THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Spring 2011



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The lead article, about the 1870 laying of the Foundation Stone of the present School buildings, is linked to the centenary this year of the Reading Old Boys Lodge and is written by His Honour Judge S O (Simon) Oliver (1969-76), pictured first left, a former Hon Secretary of the Association. Dr A C (Andy) Risius (1963-68), second left, – see GCSE from memory on pp 36-38 – is an alumnus of St John's College, Cambridge. M J (Michael) Hodgkinson (2002-09), centre, who is studying PPE at St Peter's College, Oxford and J R (Jamie) Scuffell (2002-09), second right, (medicine at Sheffield) have contributed A Very Southern African Adventure on pp 6-7. A D (Adam) Wright (2003-10), first right, now at St Catherine's, Cambridge, studying Natural Sciences, writes of Korea and the Biology Olympiad on pp 22-25.

The President's Letter

It is a great privilege to be President of the OR Association and in my first President's letter I would like to cover four topics:

PRIDE IN OUR SCHOOL

'The Best State School' It was with much pride that I read in the Sunday Times (14 Nov.) that Reading School had been nominated as The Best State School based not only on A level results but also on the wider education provided. Competition academic, sporting and musical, was noted as a key element as this stimulated not only individual excellence but also developed leadership and organisational team working skills. How different from

certain sectors of state education where competition is seen as socially divisive!

Outstanding A-level Results Once again the School is in the top ten state schools. 35% of the results were A* and 43% were A. The most popular subjects were maths, physics, chemistry and economics. Congratulations to all concerned!

Now we are an Academy! On 1 February 2011 Reading School became an Academy, one of the first to do so following the government's encouragement for more state schools to opt out of local government control. This has been a real team effort involving considerable effort by the Governors, Principal and staff and will bring the School significant benefits.

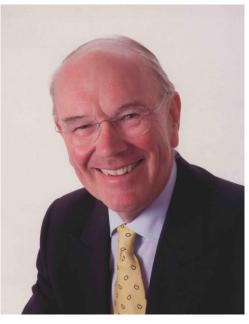
THE ROLE OF THE OR ASSOCIATION

Friend Raising The Association is *not* a fundraising organisation rather it seeks to develop a spirit of collegiality amongst ORs. It organises social events and keeps members in touch through *The Old Redingensian* and the new website - *OR Connect*. The School is responsible for fundraising but an active and involved alumni really helps.

Charitable Activities The Association supports the School by:

- Providing scholarships and grants
- Encouraging personal development
- Maintaining a sense of tradition

Scholarships In the past these have been awarded on the basis of academic excellence in the entrance examinations. Council has recently decided to use these funds to award boarding bursaries to boys whose family circumstances would preclude them from having a Reading School education. The number of awards will be fewer but of greater value.



Grants We support projects which have a long-term benefit to significant groups of boys. Recent examples include £11,000 for a grand piano for Big School, £2,000 to enhance the Boat House and £500 for secondhand cricket sight-screens.

Personal Development In addition to supporting the Enterprise scheme we have provided grants to enable boys to undertake charitable work at the Grace School in South Africa for children affected by AIDS. A former RS Chaplain works there and previous visits working with children who have so little has made a lasting impression on the boys.

Maintaining Traditions We have refurbished parts of the chapel and Big School and further plaques commemorating distinguished ORs are being painted.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ken Brown and Chris Widdows continue to do an outstanding job in editing *The Old Redingensian*. Last October *OR Connect* was launched. This is a brand new interactive website which can be accessed at

www.oldredingensians.org.uk

The site enables any OR to:

- Keep up to date with news about the School and the Association
- Join the Association online
- Update personal details online
- Search for friends and other ORs
- Book and pay for an event

Whilst *The Old Redingensian* will continue to be distributed in hard-copy much of the future communication to ORs will now be by email.

ANNUAL DINNER 26 NOVEMBER 2011

This will be in Big School and this year we hope that those who joined the School during the 1980s will make a special effort to attend.

Finally I should like to thank my predecessor, Murray Wildman, for all that he has done during his term of office and also my colleagues on Council who contribute so much both individually and collectively to the Association.

With very best wishes Floreat Redingensis! Francis Pocock

Notes and News

The School opened its buildings last September for public tours as part of Heritage Open Days, the National Scheme supported by English Heritage and established in 1994.

The late Sir Edward Dodd (1920-25) who became HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in 1963 and was President of the Old Redingensians Association in 1965, has been given that ultimate accolade for a Briton, an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

J C (John) Savage (1959-66) – see the report of the OR Remembrance Service on p 12 – makes the point that as the son of M C Savage (Master at School 1939-76) Boarding Housemaster 1951-60, Second Master 1960-76) and, though an East House day boy, growing up in South House the School Chapel was effectively his parish church for 15 years.

As part of the on-going revitalisation of School Rowing, the OR Association has funded a replacement security fence around the Boat House on the promenade. Meanwhile, *Foley* one of the School's coxed IVs, named for W E Foley (1969-76) a former Captain of Boats who tragically died in a cycling accident in 1983, has been professionally refurbished to a high standard by *Eton Racing* and is here pictured lying in the West Wing Garden ready for its return to Caversham, and, hopefully, another 20 or so years use by RSBC.



Major Sir Richard Keane, 6th Bt, has died at the age of 101. He was the doyen of the old Anglo-Irish families in Eire and though not himself an OR (he was at Sherborne), he it was who pointed out errors on the Tea Tray of his ancestor, Lt Gen Sir John Keane, which has hung in Big School since the 1890s. Our Sir John was **not** the first baronet: that was his father and, as he was the second son, it was his elder brother who succeeded to the baronetcy. Further, when our Sir John became Lord Keane it was of Ghuznee, not Ghuznel. Amendment is needed!

Commander N D (Nigel aka 'Sharkey') MacCartan-Ward DSC AFC RN (Retd) (1955-62) former Captain of School and Commander of 801 Naval Air Squadron flying Harriers in the Falklands War, now lives in Grenada, but was in the news recently following the criticism by his son, Lt Cdr Kris Ward, another Harrier pilot, of the decision to scrap that aircraft. Nigel has also attacked the cuts in RAF flying personnel.



'The Cult of Beauty – the Aesthetic Movement 1860-1900' is a major exhibition at the V&A this Spring. Interior design was a significant part of the Movement and the famed London store Liberty's, carried much that was designed by leading members of the Movement. Amongst them is the peacock feather motif, illustrated right, which remains to this day a best seller for Liberty's. It was devised by Arthur Silver (1853-96) whose Silver Studio, founded in 1880 became one of Britain's leading commercial design studios and was active until 1963. Nowadays the archive of that collection is housed in The Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture at Middlesex University. It is intended that the Silver family of Reading will be the subject of a future article in this journal, as so many attended the School.

Rex Hora (1959-65), perennial campaigner, has formed CARP, the campaign for rural payphones to ensure that 'phone boxes are working properly.

Sir Clive Sinclair (1955-56) of semiconductor fame and the inventor of the ill-fated C5 electric car has now developed the X-1, similar to a bicycle with a battery to power an electric motor when required. The user is partly enclosed in an acrylic bubble with a roll cage. It is expected to be on sale this year.

The Lord Ashcroft Gallery has opened at the Imperial War Museum. It houses, inter alia, his collection of Victoria Crosses, the largest in the world. The curator of Lord Ashcroft's Medal Collection is M R (Michael) Naxton (1959-67). Michael will have been seen by many members on television from time to time, in his capacity as a military historian. He also lectures, and anyone who has the chance to hear his talk on the Victoria Cross (see p 17 - Ed) or, with his marine hat on, the Titanic (centenary of the disaster next year) is well advised to take it.

The Chaplain to the OR Association, Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) was ordained on 28 May 1961 in Bristol Cathedral. A service to celebrate the 50 years of his ministry was held on 29 May 2011 in Buckingham.

Dominic Sandy (2005-10) the youngest ever player to be selected by France for its Mens Lacrosse team, played in all seven games in the World Championship, scoring twice, and is currently part of the squad training for the 2012 European Championships.

Under the Government scheme to establish 'University' schools, one such is proposed for East Reading. There are three main backers; Reading University, Reading College and Reading School. (These independently run state schools are being designed to offer both academic and technical education for pupils aged 11-19 and will be mainly funded by central Government.

Enterprise Awards



The 2011 awards will be made to applicants who demonstrate enterprise and creativity, or adventure or leadership or scientific endeavour combined with personal initiative. Applications are graded from AA (the top award) to D (no award) and divided into major awards (up to £600) and minor awards (up to £150).

M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), a former President of the Old Redingensians Association, has again shouldered the bulk of the organisation of the Scheme this year, in liaison with Caroline Beard the Principal's PA. The process started last October, when the Council agreed a budget of £5,000 for the year and subsequently a new poster (separately budgeted) has been devised and displayed in classroom locations, and elsewhere around the School, intranet communications established and Form Tutors briefed.

On 11 February a presentation was given in the Lecture Room to those of Years 7-13 who have expressed an interest in applying for an award – numbers are disappointingly down on last year. Mr Weeds introduced and closed the session, with Michael Maule, in the absence of OR President, F J (Francis) Pocock, giving the address.

Strong support was provided by three of last year's award winners who gave succinct overviews of the enterprises that they had undertaken. In attendance were M J (Martin) Parsons, (Vice President, OR Association), C J (Chris) Widdows, Membership Secretary and K C (Ken) Brown, Archivist.

The closing date for applications was on the 8 April and the Enterprise Awards Panel began their final assessment at the end of that month, communicating results to the applicants (and the OR Association Treasurer) on 9 May. A table of the award winners will be shown in the Autumn 2011 issue of *The Old Redingensian*.

This year's Assessment Panel consists of two bodies: for the Association; Michael Maule, Francis Pocock, and immediate Past President, Murray Wildman and for the School; Anurag Aggarwal (Captain of School) and Cameron Cook (Vice Captain) who make their recommendations to the Principal for his consideration.

- All applicants are aware that awards are paid on the understanding that if no report is received after the activity then the money will have to be returned.
- Reports are collated by the Secretary of the Association.
- Sporting tours and World Challenge, together with all other large pupil number activities are excluded from the Enterprise Awards Scheme (although can be considered for separate OR Association grants).

The usual practice of the Editors is to reprint a report from an enterprise award winner in this section; what follows overleaf is a little different in that the trip described was undertaken by two ORs, although both Jamie Scuffell and Michael Hodginson are previous award winners and were inspired by their experiences to make the return trip as a direct result. As will be seen they travelled to Siyabuswa with Year 12 students Philip Herbst and Harry Campbell – Philip and Harry were using their awards for the trip and perhaps they too will be fired by their experiences in the same way as Jamie and Michael to make a return trip to the region....

A Very Southern African Adventure

Jamie Scuffell and Michael Hodgkinson

Both Jamie and I had experience with Siyabuswa, South Africa. Jamie had visited with the School's Science Club in 2007; I went there upon Dr Applegate's urging in 2009. In those two years the Hope For Africa Mission had grown from a small secondary school to include a bible college, far more students and far more classrooms. We travelled with two students from Year



12, Harry
Campbell
and Philip
Herbst.
Harry and
Philip,
pictured
left, spent
their time
mainly
teaching
and

helping with activities at Grace School during their two week stay, and managed to fit in a period of safari; from what we heard during and after their stay, they had a thoroughly rewarding experience.

Building upon what Jamie and I had learnt in our previous visits, we had a series of goals for the trip. To encourage greater connection between Reading and Siyabuswa, one of these goals was to give the school widespread access to the internet. This included laying internet cable and therefore improving infrastructure, refurbishing eighteen computers into a usable state and linking up eight new laptops with wireless internet access. I intended to teach Critical Thinking and Philosophy, see picture below, to the mature students at Alathea Bible College, building upon my study at university. As much as possible we wanted to teach extra curricula and fill in lessons at Grace



Christian
School
itself.
Upon all
this, we
could not
spend two
months in
Southern
Africa
without

visiting some of the great treasures it has to offer, and for us the main attraction would be a three thousand kilometre round trip by truck, coach, car, train and foot to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Our trip to Zimbabwe I'm sure was one that both of us will remember for a long, long time. We had originally put it on the back-burner: the reputation Zimbabwe has accrued in recent years had put us off travelling there. However when encouraged, we decided in a rather

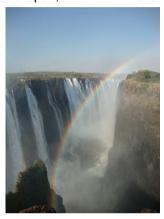
brazen way that you only ever get to do this kind of thing once. And neither of us regretted it. We started our journey in Siyabuswa at our place of residence, Alathea Bible College. When the PUTCO (these became lovingly nicknamed the Probably Unreliable Transport COmpany) bus we wanted to catch didn't turn up, we caught a 150 mile hitch in the back of a pickup truck into Pretoria. Not, dare I say, for the fainthearted. After a hefty walk across Pretoria, we caught overnight coach to Bulawayo in Southern Zimbabwe. This was interceded by a stop in the early hours at Beitbridge, the only overland crossing between South Africa and Zimbabwe. What greeted us was a ramshackle affair: pickup trucks so full with possessions that their cross section was easily comparable to that of a beetle, gueues in which we had to wait for hours, and customs officials who seemed all rather chummy with the coach driver. On top of this was the rather exorbitant entry fee of \$55, which you could also (at least officially) pay in South African rand. The column labelled Zimbabwean dollars was somewhat, unsurprisingly, empty.

Our arrival in Bulawayo the morning after greeted us in a city that one might have mistaken for the American Midwest in the 1930s. A number of things were just strange. Firstly, nothing new had obviously been built in at least twenty-five years, and nothing had had any maintenance in half that time. The printers had run out of cartridges, because everything was in pen, and no one could afford to import any more. And, when you first see a Toyota pickup with a group of Zimbabwean soldiers with Kalashnikovs driving around, you kind of wish you weren't the only white guys in town with big rucksacks on your backs. Though this was kind of what we expected. The more time we spent in Zimbabwe the more we learnt never to expect anything. That was the wonder of the place. What we didn't expect was to feel safer in Bulawayo, with a barely functioning (if at all, we didn't see any police) security establishment, than we did in Pretoria. We didn't expect the broad smiles that overcame every face when we mentioned our nationality. We didn't expect the kindness or welcoming nature of the gentleman who served us dinner, whose expression went from bemusement to joy when he realised these two wandering strangers were coming to his bar because it had been recommended by a guidebook they seemed to clutch so closely. We didn't expect that given the trials and tribulations of a country that went from the bread-basket of Africa to join the litany of mismanaged, corrupt, and poor countries, to find a place so very happy.

The train to Victoria Falls was a history lesson. Built in Gloucestershire in 1952 it showed the height of British engineering and, in the case of the window handles, over-engineering. 'RR' of Rhodesian Railways was still

etched into the mirrors. Waking up to a train rolling through the Zimbabwean scrub is an experience in itself. And upon our late arrival into Victoria Falls town, we were met by an elephant who had wandered onto the tracks and at the sight of a twenty-carriage train rolling straight towards it, decided to run amok, much to the amusement of all those hanging out of the train windows. As soon as we arrived monkeys thought that running on (and in!) the carriages was a suitable way to start their day. Honestly, who could blame them?

The town had fallen into disrepair, its tourism sapped by political and social unrest. It was the kind of thing that if this wasn't a 'Wimpy' that had been sitting in disrepair, but an establishment with a name far more



exotic, then it would have been described as 'quaint' or 'of a bygone era', or 'charming'. Instead this was pillage, of a capitalistic kind. Although the place still had supplies - Zambia is only three miles away by road - the prices made a rich European gawk. Such was Zimbabwe in 2010. Thankfully Victoria Falls never changes, from when Livingstone discovered it to

when two Redingensian teenagers stumbled across it two centuries later. The water still flows, devastating in its power, beautiful in its glory. One and a half thousand kilometres later this was what we had come for, and there we were glued to the spot unsure if to speak or motion or jump up and down. Or, as it happened, stand and stare. Sometimes you see things which can only be described by trying to decipher what you felt in that moment, because the monument itself is too extraordinary for words. Victoria Falls is one of those things. And long, in all its majestic beauty and with the world spinning around it, may Victoria's falls continue to be so.



Siyabuswa, ln we continued on far more mundane things, if no less important. Work on eight laptops that had been volunteered by a local company was taking longer than we hoped, but projects such as our intensive blogging and posting photos up to the internet continued at a pace. We turned the outside of the Hope For Africa Mission receiption

(sic: someone had painted the name wrong on the building, it seems only fitting to keep it the same here) into our office, bemusing those who came and went to call on Bishop Mahlangu. As much as when you visit a place as beautiful and different as where we were, the

use of our (or more specifically Jamie's – *image above* - computer skills) was something that could not be missed. When these computers started to take on a more usable form, we moved on to the challenge of sorting out the computers already at Grace. These were in a ramshackle state: with no internet connection the antivirus had not been updated, and students had taken advantage to install all sorts of paraphernalia, from games to films and music galore. Amongst this was work that needed to be saved, and trying to sift through this and withhold our impulses to wipe the hard drive was something that was often hard to overcome.

Thankfully tedious computer work did not occupy all of our time. I taught a course in Critical Thinking and essay writing, and Jamie helped out on the science front with extra teaching laid on out of hours to try and give some children extra tuition. Our attempts to make this regular were interrupted by a large-scale public union strike that kept the school out of action for about three weeks. The local culture was sampled, though with rather mixed results, but certainly something that we both enjoyed and took a lot from. We were even lucky enough to slip in a quick trip to Durban, *below*, for our first glimpse of the Indian Ocean and a few much

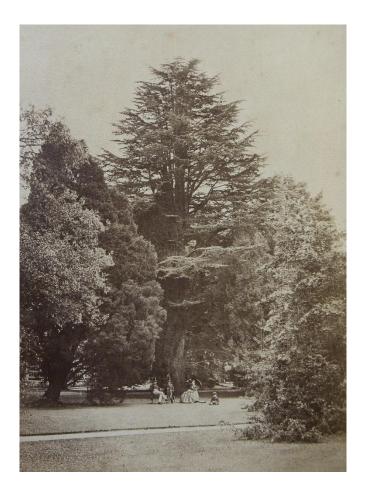


needed days off amongst the hectic last few weeks. This did not hinder the momentum of the computer project though, and by the time we left there was a working computer room. From the independent, unlinked workstations that originally existed, a server was created, the workstations became linked and slow but steady internet became available on all of them. Security and filtering systems were installed with the server, and the laptops all became linked by wireless internet. From the ramshackle bunch of kit that had existed before we arrived, a computer room that Grace School could be proud of was left in our wake. Hopefully this will remain a tremendous asset for Grace and its learners for many years to come.

