

# THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Spring 2012



The Olympic Truce Symbol

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## Feature Writers in this Issue



**G M G (Gerry) Knight (1943-52)**, pictured left, provides the lead article on pp 26-29. **The Archivist** takes a look at Hugh Cook Faringdon on pp 34-36.

**The Rev D J (David) Weekes (1947-53)**, former Captain of School, centre, delivered a memorable address on Remembrance Sunday. Under the title *Three Questions* the bulk of his text is reproduced on pp 30-33.

**His Honour Judge S J (Simon) Oliver (1969-76)**, right, completes his commemoration of the centenary of the Reading Old Boys' Lodge with a photographic finale on pp 41. (Simon is Worshipful Master of the Lodge this year, as he was in 1988.)

# The President's Letter

I am delighted, honoured, but nonetheless surprised, to find myself President of the ORA and I am grateful to the many ORs, especially those from overseas, who have sent me messages of support.

Being President is a role I consider to be not only a great privilege, but one which I realise comes with an inherent responsibility to preserve the traditions of the Association, while at the same time ensuring that it keeps abreast of new initiatives and maintains its position as one of the important stakeholders in the School. In order to achieve this, the Executive and Council are in the process of reviewing the administrative responsibilities within the organisation to utilise fully the skills and experience of individual members, and to provide some long-term continuity.

New appointments have been made to Council, and we welcome Alex Beckey, Director of Sport, and Peter Chadwick. Beverley Taylor has also been appointed as Clerk. In addition, as we are all aware of the need to attract younger members, we aim to appoint a young person to Council for a two-year rolling period with specific responsibility for maintaining contact with recent leavers. As part of this initiative Ant Butler is organising a 'Class of 2007, 5-Years On' Bar-B-Q at the School on 14 July. If you would like more information please contact Beverley Taylor.

We are also working very closely with Frances Greaney, the School's Development Officer, to establish new events on the calendar including, from October 2012, a series of monthly public lectures by eminent speakers. We hope the Events Diary may be made available to members on-line.

The School is going through a period of change which will ensure its future status as one of the best educational establishments in the country, and the ORA will be needed to play a part in this. The School is now in its second year as an Academy and the transition, although not without its minor problems, has been relatively smooth. Significantly, the Governors have recently appointed a new Principal. John Weeds is moving to a new post in Kent, and he will be replaced by Ashley Robson, presently Vice-Principal. On behalf of the ORA I would like to wish both of them every success in their new positions.

The very impressive new refectory, constructed under the covered quad, has been completed and is in full use. It will be formally opened by Ross Brawn (1966-71) on 28 June. Plans for the development of new Science

facilities, Morgan Road and a new Sports Centre, are presently being discussed by the Governors, and details will be presented at the next ORA Council meeting. Once they become 'public' I will ensure that members are kept up to date with the proposals.

On the academic front the School has established a link with the Shanghai High School. This is a very prestigious development, as their selection of a partner School came down to a straight choice between Reading School and Eton. In recognition of this

achievement the ORA is hosting a reception for a Chinese delegation from the School later in the term, and Council has agreed to establish a bi-annual scholarship to enable a pupil, or pupils, to study in China.

The ORA continues to support the School in other ways. It was decided that this year we would make a greater effort to publicise the annual Enterprise Awards. A team of us addressed each House assembly over a week and there was a publicity campaign within School. As a result we had far more applications than last year. All the applicants received a grant of some worth, and we were also able to give a sizeable donation to the group going to Tanzania to do community project work and climb Mt Kilimanjaro. Past

President Michael Maule is to be congratulated for all the effort he has put into this over the years, and thanks go to School Director of Development Frances Greaney for her work in collating the applications and dealing with the administration.

Council has also allocated funds to provide the facilities for permanent exhibition of some of the ORA and School archives. (More about this in the Autumn edition)

On a sadder note, members of the ORA executive were present at the scattering of the ashes of Past President John Illman on the cricket square in April, and then hosted a Memorial Service in his honour in the Chapel a few weeks later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Council and Executive, who do a great deal of work behind the scenes to ensure that the ORA provides a service to our members.

There are exciting times ahead and if you have any suggestions for events, or would like to contribute in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

FR

Martin



# Notes and News

The inaugural Sir George Pinker Memorial address (Sir George was at Reading School 1935-42 and his distinguished career was detailed in the Autumn 2007 and Spring 2008 issues of this journal) was held on 12 October 2011, at St Marylebone Parish Church and delivered by the Archbishop of Westminster, the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, on the subject of maternal health (with particular reference to morbidity in childbirth). There was a reception afterwards at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists where the Archbishop joined a Question and Answer panel. ORs present were: Dr Dudley Bruton (1948-51), D E H Moriarty (1943-54), G W O Price (1948-56), K C Brown (1955-63) and C J Widdows (1955-62).

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Railway buffs may be interested to know that O S Nock – Oswald Stevens Nock (1905-1994) – one of the most prolific railway authors, attended Reading School from 1915-16 before becoming a boarder at Giggleswick.

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*'Commando who was decorated in Holland and caught his old French Master in flagrante in Madagascar'* is just the kind of tag the editors of this magazine would like to be able to use. Alas! any OR connection to that one is extremely remote. The Daily Telegraph used it for its obituary notice of Major Tom Addington – Raymond Thomas Casamajor Addington, third son of the 6th Viscount Sidmouth. The Major (who was educated at Downside) was reported as a most remarkable and admirable man; so it seems that the genes of the 1st Viscount Sidmouth ('our' Addington) were of the right stuff!

