and expressed it, not as mere sentiment, but in the most positive and practical terms.

KCB

Correspondence

Oxford Letter

To The Editors, The Old Redingensian

Sirs,

The path from Reading School to Oxford University is well-beaten from the tread of generations of Redingensian feet; yet the bonds of classroom and House soon dissolve once plunged into the swirling activity of University life. Currents and counter-currents cajole us in different directions, until each Old Redingensian is drifting apathetically – though quite contentedly – in a small whirlpool of his own. Thankfully all it takes is a small drop of organisation to precipitate a meeting.

The Redingensians who have made that journey are populous enough to enjoy quite a gathering when put together in one place, and such it was at the start of this year. It was early January, and Jamal's curry-house played host to a horde of ORs. Extrapolating from the trends in attendance experienced towards the end of one's School career, it was perhaps not unexpected that not all of our number was present; but the evening pushed onwards nonetheless. An enthusiastic minority arrived sporting old School ties, whose toastie stains and frayed edges told stories of halcyon days that words could never express. As more curry and drink were consumed, belts and lips began to loosen. The conversation was eclectic, though centred mainly around the transition between School and University: the loss of teachers, and the unwelcome acquisition of tutors; the disquieting loss of hair, and the inexplicable acquisition of bellies; the occasional loss of principles, and the bemusing acquisition of a Principal. Plates wiped clean, a few of us hummed the opening bars of the School song, each choosing the tune which pleased him the most. The evening proceeded to the Union, where the conversation and beverages became considerably more gaseous. However irksome it is to speak of oneself and one's achievements, several ORs managed it; and the main purpose of this letter being an update on the welfare of our fine establishment's old boys, I will not hesitate to relate them.



L to R: Iliff, Osun-Sanmi, Wyatt, Gallagher, Bowcock, Hocking, Johnson, Tilbury, Cook, Bunn, Criddle and Hoskins.

Hellier hasn't found the energy to shake off his characteristic apathy, but has written for the OxStu on several occasions. Coello's hair grows, Johnson dances, and Gallagher makes himself useful down the Union. He sat on the Secretary's Committee in Trinity 2007 before serving as Chairman of the Consultative Committee in Michaelmas of the same year. Now deprived of these stations, he sometimes hangs around the bar, hoping to be recognised. Osun-Sanmi gains distinction as the JCR President for St John's. Bunn was JCR Secretary for Jesus, but now sits around at meetings politely correcting his successor. Hoskins has finished for the year; Criddle is as enthusiastic as ever; Bowcock has calmed down. Iran has now had its fill of McCallum, who has returned with a collection of arresting stories of his adventures presenting a series of documentaries for Iranian television. Kernthaler makes music, Rao and Xu excuses. Hoare plans an M.Phil. in Political Theory; Tilbury plans a jolly round the world. Cook seems much the same as ever, as far as I can tell. Wyatt, having completed his term as JCR President for Jesus, now splits his time between feeding his intellect and his belly. He regrets that one grows more quickly than the other. Iliff retains his links with the CCF, and Hocking continues his stand up. Hudson, Butcher and Bapat are occasionally sighted. Sankey is said to still be around somewhere.

Of the remainder, they are either particularly elusive or particularly reclusive, as I have neither seen them nor heard from them.

To old boys who harbour their own memories of days spent (or misspent) in our spired city, I hope this letter stirs some reminiscences. Old Redingensians are still well represented in Oxford University, and given the performance of the current Year 13, should continue to be so for another good few years at the very least. All that remains is to wish those present members of the School facing examination every success in attaining their goals, whatever they may be, and to those whose paths lead to Oxford, we look forward to welcoming you in the Autumn. Floreat Redingensis.

I am, Sirs,

Yours truly,

An Oxford OR

(We were delighted to receive an Oxford letter – readers are referred to the Editorial on the penultimate page –Ed)

Overseas Branches

USA

The West Coast group held the biennial dinner reunion on Feb 22nd 2008 at The Doubletree Marina Hotel in Berkeley, California.

The vibrant group shared cocktails in the Marina Lounge at 6.45pm (rumour has it Phil Hight was an early arrival but was held under control by Emilie). Ray Braham's knowledge of unique ways of getting there was impressive, albeit with some input from the Oakland Police, who were amazed (awed) to see two ORs in a shady area during one detour. Natalie (Ray's wife), and Jenny Seymour were safely locked in the car. Richard and Claudia Lindsay arrived without incident, proving yet again how clever former Prefects are.