So went our African adventure. What I have tried to account above does not even skim the surface of the stories, encounters and experiences that will stay with us for a long time. Without our links to Reading School - Neil Applegate, the ORs in funding our two previous escapades and the support of the School community, we would be far lesser people. And I would not be sitting in my room, on a cold winter evening in Oxford, with a smile on my face of what a summer I was able to engage in. Opportunities like this are few and far between, and we shall forever be grateful to those who allowed us to grab ours by its horn. May this be true for all those who come after us.

Michael Hodgkinson

Waterhouse at Foxhill





The collection of the Museum of English Rural Life has yielded the above two photographs of the eminent architect of the School buildings, as they were when opened on the present site in 1871, (and indeed of the building where MERL is currently housed) sitting in the grounds at Whiteknights Park where he lived at Foxhill Mansion – also designed by the man in question, Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905). Waterhouse was the subject of an article by Dr P P Mortimer (1953-60) in the Spring 2010 issue of this journal.





The close up of the seated group in each photograph is understood to show Waterhouse, his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Paul. The other gentleman (in the left hand picture) has not been identified: he may perhaps be Waterhouse's father (also Alfred, born 1799), who helped found Leighton Park School, though that is speculation.

Tea Trays Old and New

The following commemorative wall plaques are now in process of preparation:

Francis Jeune MA DCL	Vice Chancellor, Oxford University, d 1868
John Lempriere MA DD	Lempriere's Dictionary, d 1824
Major Sir Arthur Salisbury	Governor and Commander in Chief of the British Somaliland
Lawrance KCMG KBE DSO	Protectorate, d 1965
Col Thomas William Rory Pearson	Welsh International Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Squash and Golf player,
CB DSO TD DL	d 1957

Council has approved the second four to be hung this year as follows (no objections having been received):

Peter Paul Dobree MA	Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, d 1825	
John Jackson BA FRS DD	Bishop of London, d 1885	
Sir Edward James Dodd CBE	HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, d 1966	
Right Rev Arthur Cayley Headlam CH MA DD	Bishop of Gloucester, Principal of King's College London, d 1947	

The above completes (in Dobree and Jackson) the proviso of re-hanging four of the plaques that have disappeared from the walls of Big School. The final four in the current set of twelve, will therefore all be new candidates. The following names, three taken from the remaining fifty candidates detailed in the Spring 2011 issue and one addition, will be put to Council for approval. If any OR wishes to propose a different candidate, a vote will be taken.

Douglas Albert Guest CVO FRCM Hon RAM FRCO FRSCM	Organist Emeritus of Westminster Abbey(Organist and Master of the Choristers 1963-81), d 1966
Robert Scott Alexander, Baron Alexander of Weedon QC FRSA	Lawyer, Chairman National Westminster Bank, President of MCC, Chancellor of Exeter University, Chairman of the RSC, Trustee of the National Gallery etc., d 2005
Leslie Eric Saxby	England Rugby International, d 1956
Lt Col Dr Martin Edward Meakin Herford DSO MBE MC & Bar	The most decorated doctor of WWII, d 2002

Tracking the Tea Trays No 16: Sir Francis Moore



Sir Francis Moore, who appears to be the School's first recorded Member of Parliament for Reading, was at School under John Smith (himself an old boy of the School) and went up to St John's College, Oxford in 1574. He was a successful lawyer with a number of significant published works and the inventor of the conveyance known as *Lease and Release*. Between 1598 and 1614 he represented Reading as MP; he then became Counsellor, and Under Steward, at the University of Oxford; in 1614 a Sergeant at Law and in 1616 was knighted by King James I. Francis Moore had been born in East Ilsley and by 1618 had been able to add the Manor of East Ilsley to his estates;

there he established a rather unusual memorial - a sheep market which, over the next 300 years, became the largest in the country.

Tracking the Tea Trays No 17: Francis Annesley



Francis Annesley (apparently pronounced 'Ainsley' by contemporaries) lived from 1734 to 1812 and was the son of the Rev Martin Annesley, Vicar of Bucklebury. He received his education at Reading School under Haviland J Hiley and in 1774 became Member of Parliament for Reading, keeping the seat for over 30 years. Annesley, as the heir at law to Sir George Downing, third Baronet, was the prime mover in favour of the fulfillment of the wish of Sir George who had left provision, in default of an heir, to buy land for building a college at Cambridge. Downing College was eventually established by charter in 1800, after many years of litigation. Francis Annesley became the

first Master. (Through his mother he was also descended from Sir Robert Cotton, who bequeathed the Cottonian Library to the nation; all three families, Annesley, Downing and Cotton were inter-related.) Annesley was a noted collector, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Hereditary Trustee of the British Museum. *'No man was ever more extensively, or more deservedly beloved'*. (Gentlemen's Magazine, 1812.) KCB

Events

Commemoration Service 21 October 2010

To the peals of the bells rung by Ian Judd, current Master at School and an old boy (1962-69), and team, the Town again witnessed the pupils of its ancient School gathering at its Minster Church in the Butts (by kind permission of Revd Canon Brian Shenton) for the annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in commemoration of the founders and benefactors of Reading School, and heard the fanfare which heralded the entrance of the Mayor and clergy procession – music for brass and organ composed by the School's Director of Music, Mr Philip Aspden FRCO.













Canon Shenton

Revd Evans

The Principal

The Mayor

The Mace Bearer

The Crucifer

The welcome of Revd C J Evans, the School Chaplain (old boy 1990-97) was followed by 'All people that on earth do dwell', a reading, the anthem 'Non nobis Domine' (words by Rudyard Kipling, music by Roger Quilter), by prayers, the second reading, a tribute by Francis Pocock, President of the ORA, 'I vow to thee my country', the third reading, the sermon, 'Lord for the years your love has kept and guided', and concluded with the blessing and an organ voluntary played by David Pether. As previously, the retiring collection was in support of the Grace School, Siyabuswa, South Africa.

Of the content for the Service, the reading by Cameron Cook, School Vice Captain (Mark 12 & 13, the widow's mite) was particularly well rendered and the address made by Francis Pocock, who spoke of achieving fulfillment in life, outstanding. A vivid sermon was delivered by Revd Andy Moffoot (Tilehurst Methodist Church) who linked the three readings through the medium of memorial stones, foundation stones and precious stones to represent man's antecedents, his relationship with the Godhead and his aspirations – moving from the past to hope in a new future.

Before the Service there had been a buffet lunch for selected guests, including a number of ORs, in the Mayor's Parlour; after the Service the Mayor, Councillor Gul Khan, visited Erleigh Road for a reception in Big School. KCB

Reading School Act of Remembrance 11 November 2010

As in each of the last three years, the School intended to hold their Remembrance Day Service in the quadrangle, but, because of extremely rainy weather the Chapel was used instead. After Vice Principal, Mr Ashley Robson, had overseen the orderly seating of the congregation, all stood for the entrance of the Captain of School, the Chaplain, the Principal with OR guest speaker Dr Martin Parsons (1963-70), and the CCF Colour Party. The Principal gave the introduction, Revd Evans the opening prayers, and when a begowned Dr Parsons opened his address it became clear that the Chapel was a most appropriate setting for it. He spoke of the eighty two ORs known to have died in WWI and of the 121 in WWII – all of whose names are, of course, commemorated on the Chapel walls. He spoke also of the privations suffered in wartime; of bravery and of tragedy; for example he cited the 1st XV of 1911, all of whom saw service, seven being killed and all the remaining eight wounded. That they had once sat where the congregation now sat brought the realities of which Martin Parsons spoke squarely home. There but for the grace of God....

As has become customary, poems were also read and further prayers led by a Prefect, before the Captain of School, Anurag Aggarwal, recited the Act of Remembrance and the trumpeter sounded the Last Post, followed, after the two minute silence, by Reveille. A wreath from each House was laid, the Vice Captain of School, Cameron Cook, spoke the iconic words of the Kohima Memorial and then the Colour Party headed the procession from the Chapel and the congregation followed.



In The Chapel for the Act of Remembrance 11 November 2010

5th Class of 1955 Reunion 19 October 2010

The informal gathering at the Stag & Hounds, Binfield, where a room had been booked, was enjoyed by those pictured below, all of whom were grateful to John Prince and Gordon Wyard for again organising the get-together, for those who entered the School in September 1955 or subsequently joined that year group.

Apologies were received from Rodney Mills, Ian Jacobs and Colin Reynolds (celebrating his 40th wedding anniversary) and those of the 1955 intake who are sadly no longer with us were remembered: Bunny Aburrow (d. 2006), Peter Brind (2002), Mike Free (2002), Bob Gardener (2005), Richard Parker (1958), Pat Ross (1981), Ian Toole (2009) and Peter Wing (1993).

It is hoped that others of the intake will come along to the next reunion.



KCB

LtoR: David Pollock, Frank Brazier, Mike Black, Bob Ross, Dick Attewell, John Prince, Gordon Wyard, Ken Brown, Mike Viney (present but not pictured; Terry Cartwright, Dick Vincent and Chris Widdows)



Remembrance Service 14 November 2010

A slightly damp winter's day this year saw the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain for which *'Never was so much owed by so many to so few'*, and the Order of Service – as usual designed by Chris Widdows, the co-editor of this journal – paid full tribute thereto. The Order followed, in part, that of the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication that had been held in Westminster Abbey on Battle of Britain Sunday in September.

The introduction was by the Revd David Hemsley, OR (1945-55), Chaplain to the Old Redingensians Association, the lesson read by Maj Gen Murray Wildman CBE OR (1958-65), the Act of Remembrance spoken by Lt Col Neale Jouques OBE OR (1978-85) and the trumpeter was Jonathan Munn (12E).

Dr Martin Parsons OR (1963-70) gave the Address (he is pictured below with Revd Hemsley and Francis Pocock OR). Martin is the Director of the Research Centre for Evacuees and War Child Studies based in the University of Reading and is internationally renowned in his field. Fittingly, he chose as his subject remembrance of the children drawn into and affected by the wars of the twentieth century – with emphatic reminders that it is not just a past but a present problem, with around thirty armed conflicts currently raging around the globe and 300,000 child soldiers under arms.

The wreaths were laid by Cadet Sgt Nathan Powell (part of the School CCF escort provided by Wg Cdr Tom Walter), by Will Lunn OR (1951-58) and by Maj Gen Wildman. The organ was played by Mr Nicholas Woods FRCO. After the Service there was the customary tea and biscuits provided in the Music School (Junior School).









NB 1: Amongst the many ORs at the Service was J C (John) Savage, (1959-66) his first, although the Chapel has great significance for him. He was christened there in 1947 (by Revd Jack Newman, School Chaplain of the time), confirmed there, and attended early morning communion there with his father. That father was Martin Savage, former Boarding House Master and former School Second Master, to whom there is a memorial window in the Chapel and whose funeral service was held there; so, indeed, was that of John's godfather, Wilfred Streather (former Master at School), and both John's father's and mother's ashes were scattered under the East Window.





NB 2: The OR Association has funded a new altar cloth and repairs to one of the altar frontals (picture, above right). Mrs Joan Bristow (pictured above left), widow of John Bristow, Headmaster (1980-90) and a great friend of the School, was instrumental in arranging for and overseeing these operations and, as ever, the Association expresses grateful thanks to her.

Annual Dinner 20 November 2010

Big School was not full for the dinner and, as the venue will be the same for 2011, all members who thought of attending in 2010 but did not quite get round to it are asked to make this the year that they do!

The sixty seven who were present found Big School elegantly laid out for the occasion and with newly repainted window sills, refurbished – and working – blinds and the great portraits of Laud and Valpy, flanking the bust of King Henry VII, illuminated by spotlights – all improvements paid for by the OR Association. A static archive display and a splendid continuous film loop enhanced the evening.

The catering met with general enthusiasm (there are always a few who will be disappointed) and the bar, located in the sixth form common room across the western landing (formerly West Wing dormitories) convenient, if a little crowded; but then it is difficult to keep ORs away from a bar....

The ages of those present ranged from teenagers to nonagenarians (two of those latter) all human life, as it were, was there and all appeared to enjoy the occasion and the speeches – ably and humorously controlled by toastmaster extraordinaire and Past President Rodney Huggins – of the President, the Principal, the Captain of School and guest of the evening, Master and OR (1966-72) Ned Holt, who was very well received indeed.

At the conclusion the School song was enthusiastically sung – about the only time it is, nowadays, is at the annual dinner; but there are apparently stirrings amongst boys in the School to begin to use it more often, again. The pendulum swings!



Those present were:

Members					
D K Smith	(1931-36)	D B Cox	(1951-56)	C J Glenn	(1958-65)
R Elphick	(1936-44)	J Illman	(1951-59)	A S Tuggey	(1958-66)
G H Jones	(1942-53)	B T Sarfas	(1951-58)	M L Wildman	(1958-65)
G M G Knight	(1943-52)	G Shaw	(1951-57)	P G Wildman	(1958-65)
D E H Moriarty	(1943-54)	M S Sykes	(1951-56)	M D Alexander	(1959-66)
L Bain	(1944-52)	D R Downs	(1952-59)	D M Mitchell	(1960-67)
R P Huggins	(1944-52)	D I Hill	(1952-59)	R W D Nickalls	(1960-67)
M J Duck	(1945-55)	J W Lewer	(1952-56)	A A Glenn	(1961-67)
D R Hemsley	(1945-55)	G L Potter	(1952-59)	I G Judd	(1962-69)
J P Allen	(1946-52)	C A Scroggs	(1952-59)	P G Chadwick	(1964-69)
N K Hills	(1947-53)	W J D McAuley	(1953-60)	J D Osun-Sanmi	(1999-06)
D M Bruton	(1948-51)	F J Pocock	(1953-60)	A Butler	(2001-08)
G W O Price	(1948-56)	A J Voyle	(1953-60)	J Kennedy	(2001-08)
C A Sarfas	(1948-56)	B J Morley	(1954-60)	T A Cappleman	(2001-08)
K V G Smith	(1948-55)	R L Towner	(1954-61)	O J Davidson	(2001-08)
C Evans	(1949-55)	K C Brown	(1955-63)	N Mawkin	(2001-08)
B Shelton	(1950-53)	C J Widdows	(1955-62)	T V Shore	(2001-08)
M Wolfers	(1950-57)	M H W Maule	(1956-59)	P C Yu	(2001-08)

Staff	
F H Terry	(1946-82)
I R Moore	(1992-05)
J M Evans	(1968-05)
R F Perkins	(1973-02)
E S Holt	(Staff)
P F E Hurst	(Staff)
S Longstaff	(Staff)

Guests

The Principal, Mr John Weeds and Mrs Sarah Weeds

Mrs Beverley Taylor (Staff) and Mr Peter Taylor

The Captain of School, Anurag Aggarwal and Vice Captain of School) Cameron Cook

The 122nd Annual General Meeting 20 November 2010

The Lecture Room at School saw 26 members meet (5 apologies for absence). The Membership Secretary read out the names of the 24 Old Redingensians known to have died in the previous 12 months, the Minutes of the 2009 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 2009-10 year were presented and approved. A resolution was passed to amend paragraphs 41, 60 and 68 of the Articles of Association to incorporate *Archivist* as an officer of Council. The auditors, James Cowper, were re-elected.

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

President F J Pocock Vice President*
Immediate Past President Maj Gen M L Wildman CBE Secretary**

TreasurerI R MooreMembership SecretaryC J WiddowsSocial SecretaryB SheltonArchivistK C Brown

Other Councillors:

(a) The Principal (or his nominated member of staff)

(b) J M Evans (3 year term to 2011)

(c) A Butler, Rev D R Hemsley, E S Holt, H Hussain, J D Osun-Sanmi, C A Scroggs, A Wrenn (3 years to 2012) (d) D B Cox (3 years to 2013)

(e) R P Huggins (Reading Foundation & Governing body)

(co-opted member, non-voting)

(f) Captain of School and Vice Captain of School

(by invitation, non-voting)

(The new Councillor, D B Cox, replaces Lt Col N A Jouques OBE who did not stand for re-election.)

W E Lunn continues as Golf Representative, ex-officio, and the other sports representatives are J M Evans (Athletics and Cricket), E S Holt (Football) and A Wrenn (Rugby). The meeting closed at 18:10 hours.



* A motion was passed to endorse decisions to be taken by Council in the New Year for appointments to these positions. Consequently, at a meeting of Council on 1 February 2011, Dr M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70), pictured left, was elected Vice President. The post of Secretary will remain vacant pending restructuring of duties (which in the interim are being undertaken by members of Council).

** For five years former Secretary, D B (David) Cox (1951-56), *right*, gave sterling service in the post. Having first announced his intention to stand down

from 2007, he generously consented to serve a further year but eventually remained until the 2010 AGM. His contribution has been considerable and thanks were duly and appropriately expressed. The Association has reason to be delighted that David agreed to stand as a Councillor, however, and he was duly elected for a three year term.

The Tenth 'Fifty Years On' Luncheon 19 January 2011

As in previous years, Peter Stevens has forwarded an immaculately written and comprehensive account of this splendid annual gathering. The whole is now lodged in the Archive; the first half is reproduced below (the second half records the speeches made around the table over the port). During the afternoon time was also taken to appreciate the selection of paintings and lino cuts by Mike Oakley that he had brought with him and, as is customary, proceedings concluded with John Gardiner leading the assembly with 'For he is an Englishman' – Ed.

Wednesday, 19 January, 2011 found thirty one ORs from the 1940s and 1950s gathered, in thankful and reminiscent mood, for luncheon at the Oxford & Cambridge Club, in Pall Mall. This was the 10th annual *Fifty-plus Years On* since 2001 – the centenary of the year in which, according to Christopher Yeats (1943-54) interpretation 'The world went wrong'. In Christopher's honour Denis Moriarty and I invite a number of our OR friends and contemporaries to join us at our Club, to celebrate our survival and review the progress of the world, our School and ourselves.

Arithmetically, the legacy of Head Master, Charles Kemp would require that we now progress to *Sixty Years On*. It is highly gratifying that so many are able

and willing to make the journey to London and to contribute to the costs of the occasion. As in previous years, the Club provided a fitting setting, excellent food and drink and impeccable service. The day began inauspiciously with two pieces of distressing news – first that Robin Oldland (1941-51) would be unable to be with us as he had to accompany his wife to hospital. Next that David Weekes (1947-53) – who had come down from Scotland the previous day – had learned during the night that his home had been destroyed by fire. Fortunately, his wife had escaped but naturally he was returning as soon as possible. All present sent their best wishes to Robin and David, and their families.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome for the first time three 'new' members; Michael Culham, a history scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, now a CB, and a retired Deputy Under-Secretary, Ministry of Defence; David Youens, a History Exhibitioner of Christ Church, Oxford. (He and Culham had been each others Best Man); and John Luker, a prominent townsman of Henley-on-Thames and a member of the Royal Regatta Committee.

