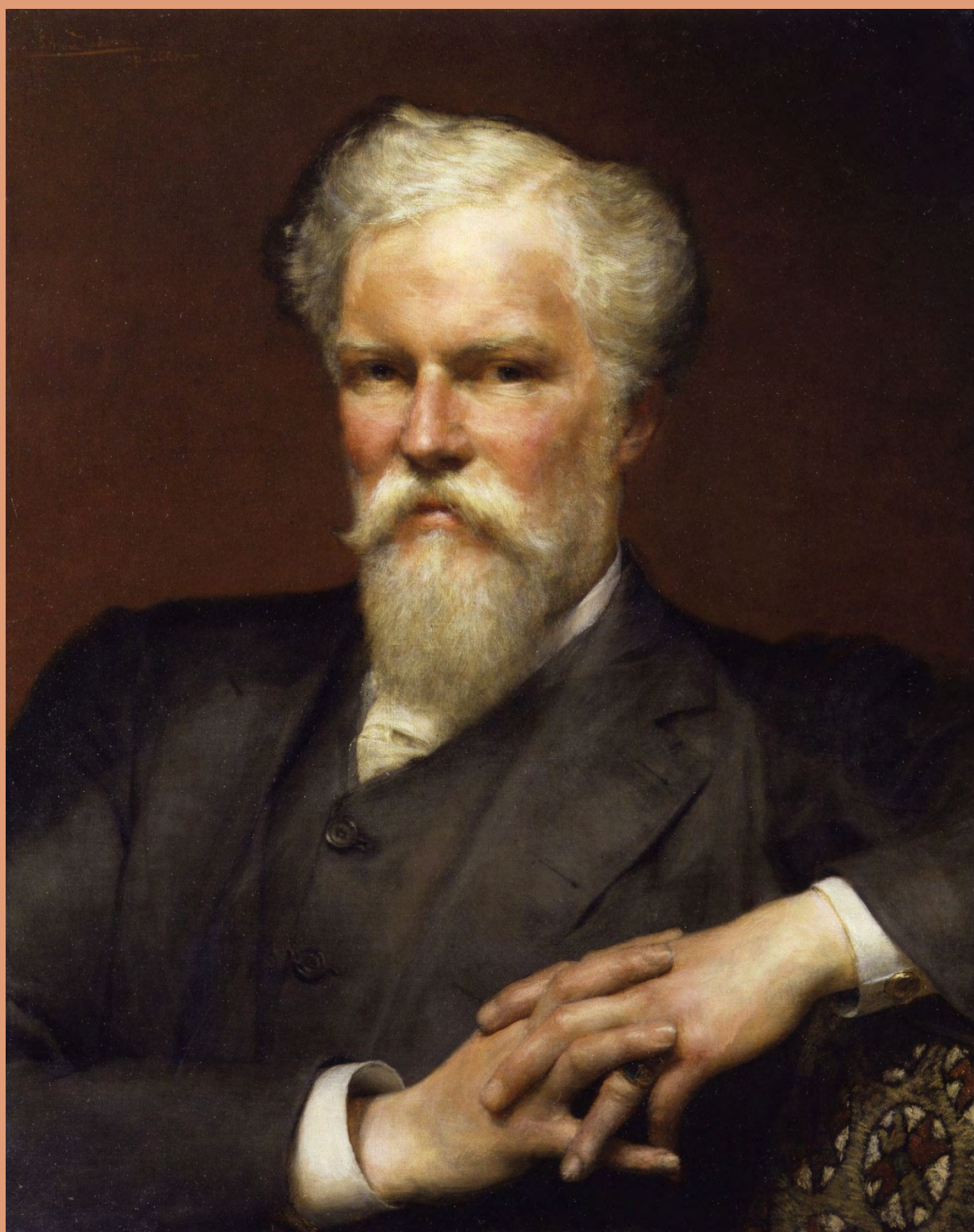


THE OLD REDINGENSIA

SPRING 2010



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Feature Writers in this Issue



Dr P P (Philip) Mortimer (1953-60) former Captain of School, *pictured left above*, provides our lead article on the architect of the present School buildings, **Alfred Waterhouse**. A more recent Captain of School, A (Ant) Butler (2001-08), *right above*, tells of his ascent of **El Cerro Aconcagua** in Argentina. The Archivist contributes **A Nutshell History of our School** and **The Headmaster's Lodge**.

The President's Letter

I am honoured and delighted to have been asked to be President of the Old Redingensians Association for 2010. I much look forward to meeting as many members as possible during the year at ORA social and sporting events and at functions arranged by the School. You will be pleased to hear that the School is in great shape under the expert guidance of the Governors and the Principal John Weeds. Academic results are first class and the School is ranked in the top dozen state schools in the country. Entries to Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities are consistently high and the product of the School is a great credit to the Staff and all associated with the development of the pupils.

The ORA has been very active in its positive support for the School through membership of the Governing Board, the Development Board, the Reading Foundation and, in its own right, through the ORA Council and individual members. It is encouraging to note that through the direct interest and support of Council members a more coherent approach from the various stakeholders is being taken to the support of the School infrastructure, facilities and activities. It is certainly the intention of the ORA Council to continue this in 2010 and provide what help we can to the School. You will be aware of the Development Board and the 1125 Fund which is seeking to raise funds to provide phased improvements to the School facilities to include a refectory, science block and enhanced sports facilities. This is a long term activity but there is real impetus behind this to begin work on the refectory in the quad this year. I hope that you will give your full support to this admirable initiative particularly in direct financial terms!

The ORA will continue in 2010 to provide direct financial support for the refurbishment of Big School including the provision of more 'Tea Trays' to commemorate prominent and distinguished deceased ORs, picture security and lighting and repairs to the stained glass windows. I am grateful to Chris Widdows and Ken Brown for their sterling efforts in this regard. It is also our intention to provide funds to the Chapel for the altar cloths and possible replacement of the hymn

books. At the end of 2009 the Council agreed to grant £9.5k for the purchase of a new grand piano for Big School which has now arrived and will be formally handed over at the Spring Musical Evening on 15 May, a social event which will allow boys to show off their musical talents (see page 15 for further details).



Enterprise Awards, to the total value of £5k, will also be awarded this year to deserving applications from pupils under the direction of Michael Maule. We had a very good set of applicants last year and we hope for an excellent standard this year (see pages 6-7).

This year we will have another full year of ORA sporting activities including golf, soccer, cricket and rugby and social events including the music evening on 15 May, a London Drinks Party, Remembrance Sunday on 14 November and the AGM and Annual Dinner on 20 November. This year the Annual Dinner will again be held in Big School, which will be an excellent opportunity for members to return to visit the School.

The website has been developed by Francis Pocock and is planned to go live later this year. This will provide information on School activities and future OR events and also through OR Connect a means of keeping in touch with ORs. We have high hopes for this which with luck should encourage more ORs to become members of the ORA.

I hope that this gives you a flavour of what has been going on in the management of the ORA, the social activities planned this year and our hopes for the future. I encourage you, even urge you, to support the ORA and more particularly the School development as actively as you can especially through your generous financial help.

With every good wish for 2010 and I hope to see you during the year.

Floreat Redingensis!

Murray Wildman

Notes and News

In the New Year's Honours List R J (Ross) Brawn (1966-71) then Team Principal, Brawn GP, received the OBE for services to motorsport and R J (John) Symonds (1942-50) the MBE for services to the community. The Association sent congratulations to both.

At the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst on 11 December, J E (Jamie) Powell (1996-03) was commissioned into the Royal Anglian Regiment and Pilot Midshipman M D (Max) Sloper (2003-08), graduated from Britannia Royal Naval College in the 10 December Passing Out Parade.

The Right Rev S R (Stephen) Lowe (1957-62) who was Bishop of Hulme and the Church of England's first full time Bishop for Urban Life and Faith has now retired and is living in North Wales. Readers may have seen his recent appearance on the panel of the television programme *The Big Question*, when it came from the Grace Academy, Solihull, last November.

The younger Lowe brother P M (Philip) (1957-64) for seven years Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Competition has, from February 2010, been appointed Director-General of the Energy DG.

The Scout Hut at Morgan Road is no more, having been demolished in 2009. A final image is shown, *right*.

A R (Tony) Waring (1940-46) PP seeks news of R G (Roland) Rennie (1941-47) last heard of in the Isle of Arran, and A C (Andrew) Bohman news of K O (Ken) Ballard (1944-52).



Caversham Court Gardens has been superbly restored with the help of the Reading Civic Society and, in particular, the Gazebo and its pathway are well worth a visit. On the walls of the Gazebo are recorded the history of the place including its long occupation by the Loveday family, many of whom were at Reading School including the noted antiquary John Loveday (from 1717-1728 under Headmaster Haviland Hiley who became a lifelong friend).

Also restored on the initiative of the Reading Civic Society was the monument on the south wall of the Minster Church of St Mary's in the Butts to the young Danish prisoner of war, Laurentes Braag. Amongst the subscribers to the original memorial may be seen the name of Dr Richard Valpy (Headmaster 1781-1830) and other names familiar in Reading School's history, for instance Blandy and Vansittart.

Yet another memorial, of Great War dead, from Reading's long demolished Trinity Congregational Church has been discovered in a scrap yard and is now in the possession of the Western Front Association. They were able to identify where it came from through the 1918 obituary, in the Berkshire Chronicle, of Lt Walford Vernon Knowles, Royal Berkshire Regiment OR (1909-1916) who was the third ex-Captain of School to lose his life in the 'war to end all wars'. Other ORs on the plaque are Harry E Aust (1908-14), Francis S Brain (1901-07) and William M Cooper (1909-16 another Captain of School). It is planned to mount the plaque in the Minster Church of St Mary's when we hope that OR Association representatives will be present.

J V (Rolly) Martin (1935-43) – apropos of something else entirely – recalled a youthful romance between J V Cook (1936-43) – fine swimmer at School – and Angela Lansbury (currently starring on Broadway and familiar to most from 'Murder, She Wrote' and her family connection to the 1930s Labour Leader, George Lansbury) who were amongst a group of circa 14 year olds who used to meet at Palmer Park. What became of Cook? (Rolly says he was in the Merchant Navy but thereafter?)

The BBC Two programme *Beautiful People* is based on the autobiography of S D (Simon) Doonan (1969-71). It has now completed its second series and might be described as a 'free adaptation'; the action takes place in the 1990s, a very different Reading from Simon's boyhood years of the 1950s and 60s.



M J (Michael) Wild LGSM (1940-48) *pictured left*, has recently had six collections of songs performed and played by him at the piano released on CD. They are available from *Dress Circle, 57-59, Monmouth Street, London WC2H 9DG, Tel: 0207 2402227 or 0207 8218478* and celebrate his 60 years in show business. His website is: www.myspace.com/michaelwildmusic.

G J (Graham) Harvey (1955-62) is the Agricultural Story Editor of BBC radio's longest running serial *The Archers* (listen for the credits!) and recently appeared on BBC One South West's *Inside Out*, which gave some insights into both how the serial is made and Graham's own countryside interests.

The Reading Post of 18 November reported the (failed) application by T A (Tom) Dobbs (1999-01) to commemorate the marriage of Tom and Jacqui Levey last year by having a plaque placed on the bench in Reading where T J (Tom) Levey (1999-01) and Jacqui (ex Kendrick) first met in 2001. The Leveys married on 14 March 2009 and now live in West Reading.

The Hon Secretary, D B (David) Cox (1951-56), celebrated his 70th birthday on 5 November. There were firework displays throughout Reading and beyond.

William David McKenzie, Baron McKenzie of Luton, is a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. He is an accountant who twice contended the Luton South seat unsuccessfully and was elevated to the peerage in 2004. As W D McKenzie he was at School from 1957-64, in East House.

Many ORs will remember the picture of a young D J Grindal (1985-92) presenting flowers to HM The Queen at the School's Refounding Quincentenary in 1986. Another photograph of Dave Grindal – at a sponsored bed push in 1991 - Dave taking it lying down and being pushed by friends R A B Duncan (1985-92) and S P Jolly (1985-92) - appeared in the Reading Post's *'Pick of the Past'* and in his response last May, Dave said that he now lives in Hampshire and for the last 10 years has flown Chinooks, often over Reading. Simon Jolly lives in Northern Ireland but Dave has lost touch with Rich Duncan. Can anyone help?

G R X (Gilles) Hickson (1988-93) specialises in the mechanisms of molecular cell division - cytokinesis - and is researching viral diseases immunities and cancers. Eventually improved knowledge should enable disease to be targeted in different ways and lead towards improvement in cancer treatments. He is currently working at the internationally-renowned research centre at the Sainte-Justine University Hospital which is affiliated to the University of Montréal where Gilles also has a post in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology.



The School's Governing Body - which numbers, at full strength 22 in all plus the Principal (ex officio) – currently contains three ORs: R P (Rodney) Huggins (1944-52), C A (Cedric) Scroggs (1952-59) and R (Richard) Childs (1971-78).

J A (Jonathan) Daly (2001-08) graduated in Engineering Science from St John's College, Oxford and their magazine *TW* (i.e. *Thomas White...*) records that he is now an Undergraduate Scholar.

Reverend A C (Alan) Stockbridge (1942-52) and Chaplain at School (1978 – 82) was sighted recently by the Co-editor (text) who was without, unfortunately, the Co-editor (images) to pictorially record the occasion. Alan, over here for a few days from his home in Bavaria, with his wife and family, said he would very much like to be put in touch with D J B (David) Potter (1942-52). Can anyone help?

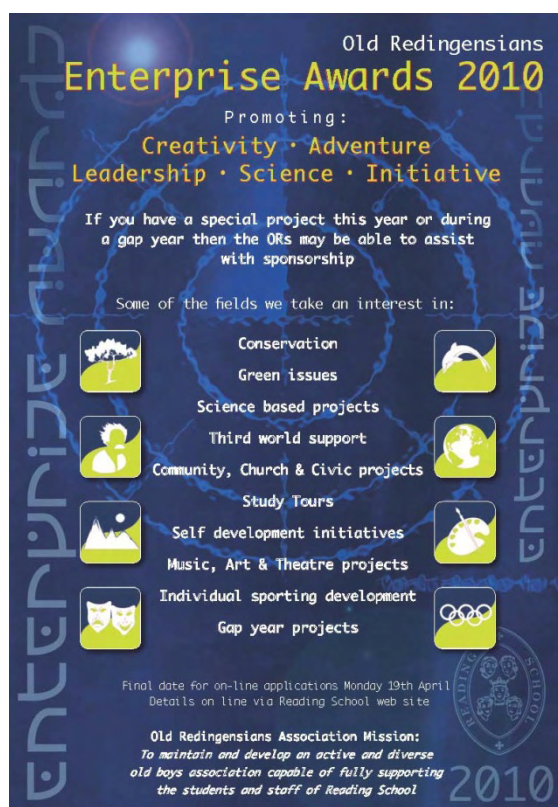
On the same occasion the co-editor (text) encountered the widows – who now share a house in Northcourt Avenue, Reading – of the missionary Drs P H (Peter) Williams (1932-40) and E H (Ted) Williams CBE (1930-33), and he also met the mother of P N (Paul) Dyer (1963-70). Paul now practises as a solicitor in Ringwood.

The role of Major J M (John) Perry (1942-49) in fighting for justice for disabled ex-service men's pensions is well known, and he received the Butterworth Tolley Tax Award in 2002 for the best contribution to the field of tax. He is currently involved with Major Richard Perkins, a 92 year old ex Chindit, whose circumstances have been described as *'an outrageous case of double think (by) the MoD'*. Received wisdom suggests that he has a cast iron case which would need little preparation. Major Perkins, now without funds, seeks a barrister on a 'no win, no fee' brief (but a generous fee in the event of any recoveries). The claim is for in excess of £90,000. Any OR barrister reading this who wants to know more should e-mail: johnfredperry@aol.com.

J R (Richard) Nicholson (1999-02) is now teaching in Chile. When the earthquake occurred on Saturday, 27 February he was in Santiago, where he lives. Luckily for him his district of Nunoa (and indeed most of the city) was not too badly affected but Richard says there was utter devastation to the Maule area 150 miles to the south.

Reading FC's historian D R (David) Downs' (1952-59) encyclopaedic knowledge of the Club has been much called upon this year by the local press, as the Club's fine FA Cup run progressed to the quarter final of the competition (where they lost 2-4 to Aston Villa) for the first time since 1927.

Enterprise Awards



This year's programme was launched in the week commencing 18 January - a briefing by Mrs Beverley Taylor for years 7, 8 and 9 - and on 26 February in Big School by F J Pocock and M H W Maule for years 10, 11, 12 (and 13 under certain conditions).

Posters showing the final application date of 19 April – see below – were displayed throughout the School to enable the Enterprise Awards Panel, under the chairmanship of M H W Maule PP (1956-59), to make their final assessment by the end of April and communicate the results to applicants in early May. A table of award winners will appear in the Autumn 2010 issue of this journal.

Reports from projects successfully completed by **2009 award winners** are still being received and are demonstrating the side range of different activities funded by the scheme.

Amongst some excellent submissions, was Alastair Crosswell's who was awarded £350 when in form 12C. His report is reproduced below (regrettably space only allowed the reproduction of some of the vibrant images which accompanied it.

World Tap Championships by Alastair Crosswell

In March 2009, I was selected to represent England in tap dancing, through a number of rigorous auditions. I have been dancing since the age of 4, so this was a dream come true for me. And so, in December 2009, I competed in the World Tap Championships, held in Riesa, Germany.

The cost of England competing (including a week's accommodation, travel, studio fees and training) was about £15,000 between 21 dancers. Unfortunately, the team did not manage to secure any grants or company funding, as funding was often only available for disadvantaged children or for events held in the UK. However, we raised money ourselves by bag packing in Sainsbury's, busking, asking people to donate change into empty Smarties tubes, holding auctions and producing quiz sheets, sold at £1 each. As well as these activities, to help cover my own costs, I applied to the Old Redingensians Association for a grant and was lucky enough to be awarded £350.

As each country is only permitted three entries per section, I was particularly thrilled when I was chosen to compete in the Adult Male Solo section, despite being only 17.

We rehearsed every Sunday for five hours, from April to December. The rehearsal process was exhausting but allowed me to form close bonds with everyone in the team, and the hours of rehearsal paid off in Germany.

In all, 31 countries and 1500 dancers competed. The whole competition was run on a huge scale, with full processions where each country brought on their flag.

However, undaunted, England and its team of 21 dancers qualified nine out of its 14 entries in the competition through to the Semi-Finals, with four entries reaching the Finals. Our successes were greatest in the Junior section, with a 2nd place for the boys and a 5th place for the girls.

Personally, I far exceeded my own expectations. I danced in three different sections – solo, small group and formation (which is a large group). In the Adult Male Solo, with a dance I had choreographed myself, I reached the Semi-Finals, and finished 11th. Although England has only been competing for a few years, this was still the highest ranking any Adult soloist has achieved for England.

In the Adult Small Groups, England entered two groups – one all boys and one all girls. The boys routine that I was in reached the Final, finishing 7th overall (and beating the girls!) and the “tribal” – style formation number also reached the Final and finished 7th in its section – an excellent result for the whole team.



