

THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Spring 2009



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Feature Writers in this Issue

The main feature, *Reading School – Some Random Recollections* - is by R B van Wart who was at School from 1881 - 1886 under Dr Walker, after whose debacle, he, like three quarters of the School, left. Then in 1888 – 1890 he was back again under Dr Barnard and subsequently went to St John's, Oxford with the White Scholarship. He was awarded the OBE for services to education in India and retired to Merioneth. He originally wrote the feature for *The Reading Standard* (then under the aegis of V H Rivers OR) which serialized it in four installments during the 1930s. It remains vivid today; we publish half in this issue and the concluding half will appear in Autumn 2009.

The President's Letter

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of *The Old Redingensian*. Whilst the President of our Association rotates in every year with great anticipation, then back out again (sometimes with great relief), *The Old Redingensian* is a permanent feature of the OR landscape and ever welcome.

I was at School from 1966 to 1973; post flower-power, but issues such as the population explosion and the environment were still very topical. Computers, though becoming available in business, were expensive; certainly the School had none. Our maths master, Mr E D Bicknell, once arranged a special trip to Slough, where we were given access to card punches and terminals for an hour or so. A few of us were also introduced at Bulmershe College to a single-user PDP-8 minicomputer (which was the precursor to today's PCs). However, its capabilities were minimal compared to a PC even of the 1980s and, as the College had to pay £30 per hour of use under a maintenance agreement, our usage was quickly curtailed after a few over enthusiastic Sunday afternoon sessions.

The highlights of my time at School, as for so many of us, arose from extra curricular activities - ski trips (organised by Mr T A Boyington), sailing, and Eskimo rolling in canoes, gave me skills that I have been able to use on many an enjoyable occasion subsequently.

My presidential year includes a **major social event** coinciding with **Cricket Week** which this year has been brought into term time, commencing with the ORs versus the School on Saturday, 4 July and running to Wednesday, 8 July. ORs and their guests are invited to come along and watch on any of these days. On the weekend of 4-5 July, against the backdrop of the cricket, there will additionally be a **Summer Festival** of events at School which we hope will be well attended by the OR community (incidentally, picnickers are encouraged, not just at the weekend, but on any day of Cricket Week). The full programme is detailed on page 34.

The AGM and annual dinner will be held on Saturday, 28 November at Caversham Heath Golf Club and

there is an advertisement detailing the arrangements on page 24 of this issue. The Vice President, Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE will preside.

An efficient website is essential for an organisation such as ours and at last we should be able to achieve what is necessary, through the professional help of George Cave OR (1999-06) who designed the School's website. He has been contracted to provide the ORA with a Content Management System which can be used to keep data both current and relevant. I hope and intend that this will be fully implemented during my term as President. Other features under consideration include - a member's forum, the ability for members to amend their data, a link to the School's website and a message board.

The basic facilities of the School have never received the constant upgrading that is desirable. The science laboratories, for instance, are certainly not what one would expect in the jewel of the Government's school system in Berkshire. Can we really be comfortable that while other schools around us have a modern Design Technology suite, Reading School still only has an old blacksmith's forge?! There is also a pressing need for a refectory - indeed OFSTED has ordained that there must be such a provision. In order to assist in addressing the above, and other essential infrastructure upgrades, the School has set up a development office to administer the '**1125 Fund**' (see page 16 for further details). I hope that all ORs who can help, will do so.

This year the OR Association is again supporting the Enterprise Award scheme to the tune of £6,000 and other **major grants** this year will be recorded in my Autumn Letter. The Association is grateful for the occasional donations and legacies which augment our regular income because they enable us to fund an even wider range of activities.

Floreat Redingensis!

Neil Thomason



Notes & News

At the Sovereign's Parade at RMA Sandhurst, on 12 Dec 2008, B J (Ben) Cresswell (1990–97) was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. He has previously worked as a parliamentary researcher, in public relations, and latterly in the Bank of England. He joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a territorial soldier in 2003.

The family of the late Neville Hart (N J Hart MA Jesus College, Oxford, French Master at School 1954-84 and ultimately Head of Modern Languages) has been in the news lately. His widow, Lucette, a Parisienne who taught French at Queen Anne's School for twenty years, left more than one million pounds to the Friends of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, it was revealed in December last. Neville's brother Derek, was the well known TV presenter who was part of the original *Tonight* team.

A history of cricket at Huntley & Palmers – once the dominant Club in the area – *Bats, Balls & Biscuits*, by Martin Bishop, has just been published. Old Redingensian XIs were frequent opponents of H & Ps and there are various images, and mentions in print, of OR sides. Some ORs, including such fine players as A W Flatman (1931-37) and G N G Kirby (1933-40) in fact played for the biscuit factory.



Still on the subject of H & Ps, the campaign by Rex Hora (1959-65) to find a permanent site for their 'number one locomotive', which worked at the factory from 1932 to 1969, continues. He set up Kenavon Railway Society for the purpose. Currently the engine is stored at Wallingford Station – Tel. 01491 835 067 to arrange a viewing.

Clive Rowden (1938-43) is seeking news of John Dawkins (1939-46) who, Clive thinks, moved to Combe Martin some years ago. (John is also one of the "missing" in the Form UVA 1945 image sent in by Tony Waring, PP (1940-46) for the Spring 2008 issue of this journal).

C A (Charles) Hubbard (1961-68) FRICS (*pictured right*) partner in Dunster & Morton, the chartered surveyors and commercial property consultants, is currently President of Reading Rotary Club. Clubs throughout the UK are marking in 2009 the centenary year of Rotary.



P M (Paul) Whiteway (1958-65) has surfaced in the Philippines. His email address includes the wording *ancienrocka*. Incidentally where are the rest of the Ancient Rockers? The membership seems quite thin for the 60s generation.

Dr R P (Dick) Hill (1954-61) has been awarded the Robert L Noble Prize by the Canadian Cancer Society for outstanding achievements in cancer research. He is a senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Hospital and a Professor in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto.

James Osun-Sanmi (1999-06) was elected JCR President 2008 at St John's College, Oxford where he is a third year undergraduate studying Law.

When sending an item for the Archive (see page 39) R E (Ron) Atkins (1939-44) mentioned that when he joined the JTC he was issued with a WWI uniform – peaked cap, tunic with brass buttons, trousers and puttees. Later this was exchanged for WW2 uniform – forage cap, battle dress jacket and trousers all of the second best quality – and then he joined the ATC when it was formed and had uniform number 3 (Air Force blue). When his time came for National Service he elected to go into the Air Force and, of course, was promptly allocated to the Navy where he wore uniform number 4 (square rig). It seems he had the full set.....

Co-incidentally Peter Coombs (1939-47) eventually CSM, has recently told the Journal that he and R C Dobson (1938 - 45) were the last cadets to be issued with the WWI uniform and in fact even his cap badge was an OTC one and not JTC. Peter felt very self conscious walking to School in this dated outfit!

J R Hobbs (1948-53), in a letter to the Reading Post in February, recalled his days with the Operatic Society at School, the ban on using the new fangled 'biro', and the death of King George VI when the boys were told to put away their lessons and go quietly home. He hoped his letter would lead to some news of contemporaries – particularly R K White, M R Wagnell, P B Marr and J E G Sutton.

An exhibition, organised by the Reading Civic Society, *Reading Then and Now*, featuring images from the 1700s to the 1950s alongside photographs taken in the past 6 months from the same vantage point, was opened at Reading Museum by the Mayor, Councillor Peter Beard, on 14 February to run until 14 June. The

exhibition features the works of four photographers, one of whom is the co-editor of this journal C J Widdows (1955-62).

L'affaire Damian Green MP OR (1967-74) rumbles on. He was accused of conspiring to commit misconduct in a public office and aiding and abetting, counselling or procuring misconduct in a public office. The public instinctively sensed an injustice and whilst the case unfolded Damian took every opportunity to talk on individual privacy and freedom. The Journal will report fully once this watershed case reaches a conclusion.

Apart from Damian Green, who is Conservative MP for Ashford, there are three further current OR MPs in the House of Commons; M C (Mark) Field (1976-83) who is the Conservative Member for the Cities of London and Westminster; O (Oliver) Heald (1966-73) Conservative Member for NE Hertfordshire; The Rt Hon. A D (Andrew) Smith (1962-68) Labour Member for Oxford East and a former member of the Cabinet. The former MP J F Hodgess Roper (1948-54) sits in the Lords as Lord Roper of Thorney Island. He was until 2005 Liberal Democrat Chief Whip in the Upper House. The 46-year parliamentary career of Sir Richard Body (1940-44) came to an end in 2001 when he did not seek reselection as MP for Boston and Skegness. The next General Election will surely see further ORs standing. Floreat Redingensis.



Green



Field



Heald



Smith



Roper



Body

In support of the charity British Community Trust, originally set up by Liz Illman when her husband John Illman CMG PP (1951-59) was British Ambassador in Peru, an OR Team competed at a Quiz Night on 21 February in The Barn, Purley Rise. Despite the Quiz Master also being an OR (Dr Martin Parsons (1963-70) the eight strong side (the co-editors, Honorary Secretary, Past President Michael Maule and their wives) could only finish third. There was a very good attendance and the night raised over £1700 for the charity.

In March the Honda Racing Formula One Equipe was sold to its Technical Director, Ross Brawn OR (1966-71). Brawn GP retains the use of Jenson Button and Rubens Barrichello for the 2009 season to pilot the new BGP 001 car, which in the hands of the former sensationally won the first two Grand Prix of the season and, as we go to press, six out of the first seven races.



For Comic Relief Day, Friday 13 March 2009, the Press urged the populous to "do something silly" and the co-editor (*pictured left*) certainly did, by joining the Fun Run around the School's perimeter. He is both proud and sore to have represented the Association's Senior Citizens Kamikaze Wing in this way. Other runners included the Principal, Mr John Weeds and local MP, Mr Rob Wilson (see School News for further details).

The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Peter Beard, unveiled in February an information board about H & G Simonds Limited, on the site of the Bridge Street Brewery (now part of the Oracle Shopping Centre). For 200 years Simonds was one of Reading great employers. The Board features two photographs, one of which is Edward, Prince of Wales' visit to the Brewery in 1926. Of the three Simonds shown in the photograph accompanying his Royal Highness one is an OR, Stephen Shea-Simonds (1885-86) who was Chairman of the Company from 1929-37.

The 137th Anniversary of Reading Football Club's first ever match on 21 February 1872, occurred this year. Some readers will already know the game was played at King's Meadows against the School. It was a goalless draw but apparently "*The School were rather superior to their opponents in skill, but were inferior in weight and strength*". A report of a re-enactment of this match appeared in the Old Redingensian of May 2004 and further information on the genesis of Reading Football Club may be found in "*More than a job*" by Roger Titford OR (1966-73) and in various works by the official club historian, David Downs OR (1952-59).

The 'Class of 1955' foregathered at the Stag & Hounds, Binfield on 12 January for their third annual reunion, having skipped 2008. John Prince organised and Dick Attewell, Ken Brown, Terry Cartwright, Rod Mills, Bob Ross, Richard Vincent, Mike Viney, Chris Widdows and Gordon Wyard came along and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Apologies were received from a number of others.

Enterprise Awards 2009



After a considerable number of weather induced delays in January the OR Enterprise Awards team of Neil Thomason, Chris Widdows, Ken Brown and Michael Maule successfully launched the 2009 programme in Big School. An attentive group of over 120 pupils attended the meeting all of whom had expressed an interest in participating in this well established OR sponsored scheme.

President Neil Thomason confirmed that the objectives of the Enterprise Awards were to promote Creativity, Adventure, Leadership and Initiative across all fields of skills, knowledge and community service. The choice of project was unlimited from conservation and green issues to science based projects and from self development initiatives to third world support. Small groups of like minded or single entrants were invited to participate whatever their age, subject of course to parental consent.

The programme has been based on the success of the last three years in which well over 250 pupils

participated with OR contributions spanning from £50 for a minimum single award to £1000 for a major group project. The top award for a single entrant has previously been £600 and this year will be no different despite the credit crunch!

Neil was able to confirm that the funding for the Enterprise Awards 2009 will be £6950 (having been increased three years ago from £2700 with the increase largely thanks to a generous personal contribution by an Old Redingensian.

During the OR presentation Michael Maule reaffirmed to the potential entrants that the ORs were prepared to contribute to the cost of an Enterprise project in part - not the total! Entrants would be judged on their creativity combined with enterprise in raising funds to support their chosen initiative in addition to the quality of the Enterprise project itself. The activity could take place either locally or on the world stage, across a myriad of projects providing clear evidence of self development for each and every entrant or possibly helping others in impoverished situations.

Principal John Weeds and his management team have been extremely supportive of this programme and a number of designated staff members have been actively promoting the initiative to the pupils face to face and through the School intranet system. Constant reminders by way of impactful posters have been positioned in classrooms and meeting areas.

With a deadline of 20 April, all pupil participants were instructed to submit their planned Enterprise project during the Easter Holidays following a template prepared by the ORs

The Enterprise Awards panel of President Neil Thomason, Vice President Murray Wildman, Immediate Past President Cedric Scroggs and Past President Michael Maule, along with the Principal John Weeds and both Captain and Vice Captain of School, made the final assessments. The results are shown in the grid below and awards were paid out within days of the announcement. Recipients have been advised that they must submit a report to the ORs within six weeks of the completion of their Enterprise project and, based on previous experience, the OR Enterprise team are relishing the results of this demanding task.

MHWM

Name	Form	Project	Award
Luke Barratt	10W	Himalayas Expedition	200
Dominic Burrell	12W	Hadrian's Wall	150
Alastair Crosswell	12C	Tap dancing	350
Eben Dombay Williams	10W	Himalayas Expedition	200
David Edwards	13C	AIDS orphanage	500

Tom Fletcher	11S	Himalayas Expedition	200
Timothy Glover	12E	Concert tour	200
Harry Gosling	8C	Morocco Expedition	250
Andrew Hansford	12E	Drum kit	100
Michael Hodgkinson	13E	AIDS orphanage	500
Dilraj Kalsi	12E	D of E Gold Award	200
Pawan Lama	10S	Himalayas Expedition	200
Jonathan MacCarthy	13S	Guitar lessons	50
Deelan Maru	11S	Himalayas Expedition	200
Bhavik Mistry	11S	Himalayas Expedition	200
Tim Perry	12E	French work experience	100
Niall Potter	10W	Himalayas Expedition	200
Bhagya Raj	10S	Himalayas Expedition	200
Arthur Romano	10C	Sailing equipment	200
Eddie Romano	11C	Sailing equipment	200
James Scuffell	13W	Grace School SA	600
Alexander Sutcliffe	10S	Sea kayaking course	200
Benjamin Sutcliffe	12S	Sea kayaking course	200
Sean Tilbury	11W	Himalayas Expedition	200
Matthew Walters	13E	Projects in France	500
Jacob Wellman	11C	Summer School	150
Roy Zhang	7S	Chess	500
Beau Zilesnick	12E	D of E Gold Award	200
		Total	6950

Notes: 1 Himalayas: an expedition to assist in infrastructure construction and community projects.
2 Morocco: as part of the World Challenge Group assisting local communities.
3 AIDS Orphanage: voluntary work in South Africa.
4 Sailing Equipment: applicants are members of the International Youth Squad.
5 Concert Tour: to Strasbourg by talented orchestral musician.
6 French work experience: to improve applicant's prospects of entering a French University.
7 Sea kayaking course: the Sutcliffes are British Canoe star rated kayakers.
8 Projects in France: a. language experience b. snowboard instructor's course.
9 Summer School: to assist applicant's studies in Ancient Greek.
10 Chess: Zhang will be representing England under 12's in European championships.
11 Grace School SA: to organise computer system for this AIDS orphanage.

World Challenge Expedition to Costa Rica

The report chosen for this issue was sent in by Ashley Baldry, an East Winger, who won his award in Year 11 (5th Form).

Leaving home for a month felt daunting for me, seeing as I have neither been abroad for so long nor so far away from home. If I am honest, I would have never thought that where I was going to would look as it did. We first went to Nicaragua for a week, which we were told was poorer than Costa Rica, and therefore the standard of living was worse. With it being dark and pouring down hard with rain once we had arrived, it was very hard to see what the towns and roads looked like. However, the next day showed it all; heaps of litter spread across the streets, locals sitting on street

ends asking for money and dogs as thin as rakes.

However, it wasn't all like that, their churches are more brightly painted than our Christmas trees, in colours such as bright yellow and sky blue. The sun shining down on us was terrific, thus letting me wear t-shirts the whole trip and tanning (a bit...). The local dish of rice and beans (pinto y gallo), which happened to be the same in Costa Rica, had been tasty throughout the month, even if it had been a bit repetitive at times.

On the left overleaf is one of the churches in Nicaragua, as you can see it is very bright, colourful and majestic. This one is right in the centre of town (plaza central).



Unfortunately, we did not go into the church; however, we did go to a clear lagoon whilst in Nicaragua.