When all were assembled, the Club's Banqueting Manager, Mr Joe Inglott (who has been on duty for all our Luncheons to date) announced that luncheon was served and, invigorated by Club champagne, we took our places at table. At David Weekes's request, I deputized for him in saying the School Grace *Benedic nos Domine.....*

The excellence of the meal which followed prompted Chris Webber, Michael Wolfers, and John Luker to recall the gastronomic tendency of South House in their time – fish cakes were served for breakfast, tomatoes were prominent while the rice pudding

caused Martin Savage (House Master) to comment that '...cook has been dragging the canal again...'.

After the plates had been cleared, glasses of armagnac, the gift of our Anonymous Benefactor, appeared on the table, to be followed by decanters of Club Port in preparation for our usual toasts to 'The Queen' and 'Reading School'.

Michael Culham, as one of our more honoured and honourable members, had agreed to propose the loyal toast, but, carried away by an access of Monarchism, somehow I pre-empted him. Denis, having restored order to the proceedings, gave us the note, and we heartily sang two verses of the National Anthem. He then called upon Anthony Simons, barrister at law, to propose the health of our School. This he did in a felicitous speech, recalling his short but significant School career, which had provided him with many benefits, chief among them, the friends whom he was happy to see at table today. Denis gave us the instantly recognisable three notes and we sang, rousingly, *Floreat Redingensis*.



Top row: Bob Alexander (1948-55); David Wilkins (1945-55); Chris Webber (1950-57); Mike Oakley (1944-54); Michael Shattock (1947-55); John Gardiner (1947-55); Gareth Price (1948-56); Rudolph Bissolotti (1944-50) Second Row: Dermot Rooney (1946-55) and John Childs (1946-53); Denis Moriarty (1943-54) and Peter Stevens (1944-54); Dudley Bruton (1948-51); Michael Wolfers (1950-57); Michael Culham (1943-52); Fred Barker (1941-49) Third Row: Tom Arie (1943-52); David Wise (1949-52) above, Rodney Huggins (1944-52) below; The Princess Marie Louise Room; John Roper (1948-54); John Perry (1942-49) above, John Luker (1943-50) with David Youens (1944-52) (seated) below Fourth Row: Oakley artwork; Bill Mackereth (1950-56); Brian Upton (1941-51); Peter Fiddick (1951-57) Fifth Row: John Stevens (1952-59) and Ken Brown (1955-63); Chris Widdows (1955-62); Brian Thompson (1944-54); Anthony Simons (1950-51);

Forthcoming Events

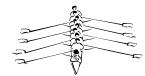
SUMMER FESTIVAL & CRICKET WEEKEND Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June 2011

This year, the OR XI v. School 1st XI match takes place on Saturday 25 June and there will be a 6 a side cricket tournament on Sunday, 26 June.

Do come along, bring a picnic if you like, take advantage of the bar and BBQ on the Sunday, meet old friends in the marquee; families welcome! A timed programme of events will be available on www.oldredingensians.org.uk



ROWING: ORs v The School - Saturday, 23 July 2011



All are welcome to the Thameside Promenade for the 3rd Annual Boat Race between the ORs and the School. This year a Staff crew will also be competing. After the contest there will be a BBQ at the School Boathouse. www.oldredingensians.org.uk/page/OR Rowing Match

CLASS OF 1952 REUNION & GOLF DAY - Tuesday, 26 July 2011

Open to all who entered the School in September 1952 or subsequently became part of that year group at any stage. If you wish to join the 24 who have already confirmed that they are attending (11 golfing, 13 simply socialising) at Caversham Heath Golf Club, please contact Barry Sloan - email: barrysloan43@sky.com tel: 01635 247153.



OR GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING - 2011



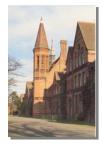
Will Lunn, Hon Secretary. can be contacted at golf@oldredingensians.org.uk. New players are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn 2011 meeting (it will be at a course in the Reading area) subject to dates, etc. do let Will know provisionally.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 13 November 2011

The guest preacher will be Revd. D J (David) Weekes (1947-53) and he will be unveiling three previously omitted names on the Chapel War Memorials: MAJ GEN F J DE GEX (d. 1917); F/O A R S DAVIES (d. 1940); LT COL G L D'OYLY-LOWSLEY (d. 1944). It is hoped that members of the families of the above will accept invitations to be present and, in the circumstances, that past and present OR members of HM Forces will make a particular effort to attend the Remembrance Service this year. As usual, all ORs and their families are welcome, and it will be most helpful if those whose present intention is to come along would make a provisional (non binding!) indication of that to the editors (see rear cover for contact details). After the Service, instead of repairing to Junior School as usual, a light buffet reception is planned for Big School.



AGM & ANNUAL DINNER 2011 - Saturday, 26 November 2011



Once again the Dinner returns to Big School, so please contact **Barrie Shelton**, Social Secretary, for provisional bookings, at **Underwood, White Hill, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3AA** tel: 01491 573431 social@oldredingensians.org.uk

The date is: Saturday, 26 November 2011 at 7.00 pm, with the bar opening at 6.00 pm. (The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Lecture Theatre, at 5.00 pm, for the information of those members wishing to attend.)

The Principal's Letter



As the unusually warm Easter weather heralds the start of the Summer Term, this seems a good time to take stock of a year to date of exceptional change and eventfulness. When I last wrote, Academy conversion seemed like a distant prospect – but here we are six months later beginning to grasp and even enjoy the privileges and freedoms of the new status. ORs will be pleased to learn that we can expect to do what we have always done, but with better resources and more scope for enterprise. foundation of the 1125 Development Campaign, the change of status, I am sure, will go down as watershed moments in the School's annals. Such has been the success of the Campaign that it seems increasingly likely that we can expect action on the building of the much-needed Refectory in the next year. It cannot be stressed enough that ORs have made this project possible and to them the School owes an enormous debt of gratitude. Improved funding resulting from Academy conversion will also prove to be a significant factor in making the project a reality. Pupils, parents, staff and Governors can now look forward realistically to a concerted programme of renewal, refurbishment and where necessary new build. It helps enormously that our Masterplan for the development of the site has been approved by Reading Borough Council and English Heritage.

I am also delighted to report that following the School's recent excellent performance in examinations and in the OFSTED Inspection of May 2010, we were judged State Secondary School of the Year by the Sunday Times. This is a prestigious accolade of which the whole School community should be very proud. For all further information about the achievements past and present Redingensians, please download or view the School Newsletter at: http://www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk/downloads/

On a more concerning note, I was interested to receive emails from ORs who lead organisations which have experienced difficulties with a now notorious skiing tour operator called Skiing Europe. Many of you will know from recent media coverage that a large number of schools experienced the failure of trips to the Alps which pupils and parents had looked forward to and saved for over a number of months. We were one of the first schools to find that even basic arrangements such as transport had not been properly organised or paid for. This pattern seems to have repeated itself across the country affecting, we think, about 20 schools. To date the bonding agent and insurers have not succeeded in securing compensation. We are lobbying very hard to ensure that our parents are not left out of pocket and that justice is done.

Peter Stevens OR has kindly gifted a first edition print of Havell's 1816 portrait of the School, with the expressed wish that it should be hung in the new Refectory. We are most grateful to him and hope it will be pictured, in place, in a future edition of *The Old Redingensian*. I am sure Ken Brown will be able to give some account of its origins and history.

We look forward to welcoming you to School on 25 and 26 June for the Summer Festival and Cricket Weekend. Do please join us (details may be found on p 16). This event is always a joy! Until next time....

Floreat Redingensis! John Weeds Principal

Advertisement

The Victoria Cross

On 20 July 2011 at 7:30 pm in **Big School** Michael Naxton OR, military and maritime historian, and curator of Lord Ashcroft's Medal Collection, will talk on the history of the VC, awarded for valour in the face of the enemy. It is the highest military decoration that members of the armed forces of Britain (and other Commonwealth countries, and previous British Empire territories) can receive.

Ticket prices are £5 per head (which will include light refreshments) and may be obtained in advance. For further details please contact Caroline Beard at School cbeard@readingschool.reading.sch.uk or tel: 0118 966 2966.





The School Campaign for The 1125 Fund



The Development Board:

Chairman: Mrs Claire Toms Dr P C H (Philip) Mitchell Mr R P (Rodney) Huggins Maj Gen M L (Murray) Wildman Mr J I (John) Weeds Mrs V (Virginia) Cullura Mr R (Richard) Childs School Governor
Chairman of School Governors
Chairman Reading Foundation
Past President, Old Redingensians Association
Principal, Reading School
Parents Association
Parents Association

Phase One A dining facility situated in the covered area of the Quadrangle. Estimated cost: £1,250,000 Time Scale: Immediate

Planning approval has now been granted by Reading Borough Council. The facility and how it will benefit the School was described on page 18 of the Autumn 2010 issue of this journal, and further information can be obtained from the School's website www.readingschool.reading.sch.uk. This issue details how ORs can help; the urgency of providing the facility needs to be appreciated – it is an Ofsted requirement.

Whilst building is scheduled to commence this year **the remaining funds required must first be in place.** There are various donors and grant giving bodies who have previously stated that they will donate once planning permission is granted; and it is also hoped that Academy status will be of positive assistance in swelling the funds. Undoubtedly, it is now when ORs can really assist; (currently in terms of numbers few have contributed – certainly in comparison with the families of boys at the School.)

There is no lower limit to donations: £25, for instance, is very acceptable. For more regular donations, many families, and some ORs, have set up monthly/quarterly Standing Orders; the certainty of receipt of monies given in this way, whilst the Campaign lasts, is obviously useful to the Development Board; for example, a regular £10 (or whatever amount is chosen) greatly assists funding projections. *The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association urge members to give their support.*

Cheques should be made payable to: Reading School 1125 Fund and Bank transfers made to: Sort Code: 30-67-99 Account No: 27039460. Standing Order forms are on the website or are available from Caroline Beard via the Development Office at Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW (tel: 0118 901 5600 ext 223 email: development@readingschool.reading.sch.uk)

(When the current gap in funding is closed, Phase One can be completed, and campaign fund raising will then be carried over into Phase Two (the Science teaching facility) and Phase Three (the Sports Hall) previously described in these pages.)

Below left, is the plan for Phase One; a total area of 398 sq m to seat 300 with 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. Below right, the artist's impression of the exterior fronting the quadrangle.





School News

On the 15 November 2010 a team of four Year 12 and 13 boys, Michael Smith (13C), Robin Elliott (12S), Richard Parkinson (12E) and Henry Gardner (12EW) represented the School in the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge Regional Final at Highdown School and came a close 2nd (out of 21 teams) to Eton College.

Even without their usual board 1 (who was playing in the European Youth Chess Championships) the School Chess Team, captained by Robert Starley (12S), overcame the might of Eton in a friendly last September. They have since won their regional zone final to qualify for the last sixteen for the National Schools Chess Championship - beating Eton once again and for the second year in this competition. The zone final saw the dispatch of Wellington College – National Schools Chess Champions for the last two years.

Charlie Chen (10W) spent a month of his summer holiday as a teacher in the Nanjing Foreign Languages School in China, eventually teaching up to four hours per day – so successfully that the Headmaster of the Languages School asked if he wanted to come back the following year.

The School is rapidly becoming the place to visit to observe best practice in the English Educational System; delegations from Saudi Arabia, Libya and Indonesia have all visited in recent months.

Daniel Trussler (10W) qualified for the England Pentathlon Squad following his performance in the English Schools Tournament last September. He is also currently first reserve for the Home Countries Team Indoor Squad.

Thomas Gavin (9S) has gained a place in the Oxfordshire Schools Senior Orchestra (one of the best Youth Orchestras in the country) for the current season.

Cameron Ward (8S) competed in the British Junior Open Squash Championships in Sheffield. He was one of 64 entries in the U/13s category and won his first round match only to have the misfortune of meeting the number one seed (an Egyptian) in the second round, who proved too strong for him. The format of the Tournament permitted further matches and Cameron went on to beat India's No1 and a top player from Kuwait, ending the tournament in 22nd place overall.

The U/14 and U/16 Badminton teams finished third and second respectively at the County Finals.

Ambassadors from the Royal Geographical Society were present in Big School on 7 December where 15 teams from local schools contested the Geographical Association Worldwise Quiz. Reading School was unable to repeat last vear's victory, finishing 7th this time.

On 21 March Big School reverberated to the accomplished sounds of the Reading School Jazz Band (Musical Director Philip Aspden) and the Innovations Jazz Orchestra (Music Director Simon Ward). For £7.50 a ticket (which included light refreshments) the audience experienced some stunning performances.

Charles Hindhaugh (13S) stepped out of the audience for the alternative vote debate held in Reading last March and volunteered to speak in the absence of a representative of the Yes to Fairer Votes group. On a panel containing an MP and a Human Rights barrister he more than held his own and his contribution was reported in the local press under the headline 'Student saves debate'.

Congratulations to:

Philip Herbst (13E): a category winner in Oxford University's Kafka Competition).

James Clarke (13W): awarded an RAF Sixth Form Scholarship. Maxwell Phillips (13SH): awarded an Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. James Ephraim (13E): Captain of Rugby): see Sport on p 34.



The athletic successes of **Jonathan Davies (11E)** continue. He represented England in the Home Countries International Schools Cross Country match in Northern Ireland on 26 March and came third overall. Many congratulations to him!

After last year's runners up position a team from Reading School CCF won first place this year in Exercise Rolling Thunder, the National Cadet Signals Competition held at Blandford Camp, with F/Sgt Joseph Greenwood also repeating last year's finish of second place nationally in the Individual Leadership Category. The CCF may be small at present but it is flourishing. The Autumn issue of *The Old Redingensian* will carry a feature drawn from the excellent "READING SCHOOL CCF NEWS LETTER" produced by Captain Peter Hurst.

INTER HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION 15 NOVEMBER 2010

Going from strength to strength, this year the Competition moved to the Reading Town Hall, where the Concert Hall (which holds 600) was packed with a hugely enthusiastic audience, who had paid £5 admittance each. The adjudicator was Mr Nicholas Woods who saw each House present a repertoire of six varied items in an allowed time slot of 25 minutes. All four Houses had their own compère — entertaining in their own right. The House Music Trophy was carried off by East but only a margin of three marks covered first, second and third places. Soloist of the evening was Bobby He (E) who mesmerized with his violin rendering of John Williams's theme from *Schindler's List*. The first winners of the new Ensemble Cup (presented by Mr Clive Cousins, Master at School 1972-2009) was won by West House for their orchestral item, an arrangement (by their Music Captain, Tom Hayes) of John Williams's *Star Wars Medley*. The Principal, Mr Weeds, concluded a most enjoyable evening with a speech of thanks. In a further testament to Mr Philip Aspden's direction of music at the School, Bobby He (11E) and Stephane Crayton (10E) have both been offered positions as first violins in the 2011 National Youth Orchestra.



Above: the winning House. Below: I to r Principal, Director of Music, House comperes, Adjudicator, Bobby He













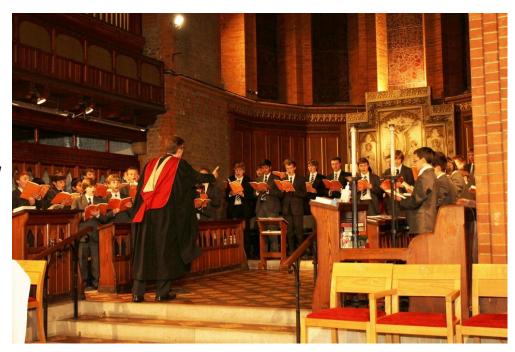






SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS 13 DECEMBER 2010

Preceded by the House Carol Service and the Boarders Family Service, both in Chapel on 12 December, St Luke's Church was again this year well attended for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, first drawn up by Archbishop Benson. The School Choir under Director of Music Philip Aspden (pictured right) were in excellent voice and the organist was, once again, Mr Nicholas Woods. Amongst the readers were two ORs, C A Scroggs (1952-59) and K C Brown (1955-63). Afterwards many of congregation assembled in the Music School (Junior School) for mulled wine and mince pies.



SENIOR PRIZEGIVING 15 DECEMBER 2010

After a lunch for guests in the Mayor's Parlour, the Prize Giving took place at the Minster Church of St Mary, the Virgin, at 2 pm. The Guest of Honour was Ross Brawn OBE (1966-71), famed motorsport engineer and F1 Team Principal, accompanied by Mrs Jean Brawn. Ross presented both the prizes and the A Level Certificates and the theme of his address was team work, expressed in the acronym TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) (a tag for the Big Society? – Ed.). Dr Philip Mitchell, Chairman of the Governing Body, introduced and closed proceedings. The Principal, Mr John Weeds, was again able to report outstanding successes and optimism for the future of the School, in his address, and received from the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Gul Khan, the traditional annual stipend of £10. F J (Francis) Pocock, (1952-59), President of the Old Redingensians Association, presented the Association's prizes. The occasion was further marked by an organ recital by last year's Vice Captain of School, Ben Morris, and a splendid vote of thanks by incumbent Captain of School, Anurag Aggarwal. After the ceremony a buffet reception was held in Big School.



Presentation of the £10 stipend



Ross Brawn presents the prizes



The address



Vote of thanks

All three of the events reported above ran like clockwork, the direct result of most efficient organisation by Mrs Beverley Taylor, the School's Community Relations Manager.

IBO Korea 2010 – through the eyes of Adam Wright



Dan, Adam and Hannah

As we pulled in at the drop-off point outside Heathrow Terminal 4, I remarked to my teammates Dan (Daniel Rowlands, Reading School, now at Selwyn College, Cambridge - Ed) and Hannah (Hannah Ingamells, now University of Bristol, formerly Peter Symonds College, Winchester) for the umpteenth time that this would be my first trip outside the European Union for nine years. When I last set foot on a plane, Pete Sampras had just lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon, Pluto was a planet, and Wikipedia was barely half a year old and hence not very helpful for the reportwriters of the time. More pertinently, I was blissfully unaware Campbell. Campbell unreasonably large 'Biology Bible' that we had been commissioned to read in April upon our selection for the team, but whose bulk had defied my time-limited attempts to take in more than about a third of its contents. My greatest success with it to date had been in getting Dan to carry our shared copy.

Struggling with Campbell had been but one part of our preparation for the International Biology Olympiad. A plant identification and dissection masterclass in Kew Gardens two days after my final A-level exam set the pace for the main training a few days later, when we tried our hand at microscopy, haemocytometry and colorimetry (among many other practicals) over two days at Reading University and Reading School. As recent students at the latter, Dan and I were able to hone our skills in familiar surroundings – it was like we had never left. Except we had to wear visitors' badges.