Boys Small Group – Alistair is in the centre



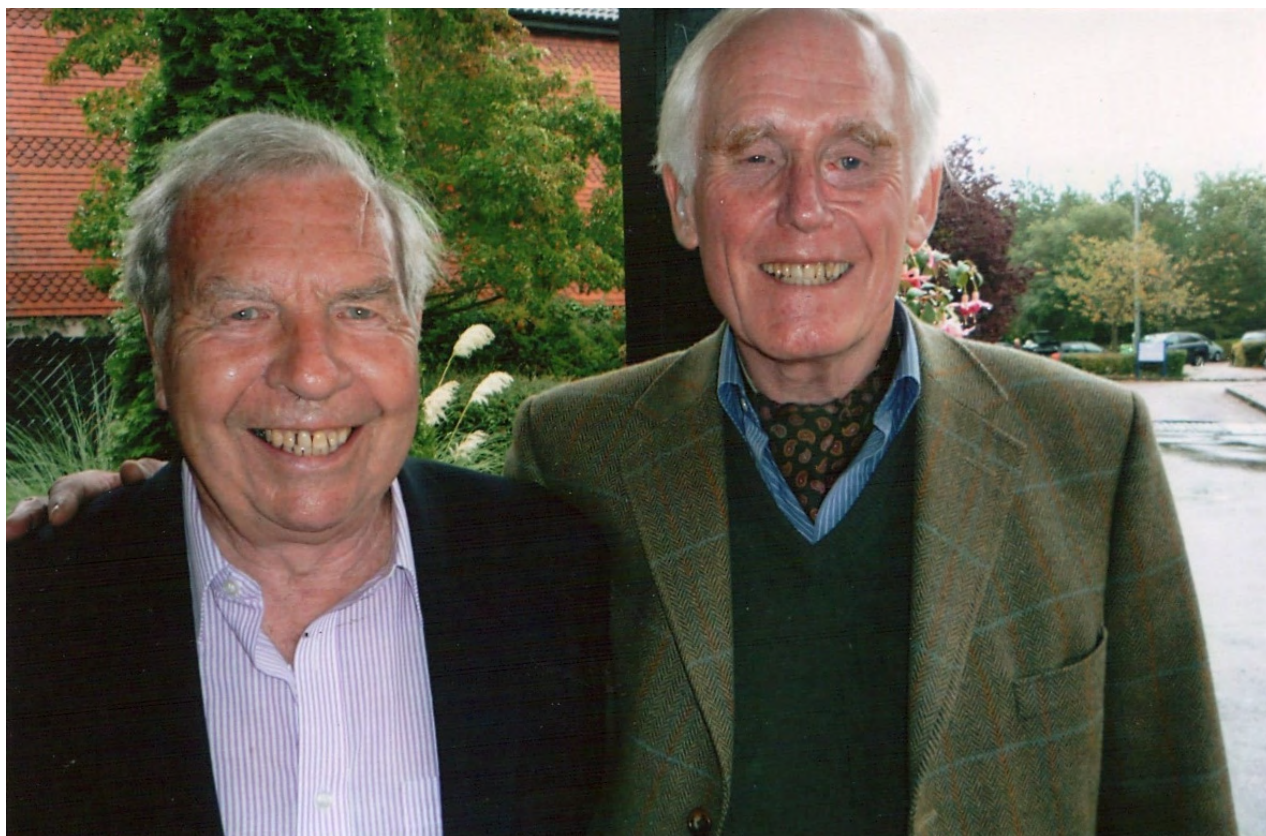
Adult Formation

All in all, I had the time of my life competing for England in an activity that I love, and I am delighted to be able to say that I am now ranked 11th in the world for tap dancing! This event has allowed me to boost my profile and allowed me to witness a standard of tap dancing that I had never seen before. My OR grant was a tremendous help, and allowed me to be part of a spectacular event. Thank you Old Redingensians!



Alistair dancing his solo in Germany

Reverend Gentlemen



Pictured above are the Venerable Peter Coombs (left) with the Reverend David Weekes one day in October 2009. Their meeting in Southampton was the first time these two former School Captains, both of West House (P B Coombs 1939-47, D J Weekes 1947-53) had met in 62 years. David is NOT sporting a monocle.... Mrs Catherine Coombs took the photograph.

In the present century we know not of any School Captain entering the Church; pre-1900 there were a goodly number, as to be expected (we shall mention only one - simply because of his sonorous name; **Warin Ashbel Lowsley**, Captain of School 1886). The 100 years from 1900 to 1999 produced the following (E&OE). In each case the year shown is the year of appointment as Captain:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|--------------|
| Rev Canon P M Sharp | Captain of School | 1912 | County House |
| Rev J Boulton | " | 1915 | West House |
| Rev R F Wright | " | 1916 | East House |
| Bishop B E Butler | " | 1919 | West House |
| Rev Canon J R Lewis | " | 1920 | East House |
| Rev E C E Bourne | " | 1930 | East House |
| Rev Canon F J Room | " | 1942 | County House |
| Venerable P B Coombs | " | 1946 | West House |
| Rev D J Weekes | " | 1952 | West House |
| Rev D N Dominy | " | 1955 | East House |



(The Boarders of the 20th century were, it seems, a godless lot...)

Bishop Butler, who died in 1986, was described in a national newspaper as *'one of the best loved priests in the Country'*. He was Abbot of Downside for 20 years, Abbott President of the English Benedictine Congregation and played a significant part in the Second Vatican Council. Last year he was given a commemorative wall plaque in Big School.

KCB

Tracking the Tea Trays No 12



WILLIAM CREED was probably born in 1614 and was at Reading School during Dr Andrew Bird's long Headmastership. Creed went as a White Scholar to St John's College, Oxford in 1631, became MA in 1639 and BD in 1646. He suffered for his Royalist views but at the Restoration in 1660 was appointed to the prestigious post of Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford and became Archdeacon of Wiltshire, in which county he was the rector of Stockton and a prebendary of Salisbury. KCB

AGM and Annual Dinner 2010

Saturday, 20 November 2010
Reading School
AGM in The Lecture Room
Dinner in Big School

(AGM 5 pm Bar Opens 6 pm
Dinner 7 pm)

Ticket Price £30 (Members only)
(Recent Leavers £25)

Contact Barrie Shelton, Social Secretary
for provisional bookings
at
Underwood
White Hill
Remenham
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
RG9 3HA

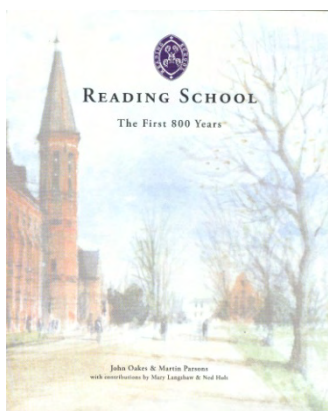
Tel: 01491 573431

social@oldredingensians.org.uk

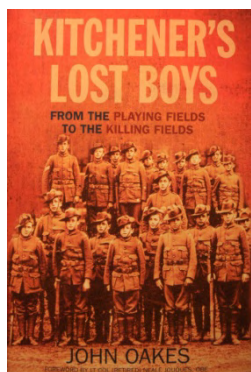
John Oakes' and Martin Parsons' *Reading School – The First 800 Years*

(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.



Tracking the Tea Trays No 13



This latest 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

A pupil of Dr Valpy, Headmaster (1781-1830) HENRY ALWORTH MEREWETHER (DCL, Oxford) was a serjeant at law and QC of exceptional ability, rising to Attorney General to the Dowager Queen Adelaide and relinquishing a £5,000 income at the Bar to become Town Clerk of London in 1842. He held the post until 1859 and it was said that it had never been filled with such dignity as in his time. He was also Recorder of Reading and, amongst other works, one of the authors of *The History of the Boroughs and Municipal Corporations of the United Kingdom* (1835). KCB

Events

Remembrance Service 8 November 2009



Maj Gen Wildman, Rev Marr, Rev Hemsley and the Principal

Rev David Hemsley (1945-53), the OR Chaplain, once more presided and the congregation was of similar number to last year, but with a few new faces in it and also present were no less than 5 Past Presidents of the OR Association and the School Principal Mr John Weeds.

The latest in a long line of OR preachers at OR Annual services was Rev P B (Peter) Marr (1948-53). Peter retired from St Barnabas, Beckenham, in 2003 and moved to Plymouth, whence he had come 'up the line' as Plymouthians say, to be in his old School Chapel.

The Latin tag from Horace '*Quod petis, hic est*' – *What you seek is here* – he felt to be most apt but believed that whilst there must be a seeking it has to be in the present, and his thoughtful illustrations of how we may use the right remembrance of the past to help future generations, provided we act with integrity in the present, were well received.

Mr Nicholas Woods FRCO played the organ and Lewis Anderson sounded the last post and reveille with the clarity and beauty we have come to expect from him over the last five years at Remembrance Services. He will himself be an OR by the time of the next one.

Major General M L Wildman CBE (1958-65) pronounced the Act of Remembrance and the wreath layers were Major General Wildman, K C Brown (1955-63) and Cadet Flt Sgt William Atkins.

The retiring collection in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was generously supported and after the service the congregation walked down the drive for refreshments in the Music School – 'Junior School' as it is still thought of by many. KCB

Reading School Act of Remembrance 11 November 2009

A Remembrance Day Service was held in the quadrangle for the third year running and the Order of Service is now becoming established. After a welcome and introduction by the Principal, Mr John Weeds, opening prayers were said with the Chaplain, Mr Chris Evans OR.

This 90th year of Remembrance was marked by a moving address by Mr John Oakes (former Master at School and OR Past President) who described the appearance of the quad 100 years ago; and told the pupils now listening to him that the boys who formed the 1st XV in 1911 a few short years later served in the First World War. Seven of them were killed and others injured – the even younger members of the 1914 1st XV lost four of their number in that war. The United Kingdom had 250,000 boys under the age of 18 serving in the 1914-18 war; it is now the only country in Europe that still recruits at the age of 16 (before, of course, full physical maturity and indeed before the brain is fully developed - that does not normally happen until age 19).

John Oakes recalled two dreadful experiences of his own service career and placed the horrors of war in full context, mentioning the awful statistic that today there are over 300,000 boy soldiers fighting in 17 different countries. His words had a profound effect on all those present.

Prayers were led by the Prefects, '*In Flanders Field*' was read - as had earlier been '*Please Wear a Poppy*' - the Captain of School, Matt Hill, rendered the *Act of Remembrance* and Lewis Anderson played *The Last Post* (and *Reveille*) with his usual accomplishment. After the two minutes silence wreaths were laid by representatives of the four Houses and the Vice Captain of School, Ben Morris, spoke the well known words from the Kohima Memorial "*When you go home.....*".

Cadet WO William Atkins' wreath bearing party then moved smartly off through the cloisters and the Vice Principal, Mr Ashley Robson, thanked and dismissed the congregation. A number of ORs were privileged to attend this dignified and sombre occasion. KCB

The 121st Annual General Meeting 28 November 2009

The meeting took place at Caversham Heath Golf Club and was attended by 26 members with 30 apologies for absence. The Membership Secretary read out the names of the 28 Old Redingensians known to have died in the previous 12 months, the Minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved and reports were provided by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Secretary, Membership Secretary, Archivist and on sporting activities.

The Report and Accounts for the 2008-09 year were presented and approved

The pages of *The Old Redingensian* have already recorded the events of the year described in the reports, but greater detail was given in three particular areas; the proposed new website *OR Connect*, the School Campaign for the 1125 Fund, and the Enterprise Awards. Additionally, there was discussion on the allocation of the legacy left by the late W T Knight OR.

Two proposals were passed:

- To increase the limit (under Article 52, of the M & AA) from £3,000 to £10,000 for disbursements and delete the limit for receipts.
- To purchase a new grand piano for Big School at circa £9,500.

The auditors, James Cowper, were re-elected.

Following the required elections the ORA Council of Management for the ensuing year is as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President: | Major General M L Wildman CBE | |
| Vice President: | Dr F J Pocock | |
| Immediate Past President: | N R Thomason | |
| Secretary: | D B Cox | |
| Treasurer: | I R Moore | |
| Membership Secretary: | C J Widdows | |
| Social Secretary: | B Shelton | |
| Other Councillors: | (a) The Principal (or his nominated member of staff) | |
| | (b) Lt Col N A Jouques | (3 year term expires 2010) |
| | J M Evans, K C Brown (Archivist) | (3 year terms expire 2011) |
| | A Butler, Rev D R Hemsley, H Hussain, | |
| | J D Osun-Sanmi, C A Scroggs, A Wrenn | (3 year terms expire 2012) |

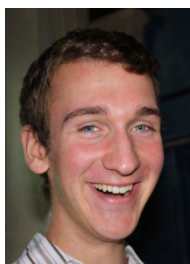
The new Councillors (*pictured below*) fill the four vacancies left by those not standing for re-election viz. T L Cartwright, N A Brown, W E Lunn and I H O Price. (C A Scroggs and A Wrenn were re-elected for further three year terms.) In addition the following attend in a non-voting capacity:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| R P Huggins (Foundation & Gov body) | (co-opted member of Council) |
| E S Holt , Master at School, | (co-opted member of Council) |
| School Captain | (by invitation) |
| Vice Captain | (by invitation) |
| Development Officer | (by invitation) |

W E Lunn will continue as Golf Representative and the other sports representatives are J M Evans (Athletics and Cricket), E S Holt (Football) and A Wrenn (Rugby).

The meeting closed at 18.05 hours.

KCB



A Butler



Rev D R Hemsley



H Hussain



J D Osun-Sanmi

Annual Dinner 28 November 2009

Caversham Heath Golf Club proved an adequate venue with a comfortable and spacious bar and dining area for the 80 members and guests who sat down. A further five acceptors were unable to make it on the night which was both cold and rain swept. A small archive display attracted much attention.

Amongst those present was a strong contingent of 1959 leavers (rounded up by M H W Maule PP) a dozen under the age of 30 and South House contemporaries of the President, Major General Murray Wildman, including his twin Group Captain Peter Wildman – still virtually impossible to tell apart from his brother!

Rodney Huggins (1944-52) is fast becoming indispensable as toast master, Murray Wildman (1958-65) presided with humour and aplomb, the Principal revealed that he was born in the year of the Cuban Missile crisis, and Neil Thomason (1966-73) was thanked for his achievements in his year as President (not least for his efforts on behalf of The School Campaign for the 1125 Fund).

The principal guest, John Oughton (1963-71), former Captain of School and latterly a distinguished civil servant, regaled the company with often humorous reminiscences of the great and the good in Whitehall during his career. The present Captain of School, Matthew Hill, delivered an accomplished speech comprehensively summarising the School in his time, greetings were read out from the OR Australasian and US branches and a pleasant evening was spent by all from the oldest (former Master and PP Frank Terry, at 92) to the youngest (still in their teens).
KCB



Top Row: Table 8 (above); M L Wildman & M Hill (middle); M S Rolfe/G W O Price & P G Chadwick (below); W E Lunn & F J Pocock; M L Wildman; M L Wildman & P G Wildman; I G Judd

Middle Row: B Shelton & J P Allen; A V Page; F H Terry & R W Lewis/D W Evans (above); J P Allen & D R Hemsley (below); J H Hickey; R P Huggins

Bottom Row: M Hill; B T Sarfas; J D Osun-Sanmi & A Butler & R D Applewhite & B Morris & N Mawkin & M Hill & P F E Hurst; M Hill & J R C Oughton (above); D F Sturrock & K C Brown & R House (below); D R Hemsley; J R C Oughton

Not pictured: John Weeds; Mrs Sarah Weeds; Mrs Claire Toms; Rob Toms; Mrs Marilyn Bentley ; Paul Bentley; Ben Morris; D K Smith; J V Martin; R E Elphick; P E Birch; M J Wild; B A Cullingford; B G T Titchener; G H Jones; J Holt; C Evans; D B Cox; J Illman; D R Downs; I P Latto; G L Potter; C A Scroggs; B J Morley; C J Widdows; M H W Maule; M J King; C J Glenn; N H R Evans; A A Glenn; E S Holt; N R Thomason; N C Burrows; G P Cook; J M Evans; E T Thacker; S R Thomas; J V Oakes; R F Perkins; P Staker; A Wrenn; P A Davies; C S Forrest; S J Johnston; S Lambert; J Staker; D J Whitwell; P H Williams; I R Moore; J M Kennedy; T V Shore

Civic Reception in The Mayor's Parlour 19 January 2010

Councillor Fred Pugh, The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading, kindly granted a reception for 20 ORs, most of whom had links with the business community in Reading, from 6.30 – 8.30 pm in the Mayor's Parlour on 19 January.



The evening, organised by Social Secretary Barrie Shelton *pictured left*, was deemed both successful and enjoyable by those who attended (which included J V Oakes former Master at School and PP, the originator of the forerunner of this occasion in 2000; A R Waring who was President in that year and John Symonds whose MBE in the last New Year's Honours List was earned for work in the local community). A full list of those attending is shown below..

On 5 March a framed Old Redingensians tie was presented to the Mayor as a memento of the event.



Pictured l to r above: J V Oakes; J Holt; B Shelton; R Elphick; R J Symonds; B J Morley; N R A Bion; Mrs Jean Pugh; M L Wildman; The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Fred Pugh; D B Cox; A Wrenn; M H W Maule; G L Guppy; C A Scroggs; N R Thomason; R P Huggins; A R Waring; C A Hubbard; D R Downs
Present but not in the picture: N C Burrows; I L Martin; C J Widdows

The Ninth 'Fifty Years On' Luncheon 27 January 2010

For the ninth year in succession, friends and contemporaries of Denis Moriarty and Peter Stevens at Reading School between 1943 and 1954 forgathered at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall, London, to renew old acquaintance; to audit the debits and credits of more than 50 years; and to proclaim '*Floreat Redingensis!*'.

For Denis and me it is always a very great pleasure that so many of our fellow ORs are willing to join us at our Club and to bear the strains and expenses of travelling to London, and to share in the cost of an 'unofficial' – but we hope nonetheless acceptable – OR Luncheon.

On Wednesday 27 January 2010, 28 of us assembled in the green and gold splendour of the Club's newly refurbished Drawing Room for an invigorating glass or two of champagne or elderflower pressé. Denis welcomed all present with his characteristic bonhomie. When all (or nearly all) were present – the vagaries of rail, bus, underground and taxi services in contemporary London, exacerbated by the prevailing inclement weather, caused some to run it rather fine – the Club's Banqueting Manager, Mr Joe Inglott, who has organised all nine of our Luncheons, called us to table, and we moved to the Princess Marie Louise Room where our places had been allocated.

We remained standing for a minute's silence in memory of two of our number at previous Luncheons, Dr Edmund Hey, a distinguished physician who sadly died on 6 December 2009, and Derek Russell, who finally lost a long and courageous fight with cancer on 17 January 2010. Rodney Huggins also announced the recent death in Australia of Ron Peddley, another contemporary though never present at our reunion lunches. Rodney took the opportunity, as an OR Governor of the School, to report that it was in good shape, and had ranked twelfth of all United Kingdom schools in examination performance. The 1st XI had won its match with the MCC. He had been joined as a Governor by two more ORs, Cedric Scroggs and Richard Childs.

Apologies for inability to be present were announced from 27 of those invited: special mention should be made, among those who sent best wishes for the occasion, of Andrew Bohman (who had been in animated correspondence with Mike Oakley); Chris Smallbone (who was recovering from a badly broken shoulder); and Michael Wolfers (whose journalistic activities had taken him to his villa in Lomé on the frontier of Togo and Ghana, where he was President of the local 'Friends of the Earth' – also of a four-a-side soccer club and had attended a pop concert).

At this point I relinquished the gavel to our 'permanent president', Denis. It was a great pleasure to have with us again The Reverend David Weekes, who said the School Grace, *Benedic nos, Domine, et haec dona quae de tua benignitate sumus sumpturi, per Christum, Dominum Nostrum, Amen* which he had been the first to pronounce as Captain of School in 1952, when it was written by Mr Vale ('Georgie') for use in the Day Boys Refectory – formerly Junior School.

After a sumptuous lunch, during which conversation and claret flowed liberally, the Loyal Toast was proposed by John Stevens (Major, Berkshire Yeomanry, TD). The National Anthem was heartily sung. The Toast to Reading School was proposed by Peter Fiddick, a distinguished journalist and broadcaster, and was drunk in a 1960 Armagnac donated, as is customary at these luncheons, by our Anonymous Benefactor. The School Song, *Floreat Redingensis*, was sung with fervour.

After the toasts a number of us had to depart – John Roper to his constitutional duties as a Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords; Dermot Rooney to Shrewsbury; David Weekes to Scotland, John Lambourne to Sussex; Anthony Simons; and Cedric Scroggs, who bade us *Ave atque vale!*

(Each of those who remained then spoke for a few minutes – lack of space, alas, means that Peter's meticulous record of the toasts and speeches is not repeated here; however, it should be recorded that Mike Oakley had brought a small display of Harry Weinberger's art – see obituary on page 46: Rodney Huggins gave details of the School Campaign for the 1125 Fund; and there was a rousing musical interlude when Bill Mackereth and Denis Moriarty gave, to great applause, a splendid rendering of 'Sing Hey the Merry Maiden and the Tar' from HMS Pinafore – Ed.).