We did our acclimatisation trekking in Nicaragua, Ometepe Island to be precise. This was where we found out how hard it is to climb up the steep volcanoes on the island. Above, right, is a photo of the active volcano, Volcán Concepción, which our guide went up with the people on *Beyond Boundaries* (which was aired on BBC). Good fun to climb up hills, except when you fall down and get covered in mud!

For the next 3 weeks we were in Costa Rica, starting off in Santa Elena/Monteverde where we had one of the most fun days I have ever had: zip-wiring, a canopy tour (*using overhead lines and aerial slides Ed*) and looking in some animal gardens. There were a lot of humming-birds which were amazing to see, but horrible to take good photos of! Whilst there, we also made a good friend who had come from America and owned the place we stayed at.

After Monteverde, we quickly went to San José, which has to be, in my opinion, a place where you can stay for one day, and one day only. We did, however, have to go there twice. The first time was to go white water rafting, which was also a great experience.

After San José, it was a 6 hour bus trip to Puerto Jiménez, where we sorted out bookings for the rest of the expedition. It was a quaint town and nice to be in except the first night we were there; we arrived at midnight and couldn't find anywhere to eat.



Next was the main trek, where we went around Corcovado National Park to the other side of the forest to the Pacific Ocean. This took us 4 days overall, but the tents that we

slept in were horrible. It was a 3-man tent for 4 of us, so it was very cramped. Also it was very muddy and so lots of the equipment got dirty and not nice to use; however the trekking itself was enjoyable, especially the river crossings (*see image left*). It felt weird, but enjoyable to have your boots squelch with every footstep that you take.

We returned to Puerto Jiménez after the trek, ready to set off for Drake Bay to do our Community Phase. On the bad side, one of our team had lost his passport, so we had to change our plans, which meant being in San José for 2 more days and cutting one day off in Drake Bay, and another doing the Community Phase.

Doing the Community Phase was fun. Between a group of about 6 of us, we managed to make a garden in front of a hospital from a dump to a reasonable place to be in.

The next two pictures are of what is called the hospital and of me doing the raking within the garden, which was a lot tougher than it first seemed, as the rakes weren't of great quality. Also, I had never actually used a rake for a sensible use before...



So with the garden done, we went onto using machetes. These long blades could easily cut down small trees and branches in just a couple of swipes. It was also handy at breaking fruit into half. A lot of fun was had with the machetes, apart from the blisters on the hands.

A fence was put up on the last day we were there, and it was fantastic to see how much we had completed together in such a short space of time. The fence was of wooden poles with barbed wire pulled across the posts we had previously put up.

Then we went back to Drake Bay and went snorkelling and saw a huge variety of fish, with some at least a metre long. It was amazing to see how bright and colourful some of these fish were, fluorescent yellow and sky blue. We then came back to San José on an 8 hour bus journey. The first hour was hell with a baby screaming for the whole time until we stopped at a station. It was a great relief for everyone when that family went off the bus. However, that bus trip was the first time I slept on transport because I was knackered after all the work and exercise we had done over the last week.

Whilst in San José we bought our souvenirs for the family; I did well, as when I showed my presents to my family they were very grateful. Apart from that, the last night was a time which I'll never forget.

Overall, the expedition was an event that I hope I will remember for the rest of my life, and would like to thank the OR Association for the money donated enabling me to actually raise enough funds to get to Costa Rica.

AB

The Royal Berkshire Regiment

In 1878 the 49th Regiment (raised in 1743 as Trelawny's Regiment and becoming the 49th in 1751) and the 66th Regiment (raised in 1756 as a second Battalion of the 19th and becoming the 66th in 1758) set up a common Regimental District Depot in a new and permanent barracks in Oxford Road, Reading. **Brock Barracks** was called after Major General Sir Isaac Brock, a Guernseyman who had commanded the 49th. He lost his life during the American War of Independence, at Queenston Heights, whilst commanding the troops in Upper Canada.

In 1881 the 49th and 66th became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of THE BERKSHIRE REGIMENT (under the Cardwell reorganisation which saw the establishment of many County Regiments) and four years later was awarded the appellation "ROYAL".

Also in 1881 the two Regular Battalions were supplemented by the integration of the Royal Berkshire Militia which became the 3rd Battalion of the Berkshire Regiment. (The Berkshire Militia had been embodied in 1758 but dated from the compulsory levies of Saxon days). This 3rd Battalion ceased to be a field force and became the Special Reserve, an organisation for training at the Regimental Depot. In 1908 the Haldane Reforms enabled a 4th Battalion (TA) to be added.

The Great War called for much more and another eleven Battalions, for various purposes, came into existence at some stage of the conflict. A similar expansion was necessary in the Second World War, but by early 1947 the Regiment was back to a 1st Battalion (with the British Army of the Rhine), a 2nd Battalion (in Burma) and the training centre at Brock Barracks.

The immediate post war period heralded the end of the Cardwell system and the rise of Regimental groupings.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment retained its identity but became part of the WESSEX BRIGADE. By now the bulk of the soldiers were National Servicemen. One source says that "*most of its (the Royal Berkshires) National Service soldiers were young men of high quality who very soon settled down to soldiering in the manner traditionally expected of Berkshiremen*".

The decade of National Service came to an end in 1959 and this coincided with the amalgamation of the Berkshires with the Wiltshires to form the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.



Many Reading School boys served in the Berkshires between 1881 and 1959 (and particularly during the period of National Service). A register is being compiled and memories and information are sought so that we may record some of these in *The Old Redingensian*. The editors would be grateful for as much information on individual service as possible, please.

There has been an OR major general and at least 2 brigadiers on the Berkshire's roll but our register will list both officers and men in alphabetical order – the 'A's are already being garnered: Ackrill... Anstey... Aveline...etc and the Anecdotes are coming in – there will be more room for them in future issues; so please, if you know anything of the Berkshires and particularly if you have marched to *The Dashing White Sergeant* write in!

Grateful thanks are due to Denis Moriarty PP (1943-54), Peter Stevens (1944-54), Rev David Weekes (1946-53) and Michael Wolfers (1950-57) who have supplied much information already, and to John Oakes PP (master at School 1971-88) and Dr Martin Parsons (1963-70) whose book *Old School Ties* is proving a valuable source.

KCB

Events

Remembrance Service 9 November 2008



The congregation for this 90th year of Remembrance was, at 50 persons, disappointingly down on the last few years. But it was a memorable service for those present, presided over by the OR Chaplain, Rev David Hemsley (1945-55), *pictured*, and in the welcome presence of the School Principal, Mr John Weeds.

The Wreath laying party comprised seven cadets of the School CCF (six RAF, one Army) extremely well turned out and hauntingly young in appearance; the age, of course, of so many who went fresh from Reading School to War during the years 1914-1918.

The Act of Remembrance was spoken by Will Lunn, OR (1951-58), Mr Michael Woods, FRCO, played the organ and Lewis Anderson, now of Form 12E, again sounded the last post and reveille in a most accomplished manner.

Rev Hemsley built his sermon on the *"Love of Truth and also Duty"* emphasising that to remember the fallen we need to understand that phrase. His own Father, G R Hemsley OR (1917-23) would have sat in Chapel and heard the names of the fallen read out; he, David, had been greatly influenced by Wilfred Owen and particularly by his poem *"Dulce et Decorum Est"*. Rev Hemsley read the well known lines which conclude

"The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori."

(the latin of Horace, which translates "Lovely and honourable it is to die for one's country"). Owen's poem was written as a reaction to the jingoism of the children's poetess Jessie Pope and Owen is attacking the *glorification* of War by such propagandists as her. Those who strive to do their duty through love of God, Country, Family, Peace and Honour are true heroes because they do their duty *despite* their horror of war, and so, in these circumstances, there is no "Lie" about the motives for which they make the ultimate sacrifice. Reading School has had many such; Owen himself was at heart a pacifist, but *"he tried conscientiously to do his duty"* – and won a Military Cross in the doing. Such courageous souls surely all deserve the epitaph *"Duty was his path to glory"*.

After the service a thoughtful congregation gathered in the Music School (Junior School) over tea and biscuits, as is now a customary conclusion to the morning's programme, which has been organised for many years by G W O Price, PP (1948-56). Gareth Price is stepping down this year and the Association records appreciation of his efficient and largely unsung efforts year on year. Maj Gen M L (Murray) Wildman CBE, current Vice President, will take over responsibility for this year's service. KCB



School Chapel c1900

Reading School Act of Remembrance 11 November 2008



The Venerable Peter Coombs (1939-47), PP, (left) again gave the address to Years 7-10 assembled in the Quadrangle at School on the 11th day of the 11th month last year. His portrayal of life at Reading School during the Second World War once more held his audience.

The boys were seated at the front and standing at the rear in an open square. The Principal, Mr Weeds, introduced proceedings and the Chaplain, Mr C J Evans, OR (1990-97) led the Service, calling for a spirit of humility, penitence and gratitude to prevail for what had been granted by the sacrifice of others.

Also on the rostrum erected in the quad were the Captain of School (who read the Act of Remembrance) and the Vice Captain of School (who read the familiar epitaph from the Kohima Memorial "*When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say...*"). Lewis Anderson (Year 12) played the Last Post with accomplishment. After the two minutes silence, Reveille was sounded and representatives from all four Houses laid a wreath. The Colour Party, comprising CCF Cadets, then entered and bore the wreaths to the War Memorial in the Chapel.

After the platform party left, the boys were dismissed by their Prefects. A number of ORs were present at the Service.
KCB

The 120th Annual General Meeting 22 November 2008

Sonning Golf Club's Waltham Room provided excellent facilities for the business of this year's AGM. A rather meagre 22 Officers and Members gathered to hear outgoing President, Cedric Scroggs, introduce proceedings and give the welcome news that the Association's Funds were, to the best efforts of Council, protected from the particular vagaries of the current market. The Hon Secretary, DB Cox, having shed his 'Acting' status, reported eight apologies for inability to attend including from four Past Presidents of the Association.

The Membership Secretary, CJ Widdows, read the names of ORs who had died since the last AGM. Silence for all these gentlemen had been observed at Council Meetings during the year and so the President simply pronounced for them all – 'Rest In Peace'.

The Minutes of the 119th AGM were discussed and approved with minor amendments of wording. There were no matters arising.

The President reported upon the imminent signature of a new lease to Redingensians Sports Club of the ground at the old Bath Road (the Association's major asset) until 2030 and thanked Officers of the Association for work during his year as President (including the Hon Secretary, whose own report concealed the work that he did but echoed the President's thanks to others).

The Treasurer's report showed a healthy situation and a proper discharge of the Association's charitable responsibilities. He dealt with a number of questions from Members present and the Accounts were duly approved unanimously by the Meeting.

The Social Secretary's report was well received and he was applauded for his efforts during the year and, in particular, the successful delivery of the 2008 Annual Dinner in Big School. He stressed the need for support of the planned Summer Festival, to be combined (in term time), with Cricket Week.

The outgoing President then spoke concisely about the challenges facing the School in terms of development costs; the desirability for Members to play their part and the intention of the Association to fully support the School Authorities where they could.

Neil Thomason, the incoming President, spoke of his own intentions for the coming year and Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary, of the rewarding take-up of Association joiners from leavers in the last School year - 47 out of 141 so far – much due, it was appreciated, to the outstanding Captain of School for 2007/08 Anthony Butler. Membership remained generally steady with a positive upward trend. The Archivist's report led to discussion from the floor and a general enthusiasm for the objective of a dedicated Archive room at School. All reports from the Sports Representatives were well received, without controversy.

Results of elections for the 2009-10 year

President: N R Thomason.
Vice President: Maj Gen M L Wildman CBE.
Officers: Re-elected en bloc
Councillors: Messrs Evans and Northway retired having completed their three year terms. Mike Evans had confirmed that he was willing to stand for re-election; the other vacancy would be considered at the first Council meeting of 2009.
Auditors: Re-elected (James Cowper).

The out-going President reported that the OR Foundation Member, Simon Oliver, had stepped down and been replaced by Neil Jouques PP. Other ORs serving currently on the Reading School Foundation are Rodney Huggins PP (Chairman), John Illman PP and Ned Holt (master at School).

The meeting concluded with a powerful message for the need for the whole School community to pull strongly together to meet the requirements of Reading School in the next demanding years. KCB

Election of New Councillor

Dr F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60 County House) was elected, to fill the remaining vacancy, at the Council Meeting on 25 February 2009. Francis, a Prefect and all rounder at School, read Chemistry at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and remained to gain his PhD. After a career with Boots, Cyanimid, Courage and Grand Metropolitan, he became an entrepreneur and consultant. He has been married to Lizzie for 42 years and they have a daughter and a son.



Annual Dinner 22 November 2008

After last year's nostalgic visit to Big School the task of Social Secretary, Barrie Shelton, to find a venue for this year's dinner that did not suffer too much in comparison was a considerable challenge.



Barrie met the challenge and Sonning Golf Club supplied nearly all the not inconsiderable necessities for a reunion dinner of this kind. Stunning historical locations do not usually do the job, anyway, and ORA members, like everyone else, look firstly for comfort



and good food, and then for efficiency, pleasant and helpful staff and, of course, a good bar. SGC provided all this at quite a high standard for the Reading area and most seemed to agree, although there was some comment on difficulty at the bar. Since it was a rather bigger bar area than usually encountered, and also well manned, perhaps the legendary thirst of OR members was more to blame than the facility itself.....!



Numbers, at sixty six, were decidedly down, but the dining area was in any case generous and all present were able to enjoy a good meal in considerable comfort. Recent leavers were prolific, which was good to see, and we hope will be a trend that will continue. There were also newcomers to some of our more senior members' tables (even rowdier) such as Ron Atkins (1939-44) reuniting with old School fellows (see above).

The programme followed its usual format under the guidance and control of the MC Rodney Huggins (1944-52) whose wit and cheerful energy were as they ever are – a great contributor to these evenings. His

mantra this year was a quotation from Mark Twain: *"Be accurate, be brief, be seated"*. Rodney recalled his first dinner in the early 50's, at the Old Caversham Bridge Hotel, of fond memory to so many ORs.

Grace was said by the OR Chaplain, Rev David Hemsley, OR (1945-55).

In response, the President, Neil Thomason, spoke outlining the work of the OR Association (but failed to mention his own considerable and significant contribution) and the challenges ahead. The Principal, Mr John Weeds, then gave us the state of play as far as our School is concerned; its many successes in the last year drew much applause. John Weeds was accompanied by his wife, Sarah, whose presence each year is much appreciated by the OR Association.

cannot take West Wing out of Fiddick. Peter hugely entertained his audience with a speech centered on letters recently unearthed that he had sent from School to his Mother. If Mr Weeds, successor to Peter's Headmaster, Charles Edward Kemp, has boarders writing in a similar vein then he has no problems at all. Awards were made to Cedric Scroggs at the conclusion of a most successful Presidential year of office and to this year's Captain of School, Joel Richardson, who received a cheque for £250 and gave a well received speech of thanks. Members were pleased to hear a message from Roy Seymour (1952-57) on behalf of the United States branch of the Old Redingensians Association.

After the meal there was the usual opportunity to catch up with old friends, and many will have been so pleased to share Rod Lunn's company; already in a wheelchair after



Rodney Huggins



Peter Fiddick



Joel Richardson



Neil Thomason

Our guest speaker was Peter Fiddick OR (1951 - 57), last editor of *The Listener*, a distinguished journalist who read English Language and Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford, and had a fine career in broadcasting, as well as in print.

Despite the above he hasn't changed one whit, and though you may take Fiddick out of West Wing you

an aggressive onset of motor neurone disease but as buoyant as ever. Sadly, this was to be his last Annual Dinner and there is an In Memoriam notice for Rodney in this issue.

As it ever will be the School song was sung with feeling – and '800 years' now comes ever closer to '900 years'. (pictured above) KCB

Presentation Evening 17 December 2008



This event has now been moved to December to allow leavers from the previous year to come back and collect their prizes and certificates after their first term at University. The Great Hall of the University of Reading was once more the venue for the prize giving and its handsome terracotta brick and dark panelling beneath a ceiling of gilt, white and sky blue was this year complemented by a touch of Christmas to come; poinsettias on the platform.

The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Peter Beard and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Cynthia Beard were present and the Principal Guest was Dr Robert B Guthrie, the former Principal of Hockerill Anglo- European College, who presented the prizes. The OR prizes were presented by Past President Cedric Scroggs.

The large audience was welcomed by Chairman of Governors, Dr P C H Mitchell, who concluded by praising the present strength of the School's Music Department and introducing Yoshiyuki Iizuka who played Chopin's

Heroic Polonaise on the piano (thus recalling much earlier features of Reading School Speech Days). Yoshiyuki Iizuka does not confine himself to music; he had returned to collect the Newport Mathematics Prize and has a place at University College, Oxford studying mathematics.

The Mayor then made the traditional presentation of the £10 stipend to Mr Weeds, whose own address comprehensively covered the events and achievements – and achievements there were many – of the last School year. Once again, the music department and Director of Music, Philip Aspden, came in for particular praise, but sport and drama had also had an outstanding year and academic results throughout the spectrum had been quite exceptional.