Whereas Kew had been a fairly relaxed setting where we were able to allow the essentials of plant anatomy to enter our minds by osmosis, the Reading practical training was a rather more intense affair as the paucity of time remaining before we left became ever more worrying. My calculations for the protein concentration assay at the University were out by a factor of ten because of my inattention to the

introductory text, and while halfway through the enzyme inhibitor colorimetry experiment I experienced the familiar sinking feeling when I realized that I was required to take readings rather more frequently than every thirty seconds. An anonymous source had tipped off one of our escorts that I was 'impulsive', and I vowed not to make any such careless errors in the real thing. Learning from my mistakes would be no consolation in Korea, given that I was unlikely to ever again do practicals in many of the topic areas. Dissecting a locust and then a fish at my old stomping ground the following day at least prepared my stomach for the eleven-hour flight that we rushed off for before even the stench of piscine innards had left our nostrils.

Dan and I had already shared a room on a couple of occasions earlier in our Biology Olympiad journey, so it was no surprise to either of us that we spent much of the flight to Incheon airport lying awake in our uncomfortable adjacent seats. Earlier research had suggested that an empty stomach was a potential panacea for jetlag, but still earlier instincts told me that I should eat at least something in the 20 hour space between meals. I attempted a compromise by selecting the Korean option from the in-flight food trolley, but the dishes were surprisingly tasty and I ate much more than I had intended. Ambitious plans to study Campbell solidly for 11 hours were thwarted by the awkwardness of having a reading light on when your elderly Korean neighbour is sleeping, and I ended up directing my efforts toward watching the movie 'Date Night' and mastering the computer game 'Magma Zone'.

Our time in Seoul had been designated as acclimatisation time, and boy did I need to acclimatise! Right from the moment we passed through Korean immigration via a gate for foreign nationals rather than the far more numerous openings for those returning home, I began to appreciate just how...well, different, everything was. Certainly, Korean culture and Seoul in particular are significantly 'Westernised' - the appearances and gestures of the news presenters on the Incheon-Seoul coach television screen wouldn't have been out of place on BBC Breakfast - but away from these superficial similarities, there were the obvious differences in language (spoken and written), building style (the roads of Seoul were much wider than in London, and the buildings more insular) and culinary tastes. Thankfully, at our first Korean meal we had a secretary from the British Embassy to guide us through the eating of a delicious but thoroughly unfamiliar meal. Beef was cooked in pots on a stove built into the dinner table, before being chopped into bite-sized pieces with scissors and taken with metal chopsticks. There was a plethora of side dishes spread over the table, including gimchi - the spicy fermented vegetables that were to be a ubiquitous part of meals in Korea. My mind was put at ease

when our friend from the embassy explained that dog meat isn't eaten by mainstream diners, but my contentment turned to embarrassment when I dipped my fingers in a watery *gimchi* radish dish that I'd mistaken for a bowl of water. Last year's team had warned us that we would all make at least one cultural gaffe on our trip, and I had wasted no time in committing mine.

After some well-earned sleep at the hotel (notable features of the room: self-catering facilities, unconventional toilet mechanism, mandatory shoe removal inside doorway), things began to look up when I saw Tony the Tiger's friendly face at the breakfast buffet, although I had to take it on trust that 'They're Grrrrreat!!!' he was still saving subsequent five-hour past paper marathon proved that you should never base your expectations for a day on the expression of a feline who finds sugary lumps of corn exciting. My speed of work through the papers gave me cause for concern, as did the frequency of the times I needed to look things up in the textbook, but it was heartening to have biological facts back at the front of my mind. Mentally worn out and not a bit envious of the adults who had been out in the city while we were slaving away, ADH (as I had taking to thinking of the three of us - an appropriate term since ADH is also the acronym for anti-diuretic hormone) then set off exploring. The heat was more manageable than I'd expected, but the shelter of an underground market nevertheless provided welcome relief. Hannah and I attempted to engineer a short trip on the Seoul metro, whose air-conditioning and general modernity I had heard many good things about, but we were thwarted by temperamental ticket machines. This came of much relief to Dan, whose enthusiasm for our exploratory trip was decidedly lacking.

No sooner had we returned to the hotel than we set out again with the adults on an excursion to see Seoul properly. By now, we had been joined by Norma Broadbridge MBE, outgoing British Biology Olympiad chairman and whose jetlagged state from having travelled directly from the plane strengthened the AH (not a hormone, but a useful acronym nonetheless) argument for the use of the metro to get to Insadong tourist street. Souvenir stalls lined the road and, as promised, the place was bustling with tourists; the distinctive hair of certain members of our contingent proved a highly useful aid to not getting lost. I bought a pair of metal chopsticks and a South Korean Flag, and was only prevented from having my fortune read for 10,000 won (about £6) by Dan's sharp observation that I would be unlikely to understand the language in which the generic aspects of my future would be revealed. A street taekwondo battle, a troupe of whiterobed dancers boogieing on down to a reedy flute, and a visit to a pagoda enclosed in a perspex box all featured in an action-packed evening before another Korean meal. Our escorts David and Neil spent some time meticulously producing an order that would both satisfy our appetites and give us a chance to try many new dishes, but as the food began arriving...and arriving...and arriving, we began to doubt our ability to rise to the task ahead. We just about managed, although for my part I had to strategically place a decorative leaf over my unfinished food to avoid appearing rude; David had no such option, having eaten his (inedible) leaf to prove that it was part of the dish.



Street taekwondo battle

Sunday brought my first trip on a plane for two days: last time I had set foot on a plane, Neil's bag had not been stopped at airport security, I hadn't had an authentic Korean Dunkin' Donuts iced juice drink, and Hannah had not drunk a sweetcorn oil drink offered by Andy (the fourth adult in our group) and had to live with the foul aftertaste for an hour. At Seoul Gimpo airport we bumped into the Australian team, who were to be one of the teams we would get to know best over the next week. As was to become a regular occurrence, we were asked about the whereabouts of the fourth member of our party (Chris had had to withdraw shortly before we left due to health problems). We were struck by the prominence of IBO banners on the lampposts as we travelled to Changwon - clearly, this event was going to be big! The adults were dropped off at their luxurious hotel while we met our guide Ye Lim Cho, or Emily, who studies in the US and was to prove an exemplary companion and friend to us.

After a short coach ride, we were shown to our rooms on the Changwon National University campus. Dan and I were to share, and my first action was to introduce myself to the French team members next door to us; unfortunately, my knocks woke up the bleary-eyed inhabitant of the room, and I was unable to practise my rusty GCSE French skills. A blessing in disguise, perhaps. My attempts at social interaction had more success downstairs in the canteen, where I joined in a mammoth game of cards called '99'. By the end, only the British and Australian contingents were left standing, with the antipodeans eventually victorious. With a large group already assembled, I

seized the opportunity to introduce the world to my favourite card game, Set, whose requirement for logical thinking ensured it was a hit among the assembled great minds. One American was particularly impressive, but as with everyone there he played in the spirit of the game, and it was a great feeling to see people from so many different countries having fun in the same way.

We were woken up on Monday by a Korean PA announcement in our room that was incomprehensible as it was loud. Grasping for my alarm clock, I was aghast to see that it was 12:30 and I appeared to have slept right through the opening ceremony - what would Norma say? The realisation that it was in fact 12:30am grew ever less comforting as I lay awake until daybreak, the adrenaline from my midnight panic playing a part in my sleeplessness. The vuvuzela calls at some ungodly hour which signified Spain's World Cup victory didn't help either. Consequently, I was none too pleased to be told in the morning that we had to be ready an hour earlier than planned; the PA had apparently been disseminating this vital information. Backstage before the opening ceremony began, we had photos taken with many of the other teams and racked our brains for a distinctively British display we could perform as we came on waving our flag, but had to settle for a simple wave since we'd left our Morris dancing bells back at the accommodation. Several suspiciously similar speeches from dignitaries followed, before we had lunch with our adults and had a tour of the campus in the afternoon. Dan and I had a final revision session in the evening, and with the assistance of a friendly staff member, succeeded in covering our window with newspaper to block out the light pollution from the rooms opposite. With the practical tests the next day, a good sleep would be more important than ever.

The cafeteria atmosphere at breakfast on Tuesday was rather more subdued than the day before, particularly in the British camp. While I had slept pretty well, Dan looked exhausted and Hannah was feeling ill. The mood on the bus was a little lighter, as I chatted to the Hungarian and Pakistani students sitting on either side of me, and it was perhaps because of this welcome distraction from worrying about the exam that I was to feel that the first practical (ecology) went particularly well. Having had the impression that the tests would involve impossible time pressure and alien concepts, measuring the diversity of species on a beach seemed well within my means, and I came out of the laboratory feeling optimistic about the next three tasks. It was thus inevitable that the second practical (biosystematics) lived up to exactly what I had originally expected of it. We had to identify characteristics of plants and beetles and use them to construct evolutionary trees for each, before matching each plant with a beetle; it was apparent that my beetle-examining skills were not up to scratch from the way my data didn't match what the questions were asking for. Nevertheless, by applying the age-old method of 'doing your best and guessing the rest', I came out feeling better than many of my fellow beetle pokers, some of whom were unacquainted with the practice of guessing answers.

Lunch came and went, along with a discussion of the future of Afghanistan with my Pakistani bus buddy, and we were soon confronted with the genetics and cell biology task. There were endless pages of instructions, but the experiments seemed manageable and I set about preparing my solutions for the fluorometer. Halfway through the incubation period I experienced that all-too-familiar sinking feeling as I realised that the instructions required me to use the solutions in the dark containers, not the colourless ones. Cutting my losses, I moved onto the next section (this sinking feeling was nothing compared to that later on in the week when it was casually mentioned to me that it wouldn't have mattered which containers were used, and also that I had forgotten that birds fly down as well as up in my calculations for the ecology practical!). I recovered well, running my first ever successful electrophoresis plate and preparing a passable stamen squash, before returning to the first part and completing what I could with the other set of solutions. In fact, my early mistake may have been to my advantage, as I later heard horror stories of people who had become bogged down on the first section and been unable to attempt the less demanding parts later on. The final exam was on anatomy and physiology, which began with the probing of the brain of a virtual mouse and finished with the rather more gruesome dissection of an actual spider. Who knew their abdomens could explode like that? Upon my return to the accommodation, I was reunited with our adults and Dan, but not with Hannah, who had been taken to hospital in the ambulance that had been following our coaches everywhere (often



In the dinosaur theme park (see p 25)

using/abusing its siren to ensure it was not left behind). To say that Dan was disappointed with his performance would be a massive understatement, but as well as listening to his lamentations I found time to play Set with the Indian and Pakistani teams and make a traditional Korean ladle out of reeds.

Wednesday was an excursion day. At the magnificent Daewoo shipbuilding yard we were treated to a guided tour and a corporate video in which the word 'quays' was amusingly pronounced as 'kways', while at lunch I experimented with adding a few drops of cola to my water to liven up the taste. Dinosaur footprints were the main attraction of the afternoon, but to get to them we first had to navigate our way through a theme park obviously aimed at children rather younger than ourselves. Wide-eyed statues of stone-age infants cavorted with luridly coloured dinosaurs in a mind-blowing display which shook up my preconceptions of prehistory, while a hilarious entertainer showed off his dinosaur impression to universal acclaim. A sturgeon exhibition hall seemed rather out of place in a dinosaur theme park, but apparently they are living fossils and in any case it was interesting to see where my morning caviar comes from. Emily led us away from the main group to look at the famous footprints early, but they were a major let-down: housed in a dark tent, it was impossible to distinguish them from the surrounding rock. On our return to the flock, we were treated to a 4-D film (in which we were brought closer to the action by tilting chairs and jets of air) before traipsing down to the footprints again – they hadn't improved with age.

The theory tests the next day went as well as could be hoped. Part A was largely straightforward, and I was pleasantly surprised when I finished with a comfortable buffer of time in which to check. Naturally Part B was more challenging, but my tactical completion of the simpler sections at the end before returning to tackle the genetics questions allowed me to finish without being too worried about time - not that I wasn't worried about some of my answers! As the last scripts were collected back in, I realised that for the first time in months I didn't have any immediately pressing exams to burden my mind. I was therefore able to wholeheartedly enjoy the afterexam party that was Friendship Night, when we were treated to dancing displays from both professionals and our fellow students. Hannah and I also took the opportunity to dress up in traditional Korean costumes (pictured below). Trips to a Buddhist temple (where we encountered a monk with an iPod) and national museum on Friday also helped us to unwind, and instead of feverishly revising on the coach journeys we were at liberty to compete with the USA team at naming US states, national capitals of the world and presidents and prime ministers of our respective countries. Shopping was at last an option that evening, and I jumped at the opportunity of relieving myself of most of the won in my wad. I opted to purchase presents for my family, tempting as the snails on sale

as pets in the supermarket were. Chances to try our hands at Korean percussion music and taekwondo proved similarly diverting the following morning, but by then our minds were elsewhere – although Hannah still managed to impress by smashing a wooden block with her foot!

When we had met last year's team, they had taken pains to emphasise that there was need no to worrv about becoming the first ever UK **IBO** team member not to win a medal, such was our head start in practical facilities over less wellequipped



nations. Of course, this didn't stop us from all being incredibly nervous as we waited first for the introductory proceedings to be over and then sat quaking as the medallists were read out in reverse score order. Dan's bronze medal meant he could at last put to bed his fears that his sleeping difficulties would cost him a medal, while Hannah's silver must have seemed to her an extraordinary gift from above, given her ill health during the exams. I too was at last called up ten names later, at 33rd in the world out of 233 and just shy of a gold. Whereas the Chinese student who had placed one spot above me was breaking down in tears at his perceived failure, I was ecstatic that my hard work had paid off and that I had done justice to all the time and effort my teachers and the BBO committee had put into training me.

In the precious little time left before we left for the airport the next morning, I said goodbye to the friends I would surely not have met without the IBO, exchanged contact details and promised to stay in touch. Perhaps our scientific paths will one day cross again? In between two more rom-coms and three and a half hours of unsuccessfully playing Tetris with Hannah on the plane, I found a moment to miss Korea and the good times and people we were leaving behind. The last week and the steps leading up to it had transformed my attitude towards Biology from a subject I found no more than interesting, to one in which I would seriously consider making a career. While I had been looking forward to a summer free of study for a long time, I was surprised to find that the possible return to Biology afterwards was equally appealing.

The Royal Berkshire Regiment



This fifth article on the connections between Old Redingensians and the Royal Berkshire Regiment focuses on the man who was senior in rank in the Regiment to all former Reading School boys – over 100 in his time alone – who have served as Royal Berkshiremen: **Major General Charles St Quentin Outen Fullbrook-Leggatt CBE DSO MC.**

A fine soldier by any standards, his service during the First World War was outstanding. He was wounded; Mentioned in Despatches four times; and won both the DSO and the MC.

When he was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, the London Gazette of 9 December 1914 reported: "Charles St Quentin Outen Fullbrook-Leggatt, Lieut. 1st Battn. Princess Charlotte of Wales's

(Royal Berkshire) Regt. For gallant conduct during an attempt to regain a bridge over the Sambre, near Marnilles, on the night of 25-26 Aug."

M R (Michael) Naxton (1959-67) to whom the writer is ever indebted for his knowledge of military history, always generously given, has pointed out that, whilst war was declared on 4 August 1914, the first contact between British and German troops was not until 22nd of that month. This clearly means that Fullbrook-Leggatt's DSO was one of the earliest of the war.

What of the man and his career? He was born on 16 August 1889 in Reading, the second son of Charles P Outen Fullbrook, also Reading born, and Mary Julia Wells who had married in Tenterden, Kent, in the Autumn of 1886.



2nd Lt Fullbrook-Leggatt, Woking circa 1910



As a lieutenant, Aldershot 1914, about to depart for the Western Front with 1st Battalion RBR

C P Outen Fullbrook was a long-time member of the Old Redingensians Club; indeed until his death in 1911 at the age of 64. His occupation was 'Bank Secretary'. He was also a 'Reader, licensed by the Lord Bishop of Oxford'. Despite the family home being in King's Road, then Eldon Square, during his boys' school days (or at any rate until 1905 when C P moved to 'Knightslee', Reading) he sent his two elder boys to School as boarders under Dr Eppstein. The youngest, Alban, became a day boy in Town House, but the 1901 Census shows him (and his sister, Veronica) as the sole family members at 7 Eldon Square, with a Governess and two servants. (Where their parents were at the time may be related later in a fuller picture of all the Fullbrook-Leggatt ORs.)

Returning to the Major General, whilst his Who's Who entry showed his education only as "Bath College and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst", he was mainly educated at Reading School which, like his two brothers, he entered with the surname Fullbrook (his father hyphenated the name a few years later).

Charles Jr's years at School were 1897-1905. His elder brother Lawrence (born 19 July 1888), was there from 1895 to 1907 and, as L E W O Fullbrook-Leggatt was Captain of School in his final year and in both the Rugby XV and Hockey XI. Lawrence won the MC (and a Bar to it) serving with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in the Great War. The youngest brother, Alban, born 7 January 1892, was at Reading School from 1901 to 1910 and when he left (as A K O Fullbrook-Leggatt) he was a School Prefect and in both the Rugby XV and the Cricket XI. Alban was commissioned into the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment and, later in the First World War, was wounded whilst serving with the Machine Gun Corps.



Major Fullbrook-Leggatt at the end of the Great War



Charles's record at School was not so prominent as those of his brothers, perhaps because he left comparatively early, but, as John Oakes (former Master at School) and Martin Parsons (current Vice President of the OR Association) relate in their invaluable book Old School Ties, he returned, with a hero's mantle, to the School in the Lent Term of 1916, as Captain C St Q Fullbrook-Leggatt DSO, inspected the OTC and in a short address to the boys "emphasised the importance of discipline and that it was only by them learning discipline themselves that they could hope to become officers when they left school".

Lt Col Fullbrook-Leggatt, Jubilee Parade Jerusalem 1935

His long career in the Regular Army may briefly be summarised by the list of his appointments below, but such an outline tells little of the wider story; the list might have terminated in 1915, for instance, had he not survived the pneumonia with which, seriously ill, he was admitted to hospital in the February, let alone the action he saw in France.