John Gardiner led us in the now traditional singing of 'For he is an Englishman' and we look forward to our tenth reunion next year.
Floreat Redingensis! PCS



Top row: D M Wise (1949-52); B Messias (1939-47); M J van Brugen (1942-53); M J Oakley (1944-54); R P Huggins (1944-52); J D Gardiner (1947-55) **Middle row:** P R Fiddick (1951-57) and M J Oakley (1944-54); C J Webber (1950-57); W A Mackereth (1950-56); K C Brown (1955-63) (above); R G Oldland (1941-51) (below); P C Stevens (1944-54); M J Duck (1945-55); D Wise (1949-52); D M Bruton (1948-51) **Bottom row:** D J Rooney (1946-55); J M Perry (1942-49); G W O Price (1948-56); J R Stevens (1952-59); P R Fiddick (1951-57); D E H Moriarty (1943-54); W A Mackereth (1950-56); J D Gardiner (1947-55); R P Huggins (1944-52) (below) **Not shown:** A A Barker (1942-49); M J Childs (1946-53); J B Lambourne (1944-52); J F Hodgess-Roper (1948-54); C A Scroggs (1952-59); M L Shattock (1947-55); A C Simons (1950-52); C J Widdows (1955-62); D J Weekes (1947-53)

Forthcoming Events

SPRING MUSICAL EVENING

Saturday 15 May 7 pm



This social evening with a musical theme will be a School event sponsored by The Old Redingensians Association and celebrating the Association's donation of a new piano for Big School. ORs are invited to meet in Big School with the Principal, Staff, Governors and parents. Tickets at £5 per head are available from Mr C J Jobson at the School

(email: cjobson@readingschool.reading.sch.uk) and include a buffet. There will be a pay bar, music on the new piano and a programme of entertainment by School musicians, ORs, parents and friends.

SUMMER FESTIVAL & CRICKET WEEKEND

Saturday 26 & 27 June

This year the cricket will consist of the School 1st XI v. ORs on the Saturday (11:30 am start) and a six-a-side tournament on Sunday. The School will also play the ORs at tennis – starting at 1 pm on the Morgan Road courts. The Parents Association will have a presence; also available will be:

Marquee with Bar

BBQ

Tours of the School

Sign up facility to find old School friends

Music from School musicians

Archive Exhibition

Bouncy castle for children



ORs are urged to support either or both days and, if they so wish, to bring picnics with them and create a true festival atmosphere in the beautiful setting of the School field.

More information on the above events including a timed programme, will be available from:

www.olderedingsians.org.uk

www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk/alumni

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2010



The OR Remembrance Service this year falls on 14 November. It will commence at 10:30 am in the School Chapel and as usual all ORs (including their families) will be welcome.

AGM & ANNUAL DINNER 2010

Contact Barrie Shelton, Social Secretary (see separate advertisement panel on page 9).

A Nutshell History of Our School

By Ken Brown



Reading School is the great School of the Town of Reading and, with the Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin, one of its two oldest surviving institutions. Whilst the *Victoria County History of Berkshire* suggests that it may start even earlier, the School's accredited history dates from 1125. Nine hundred years will soon have passed since its foundation and it will enter its tenth century. This establishment, of such great antiquity, has nurtured men who have made contributions in all spheres of life, local, national, and international, including to the highest offices of our land: an Archbishop of Canterbury (*William Laud, pictured left*) and a Prime Minister (*Henry Addington, pictured right*) amongst them.



The School's history may be divided into three periods and summarized as follows:

I 1125 - 1539: Reading Abbey was founded in 1121 by Cluniac monks under the patronage of King Henry I. The secular functions of the Abbey, including the School, commenced in 1125. Henry VII established grammar school status in 1486, refounding the School in the Abbey's Hospitium of St John. In 1539 the Town was thrown into turmoil with the dissolution of the Abbey.

II 1540 - 1866: Civic responsibilities passed from the Abbey to the Town Corporation. The School's governance was regulated by King Henry VIII's grant of Letters Patent, in 1541, to Headmaster Leonard Coxe. The subsequent Charter that Queen Elizabeth I gave to the Town of Reading in 1560, included clauses that effectively governed the School, in the Forbury, Reading, for a further three hundred years. In the middle of this era came the expansion of the School's buildings - and horizons - under Haviland John Hiley, Headmaster from 1716 to 1750. The School rose to the pinnacle of its fame under Dr Richard Valpy, who was Headmaster from 1781-1830, but there followed a steep decline in its fortunes after his long reign ended and the Victorian gentry began to establish the modern network of Public Schools.

III 1867 to date: With the passing of the Reading School Act of 1867 the School was enabled to move to its present site in Erleigh Road, Reading, where the foundation stone was laid by Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1870 and Alfred Waterhouse's splendid buildings opened in 1871. Following some reconstitution in 1882, the transition to a Maintained School came under Dr William Charles Eppstein (Headmaster 1894-1914), the absorption of Kendrick Boys School in 1916 occurred under George Haydn Keeton (Headmaster 1914-1939), and the Education Act of 1944 (which introduced the 11+) was passed while Charles Edward Kemp was Headmaster (1939-1966). Kemp's fine achievements were recognised by his peers with his election to the Headmasters' Conference.

The twenty-first century Reading School is a Grammar School for boys, of some 880 pupils, which selects on the basis of examined ability, usually at age 11, with further entrants at 13 and 16. It is a state funded foundation school with no fees for day pupils. Boarders pay for food and lodgings but not for schooling. John I Weeds, MA (Pembroke College, Cambridge) became Headmaster (now styled Principal) in 2006. Examination results are outstanding.

In the words of Charles Kemp: "*The History of the Grammar Schools is very largely the history of the nation's secondary education - throughout the centuries the Grammar Schools have been in the mainstream*".

Floreat Redingensis

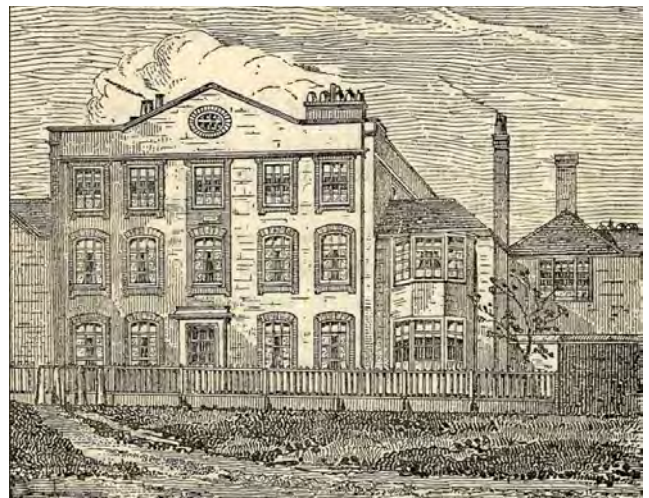
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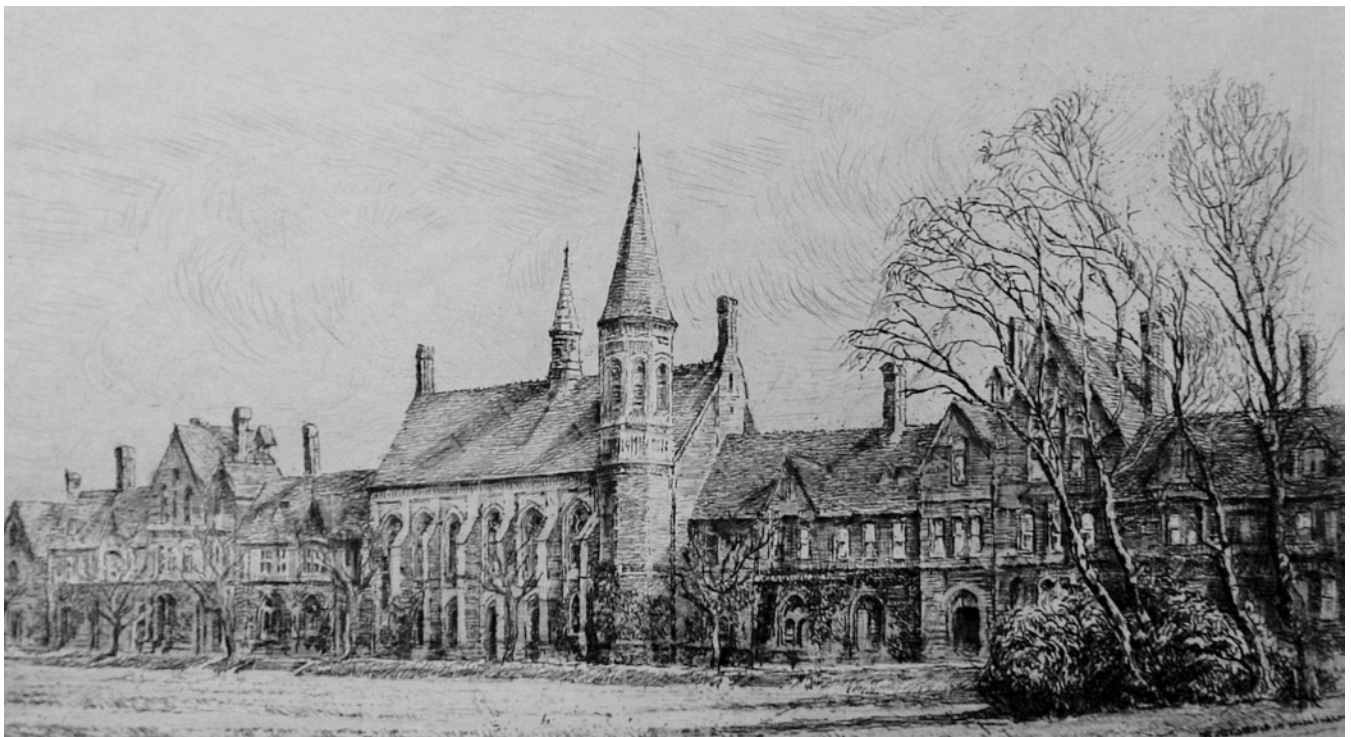
An impression of Reading Abbey



The Hospitium in The Forbury c1800



The Old School House in The Forbury c1820



The School in Erleigh Road opened in 1871



The School Campaign for The 1125 Fund



The Development Board is presently constituted as follows:

Chairman: Mrs Claire Toms
Dr P C H (Philip) Mitchell
Mr R P (Rodney) Huggins
Mr N R (Neil) Thomason
Mr J I (John) Weeds
Mrs V (Virginia) Cullura

School Governor
Chairman of School Governors
Chairman Reading Foundation
Past President, Old Redingensians Association
Principal, Reading School
Parents Association Representative

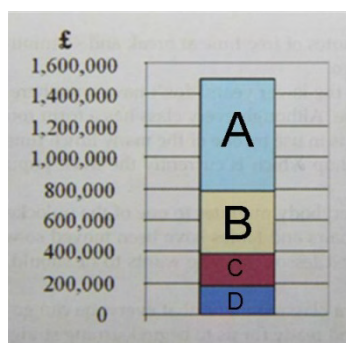
Mr C J (Chris) Jobson OR (1976-83) attends the Board in his capacity of Development Officer and has replaced Mrs Marilyn Bentley who has moved to Norway.

The Spring 2009 issue of *The Old Redingensian* detailed, on page 16, the three phased objectives for which the 1125 fund has been established. This issue again updates progress on **Phase 1** (which Ofsted requires to be implemented without delay).

Phase 1 A dining facility situated in the covered area of the Quadrangle.

Estimated cost: £1,500,000 Time Scale: Immediate

The plans have been passed by English Heritage and further information can be obtained from the School's website (see contact details below). The table *below right* shows the funds still needed, together with an artist's impression of the new facility's interior to supplement the exterior view shown in the last issue.



- A Needed from all other sources**
- B Loan from Foundation**
- C Foundation grant**
- D Donations received by 1125 Fund**



Right: plan showing the Dining Area which will cover 398 square metres and seat 300; the kitchen (84 sq m); area for catering staff (28 sq m); chair store (30 sq m); and lavatories (45 sq m) including facilities for disabled access.

The Parents fund raising campaign has been launched. All boys have full details of the School Campaign: some are acting as Ambassadors for the Fund and others undertaking sponsored activities.

The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association urges ORs to make contact with the School via the Development Office; the Development Officer is Mr C J Jobson, 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)



The Principal's Letter



The relationship between the ORs and the School should quite rightly be viewed as a partnership – arguably the longest standing of all that we enjoy. On many occasions this year I have had cause to reflect on how important such relationships are to us. Given the range and number of existing links, this might seem a strange

time to be seeking out new and varied professional partners. Nevertheless, this kind of work now forms a large part of our developmental thinking. I would like to share with you two specific developments on this front – firstly, our proposal to form a Trust consisting of local primary and secondary schools, the University of Reading and the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust, and secondly our partnership with the Grace Christian School in South Africa. The aim of the Reading Science and Technology Trust is to promote the teaching and resourcing of Science and Technology, including Mathematics and Engineering, both with our own students and for the benefit of other learners of all ages in Reading. This School is one of an elite of high-achieving Science specialist schools which have the capacity to teach at a high level and support the subject in other ways both locally and (inter) nationally. Grace School is one such international partner with an interest in developing its relationship with us generally and in terms of our experience in teaching Science and Maths, in particular, at a high level. I was lucky enough recently to attend the SSAT i-Net Conference in Cape Town. ORs may be aware that our former Chaplain, Dr Neil Applegate is now on the Board of Directors at the Grace Christian School in Siyabuswa in Mpumalanga SA, and has been prominent in creating opportunities for Sixth Form students to visit the school and the country more widely. The purpose of my visit was to attend the conference with the Chair of the Grace School Board of Directors, Mrs Florah Nkoana, and formalise the existing partnership between the two schools. This has now been achieved and I am happy to report that there will indeed be further opportunities for Sixth Form visits – to include teaching and practical experience – and student/teacher exchanges. We are also looking forward to establishing scholarship programmes and establishment of a shared space on our IT network both accessible to Grace School students.

As the School and the country enter a most challenging period from the economic perspective, it is heartening to report that our academic laurels remain intact – although we are never complacent. Our overall placing in the Sunday Times Parent Power ranking of the top 500 such schools in the

country is a most notable achievement. To have risen from 13th to 11th nationally having broken the previous year's record of 90% A-B grades at A-level is a huge credit to the young men from last year's Year 13 and their teachers. It was also very heartening to note the improvement in the proportion of GCSE grades A*-A rise from 76% to over 80% in the space of one year. Quite rightly we pit ourselves against the best the independent and maintained sector has to offer by way of competition, and time and again Reading School students and teachers come up with the goods. Equally admirable has been the success rate of our Sixth Formers in gaining entry to some of the most prestigious degree programmes, including over 70 students who have gone to Oxbridge colleges in the last three years and the 20 students who have gained places on Medical, Veterinary and Dentistry courses in the same period of time.

It is my firm belief that our achievements are due to the spirit of partnership everywhere evident in what we do: the partnership between students and teachers, the School and its community and international partners and, not least, between current and former generations of staff and boys. Much was made in South Africa of the concept of the modern world as a Global Village in which places and people distant in geographical terms are near neighbours thanks to the internet. I would like to think of the family of Old Redingensians as a community often distant from the School today in terms of time and place, but in other ways close in spirit. I am delighted that all such old boys will now be able to keep in touch through the re-launched and revamped OR website. I understand that the Facebook community founded by the School's Development Office is flourishing – another example of the Global Village in action.

To sign off, I offer you a warm invitation to the Spring Social Evening to be held at School on Saturday, 15 May. The 'baby grand' which the ORs have recently donated is a treasured gift and simply must be heard in action, as it was to very fine effect at our recent Lent Concert. Thank you so much for your generosity. Finally on the campaign trail – we are closing in rapidly on the targeted sum for the Refectory project. Current raised sums amount to £810,000, with final permission and listed building consent expected in August 2010. We welcome Chris Jobson (OR) to the Development fold to help us achieve our target over the next six months. Many of you will know him already and will get a chance to meet him at forthcoming events. Good luck to him in his endeavours and thank you all for your continued support for the School.

Floreat Redingensis!
John Weeds
Principal

School News

There is a new School Newsletter – which is circulated to parents, amongst others – Volume I has so far had seven monthly issues. The newsletters can be accessed on www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk.

Cadet WO William Atkins has this year been chosen by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mrs Mary Bayliss, as one of the four 'Lord Lieutenant's Cadets' who will accompany her on official engagements. Toby Robinson 12W, has been awarded a scholarship by the Army.

In a local competition run by Rotary International four Reading School Public Speaking teams did well, the Year 12 team winning the senior competition – which takes them through to a zone final later this year. Sam Molina also won the *Best Speaker* trophy.

Vice Captain of School, A B (Ben) Morris has attained the position of Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral from September 2010 – in addition to an Organ Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge. Reading School has produced a number of outstanding organists. Ben is set fair to follow them.

Roy Zhang, 8S, won joint 1st Prize in the U/14 section of the 2009 London Chess Junior Championship; Alex Ekins, 10S, passed his Grade 8 Piano exam with a High Distinction; Richard Lee, 12E, Dom Burrell, 13W, and Tim Glover, 13E played for the Berkshire Maestros Youth Brass Band at the Music for Youth School Prom in the Royal Albert Hall last December; Ben Roberts of 9W, gained a bronze medal in the British Judo Championship in October.

Art Romano 11C, who received an OR Enterprise Award last year for sailing equipment, has been selected for the *Excel Programme*, which supports young athletes who perform at national level in their sport.

The 1st XV reached the fifth round of the Daily Mail Cup and the U/15s the fourth round of the Daily Mail Vase. The U/13s side are competing for a place in the final of the Berkshire Cup. The U/16 Badminton team were second and the U/14 Badminton team fourth in the County Finals.

Year 12 boys were delighted to receive their GCSE certificates from Ross Brawn, OR (1966-71), hero of the hour as the Principal of the all conquering Brawn Grand Prix team which took the 2009 World Constructors title, with their drivers, Jenson Button and Rubens Barrichello placed first and third in the World Drivers' Championship. Ross was inspirational during his visit and self evidently enjoyed his tour around the School – especially to the workshop where (sadly!) little has changed in the way of equipment although the projects undertaken certainly have.

There are **two** Reading School boys in the 4-strong United Kingdom team which will go to Korea to compete in the 21st International Biology Olympiad; Adam Wright (Year 13E) and Daniel Rowlands (Year 13W)

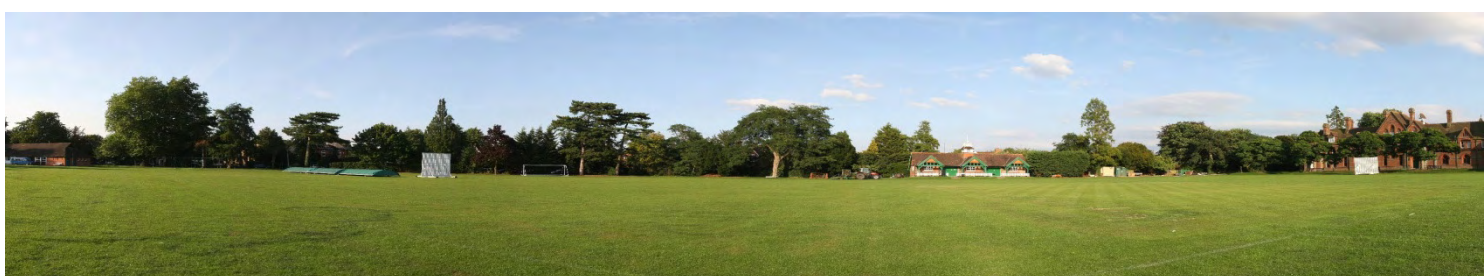
An RS team of four boys, Ben Davey and Andrew Hansford of Y13 and Michael Smith and Josh Ward of Y12 have progressed to the National Finals in London of the Senior Maths Team Challenge Competition.