As the cocktails and stories were going down so well, the toasts to The School, The ORs and The Queen were raised before moving to The Bay View Dining Room for dinner. Kerr Kirkwood was specially remembered. Roy Seymour read a message of goodwill from Chris Widdows at ORs HQ, including some titbits about the School, which were well received. Richard Lindsay referred to Amy Knight's proposals to fund a boat for the Reading School Rowing Club in memory of her husband, Bill Knight, a former member of the West Coast group.



*Ray Braham, Richard Lindsay, Emilie Hight,
Jenny Seymour, Natalie Braham,
Claudia Lindsay, Phil Hight, Roy Seymour*

We have all become well acquainted over the years, and the usual memories of Big School, The Quad, and old classrooms led to discussion and shared concern about the changing face of the school. The old experience of spending 5-7 years with the same boys somehow seemed to form longer lasting relationships. This in turn seemed to invoke more responsibility, loyalty and real appreciation for the opportunity to be there.

The idea of a "Principal" (a well known title to us Yanks) brings fear of other changes toward an American type system. God forbid. None of us could actually picture CEK jaunting along the main drive, sans cap and gown, trying to become best pals with students in bluejeans and T-shirts.

Laughs and happy thoughts continued to be the order for another enjoyable gathering, which came to a close around 11.00pm. We did the ORs proud !

Roy Seymour (1952-57)

Australia



Mike Jones (1957-64) advises that the 3rd Queensland Reunion will take place on the weekend 13-15 June 2008 at Glen Eden Beach Resort near Noosa (pictured above). Email Mike at specialty@bigpond.com. A report will appear in the Autumn issue of the journal.

France

There are currently 11 members living in France. Graham Fenner (1963-70) is willing to act as convenor and any members wishing to contact him may do so at the address below

It would be helpful if members moving to France would also make contact with him at:

I.S.T Bretagne,
9, rue du Commandant Charcot,
56000 VANNES
France
Email: graham.fenner@groupe-icam.fr
Tel: 00 33 (0)2 97 62 11 81

Obituaries

JOHN KERR KIRKWOOD (1937-44)



Kerr was destined to play a unique part in the Old Redingensians Association stamping his mark indelibly there, as he did in all the various areas of his life and gaining much affection for his gruff and bluff demeanour and for his utter dependability.

One of three brothers, two of whom were at Reading School, and with a twin sister, Kerr was born in Tunbridge Wells in 1927 but grew up in Earley. He was in East House and left School from VMB in July 1944. He decided to follow in his Father's footsteps, and having read Agriculture at Reading University, he joined Thimbleby & Shorland where he worked as an Agricultural Auctioneer for 39 years. He became a Partner in the firm on the death of his Father in 1966.

Kerr's speciality was dairy cattle and he was known throughout the farming community (he was a Past President of the Berkshire Federation of Young Farmers) and became the voice of Reading Cattle Market, to which he travelled by bicycle; well into his seventies Kerr used his cycle whenever he could. Away from Reading he conducted herd and farm dispersal sales throughout the country and carried out valuations (Chairman of Berks & Oxon Valuers Association in 1971/72). During the 1970s and 1980s he organised the cattle classes at Wokingham Show. Kerr was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

In 1987 he retired as, Senior Partner of the firm, and embarked on a world tour which enabled him to look at agricultural and breeding methods in other countries. He became Secretary of the Berkshire Local History Association and wrote a history of the Wokingham Show which was published in 2005. As 'Jethro Oakley' he contributed a farming column to the Reading Chronicle.

Kerr became the Appeal Secretary on the Council of the Old Redingensians Association in 1986, a post he held until 1989. He soon became an indispensable officer in various roles principally as Hon Secretary (1989-1998). From 1988 to 1996 he edited the OR News Section of the School Magazine and then became the founding editor of The Old Redingensian Newsletter (1997-1998) and when that was replaced by this journal he remained on the editorial staff with responsibility for obituaries and overseas branches until 2005. After he stepped down as Hon Sec he accepted the post of Welfare Officer and then took on the task of cataloguing the archives. He remained very much a pivotal figure who represented continuity, was always available and a loyal friend to many members.

To mark his retirement as Hon Sec, members endowed 'The Kirkwood Awards for Character and Service' for the two boys who, in the academic year, most emulate Kerr's own attributes of personality, participation, enthusiasm and reliability. Three recent award winners attended the funeral service.