1909	joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment on 18 September
1911	promoted Lieutenant on 17 August
1914	served as Adjutant from 11 September to 12 February 1916
1915	promoted Captain on 10 May
1916	from 30 March that year until 7 May 1919 Staff Appointments, including: Brigade Major 137th Infantry Brigade, British Armies in France 16 Mar 1917 to 27 Mar 1918 GSO2 19th Army Corps, British Armies in France 28 March 1918 to 8 April 1918 GSO2 49th Division British Armies in France 9 April 1918 to 12 July 1918
	GSO2 Supreme War Council, Versailles 1 August 1918 to 7 May 1919.
1918	brevetted Major on 3 June
1924	promoted Major
1932	promoted Lieutenant Colonel
1932 – 36	Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment
1936 – 39	Instructor at Senior Officers' School, Sheerness
1939 – 41	Commanding Officer, 148th Brigade
1940	Commanding Officer HQ, Portsmouth Garrison
1941 – 42	General Officer Commanding 61st Division
1943 – 44	Tunisia
1944 – 46	General Officer commanding 61 Area, Ancona, North Italy
1946	Retired pay

In 1945 he was appointed CBE and in 1947 he received France's highest decoration, the Legion d'Honneur.

Charles Fullbrook-Leggatt had married Mary Katherine, daughter of Col. C H Bittleston, RA, of Ashleigh, Whitchurch, Devon in 1917 and there were two children of the marriage, Barbara and Diana. On 25 January 1972 Mary died in Cromer to be followed on 29 May of that year Sheringham, by Charles, at the age of 83.

Fullbrook-Leggatt whilst major was twice, in 1927 and 1928, the Inspecting Officer at Reading School the OTC Annual General Inspection (pictured right). In this image he is seen front left; with Captain



J G Fry, Officer Commanding Reading School OTC, to his left and Captain F H C Redington MC, Second in Command Reading School OTC, in the centre. **KCB**

The Reading Old Boys Lodge Centenary Part One By Simon Oliver



All of us will have passed the Foundation Stone in the Cloisters nearly every day whilst we were at School. How many of us stopped to read the inscription or were aware of the manner in which it was laid? (Inscription around the pillar reads: THIS SHAFT WAS SET BY HRH ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES 1st JULY1870 PETER STOKES MAYOR THOMAS ROGERS TOWN CLERK - Ed)

The reason this is of interest to some of us is because there is a Masonic Lodge associated with the School. Reading Old Boys Lodge was founded in 1911 and therefore celebrates its centenary this year (on 29 October). The Old Boys Lodge

used to meet in Big School until November 1990 when, as a result of reduced support from the Head Master, it moved to the Berkshire Masonic Centre at Sindlesham. However, the School has kindly agreed that the centenary meeting can take place in Big School - it will be the only Lodge to meet in the Borough of Reading for a number of years.

The laying of the foundation stone on 1 July 1870 was significant for the Lodge, the School and the Town because the ceremony was performed by the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VII), in a fully Masonic (and public) ceremony. The reason that the ceremony was so Masonic in character remains unclear.



The background to the event is comprehensively and eloquently set out in Michael Naxton's *The History of Reading School*, but a brief résumé here might be of help. The Reading School Act 1867 established a board of trustees. The trustees first met on 27 November 1867, and comprised the Mayor (as Chairman), the six aldermen, the vicars of St Lawrence, St Giles and St Mary ex-officio, together with three councillors. Their first task was to find a site for the School. The governors of Christ's Hospital owned land between Kendrick Road and Red Lane (now Redlands Road) which the trustees thought would be the most suitable. By mid-July 1868 it was abundantly clear from correspondence that Christ's Hospital would not 'give or sell to the Reading School Trustees a single foot of ground...' so it was decided to seek tenders.

On 31 August 1868 the trustees considered a number of sites but selected 10 acres of the Redlands Estate (owned by the Redlands Estate Company Ltd) 'between Erleigh Road and the new road called Addington Road'

offered by Peter Spokes on behalf of the company. The role that Mr Spokes played in ensuring that the School was built is hard to ascertain from the minutes of the trustees, but it is appropriate to note that, because he was a borough councillor, he was elected a trustee; as a consequence of his becoming Mayor in

November 1869 he became Chairman of the trustees. (Born 1830, in Wallingford, Peter Spokes was Mayor of Reading in 1869-70 and 1870-71. Created Knight Bachelor in 1872, he was also a Justice of the Peace, a successful property developer and man of business - Ed.)

Although it had been agreed in August 1868 to buy the plot of land, the purchase was not completed until January 1870 at the same time that the tender for the building work was approved. Cricketers will be pleased to know that one of the first things to be done (in early 1870) was the laying of the cricket square under the guidance of Councillor Martin Sutton of Suttons Seeds.

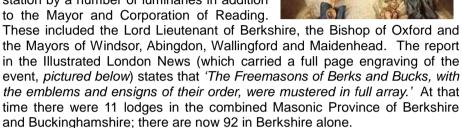


A request to Queen Victoria to become Patron of the School was refused in March 1870, but on 4 May General Sir William Knollys wrote on behalf of the Prince of Wales accepting the invitation to lay the foundation stone. The trustees delegated the detailed arrangements for the ceremony to a subcommittee which decided that the date would be Friday, 1 July. The day was declared a 'general holiday' in the town.

The great day started with several meetings taking place at 11 am. The Freemasons met at the Assembly Rooms in Friar Street and the Trustees of the School, together with the Town Corporation, in the waiting room at Reading Station. The Berkshire Chronicle of 2 July 1870 records that the Mayor was presented with a gold chain of office made up of links donated by the surviving former Mayors, to which was appended an insignia of office: it is perhaps surprising that there had not been such a grand chain before. The tradition of a link being inscribed with the name of each Mayor continues today – each new link replaces the oldest link (which then goes on permanent display in the Mayor's Parlour).

The Prince (pictured below) and Princess of Wales (right) arrived by train at

12.30 pm and were received at the railway station by a number of luminaries in addition to the Mayor and Corporation of Reading.



Very extensive reports in the Berkshire Chronicle and the Reading Mercury go into considerable detail about the decorations, who paid for them and what they comprised; previous Royal visits to Reading; the history of the School and the 'resuscitation of the School'.

The Royal party set off for the site in carriages 'amidst the pealing of cannon, the ringing of bells, the sound of military music and popular cheering through the streets of the town; which were profusely decorated with triumphal arches, banners, and streamers, foliage and wreaths of flowers.' The visit was, as has been indicated, an event in which the whole town was involved because it is recorded that 3,000 children were placed in Kendrick Road to 'wave their little flags and to sing "God Bless the Prince of Wales". The procession was headed by a yeomanry cavalry band followed by members of numerous lodges, the police, and town wardens interspersed by two further bands and followed by 16 carriages, with the yeomanry bringing up the rear. (The eighth carriage carried their Royal Highnesses, the ninth and tenth the Royal Suite and were immediately followed by yeomanry cavalry.)

On arrival at the massive tent which had been erected on the School site (over what are now the Cloisters), the Junior Lodge of Freemasons stopped. At this point the Provincial Grand Lodge advanced through all the lodges and entered the tent, the other lodges following in order of seniority.

Once all invited guests and the visitors accompanying the Royal party were in place, the reception commenced with a presentation of addresses to the Prince and Princess, to which the Prince of Wales replied. The Grand Director of Ceremonies then proclaimed for silence and the Provincial Grand Master (*Sir Daniel Gooch MP, pictured right in 1872*) handed the Mayor of Reading a trowel, as a mark of the Freemasons' fraternal esteem, which was then handed to the Prince of Wales. The Provincial Grand Chaplain offered up a prayer, the Provincial Grand Secretary read the inscription on the stone, the Provincial Grand Treasurer 'deposited a vessel containing all the gold, silver and copper coins of the



present reign' and the Town Clerk deposited an hermetically sealed vessel containing records. During the singing of a hymn the foundation stone was lowered (with three ceremonial stops).



The engraving in the ILN of 9 July 1870 - The Prince of Wales 'Setting the Stone'

The cement for the ceremony was carried by an entered apprentice (the most junior rank in a freemason's lodge). The Prince stood on the East of the stone together with the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Reverend Sir John Hayes) bearing the Square. Opposite, in the West, stood the Grand Wardens, with the Level and Plumb. The Prince Set the Stone with a Masonic prayer to which all Brethren replied, "So Mote it be". The Grand Master then delivered to the Prince a Cornucopia, and the Senior and Junior Provincial Grand Wardens Golden Ewers, containing Wine and Oil. The Prince spread Corn on the stone, poured out Wine and Oil 'conformably with ancient custom'. Further presentations, prayers and singing completed the ceremony after which the Royal party, the Mayor and Corporation and other visitors retired to the Town Hall (by a somewhat convoluted route and in torrential rain) for lunch. (The use of capitals in this paragraph accords to the form employed in the official programme for the ceremony – Ed)

The foundation stone was laid on 1 July 1870 and the School's opening ceremony was performed by Lord Hatherley, the Lord Chancellor, on 11 September 1871. The *Illustrated London News* reported that on this occasion only the central block (containing Big School and the western of the two masters' houses that were to flank it – ie West Wing) had been built. At that time the full cost of building the School had not been met (it was eventually slightly in excess of £20,000 and this excluded the cost of the land).

Postscript

If you are interested in finding out more about Freemasonry in general or Reading Old Boys' Lodge in particular, or would like to join the lodge (or if you are already a freemason and would like to attend the centenary meeting in Big School on 29 October) please contact Simon Oliver (sj-oliver@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07545 521801) and/or go to the Lodge website (www.readingoldboys.org.uk).

NB Reading Old Boys Lodge currently meets four times a year and nowadays has both ORs and non-ORs amongst its members. The Autumn issue will carry a further article by Simon Oliver about past members and office holders in further commemoration of this centenary year for the Lodge – Ed

The Headmaster's Lodge Part 3

There will, no doubt, be more to be said on 17 Craven Road, but this page concludes the three part reminiscences that started in the Spring 2010 issue of *The Old Redingensian*, with a few further jottings.

The architect of the house was Henry Briant (who, with his brother, designed the Royal Berkshire Hospital) and it was built in 1840. Before the house was moved, as *Penrhyn*, from Queens Road to Craven Road in 1878 – where it was re-named *Cravenhurst* – it was known as *Gothic Villa*. The change to *Penrhyn*, it has been suggested, may have been made because the owner at the time, John Okey Taylor, was a slate merchant.



Gothic Villa (the white house in the background) depicted in 1841

It would therefore be appropriate to prove, what is also suggested, that the site in Craven Road was a former quarry; that might explain the arrangement of the terraces, as they used to be, and the generally moist atmosphere at the garden's lower levels.

Unless it is an optical illusion, looking at the photographs the position of the porch might appear to have changed radically when the house was

re-erected in Craven Road. If so, it presents conundrums as to what changes in the interior layout were necessary to accommodate the re-alignment – which could be explained if the original plans for the re-erection can be located.

Just before the house was sold to Reading School in 1919, there took place in the grounds what became known as the Cravenhurst Revels (although it was properly entitled Britain Calls): this was a missionary pageant performed by the Junior Guild of the Epiphany of St Giles's Church, of which one of the Misses Okey Taylor was a strong supporter. Apparently more than 800 children and adults witnessed the performances and picturesqueness of their costumes and the charm of their speaking and singing made an irresistible appeal to their audiences and reflected the greatest credit on the performers ...'



Participants in the Cravenhurst Revels

To finish on a sombre note, although five Reading School Headmasters lived at 17 Craven Road, one also died there. He was Anthony Tilton Davis, who took his own life in 1978.

With particular thanks to David Cliffe, Local Studies Librarian and Sidney Gold, local architectural historian.

KCB

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, Pearmains, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, Tel: 0118 327 9917 or email: kcbrown11@aol.com.

R B BENDALL (EAST 1957-64)

Roger's career was spent in the Civil Service with the Department of the Environment. Initially working in computers, he rose to become Head of IT Planning. After the Rio Earth Summit he was appointed editor of the Biodiversity National Strategy, working with conservation bodies to look after endangered species and habitats, then Head of the Biodiversity Secretariat. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society. Since he took early retirement, in the grade of Senior Principal, in the late '90s he has helped his wife Jan - they have now been married for 40 years to run a small nursery selling plants in Bath and the surrounding area (ivycottagenursery@talktalk.net) and pursued his various interests, including music, reading, gardening, and bridge (at which he represents Wiltshire).

DR M J DUCK (WEST 1945-55)

There was not much Michael did not do at School and some of it he continued afterwards, playing rugby for the Old Redingensians and chess for Berkshire, for instance; he also added croquet to his pursuits. After Reading University he became a research chemist at Harwell where, apart from breaking for three years work at Munich University, he spent his entire career. Sadly, his wife, Penny, died three years ago; their two sons, Stephen and Richard are now both in their late thirties.

A K JEFFERIS (WEST 1947-52)

Alan and Doreen with seven children and thirteen grandchildren remain busy in retirement at Swanage! He spent his career as an engineer in satellite communications, mostly with British Telecom, until he left there aged 54 to work as a consultant, which he did until retiring in 1997 at the age of 61. boyhood interest was astronomy and his field of work was therefore something of a natural choice; in the later years of his career he was much involved with the international satellite organisations INTELSAT, EUTELSAT and INMARSAT. He is a member of the Wessex Astronomical Society; he has written computer programs to control his telescope and developed software to work on his CCD images; and he paints in watercolour, acrylic and oils. He also puts his engineering skills to good use with a group supporting a local school.

D C LONGSTAFFE (COUNTY 1970-77)

After Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Chris began his business career with Jardine Matheson which took him to the USA. Senior appointments with Esprit Consulting Limited and ODI followed, on both sides of the Atlantic, and then in 1998 he founded Integratis, now a globally recognised management consulting firm, of which he is CEO, based in San Ramon, California. He has been married to Caroline (née Fry and ex Kendrick) for 29 years and they have a son, James (21) at Lehigh University, PA and a daughter, Kate (24) doing a PhD at Bristol University. His passion is flying, nurtured in the Cambridge University Air Squadron, and he owns a Scottish Aviation Bulldog (painted red, white and blue). OR's in the area are welcome to a flight....

R S SCOTFORD (WEST 1944-52)

Roger spent twenty two years in the Royal Navy from a cadetship at RNC Dartmouth through to leaving as a Lieutenant Commander in 1974. He became a contracts manager for Lucas Defence Systems in Bath and then, in a complete switch from his engineering background, set up Bath Piano Workshop — exporting pianos to France. With demand exceeding supply he sold that business in 1984 and moved to Spain and an olive grove the following year. He has three daughters from his first marriage of 26 years; he has been wed to his second wife, Guri, for 25 years and, having retired in 1989 and built their own house in 2003, his time is now taken up by campaigning work and running his estate.

R J TILLEN (WEST 1943-49)

Ron did National Service in the Royal Air Force. He was equipped at Aldermaston Manor Research Laboratory for his career as a physicist specialising in optical metrology by AEI, for whom he worked until 1963 before going to the National Physical Laboratory in 1967. He then moved to the USA to continue his career and he and Gwyneth (ex Abbey) have been in Thompson, Connecticut now for forty years. They have four children and ten grandchildren. Ron is an active figure locally with the Inland Wetlands Commission; the Conservation Commission; and the voluntary Fire Brigade. He lectures frequently, writes, and has given, to date, twenty two courses on learning in retirement. He is also a member of the Audubon Society. Of the masters who taught him at School, he puts Frank Terry and 'Sugar' Saunders at the top of the tree.

Sport

OR Golfing Society Autumn Meeting 22 October 2010

The Autumn meeting of the society was held at the Badgemore Park Golf Club near Henley and took place in fine weather on a well matured course.

Winner of the Bucknell Cup Richard Childs with a good score of 36 points

Runner-up Alistair Wrenn - 33 points

Tankard for the Longest Drive Nearest the PinAlistair Wrenn
John Downes

The prizes were presented by Rodney Huggins and the following took part in the competition:

N C Burrows (1969-76), R Childs (1971-78), 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)

OR Golfing Society Spring Meeting 8 April 2011

A near record sixteen ORs (pictured below) assembled for the Spring meeting at Calcot Park Golf Club on an undulating and testing course under a cloudless blue sky.

President's trophy and medal
Runner up

David Staton with 37 points
Alistair Wrenn - 25 points

Tankard for the longest driveRichard HuntNearest the pinNick Burrows

Lunn Trophy (best stroke score) Alistair Wrenn - 86 strokes.

Rodney Huggins again presented the prizes.

WEL



I Jacobs (1955-60), S J Johnston (1979-86), J Holt (1948-53), P E Falinski (1960-67), A Wrenn (1978-85), W E Lunn (1951-58), R J Hunt (1976-81), R P Huggins (1944-52), G W O Price (1948-56), A G Steels (1949-54), R A Bissolotti (1944-50), N A Hunt (1977-84), D Staton (1983-90), R Childs (1971-78), Dr C F Quartly (1970-75), N C Burrows (1969-76)

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 2011 meeting, subject to dates etc, do let Will know provisionally.

7th OR Festival of Football 8 April 2011

The Annual OR XI v School XI took place on a warm and sunny spring day. A small and enthusiastic crowd saw a lively match on the School Field in which the ORs, in dark blue, took the lead and School, (in pale blue) drew level at 1-1 by half time. Soon after the break ORs shook the School side with two further quick goals and so it remained until the end, despite promising breakaways by the School on three occasions, all of which came to naught.

Darren Carrick (former Master at School) who did so much to develop football during his five years at School turned out for the ORs to warm greetings and the referee was G (Gordon) Crutchfield (1957-62) (pictured lower left) who, in all the time since he left Reading School, let alone during his thirty seven years of refereeing had not entered the gates again until this year – since when he has refereed no fewer than four matches there; three of them on consecutive days!

Alex Beckey, Director of Sport, having been indisposed, organisation of the event by the School was in the hands of new master i/c of football, Tom Bellinger and P E and Games Master, Ben Coggan (fresh from playing the day before in a 2:2 draw between the Masters XI and the Prefects XI).

The President's Shield was awarded to Charles O'Halloran, the Captain of the winning OR team, by Association Vice President, Martin Parsons, *(pictured lower right)* and other OR Council members present included Ken Brown, Ant Butler, David Cox, Barry Shelton and Chris Widdows.

The two teams are pictured below. (Incidentally, in various combinations there were two sets of three brothers and one of two brothers playing – the Strasburgers, O'Hallorans and Changs).











OR Barbarians (Rugby 7s)

Disappointingly, again there is nothing to report, and the Club is apparently dormant at present.

Redingensians RFC Ltd

After the penultimate game of the season, the **1st XV** lay 4th in their league, National Three South West, but a heavy defeat against Bournemouth (who 'Gensians had narrowly seen off in the season's opener) dropped them to a final placing of 5th – still their highest ever finish in league Rugby, the culmination of another progressive season which also included victory in the final of the Berkshire Cup against Reading Abbey by 37 points to 18 and the Berkshire Floodlit 7's Championship for the fourth successive year.

Other results were:

The Titans (2nd XV) the development squad finished second in Rugby Tech Shield Division 2.