In the LAMDA Public Speaking Examinations seven boys achieved Grade V, all but one with merit; five boys bronze medal level, including one merit and one distinction; nine boys silver medals (seven merits one distinction) and three boys gold medals - Chris Vidler (E) merit, Eliot Pallot (SH) distinction and Peter Swallow (W) distinction.

Year 11 were taken to a production of 'The Caretaker' last November at the Theatre Royal, Bath. Year 9 were treated to a visit at School in September by MOPA Theatre Touring Company who performed key scenes from 'Of Mice and Men' which is a set book this year. Boarders had a theatre trip to London to see 'Blood Brothers'.

Work on the slate wagon at Didcot Railway Centre (mentioned in the last issue) continues. It is now being dated to 1904, rather than 1903, and the year 12 students engaged on the project are part of the Great Western Society's partnership arrangement to offer heavy engineering work experience to RS pupils.

Professor Kevin Warwick, from Reading University has delivered two lectures at School on the subject of Robotics.



The whole of year 9 visited Big Pit in Blaenavon on 10 November last, as part of the study of industries in South Wales they are undertaking in Geography. The 1900's coal mine is now a museum. Later that month 15 Y9 boys visited the Royal Geographical Society in London to investigate careers in Geography. Year 13's Geography field trip was also to Wales – three days in the Brecon Beacons National Park, based in Abergavenny.

The Annual Geographical Association Quiz was held in November at Reading School for the fourth year running and the Reading School team, Richard Sullivan 9C, Iain Dunn 9E, Matthew Greaves 10S, carried off the trophy.

Appointments to the staff last term were Mr T Sobieniak, (Maths). Dr A Stoneman (Chemistry) and Mrs P Richardson (School Business Manager).

JUNIOR PRESENTATION EVENING 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

This year's Prize giving was divided into two: with years 7,8,9 and 10 receiving their prizes in Big School in a ceremony ably organised by Mrs Beverley Taylor. The Chairman of Governors, Dr P C H Mitchell topped and tailed proceedings, the Principal provided the introduction and the Guest of Honour was Ms Jacqueline Anthony, National Specialism Co-Coordinator for Humanities Colleges. Neil Thomason, ORA President, presented a cheque to members of the World Challenge Expedition to Morocco and Edward Mills, School Prefect, 13E, gave the vote of thanks to Ms Anthony. The guests were treated to a splendid performance of Chopin's *Waltz in E Minor* by Anthony Tat of 8E (despite the Big School piano's present shortcomings). West House carried off the resurrected Pountney Trophy (first presented, for school work, in 1927) and guests took refreshment in the Library to conclude the evening.

INTER HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION 12 NOVEMBER 2009

The House Music Competition, though now established for over 70 years, arrived very much on the back of an existing School music tradition; it has become a tremendous ornament to the School's music year. For the first time the competition moved outside the School to the Great Hall of the University of Reading, which was better able to cater for the larger numbers taking part, and the enthusiastic audience. A splendidly designed programme produced a spectacular evening. Stephen Willis, Director of Music at the Abbey School, adjudicated and the imaginative programmes of all four Houses (West seemed to have most of the House in their choir) resulted in a win for East House. The House Music Captains were: **County:** Nick Hester, **East:** Chris Stent, **West:** Ed Sutton, **School:** Elliot Pallot.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS 14 DECEMBER 2009

St Luke's was again packed for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols first drawn up by Archbishop Benson, when Bishop of Truro, and later modified by Eric Milner-White. The choir under the Director of Music, Mr Philip Aspden, performed at their usual high standard and organist, Mr Nicholas Woods, with his usual accomplishment. Amongst the readers was David Cox, Hon Secretary of the OR Association. The congregation repaired to the Music School (Junior School) after the Service, for mince pies and mulled wine. £800 was raised for the work of Grace School, in Siyabusa, South Africa, where former School Chaplain, Mr Neil Applegate is now on the Board of Directors.

SENIOR PRIZE GIVING 16 DECEMBER 2009

The Great Hall of the University of Reading was again the venue. Christopher Martin-Jenkins, MBE, the distinguished cricket journalist, was the guest of honour and proved a most popular choice to present the prizes and A Level Certificates. His speech was nicely judged for the occasion and extremely humorous. The Mayor of Reading, Councillor Fred Pugh, presented the Annual Stipend and the OR prizes were presented by Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE President of the OR Association. Proceedings were opened and closed by the Chairman of the Governing Body, Dr P C H Mitchell and included an encouraging annual report by the Principal, Mr J I Weeds, an organ performance by Ben Morris (EW) and an assured vote of thanks from Captain of School, Matthew Hill (C).



The Headmaster's Lodge

By Ken Brown



Five Headmasters and one Captain of School have lived at 17 Craven Road and its story is an interesting one. In 1878 a former Mayor of Reading and JP, John Okey Taylor* commissioned the architect Joseph Greenaway Snr to move his villa stone by stone from Queen's Road – finding the expansion of Huntley & Palmers close by disturbing to his peace – and re-erect it in Craven Road, where it was known as *Cravenhurst* until Taylor died at the fine age of 92 in 1918 and it came on to the market.

Pictured left is the house before the move when it was known as *Penrhyn Lodge* and situated at the junction of Queen's Road and King's Road (Reading Gaol can be seen on the horizon and the house faces east). Headmaster's of Reading School since its removal to Erleigh Road and re-opening in 1871 had lived in School House; in 1918 that building was re-named South House and given over entirely to boarding use.

The Headmaster, Keeton, decided to live 'out'; the first Head of Reading School to do so since Haviland John Hiley had built his house for boarders in the 18th century. After an initial interest in another property *Navarre*, also in Craven Road, came to naught, *Cravenhurst* was bought in the summer of 1919, being considered an ideal property for a headmaster of Reading School. Keeton overruled a suggestion to call it *North Lodge* and it became *Headmaster's Lodge* and remained so until a later headmaster, Dr Peter Mason recommended its sale.

The Lodge when it was still *Cravenhurst* is shown right in a photograph taken in 1908 – now facing to the west.



Dr Mason left at the end of the Summer Term 1997 and the decision had already been taken not to include the offer of residence to the incoming Headmaster – Mr A J Linnell. Lack of maintenance over many years had left the Lodge (which is Grade II listed) in a dilapidated state that required in excess of £70,000 to replace the roof alone. Dr Mason himself believed that the Lodge was surplus to requirements and the School Governors eventually took the decision to sell, though not before they had considered serious concerns on the part of other bodies including the OR Association. The Reading Foundation (the Charitable Body which owns the School site – but did not own the Lodge or Bounders Hall or Morgan Road) issued an appeal to purchase the Lodge but finance was not raised in time and it was acquired by the Royal Berkshire Hospital, with the proceeds of the sale being used to help fund the construction of the Kendrick Building.

Those who remember the Headmaster's lawn, or who have played croquet on a Summer's day, or used the tennis courts, would be saddened to see the grounds now; inevitably the interior has been institutionalised - *nihil durare potest tempore perpetuo*.

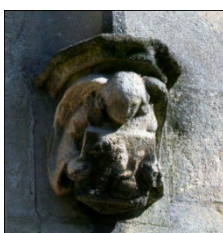
| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------------|
| The Headmasters who lived at the Lodge were: | George Haydn Keeton | from | 1919 to 1939 |
| | Charles Edward Kemp | | 1939 to 1966 |
| | Anthony Tilton Davis | | 1966 to 1978 |
| | Harold Ernest John Bristow | | 1980 to 1990 |
| | Peter R Mason | | 1990 to 1997 |

And the School Captain who lived there? John Okey Taylor's son, William Okey Lamond Taylor, became Captain of the School in 1892. He went to Cambridge and Cuddesdon Theological College taking holy orders in 1900; as Rev W O L Taylor he served during the First World War. On retirement he came back to Reading and lived at 15 Craven Road, next to his old home. He died in 1945.



The photograph above was taken by Chris Widdows in 2010 and shows the Lodge against the background of the School. Eight of the architect's decorative details are pictured below.

* John Okey Taylor is remembered for saying in his electoral year of 1862: *"It takes three centuries to carry anything out in Reading: one to think about it, another to talk about it and another to carry it, out."* He became an extremely wealthy local businessman and there were other members of the Taylor clan at School. – including Lt Cedric Charles Okey Taylor, killed in action in 1916. This 'Reading School family' may be explored in a future article. KCB



The Royal Berkshire Regiment



D R (David) Downs (1952-59) is pictured wearing the tie of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Many Old Redingensians have been entitled so to do, including G (Gerald) Malkin (1938-39 & 1943-47) who, shortly before he died last December (see *In Memoriam* page 54) wrote about his two year National Service. It started on 15 January 1948 with six weeks square bashing at Brock before 28th Training Battalion in Belfast (where he found much better rations) WOSB and Eaton Hall.

Joining the Regiment on Salisbury Plain he went with them to 156 Transit Camp, Port Said, then on to Eritrea where he saw some action and also – after 191 years – the end of the Second Battalion, when it merged with the First. Gerald tells us that he captained the regimental cricket side and became a pay officer and that he sold the story of his return journey to England (via the Medlock Route, Trieste to Hook of Holland) to the *Soldier* magazine – and was paid 2 guineas for it!

In the last issue we recorded those of the Regiment who lost their lives during the First World War. The Second World War also claimed the following ORs who were with, or had been with, The Royal Berkshire Regiment:

Lieutenant H P Thomas, killed in action 16 May 1940 aged 23.

Hugh Protheroe Thomas, the son of Sir Hugh James Protheroe Thomas and Lady Thomas, was at School from 1928-30 (County House). He was reported killed in action during the withdrawal from Flanders whilst the 1st Battalion was in an exposed position above the left bank of the River Lasne.

Second Lieutenant A C Fletcher, killed on active service, 30 May 1940 aged 23.

Arthur Cyril Fletcher BSc was for a short time attached to the School teaching staff when Ronald Liddington was called up for service in June 1939 as an officer of the Supplementary Reserve. Fletcher had been a student teacher at Reading School in Lent Term 1939 so he returned to take Ron Liddington's place in the Summer Term, only to be called up himself, early in Michaelmas Term 1939.

Private D Boyd, died on active service 28 June 1940 aged 20.

Donald Boyd was in West House from 1935-37 and the Royal Berkshire Regiment Roll of Honour records that he was in the United Kingdom when he died.

Captain D P T P S Hayne, died of wounds 8 January 1942 aged 19.

Peter Hayne was at School from 1936-40, in East House, then for his final year a boarder in South House. He won School Athletic Colours and had two younger brothers at School. Initially in the Royal Berkshire Regiment he is not on their Roll of Honour as in 1941 he was able to join his father's regiment 3/17 Dogras IA.

Lieutenant B G Skinner, died on active service 13 December 1943 aged 22.

Bernard Gordon Skinner, County House, 1933-38 was a Shooting Colour and Medalist in the Sussex Cup at Bisley. He died on active service having left the Regiment to become a commando as soon as that branch of the service was formed. He took part in a number of raids and was wounded, and served under Lord Lovat at Dieppe, who said that '*his place will be impossible to fill*'.

Lieutenant A F Pascal, killed in action, 24 September 1944 aged 20

Alan Frank Pascal was in East House from 1932-41, a School Rowing Colour, a Lance Sergeant in the OTC, a winner of the Bisley Cup and led East House to the Section Cup. He had become a lieutenant in the Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron RAC at the time of his death and so is not on the RBR Roll of Honour.

Lieutenant C J M Sharpe, killed in action 12 November 1944 aged 25

The second former Captain of School to be killed in this war, Cornelius Joseph Michael Sharpe was in West House from 1930-37, became Captain of that House and of School Rowing, CSM in the OTC, Hon Sec of the Debating Society and twice winner of the Butler Prize. He worked for Unilever in Hamburg but obtained a Commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment on the outbreak of war. He is not on the RBR Roll of Honour as at the time of his death in Italy he had transferred to the Reconnaissance Corps, RAC.

Captain H H Price, killed in action 14 February 1945 aged 28.

At School a keen actor, Harold Haldane Price was in West House from 1927-33, was married and worked for the Berkshire Milk Recording Society before the War. At the time of his death in Western Europe he was attached to the Wiltshire Regiment.

The following also served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in the Second War at one time or another. The ranks shown are those understood to be held at cessation of hostilities. Any additions or corrections to this list will be welcomed.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ackrill J L | Captain | Mason H C L | Lt Col 12 th FF Rifles IA |
| Anstey M F | Captain | Meaby C H | Private |
| Appleby W J | Private | Messer R H | Major (wounded) |
| Aveline A P | Brigadier CBE MC | Milne I A | 2 nd Lieutenant |
| Barnes R G | L/Corporal | Morgan J | L/Corporal |
| Bayliss D R | Corporal | Murray D G F | |
| Bennett H T | Private | Oades C E | Captain |
| Bradley R A | Captain | Patience D W | Captain RE |
| Chittenden A E | Private Worcs Regt (PoW) | Penson H G | Staff Sergeant REME |
| Clarke A B L | Major | Petty R C | Corporal |
| Cooke H R | Captain (wounded) | Powell K A | 2 nd Lieutenant |
| Cooper G A J | Private | Prater D H | Captain (wounded) |
| Coulter J C | Driver RE (PoW) | Reddrop D R T | Captain MiD (PoW) |
| England F G | Captain | Saunders-Jones R | 2 nd Lt Mahratta LI IA |
| Ferguson I G W | Lieutenant (wounded) | Savill D J | Lieutenant |
| Fowler R H C | Major | Savill G P | Captain |
| Fulbrook-Leggatt C St Q O Maj Gen CBE DSO MC | | Sewell R A | L/Corporal |
| Goldberg M | Lieutenant | Slade J A | Private |
| Good A R | Private | Stanley D C | Sergeant |
| Guy R A | L/Corporal | Steel E | Captain Gurkhas IA |
| Haigh R | Captain MC | Stokes D G | Captain |
| Hartley K E | Captain DSO MC and Bar | Thomson W J | |
| Holtom R J | Captain | Tierney E G | Corporal |
| Hounsome J F A | 2 nd Lieutenant | Tilton D W | L/Corporal |
| Huggins R | Major | Vanderpump R E | Captain Recce Regt RAC |
| Ince A N C | Lieutenant | Warrick E W | Major |
| Jenkins R P W | L/Corporal | Wellings V G | Captain Intelligence Corps |
| Josey F H | Lieutenant MiD | Wheeler R P | Lieutenant |
| Lloyd F G | Captain | Wiggins W N C | Major |
| Lloyd-Davies D | Captain Para. Regt (PoW) | Willis R F G | Lieutenant |
| Macer T H | Captain MC | Woodland E J R | Private (PoW) |
| Markham S R | Lieutenant | | |



Dakota Incident

by Sue Hubbard

These electrifying incidents in the war service of Bryan Powell MBE OR (1924-33) were written up by his daughter, Sue Hubbard, and recalled in the eulogy delivered at his funeral by Peter Charles, son-in-law of Bryan's cousin, K P (Ken) Stevens OR (1927-32) – see Bryan's obituary in the Autumn 2009 journal. Bryan had a demanding war which might have shattered a lesser man; he remained the modest, steady and archetypal English gentleman all his life – Ed.



In early 1940 my father was commissioned into the Royal Engineers. He married Barbara Webb in July 1941 and after a brief honeymoon it was to be 4 years before they were together again. *(Barbara is the sister of OR's E (Eric) Webb (1922-29) dcd and J (Jack) Webb (1924-31) dcd and aunt to J R (Jim) Webb (1952-58) – Ed).* He served with the 14th Army in the Burma Campaign, rising to the rank of Captain and for the last three years he was the regimental adjutant. During those years experiences were endless but mention must be made of two.

The first was crossing the mighty Irrawaddy River in Burma; troops and heavy equipment on an open barge. Suddenly from nowhere a Japanese plane appeared and fired on them indiscriminately. The carnage was appalling. Bryan was one of only a handful who were uninjured. When they reached the river bank, those that could fled into the jungle and hid up trees for two days. Weakened by the heat and lack of food it is a miracle they survived. It is not recorded how they found their way to safety.



The second is 'Grandpa's Famous War Story'. It is spring 1945 and the war is finally drawing to a close. Capt Powell, still behind enemy lines in Burma, receives papers that he is to be posted back to Britain:-

It was a Dakota, captained by a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, that was to fly him out of Burma to Chittagong on the north east coast of India. They took off from a runway in a jungle clearing, flying west over mountainous terrain that was covered in dense jungle. However, they had not been airborne for long when they encountered a very severe storm and the pilot realised that he couldn't steer away from it as they were flying along a valley with high mountains on either side. Neither could the heavily laden plane fly up and above the storm. He said their only chance was to find somewhere to land. The situation looked impossible and Bryan remembered thinking *"After surviving 4 years of combat is this now the end?"* But all eyes were peeled for a place to put down and they made a very bumpy landing on a partly dried up lake bed.

Unfortunately, the undercarriage was seriously damaged and they had no radio signal to call for help; and – they were still behind enemy lines. The crew spent three days repairing the aircraft as best they could. During this time Capt Powell, only 29 years old but the most senior rank on board, assumed responsibility.



He organised a working party to clear a sufficient take off strip but only 400 yards were possible; after this there was the lake, they must take off before that! The few rations that they had were shared out. On the second day some native tribesmen came out of the jungle with offerings of food but they could not risk accepting them for the fear that they may be poisoned. It was known that some tribes were in league with the Japanese. During this time they were a prime target for a stray Japanese plane and they did hear planes in the distance but none passed overhead.

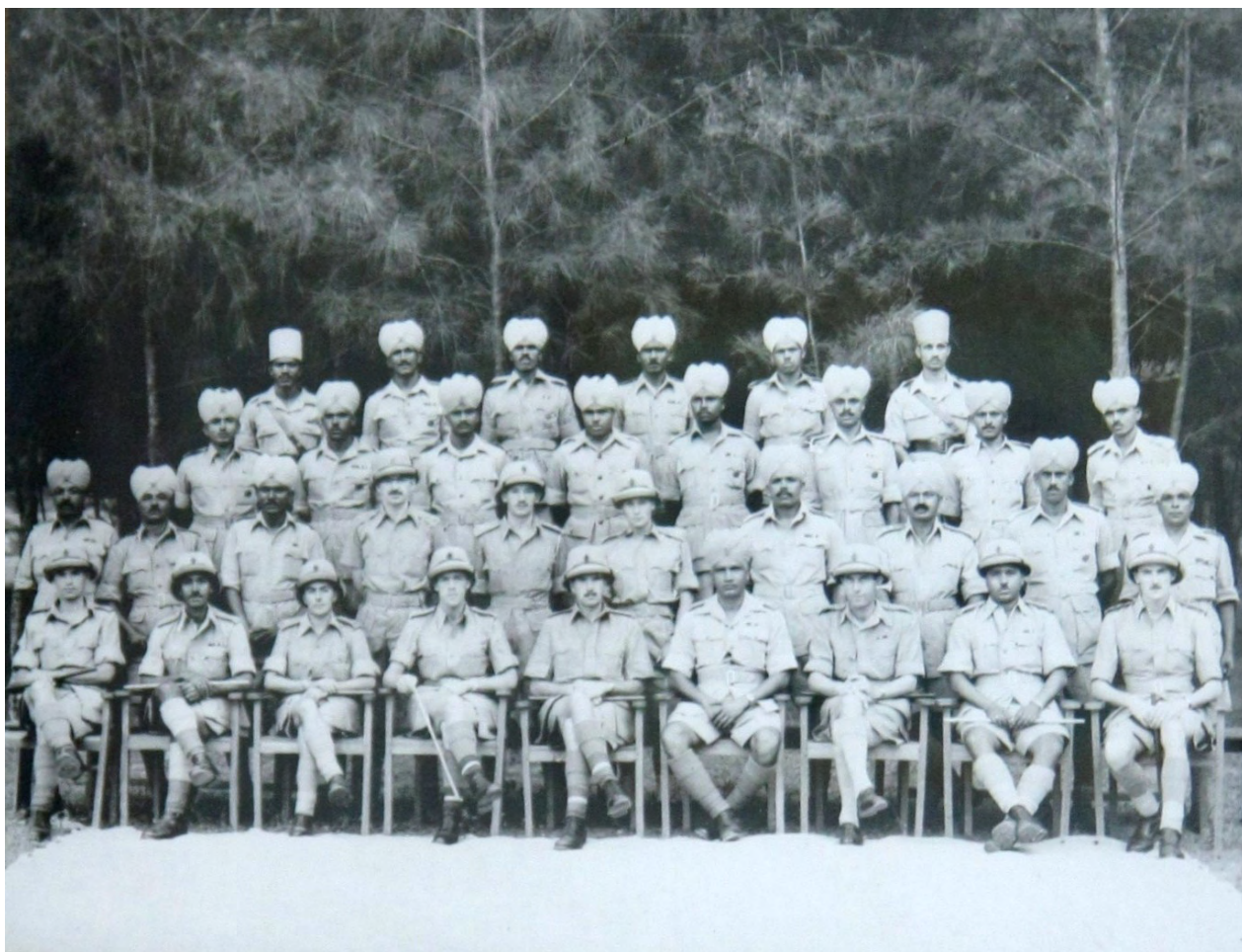
A sergeant on board with four men decided that their chances were so slim that he and his men, against Capt Powell's orders, headed off on foot. Their fate is not known.