There were also numerous ORs present, including 6 Past Presidents. The service was held at Park Church which has been attended by three generations of Kirkwoods and was dear to him. His ashes are scattered with his Father's at Manor Farm, Grazeley (which once belonged to his Uncle) sharing a field with a herd of his admired Aberdeen Angus cross cattle.

Kerr is survived by Pat, their 4 children, Adam, Paul, John and Rebecca, and six grandchildren.

Kerr Kirkwood died on 28 August 2007 aged 80.

KCB/CJW

PETER ERIC TOWNSEND (1944-48)

Born on 27 March 1930 Peter was at School from age 14 to 18. He was in East House, a Lance Sergeant in the JTC, held School Rugby and Shooting colours, Rep Hockey colours, and House athletic colours. He played a full part in the cultural life of the School, gaining a Debating Society 'character' which noted his 'robust common sense'; Dramatic Society, Operatic Society, Seekers, Sub Librarian.

Rugby was the sport which, perhaps, meant most to him. He was a second row forward in the very good XV of 1946, captained by Peter Coombs, which lost only to Beaumont and the ORs, and of J W Chown's successful 1947 side which lost but 3 matches – but did overcome the OR side. Peter also played for the Berkshire Public School's XV and was awarded County Public School colours. After leaving School he played club rugby for Bath.

Banking was to be Peter's career, with the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME) which had been established in Victorian England, by Royal Charter, as the Imperial Bank of Persia.



He was to spend 33 years as a Bank Executive starting in 'the afterglow of the Empire melt-down', seeing new regimes taking over and then falling themselves, Suez, internal strife, bombings, the three-day war; life went on. Political Residents and Consuls gave way to Ambassadors and a relatively poor area, prior to 1973, was transformed by the oil revenues that began to flow thereafter. Peter's postings – 20 different offices in 20 years alone - gave him a ringside view of these great changes which have so affected the current world.

In 1952 London he had started on £350 p.a. (plus luncheon vouchers) as a Bank trainee. In 1953 he had his first posting – to Bahrain i/c Treasury and Accounts. Before leaving he visited a shop in Golden Square that, in those days, specialised in kitting out individuals for various climes. The Bank gave him £100 for this purpose. Bahrain was followed by Dubai, then Damascus and, in 1956, he returned to the UK for leave and marriage to Molly, whom he had met in the British Embassy in Damascus.

Tripoli (Libya), Amman, Baghdad, Jerusalem, Teheran (twice), Kuwait, Alkhobar, Tripoli (Lebanon), Khorramshahr, Tangier, Muscat were all to follow on one or two year postings. Many friends, high and low, were made, there was cricket, football, hockey and tennis to be played; old acquaintances were sometimes encountered – DU Pollitt OR (1943-46), for instance, in Tripoli (Libya) where he was then a Captain RA (now Colonel Pollitt DL). Kim Philby was a customer in Amman. Also on that posting the Townsend's acquired Wendy, their 'Ammanite Hound', who was to accompany them in 8 different countries over 18 years. Tangier provided daily amusements and found a particular place in Peter and Molly's hearts.

In Oman a school for British children was established; Peter was on the Board and drew up the constitution. He was a long time blood donor – O Negative is the only group that can be given to anyone in an emergency; the Teheran earth quake of 1972 was a case in point.

In 1960 BBME merged with HSBC with very little overlap. By 1972 Peter was Chief Inspector of the Bank of Iran and the Middle East in Teheran (his third posting there). After 18 months he returned to Head Office in London as Deputy Chief Inspector BBME and his final appointment was to be as General Manager of the Dubai Bank until retirement in 1985.

In retirement he had homes in Henley on Thames – where he was a member of Phyllis Court Club – and Torquay, and wrote '*Bactria and Zoroaster*' his reminiscences of the period 1953-1973, which records the change from the almost medieval to the modern; demonstrates his and Molly's deep interest in local history and is illustrated with his own watercolours – still life and wild flowers in the main. Painting was a lifelong interest, indeed when Peter left Reading School he could have taken up a place at Goldsmith College to study art.

He joined the OR Council in 1986 (the first year of the OR Association, the charitable organisation that replaced the old OR Club, a limited liability company). In 1989 he became Hon. Treasurer staying in that post until 1997 when he was elected an Hon. Life Member in recognition of his outstanding service. Peter has been a generous benefactor of the Association. He was a man of integrity, warmth and humour; Molly survived him only until 30 May 2008.