The Centaurs (3rd XV) fourth in BBO Premier League A (the level the 1st XV were at 7 years ago).

The Dragons' Teeth (4th XV) fourth in their league (the highest placed fourth team in the country).

The Argonauts (5th XV) the veterans were top of the pile in their league, TVI Div B.

Outdoing their seniors, the **Colts XV** were unbeaten in their 17 matches, won the OBB League title for the first time and magnificently reached the National Colts Cup Final, having beaten Moseley 28-14 in the semi-final. On 2 May at Franklin's Gardens (the Northampton Saints ground) they met Bedford Blues (4-time winners of the competition) and, despite some heroic defending, succumbed by 38 points to 10. Five of the squad are currently at Reading School and three of them appeared in the final: T D Downes (13C), J R O Ephraim (13E) and J D H Lacy-Smith (13E). (James Ephraim, current Captain of School Rugby, has also played for the England Men's Touch Rugby Team.)

The Club fields sides at every age group from U/6 to U/19. The youth section, biggest in the area, has approximately 400 youngsters playing on Sundays.

Together with the University of Reading, the 'Rams Academy' is being launched this year at the University's SportsPark: another indication of the high sights that Redingensians RFC have set themselves.

Further information is available from: the quarterly online Newsletter at www.ehack.co.uk/rrfc.

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Redingensians Rugby Club
Old Bath Road, Sonning, READING, RG4 6TQ
Contact Ian Clark 0118 942 5705 (Day) or 0118 969 5259 (Evenings and Weekends)



GCSE from memory

By Andy Risius

My friends said I was crackers but that's normal. My idea was to take exams for fun, and do the ones that I had bypassed when I was at School. No preparation, no revision – not even a look at the syllabus. I am retired now. Could I remember enough to pass?



'Cod' – Mr L T N Hardy TD MA Exhibitioner of Downing College, Cambridge

I went to Reading School from 1963 to 1968. I was taught science by 'Cod' Hardy and 'Toad' Liddington, both excellent who I masters remember with gratitude and affection. I went to University gained a PhD in Chemistry. In my days the School ran a 3 year A level course, and skipped O levels completely in my science subjects.

The benefit was in getting A levels done at the end of lower 6th form, and leaving a pre-university year free for work experience or just a holiday. There was a risk that we might fail the A level, but we did have the spare year to re-take, or do O level instead. So here I am with only 4 O levels and a doctorate and I haven't used my chemistry for 30 years.

I see the TV and read the papers. The headlines say that GCSEs have been dumbed down, and are so much easier than the old O levels. I hear that every year exams get easier, and pass rates are higher and higher. The government says that exams are not easier. They claim that rigorous standards are maintained and that any higher pass rates are due to better teaching. I am sure today's teachers are dedicated, and work hard, but I don't think I can believe that things can really get better every year.

I wanted to test the exam system, and my memory. Amazingly, my old School agreed to take me as an external candidate for GCSE Chemistry and Physics. I told them that I needed no tuition or help, just a chance to do the course work and sit the exams. One of the chemistry teachers is Ian Judd, my old class mate from 40 years back. He interviewed me to see just how crazy I am, but then seemed happy to go along with the game. Of course I had to pay the exam fees, of about £40 per subject.

GCSE Chemistry and Physics each consist of two

written, one hour papers, and some coursework. This consists of a Research topic and a Data analysis topic. Coursework is usually done in class at School, but I was supervised by the current Head of Chemistry, Steve Longstaff, who ensured that all the examination board criteria were fulfilled. I was given 2 examples of each topic, and I did all 8 papers. It took 2 hours to do each one.

The Research topics were actually very interesting and I learnt things! One was on the chemicals used in hospital radiotherapy. I didn't know anything about that, and used Google and the internet. This is perfectly acceptable, and is what is expected, though and encyclopedias text books are recommended. I was told that the examiner will want to see all the references and sources for any information, and that they disapprove of Wikipedia on the grounds that the data is not 'authoritative'. In my personal experience, it is as good or bad as any other website, and I wouldn't completely trust any of them.

Another research topic was on Satellites. One of the main uses is for television broadcasting, and I couldn't resist being a Smart Alec and dropping in some words about 'I remember the launch of Sputnik...' I don't think that sort of talk will earn me any bonus marks, but it was fun.

The Data topics required me to graph the data, explain any anomalies, and to make conclusion. For example, I was given data on the manufacture ammonia, and on the way electrical fuses work. I did the work, wrote my answers and sent the papers back to the School.



'Toad' – Mr R Liddington ERD TD BSc Scholar of Hulme Hall, University of Manchester

Steve Longstaff called me in to explain where I

could improve. That is fair enough I think: the School pupils would be up to date on the format of what was expected, and I obviously wasn't. I found out that I should draw the graphs by hand, and not use the Excel spreadsheet graph tool. I should put on error bars to the data wherever appropriate. I should explain why my data went through the graph

origin – or didn't. I should use the words 'proportional to' and not 'linear relationship with'. I was happy to fit in with the examiners requirements. I had no help at all with what to write, or with the results. Teachers are not allowed to return work for editing, so Steve gave me a new Research and new Data topic for each of Chemistry and Physics and sent me off to try again. By the end of January, I had competed and returned all the coursework.



lan – Mr I G Judd BSc PGCE University of Leeds

Then there were several months waiting when I almost forgot GCSEs. about The written exams are held in May and June. I did do some preparation, but it was only the getting stationery: bought 4 pens that worked, and two pencils, and a ruler, and a simple calculator.

Then on the right day I waited with a

hundred other candidates. It was still quite daunting to queue to enter Big School again, with all the desks arranged for an exam. The situation took me right back 40 years. The other candidates looked at me politely and must have been wondering who this old bloke was, and why he was taking exams. I didn't have the same pressure as they did – I was only doing the exam for 'fun'. But when the invigilators called for total silence, handed out the papers and started the clock, I still felt nervous.

My first impression is that the exam paper is big at 24 pages. There is a title page, and an explanation page, and the questions are well spaced out with room to write answers below. The exam paper even included basic reference information: a periodic table of elements (Chemistry) or common formulae (Physics). Amazing – I was expected to remember all those things when I was a boy.

We had to answer all questions, so none of the 'do 5 out of 8' that I was used to from exams so long ago. On one hand that means that everyone has to answer all topics so has to know all the syllabus and one hour was just about enough time to go through the whole paper once. On the other hand it means there is no time to answer anything in detail and show any further knowledge and understanding.

Some questions were multiple choice, but only a few. Most were a simple introduction and a basic question such as 'Which is bigger, A or B, and Why?' That needed a key word from the question or from memory, or a mention of some scientific law. Then

there was a second part to the question which involved a calculation or making a prediction or conclusion. The question made it clear how many marks were awarded for each part. There was no point in expanding on an answer if no more points would be earned. Just stick to the issue and keep the answer short.

My second impression was that the exam is a bit superficial. For example, the physics paper asked about the acceleration of an object when force is applied, but didn't try to use those laws of motion in examples involving pulleys or friction or pendulums which might test a pupil's understanding of how those forces really work. I had thought it would be more challenging. Perhaps I was expecting too much of a GCSE exam, but it did seem a bit basic.

My third impression was that this is a 'politically correct' science syllabus. For example, one physics question gave the carbon dioxide emitted per mile for a car and a bus and invited the conclusion that we must prevent global warming by taking the bus. I wrote the answer that the exam expected, and then

followed with some comments about the bus being 'good' only if it was full of 50 people who wanted to go to the same place at the same time. I mentioned that there was an environmental cost for the bus in the large amount of metal used to make it in the first place and that cost should have been part of the calculation. I know



Steve – Mr S J Longstaff BA MSc PGCE LRSC

that these 'Smart Alec' remarks will not have earned any marks, and might even upset the person marking, but the question annoyed me. How I wonder can we make science seem relevant and important to schoolchildren, without resorting to what felt to me like propaganda?

Then I waited another two months until the great results day. I went to School and collected the envelope. So, what did I get? I was awarded an A* in both Chemistry and Physics. That is nice, and is a great credit to all my old teachers in my School and University days, who taught me so well that I can pass an exam without revision.

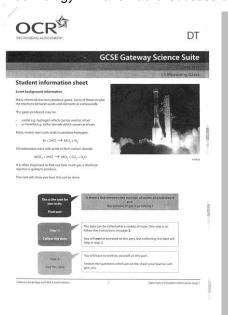
It would have made writing this article so much easier if I had done badly. I half expected to fail and I could have been a grumpy old man complaining about how the exams are all a matter of technique, and only students coached carefully could possibly know the right words to use. It is 'not like it was in our day'. Clearly I cannot take that line now and I have to



Big School; Ready for examinees

agree that a modern GCSE does show basic science knowledge. So I say "Well done" to all the real candidates who passed, and good luck to them in their A levels and beyond.

What next? Perhaps I should now try the new A levels and see if I can pass those too? Friends have suggested that I try a subject I know little about, and see how I fare. History? Child Development? But first I think I will attempt GCSE in Information Technology. I have had a successful 30 year career



Front page from one of the chemistry data handling questions

with computers, and I have absolutely no qualifications in it. Next year I will find out if I can pass GCSE computing, with no preparation.

I am very grateful indeed to Ian Judd, and Steve Longstaff and the Principal and staff at Reading School, all of whom were

absolutely wonderful to me, while I tested myself like this. I hope my GCSE results reflect well on today's School and the teachers of the past. I also thank my friends in the teaching profession who offered to coach me into the exams, and for taking my rejection of their kind offers so well.

I enjoyed doing it all on my own, I learnt a bit of science and I learnt about our exam system!



Dr Andrew Risius, 3 A levels, 4 old O levels – and two new GCSEs!

The Archive

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

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



A small cache of record cards – 19 in all – recently came to light in South House. They appear to be the remaining survivors of an obsolete data system and provide some fascinating insights. They concern 19 boys who joined the School between 1924 and 1942 and became South House boarders. Although the majority of the boys were from the UK there were also two from Brazil and one each from Ireland, India, Malaya, Jamaica and Trinidad.

Fathers' professions, where shown, include two planters, two engineers, two civil servants, two merchants and one each of: army officer, doctor of medicine, accountant, company secretary, solicitor and schoolmaster. The boys' childhood ailments are shown; their examination successes (few and far between), School and House appointments, Colours, etc. Some left School for exciting prospects 'Farming in Brazil', 'British American Tobacco Company', 'Oilfields Trinidad'; others more mundane – 'Austin Motors', 'Borough of Reading Transport' – and one 'Salesman in silk stockings'(!).... A few boys were taken away from School before their time – one father was not satisfied with his son's physical progress (but RS was the boy's seventh school in five years....). Another father objected to the 'House policy on collective punishments', a third attracted the sarcastic comment on the card 'Mother required child to be tied to her apron strings'.

A final and shocking statistic is how few of these boys were to see old age. One poor lad died in his first term following appendicitis, but no less than **ten** of the others died in the Second World War.



Above is South House taken from the garden. The building started life in the 19th century as School House and acquired its current title in 1918 when the Headmaster's Lodge in Craven Road was purchased for the then Headmaster, George Haydn Keeton who, like most of the headmasters of Reading School since its removal to Erleigh Road, had lived in School House and combined the headship with the position of a boarding housemaster.

The picture below is of the South House dining room taken in the 1960s. At the top table are Mr R L Bowley MA Trinity College, Dublin, and housemaster 1960-70 and on his right Mr J W Haines MA Brasenose College, Oxford who succeeded him in the post.



We thank the following for additions to the Archive

M D Alexander (1959-66)	For a photograph of Form Ib in 1959
Dr D M Bruton (1948-51)	For photographs of the prefects of 1950, the 2nd XV 1950/51, and the picture of the two athletes on the facing page.
Mr D Fidler	For his father's silk Reading School tie, his OR tie and Old Boys Club scarf (F I Fidler (1933-38)).
Revd D R Hemsley (1945-55)	For Simple Heraldry: the book used when his father, G R Hemsley (1917-23) was designing and submitting, at the request of the OR Council, various suggestions for a new badge for the Old Redingensians Club – two examples are enclosed with the book, one annotated on the reverse by Headmaster C E Kemp.
D J Jordan (1944-54)	For the School photograph of 1947.
Mrs Jean Malkin	For photographs and ephemera left by her late husband, Gerald Malkin (1938-39 and 1943-47).
M R Naxton (1959-67)	For the early photograph of the present School buildings that can be seen on p. 54.
D J B Potter (1942-52)	For a photograph of the monitors of 1951 and a studio portrait of his uncle, Major Edward Cecil Fox MBE (1916-21), in his School uniform.
G W O Price (1948-56)	For a photograph of the Corps in July 1956 and 9 team photographs.
C A Scroggs (1952-59)	For photographs of the Boat Club 1 st VIII in 1956 and 1957.
A R Waring (1940-46)	For an East House Colours blazer badge from the 1940s.
Mrs Marion Wheeler	For a splendidly designed <i>Reading School</i> chromed bumper bar badge plus a tiepin from her late husband, Sqn Ldr J A Wheeler (1944-50).

Identification needed of the runners in the image below!



The fair-haired runner-up looks like R E A Steward (West House), so this photograph could be of the 1950 mile on Sports Day, in which case the dark-haired athlete breasting the tape would be H B Carr (County House) – the reverse of their finish in the long run of the same year. Positive identity is invited and would be most welcome.

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, Pearmains, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, who may also be contacted by telephone on 0118 327 9917 or by email at kcbrown11@aol.com.



Old School Tie (left) Silk £15

OR Association Tie (right) Polyester £10 Silk £15

Available from: Chris Widdows, 21 Bulmershe Road, READING, RG1 5RH Cheques payable to: Old Redingensians Association

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

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



France

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

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



Australasia

Australasian Organiser - Mike Jones (1957-64)

M M Jones 11/388 David Low Way Glen Eden Beach Resort PEREGIAN BEACH QLD 4573

 QLD 4573
 Mobile: +61 (0)428 440 029

 Australia
 Email: specialty@bigpond.com



Our **Australasian organiser**, Mike Jones, is now a resident of Queensland – see revised contact details above.

Tel:

+1 908 238 1020

Email: graham.fenner@icam.fr

Email: yors862@cs.com

The Annual Reunion will again be at Noosa and will take place on Saturday, 18 June. Accommodation for ORs and their guests is available for two days from Friday to Sunday at Glen Eden Beach Resort. There will be a lunch at 1 pm at the Boat House Restaurant (a floating restaurant with a full river frontage) and a breakfast, if wanted, at 9 am on the Sunday at Peregian Beach. A report of the event will appear in the Autumn 2011 issue.

Meanwhile Mike has sent the following report about a small gathering of ORs in Perth on 19 November last:

With Mike Jones' return to Fremantle after an absence of 45 years, the date was set for an informal Reading dinner, and also to allow for Clive Nealon's return that week from a family visit to Zimbabwe.

John Mair presented Mike with two bottles of his first Grace Farm vintage of Sauvignon Blanc Semillon wine, from his Margaret River estate, as proof of his continuing enterprise. John and Garth Scotford travelled furthest on the evening, from their acreages in the Perth Hills. All five wives were in attendance. Apologies were received from Geoff Atkins, who still attends theatrical evenings, and from Peter Broadbent, whose consultancy engineering business had taken him to Ukraine and to Mozambique. John Mair also brought along a 1955 photograph of County House rugby plus the most recent Autumn '10 edition of the 'Old Red', which was shared around the table.

While the inner city restaurant was fully booked with Friday noise as the festive season approaches, there were numerous contact points about Reading as well as about ORs and even School, for all to converse. A three course dinner with local wines, plus coffee, was enjoyed at a relaxed pace. Perth is a truly beautiful international city, which more ORs should visit in the future.

Those referred to in the report are: M M (Mike) Jones (1957-64), C J (Clive) Nealon (1959-64), J C (John) Mair (1954-59), J E (John) Scotford (1950-55), G B (Garth) Scotford (1955-60), G G (Geoff) Atkins (1941-47), and P H (Pete) Broadbent (1960-67)

The picture below shows from L to R – Jan & Clive Nealon, Alison Jones, John & Alison Scotford, John & Elizabeth Mair, Mike Jones, Garth & Caroline Scotford.



Changing continents, our **USA organiser**, Roy Seymour, wintered in Arizona and sends information that D C (Chris) Longstaffe (1970-77) is now CEO of Integratis, a company located in San Ramon, California. Chris is an avid flyer and currently has a Bulldog aeroplane which ORs attending the next West Coast Reunion* might be taken up in for an aerial view of the San Francisco Bay area – if they are lucky!

R S (Rod) Ewing (1952-59) has now moved to New Mexico and lives in Taos, an area of natural beauty known for ski resorts and favoured by artists.

*NB The reunion is scheduled for March or April 2012 - firmer details will be given in the Autumn issue of The Old Redingensian

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CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

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In aid of the Reading School 1125 Fund
Full details from Caroline Beard Tel: 0118 901 5600
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Commentary

The Old Redingensian Autumn 2010......and previously!

One day, perhaps, a flawless issue of the magazine will be produced but, though few and far between, there are still errors arising: some inexplicable as with J L (Joe) Terry's dates at School – in the Autumn '10 issue these should have been given as 1959-66 (dates which are perfectly well known to the editors!).

Another careless result of rewording, as a piece evolved, had Ken Rhodes (see obituaries) becoming the elder brother of Bill: the other way round was how it was – and how it started out on the page....so much for proof reading....

P W Totman (Where are they now?) was the best senior boxer in 1944, not 1945.

The photograph on page 8 in this issue, of the architect of the School buildings, the remarkable Alfred Waterhouse (1830-1905) prompts mention that he was himself a member of that most eclectic of London clubs, the Savile (see *Sodalitus Convivium*, in the Autumn '10 issue).

Harking back to Spring 2008 and the second of the articles on *Scouting at Reading School*, H W F (Hubert) Bunce (1941-51), who contributed to that piece, writes from his home in Canada about a meeting – 60 years on – with the erstwhile Scoutmaster of the 55th Reading (Reading School) Scout Troop M G Hinton (Master at School 1949-53, known to the boys as 'Scruffy'). In 1950 Hubert Bunce was in the Science Sixth Form and the ASM of the Troop. He writes:

"Last year, 2010, we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary with a rerun of our honeymoon, mostly on the Continent - France, Germany, Belgium etc. On April 10th we had just crossed the Channel to Dover and were stuck in the Premium Hotel opposite the ferry dock. On a Sunday afternoon Dover is rather dead and no rental cars were forthcoming to take us to Heathrow and a plane to the Seychelles and our daughter. Recalling that Scruffy has been Headmaster at a boys school near Dover I wondered if he might still be around. The Hotel receptionist wasn't busy, so was happy to do some research. "Yes, there are two Hintons in Dover, do you have an address?". "Sorry, no", "Oh, there is a third one, a Reverend". Remembering that Scruffy had written The 100-Minute Bible, that sounded like a good lead. "Oh! he lives at #212 in the Gateway project, right next door, I'll phone him for you." So, we spent a very pleasant Sunday afternoon drinking tea and reminiscing. Two days later Air France took us, via Paris, to Victoria the capital of the Seychelles. It was there, that, on my own, on one of those tropical white sand beaches, just below Sarah's house, I was taking a late afternoon swim, before the sun set. A gentleman walked down the beach with similar intent. We conversed, to find that he also knew Scruffy but not by that name but as his Principal in a Comprehensive School at Weston Super Mare, a second surprising coincidence'. As they say "Small World"."