The standard of the boarding houses had been praised by Ofsted, community and international relationships had flourished and a blueprint for development of the School site drawn up.

Mr Weeds paid particular praise to Mrs Beverley Taylor for her organisation of the event (which, incidentally, was accompanied by a fine programme).

The Captain of School, Joel Richardson, gave a vote of thanks to Dr Guthrie, and the Chairman of Governors paid tribute to Mr Weeds for his leadership, enthusiasm and commitment.

After the prize giving seasonal refreshments were taken.

Twenty one boys had already received Enterprise Award Certificates and other Association awards included three boarders scholarships and two Kerr Kirkwood Awards for all round contribution to School life which were presented to Anthony Butler, Captain of School 2008 and James Kennedy, Vice Captain of School 2008. KCB

The Eighth 'Fifty Years On' Luncheon 28 January 2009



Conviviality – defined in the Shorter OED as the enjoyment of festive society (hence feasting together in celebration) – characterised the proceedings at the luncheon of friends and contemporaries of Denis Moriarty (1943-54) and Peter Stevens (1944-54) held at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London on Wednesday, 28 January 2009. A record number of 34 ORs assembled to celebrate their fellowship of 50 (or more) years ago; to congratulate themselves on their survival; and to enjoy one another's company once again. The excellent food and wine provided by the Club may justly be claimed to have constituted a feast, for which the refurbished Clubhouse (see *Country Life*, 21

January 2009) made an appropriate setting. It is highly gratifying to the organisers that so many of their schoolfellows are willing to contribute to the cost of these annual reunions, and to make the journey to London in order to take part.

On this occasion we particularly welcomed the attendance, for the first time, of Andrew Bohman, Jim Digby, Michael Duck and Bernard Messias: also the return of several of last year's 'absentees'.

On arrival – having successfully negotiated the Club's somewhat labyrinthine layout – we assembled for a stimulating glass of champagne or apple juice in the Drawing Room. Recognitions and salutations were readily exchanged, between – in Chris Webber's memorable phrase of last year – "*old friends and new old friends*". The buzz of conversation was all-too-soon curtailed by our 'permanent president', Denis, who welcomed all present with his accustomed felicitousness; and introduced the Club's Banqueting Manager, Mr Joe Inglott, by whom the imminent serving of lunch in the Princess Marie Louise Room was announced.

The Seating Plan revealed that on Denis's right was our noble member, John, Lord Roper, and ranged beyond him were our other intellectuals, men of letters and academics, while to his left was a group of musicians and professional men, culminating in our two senior members, Fred Barker and John Perry. To my right was the "*onlie begetter*" of these reunions, Christopher Yeats, and a military phalanx in which former officers of The Royal Berkshire Regiment were prominent, beyond whom more professional men led up to The Reverend John Lambourne; while to my left were Jim Digby (last seen by me in 1954); Rodney Huggins; and more

professionals from the realms of finance. When all had found their places, Denis called upon 'Father John' to say the School Grace, "*Benedic nos, Domine...*", endorsed with a resounding "*Amen*". Conversation resumed, with renewed intensity, over the food and drink. When the plates were cleared, Denis announced a short break to enable us to 'ease springs', after which we reassembled to pledge our loyalty to our Queen and our School.



Michael Duck



Andrew Bohman



Fred Barker



Chris Yeats



Denis Moriarty



Mike Oakley

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Rodney Huggins and the National Anthem rousingly sung. Mike Oakley proposed the toast of Reading School which was drunk in a 1959 Armagnac donated – as is now customary – by our anonymous benefactor. There followed impassioned singing of the School Song and, thereafter, reminiscences and observations were called for from around the table starting with John Roper. The whole spectrum of School life was embraced, with memories of numerous masters and events and a general heartfelt gratitude for the opportunities our great School had provided. Regrets there were; that the School Song was little sung nowadays; the School Magazine has ceased, etc. but those present whose sons had been educated at the School, or were in close touch with the contemporary situation there – such as Buffy Price, Rodney Huggins on the Governing Body and Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary - were able to give testimony that the School remained deserving of its high reputation.

Michael Wolfers perhaps best expressed the attraction of our Annual Luncheon; he claimed to have attended it this year in preference to the US Presidential Inauguration, a Poetry Evening with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the visit of the President of Ghana!

PCS

Those present were AA Barker (1942-49), A C Bohman (1944-51), M J Childs (1946-53), J R Digby (1944-55), M J Duck (1945-55), PR Fiddick (1951-57), J D Gardiner (1947-55), C J Hoile (1954-61), R P Huggins (1944-52), D J Jordan (1944-54), G M G Knight (1943-52), J B Lambourne (1944-52), W A Mackereth (1950-56), B Messias (1939-47), D E H Moriarty (1943-54), M J Oakley (1944-54), R G Oldland (1941-51), J M Perry (1942-49), G W O Price (1948-1956), D J Rooney (1946-55), J F Hodgess-Roper (1948-54), M L Shattock (1947-55), A C Simons (1950-52), C P Smallbone (1944-54), J R Stevens (1952-59), P C Stevens (1944-54), B J Thompson (1944-54), M J van Brugen (1942-53), C J Webber (1950-57), C J Widdows (1955-62), D A Wilkins (1945-55), D M Wise (1949-52), M Wolfers (1950-57), C A Yeats (1943-54). Apologies were received from 17 others.

Modern Transitus

A conversation at the 'Fifty Years On' Luncheon led Mike Oakley to request a copy of the 1950 School List page (opposite) depicting the 'Modern Transitus' Form. He had been talking to A C (Anthony) Simons (1950-52) whose arrival at School coincided with the one year existence of Modern Transitus under 'Gunner' Lewis, in Room 7, (whose first year at School it also was).

The rationale behind this peculiar animal, Modern Transitus, and its science equivalent, Science Transitus (Mr Streather Room JC) lay in the introduction of the new 'O' and 'A' Levels. A 'fast' stream was created to take both levels within 2 years in the sixth and seventh years with the remainder being shoehorned into the Transitus forms to allow a third year for the purpose. The members of those forms, therefore, have a unique distinction amongst former pupils, as there was no need to continue the arrangement after the initial year: they progressed in School Year 1951-52 into the newly created 62/63/64/65 and the seventh form equivalents came into operation in School year 1952-53 to provide the settled pattern for many years. KCB

Sch. Yr. 1950:	Sch. Yr. 1950:
Mr. W. L. P. Fiddick	Mr. C. J. Widdows
Mr. J. D. Gardiner	Mr. J. R. Stevens
Mr. J. B. Lambourne	Mr. J. F. Hodgess-Roper
Mr. J. M. Perry	Mr. J. R. Digby
Mr. J. R. Stevens	Mr. J. D. Gardiner
Mr. J. B. Lambourne	Mr. J. M. Perry
Mr. J. F. Hodgess-Roper	Mr. J. R. Stevens
Mr. J. R. Digby	Mr. J. D. Gardiner
Mr. J. M. Perry	Mr. J. B. Lambourne
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The School Appeal For the 1125 fund



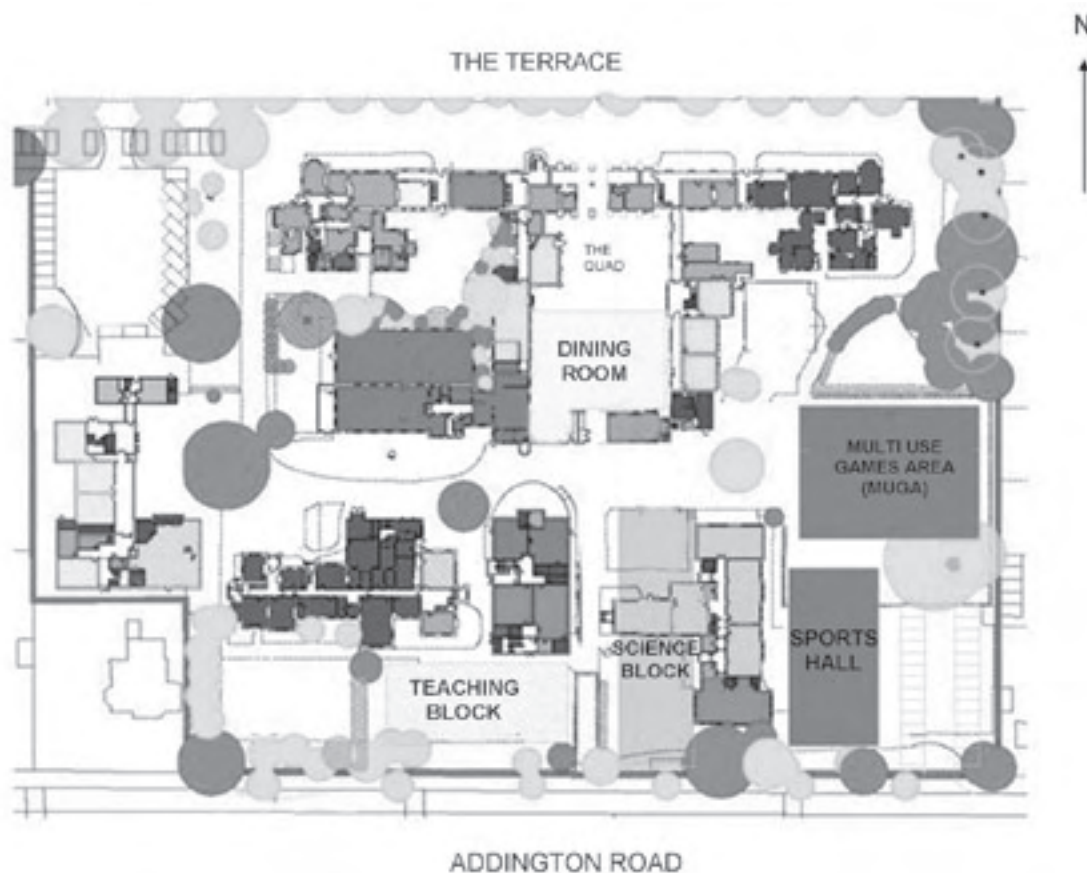
The future of the School is not a little dependent on achieving 3 phased objectives;

- PHASE 1** A dining facility. The proposal is to convert the covered area of the Quadrangle for this purpose
Estimated cost is £800,000. Time Scale; Immediate
- PHASE 2** A new two storey science teaching facility (which will incorporate the existing physics block and lecture theatre).
Estimated cost £2m - £3m Time Scale; Mid Term
- PHASE 3** sports hall and multi use games area (MUGA). This building is proposed for the rear eastern quarter of the School site (i.e. the general area of the rifle range).
Estimated cost £2m - £3m Time Scale; Mid Term

To achieve these requirements the Principal has launched the **1125 Fund** with the objectives of involving and keeping informed the entire School community – Parents, Friends , ORs and others including the town of Reading. The Governing Body and Foundation are fully behind the initiative.

Despite its high achievement and it's growing contribution to the life of the town, the School, as a Grammar, is at the back of the queue for Government funding. An architect has produced a master plan to illustrate the three phases outlined above. Now the money has to be found.

The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association urges ORs to make contact with the School via the Development Office; the Development Administrator is Marilyn Bentley, at Reading School, Erleigh Road Reading, RG1 5LW tel: 0118 901 5600 Ext 281 email: development@readingschool.reading.sch.uk and ask how they may help. (Also see the School website www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk)



If you do not wish to receive future correspondence from the School concerning the Appeal please register with the Development Office (contact details above)

The Principal's Letter

How quickly the Summer Term comes round, with all the promise and challenge of the last three months of the School year! I am so pleased the term got off to such a good start with our ceremonial unveiling of the new Commemorative Wall Plaques in Big School. Ken Brown really is to be congratulated for having produced such an illuminating and interesting series of biographies and for having taken so much time and trouble to research the lives of the illustrious twelve.

He made the very good point that the plaques had an inspirational effect in his day on all who passed through the School. I can report that they are still inspiring boys today who view them as they assemble for House meetings. Thanks also to Chris Widdows for his photographic display that accompanied the talk. Equally pleasing was the number of ORs who attended. Rarely can so many have been gathered in Big School at any one time for such an occasion. Richard Valpy, now looking down on proceedings from his place on high in Big School, would have been proud. I hope everyone enjoyed their visit.

This continues to be a successful year: we recently achieved High Performing Specialist School status in Science (with Mathematics). As a result of this success we are now grouped with a network of schools deemed to be specialist providers of Gifted and Talented education. We had an expression of interest in forming a Science and Technology Trust for Reading accepted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). More on this development in the next publication, I hope. Our masterplan for development of the School site has in principle been accepted by English Heritage; and, last but not least, our 1st XI have become the Berkshire County football champions!

You will read on page 16 of our continuing programme of Development activities. I do hope you will look sympathetically on what is contained there. I can report in the light of recent funding cuts announced by the government that, if anything, the financial picture is still less favourable than it was last year. That is not to say that the School is not thriving at the moment – it very much is so! It is the long term view which concerns the Governors and me. We know we are short of key

facilities. The Development Board has been formed consisting of representatives from the Governors (Dr Philip Mitchell), the Foundation (Rodney Huggins), the ORs (Neil Thomason and Michael Maule), the Parents (Mrs Claire Toms) and the School (Marilyn Bentley and myself). The Board will be actively fundraising for development and will gladly receive donations both financial and in the form of advice and support.

Sadly, we also know that we will be funded less to support ever higher levels of achievement. In the last three years, 66 Reading School students have secured or been offered places at Oxbridge colleges. Whilst Oxbridge is by no means the be-all and end-all, this is nevertheless an obvious indication of the quality of what we do and, bluntly, a quite phenomenal record – brought about by a happy combination of talented learners, expert teachers and supportive parents. To continue to achieve this kind of quality in an increasingly

hostile environment is a challenge. For that reason School Development has taken on a rather different hue in recent weeks. In addition to the short and medium term need for quality accommodation, there is the added need for a healthy “cushion” upon which to base our day-to-day operational running. I believe this is going to become increasingly difficult to do. I commend the generosity of the parents who have already helped us in our cause. I am even more indebted to the ORs generally and to Neil Thomason in particular for their continued enthusiastic, energetic and ever-optimistic support of the School. You are a tremendous source of strength.

Floreat Redingensis!
John Weeds
Principal



The New Commemorative Wall Plaques

A first tranche of twelve new 'tea trays' have now been hung in Big School and an unveiling Ceremony took place on 24 April 2009. An audience of well over 100, including the Mayor of Reading and his Lady Mayoress, local dignitaries, many Past Presidents of the Association, parents, ORs, members of the Governing Body and family members of those commemorated, assembled for refreshments at 12 noon, to a background on film of the Queen's visit to the School in 1986.



The Principal, Mr John Weeds, welcomed the company and outlined the current challenges facing the School, the plans for development and the place of the wider School community in the present scheme of things.

He then introduced the Hon Archivist, who, together with the Membership Secretary, (the latter faultlessly co-ordinating over 100 images with the former's words) gave a thirty-five minute presentation on the origins of the Big School Wall Plaques and the careers of each of the new recipients, set in a context of the School's history. The wording of each plaque was read aloud, as it was displayed on the screen, by a pupil of the School – dubbed a 'sentinel' for the occasion – each of whose prospective careers related to the fields in which those commemorated had distinguished themselves.

The Principal concluded the formal part of the proceedings in positive fashion commenting, in the words of the Cole Porter song, that though '*...there may be trouble ahead*', if the whole School Community will pull together the challenges faced by the School can be met and overcome.

The guests then took a light buffet lunch amidst much animated discussion. Big School was graced by the newly installed bust of King Henry VII above the fireplace on the east wall, and the massive, imposing portrait of Dr Valpy gazing down upon those assembled.

As the company dispersed, the screen showed images of the Valpy portrait's removal the previous week from the Museum of Reading and its hanging in Big School (which is described elsewhere in this issue).

Messrs Brown and Widdows plan to produce a written history of the Commemorative Wall Plaques and that publication will carry the names of those who generously sponsored the twelve unveiled on the 24 April. KCB



The Old Science Laboratory

Later converted into a Locker Room and subsequently into The Quadrangle Library

This copy of the original sketch design prepared by the Architect Charles Steward Smith JP FRIBA OR (1872-77) was made and presented to the School, by courtesy of Charles Smith & Son Chartered Architects, Reading. (Eric Steward Smith JP FRIBA OR (1908-14) and Harry Morrice Hutt ARIBA OR (1919-27)) via B A Elam OR (1922-51), in November 1957.



This embryonic sketch has a pleasing story to it. In the original the Master is holding a birch behind his back (the boy on the right has perhaps committed some misdemeanour) but the authorities prevailed on the Architect to convert it into a bundled gown – which explains the rather odd sartorial arrangement. This tale is pencilled on the reverse of the sketch and was told to Brian Elam by Eric Smith, son of Charles.

The Master may well be a portrayal of Rev William Walker MA, Headmaster 1877-87, who was able to commission the Science Laboratory through the beneficence of the Palmer family.