Peter Townsend died on 31 May 2007 aged 77.

KCB

DR WILLIAM KEITH CAMPBELL MORGAN FRCP(E) FRCP(C) FACP (1937-48)



When Keith Morgan left School he was Captain of his House (West), had been two years in the XV and three in the XI, the last as Captain of Cricket. The 'character' given him that year said that he had set 'a real example in good all round effort' as a fast bowler, forcing bat, good fielder and fine handler of his team.

He was born on 1 July 1929; was a boarder in East Wing at the age of 8, but only after six months there did he enter the Junior School – for that prior period he walked across Addington Road to attend Malvern House School. After 5 years he became a Day Boy, initially in County House.

From 1948 to 1953 he studied medicine at the University of Sheffield, graduating with honours and, after service in the RAMC, moved in 1957 to North America where he was to become a world renowned specialist in thoracic and pulmonary disease and an author or contributor to more than 50 textbooks and over 170 articles.

During early days in Baltimore he published a famous paper '*The rape of the phallus*' which successfully antagonised those surgeons who made a living from circumcision; he was ever known as a fierce competitor and articulate campaigner for truth, whose penmanship and verbal dexterity could lacerate.

At the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Lung Disease he set up a major research programme into pneumoconiosis. By the time he took the Chair of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Western Ontario (where he became an Emeritus Professor of Medicine) his senior appointments were many and distinguished. He became Chief of Staff at University Hospital in London, Ontario. He had served as President of both the Maryland Thoracic Society and the Canadian Thoracic Society.

Dr Morgan was a teacher, researcher and clinician whose lasting impact on the world wide development of respiratory medicine arose from his clinical skills and his leadership in research; he was also a staunch campaigner for English grammar and style, whose sometimes acerbic wit could devastate the lackadaisical.

His wife Barbara predeceased him and he leaves 3 children including his son, Rick Morgan, who supplied much material used in this notice.

Keith Morgan died of a ruptured aortic aneurism on 23 March 2007 aged 77.

KCB

THE VERY REVEREND MONSIGNOR PATRICK RAYMOND OLIVIER (1950-57)



Patrick was born on 23 December 1938 and grew up with sister, Rosemary, and brother, Robin. At Reading School he was in West House until 1955 and became an East Wing boarder when his parents left the area. Pat joined in most activities, became a Prefect and played in the 1st XV (Rep Colours) and Hockey 1st XI.

Briefly he studied Architecture at Kingston Art College before the Royal Navy claimed him for National Service (which included a tour of duty in the Mediterranean aboard HMS Chichester). Afterwards, he taught for a few months in Guildford but his destiny was the Roman Catholic Church and, in 1961, he commenced studies for the Priesthood at St John's Seminary, Wonersh. The powerful threads of his life were to be forever his faith, his family and his friends.

Patrick was ordained Priest in 1967, at St Peter's Guildford and there followed 5 years assisting at St Mary's and All Angels, Worthing and then 6 years as Private Secretary to, first, the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and then, briefly to Cormac Murphy O'Connor when he was Archbishop of Southwark. He established and was the first director of the Maryvale Pastoral Centre, Brighton. In 1980 his particular abilities took him to the post of Chief Information Officer for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, in which capacity he handled the 1981

visit of Pope John Paul II. The next year he was appointed as Papal Chaplain and from 1984 to 1987 worked as Director of Education for the Arundel and Brighton Diocese. There followed a short sabbatical and six years as Parish Priest at St Joseph's Guildford and Episcopal Vicar for Surrey. And then – he married Nicola (who survives him) and she brought him another family, including stepchildren.

Of course, this necessitated changes; Patrick remained a Priest until the end, but the Roman Catholic Church does not allow married men to preside at the Eucharist. Without conflict Patrick then worked in the Communications Office in the Southwark Diocese of the Church of England.

He had married in Knaphill and his funeral was in Knaphill; St Hugh's Church filled to overflowing, with video links to the Church Hall (also so full that the robing room had to be opened for the congregation). Numerous Catholic Priests of all ages were amongst the throng, and the tributes were many and heartfelt to a man whose 'quest was ever the discernment of God's Will' and who was, for 40 years, 'a good priest'.

Patrick Olivier died on 20 August 2007, suddenly, whilst on a walking holiday in the Isle of Wight. He was aged 69.