After three days the plane and runway were as ready as possible and they were anxious to leave. The plane was propped up on one side and the pilot was to rev the engine up to the maximum possible before releasing the brakes and letting the plane hurtle towards the lake. They all crouched down as far forward as they could to lessen the weight on the tail. One thing was for sure – there would only be one opportunity! They travelled towards the lake at terrific speed and hit the water with a bang but somehow just managed to get airborne. However, there was more excitement to come as they realised that the undercarriage was now so severely damaged that they would not have wheels to land on. Now back in radio contact the pilot notified air control at Chittagong – who were surprised and relieved to hear from him (the plane had been reported missing). They landed on a steel landing strip and slid the whole length of it in a great shower of sparks with a fire engine racing along beside them.

Bryan wished he had kept in touch with the Canadian pilot whose skills had saved them all and who was the hero of this story.

A few days later he was airborne again and flying over the Bay of Bengal on a stunning moonlit night. The pilot turned and beckoned urgently for him to come forward and clamped a pair of headphones on his head. The voice he heard was that of Winston Churchill and he was announcing Victory in Europe. Bryan remembered that it was at that moment, on that beautiful night, that he first began to think of a new life ahead. SH

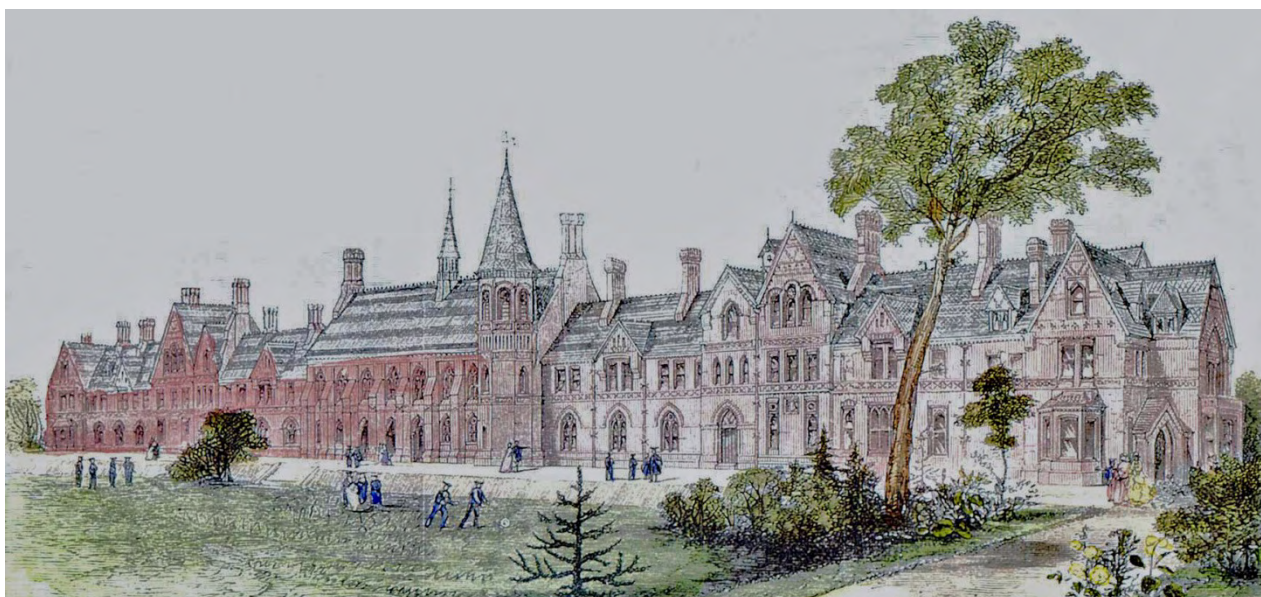
(Bryan returned to England in July 1945 shortly before V J Day. He weighed 7st 12 lbs and Barbara hardly recognised him. – Ed.)



*The Officers of No 3 Training Battalion Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners IE in 1944
Capt B H Powell RE (Adjutant) seated fourth left, next to his Commanding Officer Col J G Hird RE*

Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905)

by Philip Mortimer



When in 1868 the already nationally recognised architect Alfred Waterhouse drew up plans for a new Reading School it was for him a local job. Though he had made his reputation mainly in Manchester, Waterhouse had by the later 1860s moved into 'Foxhill', a house he designed for himself on the Whiteknights Park estate in Reading. Reading School was soon to be re-sited nearby (moving from where the new town hall buildings were to be designed by Waterhouse and completed in 1875).

The School's new buildings were a somewhat rash financial enterprise, and the addition of a substantial chapel (completed in 1874) imposed a further burden. The latter, however, was regarded as essential by the generation responsible for the post-Rugby wave of public school building, and in this they were naturally encouraged by their architects. The Oxford don and fashionable architect Thomas Graham Jackson, for instance, wrote that a School without a chapel was '*like an angel without wings*'. It was a belief that eventually led to such extravagances as Lancing College chapel. For Reading School the chapel became part of what drove the School nearly to insolvency in the 1880s, a fate that we can be grateful it escaped.



Foxhill House



Reading Town Hall



The School Chapel

FIFTY YEARS ON: A SCHOOL VISIT

Such thoughts were passing through my mind when I visited the School on 4 July 2009, the day the Old Boys played the School at cricket. An old boy making a rare weekend visit is in no position to judge how lively the School really is, though it is evidently more successful academically than ever before. Yet one is bound to regret the disappearance of the School magazine. Even if it only appeared once a year a magazine would serve to advertise the range of current pupils' achievements. In contrast, the Old Boys' Association's magazine soldiers on (*The Old Redingensian* – Ed).

Reading School's Victorian buildings also remain intact, including '*the many later additions*' to the Waterhouse façade that are referred to in Pevsner's '*Berkshire*'. On the day I went back to School the buildings made the same forceful impression on me that they had when I joined in 1953 as a callow eleven year old. On my return I wandered round the perimeter of the grounds and walked along the main School corridor, pausing to admire the plaque commemorating Charlie Kemp. (Charles Kemp, incidentally, was

educated at one Waterhouse school, Manchester Grammar, before presiding over another for 27 years). I crossed the quad, went through the cloister and strolled over to try the chapel door. No one rebuked me for not wearing a tie, or told me to take my hands out of my pockets.

Waterhouse's buildings have outlasted the prefabs of c1950, and the wooden tuck shop where now stands a harmonious brick structure (*The Page Building – Ed*). A squash court abuts the West wall of the chapel. Otherwise, structurally, things are much as they were fifty years ago. One wonders, without wishing to plunge into the politics of English secondary education, where any new buildings are that might assist the teaching and learning? Will public investment or private patronage ever again add to the School's facilities on the scale the Victorians did?

No school can flourish just as a relic of a previous age, and during '800 years or more' Reading School has had several previous makeovers, more than one, it seems, in Tudor times and then, of course, in the 1870s. Perhaps a wealthy OR might come forward and underwrite another one?

MORE ABOUT WATERHOUSE



Alfred Waterhouse was probably the most prolific architect of the later Victorian era. Born near Liverpool into a prosperous Quaker family he was well educated and already fully versed in European gothic and renaissance architecture by the time he set up his own professional office in Manchester in the 1860s. His eventual output was huge and varied, and based mainly but not exclusively on corporate clients such as

municipalities, schools, universities, hospitals and companies such as Barclays Bank and Prudential Insurance (*above right*). A representative but far from exhaustive list of his grander commissions includes: Manchester Town Hall; the Prudential Insurance Head Office at Holborn Bars; Brighton's Metropole Hotel;



Liverpool Infirmary and the University College Hospital, London; the Cambridge and Oxford University Unions; Liverpool University's Victoria Building (Waterhouse's use of terracotta there first gave rise to the term 'Redbrick University'); Balliol College, Oxford, Girton College, Cambridge and Strangeways Prison. These last two were state of the art in their time. Girton was the first college to abandon the staircase model in favour of corridors. Strangeways was meant to offer better accommodation for prisoners, though in due course it was to provoke its inmates to riot on account of its overcrowded state.

Architects are peripatetic by the nature of their work, but by the 1860s Waterhouse had based himself in Reading, though maintaining an office in London's West End. Consequently the Reading area is rich in his domestic and larger buildings. As well as designing Reading School he, with his father, helped found Leighton Park as a Quaker School. From Reading he also oversaw the construction of his masterpiece, the Natural History Museum, Kensington (*above*). His son Paul and eventually his grandson continued the architectural practice while Alfred retired to Yattendon Court (*below left*), a grandiose home he built for himself in 1878 (it was demolished in 1926). Waterhouse died in 1905 and Yattendon village church contains a monument to him (*right*). Brothers of Alfred Waterhouse founded a notable city solicitors firm and Price Waterhouse, accountants. His daughter, Monica, married the poet laureate, Robert Bridges, and they lived in the manor house in Yattendon.



WHY NOT TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT READING'S WATERHOUSE LEGACY?



Alfred Waterhouse must have been an inveterate train traveller. So why not follow his example and catch the train to Reading? You emerge from the station close to his town hall and, if you have time, you can take a look around the refurbished town museum, a Waterhouse interior. Then, a walk or bus ride to the foot of Redlands Road takes you to the University's Museum of English Rural Life. This excellent collection is now housed in the extensive home that Waterhouse built for the biscuit manufacturer, Alfred Palmer, in 1880, and which Palmer left to Reading University to be a women's hall of residence (*the house, above right, originally called East Thorpe, became St Andrew's Hall of Residence in 1911 – Ed*). The museum display includes a copper jug crafted by Waterhouse's widow, Elizabeth. From the museum it is only a few hundred yards more to the front entrance of the School (don't neglect Waterhouse's gatekeeper's house, above left, as you set off up the drive). As you gaze across at the façade of Reading School (*below, and detail, above centre, from the East Wing frontage*), you may well conclude that few schools have been so fortunate in their architect.



WATERHOUSE HAD HIS CRITICS AS WELL AS HIS ADMIRERS

Though the famous Catholic gothic architect of the previous generation, Augustus Pugin, was a strong early influence on Waterhouse, the latter's eclectic style and fondness for red materials were deplored by Victorian Gothic purists. Among them he was known as '*slaughterhouse Waterhouse*', and even his buildings in stone were not admired. Balliol College, for instance, was described as '*a painful imitation of a French chateau*'; and another of its critics quipped: '*c'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la gare*'. Later, Pevsner wrote: '*in all Waterhouse's buildings there appears an odd inability to age gracefully*'; and indeed standing on the south side of High Holborn and looking across at the massive and livid red Prudential Building one can see what he meant.

Waterhouse's clients didn't mind, though. For them it was more important, whether it was a town hall, a school, a hospital, a dwelling or some other private space (vide the magnificent National Liberal Club in Northumberland Avenue), that Waterhouse could create an impression and be relied on to build on time and on budget. For the same reasons he was frequently commissioned for parish churches, vicarages and non-conformist chapels, including several in Reading (St Bartholomew's, Christ Church vicarage, Caversham Baptist Church). To learn about Waterhouse's ever tactful dealings with ecclesiastical clients get hold of '*Alfred Waterhouse in Twyford*' (ie Twyford, Hants) by Stanley Crooks, and read his attentive correspondence with a local committee rebuilding their parish church on a tight budget. PPM

*The brothers that Philip refers to are Edwin, who was the co-founder of the **Price Waterhouse** accountancy partnership that now forms part of PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Theodore, who founded the firm of solicitors, **Waterhouse & Co** that practises to this day in the City of London. The continuation of Alfred's architectural practice flourishes still as **Waterhouse** –Ed*

A Tribute to Harry Weinberger

by Michael Wolfers



Harry Weinberger was by far the strongest – and I believe most positive – influence on me of any of the teachers I met at Reading School. He had greater influence than all but a handful of my school contemporaries. The evidence lies in the lifelong companionship of shared interests that followed until my prolonged absences in Africa kept me away from his failing health in his last illness.

Unlike the artistically gifted Mike Oakley and John Criswick (*M J Oakley (1944-54) and J R Criswick (1950-57) - Ed*) I was no good in the art room, producing rough daubs of water colours of little talent and interest. However, in my final year when I was hanging on until July after securing admission to Oxford, I studied Russian with one of the teaching assistants and History of Art for a GCE O'Level with Harry. The way Harry always told it back to me or in front of other guests: I said to him that I could spare him an hour or two a week. That was a fabrication. I was passionate about the subject; the books that Harry encouraged me to read opened my eyes and mind in a way that had escaped much of my formal education (Latin and Greek, English literature).

The most influential single book he recommended was the *Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy* by Jacob Burckhardt. It changed the way I saw and thought about the world around me, with art seemingly supreme over nature. At Oxford I was reading Law, but I went also to Edgar Wind's art history lectures, and read the abundance of art books that were being published through the influx of German exiles. I have remained a lover of art ever since.

Just before Oxford I was in Australia and from there I brought to Harry some wooden pieces of Aboriginal carving. He gave me in return a sketch he had made of his room in Chelsea as an art student. The picture was on the walls of my house in London. Some decades later I invited Harry and his wife Barbara for a drink (during one of his London gallery showings). Harry saw the picture and, as I expected, he wanted it. (He had almost nothing of that early period, he said). I riposted that I could not sell since it was a gift, so he exchanged for a beautiful study of boats on water, a mature work that was much more to my taste.

Late in his life I enjoyed seeing him at his elegant house in Leamington, especially in his studio as he explained the themes and motifs that I could later recognise in the finished paintings for exhibition. I tried to go to his London openings whenever possible, but if they occurred when I was away on a work mission (usually in Africa), I would on return go to the gallery and buy a small piece with some – sometimes all – of my earnings. I would often meet Harry and Barbara's relatives and had the privilege of attending his 70th birthday celebration in London, and after Barbara's early death even an 80th birthday tea a trois at the Ritz. Harry leaves a legacy of fine painting, and an outstanding delicacy of character that will long be remembered and cherished by those who knew him and his work, as I did for half a century. MW

An obituary of Harry Weinberger, Master at School (1954-58), appears on page 46. Michael Wolfers OR (1950-57) is an author, editor and translator. At School he was a boarder in South House who made a notable contribution to School life. He also collected numerous prizes before departing for Wadham College, Oxford where he read Law. He entered the world of journalism and is a former Africa editor of The Times – 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.

R L GRAY (WEST WING 1969-72)

Robert graduated in Horticultural Science from the University of Reading and, having started at Merrist Wood College near Guildford, now teaches horticulture at Capel Manor College (from which he was recently seconded for a period to work for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment). He lives in Crowthorne with his wife Margaret and their two daughters Rhiannon, recently graduated from Reading, and Sian about to go to Cardiff University. Robert cycles when he can, enjoys taking student tours to France and continues his involvement with Crowthorne Baptist Church and with hosting Guide Dogs for the Blind.

T E J LOVETT (EAST HOUSE 1954-62)

From Trinity College Dublin, where he graduated (Hons) in philosophy and logic, Terry went into the aviation industry. In the 1970s he was Deputy Director at Edinburgh Airport, in the 1980s of Hong Kong's Kai Tak Airport. He was MD of East Midlands Airport for some years and Director of Airport Operations for National Express. He later set up Airport Innovation of which he was managing partner, became Chairman of the UK Airport Operators Association, President of Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and amongst other appointments, too numerous to mention, served on various university advisory boards. He is FRSA, a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society and of many other bodies. Terry is married and has a twenty six year old daughter now working in Cheltenham. He lives in France and his main interests are long distance walking with his wife, music, painting and golf.

A J MACTAVISH MASTER AT SCHOOL (1966-70)

Andrew left Reading to become Head of English at Hardye's School, Dorchester (where he also ran the CCF Army Section). After a Deputy Headship at Devonport High School, he became Headmaster of John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe in 1983 and was there until retirement in 1999. His career had spanned five boys' grammar schools. In retirement he stood in as Acting Head for Interregnum terms at three girls' grammar schools! Yes, he says, there is a difference.....He appeared on TV as the

Headmaster in the first (five part) reality school programme "That'll Teach 'Em". He lives outside High Wycombe with his wife Pauline, has two married sons, and five grandchildren and spends much time cycling, walking, going to the gym and travelling. Amongst many happy memories of School are taking the VIII to Henley Royal Regatta (see p. 40, *Andrew! - Ed*) and taking, with L T N Hardy, 10 cadets to Snowdonia on the first ever Easter Adventurous training Camp.

V H WIFFEN (EAST HOUSE 1961-68)

Vic qualified as a dentist in 1972, from UCH Medical School and became a dental officer for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. In 1975 he married Sheena Tailby and worked in Australia from then until 1979. For the last 30 years he has been in practice in Horsham, Sussex, and is also dental officer to Christ's Hospital alma mater, as he says, of former Master at School, John Haines (*and also of former Master, Frank Terry, Ed*). It was Beefy Haines, Vic thinks, who took the photograph of the stage team on page 42. Vic has a daughter, now aged 32, and a son of 30. D J (David) Wiffen (1952-60) is his elder brother.

W J P WITTER (WEST WING 1965-72)

Contemporaries will remember Bill as Captain of the 1st XV and as an oarsman. At St Catherine's College, Oxford, where he read Law, he captained both the Rugby Club and the Boat Club (and for good measure punted for Oxford against Cambridge). He qualified as a solicitor in the City, then went into industry with Westland Helicopters, and his career has now taken him to the largest landmine clearance firm used by the United Nations, Exploration Logistics Group Plc. based in Gloucestershire. Bill has been married to Pru for 28 years and they have twin daughters aged 24 and a son of 17. Work and children have meant the virtual end of active sport for him but he did coach Hereford RFC through to the last 16 of what was then the Pilkington Cup – the smallest club to get that far; they were finally eliminated by Bath who fielded 13 internationals on the day.



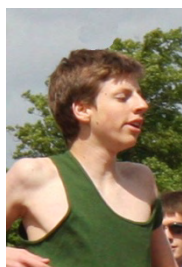
Sport

Annual OR Prizes at School Sports Day 8 May 2009

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Farmery Medal | 800 metres Seniors | R P (Robbie) Dutfield | (West) |
| Farmery Medal | 1500 metres Seniors | G R (Graham) Bettes | (School) |
| Maule Medal | 100 metres Seniors | M J (Mike) Nevill | (County) |
| Maule Medal | 200 metres Seniors | J D H(Jamie) Lacy-Smith | (East) |
| Maule Medal | 400 metres Seniors | R T M (Richard) Lee | (East) |
| Gardiner Medal | Shot Putt Seniors | O J H (Ollie) Bryant | (School) |



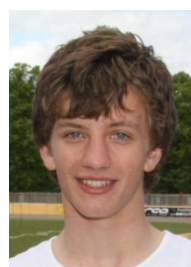
Robbie Dutfield



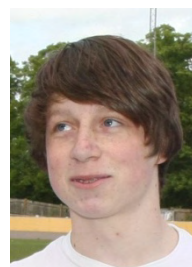
Graham Bettes



Mike Nevill



Jamie Lacy-Smith



Richard Lee



Ollie Bryant

Winning times, and the distance in the Shot Putt, have not been made available to *The Old Redingensian*.