The OR connection, from Charles Steward Smith who entered School in 1872, to Brian Aubrey Elam who died in 1993 aged 79, spans 121 years. Brian Elam, President of the OR Club in 1984, spent 32 years with Charles Smith & Sons before joining an architectural practice in Belgravia.

KCB

School News

The School is in a good state of health. On the academic side, ORs will have seen various league tables in the press. The degree to which they vary may be perplexing. The most obvious reason is that they are based on different criteria. For instance, some A level tables show the percentage of A and B grades achieved. Others show the average points score for each student. The latter therefore will benefit from a policy of entering candidates for as many exams as possible. The School has never done this, nor indeed adopted any policy in order to improve league table positions. However it did break the 90% barrier for A and B grades for the first time last year. One of this year's year 13, Leo Shine, has already enjoyed great success in the British Maths Olympiad round 1, coming in the top 50 nationally, winning a prize and a medal and qualifying for the next round.

Outside the classroom there is still a varied programme of activities. A few years ago, there was a legitimate question as to whether the School could run successful teams in football, rugby, and hockey in the winter. We can now state that it can. The football team reached the last sixteen of the national schools' cup, while the 1st XV showed good progress under the coaching of Mr Beckey. An excellent Daily Mail Vase Run for the Under 15 Team, also saw them reach the last sixteen nationally where they were narrowly defeated (5-0) in atrocious weather by Newquay Tretrhars school. Their achievement shows there is great promise for future senior rugby. The 1st XI cricket team had a good season, defeating the Berkshire Gentlemen and drawing the MCC match after an exciting run chase in which opener Alex Wright scored a century.

The Chess and Bridge teams too have had great success. The chess team have an extremely good chance of qualifying for the last 16 of the national schools competition. Before last year's year 13 left, the School had six students in the England U20 squad, two of whom regularly play in International Matches and Competitions (David Faria and James Paul). Three more have a good chance of being invited into the squad in the next year. Another student, Robert Sassoon has qualified as a County Level Tournament Director (the second youngest and for a time the youngest Tournament Director in the country). This success was partially funded by the OR's, for which many thanks.

The Science and Technology Club's unmanned aerial vehicle project continues with the construction of a small scale prototype in order to test the drop mechanisms to be used to deliver emergency medical supplies in remote and inaccessible areas.

On the cultural side, some ORs may have come across the choir singing carols outside the Oracle shopping centre, one of a small number of local choirs invited to do so. A joint drama production of Brecht's Caucasian Chalk Circle took place with St Joseph's Convent.

One final point worth mentioning to ORs is the School's ongoing work experience programme. This gives all year 12 students a week's experience in the workplace each February. This covers a wide variety of places of work, from business, legal or medical workplaces to opportunities to get hands genuinely dirty. This year for instance students from the A level Technology course were involved in restoring locomotives at the Didcot Railway centre. Many ORs have already provided placements for a student under this scheme. The School is immensely grateful for their support. Should any other OR be willing to provide such a placement for an individual or individuals, please could they contact Gillian Cavagan, who is the Director of Careers, at the School.

Comic Relief Day on Friday, 13 February was marked, as last year, by a Fun Run round the perimeter of the School and raised around £2,000 for the cause. The Principal, Mr John Weeds, and local MP, Rob Wilson, took part. A large contingent wore fancy dress and human wheelbarrows, highland warriors and a camel, amongst others were to be seen. A further £2,000 was raised for the Neo-Natal Unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

There will be a Rugby Tour to New Zealand this Summer and Master in charge of Rugby Mr Alex Beckey will lead a party of more than 40.

The School's Young Enterprise entrants this year, did not find ultimate success but the RS Outfit 'Neon' won the Steria Technology Prize and the Prize for the best presentation at the Reading Area Finals in the Town Hall. They focused on the production of high quality personalised acrylic stationery; using a laser cutter to produce rulers (in two sizes and four colours), for instance, they achieved sales of 444 units including a corporate order from BPP Learning for 144 units.

Former School Chaplain Rev Dr Neil Applegate is now serving as resident missionary at Reading School's partner school in South Africa.

Boys now have their own teaching and learning focus group in the form of a committee of the student council. School Captain and Vice Captain attend Governors meetings (as they do OR Council) and are actively involved in the interview process of new staff.

The Editors were delighted to receive accounts of work experience in France from Year 12s (Sixth Formers) James Bradford, Jonathan Riley and Dominic Sandy. James worked in a bakery, La Coccinelle in Armentieres, Jonathan in a drinks warehouse and Dominic in a local supermarket near Lille. All three felt that their spoken French improved greatly with the experience and managed to gain enjoyment into the bargain.

Marcus Bazley (Year 13) was one of four pupils chosen to read poems at a special candle-lit ceremony in November at Auschwitz and Birkenau as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project. The occasion brought together leaders of nine faiths in the UK.

The School held a Service of Lessons and Carols on 15 December 2008 at St Luke's Church. A packed congregation heard the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, first drawn up by Archbishop Benson, given full justice by the readers, the organist, Mr Nicholas Woods, and the School Choir under the direction of Mr Philip Aspden.

A Reading School team (Jamie Lacey-Smith, Jonathan Hall and Sam Simmonds) won the Schools Teams (Boys 17 and under) GreenPark Challenge on 29 March and another Reading School Team (Sean Wright, Thomas Downes, Alex Kirker) were second. The GreenPark Challenge is run as a curtain raiser to the Reading Half Marathon.

The School continues its globetrotting

– expeditions to Costa Rica and Mongolia were successfully led by Miss Rogers and Mr Wheeler, respectively. The following is extracted from a report by William Oster of Year 10 following the Specialist Schools and Academic Trusts Autumn Camp Trip to China in October 2008.

For eleven days nearly 250 UK students were given the opportunity of a life time; to go halfway across the world to China, and 10 of them were from Reading School.

After a nine and a half hour flight we arrived in Beijing which was covered in a blanket of smog! Quite a



culture shock. Our tour guide took us by coach to our hotel which was actually really inviting. However, on the first evening there were some (including myself) who were quite surprised at the state of Beijing and were left feeling quite homesick. By the end of our time there however, no one was homesick. Beijing is a breathtaking city and we were all left in awe after visits to such as the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall of China. Six of us can even claim that we slid down the banisters of the Great Wall of China! In addition, we were treated to an incredible water show at the Water Cube. This ensured that Beijing would be imprinted on our minds for a long time.

As well as this, we were treated to buffet after buffet after buffet. I personally vowed to try everything. Some of the food that we devoured included egg yolk soup, salty aubergines, duck, duck, more duck and my personal favourite, snail scallop soup. Whatever that was it didn't taste bad, like chicken in fact.

Perhaps one of the highlights was the market. Many of us discovered that we were fantastic barterers and we all agreed that shopping was no longer fun unless bartering was involved. Just when we were settled in Beijing, each group was whisked off to their respective provinces, Reading School, along with Cheltenham Ladies College, and two others, went to Xi'an, one of the major industrial, historical and cultural cities in China.

Most of Xi'an is still a construction area and the pollution much worse than in Beijing. It was absolutely

freezing as well and when it wasn't cold, it was wet. The accommodation wasn't great either. Still, morale in the camp was high and we were determined to have a good time. Then we were told that we would have three hours of Mandarin lessons from 7.40 am, followed by Chinese cultural lessons for the rest of the day until 5.00 pm.

One of the highlights of our time in Xi'an was the home visit with Chinese students. This was quite humbling as we got to see the real China and how the people lived. They all lived in concrete blocks that looked like piled up garages. However, they had really done up the inside and the hospitality was first rate. It made us feel quite ashamed for moaning about our accommodation in Xi'an.

In Xi'an we saw the Terracotta Army. Everyone was captivated by the warriors and they left us completely in awe.

The last night was the closing ceremony where we had to perform for the Chinese. We planned a dignified performance that would not only reflect our many talents, but be met with critical acclaim by our hosts. There was only ever one option. We did the 'Cha-Cha Slide'. They seemed to enjoy it (I am not sure I would call it dignified though).

On the Friday we arrived at Xi'an Airport ready to fly back to Beijing. Our flight was scheduled for 5.10



pm. but was delayed until 8.40 pm because of fog (or, probably, smog). Following a short stay in Beijing we waved farewell to China. Twelve hours later, Heathrow welcomed us.

So, after eleven days, hundreds of dishes of food, over 24 hours of flying, 30 Chinese language and culture lessons and countless times when we were just left saying "Wow", our trip had ended. It was a life enhancing experience that none of us will forget and we thank Mrs Hardwick for organising the trip and her and Dr Matthews, for accompanying us.

WO

We again use as a tailpiece the image of Mr Graham Ireland's, (Director of Music at the School 1980-2001) watercolour of the School by Peter Toseland ARCA, which Graham especially commissioned. Artistic licence was exercised to emphasise the Chapel – much loved by Graham (and so many others!)



With thanks to those members of staff – particularly Mr E S Holt and Mrs A M Hardwick - who supplied information to enable this section to be compiled. Contributions, for the Autumn 2009 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.

Frank Terry's Wedding

The wedding of F H (Frank) Terry, master at School (1946-82) to Mrs Jean Moore of Shinfield took place at The Church of St Bartholomew's, Arborfield on Friday, 17 October 2008. The best man was the groom's eldest son, Professor F R (Francis) Terry OR (1956-63) below right. The event was photographed by Chris Widdows and other ORs present included R H G (Roger) Morgan (1956-63), H R (Hugh) Terry (1969-77) and D B (David) Cox (1951-57). The organist was G A (Graham) Ireland, former Director of Music at School. The reception took place at the Comfort Inn, Christchurch Road, Reading.



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Old School Tie Silk £15
OR Tie Polyester £10, Silk £15

Tracking the Tea Trays No 8



The plaque records Sir John as Vice Admiral, but amendment may be needed; the Dictionary of National Biography records that in the year before his death, 1851, he was promoted *Admiral*. He was born in America in 1775 and entered the Royal Navy in 1789, at the usual tender age in those days. By 1794 he was a Lieutenant and served throughout the Napoleonic Wars becoming CB in 1815. From 1819-37 he was Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth. He was made KCB in 1840.

KCB

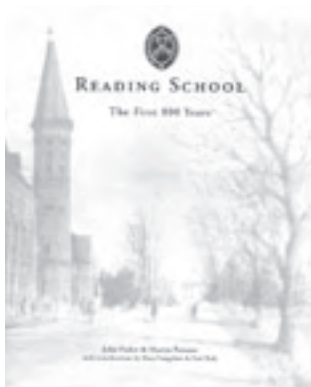


This newly published book by John Oakes, former Master at School, tells the tale of Britain's youngest Great War recruits with many references to Reading School and Reading School boys.

It is available in hardback at £20 post free from The History Press www.thehistorypress.co.uk

John Oakes' and Martin Parsons' *'Reading School – The First 800 Years'* (softback) is available at £10 post free UK (£12 Europe, £15 Rest of the World) from Chris Widdows, 21 Bulmershe Road, READING, RG1 5RH (see rear panel for telephone and email).

John Oakes and Martin Parsons have also written about the School in their previous books *'Old School Ties - Educating for Empire and War'* and *'Men Such as These'* published in 2001 and 2003 respectively.



AGM and Annual Dinner 2009

Saturday, 28 November
Caversham Heath Golf Club
Chazey Heath
(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

Email:
social@oldredingensians.org.uk or
barshel@talktalk.net

Tracking The Tea Trays No 9



Bulkeley Bandinel was educated under Dr Valpy and at Winchester and New College, Oxford where he became a Fellow and entered Holy Orders. He had been chaplain to the then Vice Admiral Sir James Saumarez in the Baltic (on board HMS Victory for a time). He became Bodley's Librarian for the lengthy period of 47 years (1813-60) producing a catalogue in 1843 and becoming Honorary Curator in the year before his death. He had also been Dean of New College and Proctor of the University.

KCB

Reading School - Some Random Recollections (Part 1)

by R B Van Wart (1881-86 & 1888-90)



It is a far cry to January, 1881, the month when I swelled the numbers of the School by one. There were round about 180 of us, with a large contingent of boarders. It was common talk in the School that, only a few years before, the number of boarders was very large; this, however, had led the governing body to the belief that the interests of the town boys, for whom the School had been founded, were being neglected; the upshot was that Dr Stokoe, the Headmaster, either had to resign or was dismissed, (*he resigned – Ed*) and some of his faithful boarders were rumoured to have shown their displeasure by breaking the windows in some of the governors' houses. School gossip further added that this limitation of the boarding element led to the founding of Bradfield College by a number of influential folk in the neighbourhood; but memory is a treacherous jade and I give this only for what it is worth.

Still, as it was, the School House was full, the East Wing full or thereabouts, the West Wing fairly full, and the boarders were undoubtedly the dominant party in the School. The Headmaster, the Rev. (afterwards Dr.) William Walker, grey-bearded and breezy, lived in the School House; the East Wing with a strong Irish element, was under the eagle and monocle eye of the Rev. F. H. Brown, of whom more anon, and Sampson, also a padre (but I forget his initials), had charge of the West Wing.

A DEFINITION OF CHEMISTRY

Looking at the School a week or two ago, I realised how much has been added in the way of buildings during the past fifty years. In 1881 there were no buildings save the porter's lodge by the Erleigh Road gate; only bushes, a good deal thicker than they are to-day and affording excellent cover for the "bloods"



The School House (now South House)

who indulged in the "fragrant weed" on the sly. The simplicity of my youth, 10 years, was evident on one occasion when I was bidden to bring pipe and tobacco from a School house locker to their owner in

the bushes; the idea of the boy being a real smoker so fascinated me that I absent-mindedly crossed the cricket field with pipe and pouch for all to see in my hand, and received a good licking from their owner, who had been watching my progress with dismay and rage from his lurking place.

Then the quadrangle had no swimming-bath and no laboratory, both of which were built in the early eighties; incidentally, the worthy pundit who performed the opening ceremony of the latter, delighted me by defining chemistry as "A loud noise followed by a bad smell." Between the School House and the West Wing was a vegetable garden, and by the Addington Road gate the only building was the sanatorium.

There was no Lower School; the 1st was the lowest form, and I graced the lowest desk of Form II. These two forms worked in the big Schoolroom, ours at the end by the door. I was delighted at this as it enabled us to escape from the unholy torrent of boy



The Porter's Lodge

which burst down that ghastly spiral stone stairway every morning after prayers, which were held in the Big School in those days; why there were not daily casualties is beyond me, and I should dearly have liked to put that blessed architect in the most turbulent part of the scrum, and then asked what he thought of his handiwork

THE "JAMPOT" OF 1881

The School headgear was horrible — a bowler hat with a narrow band round it of the School ribbon, blue with white edges. This earned for us in the town the hated nick-name "Jampot," and I don't wonder at it, for it was an abomination. Mercifully the powers that were substituted a cap for it about 1882 or 1883; this was small, round, with a small soft peak, and was dark blue with a narrow band of School ribbon; it was at any rate harmless and comfortable. The cricket 2nd XI had one of similar shape, white with dark blue ribbon, and the 3rd XI pink with a lighter blue ribbon; the 1st XI cap was

dark blue with R.S.C.C. in white monogram.

In 1881 the School played Rugger, although scratch Soccer ("Soss" we used to call it) was often played for a quarter of an hour or so before afternoon School. The School jersey was a thick woollen affair of blue (not very dark) and white stripes about two inches wide, with the School crest on the left breast; the cap, blue velvet with a silver tassel. It was in the days of two full-backs, two half-backs (the modern three-quarters), two quarter-backs and nine forwards; it was also the days of interminable mauls. When two players of opposite sides claimed a touch-down and the referee could not decide, they betook themselves five yards from the goal-line, each clutched the ball fiercely and they struggled for possession; a hand once losing contact with the ball was then out of action; mauls used to last for weary minutes, while the rest of the teams crowded round and tried to keep warm by vocal encouragement to their respective champions. Another feature of Rugger in those days was that no number of tries counted anything against a goal; there was no scoring by points and one solitary goal was worth more than ten tries.

"A TERRIBLE MARTINET"

There was an unusual happening one afternoon during the cricket season; games were just over; the old and tired-looking horse in the shafts of the heavy roller was for the moment left unattended by the pitch; whether he was dreaming of the day when he won the Derby, or whether he was merely attacked by a horsefly will never be revealed; but, whatever the cause, he suddenly started off, charged across the field, swerved out through the gate into Erleigh Road, rounded the corner into London Road; dashed past the Hospital and galloped along with the roller bumping and bouncing behind, until, just past the bottom of Kendrick Road, the roller was shattered and the poor steed suffered a deep gash in one of its hocks from a piece of the broken roller. I am glad



The Laboratory

to say he recovered, though, when I saw him a few minutes after the happening, a pathetic, drooping

figure standing in a pool of blood, the wiseacres were of opinion that he would have to be shot. To turn now to sterner topics; for most of my first two terms I was a lazy little brute and was never more than a place or two from the bottom of the form. But for one horrible fortnight in the summer term the calm of my existence was sadly disturbed. Our form master, Sampson, was ill, and an unkind fate "wished" on us in his place a terrible martinet in the shape of the Rev. F.H. Brown. I wonder if any boy who passed through his hands will ever forget him; certainly I never shall. I do not believe there was a single boy, from the giants of the sixth downwards, who did not quail in his presence. He had an ogreish way at the end of afternoon School, when he had written on the blackboard the "prep" for next day, of standing in front of the fireplace in cap and gown, the latter tucked over one arm, his hawk-like features made more grim by the monocle in his eye, and saying in biting tones, "Now! as sure as my name is Frederick Herbert Brown, if I don't have my pound of work, I'll have my pound of flesh." How we slaved to save our skins, for a caning from him was a fierce affair.