KCB

THOMAS VAUGHAN GOULD (1946-53)

Few took part in as many School and House activities as Tom Gould. He became a prefect, gained School Colours for Rugby and Swimming, Rep. Colours for Athletics and held House colours or Initials in six different activities, captaining the Boarders Team (he was an East Winger) in four of them. Tom was a member of many School societies, Debating and Operatic amongst them.

He was born in Tanganyika – the middle child of three – where his father was with the Colonial Service and schooled in Africa (boarding from the age of 7) until his family were able to visit England in 1946, for the first time since before the War, and Tom entered Reading School.

In 1953 he went to the LSE on a State Scholarship and after graduating was articled to Peat Marwick in London where he qualified in 1959. National Service was in the Buffs, into which regiment he was commissioned, and with whom he was posted to Germany. In 1961 he joined an electrical firm, Philips of Croydon, and in 1963 married Jean.



They did not stay put, living in Epsom, then Yorkshire, then returning to London again. Tom's entrepreneurial spirit moved him to set up a fishing tackle business, Leeda Tackle, with his brother-in-law, in Southampton and this prompted a family move to Romsey. Public spirited, he became heavily engaged in local government, a two term Test Valley District Councillor, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, a JP, a Governor of Romsey School and a founder member of LTVAS (Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group).

This dedicated involvement in local life continued when the family moved to Braishfield 25 years ago and in retirement. He was also a keen fisherman with a stretch on the Test and an enthusiastic beer drinker, generous with his time, money and expertise and, belying his somewhat intimidating appearance, warm hearted and empathetic, indeed a natural (and legendary) host.

He is survived by Jean and their three children. His brother Dr B J (Barry) Gould (1947-57) and D O P (David) Thomas (1942-52), both fellow East Wingers, were at the funeral.

Tom Gould died on 5 June 2007 aged 72.

KCB

DAVID LEWIS (1953-60)

As JOM of the Debating Society David Lewis's 'Character' in 1960 reported 'a thoroughly practised and effective speaker', faculties put to good use at Manchester University where he captained the Hulme Hall debating team. His greater impact at School was on the cultural side but David was one of life's willing participants – he represented his House – West – in activities across the spectrum.

At Manchester he read Law, became Vice Chairman of the Law Students' Association and also played rugby – he had been in the 3rd XV at School – which he continued to do for the ORs, at all levels, for some seasons.

After graduation he took articles in Reading, qualified in 1968 and became a partner at the Wokingham office of Ratcliffe Duce and Gammer in 1970. He moved to their Reading office in 1992 and latterly had practised as a consultant. He had held the post of both Treasurer and Hon Sec of the Reading and Berkshire Solicitors' Association and was President in 1999-2000.



David married Anna in 1970. They suffered the great sadness of losing their first born, Sharon, to cancer when she was only four and a half years old.

Long a stalwart of Wokingham Lions Club – Hon Sec and President in his time – he became increasingly interested in Freemasonry and was Worshipful Master of the Pangbourne Lodge in 2002. Dog lover, serious gardener, Hampshire CCC member (once always prepared to 'make up the side' for Reading Lawyers CC, or umpire, or score), Motor Sports aficionado – a competitor in earlier days in his 750 cc Special – raconteur (with a special line in Jewish stories), David had a full life. He is survived by Anna and their second daughter, Helen.

David Lewis died on 5 September 2007 aged 65.

KCB

DR IAN CHRISTOPHER BURNELL (1993-2000)



Ian Burnell was raised in north west London before moving with his family to Reading in 1986 where he attended Caversham Primary before Reading School.

A member of East House, 'Burnie' was known for organising camping and hiking trips and excelled at science and geography. He was an OR Enterprise Award winner in his final year. On leaving School he went to Zambia with the Christian humanitarian charity, Tearfund. His growing affinity with Africa was strengthened when he went to Ethiopia, again with Tearfund, in 2002.

In September 2000 he commenced medical studies at the University of Wales College of Medicine, wrote papers on placentaphagia and tuberculosis and joined the Caving Club. During this period his love of the outdoors took him to Europe, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In Summer 2001 he worked with churches and underprivileged children in the Rhondda Valley. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Public Health, resumed medical studies, had 2 papers published and spent time with medical students in Moldova. 2005 found him at a medical unit in Rwanda and, in 2006, he graduated and began work as a House Officer at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

He had planned to take time out in 2008 to do humanitarian work in a South African prison hospital but, in May 2007, whilst climbing in Spain with friends he fell from a cliff face in the Altea Hills near Alicante and died from his injuries despite being airlifted to hospital.