OR Golfing Society Spring Meeting 30 March 2010

The spring meeting of the society was held on 30 March 2010 at Huntercombe Golf Club near Henley. The course is high in the Chilterns and required accurate driving and careful putting on the greens. A good day was had by all, though there were some heavy showers in the afternoon!

The following took part in the competition for the President's Trophy:

N C Burrows (1969-76), A J Downes (1947-52), C A Hubbard (1961-68), R P Huggins (1944-52), N A Hunt (1977-84), S J Johnston (1979-86), M J King (1957-63), W E Lunn (1951-58), G W O Price (1948-56), C A Scroggs (1952-59), A G Steels (1949-54), A Wrenn (1978-85)

Winner of the President's trophy

Alistair Wrenn with a good round for 33 points

Runner-up

Nick Burrows - 30 points

Tankard for the Longest Drive

Neil Hunt

Lunn Trophy for best stroke score

Alistair Wrenn

Our thanks to Cedric Scroggs and Rodney Huggins for presenting the prizes. (The next meeting of the society will be in the autumn.) WEL



Will Lunn Hon Sec can be contacted at golf@oldredingensians.org.uk. New members are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn 2010 meeting, subject to dates etc, do let Will know provisionally.

OR Barbarians (Rugby 7s)

Examinations, amongst other things, have precluded any activity since the eager optimism of 2009 but the club are planning a tournament entry in May this year.

6th OR Festival of Football 1 April 2010

The afternoon of the match for the President's Shield was freezing cold with frequent squalls of rain. This probably accounted for the sparse attendance of visitors although the School team was well supported by its peers. Both teams contained familiar faces from previous meetings and it was particularly good to see former Director of Sport, Darren Carrick, returning to School to guest for the Old Boys side. A lively encounter resulted in a 4-2 win for the Old Redingensians to take them ahead in the series by the same margin. The President's Shield was presented by David Cox, Hon Sec of the OR Association, to OR Team Captain, Abe Osho. Goal scorers were; for the ORs Conroy, Bellis, Walton and Carrick; for the School Osho, O'Halloran (pen)



OR Team

Back row: Phil Chrimes, Lucas Bryant, James Chiang, David Bellis, Alex Walton, Sam Green, Bill Neale, Abraham Osho (c)

Front row: Darren Carrick, Charles O'Halloran, Daniel Wright, Anthony Ellis, James Horwood



School Team

Back row: Andrew Gardner, Anthony Osho, Robert Clark (C), Oliver Strasburger, Fred Leggate, Simon Richards, Adam Carson.

Front row: Chris O'Halloran, William Wilson, Stephen Dilley, Matt Milligan

Redingensians RFC Ltd

The Club have had another successful season, all five senior sides doing well in their leagues and the Vets (4th XV), 5th XV and Colts XV exceptionally well in theirs. The U/17 side (which, incidentally, fields six to ten Reading School boys) reached the last thirty two of the National U/17's Cup. The 1st XV, under coach Alun Rise, consolidated their position in National 3 South West, their sixth place (against last year's fifth) achieved despite restricted firepower due to the loss of key players to injury
KCB

Caversham and Redingensians CC

The Club will field one XI only this Summer, playing in Division 5 of the Thames Valley League; there is optimism that the squad will be one of the stronger in that Division. The side will again be captained by A J (Andy) Northway OR (1977-82) and at least four other ORs - W J E (John) Camidge (1977-82), J E (John) Grimsdale (1979-86), E L (Edgar) Weekes (1975-82) and G F (Gary) Cox (1973-77) - will play regularly. The club also continues to benefit from the experience of long term stalwarts, J S (John) Evans (1953-60) and R G (Dick) Owen (Master at School 1970-07). Anyone wishing to join the Club should contact Andy Northway, in his capacity as Secretary, on Tel: 02380 452339, email: anorthway@live.co.uk. Nets are held at the Old Bath Road, Sonning ground. KCB

Ant in Argentina



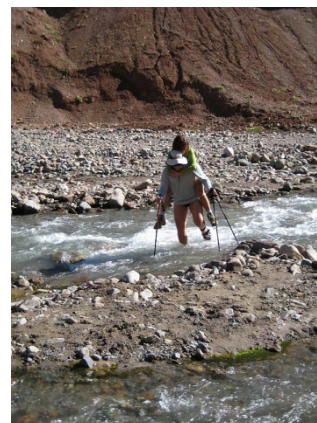
Anthony (Ant) Butler (2001-08) tells of his ascent in January 2009 of the highest peak (22,841 ft) in the Americas, El Cerro Aconcagua, Argentina.

(This is an extract from an email sent by Ant (pictured left below) on 3 February 2009 which began ...' it's at just gone midnight and I come bearing the terribly disappointing news that I, and 3 of my other 4 team mates, failed to reach the summit of El Cerro Aconcagua.' - Ed)

The start of the expedition was luxurious; spending two nights in a hotel; something I really wasn't used to having been trying to keep my accommodation budget to around £5 a night. The team really gelled quickly: two feisty 30-year old Norwegian girls, Monika and Carina, whom you would not want to meet in a dark alley, always talking, always claiming to be 'wikings' but a great laugh, though sadly a little old for me (*not very gallant, Ant! - Ed*). André, a 67-year-old Frenchman who had to be the most disorganised person ever. I shared a tent with him and you could guarantee that if you woke up in the night, he would be rummaging around in one of his plethora of carrier bags, taking all manner of medication, or rubbing lotion into places you did not want to see a 67-year-old rubbing lotion. It was fantastic that he was still giving these mountains a go at his age though (*ageist, Ant....Ed*). Finally, Martin, a 30-year-old accountant from Luton (with whom I also shared a tent).



The three day walk-in was beautiful, trekking up a wide valley for the first two days then turning into a much narrower valley on the third day, rewarding us with our first glimpse of Aconcagua, stirring strong emotions of excitement, anticipation and fear. The start of the third day required a river crossing where we could either tip a mule-driver to ride us across, or we could wade in icy-cold, waist deep and very strong flowing water. We did not realise just how dangerous this was but were keen to save our money so decided to walk it. Luckily, our whole group made it safely; however, a German woman, holding her boots in one hand, and walking poles in another stumbled and started floating down stream quite



quickly. To our astonishment her husband, who had already waded across with German efficiency and did not bother to wait for her, just stood and watched. Martin and I went back into the river, managed to retrieve her and her now sodden boots but, unfortunately, her poles were long gone, downstream. I then helped her across the river with a Russian man and returned wife to husband, who greeted me with: "*But you did not get her poles. Do you have any dry socks?*". I passed off the lack of thanks as difficulty in grasping language subtleties and left them to it. We met up with the Germans later on and they turned out to be a nice couple. She had recovered well and had bought some replacement poles from someone else.

We reached **Base Camp** (Plaza Argentina) at the end of the third day and were amazed by the infrastructure of the camp - toilets, kitchens, running water, a doctor's surgery, and helicopter landing pad. We stayed here a total of four nights, mixing in an element of resting days entailing light hiking and one day of carrying food and equipment up to our next camp and walking down again - all with the aim of acclimatising.

We left Base Camp and headed to **Camp 1**; that was a tad dull as we had already walked it once, but we soon realised that this sort of thing was necessary for acclimatising. It



soon became evident, however, that the schedule our tour had signed us up to required us to climb very quickly and didn't allow for any more 'carry days' for equipment to higher camps. We were forced to hire porters to carry our food and on my budget I was not too happy. It's a good job I'd saved a bit of money by bartering the price of the trip.

At this altitude we were having to drink at least 5-6 litres a day, meaning pee breaks in the night were really annoying (and a little concerning when you're filling your pee bottle in the tent with people sleeping either side; your only judgment of the water level being by sound and not sight!) However, I did not envy the girls having to get out in -10°C to relieve themselves. The dry air and altitude also meant that waking up in the morning with a splitting headache was the norm.

Onto **Camp 2**; I found this day tough, but we had a day to acclimatise here. We practiced with our crampons and ice axes in the snow, did a little trekking around, and nearly fell into a frozen lake whilst collecting water.

Camp 3; our last camp before summit day and I felt good when we reached here, I do not know why and I was quite surprised at this new lease of energy. It was very windy when we arrived so we set up the tents, ate quickly, and then went straight to bed, ready for a 3 am start the next day.



Surprise, surprise, a splitting headache in the morning. When our guide checked if we were all up for giving the summit a try, we said, "yes", of course. Breakfast in the freezing cold at 4.30 am, and then we headed out on the 8-hour trip to the summit, at 6 am. By this point, I was feeling positive. I was full of energy, enthusiasm, and willpower to make it to the top. We stopped to put on our crampons before heading up the snow at sunrise (which was truly beautiful) but it wasn't long after this that André turned around with exhaustion. He gave it a good try and his achievements that far were incredibly impressive.

We then had a rest just before the final push for the summit, although there were only 275 metres left to go - it felt within touching distance - reaching the summit would require another three hours climbing. This is the point that Carina decided she would turn around; she was feeling the effects of altitude and not feeling herself. I did not feel 100% but was convinced I just needed to eat, so scoffed some chocolate and headed up with the remaining other two members.

I became aware that the sugar-injection had not helped me very much, the climbing was getting steeper and my feet were not going where I wanted them. After trying to battle with my mind and concentrate on my breathing, I knew that this feeling was due to the altitude; if I was having this trouble going up then it would be lethal going down. Genuinely on the verge of crying, I decided to tell the guide I could not go on and at this point Martin admitted that he also was too exhausted to make it to the top. We sat and waited, just 200m from the summit, whilst Monika and the guide continued, successfully, to the top.

All the while we were sat waiting the thought that, maybe we had made the wrong decision to turn around, kept preying on our minds. That was when a German man came past us, having made it to the summit, saying his head was spinning and that we *had* made the right decision as not long ago a few people had died, falling on the path, for the same reason.



The weather closed in a bit and we headed down to shelter, still waiting for Monika and the guide, but my co-ordination was still all out. I caught my crampon on my leg and took a small tumble. I didn't remember anything about it - my mind went blank - but the bruise on my hip reminded me about the fall for the next few weeks although there was no serious damage. I took it much slower down to the shelter as it started snowing. We waited for the guide and Monika to come down and when they did, we set out on the 2-hour journey back to camp. I thought the descent would improve my altitude sickness but it did not. I deteriorated very quickly. I was completely conscious of what was going on but had the coordination of a very drunk person. People insisted on lending me walking poles and carrying weight from my bag for me. I hated this 'mothering' but know it was necessary.

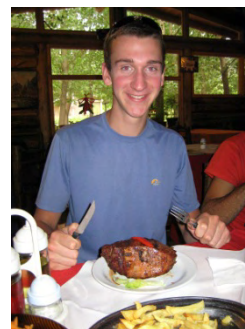
It was the strangest feeling ever (and one of the scariest); I'm normally fairly confident on my feet (despite my lofty centre of gravity) but could barely take two steps without staggering to the side or tripping. By the time we got to the camp I couldn't stand straight; my legs bent like an idiot, with someone undoing my left crampon, and another undoing my right. I was ushered into the tent for food, paracetamol and water. Then straight to bed.

When I woke in the morning, I was better, but still in a bad way. There was no way I could carry my 20+ kg down to the lower camps and had to hire a porter to carry 10 kg for me. I hated having to let people help me pack my bag, fill my water bottle and help me get changed. On the way down, initially the going was slow; stumbling and slipping with most steps but without really noticing it. As we descended, my co-ordination returned and by the time we got into our Base Camp (a different camp, Plaza de Mulas, as we were doing a circular route) I was running down scree slopes and having a fantastic time. It shows how unpredictable altitude sickness can be.



At dinner at Base Camp (our last night in the mountains) a sombre atmosphere fell over the group. A rescue team was being scrambled to save an Ecuadorian woman, ice climbing the South Face of Aconcagua, suffering from altitude sickness. We were interrupted to ask if we had any hand warmers for the rescue team. The helicopter headed off and an eerie silence fell over the table, only to be interrupted about 10 minutes later by a gang of people carrying champagne and singing to celebrate Monika's successful ascent of the mountain. It was a great way to end the evening and we were greeted with the news of a successful rescue of the ice climber over breakfast the next morning. A long, seven hour, but easy going trek took us down the valley to the connecting bus and back to Mendoza.

I am still gutted that I did not make it to the summit but looking back at my physical state it would have been a ridiculous idea to push on. It was a fantastic trek which concluded with dinner for the whole team in Mendoza. Monika was obviously ribbed for being the only one to actually make it to the summit, but we were all happy for her...honest. No, honestly we were!



Commentary

The Old Redingensian Autumn 2009

The Autumn edition did not entirely escape gremlins; for instance – see *The Archive* – the correct initials of Ian Judd (1962-69) and Master at School since 1975 are, of course, I G. No one seems to have spotted that ‘*the Dead Man’s Penny*’ illustrated in *The Archive* was around the wrong way; nor picked up the odd, if not inevitable then perhaps forgivable, misplaced comma... More serious was a collation problem at the printers which repeated some pages where others should be. Mercifully, this seems to have affected a very few copies only – but we will replace any that readers have not reported, if they so wish.

As we go to press there has been no offer to organise a Sussex luncheon (see *Events*) this year. The OR Council, always supportive of those regional gatherings which arise from time to time and may, as with the Sussex luncheon, exist for a good few years, does not take on the organisation itself as, from their very nature, it is more practical for an OR in the locality to do that. There is currently a suggestion that Bournemouth might be attractive for a number of ORs, within easy range. Perhaps this has some mileage in it, but, once again, an organiser would be required.

J (John) Bamford (1952-60) recalled that Frazer Gleig (*Obituaries*) was at Wilson School like him and indeed, D R (David) Downs (1952-59), J A (John) Boss (1952-59), The Revd C L (Clive) Windebank (1952-59) and D G (Dave) Norris (1953-60).

Major S H (Sidney) Vines (1930-39) commenting on *Cricketing Old Redingensians* mentioned that H E (Tom) Dollery (1925-32) was his hero at School. He recalls an away match when the School’s wicket keeper was indisposed, having ricked his ankle, and J W (Sugar) Saunders, Master in Charge, asked Dollery to take over. It soon became clear that Tom’s supreme cricketing talents also extended to keeping wicket par excellence.

In writing of the personnel in the platoon featured in *The Archive*, T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50) wonders what became of D D Swanson (1943-49). David Swanson joined BEA after leaving the RAF. In 1965 he was First Officer on board the Vanguard that crashed at London Airport with the loss of all on board. Trevor remembers that David was the first Captain of the School Boat Club when it was relaunched after WWII by R (Jock) Jessop, Master at School, 1945-71. As Trevor suggests, another David in the photo, D J Findlay (1940-50) also died young. He succumbed to leukaemia at the age of 50. (His sister, Gill Findlay became the Bursar’s assistant in the 1950s and married Michael Holmes, Master at School, 1957-65).

Trevor Gadsby also mentioned “the Great Baggaley” (see the platoon photo, again) and one particular anecdote about Baggers revelling in an exaggerated pronunciation of the accusative plural of the Latin noun “Causa”. (A prime example of third form humour; but those interested must work it out for themselves. This is far too respectable a journal to elaborate.....).

A G (Alan) Stuck (1943-51) harks back to the issues of 2008 and the bombing of the People’s Pantry. Because it happened on a Wednesday – half day closing – losses were much less than they might have been. His recollection is of being in the Central cinema watching *Bambi* with his mother and his brother P R (Paul) Stuck (1942-50) when the bombs fell, and the cinema being vacated at high speed with plaster crashing down all around. The day’s programmes were then cancelled though the film was shown free of charge at a later date to make up for it, Alan thinks.

J H (John) Short (1956-64) writing on the obituary of Rodney Calvert neatly described him as a schoolboy phenomenon combining high intellect with great sporting prowess, all with a modest demeanour. He recalls a treatise on bubbles that was published whilst Rodney was still at school; the production and display of mathematical models; his courage and endurance on the rugby field – and that Rodney played golf off a 5 handicap (John Haines, Master i/c Cricket was not too happy about this on the basis that it did nothing for R C’s off drive!).

Reference the tables in *1st XI Cricket at Reading School* J V (Rolly) Martin (1935-44) wrote to point out the glaring omission of L A Sears’ (1936-44) 10 wickets for 12 runs on 10 June 1944 v Oratory. The School Magazine for July 1944 confirms this exceptional haul (with which only the 9 for 8 taken by J S Pritchard (1979-87), also against Oratory, in 1986, compares). In fact Frank Terry refers to the Sears match on p17 of *A History of Cricket at Reading School* but it apparently escaped the compiler of the table on p53 in that book. Alan Sears was one of the more successful 1st XI Captains and he has been dealt a double injustice – in that same season he also took 7 for 31 against the Old Boys and finished the season with 73 wickets at an average of 9.79. We are most grateful to Rolly (36 wickets at 13.28 himself that year - Ed) for writing in and we urge others who spot omissions, etc. to kindly do the same. That successful 1944 side is pictured under.



More Nightingaliana

The cricket theme of the Autumn 09 issue also prompted the Venerable P B (Peter) Coombs (1939-47) PP, to send in Birdie Nightingale's (Master at School 1920-60) acrostic poem that first appeared in the July 1942 School magazine in celebration of the School's 1942 victory over MCC. Birdie even used his own initials to conclude it. A tour de force, as Peter says, indeed!

'HIDDEN TEAM'

Dedicated to T J Easby, Captain of Cricket

To me as by a vision came the thought
 Once more to roam the pleasant leas by Cam,
 Murm'ring in food and fen – nerve-resting stream !

Evading noise of speed-boats, such machines
 As ears detest (all that new ilk), in sweet
 Smell of the hay new-mown, to see the ducks
 Bury their heads in pools. Fair dream ! – or be
 Yonder in the Gut, cheering the boats that bump !

Colossal monies buy less bliss.....But then
 Arose to mind a cricket field – a match –
 Perhaps to beat the M.C.C. – Yet how ?.....
 Turn, read again. You'll find th' Eleven who

CAN



The School XI in 'one of the most exciting and entertaining games played at School for a long time' who made 143 and then bowled MCC out for 115 runs were: T J Easby, Wilkins P, Sears L A, M A Salmon, R D Morbey, D H Easby, Gutch, Ducksbury, Hayne C A S, Avis, Fenner FN.

'Tom Easby' is spelt out by the first eight letters of the first line and the others **surnames** are all hidden in the poem – but not necessarily in the order of batting....apply yourselves!

KCB

The Archive

The film George Pfeiffer directed in 1973, *John Minton – A Film Portrait*, (see the Spring 2009 number) has now been transferred to DVD and the original 16mm cine film returned to George. It is hoped, in due course, to arrange a showing; meanwhile it would be good to make contact with Neil Philip, Martin Smith, Paul Graville, Philip Coope, Ian Robinson, Michael Robinson and Clive Glover – none of whom are members of the Association – and indeed, to hear from anyone else who had a part in the making of the film.

Personnel in Ken Mills' platoon, pictured on page 39 in the Autumn 2009 edition, identified by T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50) are: P R (Peter) Mitchell – in between the two NCOs – to Peter's left in the photo, D A (Denis) Roberts; just behind Peter and to his right in the photo, Trevor himself; behind the bespectacled NCO, D D (David) Swanson and behind him another David, D J Findlay. Behind Findlay is D Baggaley (see *Commentary*, pp 38 & 39!). R K (Robin) Edgar (1940-49) adds the name of the bespectacled NCO - Corporal L E L (Lionel) Collins.



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

Mary Russell Mitford
writing in *Belford Regis*
(which was her fictional name for
Reading).



The image above shows the Reading School VIII (in '*C E Kemp*') alongside Phyllis Court before their first round loss to King's School, Chester in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta in 1967.

The crew was:

Bow C J Wickham **2** C L C E Witcombe **3** A J Metcalfe **4** N G E Gibbons **5** A D James **6** L Sisitka **7** A A Glenn
Stroke J P T Odell **Cox** T J W Chappell.

We thank the following for additions to the Archive:

J L Childs (1946-53) for gifts of nine team photographs of his era.