Robert Leslie Lindsay BA University of Reading

On R L Lindsay's departure from the School in 1965, after fifteen years, the editorial in the School Magazine noted he was a 'big man; and will leave an even bigger gap'. 'Big' in that context was not just physical but reflective of his 'ebullient personality and whole hearted enthusiasm for everything he undertook'. How accurate the summary was is more than borne out by the fulsome tribute printed in The Mathematical Gazette when Bob Lindsay died in 1985 at the age of 66. The notice was forwarded recently by R W D (Nick) Nickalls (1960-67) and, in view of the report, in the last issue of The Old Redingensian, of the death of Bob's widow, Mrs Catherine Lindsay, it is perhaps appropriate to recount a little of Bob's life after he left the School (for the second time: the first was as a boy when he departed the Junior School in 1929 for Christ's Hospital).

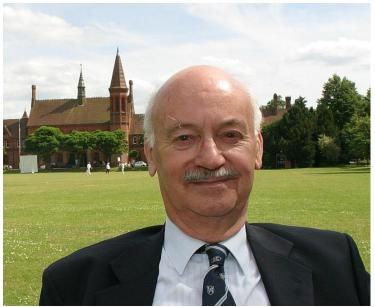
He had a life-time's commitment to computers arising through his work with the CCF (a war time officer serving from 1939 to 1946, he commanded the Reading School Corps from 1955-1960). His interest in wireless and electronics led him to develop

equipment incorporating transistors and logic gates; his homemade computer had its memory stores added to each year by his maths scholars and he was proud of his 'logical ironmongery'.

In 1966 he became a Principal Lecturer at North Bucks College of Education in Bletchley where he established a mathematical laboratory and became increasingly involved in the work of *The Mathematical Association*. He and Ruth Tobias then became the full-time lecturers appointed to the *Shell Centre* for mathematical education at Nottingham University, where Bob energetically promoted new mathematical curricula and published numerous papers. He became Publication Secretary of *The Mathematical Association*, then Hon Treasurer and subsequently Hon Secretary. The huge range of his work was fittingly commemorated at the University of Nottingham by an annual *Robert Lindsay Lecture*.

Obituaries

BRIAN GEOFFREY THOMAS TITCHENER (1941-46)



Born in Caversham, the youngest of three children, Brian Titchener was a scholarship entrant to Reading School in 1941, starting in Mr Peach's Upper II. He was in County House, the JTC and enjoyed Rugby. Post School he played for ORRUFC, rowed for Reading RC and continued that sport when in the RAF.

After a year with Miles Aeronautical Technical School, Brian joined Lloyds Bank in 1948, employment interrupted by National Service in the Royal Air Force, where he became a pilot flying Meteors. On his return to the Bank he remained in the RAFVR at Woodley until the flying school there was closed in 1953.

Hankering for flying he left Lloyds in 1955, gained his commercial pilot's licence and was accepted by BOAC. After a year as a navigator, he became, in 1957, a co-pilot on

Britannias, converted to VC10s in 1964 and in 1971 gained his Captain's command. In 1977 Brian joined the Concorde fleet and his nine years as a Concorde Captain included the inaugural Singapore to Bahrain flight, many air displays – and flying the aircraft in formation with the Red Arrows!

When he retired, in 1986 at the age of 55, he was already well established in Micheldever, Hants with his wife, Marion (a former Comet stewardess) whom he had married in 1956, and their two children, having settled there in 1974. Brian became Chairman of the Parish Council, a stalwart of the local variety group and of the Wine Circle. He enjoyed fly fishing and, as some friends said of him: *'Everything he did, he did enthusiastically'*.

In fact it was not retirement at all – for he began to work for Goodwood Travel as a commentator on Concorde charter flights, becoming an indispensable and hugely popular member of the team until he decided to retire (again), on his 65th birthday. Concorde, however, did not let him go; before long he was involved with the setting up and the running of the Concorde Experience – the flight simulator at Brooklands Museum.

Brian also gave great service to the Old Redingensians Association over many years, as a Councillor, Chairman of Council, Social Secretary and - in 1998 – as President. At his funeral service in Micheldever, St Mary's Church was packed to capacity and many of the congregation had to stand. A guard of honour was provided by members of the Aircrew Association. ORs present included three former Presidents: Col J W Chown (1996), Ven P B Coombs (1997) and A R Waring (2000).

The reception afterwards was held in the Half Moon and Spread Eagle where many tributes were made, many fond and humorous memories recalled and a Presidential commendation was awarded by the Aircrew Association.

Brian is survived by Marion, by his children Geoff – whose considerable contribution to this notice is gratefully acknowledged - and Helen and by eight grandchildren.

Brian Titchener died on 13 August 2010 aged 79.

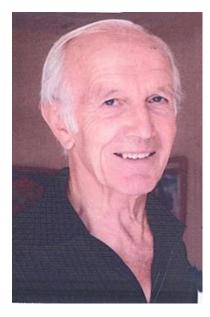
KCB



Floreat Redingensis!



PETER KNOTT (1942-50)



Born in Reading, Peter Knott's all round abilities gained him five House colours and School representative colours in Rugby, Athletics and Cricket. He was a Sergeant in the CCF, member of a number of Societies and became Captain of School Boxing, Captain of East House and Vice Captain of the School.

In 1948, while still at Reading School, he met Prue Finch (who was at Kendrick School) and whom he was to marry in 1956. National Service was spent in the Royal Artillery, partly in Egypt, and thereafter he went to Loughborough University where he trained to become a Physical Education teacher.

From the Lawrence Sheriff School at Rugby he joined Judd School, Tonbridge in 1958 and for thirty two years was Head of PE there. His passion was Rugby and he was credited with making the Judd School name synonymous with the game; they were the School team to beat in Kent during the 1970s and 80s, indeed the 1975/76 side won all their twenty three matches, scoring 698 points. All of Peter's teams were distinguished by a minimum of kicking and a high level of sportsmanship. Also in the 1970s he instigated the School's first International Rugby Tour (to Canada, Romania and France). His other loves were Athletics and Cricket and his enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, these sports were passed to generations of Judd pupils

As a qualified mountain leader he took the Judd CCF on many trips and continued to climb – and indeed to lead Judd School trips – even in retirement. (In later life he also took up bowls, both indoor and outdoor, and was Chairman of Tonbridge Bowling Club for some years.)

From early days in the St Bartholomew's' church choir in Reading and throughout his life he was a man of faith. For 25 years he worshipped at St Stephen's, Tonbridge, where he was a Churchwarden and then for a further 25 years, after he and Prue moved to Five Oak Green, at the United Church there, where he was also a Churchwarden.

An ascetic man, uninterested in material things, shunning personal limelight and an advocate of tough love where appropriate, he was held in high esteem for the deep interest, care and help he extended to many and, perhaps in particular, to new young members of staff at Judd.

Peter Knott dedicated his life to his work, his family and the church. His advice to his rugby teams 'run straight' 'don't kick the ball away' 'always put the ball down with two hands' might be interpreted as a mantra for life; 'Honesty', 'responsibility', 'certainty'; a creed that Peter both instilled and believed in.

The Rev B W (Brian) Goss OR (1939-50) led prayers at the Service of Celebration held at Tonbridge last September. Peter is survived by Prue, their son David, their daughter Jenny and six grandchildren.

Peter Knott died on 14 September 2010 after a six year struggle with Alzheimer's, at the age of 78. KCB

ROBERT JAMES FLETCHER GEORGE (1931-40)

The George brothers were born in Reading; their parents ran a furniture shop at 109 Oxford Road for many years. Bob George followed his brothers (W A F George 1928-30 and K R F George 1931-37) to Reading School where he became Captain of West House and gained both School Athletic Colours and School Chess Initials.

He was also a keen scout and although childhood illness left him with very poor eyesight which hampered him in ball games, he excelled in his chosen spheres. For instance, in 1939 Bob was Senior Middleweight Boxing Champion, second in the Long Run and the Mile (he had been third in 1938) won the 880 yards and was runner up for Champion of the Sports. For good measure he also drew a match with Sir George Thomas, the British Chess Master, and received a special award from West House. In 1940 he repeated his finishes in Long Run, 880 yards and for Champion of the Sports and went one better in the mile to win it. He carried off no fewer than three House cups that year, the Vasey, Rawlinson, and Fowler. In those years he repeated his miling triumphs in inter-school fixtures also.



He joined Lloyds Bank on leaving School, working in the Pangbourne branch but was soon in the Royal Air Force, serving until the end of the War in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece with 18 Mobile Squadron.

On demobilization he returned to the Bank, but when his eldest brother took over the shop Bob joined him, thereafter dealing in antique furniture and objets d'art and enjoying the atmosphere of auction houses. He continued to buy curios in retirement.

Bob did not marry and until their parents died he and his sister Susie had lived with them; the siblings then bought a house off Parkside Road, Reading, which they shared until Susie died at the age of 83 in 2003. Bob remained a good chess player and was also a long time and enthusiastic member of the Prospect Park Bowling Club.

Bob George died on 1 May, 2010 aged 88.

KCB

CLIFFORD THOMAS GEORGE SWANSBOROUGH (1933-38)

Cliff was born in Reading in 1923 shortly after his parents returned penniless from Canada. Money continued to be scarce throughout his childhood although he enjoyed a carefree life unaware that they were poor. Home was a thatched cottage at the end of a rutted cart track in the middle of nowhere with a kitchen range for heat, water from the well and the inevitable outdoor 'privy'. This humble house still exists albeit in a rather more modern style - the well is a feature in the garden. He helped his father deliver fruit and vegetables by horse and cart to greengrocer shops in the town until he was discovered by the school inspector and went, somewhat unwillingly, to Park Lane School in Tilehurst. During the term when exams for secondary school were due to be taken Cliff dropped a kettle of boiling water over his foot (the scars remained for the rest of his life) and had to stay in bed for weeks. One teacher in particular had encouraged him to learn and she cycled to the cottage to give him lessons so that he not only passed the exams but was one of the first boys from his primary school to win a scholarship to Reading School (West House – Ed).



He remained very proud of this achievement and never forgot the impressive view of the School as he stood at the gates on his first day.

The skills he learnt stood him in good stead throughout his life but in this very different world he realised just how poor his own family was - his parents were unable to provide him with a complete new school uniform from the official supplier. He played rugby, joined the Officers Training Corps but was always conscious of the sacrifices made on his behalf. In 1938 against his father's and headmaster's wishes he left School and joined Vincents of Reading initially as tea-boy and then within the accounts department.

Cliff joined the RAF in 1941 and became a pilot initially flying Spitfires as part of Coastal Command, enlivening the routine with escapades such as flying under Clifton Suspension Bridge. He spent time in the desert as part of the North African Campaign and was then in the Aircraft Delivery Unit transporting planes from W Africa to other war zones throughout Africa and India. Whilst in Cairo he married Christine a WAAF he met at a dance and in 1946 they returned to Reading and civilian life.

The next 30 years were spent with Vincents where he became increasingly involved in the horsebox manufacturing side of the business. With the sale of Vincents in the early 1970s he was forced into a change of career, owning and with his wife managing two grocery/newsagent shops in Caversham. He later returned to the motor trade as General Manager at Weldale Motors until he retired at the age of 68.

Cliff had played rugby 7s for the Old Redingensians and later joined Reading Golf Club where he was Captain in 1965 continuing to play into his early 80s. (He was also Master of the Reading Old Boys Lodge in 1969 and 1970 – Ed.) He was a proud man who had worked hard. Above all he was a family man, undemonstrative but caring for nephews and niece as well as his wife and daughters. He taught himself French using Linguaphone records, enjoyed travel and was the 'bon viveur' at family gatherings.

His wife died in 1999. He is survived by his three daughters, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Cliff Swansborough died on 25 June 2010 aged 87.

Linda Butler

SQUADRON LEADER GEORGE EUGENE ROBERT PARR (1930-37)

George Parr was in West House and became a School Monitor. His interests included Chess and Music; he also gained House Athletic Colours, played for his House XV and became a L/Cpl in the OTC. He was Reading born, though French on his mother's side.

In 1939 he joined the RAF with his school friend S G (Stan) Kybird (1930-35) who was reported killed in action as a Sergeant-Observer in 1941. By 1940 George was a Sergeant on the Gliesy Base near Amiens; the base was evacuated in the face of the German advance and he reached Dunkirk by road and returned to England on one of the last boats to leave. There followed thirty sorties for Sergeant Pilot Parr on Blenheim Bombers out of Gatwick and a further thirty from Takoradi in West Africa. By 1944 he was a Pilot Officer with a permanent commission flying Dakotas in North Africa. Postings to Sicily and Italy preceded his return to the UK in 1945.

George received his first Station command (Istres, in Provence) in 1949. There he met Mimi Vallet who became his wife and with whom he reached a diamond wedding anniversary in 2009. Two children were born to them Jean Bernard and Rosemary.

Flying days over, Squadron Leader Parr attended the Ecole

Militaire in Paris, graduated with distinction and in 1953 was appointed to the Air Intelligence Staff at the MoD. Three years later he became CIO Staff at Rheindahlen, Germany and in 1959 he retired from the RAF. Not liking the commercial sector (but nonetheless gaining a diploma in marketing) he re-joined MoD Intelligence as a retired officer, which entailed a move from Nottingham to Cove (which George found handy for the North Hants Golf Club.....). In 1978, George was again posted to Rheindahlen, this time as Head of LISG and there the family returned for a further three years.

After final retirement in 1985, George and Mimi moved into a new house in Fleet. He played a lot of golf, travelled extensively with Mimi, took up computing at over 80 (and obtained a City & Guilds certificate with credits for it) and took pleasure in his grandchildren, Rene, Alex and Sarah, by whom he is survived together with his two children and Mimi.

George Parr died on 29 April 2010 aged 90.

KCB

PHILIP HENRY MAY (1941-47)



Philip was born on 26 August 1929 in Mortimer. He was a twin and was adopted as a baby boy by an aunt and uncle (brother to his father).

Sadly, Philip's early years were punctuated by tragedy. His birth mother died in 1944; then his twin sister, Margaret, (who had stayed with her birth parents, attended Kendrick School and remained very close to Philip) was killed in a bicycle accident just after her 17th birthday. His elder brother, Arthur, died of malaria at the age of 27 in Thailand, having been a prisoner of war, working on the Burma railway.

At Reading School he gained Athletics Colours and Chess Initials for his House, County, and was in the JTC. Leaving in 1947, with O&CSC, he was articled to Messrs Ernest Francis & Son, chartered accountants in Reading, as an assistant accountant, where he passed his exams at the first attempt. From 1952 until 1954, during National Service in the RAF, he worked as an accounting clerk and gained two stripes.

Back in Civvy Street, Philip returned to Ernest Francis as a qualified assistant. He left in 1957 for a post as assistant accountant at Arthur Bennett Limited (retail ladies costumiers).

In 1966 he left Reading for Churchill Instruments Limited in Greenford, Middlesex, where, as Company Secretary and Chief Accountant he remained until taking early retirement in 1987, for health reasons.

In his younger life Philip was a keen YMCA member, cyclist and runner (he was a life member of Reading Athletic Club). He had been active with Mortimer Amateur Dramatics and was an auditor for St Mary's and St John's Churches, in Mortimer. He had also served as a parish councillor in Stratfield Mortimer.

Philip's wife, Audrey, whom he married in 1964, passed away in 2005. They were completely devoted to each other and lived in Bedford Gardens, Wokingham until nearly the end of both their lives. Together they travelled extensively; Philip was also a keen photographer and bird watcher – he both officiated and did volunteer work for the Wokingham Branch of the RSPB. He was an accomplished musician and played the church organ.

In 2005 he developed diabetes and became a double amputee. He did not complain about his disabilities or the pain he suffered and was always much more interested in other people than in himself. He lived on his own until, in 2009, he moved into a residential home and then Cedar Lodge Nursing Home in Frimley Green.

He is survived by his two step-daughters, Ann and Lesley, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was very proud of all of them.

Philip May died on 14 July 2010 aged 80.

Liz Denston & Mark Scott

MAJOR WILLIAM JOHN BREADMORE (1934-40)

William John Breadmore, known as John, was born in 1923, the eldest of three. When he was seven his father died and John inherited family responsibilities at an early age. He entered Reading School in Lr iiiC and County House, became a L/Cpl in the OTC, a member of the Chess Club and his House team, and gained his School Certificate. His brother R G (Bob) Breadmore, who died eight years ago, was also at School. (1935-40).

John joined Britain's wartime Army and soldiering was to become his first career. After service with the Royal Engineers he was undergoing Officer Training on the Isle of Man (and destined for Burma with the Royal Berkshire Regiment) when the Second World War ended. He was sent instead to the Gold Coast (where at 26 he was Governor of a Military Prison) and later saw service around the globe. Whilst in the Army he married Jean, in 1944, and they had three children, Keith (K G W Breadmore, East Wing 1961-63), Ian and Wendy.

In the Army John became one of Britain's pioneer users of computer technology and it was natural to continue in this sphere when he left the Service, first with Dunlop, then Audits of Great Britain where he developed the system that measures TV audiences.



His first marriage ended after he left the Army and in 1972 he married again, to Monica, with whom he had his fourth child, Peter. John and Monica had many shared interests including the desire to make a difference, which led them both into local politics at Town and District level. Apart from being a committed member of Amersham Conservative Club, John also enjoyed fishing and shooting.

He was a father of whom his children were very proud, a capable and practical man, something of a techno wizard, always with a project in hand and who was ever ready with words of sympathy or humour or advice. He taught that no set back need be final; that there was no failure that could not be turned to success.

After 33 years of marriage, Monica's untimely death came as a great blow to John. Parkinson's took hold and, later, a fall meant hospital and thereafter a nursing home. He remained uncomplaining.

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

John Breadmore died on 29 April 2010 at the age of 86.