The Sanatorium

The Rev Brown was to have a great influence on my future career. At the end of my first summer term, that of 1881, I departed for the holidays rejoicing in the fact that, being bottom but one of my form in term's marks and bottom but two in the exams, there was no fear of my promotion to the 3rd Form, that of the dreaded Frederick Herbert. Judge of my consternation in September, when I found myself moved up after all over the heads of about twenty lucky boys; when I betook myself in fear and trembling to my new classroom, No. 7, Brown fixed me with a piercing eye and informed me that he had spotted me as a promising boy and had engineered my promotion so that he could get the best out of me. Well, I am bound to say he did, as I think he did out of every boy under him. We toiled hard to save our "pound of flesh" and to this day I can remember nearly all he taught me. During that year the 3rd Form was converted into an Upper and Lower Third; I went with Brown, into the Upper, and slaved my way into the first half dozen and, as I thought, safety at the end of the year, only to find when the next term began that he had arranged

to go up the School with five or six of us whom he considered worthy of his attention; Percy Shea, who later held the White Scholarship at St. John's, Oxford, before me, was one of the bunch. Templer, whom I met years afterwards in Simla as Director-General of Remounts, was another, and Denys Egginton a third. Of course, we were between the devil and the deep sea; if we slacked, we suffered, if we worked, there was always the dread of disaster.

"FETCH MY CANE!"

Brown had a fearsome way of saying to one of his House in biting tones with every syllable clear cut, "Chatterton, fetch my cane!" which made anticipation almost as bad as the licking, and that was very far from a joke. From time to time he used to call up the form to take places in Latin or Greek translation; we were in No. 11 then, next to his House; we stood in a horseshoe formation while he strolled up and down. He had a theory that a boy who did not hold his book tightly was not attending, and every now and then he used to give a sharp upward smack at someone's book; if, as too often happened, the book flew into the air, the cane was requisitioned forthwith. Once we were called up in a hurry from some writing work and I hurried into place with the stump of my pen — I had chewed up the wooden holder — between my fingers; he chose my book for his attack, but I was holding tight and he got the nib well in his palm. There were, as Shakespeare puts it, "Alarums and Excursions!" At last in the Lower Fifth we were "rid of this turbulent priest," for he was appointed to the Headmastership of Ipswich School, whither he departed with most of his House and very, very nearly with me; he actually persuaded my parents to let me go with him and it was only by much prayer and lamentation on my part that the decree was rescinded. Poor Brown, I think we were all grieved a few years later to hear that he had taken his own life. Early in this century I met once more his charming and capable wife, who had a very successful "prep" School at Eastbourne, and a daughter who played hockey for England, at the age of 16, I believe.

A SHORT-LIVED MAGAZINE

Brown was succeeded by Jeaffreson, a horse of quite another colour, who had a pleasing habit in the afternoons of erecting a rampart of dictionaries and whatnots round his table, disappearing behind it, and leaving his class to its own devices. The loss of Brown's House, nearly all Irish boys, was a grievous blow to the games, in which they had figured very prominently; the Tullochs, the Barters (both generals in later life), the Quains, to mention only a few, were hard to replace. It was possibly partly due to this that a change was made about that time, 1883 or 1884, from Rugger to Soccer; curiously enough, one of the early Soccer players, Rory Pearson, afterwards became one of the best wing threequarters who ever played Rugger for Wales. His younger brother, Kenny, and I once perpetrated a magazine, so-called; we wrote it



Association Football 1884-85

in a small notebook about four inches by three, and pasted in such drawings or contributions as we could collect; when we exhibited the result of our labours we were held, head downwards, in the air and soundly ducked in the School House lavatory basins; thus ended what might have been a popular periodical.

A TRAGIC MEMORY

Another boy who was at the School during this period was later to become a celebrity, but in a way far different from T.W. Pearson; I refer to J R Birchall, the Canada murderer. He was handicapped by being an orphan and by inheriting considerably more money than was desirable for one of his flamboyant nature. At School he was a somewhat indistinguished member of both cricket and Rugger teams, excellent in the plays given on Speech Days, and one of a small gang in the School House whose influence was far from wholesome; he also enjoyed bullying, as I knew by bitter experience; a favourite entertainment of his was to get me or some equally defenceless small boy and shut us in the Rugby Fives court, while he and three or four cronies "aulked" us with fives balls over the wall; it was quite unpleasant for the victim. After leaving School he had a brief and hectic career at B.N.C., Oxford, until the authorities suggested that Oxford had no further need of him. The last time I ever saw him was in a very horsey kit when he had driven tandem over from Oxford and had visited the School with a view of impressing us. After that he rapidly got through all his money and tried a number of ways of making a livelihood; finally by a plausible tale he induced the parents of a young fellow named Benwell to send the boy out to Canada with him, so that the two might become partners in a farm. Once out there Birchall took him out into the wilds, ostensibly

to look at a likely farm; they set out together, but Birchall returned alone. It transpired later that he had shot the poor boy in a lonely place; then in the most cold-blooded way he wrote to the parents in England, asking for a substantial sum of money towards the purchase of the farm, which was described as a very desirable property; the letter purported to be from Benwell himself - then actually dead - and to have been written with the left hand owing to an injury to his right. After some little time, however, suspicion was aroused, and ultimately Birchall was arrested. When the news reached England a number of O.R.'s, believing at that time in Birchall's innocence, got up a fund towards the expenses of his defence, and I believe F.W. Sherwood, a brilliant barrister, was able to send him a considerable sum. It was of no avail, however; the evidence against him was too damning, and he paid the extreme penalty. My next recollections will be of another well-known member of the staff, J. Eugene Bentley, of the black beard and "black Peter."

RBVW



The Autumn 2009 magazine will conclude R B Van Wart's reminiscences. It is planned that the Canada murderer, John Reginald Birchall and the outstanding rugby, hockey, and tennis player, Thomas William Rory Pearson (pictured left), both mentioned by Van Wart, will be the subjects of separate articles in future issues –

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.

J A OGDEN (West House 1951-58)

John will ever be identified by his contemporaries with his organ playing at School. Nonetheless, he graduated from Southampton University in 1961 in Maths and Physics, following it with a diploma in numerical analysis and automatic computation and then joining the University of Glasgow in their computing lab. He was a University Assistant by 1964 and a lecturing career blossomed with his appointment in 1966 to the University of Reading's computer unit where he became Head of the Department of Computer Science in 1977. John has long been a member of the Methodist Church and was ordained in 1994; there followed a mix of science and the humanities until his retirement from the University in 2001. He has since become a local tutor on an ecumenical ordination programme and his activities as a Methodist minister (which took him back to the School Chapel in 2006 for the first time in nearly 50 years) truly reflect his claim that retirement is but a change from 'structured to unstructured busyness'. He is married to Monica with two sons and two grandchildren.

G A PFEIFFER (ART MASTER 1969-05)

On leaving the School George bought a Woodley bungalow at auction and converted it to a four bedroom house – such a project had always been an ambition. In 2006 he moved to Norfolk where he lives in something of a rural idyll – and is busy converting his present dwelling. He has a studio there (and is aiming at an exhibition, perhaps in Norwich) and a large garden which produces most of the Pfeiffer's vegetables and fruit. Life is full.

P A McD MAYES (COUNTY HOUSE 1945-48)

When Peter left after a final JTC Summer Camp he was called up for National Service, recommended for a regular commission and entered REME in 1950 via RMA Sandhurst. Training included 2 years studying mechanical sciences at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, and 2 years in industry, before a posting in 1955, to Germany, became the first of various tours in Germany, Singapore and Northern Ireland interspersed with periods in the UK, including Shrivenham, Aldermaston, Arborfield, Woolwich and Warminster before he retired in 1981 as Colonel. ORs were often encountered; with him at Sandhurst in his 1949 intake were Gerry Groombridge and Bill Hedges. An OC in Germany had young twin sons who were to enter South House. David

Pollitt was on the Staff Course at Shrivenham following Peter's. In 1970, in Berlin Peter's 2ic was one of those twin sons from 16 years previously – now our current Vice President Maj Gen M L (Murray) Wildman, CBE; and, perhaps uniquely, the annual inspection of the School CCF in 1961 was made by 3 ORs - Peter, Lt Col AT Burrows and Flt Lt DWB Chippington. (Chippington's younger brother and the co-editors of this journal were amongst the inspected). After working for International Military Services Ltd in London, Peter retired to Radnorshire where he finds the philosophy of burying his head in the sand works well. He married Margery in 1958 and they have one son and one daughter.

P F CARTWRIGHT (WEST HOUSE 1943-48)

Pat left from Upper VA. National Service was spent, mainly in Liverpool, with the Royal Air Force on an embarkation unit. His entire working career was with British Railways and he was a Manager in the Board HQ at Marylebone when he retired. Along the way he had chaired the Staff (Union) side of the negotiating committee for HQ Management Staff and also the Management Staff Branch of the Trade Union (TSSA). After retiring he married Anne, moved West and involved himself in Christian Aid. Nowadays he is a steward at Clevedon Court, the National Trust property in North Somerset and a member of numerous local bridge clubs.

G M MARTIN (EAST HOUSE 1957-63)

Graham is married to Jean and they have three adult off spring who all live in Reading. The family has just returned to the UK after 13 years in Malaysia for Foster Wheeler (who employed Graham for over 30 years) and since 2005 in Western Australia for CVX. The project – Gorgon – for whom Graham is the Contracts Co-ordinator has brought him back to the UK but they managed to find time for travelling across Australia before their return. The Malaysia posting started in Kuala Lumpur before three and a half years in Sarawak (Borneo) – once the domain of the Brooke family, famously known as the 'White Rajahs'. Graham is now driving to North London every day and he and Jean are trying to get their house in Caversham in some kind of order after the long years abroad and looking forward to having some time to spend on the Costa Blanca where they have an apartment.

M E DIGBY (WEST WING 1944-50)

In VM when he left, Michael pays tribute to W J Streather his housemaster during his time at School. In the sporting tradition of West Wing, in those days, Michael was a member of both the 1st XI and 1st XV.

His overwhelming memory is not of the austerity of post war years but of fun. Who, he asks, remembers crawling into the masters' allotments, stealing and eating raw Brussels sprouts and carrots? (*Fun? – Ed*) Mike became a chartered surveyor and spent his career in commercial property development, largely with Hillier Parker May & Rowden, which took him to many places around the globe on behalf of clients. He married Jan and they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last year. They have two daughters and a son and 4 grandchildren. Michael lives at Westcliff-on-Sea and would welcome old friends making contact with him. His email address is medjbd@aol.com. He remains grateful for the education he received, in the widest sense, and proud to have been a pupil at Reading School.

T A BOYINGTON (MASTER AT SCHOOL 1964-83)
TAB, who joined Reading School straight from Cambridge, left after nearly twenty years for Maiden

Erlegh School to become their Head of Modern Languages in a nine strong department. The pupils - more than 1500 - had little regard for hierarchy, very different from the Reading School ethos. He grew to enjoy the role and found much satisfaction also in running the sailing club and organising foreign trips. Aged 60 he opted for retirement, spurred by ever more intrusive bureaucracy. Terry was determined not to return to the classroom but remains in education as an examiner for Cambridge Assessment, and invigilator and graduation marshal for the Open University and the University of Reading. He has seven granddaughters between his son and two daughters, bringing new delights in life and he also works for the Reading Association for the Blind, the Museum of English Rural Life and the National Trust. In addition extensive travelling and skiing continue. Ask a busy man.....

FORM 54 AUTUMN 1959



Everyone in this image has crossed arms – except the co-editor of this journal, Chris Widdows, seated front row right. And the reason? Already pursuing the obsession of a lifetime it was he who took the photo that Autumn of 1959; setting the timer and rushing back to his seat, but not having the split second left to adopt the general pose. Of those in the picture Mike Free and Mr J M Hardman are sadly no longer with us. Apart from Chris, there is not a single current member of the Association in the picture. The whereabouts of Garth Scotford, John Bungey and John Dale are at least known, but what has happened to the others? Any information will be most welcome.

KCB

Sport

5th OR Festival of Football 3 April 2009

The football match for the President's Shield is reported here by H A B (Harry) Hoare (1997-04)



Anthony and Abe Osho

A brilliant sun and the terrace of Reading School looked down upon the front field for the fifth annual Old Boys vs School XI football match. The usual excitement of the last day of term was added to by plenty of flowing football!

The Old Boys started much the better side and went ahead within a minute. Bellis of the School XI was robbed of possession from the kick off by a tough tackle from Hoare. Hoare fed Ellis whose through-ball released Abe Osho down the inside-left channel. Osho's cross found the Idarting run of Matt Richards who made no mistake with the finish.

The School XI failed to settle after the initial setback and some neat passing triangles from Bellis, Reakes and Chiang in the centre failed to create any real opportunities. The Old Boys team looked disciplined and organized – an impression that belied the fact they had only decided on the line-up minutes before the game. The Old Boys restricted the School team to playing football in front of the defence and Sam Green at centre-back marshalled things well for the Old Boys.

It wasn't long before the Old Boys doubled their lead. Neat interplay between Stock and Lloyd down the left flank resulted in a corner. Cussen swung in the cross and found Richards whose flicked header nestled in the back of the net.

As the half progressed the School team continued to find problems dealing with the pace and power of Abe Osho. The younger Osho brother, Anthony, was given the unenviable task of trying to contain the Old Boys target man. Abe's darting runs proved a handful and created space for Ellis to exploit his trickery.

The half finished 2-0 with few further chances for either side. A stern team talk from Darren Carrick (Director of Sport, *pictured*) saw the School XI take the game to the Old Boys with forward Alexander starting to get into the game. The Old Boys side held firm and looked increasingly dangerous on the counter-attack. One impressive move witnessed beautiful one-touch football: a one-two between Hoare and Richards, an Ellis dummy and Cussen who set Osho through but his finish clipped the outside of the far post.

As legs tired the game opened up but the Old Boys defence coped admirably with the pressure and Tim Lo in goal was equal to the task when called into action. 2-0 it finished and a deserved win for the Old Boys who have regained the lead in the series 3-2.



HABH

School Team:

James Moore, Jamie Donaldson, Anthony Osho, Rob Clark, Charles O'Halloran, James Chiang, Edward Reakes, David Bellis (Captain), Robert Lawley, James Horwood, Charles Alexander. Sub's: Jonny MacCarthy, Lloyd Dyson, Oliver Strasburger

Old Boys Team:

Tim Lo, Ali Stock, Sam Green (Captain), Martin Jubb, Dan Wright, Alun Lloyd, Harry Hoare, Ollie Cussen, Matt Richards, Anthony Ellis, Abe Osho



OR Golfing Society Spring Meeting 17 April 2009

The Spring Meeting was held at the Calcot Golf Club, Bath Road, Reading;; an undulating course with some fast greens and a signature hole played across an ornamental lake. A record number of sixteen ORs took part in the competition under Stableford rules. An excellent lunch was followed by the prize giving. OR President Neil Thomason made the presentations and spoke about the School. Cedric Scroggs PP gave a short eulogy for past member and Secretary of the Golfing Society, Rod Lunn. Rodney's good humour and expertise on the golf course was an inspiration to fellow golfers and best summed up in his own word; *"play the game with a smile on your face, a joke on your lips and a steely will to win"*. Results were as follows:

President's Jug and Medal

Stephen Johnston 40 pts

Runner-ups medal

Alistair Wrenn 38 pts

Longest Drive

Ian Jacobs

Nearest the pin

Gareth Price

We look forward to the Autumn Meeting which will take place at the Henley Golf Club. WEL



L to R: A Wrenn (1978-85); G W O Price (1948-56); S J Johnston (1979-86); The President; I Jacobs (1955-60)

Will Lunn Hon Sec can be contacted at golf@oldredingsians.org.uk. New members are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn 2009 meeting, subject to dates etc, do let Will know provisionally.

The OR Barbarians

The OR Association Festival of Rugby has become a popular occasion since its introduction in 2004. It has become a chance to renew old friendships, a fantastic social occasion, and a hard fought battle on the field.