M E Digby (1944-50) for a CD containing 17 group photos.

Harriet Gash for prize books won by her father, the late Professor Norman Gash CBE (1923-30) and a package of his personal bookplates.

Paul Horton, son of EB Horton (1921-29) for an OTC Cap Badge.

R J Kellman (1939-44) also for the gift of an OTC Cap Badge.

T E J Lovett (1954-62) for photographs various.

A J MacTavish, Master at School (1966-70) 4 images including that of the rowing VIII shown above.

M H W Maule (1956-59) PP for items various.

J H Short (1956-54) for photographs of seven team/Prefect groups from the early 1960s.

The Rev A C Stockbridge (1942-52) for photographs of the Corps inspection 1947 and the monitors 1951.

We are grateful for all the above and hope it inspires others to make contact if they have material for the archive, either to gift or to have scanned and returned. **Items should be sent to K C Brown, Archivist, 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.**



The 1946 Cross Country (Open) – i.e. the senior long run - was won by P Watkins (County) with Godridge A M (West) in second and Malkin G (Boarders) in third. The time was 32 minutes 33 seconds. The image shows the start from Addington Road in snow. Running towards Redlands Road are – it is believed:

Short; Lacey; Tomkins; Godridge; Jones; Matthews; Holland; Swire; Chown; Coates; Ash; West; May; Watkins; Russell; Totman; Eves; Powell; Healey; Waring; Thomerson; Mitchell; Larkinson; Holloway; Rackham; Brown; Richards.

In the background can be seen Mr L T N Hardy with P B Coombs under the umbrella and it is G D Draper in the school cap, behind Lacey (boarders incidentally are running in white shirts).

The Sorcerer 1967 – Backstage!



Back row: A J (Andrew) Metcalf, V H (Victor) Wiffen, D W H (David) Jones, C (Colin) Watt, A (Alan) Mayfield, G F (Graham) Fenner, P (Paul) Burrage, G M (Geoff) Bosworth, N J (Nigel) Thompson
Front row: Mr A J MacTavish, M D (Mike) Fenner

In 1967 the School Music Society invited the ladies of Kendrick School to join them in performing Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta *The Sorcerer*. The production by Frank Terry (Master at School 1946-1982) ably assisted by Pixie Denzey (long a leading light in the Sainsbury Singers and mother of T F Denzey (1969-76) ran from 13 March to 18 March and was a resounding success. The orchestra under the direction of Barry McBeath (Master at School 1962-71) and the cast were duly bathed in the limelight that their performances and the subsequent reviews brought them. As ever, no such triumphs occur without much work by the relatively unsung; in this case, for instance, masters Ben Dowse (make-up), Vic Payne (lighting), John Malpas (box office), masters' wives Dora Terry and Eireen Timms (wardrobe). The programme cover and scenery were both designed and executed by Christopher Witcombe and the Stage Manager was Andrew McTavish (Master at School 1966-1970). It is Andrew and his team that we show above; he says that the production sticks in his mind for two reasons:

"Vic Payne was asked to produce a 'flash/bang'. He drilled holes in torch bulbs, filled them with flash powder, mounted them on a block and fired them backstage. The effects were erratic and exciting. At the critical moment, he warned the stagehands to turn their backs. The bangs varied from pathetic to atomic. We were never quite sure where the glass went, but he advised us not to breathe the smoke. Vic's other triumph was the teapot. At some stage the Sorcerer made a cup of tea. Vic put dry ice in the teapot, and when the actor added warm water on stage, of course it appeared to steam furiously. That was fine until the last night, when Vic added all the remaining dry ice to the pot. When the warm water was added, the pot reacted volcanically and then froze with hanging icicles, not quite the intended effect."

'Health and Safety' would put paid to such shenanigans today! Sadly, Vic died in March this year (see *In Memoriam* p54). He was regarded with deserved affection by several generations of Reading School boys and a full obituary will appear in the Autumn 2010 issue of this journal. KCB

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

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

Tel: +1 908 238 1020
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
ICAM Bretagne
9 Rue Commandant Charcot
56000 VANNES
France

Tel: +33 (0)2 97 62 11 81
Email: graham.fenner@icam.fr



Australasia

Australasian 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




As we go to press the news has come that the Australasian Reunion in Sydney was a successful occasion enjoyed by all. A report and pictures will appear in the Autumn 2010 issue of this journal. The company, incidentally, included for the first time D J (Dez) Maule (1952-58) and his wife, Cathy. Dez's given name is Derek: bestowed on him by his Mother in the belief that, at least, it could not be shortened. His school fellows soon found a way round that!

The Vice President of the OR Association, Francis Pocock, is currently on a two month trip to Australia and he will, no doubt, be able to contribute to this page next time round. Incidentally, the Australian ORs that Mike Jones knows about currently number around 50.

The USA Branch has planned its West Coast biennial dinner reunion this year at Scott's on the waterfront in Oakland, California. There will be a report of this event, also, in the next issue.

There is no specific news from the French branch to report presently. In general terms numbers of ORs settling on the European Continent and in North America are ever increasing. It is hoped that they will keep in touch and we remind all overseas based ORs that this magazine is always pleased to hear from them. Malaysia, China, Africa and the Middle East all have members of the Association living in those regions; there must be non members there as well - and surely in India (where once there were so many ORs). All information welcome!



Old School Tie

Silk £15

OR Tie

Polyester £10, Silk £15

From Membership Secretary:
C. J. Widdows, 21 Bulmershe Road, Reading RG1 5RH.
Cheques payable to: Old Redingensians Association.

Proposals for additional commemorative wall plaques in Big School

The editorial on page 55 refers to the planned installation in Big School of an additional 12 'tea trays' during the next two years. There are two provisos - four of the plaques are designated to replace some of the originals that have gone missing and the living are not eligible. The categories are rough groupings only and the claimed attendance at Reading School needs further scrutiny in one or two cases.

THOSE PREVIOUSLY COMMEMORATED WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR REPLACEMENT (TRANCHE OF FOUR)

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Academia, the Sciences, the Arts: | John Blagrove, Peter Paul Dobree, Sir William Drake, William Havell, John Lemprière, James Merrick, Robert Vansittart |
| The Church: | George Eden, Gilbert Elliot, Thomas Valpy French, John Jackson, Francis Jeune, John Merewether, William Shipley |
| The Services: | George Hanger (Lord Coleraine) |

The four front runners are currently:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Peter Paul Dobree MA | Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, d. 1825. |
| John Jackson BA FRS DD | Bishop of London, d. 1885. |
| Francis Jeune MA DCL | Vice Chancellor, Oxford University, d. 1868. |
| John Lempriere MA DD | Lempriere's Dictionary, d. 1824. |

OTHER CANDIDATES FOR COMMEMORATION (TWO TRANCHES OF FOUR EACH)

| | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Academia, the Sciences, the Arts: | Phanuel Bacon, William Benwell, Charles Coates, Robert Havell, John Loveday, R Guthrie McGregor, T R Major, Sir Joseph Prestwich, John Smith, John Spicer. |
| The Church: | Arthur Headlam, Ethelbert Horne, Henry Loring, Tertullian Pyne, Thomas Walker. |
| Music: | Douglas Guest. |
| The Services: | Maj Gen C St. Q O Fulbrook-Leggatt, Dr Martin Herford, Gen Sir Havelock Hudson, Captain William Loring, Maj Gen E G D Pounds, Gen Sir Ouvry Roberts. |
| The Law, Government, Diplomacy: | Thomas Bros, Hon. Lionel Cripps, Sir Edward Dodd, Charles Fanshawe, John Glead, Sir Thomas Holt, Sir Arthur Lawrance, Sir Herbert Phillips, Sir Joshua Rowe, Sir Thomas Stampe, Timothy Tyrrell. |
| Film and Theatre: | Sidney Seaward, Ernest Truex, Richard Vernon. |
| Sport: | Joey Atkinson, Helton Baynes, Tommy Pearson, Philip Percival, Leslie Saxby, Sydney Stevens |
| Commerce: | Austin Reed. |

The four front runners are currently:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lt Col Dr Martin Edward Meakin | The most decorated doctor of WWII. d.2002 |
| Herford DSO MBE MC & Bar | |
| Major Sir Arthur Salisbury | Governor and Commander in Chief of the British Somaliland |
| Lawrance KCMG KBE DSO | Protectorate, d. 1965 |
| Rt Rev Arthur Cayley Headlam | Bishop of Gloucester, Principal of King's College, London, d. 1947 |
| CH MA DD | |
| Col Thomas William Rory | Welsh International Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Squash and Golf player, |
| Pearson CB DSO TD DL | d. 1957 |



This delightful portrayal of Big School, seen from the north-east corner of the Chapel, was drawn by J A M Auld (1921-31) as the frontispiece of the April 1931 School Magazine. It appeared over the School motto 'ARS MERCEDE VIGET'

Obituaries

HARRY WEINBERGER ATD (READING SCHOOL MASTER 1954-58)

In his relatively short time as a Reading School Master, Harry Weinberger made a remarkable impact and he has remained a lasting influence on numbers of boys who spent time in the Art Room. There were seven applicants to succeed John Liddell as Art Master; in Harry, C E Kemp knew that he had a good man and agreed to a day off per week to allow Harry to paint – CEK indeed bought some of his work. Harry is quoted, incidentally, as saying that he received more stimulation from his pupils at Reading than those he later taught in higher education. When he left Reading School it was to become a lecturer in Manchester and, in 1964, at Lanchester Polytechnic (now Coventry University) where he became Head of Painting. Throughout he continued to build an international reputation as an artist.

His journey had been a demanding one. Born to affluent parents in Berlin, he saw the Reichstag burn and in 1934, with his family, went to Czechoslovakia and to school in Prague. In 1939 he was lucky to be on the last Kindertransport taking refugee children to London. For a time he was a boarder at Amersham College and on leaving took up an apprenticeship as a toolmaker.

Though classified as an enemy alien, he was able to join the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1944, transferred to the Eighth Army's Jewish Brigade and served in Italy. In 1945 he visited his parents in Switzerland. They had survived the Third Reich and were to return to Berlin.

Post war he studied in South Wales and at the suggestion of the painter, Ceri Richards, attended Chelsea School of Art (later having some regrets that he had not taken up an offer by William Coldstream of a place at the Slade) and then Goldsmith's College; although the main influence upon him was his fellow émigré, Martin Bloch, who gave him private lessons.

Barbara, Harry's wife, whom he married in 1951, was the daughter of the architectural historian, Wolfgang Herrmann. At the age of 3 she had also left Berlin with her parents. The Weinbergers did pay visits to their home city and indeed the Berlin Senate was to honour its lost son with an exhibition. Harry loved Matisse, revered Rembrandt and was also influenced by the German Expressionists and fascinated by Byzantine painting (icons, and masks, provide an important theme in his work).

He gained a devoted following in Britain and abroad. The novelist, Iris Murdoch, wrote that '*Weinberger is a great painter whose genius is not well enough known.*' After his retirement in 1983, there followed major exhibitions at the Camden Arts Centre, London, the Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry and the Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, in Germany, and regular shows at Duncan Campbell Fine Art in London.

Barbara, who was a noted sociologist and social historian, died in 1996. He leaves a daughter, Joanna and two grandsons. ORs M J (Mike) Oakley (1944-54) and Prof M L (Mike) Shattock (1947-55) were present at the funeral.

Harry Weinberger died on 15 September, 2009 aged 85.

KCB



IAN COLIN NIGEL TOOLE (1955-62)

Ian spent four years in County House, then became a boarder in East Wing where he was eventually 2i/c to Nigel Ward (1955-62) - Captain of School and subsequently Commander of the Sea Harriers in the Falklands War - a School Prefect, Senior Ordinary Member of the Debating Society (as his relative H L (Hugh) Toole (1925-29) had been), Secretary of Seekers and generally contributed to the cultural life of the School. He was also a Sergeant in the CCF and whilst not excelling in any sport he enjoyed rugby and athletics.

He was happy at Reading School and many will remember his enthusiasm for brass rubbing which led to two separate appearances on TV during his schooldays. He shared the 1961 Appleton Travel Scholarship with another East Winger, A R Bex (1958-62), and won an endowed Coronation Prize in 1962.

The theatre was to become a consuming interest in his life and many will remember him in Big School as the Judge in *'Inherit the Wind'* (1962) and for producing *'The Long and the Short and the Tall'* in the same year.

In 1962 Ian was articled to an insolvency practice, Saker & Davis, in the City. He became a qualified Chartered Accountant in 1968, the year that he married Diana Hickox (ex-Kendrick). R O (Richard) Cloke, OR (1955-60), fellow East Winger and lifelong friend, was his best man. Ian was to become godfather to Richard's son.



By 1974 Ian's firm was under the Deloitte's banner and he seized an opportunity to join their Jersey office. Until 1986 Ian was a partner there, but from 1 January 1987 he set up his own accountancy practice, I C N Toole & Co, and also built up a thriving trust company, which he sold in 1998. In 1999 he was approached to join the board of Key Trust.

Ian and Di became fully integrated into island life professionally and socially, and he was appointed to various boards, charities and other institutions on Jersey. He gave business advice (and was known as *'Mr Money'*) for ten years on BBC Radio Jersey. He became President of Rotary Club de la Manche.

This most individual of accountants possessed a deeply creative side. With his daughter, Vicky, he produced the well remembered Liberty spectacle in 1995 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the German Occupation of Jersey. It was four years in the planning and involved 350 islanders; he was immensely proud of it. He became treasurer of the National Youth Music Theatre in Jersey, and subsequently founder of the Jersey Youth Music Theatre. It was as a producer that Ian perhaps found his greatest fulfilment in the theatre but, as the husband of Di and father of their three daughters, his greatest pleasure. Never seeking the limelight for himself he was deeply proud of them all, and when Di was awarded the MBE in 2006 he revelled in her achievement.

He had a love of history; was a great movie buff; a sculptor in the art of icing cakes; he drew; and he was a talented photographer – indeed, he has left copious records on film of life on his beloved island.

In 2001 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and then in 2008 came a re-emergence of cancer (he had survived kidney cancer 18 years before). He approached the inevitable with much fortitude, even planning his own memorial celebration which, ever a user of the latest technology, he decided should be made available online: it can be accessed on <http://icnt.moonfruit.com> (login using 'toole' and password 'leobloom')

He leaves Di, and daughters Vicky, Helen and Elizabeth whom we thank for much material used in this notice.

Ian Toole died on 12 April 2009 aged 65.

KCB

GEOFFREY MICHAEL GOAMAN (1930-38)



Michael was born in East Grinstead, attended Hereford Cathedral School, and then Reading School (West House). He was to become a most distinguished postage stamp designer, creating stamps for more than forty countries.

His training at Reading School of Art was interrupted by the Second World War during which he became Lieutenant RN serving as a destroyer captain escorting supply ships in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Oceans.

After the war he went to the Central School of Art in London where he met Sylvia, the daughter of J B Priestley, the author and playwright. Michael and Sylvia married in 1950 and though his early work involved designing posters for film and theatre director, Alexander Korda, and the Post Office, the Goamans were soon working together and Sylvia's design, painted by Michael, became the 4d stamp in the 1953 Queen's Coronation set. During the 1950s and 60s stamps were designed for both Britain and the Commonwealth but from 1969 almost exclusively for British Commonwealth countries.

The Goamans' designs had striking visual clarity and drew on earlier modern designers such as Eric Gill and Abram Games. Their stamps remain classics of good design and objects of aesthetic merit in their own right, in contrast to the more populist images often used today.

Particularly successful creations include the 1962 Nigerian stamp embodying a mace in a palm tree; the 1963 Sierra Leone designs; the four cent St Vincent stamp of 1965, and Michael's image of Concorde on the 1969 4d stamp, *pictured right*. Their remarkable use of colour is particularly well expressed in the 1970 stamps for St. Lucia. The Goamans' work was shown at an exhibition in the Design Museum, London, in 1995 and was the subject of a *Look at Life* documentary in 1998.

In the 1940s Michael acquired an MG sports car; in the 1950s he converted a lifeboat to a 10 berth sailing boat for family expeditions; later he acquired a Gypsy caravan; and a printing press – all testaments to his leisure interests.

Sylvia died in 2006 and he is survived by their three daughters.

Michael Goaman died on 13 May 2009 aged 88.



KCB

MAURICE CHARLES PATON HEWITT (1934-43)



Maurice Hewitt's mother had been a concert pianist, and his father was a graduate of, and taught medical histology at, King's College, London. Maurice's early schooling was in Sydenham. Like many boys who left Reading School during the Second World War, he did not leave a valet – but, for the record; he became a Prefect, won his 1st XI Hockey Colours and 2nd XI Cricket Colours and was CQMS of the JTC. Music remained important all his life and he gained School Music Initials and was a winner in the 1942 and 1943 House Music Competition. Maurice was Hon Sec of his House, County (for which he also gained House Athletic Colours).

Photography was another great interest and he gave papers on the subject to both Seekers and to the Photographic Society (of which he became the Hon Sec). He was a Science Library Sub-Librarian, on the Magazine Committee, sang, and helped produce, in the Sing Song and acted (in the 1942 School play, *'You Never Can Tell'*, he alternated the part of William Brown with Richard Vernon, who was to become so well known on film and TV). At Speech Days he collected, amongst other prizes, the Monck & Palmer for Chemistry and the 6th Form Mathematics.

He was expected to follow his father into medicine but instead decided on the shorter course required to qualify as a Chartered Engineer, and in 1945 graduated, with Second Class Honours, BSc (Eng) from King's College, London (and with the Wilson Memorial Prize for the best paper read during the year in the Engineering Faculty).

After University he worked on radar in Glasgow, important work that exempted him from National Service. In 1948 he joined Power Samas Computers, in Croydon and thereafter moved to Vickers Armstrong. Whilst at Vickers he accompanied the Chairman, Lord Noel, to Australia as his ADC, worked at Burton on Trent and spent six months with Pirelli in Milan, before returning to the UK; shortly afterwards he was appointed to the Board of Vickers-Zimmer AG and moved to Germany.

In 1970 Maurice attended Harvard Business School, was head hunted and became Managing Director of Cross International. In the 1970s he moved to Canford Magna and became General Manager and Director of Plessey Numerical Controls Limited at Poole and was also Chairman of the British Numerical Control Society, Chairman of the Wessex area of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, a member of Council of MTTA and MTIRA and a member of the Anglo-Soviet Machine Tool Working Party. A further move In 1980 took him to Dublin as Managing Director of Plessey, Ireland. This notable career was halted by a brain aneurism in the mid 1980s which caused him to take early retirement.

In 1953 he had married Shirley Romain and together they had two daughters and a son. When this marriage ended he was left with the task of bringing them up; and then, whilst in Ireland, in 1981 he married Daphne, gaining two step children.

This man of many parts was a lover of Latin, a founder member of Mensa, an ardent solver of The Times Crossword, a keen sailor competing both on the Clyde and in Poole (where he owned a boat until 1995). He played the piano regularly (and the organ in church occasionally) and was known for his rendition of monologues (*'Have some Madeira, m'dear...'* being a favourite) and his wit. He was a man of moral courage who treated everybody the same. The illness of his last years was faced with fortitude and without complaint. He leaves Daphne, his three children and two step children and eleven grandchildren.

Maurice Hewitt died on 19 May 2009 aged 83.

KCB

DR GEOFFREY HAROLD ORCHARD BURGESS (1935-1944)

Geoffrey Burgess had a distinguished career, earning an entry in *Who's Who*.

At School he was in West House and became a Prefect, Captain of School Chess, the Senior Ordinary Member of the Debating Society, Hon Sec of School Music, a member of the Dramatic and Operatic and many other of the School's Societies.

He continued to play chess occasionally and taught both his sons the game; he played the piano until recent years and maintained his musical interests generally.

Geoffrey was born in 1926 in Reading and his father had helped found the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield. With his brother (J H O (John) Burgess (1929-39)), Geoffrey joined the Society of Friends and both joined the Friends Ambulance Unit in the Second World War. Perhaps his experience with victims at Belsen was responsible for his dislike of unnecessary petty bureaucracy and his anger at injustice and oppression.