KCB

JOHN ALFRED YEARN (1957-60)

John was a late starter! He joined in Form 54 in 1957, after his family had moved down from Stone. Some of his classmates had to ask where Stone was - and one or two where Staffordshire was! John quickly adapted to his new environment. He was a keen rugby player and a popular member of the class.

In 1960 he went to Aberystwyth to study Physics and six years later left, not only with a B.Sc. and PhD but also with a wife, Mary. In 1966 he joined ICI Petrochemical and Polymer Laboratory at Runcorn doing materials research and in 1973 moved to ICI Pharmaceuticals - developing novel medical devices. Having been shown a new resin which hardened with ultraviolet light, John immediately saw its potential as replacement for amalgam in restorative dentistry. John enthusiastically guided the product development, organised trials and secured the necessary regulatory approvals. As Managing Director of ICI Dental, he led the sales team which succeeded in getting the product used by nearly every dentist in the world.



In 1990 ICI Dental was sold to its Japanese distributor and John moved to Chicago as a Vice- President of Production and Technology and three years later he transferred to the European Headquarters in Leuven, Belgium where he worked until he retired in 2003.

During his international career John and Mary always maintained a home in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, where he died peacefully in his sleep. He is survived by Mary and by his daughter, Charlotte.

John Yearn died on 20 June 2010 aged 68.

F J Pocock

DAVID MICHAEL KARSTEN (1943-54)



David was born in 1935, lived in Tilehurst and was consequently in West House. He started in Junior School in September 1943 and left in July 1954, thus spending some eleven years at Reading School.

He led a varied life within the School and also sang in the St Michael's Church Choir in Tilehurst under the tutelage of Charlie Davis. This undoubtedly led to his appearing in the School production of *The Gondoliers* in 1949, taking the part of Giulia. Amongst his many interests at School were sport, particularly Soccer (two years in the School 1st XI) and Cricket (two years in the School 2nd XI). He also played Chess, but his main interest was Scouting and he became a Patrol Leader in the School Junior Troop and a Rover Scout in the Senior. Other interests including cycling holidays and bridge.

On leaving School David read classics at Reading University before National Service in the Royal Signals and the Intelligence Corps – in the course of which his flair for languages led to his learning Russian.

Next he became a classics master at Lord Williams School at Thame, following which he took a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Oxford. This led to him becoming Head of Classic and Careers at Ranelagh School, in Bracknell, where he also coached cricket and formed a photographic club. He taught there from 1966 to 1997.

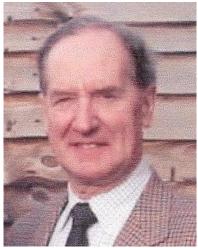
During this time he and his wife, Susan, became very heavily involved from 1969 in the planting of the new Church of St James, within the Parish of St John's, Woodley. David became a lay preacher and he was an extremely popular member of the Church as witnessed by the huge attendance at his funeral.

David had many qualities but in particular his ability to communicate and his sense of humour, which never left him during his many years of ill health. He is survived by Susan, who cared for him for so long and to whom he was married for nearly 41 years, and his two daughters, Liz and Anna.

David Karsten died on 7 July, 2010 aged 74.

John Childs

SQUADRON LEADER JOHN ALFRED WHEELER (1944-50)



At School, John Wheeler was a Corporal in the CCF and a member of both his House (West), Shooting Team and the School Team; good preparation for a military career. He had been born in Caversham in 1933 and, when only a toddler, he first met his future wife (both their mothers belonged to the Mothers' Union). Wedding bells pealed for John and Marian one week after his twenty-first birthday.

When schooldays were over John joined Lloyds Bank but National Service in the RAF confirmed his desire to fly; as a pilot, commencing in 1952, he was to record 3016 flying hours in many of HM aircraft – his favourites were the Meteor, the Hunter and the Jet Provost.

John's integrity and personal standards, and his talent for leadership, as a pilot and as a flying instructor, were highly rated in the RAF. From 1955-57 he flew for the Black Arrows (an aerobatic team predating the Red Arrows). As a combat ready pilot during that period he also saw service in Suez. In

the 1960s he instructed at Cranwell. Throughout all his postings Marian was his unfailing support; not least when John was made redundant in the 1975 Defence cuts. He was bitter about this, but delighted when he was invited back (though inevitably he had lost some seniority in the interim and may have ranked higher ultimately, without such an interruption in his career).

After nineteen different homes in the RAF, the Wheelers found themselves by 1976 in East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, where they settled into retirement when John left the Service in 1988. He became a stalwart of the Royal British Legion there and led the Poppy Appeal for twenty years. He was a strong supporter of Marian's numerous charitable and community roles in the village and he served on the PCC and Parish Council and supported many charities himself – including Combat Stress and the Gurkhas. Both lifelong Christians, John and Marian worshipped at St Peter's Church, in East Bridgford where John's funeral service took place. He is survived by Marian, their son Jonathan (OR 1968) and their daughter Sara, and two grandchildren, Hannah and Andrew.

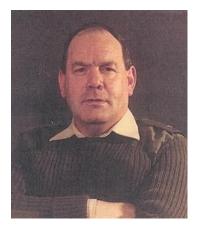
John Wheeler died suddenly on 3 July 2010 aged 76.

KCB

MAJOR COLIN CLIVE MEHEUX (1952-60)

Colin was born in Reading on 8 December 1941, (the day that Pearl Harbour was bombed, as he would tell people). At Reading School he was in West House, and made a solid contribution to most House activities. He was a member of the Operatic Society also, but is usually best remembered as the outstanding cadet of his day, becoming RQMS of the CCF and proceeding, fittingly, to Sandhurst.

After two years at the Royal Military Academy, he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. He retired, as a Major, in 1992 after a thirty year career which took him to Aden, Cyprus, Germany and the Falklands during which he lived with his family in twenty four different homes. The Field Marshal's baton may have remained deeper in his knapsack than his abilities merited but he had nonetheless enjoyed an eventful career and he had also followed his old Headmaster's advice to make use of his opportunities.



In 1964, he married Julia, in Guildford, and they had two sons together, Christian and Quentin; the family finally settled in the New Forest, at Bransgore, in 1987.

After leaving the Army Colin became a Ministry of Defence Civil Servant, working in Christchurch and Chertsey, until 2003, by which time Parkinson's had been diagnosed. Before the disease took serious hold his leisure time was spent on the Romsey Signal Box Project (restoration) and as Treasurer of the British Military Power Boat Trust (more restoration). Apart from railways and military history Colin was also particularly interested in many forms of folk music.

He had some years of failing health, bravely borne, and Pick's Disease was a further debilitating blow, though he continued to live at his home in Bransgore until entering the Royal Bournemouth Hospital in his final days. He is survived by Julia, by their two sons, and by three grandchildren.

Colin Meheux died on 20 August 2010 aged 68.

KCB

MICHAEL ANTHONY TOTMAN (1944-50)

Mike Totman was in County House at School. By the time he left from VM in 1950 with his CSC, at the age of 17, he had already appeared in the School Shooting VIII, was a fixture in the Tennis VI, had won, as did his brother Peter before him, the Waldron Trophy for the best boxer, his House's 'J G Fry' Cup, and proved himself a more than useful all-rounder. He did well, too, in the CCF; winning the Certificate A Efficiency Cup himself and leading County to the Michelmore (Section) Cup — appropriate preparation for his later Army service. We are grateful to Michael's wife, June, for sending in the following notice which we print in full:

'Michael was born in Reading on 11th October, 1932 to William and Hilda Totman and lived in Caversham for many years.

He joined his elder brother, Peter (County House 1939-47 –ed.) at Reading School in 1944. His main interest at School and throughout his life was sport. He excelled at boxing, tennis, shooting and athletics. He also played football for his local club before becoming a keen golfer. All his life he took great interest in partaking and watching sport.



He took a short Service Commission in the army and obtained the rank of Captain in the RASC. He thoroughly enjoyed army life, and again achieved many awards in tennis and shooting. He remained on the Officer Reserve for many years after he left the regular army.

After a brief spell in the Civil Service, he joined the Royal Insurance Company in 1954 as an inspector in the Bayswater branch. He was then promoted to the City for several years before taking over the management of Slough branch. In 1982 he returned to Reading as a Life Consultant before retiring in 1987 in order to join his long standing friend, Simon Tredray, at his business in Wokingham. He very much enjoyed this stage of his working life before retiring and moving to Cornwall in 2001.

Michael's main love was of his family. He married June in 1961 and had two children, Nicholas and Rosalind, and later joined by Kerry. He was very proud of his family, and was especially pleased that his two younger grandsons, William and Alexander, attended Caversham Primary School where he spent the war years. He was also delighted that his two elder grandsons, Charlie and Jamie Knapp, followed in his footsteps and became pupils at Reading School (both County, 2003-08 and 2007-09 respectively –ed.).

Michael was a very hard working, fair and honest businessman, a caring and supportive husband, father and friend, and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

JMT'

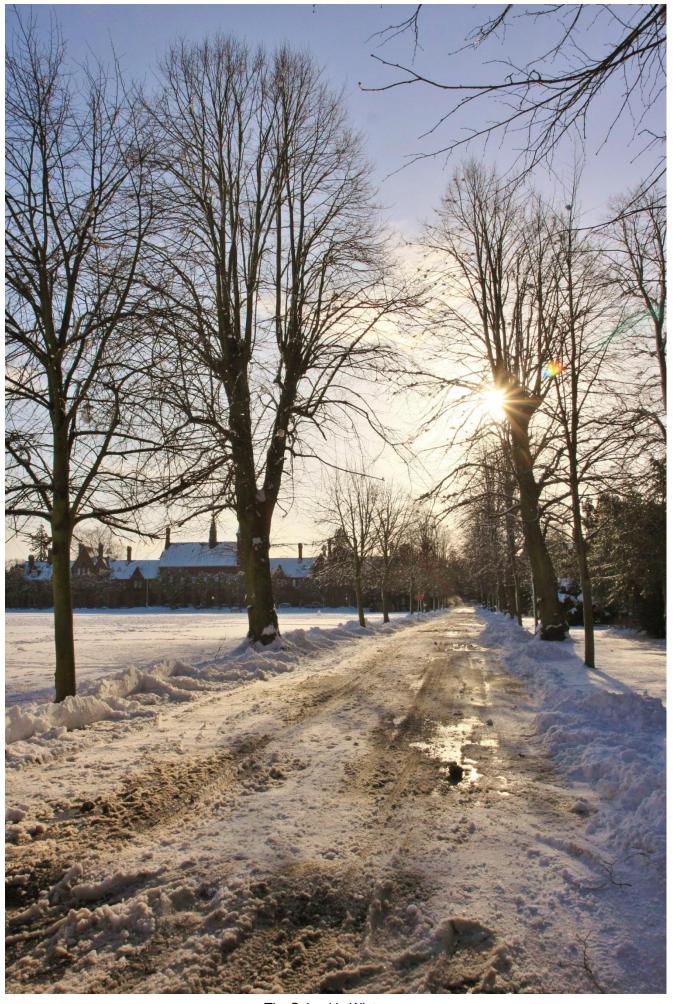
At Michael's funeral service in St Margaret's, Mapledurham, his lifelong friend, Chad Buckler, gave a moving address recalling, amongst other things, Mike's essential common sense; his physical and mental toughness; his shrewdness; his loyalty; and the happiness he took in his family. Michael is survived by June, his children and grandchildren.

Apart from his brother Peter and his grandsons Charlie and Jamie, amongst ORs at the service were also D H Easby (1934-42), P R Stuck (1942-50), and A G Stuck (1943-51).

Mike Totman died on 25 September, 2010, aged 77.

KCB

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to John Childs (1946-53), to Liz Denston (cousin of Philip May), Mark Scott (godson of Philip May), June Totman (wife of Michael), Linda Butler (daughter of Cliff Swansborough) and Francis Pocock (1953-60). We invite others to send in their reminiscences for inclusion in future issues of the Journal.



The School in Winter

In Memoriam

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

F J (John) Malpas (1952-88)

Master at Reading School Died 10 December 2008 aged 83

W J (Wally) Milne (1930-37)

General Manager, The Hayes Conference Centre Died 28 September 2010 aged 91

C (Clive) Rowden (1938-43)

Customs & Excise Officer
Died 5 December 2010 aged 83

W (Bill) Buckoke (1935-41)

Captain of School, Submariner, Company Director Died 8 December 2010 aged 87

H M (Herbie) Price (1930-34)

Doctor

Died 12 December 2010 aged 89

P W (Paul) Mundy (1940-48)

Music Teacher

Died 12 December 2010 aged 81

V T (Vic) Rolfe (1943-45)

Electronics Engineer

Died 21 December 2010 aged 83

K C Moore (1922-30)

Life Assurance

Died 27 December 2010 aged 99

G T (Gordon) Preece (1933-38)

Deputy Treasurer, Berkshire County Council Died 13 January 2011 aged 87

E (Eric) Prince (1934-40)

Civil Servant

Died 17 January 2011 aged 87

P J E (Peter) Tomkins (1942-47)

Civil Servant

Died 11 March 2011 aged 80

J W (John) Povey (1947-52)

Chartered Accountant

Died 14 March 2011 aged 75

G H (Graham) Jones (1942-52)

Chartered Town Planning Consultant

Died 25 March 2011 aged 76

D R (David) Reynolds (1962-69)

Advertising Executive

Died March 2011 aged 59

J V (John) Roderick(s) (1939-42)

Chartered Accountant

Died 31 March 2011 aged 87

J R (John) Harraway (1953-60)

Chartered Accountant

Died 2 April 2011 aged 68

J E (James) Carey (1936-40)

Insurance

Died 21 April 2011 aged 86

Major J W (James) Fyfe (1975-85)

Army Officer and Reading School Bursar

Died 21 April 2011 aged 90

A M (Alan) Grant (1945-54)

NatWest Bank

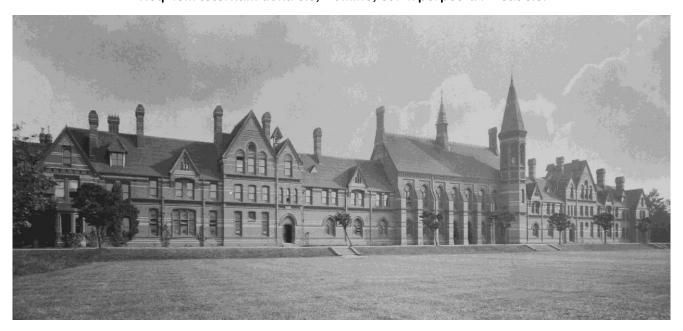
Died 6 May 2011 aged 73

P A (Peter) Redgrove (1953-60)

Solicitor

Died 15 May 2011 aged 69

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



From the Editors



On 1 February the School gained 'Academy' status. There is something of a brave new world - not before time, many would say - of educational thought gaining ground and the Academy system is a part of it. Hopefully, those who have striven so hard to consolidate the School's future, in particular the Principal. Governors and Foundation (the latter body chaired by former OR President, Rodney Huggins and having included three other former OR Presidents, Cedric Scroggs (now a Governor), John Illman and Neil Jouques) will have their judgement fully justified and their efforts rewarded. We hope with them that "Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit" (perhaps the time will come when the memory of this will make me glad – Virgil, Aeneid).

Remembrance Sunday this year is on 13 November (see *Forthcoming Events* on p16). More than 50 years ago D J Weekes (1947-53) submitted the names of three ORs omitted from the Chapel War Memorials. For some obscure reason nothing happened until David Weekes' article in the last issue of this journal *F J De Gex, A Forgotten Hero,* once more brought the matter to light. All being well, the Rev. D J Weekes will be guest preacher at this year's service, conducted by the OR Chaplain Rev D R (David) Hemsley, during which the three missing names will be unveiled. Members of the families of the three men will be invited and a buffet reception is planned afterwards to be held in Big School, rather than the usual tea and biscuits in the old Junior School. ORs are asked for a good turn-out this year – let us see the Chapel full – and in particular serving and former members of the Armed Forces are requested to attend, if they possibly can, this rather special event.

Inevitably there is from time to time the occasional death of a pupil – most will perhaps remember from their own time at School a friend who succumbed to illness or died as the result of an accident. Nowadays there is a phenomenon across the United Kingdom of many deaths resulting apparently from fear or loneliness, or the need to draw attention to a real or imagined plight, by increasing numbers who feel they are in some way inadequate or cannot connect. The culture at Reading School is such that it protects its pupils far better than most – but it cannot be immune from the disturbing elements and distorted values in today's society that are so threatening to childhood. If the "Big Society" promotes compassion, humility and inclusiveness we endorse it.

The Learning Resource Centre in the John Kendrick Building is the modern equivalent of what the majority of readers remember as "The Library" at School. Yes, it does contain books – and very many of them – but online resources also supply the wealth of information that the electronic age makes accessible. Recently, the librarian, Mrs Loralie Kesteven, has arranged to subscribe to History Reference Center (sic), Literary Reference Center (sic) and Science Reference Center (sic), making multiple thousands of books, articles and texts available to the pupils of the School. The OR Association has observed the wishes of its one time Hon Treasurer, the late P E (Peter) Townsend (1944-48) by settling the annual income from a legacy on to the Learning Resource Centre, which is now in process of forming "The Townsend Collection".

Reading School continues to garner accolades. In 2010 a Sunday Times Guide to outstanding schools voted RS the "best State Secondary School in England". In the UK MT Senior Mathematical Challenge last November, all boys studying further maths to AS or A Level were entered by the School and a total of 33 Gold Awards, 54 Silver and 38 Bronze was achieved. The Economics and Business Department has secured the EBEA quality mark. All members of the OR Association will surely wish to give hearty congratulations on these achievements.

The lead article in this issue is one of two – the second will appear in the Autumn 2011 Journal – written to commemorate the centenary of the founding of The Reading Old Boys Lodge in 1911. The centenary falls on 29 October and, for the first time since 1990, a meeting of the Lodge will be held in Big School. Anyone wishing to attend on the day should please read the footnote on p 30.



OFFICERS FOR 2011

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Note: the post of **Secretary** is currently vacant. Any OR interested in the role is invited to contact the President for a description of the duties involved.

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The illustration on the front cover of this issue is the Banner of Reading Old Boys Lodge 3545. It now hangs, with other Lodge Banners, at the Berkshire Masonic Centre, Sindlesham. The Banner was given by the Lodge members in memory of three ORs who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War. Bro Lieut Giles Ayres (1897-01), Bro Capt Joseph Conquest James (1891-95) and Bro Lieut Hugh Patterson Dymore-Brown (1910-13). It was designed by Bro H Dawson Barkas (who was the School Art Master) and "the work was beautifully executed" by his daughter, Miss Edith Barkas. The Banner was consecrated at a special Service held at the School Chapel on 30 June 1920, before a large gathering of Freemasons.