Following the success of this annual event, the class of 2005 entered their team into the Newquay Beach 7s, by way of joining together a holiday and sport. This was a great success both on and off the pitch. Looking to extend this to other former Reading School players, the OR Barbarians have been created as a social 7s team, combining talent and rivalries from all years for competitions in the late Spring and Summer, before once again taking to the Front Field to compete against each other in the Festival to finish our season.

The ORA agreed £500 towards first year expenses and shirts, on which the wearing of the OR crest has been approved, and the Windsor 7s on 25 April were entered, resulting in 3rd in group and a plate semi final. Subsequently, the quarter-finals of the London Cornish 7s have been reached and two or three more tournaments are planned for this Summer.

In addition to players and supporters, the OR Barbarians are also looking for sponsorship and to register your interest in joining, playing or sponsoring, please visit the website at: <http://oldredingensiansrugby.webs.com/index.htm> and also webpage on www.ur7s.com.

Chairman: R W A (Rob) Halsall (1998-05)

Club Captain: P (Phil) Jones (1998-05)

Membership: S V (Simon) Bowcock (2000-05)

PJ

Redingensians RFC Ltd

The Club has had another successful season and, under the ambitious leadership of President Ian Duncan, Chairman Andy Lynch OR (1971-78) and Secretary John Cook, are eager for more.

The 1st XV (coach Tom Hoines, captain Gavin Marsh) made a blistering start to their second season in league South West 1, winning their first six matches to top the table.

A reverse of fortunes came in their seventh match against Old Patesians. Then followed six straight defeats, not helped by injuries, until victory against Barnstaple, in February, lifted the side to fifth in the table. During this period they also crashed out of the Intermediate Cup to Hartpury College. Thereafter they slipped further, but recovered to finish the season in fifth place.

The Club also retained the Berkshire floodlit 7's title but relinquished their hold on the Berkshire Cup, losing in the final to Bracknell.

Redingensians RFC, as a whole, fielded five regular senior sides plus u/18, u/17, u/16, u/15, u/14, u/13, u/12 and the flourishing midi and mini sections give great hope for long term success.

Those wishing to join should contact Membership Secretary, Andy Green on Tel: 0118 9772 (mobile: 07973 559150) email: andrew.green@amersports.com.

KCB

Caversham and Redingensians CC

This season Caversham and Redingensians XI are again captained by Andy Northway – A J Northway OR (1977-82) – and playing in division 4B of the Marrant Thames Valley League. The 2nd XI are again captained by John Cammidge and playing in Division 6A of the Marrant Thames Valley League.

The President is Richard Taylor, the Chairman is Alan Keneally, and Secretary, Andy Northway. The Club has some new members this season, and others wishing to join should contact Andy Northway on 0118 959 4085, email: anorthway@live.co.uk.

Nets are held every Thursday evening at the Old Bath Road, Sonning, ground.

KCB

Summer Festival

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July: 11am to 5pm

The first weekend of the annual Old Redingensians Cricket Week will be combined this year with an Open event for family and visitors. Cricket will be played on both days and the following will also be available:

Marquee with Bar (please note: no food will be available)

Picnic area

Sign up facility to find old Reading friends

Tours of the School

Music from School musicians

Organ music in the School Chapel

Archive Exhibition

Art and Photographic Display

Bouncy castle for children

A timed programme for the events will be available from:

www.oldredingensians.org.uk

www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk/alumni



Strong support for the weekend is urged, to launch what is planned as an annual event and is the result of endeavours by many and, particularly, Marilyn Bentley, of the School Development Office and Barrie Shelton, OR Social Secretary. Relevant information about the weekend may also be found in the Editorial on page 51 of this issue and the President's letter on page 3.

Cricket Week

Saturday 4th July to Wednesday 8th July

Cricket Week has been brought into term time, this year, to give members of School teams an opportunity to ease into adult cricket. There will be five one-day games, starting at 11.30 am*, as follows:

Saturday, 4 July:	School v ORs
Sunday, 5 July:	ORs v Chelsea Nomads (*start time 1.30 pm)
Monday, 6 July:	ORs v Kensington
Tuesday, 7 July:	ORs v. Bowdon
Wednesday 8 July:	ORs v. Bowdon



Readers interested in playing, please contact either

Terry Cartwright Tel: 01428 602992 or mobile: 07831 848251 email: terry@whiteoaks.co.uk or

Andy Northway Tel: 0118 959 4085 or mobile: 07973 338463 email: anorthway@live.co.uk

Commentary

The Old Redingensian Autumn 2008

Paul Hickson, whose brother and son featured in the *Where Are They Now?* pages last time, was saddened to read Graham Holley's obituary. Paul was in the choir at St Peter's, Earley, with Graham and recalls his unusual alto voice and his height – qualifying him admirably as a banner carrier!

J B (John) Levien (1928-34) appreciated the piece in *Notes and News* on the Levien family and reminded us that during the war the Rev Levien and his sisters moved to a bungalow on Shinfield Road and, after his sisters' deaths, Rev Levien spent his remaining years (he died in 1966 at the age of 88) with Timmy – S G Timms, for so long a Master at School - and his wife Eirene in Avebury Square.

Gremlins (or carelessness on the part of the Editors) led to a reference in *Notes and News* to A J (Tony) Wright (1934-41) visiting China. It was in fact another Canadian domiciled 'Tony' – A W Jackson (1953-59) to whom we meant to refer. Apologies to both and for any discord sown in the Wright household!

We similarly confused David Youens, who is NOT seeking news of J A E Greenfield (1939-47) – indeed he never knew him. John Sanders (1939-45) however, is, and did. Further apologies, humbly offered.

Tony Wright also pointed out that Douglas Bader (see Derek Davies' obituary) was in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Benyon Ward. Bader crashed at Woodley Aerodrome on 14 December 1941 and was rushed to RBH where he was operated upon. On Christmas Eve he was moved to Greenlands.

Andrew Bohman's outstanding contribution, *Willingly to School*, which was brought to a conclusion in the Autumn issue, attracted yet more accolades and Andrew himself has been quite overwhelmed by the letters and thanks he has received from readers. His article has prompted many memories

J (John) Taylor (1942-45) points out that Mr Record's initials were A T, not A D, and recalls that he taught Maths and Physics and that his double Maths periods - which could be tedious - were known as - wait for it - 'Double Deccas'! John Taylor also brings Stret (W J Streather) Master at School (1925-62), vividly to life in recalling his familiar phrases; '*Is it permitted...*' and ...'*who gave you leave (name) to come here ostentatiously swanking about the place?*' - ('*shall you please*', indeed, - Ed.)

M E (Mike) Digby (1944-50) - see *Where are They Now?* In this issue - recalled Jeremy Ramsey (J C G Ramsey West Wing 1944-49) setting fire to the Corps uniforms when sneaking into the Corps rooms for a smoke (*surely not, Jeremy?* - Ed.) and also Ted Webber's (E S Webber West Wing 1942-49) mother delivering to Mrs Streather the wherewithal for a midnight feast, rather missing the point that the House Master's wife was not quite the right person to be informed!

Reminiscences of Teaching Staff were provided not long ago by Gordon Hands (1928-35) whose obituary appears in this issue. He joined the Junior School on the same day as Timmy (see above) in 1928 with whom he remained friends until Timmy's death. Of other Junior School Staff he remembered Miss O'Reilly as kindly, '*...who taught French by some very odd phonetic system and gave us stick insects to take home, with instructions on how to feed them*'. Messrs. Poole and Peach earned great disdain from him - particularly the latter - and he felt that going up to IIIA in the Senior School under Mr E J Woodford was like a breath of fresh air.

The writer of *Big Wigs and Nabobs*, G M (Martin) Murphy (1941-45) is a respected historian and, whilst being only too aware of 'Swisher' Peach's proclivity with the cane, he does credit him with encouraging an early interest in his subject through the historical novels lent out from Mr Peach's form room. Martin was never a Henty man but found plenty of other authors to fire his imagination. The typically unsmiling image of Mr Peach in *Willingly to School* (Part 3) brought back memories. (*A recent talk by Martin to The History of Reading Society on Leonard Coxe, sometime headmaster of Reading School, will be given fuller mention in the Autumn 2009 issue of the Old Redingensian. Ed.*)

Spotting Derek Fletcher's *In Memoriam* notice, Foster Jones (1940-50) recalled being challenged by an officer of the law whilst he was walking through Hyde Park in the early 1950s. '*...I'm certain I know you*', said the PC, but Foster's mounting trepidation subsided when the officer pushed back his helmet to reveal a shock of brilliant ginger hair - unmistakably Derek!

Return of the Doctor!

Chris Widdows' long campaign to have the John Opie portrait of Richard Valpy returned to the School was finally realised on Thursday, 9 April 2009. Much negotiation with the School and with Reading Museum was necessary but matters were greatly helped by the enthusiastic support of the Curator of Art at the Museum, Mrs Elaine Blake (below).



The cost of moving was afforded from the Stuart Jackson Legacy left for the improvement of Big School. At the very last, with the move arranged, there were some heart stopping moments when it seemed that the necessary paperwork had not been passed by the School.....

At 9 am the Archivist collected the Membership Secretary and his camera equipment from Bulmershe Road and we headed for the Museum to record in words and pictures the great move. It proved to be a long job and the Archivist's car was successively moved at hourly intervals from Kings Road to Abbey Street and, finally, to Valpy Street itself, to evade the clutches of the traffic wardens.



At 9.20 am we were checking the Valpy plaque (on the Museum's outside wall) commemorating the site where Valpy's School House once stood. Entering the Museum by a side door we were greeted by Elaine and signed in.

Five minutes later came the advice that the team of removal men had been held up by an accident on the M4 and were now due at 10 am. Accordingly, we repaired to Costa Coffee, on the corner of the Market Place, to consider the situation and returned, refreshed, at 9.55 am – there was still no sign of the team!



Shortly afterwards Elaine received another call reporting a further delay and it was not until 10.45 am that the MAN van, R6 OES, arrived with a six strong team from Oxford Exhibition Services.

The van was parked, appropriately enough, in Valpy Street and the equipment unloaded and taken up three flights of stairs to the Victorian Gallery. There the 8 ft portrait of the good Doctor was hanging, 16 feet up. The Gallery was closed off and double ladders placed either side of the portrait with a step ladder below. The floor was spread with suitable wrapping materials and, with two men on each ladder and the other four assigned specific roles, the portrait was unhooked from its massive fixings and lowered, first to a convenient ledge and, eventually, to the floor.



The Doctor was carefully laid, face down, on the coverings and securely wrapped and taped. The huge portrait dominated the floor area.

The back of the portrait revealed a label from Edward Valpy of 27 Wimbledon Park Road, SW18 to the Reading Town Clerk, dated 18 February 1921 consigning the portrait to the Borough.

The front of the portrait has this plate affixed to the lower frame:



A well deserved coffee break was then taken in the Museum kitchen, where we learned that OES was a privately owned company, which had been founded in Oxford but is now based in London's Old Kent Road.

The OES team that day was Mark, Louis, John, Matt, Hugh and Dan, all knowledgeable, youngish, men who clearly relished the different challenges that their line of work produced each day (on their last visit to Reading Museum they had moved an Albatross...)

Then came the difficult carriage of the portrait down the three winding flights of stairs. The team's efficiency was truly impressive (only slightly marred by the setting off of the security alarm as we left the gallery!). Once on the ground floor a wheeled trolley was able to be deployed.

The tailgate of the van was lowered, the portrait loaded, the team boarded the vehicle and followed our car (Elaine came with us) to the School.



The portrait was taken up to Big School and much discussion about measurements and positioning took place, with the object of creating a balance with the bust of Henry VII (shortly to be rescued from the Learning Resource Centre and returned to Big School where it was originally unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen on 19 May 1986), over the middle of the fireplace, and the portrait of Archbishop Laud on the other side of the fireplace.

We were joined by Beverley Taylor (School Community Relations Manager) and her husband, Peter, for the latter stages of the process and Eamonn Monger, of the School maintenance staff, came in to discuss, with the Archivist, the positioning of the Henry VII bust and the new 'Tea Trays'.

With all completed, Chris took 'a team photo' of Elaine and the OEC staff and we then saw them safely off the premises.



The Membership Secretary's deep satisfaction at a job well done was clearly evident, along with some relief! Both he and the Archivist took a final delighted look at the great man's portrait hanging imperiously on the east wall of Big School and departed contentedly.

KCB



*Back row: John, Louis, Hugh, Matt
Front Row: Dan, Elaine, Mark (boss!)*

(Note: the portrait is on loan to the School by the Reading Museum authorities but the loan is open ended - Ed.)

The Archive



*"The school of schools...
of which the town was justly proud,
and for which it was justly famous...
second to none in reputation."
Mary Russell Mitford writing in Belford
Regis (her name for Reading).*

Following our appeal in the Autumn issue contact has been made with George Pfeiffer and he has loaned his copy of *John Minton – A Film Portrait* to enable it to be transferred to DVD for the archive. It is a hefty item – 16mm – and was the result of a team enterprise project which involved boys researching, composing the musical score etc (we should be pleased to hear from anyone who worked on the film). The whole undertaking was generously funded by Sir Michael Carreras OR (1938-44) then head of Hammer Films.



There seem to be very few photographs of the Tuck Shop, (this picture was taken by John Haines, long-serving Second Master). Since it was such a haven to so many (for instance, my co-editor's *Eagle* pocket diary has this entry on his first day at School "...there is a tuck shop. I think I shall like it here") we should surely rectify this. Can anyone send any images at all? They can be scanned and returned if required.

The Tuck Shop was demolished in 1993 to make way for the Page Building

More on UIIB 1944 (See last two issues). The jigsaw nears completion. John Taylor (1942-45) - see also *Commentary* - has written to say that he is the boy in the third row, fourth left. He supports John Sanders in the case of top row centre - he thinks Crowder would have left (he went to board at St George's Harpenden) by this time, and that John Perry would also be missing as he was in the sanatorium when the photo was taken. He does not see either Gibbs or Rees (who wore glasses). Rees's Father, incidentally, he says, owned the Chemist's shop (*G Mervyn Rees*) at 46 Erleigh Road. He also believes it is John Sanders, first left, third row (whom he connects with Maynard's launches at Caversham Bridge). The missing candidates for second row third left and seventh left, and third row second left, would now appear to be among Jones, Groombridge and Smallbone (and possibly Gibbs and Rees).

Ron Atkins (*see below*) recalls that having been in the JTC for two years he switched to the ATC, under Messrs Fry and Records, and that one of the subjects studied was navigation. Ron still has his Flying Log which shows Flying Experience over three flights in 1944; in an Airspeed Oxford, a De Havilland Dominie and again in an Oxford. One field day was at Blackbush (then Hartford Bridge Flats Airfield) to which the ATC cycled to see the Boston and Mitchell American medium bombers operated there by the Free French. Dusk fell before they departed and as Ron had forgotten his cycle lamp he had to catch the train back to Reading and then push his bike home.

Mike Oakley (1944-54), nursing a new knee, has turned up a number of items amongst which is the original measured drawing (see image) for the display panel illustrated in the Spring 2007 issue, page 28, amongst the Liddell photos. The panel to the left as it appears in the Spring 2007 issue is, Mike thinks, by M J Quinn (1946-53):

P F (Pat) Cartwright (1943-48) says that he still has the IVB Form prize for School Year 1945-46



(presented on Speech Day, in the Town Hall on 23 Oct 1946.) He would be reluctant to part with it now but wonders what will happen to it after his demise. We urge that Pat and anyone thinking along similar lines, will leave instructions to donate such items for the Archive.

Incidentally, the Head Master, C E Kemp, reported at the 1946 Speech Day that a record number of boys were in the School – 660; the additional boys all being Seniors doing post certificate work. It was many years before such a number became not only usual but began to be exceeded.

We thank the following for additions to the Archive:

R E Atkins (1939-44) for a print of the ATC in 1944.

M E Digby (1944-50) for a CD containing 17 School photographs of his time.

Mr Paul Horton for the gift of the Shooting Colours Cap won by his Father, the late **E B Horton** (1921-29)

M M Jones (1957-64) for a package of ephemera relating to the ORA Australasia branch.

D J Jordan (1944-54) for photographs of East Wing House (2) and Junior School accompanied by the most detailed and interesting information.

M H W Maule (1956-59) PP for eight books written by his uncle **H R Maule** (1925-33) and six athletic trophies won by his father **E H Maule** (1926-35), and for some “random jottings” by **D G Francis** (Master at School 1921-61).

A J Peedell (1981-88), **F H Terry** (Master at School 1946-82) and **I G Judd** (1962-69), currently a Master at School, for School Lists.

J S Sadler (1938-48) CBE, for group photos, from the years 1945-47, of the Opera, Prefects, Athletics Club, Cricket 2nd XI and Rugby 1st XV's.

F H Terry, again, for valuable material concerning his years at School which will be catalogued. Thereafter various items of interest to readers of *The Old Redingensian* will find their way into these pages.

P J E Tomkins (1942-47) for the image of an RS JTC Platoon on Churn Ranges in 1946, and to the

Ven P B Coombs (1939-47) PP, whose Platoon it was, for help in identifying the Cadets therein and for a further package of fascinating material, of which more in future issues.