He graduated as a zoologist from Reading University, gained his PhD, joined the Scientific Civil Service and rose to become Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Agriculture. Along the way, he was director of Torry Research Station in Aberdeen and director of Pest Infestation Control Laboratory in Slough. It was also his sad task to take the decision to close NIRD, an irony that even this most professional of men must have felt deeply about.

He became a school governor and a parish councillor, he spoke professionally all over the world, drawing on his library of several thousand volumes and the strands of humour that so appealed to him. He wrote papers, and books – including the definitive work on the naturalist Frank Buckland. Geoffrey was a practical man also; in his wife Barbara's words he was "works and buildings" she was "parks and gardens". Though not outwardly emotional, he was a deeply compassionate and hospitable man whose kindness and generosity of spirit was extended to many over the years.

He leaves Barbara, his sons Hugh and Bill and three grandchildren.

Geoffrey Burgess died from Alzheimer's disease on 21 September 2009 aged 83.

KCB



PETER ALAN RADO (1954-62)

My school friend Peter Rado was given four days to live on 3rd September 1958. He had contracted a fatal kidney condition. His parents had different ideas.



Peter was the only child of Richard and Luise Rado, who left Germany in the 1930s when a law was passed making it impossible for people of Jewish descent to teach in Universities. By 1954 Richard was Professor of Mathematics at Reading University; where he stayed until he retired in 1971. Luise was an accomplished concert pianist and singer.

Peter was born on 9 April 1943, and proved to be as keen on mathematics as his father. When the terminal diagnosis was given, Luise Rado began by contacting medical friends from the Jewish Diaspora, and was directed to Dr Hugh de Wardener at St Thomas' Hospital London, who later moved to Charing Cross Hospital. Peter was put on a very strict diet until he graduated from Trinity College Cambridge in 1966, when he went onto dialysis. Three times a week Peter would travel to the hospital in London, each time spending an average of 9 hours having his blood cleansed by the dialysis machine. At the same time he was also a research student at Royal Holloway College. At the end of his studies he was offered a position as

lecturer there. Then in the early 70s Peter was selected by a panel to be one of the very privileged, and precious few people to receive a home dialysis machine.

In the summer of 1975 Peter met Jo Headley, whilst they both sang in the BBC Symphony Chorus. Just over a year later they married. Thanks to the development of a portable dialysis machine they were able to go on their Honeymoon to Switzerland. Peter was now able to take long trips away from his home and he and Jo visited us in Scotland. Ineffective kidneys impose a serious limitation on diet, but Peter was delighted to take to bed with his portable dialysis machine and as much ice cream, cake & cornflakes as he could stomach. He explained that any impurities were washed clean immediately by the machine.

By 1988 when he had a second kidney transplant, (the first one in 1986 failed) Peter had become Charing Cross Hospital's longest surviving kidney dialysis patient having survived 22 years. While the hospital team was delighted with the transplant he suspected that their pleasure was tinged with regret at losing their record holder!

Peter and Jo pursued interests in music and choral singing and Peter played the Tuba in orchestras wherever he was needed. Both of them were also keenly interested in the shortcomings of the Criminal Justice System and both were involved in Circles of Support and Accountability. Jo was a life long Quaker and Peter became a member a year before his death. He had taught in a Quaker school for 12 years (*Leighton Park – Ed*), before having to take retirement on medical grounds.

In September 2008 on the exact 50th anniversary of his predicted death Peter gave a party at Royal Holloway College where he had lectured for 22 years and his daughter was currently a student. Among the friends and family were the Doctor whose advice saved his life, Professor de Wardener and three of the nurses who had cared for him.

Peter died of Merkel Cell cancer on Thursday 25th June 2009. He will be remembered as a man who delighted in life, who cared about people, and who influenced many. He is survived by his widow Jo and children Jason, Oliver, Matthew and Rachael.

B P Ridsdale

WILLIAM FREDERICK SWINTON (1940-44)

Born in Medway, Kent Bill Swinton was in County House and the JTC and left from the Lower VIth with his O & CSC. He did his National Service with the Royal Air Force and became an analytical chemist, spending his career with Horlicks and Beechams.

In 1953 he married Joy Potter and their union produced three sons: Mark, Neil and Jonathan. Bill was an active and widely travelled man, indeed, travel was his great interest, and it was whilst enjoying a foreign holiday that he died.

Joy passed away twelve years ago and he is survived by his sons and by grandchildren.

William Swinton died on 20 October aged 79.



KCB

REVD JOHN WILLIAM ETHEREDGE BROWN (1926-31)



John and his two brothers, A B E (Basil) (1926-33) and H E (Howard) (1929-39) were all in East House at School. Their father was the physiotherapist, Arthur Brown, blinded in the Great War, of Denmark Road, Reading. Arthur was a leader of Reading Crusader Class, one of the influences which led all three brothers to seek ordination in the Church of England.

John enjoyed rugby and was a corporal in the OTC; a sub-librarian and a member of the Debating Society and Seekers. From the classical 6th under G H Keeton, he went to St Peter's Hall, Oxford where he read Modern History and thence, as did his brothers, to Wycliffe Hall for theological training.

After ordination in 1937, Stratford, East London, was his first parish. There he met Margery and they married early in the second world war during his next curacy at Rawtenstall, Lancashire. A third took him to Thame and there he joined the Royal Observer Corps and became a local forces chaplain.

His incumbencies differed widely – parishes in Cornwall, Kent, Derbyshire and Devon – the last of eighteen years in Widecombe-in-the-Moor where he also served as Rural Dean of Moreton and Assistant Chaplain at HM Prison, Princetown (i.e. Dartmoor). He took a full part in the rural life of Widecombe – and its Fair – oversaw a major restoration of the church; and loved ringing the bells in its tower.

In 1984 John retired to Ashburton, continuing his other Prison Chaplaincy at Channings Wood, helping out in local parishes and becoming Chaplain of the local branch of the British Legion. He also served as a local Councillor for Ashburton and had a year in office as Portreeve (Mayor).

He is survived by his second wife, Lilian, and their two children, his brother Basil and also his sister Jean, to whom we are most grateful for the material used in this notice.

John Brown died on the 13th September 2009 aged 95.

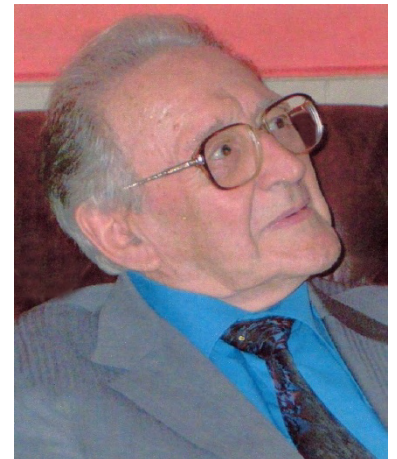
KCB

ALAN GEOFFREY STEPHENSON (1938-43)

Alan Stephenson was in East House and left from VI MB. He was born and lived all his life at 46 Filey Road, Reading, attended Newtown School and then Reading School.

After service in the Royal Army Pay Corps he attended Teacher Training College, worked for both Huntley & Palmers and Claude Fenton and eventually became Company Secretary at Herbert Silver Menswear, where he worked for over 20 years not retiring until the age of 70.

Whilst at Huntley & Palmers he was part of the re-founding of the Drama Group which became well known as "The Bourbons", playing in the Barn Theatre and becoming self supporting. Alan was a leading light as an actor, also produced, and when, after 10 years, The Bourbons celebrated their 21st production (in March 1964) he was Chairman. His interest extended to other dramatic and operatic societies; besides this he was also a great reader and an enthusiastic traveller.



Alan also served the community he lived in; for many years he was a member of Civil Defence and he was a Counsellor with the Samaritans (indeed he held office in the Reading branch), always taking a spell of duty on Christmas Day. He was a strong personality, an individualist and a communicator – a combination which exasperated some but was of help to far more.

Amongst those present at his funeral service, a humanist ceremony, was R A (Bob) Forrest OR (1941-44) a lifelong friend. Alan is survived by his sister, Vera Doe.

Alan Stephenson died on 1st May 2009 aged 82.

KCB

JOHN RICHARD SIGEE (1949-50)

The Sigees brothers, JR and RC (1949-53) entered School in County House. Rodney, the younger, had some years to establish himself. Richard (known at School as Dick) came straight into the sixth form (Sc VIA) but in the single year he spent at Reading School he made his mark. In his only rugby season he made an appearance for the 1st XV, his speed and try scoring ability having brought him to notice; that speed was not to be demonstrated at his only sports day; he was unable to participate due to injury - though he had already achieved 1st equal in the long jump held prior to Sports Day. He also captained his house athletics team and gained his house colours. He reached the County House Committee and at Speech Day 1950 took the sixth form mathematics (the Robert Newport Memorial) prize.



It was his father's career with Norwich Union (which was to span forty six years) that had brought the family to Reading from Leicestershire where Richard had previously been at school. He followed his father into the industry but initially joined Royal Insurance. His future wife, Anne Beats (ex Kendrick) was with Liverpool, London & Globe and both were members of Reading Athletic Club, indeed they became mens' and womens' captains respectively: Dick became a Berkshire and a Southern Counties Sprint Champion at 100 yards. At the same distance Anne was English Schools U/15 champion and went on to gain international honours and to be short listed for the Helsinki Olympics.

Richard left Royal for Norwich Union, his father's old company, married Anne in 1957 (with Rodney as Best Man) and his career took them to Cardiff, Worcester, Esher, Norwich, Croydon and the City (the latter two branches as manager). His final post was that of London and South East Regional Manager.

He was an active Rotarian: also a keen sailor who built a mirror dinghy and was involved with the Ocean Youth scheme amongst many other interests.

Anne and Richard lived at Kenley and spent 35 years in the area. She survives him with their three sons, Andrew, Marc and James and four grandchildren.

Richard Sigees died on 19 April 2009 aged 76.

KCB

DR COLIN TREVOR CHUDLEY (1943-52)



If fate is the determinant then it was entirely appropriate that Reading School was Colin Chudley's place of education. His great love was mathematics and he had a skilled and enlightened tutor; none other than Charles Edward Kemp, Headmaster of Reading School (1939-1966). CEK was more than a distinguished mathematician, he was determined that his pupils talents, whatever they were, should have the right opportunities to flourish. For CEK someone like Colin – and his friend and contemporary J (John) Bartlett (1944-51), fellow maths addict - it must have been a joy as well as a duty to nurture their abilities. Colin was in West House, serving on his House committee and taking part in many activities for West, sport, chess, music: a willing horse. On the wider School front he became a monitor, was active in the Debating Society and gained his Tennis Representative Colours. He was also a Sergeant in the CCF and in the Opera and Radio Societies.

After gaining a Palmer Scholarship to Reading University where he read for a Mathematics degree, he took a Doctorate in Theoretical Physics. His first appointment was at Harwell but he changed direction from the field of civil nuclear power in 1963 when he took an appointment at Bristol College of Science and Technology (which was to become the University of Bath) working on the application of mathematics to nuclear physics. He then made a radical move into the sphere of the emerging Polytechnics. Over the years he contributed massively to the evolution of Bristol Polytechnic (which subsequently became the University of the West of England). He was a Head of Department, became Chairman of the Research committee, then pro-Director and then Deputy Director. Throughout, he remained at heart a teacher and also gave long service to the Open University.

Colin was a keen bridge player – his first love after mathematics – and kept up his tennis until a few years ago. Summer holidays had usually included surfing on the north Cornwall coast. He was a volunteer with the Cotswold Canals Association and the Wotton under Edge cinema.

In 1957 he had married Sally Gerrard in Cheam and she survives him together with their daughters Carole and Rachel.

Colin Chudley died on 17 December 2008 aged 75.

KCB

JOHN GARVEIGH formerly HANS GOLDMANN (1938-45)

John Garveigh not only changed his name but, as Hans Goldmann, a refugee from Nazi Germany, he also changed his House at Reading School a confusing number of times – Boarders (East Wing) in 1938, then County in 1939, West from 1940 – 42, County again from 1943 - 44 and, in his final year, once more a Boarder (in South House) – before leaving from UvB.

He was initially placed, aged 9, and not speaking a word of English, in East Wing under 'Fanny' Francis (after a brief meeting in 1939, his Mother returned home and he did not see her again until after the War). The Goldmann's were Czechoslovak nationals living in Berlin where John's Jewish father had substantial business interests.

John always remembered with gratitude the numerous kindly parents of boys at School who generously offered hospitality during the holidays. In that first summer holiday he stayed initially with the Francis family, then at the home of L A (Alan) Sears (1936-44) and then at the home of J W M (Mike) Smith (1937-47) PP. With funds frozen in Germany, the Governors of the School waived tuition fees and John became a day boy with the family of J R (John) Jarvis (1936-41). Frank and Mabel Jarvis offered him a home for as long as circumstances would permit. For five years they treated him as a son and he never forgot their kindnesses. In his final year, with funds again available, John once more became a boarder, this time in South House.

His great friend (and singing companion in both Operatic Society and Sing Song productions in that final year) was E (Eddie) Cohen (1942-46). It was Eddie who was to change John's life; because of a chance meeting in the 1950s with him John met his future wife, Eugénia. He moved with her from England to Portugal, in 1961, and became a major resort developer living thereafter, in his own words, "*an idyllic life in the sun*". John was very successful in business and largely instrumental in developing the Algarve as a holiday destination. Ironically, he also suffered under two repressive Portuguese regimes, escaping once to Switzerland.

He succumbed to Motor Neurone Disease after a seven year battle and leaves his wife Eugénia and 3 married children, Christopher, Michael and Tanya.

John Garveigh died on 11 July 2008, aged 79.

KCB



ANDREA JOANNA WADDELL formerly ALEXANDER JOHN WADDELL (1991-98)



Alex Waddell was in East House; he immediately made his mark academically and various appearances at Speech Day culminated with the History Prize in 1997. He had enjoyed sporting activities. At age 14 he was diagnosed with severe curvature of the spine and although this was operated on he developed the permanent condition of fibromyalgia which gives, inter alia, constant pain. Whilst studying philosophy at Durham University he started treatment in preparation for a gender change and when the three years at Durham were completed it was Andrea Joanna Waddell who enrolled at the University of Sussex to study for an MA in Social and Political Thought. Further acute health problems necessitating three serious operations had to be endured during this time, but the gender reassignment surgery was finally carried out and Andrea then decided to study massage and aromatherapy at Brighton & Hove City College. More recently she had started to make a career as a photographic model.

Despite her debilitating conditions of health Andrea was determined to show a cheerful face to the world, to continue to enjoy the art, literature, music and ballet that she loved, and to stand up for her beliefs.

Tragically, in October last year, her body was found by firefighters tackling a fire in her flat and a charge of murder has subsequently been brought. She is survived by her parents, Sonia and Robin Waddell and by her brother N H (Nick) Waddell OR (1987-94).

Andrea Waddell died on 15 October 2009 aged 29.

KCB

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this issue and, in particular, to B P (Brian) Ridsdale (1954-61) for writing the obituary of Peter Rado

In Memoriam

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

W A C (Alan) Hill (1936-41)

Cable Engineer
Died 31 December 2008 aged 84

L R (Les) Clarke (1931-36)

Life Assurance
Died 17 October 2009 aged 90

M G (Michael) Horler (1940-46)

Banker
Died 29 November 2009 aged 80

Dr E N (Edmund) Hey (1942-49)

Paediatrician
Died 6 December 2009 aged 75

G (Gerald) Malkin (1938-39 & 1943-47)

Company Director
Died 18 December 2009 aged 80

A B L (Ainslie) Clarke CBE (1934-37)

Chief Executive Imperial Cancer Research Fund
Died 10 January 2010 aged 89

D A (Derek) Russell

Schoolmaster
Died 17 January 2010 aged 74

R (Ron) Peddley (1944-51)

Solicitor
Died 23 January 2010 aged 75

H E V (Henry) Bertoux (1920-26)

Nurseryman
Died 28 January 2010 aged 100

Professor D J (Denys) Hinton (1931-39)

Captain of School, Architect and Artist
Died 10 February 2010 aged 88

N (Noel) Austin (1936-39)

Design Draughtsman
Died 12 March 2010 aged 85

V R C (Vic) Payne (1938-45)

Schoolmaster
Died 12 March 2010 aged 82

K J (Ken) Rhodes MBE (1943-49)

Senior Civil Servant (HMSO)
Died 3 April 2010 aged 78

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



From the Editors



In 2025, just 15 years away, Reading School will reach its 900th anniversary. Should this not be both reason and excuse for exceptional celebration? As most of its existence was in the purlieu of the Abbey, perhaps a great marquee within the Forbury and a joint reception with the Borough would be appropriate...

Should other schools of similar antiquity be invited to send representatives? Certainly a special church service must be arranged

Such an occasion demands an appropriate dignity; a celebration both of the past and of hopes for the future should not be limited simply solely to modern trends in entertainment. Once, such occasions would have called for a pageant

and perhaps some variation on that theme might still be relevant. Do readers have any thoughts on the matter?- do they intend to come?

The co-editors will both be 80 in 2025, deo volente, past, perhaps, the height (if that was ever the word) of their powers but hopefully believing themselves to be still in the prime of life; and both the oldest and youngest of ORs will surely want to join together for such a remarkable anniversary.

Talking of the younger element, for those who have yet to become ORs the credit crunch and tightening of regulations meant difficulties in finding placements for Year 12 (Sixth Form) boys in the 2010 Work Experience Week. The same will no doubt apply in 2011, so if any reader expects to be able to offer a placement, especially (but not exclusively) in finance, engineering, or medicine, please register with Miss G H Cavagan at ghcavagan@readingschool.reading.sch.uk.

H E V (Henry) Bertoux (1920-26), who became the Association's only centenarian on 7 July 2009, passed away on 28 January. Currently our oldest living member is but 98 (his 99th birthday is in May).

C J (Chris) Jobson OR (1976-83) has been appointed to the post of Development Officer. His background and knowledge of the School should be a positive advantage in such a key role for its future. His predecessor, Mrs Marilyn Bentley, has moved with her husband, Paul, to Norway and takes with her best wishes from your Council ...

The Parents' Association will be holding their Spring Fayre at the School on Saturday, 8 May and ORs are urged to support it. This well established annual event last year raised almost £8,000 towards School projects.

The need and urgency for a new refectory cannot be emphasised too strongly. Quite apart from it being an Ofsted requirement, no school of this type should be unable to offer at least an inside area where pupils may eat their lunch. At Reading School there is no such area, except for sixth formers who at least have a common room of their own. We hope that those ORs who can, will be prepared to help; and in this respect members are referred to Past President Neil Thomason's letter of 19 October 2009 on how donations, legacies and gifts may best be arranged

An additional twelve commemorative wall plaques (the 'tea trays' in Big School) are planned for installation over the next 24 months. Candidates are shown on page 44, grouped roughly into categories (the schooling of one or two needs greater scrutiny), and all members are invited to add to or comment on this list. The restriction to 'Public Service' has been eased to enable those who have made their mark in other spheres to be considered, but there are two provisos – only the deceased are to be commemorated and four of the plaques are provisionally reserved to replace some of those that have mysteriously disappeared over the years. The leading contenders will be discussed in Council.



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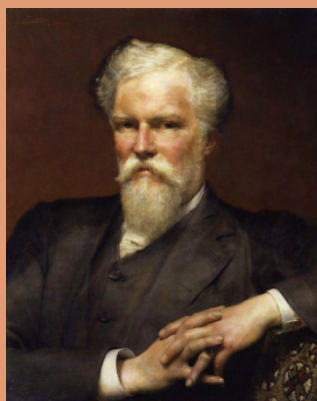
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Alfred Waterhouse
By Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema
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We are grateful to The National Portrait Gallery for permission to reproduce on the front cover the portrait in their collection of Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905) the architect of the present School buildings - as they existed when opened in 1871 - and the subject of Philip Mortimer's article in this issue.

The artist, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema RA (1836-1912), was born in The Netherlands but gained his greatest fame as a noted society portraitist in Britain where he became an establishment figure. He moved to London in 1870 and by the time he was buried in St Paul's Cathedral had been knighted and awarded the Order of Merit.