Tributes paid to him spoke fondly of his zest for life and boundless enthusiasm, and his love of a practical joke, but above all, of his care and compassion as a doctor, his kindness, generosity and universal popularity. A memorial service held at Greyfriars Church in Reading was attended by a very large congregation containing many Reading School contemporaries, including T P (Tim) Cresswell (1993-2000) who was among the speakers. Burnie was unmarried and is survived by his parents, Marion and David and by his three sisters and brother.

Dr Ian Christopher Burnell died on 16 May, 2007 aged 26.

KCB

ANTHONY BARTON WELLS OBE (1942-46)

The Times 'Lives in Brief' praised Tony Wells' contribution to the reform of family law procedure. He founded the first family mediation service and became the first director of the National Council for Family Proceedings. He was appointed to the Lord Chancellors Advisory Committee on Family Law, and in 1997 received an OBE for his services to the family justice system.

He was born in Reading on 5 June 1930 and left Reading School at 16 with his O and CSC. He was in County House and had been in the Air Training Corps; it was as an apprentice in aeronautical engineering that he entered working life, at RAE Farnborough, the very place to feed a young man's dreams.

Tony had a strong Methodist background and after National Service, (naturally in the Royal Air Force), he read theology at Richmond College and trained for the ministry. He married Jean in 1956 after his initial year as a Minister. Their first child was born in 1958.



Following ministries at churches in High Wycombe, Gravenhurst (Beds) and Watford he decided to leave the ministry in the early sixties and join the Probation Service in London. He became a senior probation officer in Bath and subsequently Assistant Chief Probation Officer for the County of Avon; his work enabled him to help families in a practical way, which he felt was of the greatest importance.

The tragedy which strikes most families came to Tony in 1980 with the loss of his wife and again, in 1990, when his youngest son Nick, born in 1965, died suddenly.

Tony had remarried, to Rosemary, in 1982 and they spent 25 fulfilling years together. Tony was an active man, physically and intellectually, until his short final illness. He was musical, playing piano and organ, and practical: a model railway buff who built his own steam engines; the operator of a radio controlled aeroplane; he gave public service as a Director of the Kingswood Foundation and as a Parish Councillor and remained deeply involved with the Methodist Church - but he was always, first and foremost, a family man. He leaves Rosemary, his surviving sons, David and Michael, and 5 grandchildren.

Anthony Wells died on 25 July 2007 aged 77.

KCB

RONALD ANTHONY BEST (1939-43)



Ron Best was at School in County House from the age of 11 to 15, leaving after he gained his O & CSC. He had House Cricket Colours and was later to play Rugby for the ORs.

His life was spent in Business; he became Managing Director of Dynamit Nobel (UK) Ltd before trading on his own account. In 1955 he married Sheila Harvey who survives him with 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Amongst ORs at his wake was Colin Stamp (1938-44) who writes:

'Ron, from his very early days, was a fun lover. At School he was always playing the fool and laughter was a great part of his life. He was gregarious; when he first started in business with ICI it wasn't long before he had made many friends on the train in which he travelled daily. He changed employers several times and

finally ran his own business, one which entailed much international travelling, which he greatly enjoyed, and which brought him many new friends in Europe and Africa. At Ron's wishes a wake was held in Eastbourne, where he lived latterly, to celebrate his life. There were memories from around the world, several of his family and friends spoke and his love of life was much emphasised. Ron will never be forgotten by his friends and family'.

Ronald Best died on 14 October 2007 aged 79.

KCB

STEPHEN JOHN DUCE (1986-93)



Steve Duce epitomised the spirit of Reading School. He was a bundle of energy, inquisitiveness and laughter and would have a crack at anything and drag others along with him for the ride. For someone with literally so much life, to have it snatched away by the ravages of leukaemia at the age of 32 is a tragedy.

Ironically, this is the only tragic chapter I know of in a life which revolved around Reading but took in so much more. Steve joined Reading School in September 1986 but probably wouldn't have done if he had realised football was not on the curriculum at the time! He did manage to demonstrate his lethal left foot though, not only in the quad but also outside the School playing for Reading Boys FC. Some may recollect his 'pastel' polo shirts which he attempted to pass off for gym kit and which earned him the nickname 'Trevor' for a short while. He will be more fondly remembered however,

for his camaraderie, decency and openness. This honesty and sense of fair play even extended to telling a certain member of staff to stop picking on him in a scene which I think must have come from watching too much Grange Hill!