A J Wright (1934-41) for a group photo of the Junior School 1936.

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.*



*Peter Coombs' platoon on Churn Ranges (see above).
Readers are asked to write in to assist in identifying the personnel.*

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

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

Email: yors862@cs.com



France

French Organiser – Graham Fenner (1963-70)

All ORs living in France or moving to France, are requested to kindly notify Graham:
G F Fenner
I.S.T Bretagne
9 Rue Commandant Charcot
56000 VANNES
France

Tel: +33 (0)2 97 62 11 81

Email: graham.fenner@groupe-icam.fr



Australia

Australian Organiser – Mike Jones (1957-64)

M M Jones
PO Box 607
West Mead
NSW 2145
Australia

Tel: +61 (0)2 9687 8884

Mobile: +61 (0)428 440 029

Email: specialty@bigpond.com



John Ashton (1940-47) and his wife Merion met with Mike and Alison Jones in Parramatta on 28 February and pictured around the table at the Riverside Restaurant are left to right:

John Ashton, Alison Jones, Garry Pearce, Jane Pearce (nee Ashton), Mike Jones, and Merion Ashton (nee Jones)!

As very good time was had, helped by John and Mike's shared reminiscences of the 1st Reading Sea Scouts at The Warren (Garth Scotford (1955-60) another OR now living in Perth, uncovered the same connection with Mike when they spoke on the telephone last year.



The Membership Secretary and Hon Archivist had the pleasure of meeting Mike Jones, Australian Organiser, on 17 April 2009, after the small matter of an intervening 40 years. Lunch was taken at the Crown and Horns in East Ilsey, punctuating Mike's journey north along the A34 to the University of Warwick, where his wife, Alison, had been attending a conference.



Our enjoyable lunch hour enabled a number of matters concerning overseas membership, subscription levels and distribution of *The Old Redingensian* to be discussed.

The NOOSA '09 Reunion (OR 4th Queensland Reunion) will take place on the weekend of 12/14th June and a report will appear in the Autumn issue. Not able to attend will be Australian member P M (Paul) Whiteway (1958-65) now living in Cebu whose wedding plans to Elsa take precedence. Paul spends most weekends island hopping and has taken to the Philippine life style with gusto.

There is now a list of OR contacts in the major Australasian cities which OR visitors and settlers may wish to note;

Capital City	Name		At School	Tel No	Email
Adelaide	Laurie	Housden	1958-64	(61 8) 8294 1634	ljhousden@aandr.com.au
Auckland	Roger	Quartley	1972-75	(64 9) 835 3331	rogerQ@pumpsolutions.co.nz
Brisbane	Paul	Judge	1966-70	(61 7) 3300 4501	paul@lyonsjudge.com.au
Melbourne	Joe	Radcliffe	1962-69	(61 3) 9787 5039	drjradcliffe@yahoo.com.au
Perth	Garth	Scotford	1953-59	(61 8)9296 1497	cazgar40@hotmail.com
Sydney	Nick	Fried	1966-74	(61 2) 9686 6430	nsfried@bigpond.com
Christchurch	Michael	Clark	1956-63	(64 3) 344 5573	michael@alaltd.co.nz
Wellington	David	Haynes	1962-69	(64 4) 939 1444	david.haynes@smartlinx3.co.nz
Noosa Re-Union Secretary	Ted	Webber	1942-49	(61 7) 5445 1891	pawebber@netspace.net.au
ORA Convenor	Mike	Jones	1957-64	(61 2) 9687 8884	specialty@bigpond.com

Small world note: Mike Jones needed a second opinion on the extraction of his wisdom teeth last year. He walked five minutes along the main street in Westmead where he lives, to visit an orthodontist. The conversation with the lady ran as follows:

Ortho: *"You will need them out. English?"*

Mike: *"Yes."*

Ortho: *"I did my dentistry at London."*

Mike: *"I'm from Reading."*

Ortho: *"Joeys" (St Joseph's Convent. Ed).*

Mike: *"Did you know Marianne Faithfull?"*

Ortho: *"Her mother taught us both ballet."*



Deciding he was in good hands, a month later all four of Mike's wisdom teeth were (painlessly) removed.

On 27 May the Membership Secretary and Hon Archivist had the further pleasure of lunching with the **USA Organiser**, R F (Roy) Seymour (1952-57), in The Bull, at Sonning where matters US were talked over. Roy was in Reading ,making one of his periodic visit to see his father, who has now achieved the grand age of 100.



After lunch Roy was shown the memorial stone in St Andrew's Churchyard to Col Wally Pryke (1931-34) (*above left*), a staunch OR member who himself spent part of his working life in the United States as an energy adviser. A visit to Morgan Road and the School (*above right*) was taken in arousing many memories of the 1952 Alfred Sutton intake of which Roy was a part.

‘Look Wide – Look Forward – Look Deep’

Scouting at Reading School Part 4

From the high activity and successes of the 1960s that concluded Part 3 of this brief history, the 1970s saw the seeds of decline.

In 1969 a Venture Scouts Group (5th Form and above) had been formed. It fell into some inactivity until 1972 (when there was a brief revival) but the following year the Reading Venture Scout Unit ceased to exist, merged with the 43rd Reading and became known as the South Reading Venture Scout Unit. They continued to help run the School Troop at Morgan Road on Friday nights but rumours had begun to circulate that the 55th should be disbanded. Certainly attendances were low at this time.



The 55th had struggled to keep alive in 1973 but from 1972 to 1975 Maths Master D G Dolby helped to keep the Troop going and, when he left, it passed into the hands of Keith Fagg who became the full time Scout Master in 1976. Increasingly the Scout Parent Association, rather than the School, became responsible for the administration of the Troop. For the time being fortunes had been at least partially restored.

Two notable events should be mentioned. In 1983, the Chief Scouts Commendation for meritorious conduct was presented to 2nd former, A Asquith, for his part in the rescue of an elderly man from the River Thames. The following year saw the award (out of only 27 in the County) of Red Cross Proficiency Medals to three members of the Troop (T Hayes, D Russell and J Soares). In 1986 the Troop reached its Diamond Jubilee which was overseen by Messrs. Fagg, Lee and Soares and an executive committee of parents. Numbers were healthy at around 40. In 1986 a Venture Scout Unit, with 20 boys drawn from the IVth and Vth forms, reappeared and in 1987 42 boys went to Summer Camp in Cheshire. The Venture Scouts won the District Swimming Gala and new Unit flags were dedicated in the Chapel.

The general shift at this time in Society's attitude away from authoritarianism and established order to a more laissez faire approach had its effect on the 55th to the extent that activities became less traditional and more sports and entertainment based; often pursuits that had no obvious scouting aspect to them. However, many regular events did continue – the Annual Scout Service in the Chapel, the cricket match against the parents, the Christmas party amongst them. A swimming gala and father and son camp joined the role of activities.

Alex Soares had to step down through ill health in 1987 and when he was able to return to the helm, two years later, the 55th was again in decline. Dwindling numbers, together with the difficulty of finding qualified leaders, brought the Troop's final demise in 1991. M J Prout OR (1942-52), who had given such service to the Troop, died. The sad end to over 70 years of existence is reflected in the present badly dilapidated state of the 'new' scout hut (see below) which had been opened with such ceremony and hope in 1963. KCB



Obituaries

HUBERT GORDON HANDS (1928-35)



Reading School has produced many fine organists and Gordon Hands was certainly one of them (his closest friend at School, G O Tristram (1926-34) was a particularly distinguished player).

Gordon was born in Reading on Boxing Day 1918. His father had been a Post Office Engineer and served in the Royal Flying Corps in France dealing with the communications to observation balloons. He was invalided out in 1918 and remained an invalid throughout Gordon's early childhood, dying in 1927. Gordon entered the Junior School in 1928, on a Scholarship, and left in 1935 from VIscB with his School Certificate. He was in West House and gained House music initials. Dr E O Daughtry, who was Music Master at School, was also the organist at the Minster Church of St Mary's, in the Butts, and he was responsible for Gordon's long association with both St Mary's and its Father Willis organ.

Gordon joined Midland Bank Limited and over the next 44 years worked in branches at Newbury, Pangbourne, Henley-on-Thames and Reading (twice), retiring from the Broad Street, Reading, Branch in 1978.

During the Second World War, Gordon served in the Reading Home Guard, which left him with many humorous anecdotes and a great affection for the TV programme "*Dad's Army*". He also put his photographic skills to work on the project to record the *Built Environment* in case of war damage. While he was a pupil assistant to Dr Daughtry he met his future wife, Kay, at St Mary's and they were married there by Bishop Parham in 1944.

Throughout his working life and into retirement Gordon was the organist at a number of local churches, with lengthy spells as permanent organist at All Saints', Dunsden; St Mark's, Reading; St Michael's, Spencer's Wood and finally from 1979 St Barnabas', Reading. After he left St Barnabas, Gordon and Kay renewed their association with the combined parish of St Mary and St Laurence, and he was also a familiar sight deputising at various churches; notably, Englefield, Stanford Dingley, Sulhamstead and Holy Trinity. Additionally, there were also occasional appearances at Stonor for Christmas and in Reading School Chapel. During these years Gordon worked hard to assist in the maintenance of the Minster's Father Willis organ and also organised the regular lunchtime organ recitals.

His other great lifelong interest was the railways and in the age of steam he was a member of the Railway Photographic Society, spending many hours at Southcote Junction and Reading West. In retirement he was a volunteer guide at Didcot Railway Centre.

In 1947 partly because of his interest in railways generally, he accepted the post of Treasurer of the Reading Society of Model and Experimental Engineers. The Society had suffered misappropriation of funds and the Secretary, who knew Gordon at the bank, asked if he would help; he served in the post for many years and, indeed, returned to the Society a few years ago, greatly enjoying running sessions at Prospect Park and occasionally helping out as a steward.

He was also very interested in motor cars; an ageing Bentley had to be sacrificed in the absence of petrol during wartime rationing, two Jaguars in succession were proudly owned but Kay's tolerance of this interest wore exceedingly thin when Gordon returned home one day in an extremely dilapidated MGB!

He particularly loved the music of Bach and Wagner and for many years he and Kay visited the Bayreuth Festival during which Germany became dear to them both. There were also many visits to Glyndebourne.

He always took interest in the travels of his son, Richard, (whose wife Joyce we thank for sending in material for this notice), in his love of dogs (until Kay's death in 2002 they had a succession, including four golden retrievers) and in his grandchildren Emilia and Alice. Alice sang at his funeral at St Mary's and the former director of music at School, Graham Ireland, played the organ.

Gordon Hands died on 3 May 2008 aged 89 KCB

ERIC BERNARD HORTON (1921-29) ERD TD



When he left from County House, in 1929, Eric Horton had gained a grounding for his future distinguished War Service through Cert A and a Corporal's stripes in the OTC. He was also a School Shooting Colour and had been a member of the Ashburton Shield VIII at Bisley, receiving a 'Character' in the School magazine. He kept his Shooting Colours cap all his life and it is now being exhibited in the OR Canning cabinet at School.

Eric had a brother and six sisters (the youngest, Jean, alive today, in Melbourne, Australia) who contributed to a happy childhood. He won a Scholarship to School and when he left followed his father into the Post Office as a telephone engineer.

During World War II he served in the Royal Signals, becoming a Captain and, along the way, being evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk, serving with the Desert Rats in Egypt (where he was in close communication with the SAS founder, David Stirling...) and being wounded on the Turkish island of Lyros. The Germans patched him up in an Athens hospital and then sent him to a prison camp where he saw out the remaining 18 months of the War.

After Dunkirk he had married Mary Brown, and on his repatriation-alive but looking like a skeleton-he made the devastating discovery that Mary had bowel cancer. Mary was determined to leave him a child (and we thank Captain Paul A Horton, MNI, Master Mariner, of Wickham, Western Australia for the material providing this notice). She died that same year.

Eric brought up Paul on his own with help from two of his sisters, until he met and married Beryl Bryant. Their many happy years of marriage ended in 1974 with her death from leukaemia. He remained at the Post Office until retirement (after which he was extremely pleased to be on a PO pension longer than he had been on a PO salary) and then worked for his great friend Charles Sage, OR (1923-31) at Hobbs Laundry.

Eric was an active member of the TA and also passionate about the Freemasons including Reading Old Boys' Lodge for which he was involved in the laying of the foundation stone at Lord Harris Court where, subsequently, he was to see out his final years. He had been initiated into the Lodge in 1962 and became Master in 1972 and subsequently Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. In view of his increasing age and immobility he felt it necessary to resign his membership in 2005 and was elected an honorary member.

In later life Eric coped with Parkinson's Disease with his trademark fortitude and wry humour (*"at least it makes stirring the tea easy"*) and was also pleased to beat the odds on the care insurance he took out when he moved to Lord Harris Court and end 'in profit'.

Eric Horton was something of a paradox - a private individual who loved company. He was ever cheerful and had a generosity of spirit-one of nature's gentlemen. He was also a considerable stoic, for example when knocked over by a car in Broad Street, rather than make a fuss, he declined hospital treatment, struggled home, and put himself to bed for a week.

Eric's funeral at Reading Crematorium was followed by a service in the Buckingham Chapel at Lord Harris Court.

He leaves his son, Paul and grandchildren and was also an uncle, great uncle and great great uncle. He was deeply grateful to the many friends and relatives, particularly his nephew, Peter and family, who gave him much happiness in old age.

Eric Horton died on 23 September 2008 his 96th birthday. KCB



KENNETH CHILDS HINTON (1922-31)



Ken Hinton was born in New Road, Reading and raised and nurtured in the fellowship of Wesley Methodist Church. In 1922 he entered Junior School as a day boy in South East House, and in the Senior School became a member of East House. On leaving School he joined Barclays Bank, and at the outbreak of the Second World War, the Navy, in which he served as a Leading Writer, seeing service in Aden, South Africa, Egypt and with Mediterranean convoys. As the end of war drew near Ken met Beryl Sparks in Trinity Methodist Church, Portsmouth and they married in 1948, settling in Reading where Ken had returned to his career with Barclays.

He moved around, as was the custom, to various branches in the locality before taking early retirement in 1971 at which time he was the Manager at the Oxford Road, Reading Branch. In 1983 he and Beryl moved to their house in Richmond Road, Caversham Heights. By this time they had both become deeply immersed in Caversham Heights Methodist Church and, indeed, Ken served as Church Treasurer for 27 years.

His early years of retirement were much occupied with the elderly relatives that they took into their home, a situation that Ken was well equipped for, as he might best be described as having been a 'quiet activist', serving others through pastoral visiting, help with financial queries and carrying out various odd jobs for those who needed such assistance. He was a man of prayer who gave to charity throughout his life.

Ken was a keen gardener and was also passionate about cricket being a Member of MCC and Hampshire CCC. He had himself turned out for the Berkshire Gentlemen. He supported Reading FC all his life and had been a frequent visitor to Elm Park.

He is survived by Beryl and by his children Roger and Valerie. His funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. John Ogden, OR (1951-58) to whom we are indebted for much material in this notice.

Kenneth Childs Hinton died on 10 October 2008 aged 94.

KCB

DAVID ROBERT PAYNE (1971-78)

David spent seven years in East House, became a Corporal in the CCF and achieved Advanced Proficiency, Cert MT and 2nd Class Shot. He represented the School in Hockey (2nd XI) and East House in a number of activities, captaining the Bridge and Tennis teams. He was a member of the Gramophone Society, and a School Prefect.

After leaving School he studied Material Science at Sheffield University where he obtained a BSc Tech (Hons) in 1981. He spent four years as a Technologist for a Building Materials Development in Nepal before returning to the UK as a Senior Technologist at Redland Technology. He again studied at Sheffield University before obtaining a PhD (Engineering Materials) in 1991. He then returned to Nepal as a Technical Advisor and Consultant for the Engineering & Industrial Development Projects run by the United Mission to Nepal (UMN).



In 1998 he married Helena, a Finnish Missionary, whom he met in Nepal earlier that year. After the wedding they remained in Finland where David worked first as an Export & Development Manager and later as a Senior Research Scientist in Building & Transport.

David Payne was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2005. He died on 7 August 2008 aged 48 and is survived by Helena and their two young daughters Anni and Iida. VRCP

We are grateful to David's father, V R C Payne OR (1938-48), master at School (1959-83) for the above notice. Ed

PHILIP VIVIAN HIGHT (1950-57)



Philip Hight and his brother David (Head of House 1949) were the sons of a Regular Army Officer in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and entered West Wing in the days of food rationing and cold water. D M (Mike) Warren (1950-57) remembers this, and also a mass caning by House Master W J Streather, in 1951, after a dormitory prank went wrong. This only served to enhance Phil's status!

On leaving School, he joined De Havilland's as an engineering apprentice at Christchurch (the family home was by then in Bournemouth), being transferred to Hatfield when Sea Vixen Production finished. He worked in the aerodynamics department for a while but moved to the United States, during the 'brain drain' from the UK in 1966, to work for Lockheed on their SST. When the US cancelled that programme Phil left Aerospace and joined the Trauma Research Group at the University of California, Los Angeles, to become a professional forensics engineer.