Numerous School trips were revved up by the presence of Steve, from shenanigans in Russia to 'gravity-defying mid-air masterpieces' on the 1992 ski trip. At least that's what the write-up in the School Magazine from May of that year claims. Further investigation however reveals the co-author to be none other than S Duce! To be fair, he did modestly attribute this to a 'lack of control', something he may also have been guilty of in Russia?

In the School Magazine of his leaving year, Steve is credited with rugby and CCF honours. In the latter he led the army section as Staff Sergeant, took part in numerous gruelling exercises and also surely held the record for the most sit-ups ever performed in the quad. As his form tutor, Ian Judd's friendly banter obviously spurred Steve on and he achieved well above predictions at A-Levels and went on to study geology at UCL.

Steve really spread his wings after his School years. His geological surveying jobs took him around the globe, usually spending weeks at a time at sea. Whenever he was back, he would never rest, playing football and rugby, seeking high octane thrills on his bike or just kicking back with his mates. He combined much of his travels over the last five or six years with his soul mate Kate who he married in May 2007.

Steve fought leukaemia with an unbelievable and unbreakable spirit, truly an inspiration to all around him and was in good spirits, active and positive to the end. During his many hours in the Royal Berks he would have a chuckle to himself as he watched weary Road-Relay runners drag themselves up Craven Road.

Having grown a real affinity with the sea, Steve found final peace when his ashes were scattered at his favourite spot off the coast of Fowey. His characteristic, Sid James-like laugh will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Stephen Duce died on 8 June 2007 aged 32.

Rupert Lovie



W K Pryke (1931-34) at School



There is an 'In Memoriam' notice for Col. Wallace Pryke in this issue of the journal and a full obituary will accordingly follow in the next issue. It will not allow space to do justice to his Reading School career, which was unusually distinguished (as his later life proved to be), so we attempt to do so here.

Pryke was a late entrant, 15 years of age when he joined L IV MA in January 1931. He was in East House and already a House Prefect when he became a West Wing boarder for his final year.

In his first year at School he won the 4th form Mathematics Prize and the Lawrence Cup for the Best Recruit in the OTC, and also passed his Lower Certificate in 7 subjects – 4 of them in the first class. In the 5th form he shared the Mathematics Prize (with D A R Mills) and gained his School Certificate in six subjects (all with credit) giving him exemption from the London Matriculation Examination. In 1933 he took the 6th form English Prize. In 1934 he won The Butler Essay Prize – which his school report for the summer term of 1934 records he did 'meritoriously' – and also collected the Rowing Challenge Cup as Captain of Boarders' Boats.

By that time he was Captain of the School; also Captain of Shooting, Captain of Boats and had been 2 years in the 1st XV. He was a triple Full School

Colour (with House Athletic Colours besides) and Hon Secretary of the Games Committee.

This was not all; he acted in the school play (he kept programmes signed by his fellow actors, amongst them John Boulting in 1931 and John Minton in 1932) and for the West Wing Dramatic Society (making, apparently, 'an excellent crook') was a member of the Debating Society, Seekers, and a Librarian, Hon Sec of the Chapel Committee and Chairman of the Library Club.

His remarkable school career has another, unique, distinction for he was not only CSM of the OTC but was admitted in January 1934 to the Supplementary Reserve of Officers of the Essex Regiment 'the first time that a boy of Reading School has held the King's commission in His Majesty's Army' (*have there been others? – Ed*).

The Headmaster, G H Keeton, considered he had been an excellent School Captain and anticipated 'a successful future career' which, indeed, followed.

Although Captain of School, this *rara avis* was not Captain of West Wing or of Boarders. That was J B Levien, Vice Captain of School to Pryke, to whom we send greetings as we do to those other of Pryke's direct contemporaries who are Association Members.

KCB

In Memoriam

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

E J (Dan) Madden (1934-39)

Retired

Died 19 June 2007 aged 87

H E (Harold) Cunningham (1929-35)

Chiropractist

Died 23 Oct 2007 aged 89

Dr B J (Brian) Wagg (1941-46)

Bacteriologist

Died 13 July 2007 aged 76

M R (Michael) Jacobs (1943-47)

Banker

Died 22 Oct 2007 aged 76

S J (Simon) Ambrose (1965-72)

Civil Engineer

Died 23 Oct 2007 aged 53

A W (Arthur) Knott (1945-46)

Headteacher

Died 25 Oct 2007 aged 78

W (William) Thomas (1931-36)

Chartered Surveyor

Died 29 Oct 2007 aged 87

Col W K (Wally) Pryke MBE (1931-34)

Captain of School: Army Officer:

Civil Servant: Energy Consultant

Died 21 Nov 2007 aged 92

Wg Cdr D E (Derek) Davies (1927-34)

DFC AFC & Bar

RAF Officer (Rtd) and Local Politician

Died 21 Nov 2007 aged 90

Prof J L (John) Ackrill FBA (1932-40)

Sir Thomas White Scholar: Emeritus Professor of the History of Philosophy, Oxford University

Died 30 Nov 2007 aged 85

E (Eric) Coombes (1942-48)

Public Health Analyst

Died 19 Dec 2007 aged 76

P (Peter) MacLennan (1941-47)

formerly P Watkins

Sales Manager

Died 10 January 2008 aged 75

P J (Peter) South (1928-31)

Admin Officer

Died 15 January 2008 aged 89

Rev Prebendary G F (Graham) Holley (1945-46)

Clergyman

Died 1 February 2008 aged 78

Cricket Week 21 July – 25 July 2008



If any readers are interested in playing please contact either Terry Cartwright: 01428 602992
terryc@whiteoaks.co.uk or Andy Northway: 0118 962 1541 andy.northway@heritagebathrooms.com

From the Editors



CJW and KCB

'I have had many pieces of good fortune in my life. Two important ones were to go to an excellent primary school (*Alfred Sutton – Ed*) and an excellent grammar school.' So writes David Lawrence (1949-56) and he makes an interesting point; the long debate about grammar schools rarely stresses one important feature; they provide role models: the 11 year old can see that virtually any career is open to him; that he could become, 'for instance, the Queen's Gynaecologist.'

An aspect of life that neither David, nor most of us, ever had to cope with when young, could nowadays blight such opportunities, namely the proliferation of internet sites inviting personal opinion and disclosure of information and sometimes encouraging extreme language and imagery, pose obvious problems for schools. In the case of Reading School the Principal has been at pains to remind pupils of their moral responsibility

in these areas; of the reputation of the School: and that the footprint left may be accessed at sometime in the future by, for instance, prospective employers, admissions tutors etc.

This is clearly a very difficult area for the modern boy, who may find himself haunted by what were essentially naïve, youthful indiscretions if he is not mature enough to understand the implications at the time of his actions.

In contrast, there is no longer a defined historical record of a boy's Reading School career. There has been no School Magazine – that vital organ of record – for 10 years, no printed valet, no regular retrospect of a term's activities. Now the *School List* (the 'blue book'), which has existed at least as long as the present School buildings, is no more. Another essential reference and record has been lost but the intention is that some, at least, of the information will be incorporated in the termly calendar.

The Principal's letter in this issue is full of encouragement for all concerned with the School's future. We have to pick up on 'vivat princeps'. Touché, Mr Weeds!

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The Oxford letter is a welcome revival of an old tradition and we are delighted to record that it was the initiative of the correspondent - whose name cannot be revealed. Are there similar institutions up to the challenge perhaps?

Finally, we draw attention to the notice, on the rear cover, of the Annual Dinner. Sonning Golf Club is, of course, just around the corner from Redingensians Sports Ground. If any members wish to support Redingensians RFC there will no doubt be rugby on the afternoon of 22 November, although at present we have not seen a fixture list for next season.



Old School Tie
Silk £15

OR Tie
Polyester £10
Silk £15

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21 Bulmershe Road
Reading RG1 5RH

Cheques payable to:
Old Redingensians Association

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Francis Pierrepont Barnard

This issue's front cover:

Barnard used for his bookplate a muzzled demi bear on a helm and quartered shield.

The bear is common in heraldry and is certainly used in the arms of various Barnard families.

The motto constitutes a punning allusion.

AGM and Annual Dinner 2008

Saturday, 22 November

Sonning Golf Club

(AGM 4 pm Dinner 7 pm)

Ticket Price £30 (Members only)

(Recent Leavers £25)

Social Secretary: Barrie Shelton
invites provisional bookings.

Contact Barrie at

Underwood, White Hill

Remenham

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

RG9 3HA

Tel: 01491 573431

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