He founded his own business, *Accident Research and Analysis*, and worked in the forensics field for 37 years until retirement in 2005. He was a professional technical witness in lawsuits, a member of many professional organisations and wrote, or collaborated on, over 70 research papers in his field.

Phil enjoyed life and often said that, were it to be the next day, he would die a happy man. Cars were a lifelong enthusiasm and he was an active member of six car clubs. He water skied, parachuted, went down on the bobsled and luge, did deep sea diving, and flew, as a passenger, in WWII aeroplanes, gliders and ultralights.

He had a happy marriage to Emilie and took great care of his family; it was only recently that he and Emilie moved from Santa Barbara, California to a retirement community in Henderson, Nevada.

He is survived by Emilie and his three stepsons and by his brother D H (David) Hight OR (1944-50).

Philip Hight died on 18 July 2008 aged 69.

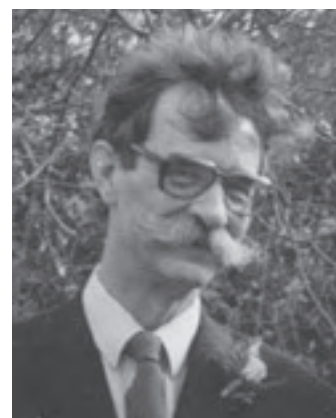
KCB

ROBERT EDWARD COLES (1943-51)

Bob Coles was born in Plymouth, but the family moved to Reading and by the 1950s there were three Coles brothers at School, R E (Bob) 1943-51), F H (Francis) (1945-54) and R (Richard) (1954-61). Bob became a Prefect, rowed for the 1st VIII (School Representative Rowing Colours), won the Aust Prize, became a King's Scout and had an active career in House (West) and School life.

He won an Open Exhibition to Downing College, Cambridge where he gained his degree in Maths and Natural Sciences. He also rowed for Downing's 1st VIII and nurtured his great love of croquet, inculcated at School by Headmaster CE Kemp.

From 1956-58 he carried out research at the Cavendish in Cambridge and during this time met Margaret Watts who he married in 1957. He then worked for Sigmund Pulsometer in Reading, moving in 1960 from Eldon Square to a 400 year old thatched cottage in Tilehurst, where he lived for the rest of his life. Also in the 1960s he joined AWRE Aldermaston, where the bulk of his work was to be done, and he remained there until retirement in 1993.



At AWRE he founded the staff Croquet Club and in 1979 reached the All England Handicap Croquet Finals. With half an acre of garden to look after, a pipe to smoke, and croquet to play there was much to content him in his years of retirement.

Bob Coles also served a term as Chairman of the Reading School Governors in the 1970s.

Margaret died in 1989 and he is survived by his son, E J W (Jamie) Coles, OR (1970-77) and his daughter, Victoria.

Robert Coles died on 3 June 2008 aged 74.

KCB

BERNARD MAURICE STEPHEN WILLIAM EMERY (1945-48)



Bernard Emery was born in Southend-on-Sea in 1930, one of six children. Emery père was a GP and the family moved to Reading in the 1940s where Bernard attended Reading School with his brother Gerry (GF Emery 1945 -50).

He was a good sportsman, two years in the 1st XV (School Colour), one year in the 1st XI (Rep Colour) and middleweight champion in 1947 and 48 (House Boxing Colours). He also held the unusual distinction of becoming Captain of East House when not a School Prefect-even though the House did have two Prefects at the time.

After National Service he spent 34 years as a Shipbroker for Fafalios in the City, working long hours and refusing to be tempted by lucrative offers of work elsewhere. The firm was also loyal to him and was well represented at the

funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Caversham Heights-a large church which could nonetheless scarcely contain the congregation who came to say their farewells.

Bernard ensured that his punishing schedule still allowed him time to be attentive to his large family; three children, fifteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren by the end of his life, to say nothing of seventeen nieces and nephews. He married first, at age 18, to Diana Berry, a former Kendrick School girl (who is now married to John Appleton, OR (1938-41) and they had three children, Keith, Clifford and Anne. In the 1970s he married Hazel Tallis gaining two stepdaughters and a step son. On retirement he made a third marriage, to Doris Hill, with whom he had twelve happy years before his death.

The weekends were occupied for many years with the OR Rugby and Cricket Clubs, and sport and the music of Frank Sinatra remained lifelong loves.

Bernard was a man with an ebullient and generous nature, a friend to everyone; in the words of Harry Fafalios, Director of his former employers, *"A true Baltic Gentleman, whose word was his bond"*. He was also a lover of practical jokes, tales of which were legend; his colleague Keith Fittell recalled ruefully that Bernard called his dog "Fittell". A final joke was played at the burial; the coffin would not fit in the grave!

Bernard was presented to Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to the Baltic Exchange in 1983 and was a Freeman of the City of London. He is survived by Doris and his large family.

Bernard Emery died on 30 October 2008 aged 78.

KCB

BARBARA ESME DENNIS (1972-87)



Barbara Dennis was the Headmaster's secretary, succeeding Miss Barnes, from 1972 until 1987 when she retired because of ill health. She thus served two Headmasters, AT Davis and HEJ Bristow and the Acting Head between those two appointments, JW Haines.

She was born Barbara Esme Tucker in South Ascot and married Clem Dennis with whom she had a son and a daughter.

When she left the School Mr LA Adams noted in the School Magazine that for many people she had been the reassuring and authoritative voice of Reading School at the other end of the telephone line. As was so necessary in her position she was calm, efficient and possessed of extraordinary patience. Her dedication to the School meant that she willingly involved herself in tasks far beyond the usual duties of a Headmaster's secretary.

On retirement she moved to Swanage and it was in the Cottage Hospital there that she died.

She is survived by her husband, her son Kevin, daughter Julia and two granddaughters.

Barbara Dennis died on 16 February 2007 aged 81.

KCB

GEORGE DANIEL DEREK FLETCHER (1940-46)

Derek Fletcher was born in South Wales on 8 January 1930 and left Reading School from Upper VB in 1946. He was in West House.

After initial experience in the Soft Drinks trade, and National Service, he joined the Birmingham City Police Force in September 1951. There he was interviewed by the Chief Constable, E J Dodd, OR (1920-25)-later Sir Edward James Dodd, Chief Inspector of Constabularies for England and Wales.

Derek left Birmingham in 1957 to widen his horizons with the Bermudan Police Service, with which he stayed until retirement in 1981 when he became a Reserve Chief Inspector (Executive Officer) in the Bermuda Reserve Police. He married Helen Hill in Bermuda, in 1958 and their son Rees was born in 1960, with Elizabeth and Kevin following in 1963.



He became well known as a Football Referee in Bermuda, and as a Mason, being initiated into Atlantic Phoenix Lodge No 224. He also attended Lodges in the UK including Reading Old Boys' Lodge, (which he joined in 1991) and of which he eventually became Chaplain. In Bermuda he was appointed the first District Grand Chaplain when the District of Bermuda was created in 2006.

Derek's career had thrown up many challenges, both professional and personal; retirement brought him enjoyment and serenity in his family life and he was a pillar of the community and church. He served St. Mary's, Warwick, Bermuda with dedication, was a deeply respected member of the Ministry Team, and an admired preacher. In the month of his death the Bermuda Writers Collective published *Legacies* a book recording the memories of a number of Bermuda's older citizens to which Derek had contributed.

He is survived by Helen, his three children and two grandchildren.

Derek Fletcher died on 27 September 2008 aged 78

KCB

RICHARD WILLIAM WALSH ATKINS (1999-06)



Richard Walsh Atkins was born in 1988, the eldest of three brothers. He lived in Finchampstead, Wokingham, and went to Gorse Ride Primary School. From an early age he had an interest in music, playing various instruments before taking up the trumpet in Year 6.

He started at Reading School in 1999, and was in County House. He took a full part in School life, continuing to play the trumpet in the School Orchestra, and was involved in the battle of the bands with Spandex Ballet.

He especially enjoyed Design Technology, his A level project being a version of a Segway personal transporter. His outside interests included ski-ing, where he went on the School trip; scouting, during which he gained his Chief Scouts Challenge; but his main interest was all forms of music. He was a member of Berkshire Maestros, being a member at various times of Concert Jazz, Youth Brass, Youth Jazz, Concert Wind, and Corelli Orchestra. He was a keen festival goer, including Reading, Glastonbury, and others abroad.

After A levels, he went to Bristol University to study Computer Science, where he made a large circle of new friends, and came to love the life there. He was an intelligent, warm, outgoing person who made many friends and was well respected by his peers. As a registered organ donor, he has helped many people after his tragic death.

At his funeral, attended by over two hundred people who had known him all his academic and social life, the congregation heard a recording of him playing on tour in Belgium with Berkshire Maestros. Donations were requested, in lieu of flowers, to the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy charity. He is sadly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

Richard Walsh Atkins died on 27 June 2008 aged 20.

RNWA

We are grateful to Richard's father, Roger Walsh Atkins, for supplying the above notice. Ed

COLIN MALCOLM STUART CROMBIE (1943-48)

A precocious cricketer at School, Colin appeared in the 1947 1st XI when not yet 15, following notable success in the 2nd XI including 74 not out v Douai. In March 1948 he left School: had he stayed until the 7th Form there would undoubtedly have been a further 3 seasons in the XI.

His father was in the Reading Borough Police Force and Colin remained a Reading man both as a cricketer and in his business career, which he spent as an auctioneer and chartered surveyor with Messrs Nicholas, becoming a partner of that firm. National Service was in the Army.

Cricket was to be his passion - he even had a dog called Sobers - and after his playing days he devoted much time to Berkshire CCC and to the Minor Counties Cricket Association.



He was a successful batsman with Reading CC through the 1950s and 1960s, captaining the side for two seasons. His debut for Berkshire came in 1952 and he appeared for them every season until 1958 (years when between 3 and 8 ORs were regularly appearing for Berkshire over a season).

In 1990 Colin became secretary of Berks CCC and stayed in post for 5 years exhibiting expert PR and organisational skills and winning the trust and affection of the players. He was a traditionalist, keen on upholding values, but a clear thinker who was always able to communicate with, and help, in the development of younger players.

In this period he was also elected to the Minor Counties management committee and he served that body well at Lords, until retiring a few years ago. He was instrumental in bringing both West Indies and Australia A to Reading for one day matches in the late 1990s.

Berkshire won the Minor Counties Championship in 1953 when Colin had been a member of the team. In 1990, when Colin was Secretary, Berkshire won the Western Division and repeated that feat in 2008, the summer of his passing.

His obituary in the Reading Post called him *"...a perfect example of how a past player can remain in the game and assist others throughout their playing careers"*. He is survived by Enid, by his daughter Caroline, his son Richard and five grandchildren.

Colin Crombie died on 9 June 2008 aged 75.

KCB



OLD REDINGENSIANS ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION

To maintain and develop an active and diverse association for the benefit of Old Redingensians and in support of 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. To actively maintain working links with the Principal, Staff, Governors, Reading Foundation, Parents & Friends of Reading School.
5. Ensure that all our transactions demonstrate financial and legal probity

In Memoriam

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

G A J (Gordon) Orchard (1937 – 44)

Research Physicist
Died 13 January 2007 Aged 80

R W (Rodney) Calvert (1959 – 63)

Geophysicist (Shell Corporation)
Died 22 November 2007 Aged 63

D (Denis) Barnes MBE (1928 – 34)

Banker – Barclays
Died 22 April 2008 Aged 91

W I (William) Shipley MBE (1944 – 45)

Architect
Died 9 June 2008 Aged 79

J (John) Garveigh (1938 – 45)

formerly **H A Goldmann**
Property Developer
Died 11 July 2008 Aged 79

W F (Bill) Swinton (1940 – 44)

Analytical Chemist
Died 20 October 2008 Aged 79

J G (John) Dowse (1939 – 48)

Statistician
Died 17 December 2008 Aged 79

J A (John) Goodworth (1937 – 45)

Teacher and SEB employee
Died 18 January 2009 Aged 80

J (Jack) Morgan (1929 – 34)

Assistant General Manager – NFU Mutual
Died 23 January 2009 Aged 89

Lt Col M H (Michael) Kemp (1929 – 34)

Capt of School, Regular Army Officer, Water Bailiff
Died 8 February 2009 Aged 92

J A M (Jack) Auld (1921 – 31)

Journalist
Died 16 February 2009 Aged 96

F D (Frazer) Gleig (1953 – 60)

Chartered Engineer
Died 20 February 2009 Aged 67

R P (Rodney) Lunn (1954 – 60)

Coy Director – C & G Ayres & E W Reeves Ltd
Died 31 March 2009 Aged 67

I C N (Ian) Toole (1955 – 62)

Chartered Accountant
Died 12 April 2009 Aged 65

J R (Dick) Sigee (1949 – 50)

Regional Director – Norwich Union
Died 19 April 2009 Aged 76

Professor N (Norman) Gash CBE (1923 – 30)

Historian
Died 1 May 2009 Aged 97

A G (Alan) Stephenson (1938 – 43)

Coy Secretary – Silvers Menswear
Died 1 May 2009 Aged 82

G M (Michael) Goaman (1930 – 38)

Postage Stamp Designer
Died 13 May 2009 Aged 88

M C P (Maurice) Hewitt (1934-43)

Chartered Engineer
Died 19 May 2009 Aged 83

B H (Bryan) Powell MBE (1924-32)

Company Director J Powell & Son
Died 10 June 2009 Aged 93

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



From the Editors



The theme of this editorial is communication; E M Forster said: *"Only connect..."* and we want to do so both with the differing generations in our membership and with all branches of the wider School community in support of the ethos that the School authorities are seeking.

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome one of the younger members of the OR Association TV (Tom) Shore (2006-08) who has freely offered his services to *The Old Redingensian*. We hope that contributions from Tom will begin to appear from the next issue onwards. Some of the images used in this issue are by D B (David) Cox (1951-57) and we are grateful for his contribution also.

CRICKET WEEK, the fixtures for which appear on page 34, has been brought into term time and commences with the School playing the ORs on Saturday, 4 July. The cricket will be a backdrop to a series of events, including tours of the School, mounted by both the School and the ORs. At the opening weekend there will be a marquee in the ground as a focal meeting point and we urge readers and their families to come along on any day, bringing picnics if they wish. We also hope that groups of ORs may decide that a visit during Cricket Week presents a good opportunity for contemporaries to get together. It is intended that this **SUMMER FESTIVAL** will become a major item on the calendar from now on – so please do your best to support it and, particularly, the **OPEN WEEKEND** at the outset of the week.

Continuing the enhancement of Big School, the OR Association has been instrumental in the return of the Valpy portrait and the bust of King Henry VII to the hall. With the twelve new commemorative wall plaques now also hanging there it is well worth a visit!

THE 1125 FUND has had its launch, as described in detail on page 16. The success of this appeal is vital for the well being of the School and the Principal needs and deserves support from all of us, in whatever way we can give it.

Reading Old Boys' Lodge No. 3545 was founded in 1911. It is the Freemasons Lodge that was affiliated to the School and originally intended to foster friendships between former pupils, parents and masters at School. The Lodge Secretary is S R (Stuart) Lyon OR (1967-75) and he may be contacted on 07810 708046 (email: 3545@berkspgl.org.uk). Stuart is anxious that every member of the OR Association should know of the Lodge's existence and those interested should please make contact with him (without any obligation).

There will be a new venue for the ANNUAL DINNER this year, Caversham Heath Golf Club. It will be held under the auspices of the President Elect Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE. Full details of arrangements for the AGM and Dinner are shown on page 24.

A full obituary for Rodney Lunn (1954-60) will appear in our Autumn issue. His funeral in the beautiful setting of All Souls' Church, Rotherfield Peppard, was remarkable in that the large congregation (including more than 20 ORs) were left in no doubt as to what the state of their emotions should be. Rodney had seen to that. He *"didn't do gloom"* and set an example in his last months which should be an inspiration to all. *"Nothing became him so well as the manner of his going"* can truly be said.

As we go to Press a little late, the 20th Annual OR Sussex luncheon has already taken place and the report will appear in the Autumn issue as usual. However, J W M (Mike) Smith PP is stepping down as organiser after 13 years and, if this delightful event is to survive, someone will have to step into the breach. Should anyone be prepared to do this they should contact Mike in the first instance (01273 303719 or email: brownleaf@talktalk.net).



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This issue's front cover is the pendant of the OR President's insignia of office, a silver gilt and enamelled shield-shaped medallion, which is depicted here with its accompanying ribbon and bars carrying names of the Past Presidents since the 1990-91 year.

The first name is J W Haines, who was the 42nd President of the modern club. A 19th bar for the current President, N R Thomason, will be engraved this year.

The regalia was commissioned and presented by former Hon Secretary, the late Kerr Kirkwood OR (1937-44). Typically Kerr sought no recognition of his splendid gift.