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Kendrick was rated the best school in the south east, last year, by the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide as far as academic performance goes. Reading School was fourth in this particular table.

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The substantial roll-call of Old Redingensians in *Who's Who* has the much deserved addition of His Honour Judge S J (Simon) Oliver (1969-76) in the 2012 Edition. In March Simon moved from Isleworth Crown Court to be the Designated Family Judge at Reading County Court (and the DFJ responsible also for Slough County Court). He becomes a Deputy High Court Judge in Family Law.

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Simon Oliver's elder son B S J (Ben) Oliver (1998-05) married Kathleen Norton on 5 August 2011. Ben read Economics at Warwick and recently started training to be a solicitor with Field Seymour Parkes in Reading.

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The new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading is Sir David Bell. He is the ninth Vice-Chancellor since the University arose from the solid grounding of the Extension College in 1926. The connection between the University and the School has been, and remains, strong: five Vice-Chancellors have been Chairman of the Governors of Reading School and the present Chairman of Governors, Dr P C H (Philip) Mitchell, who has been in post since 1993 is a former Reader in Chemistry and Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow in the University's Department of Chemistry. This year's president of the Old Redingensians Association, Professor M L (Martin) Parsons FRHistS, is another long standing member of the University staff.



A D (Andrew) Smith (1962-68) Labour MP for Oxford East since 1987, and a former Cabinet Minister, became the 50th interviewee for the Oxford Times colour supplements *'Castaway'* series. He paid tribute to *'an inspiring teacher, Frank Terry'* (F H Terry, Master at School 1946-82) and revealed that when first adopted as Labour Candidate for Oxford East, in 1982, he performed an interesting double; amongst the other candidates that Andrew emerged ahead of in that contest were both Tony Blair and Cherie Booth....

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The obituary notice for J (John) Illman CMG (1951-59) appears on p 47 and a report of his memorial service will be in the Autumn issue of The Old Redingensian. On 16 February John's ashes were scattered on the cricket square by his family and ORs including the President, other officers of the Council and Past President M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59) (who arranged the ceremony through the good offices of the School authorities to whom much gratitude was expressed).

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It seems that the name of Robert Shafto Headley (1871-73) has been rather overlooked in our sporting history. His tale will be told in the Autumn issue – and since he is almost certainly the only Old Redingensian to captain a football team in an FA Cup final it very much deserves to be!

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Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe GCB DFC AFC (1933-38) former Chief of Defence Procurement, MOD, and President of the Old Redingensians Association in 1979 celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 March.

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R G (Richard) Griffiths (1957-64) former Senior Partner at Blandy & Blandy, now sits as an Employment Judge for a few days each month, and last summer received the great honour of being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire. Congratulations to him.



ORs C P B (Charles) O'Halloran (2007-9) and his brother C J (Christopher) O'Halloran (2009-11) both played for Oxford University in the U/21 Varsity Match against Cambridge on 8 December; Charles (Regent's Park College) at scrum half and Christopher (Worcester) at full back. Oxford won 19:11 and Charles and Christopher are pictured, *right*, holding the Nomura Trophy.



R A M (Roderick) Campbell (1964-71) has not previously been included in references to serving parliamentarians, in this magazine. Now he should be; since 2011 he has been an MSP – representing North East Fife for the Scottish National Party at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62), co-editor of this magazine and Membership Secretary of the Old Redingensians Association, worked in Antigua for some years early in his career. On a return trip to the island, with Mrs Widdows in April, he took the opportunity to also spend some days on Grenada where he had contacted two ORs now domiciled on that island; J M (John) Criswick (1951-56) and Cdr N D ('Sharkey') MacCartan-Ward DSC AFC RN (Retd) (1955-62) former Captain of School.



Future issues may carry full features on two notable careers but, briefly, John Criswick (*pictured above left*), who will be remembered as a denizen of the Art Room at School, took an art teaching degree and indeed taught art for 11 years in British Guiana. In 1972 he moved to Grenada and established the internationally renowned plant nursery and garden *St Rose* in a mountain valley above the capital St George's. He has created a unique collection of plants drawn from Asia, Africa and the Americas. As a leading horticulturalist his expertise has been used in Grenada's annual exhibit which has been a frequent Gold Medal winner at the Chelsea Flower Show

Nigel Ward (*above right*) spent his career in the Royal Navy and is well known as the commander of 801 Naval Air Squadron flying Sea Harriers in the Falklands War. His book '*Sea Harrier Over The Falkands*' (1992 – now also available as an ebook) tells the tale of his more than 60 missions in that conflict and his role as Sea Harrier adviser to the Command on the tactics direction and progress of the air war. Nowadays Sharkey is *Principal Author* – *Naval Aviation to The Phoenix Think Tank*, an independent network of academics and experienced personnel whose object is to '*Start healing a time of poor performance in British Naval Thinking and build a better future for it*'.



Grand Etang Lake, Grenada

# Enterprise Awards

*Promoting creativity, adventure, leadership, science, and personal initiative.*

Michael Maule PP again coordinated the Awards procedure this year, meeting with the Principal and Heads of Houses to ensure a synchronised approach, and finalising the formal documentation (which was then placed on the School intranet by Frances Greaney, Director of Development, who provided much help and support). During the week commencing 19 Feb 2012 ORA President Martin Parsons, with Michael, Chris Widdows and Ken Brown in attendance, explained the scheme in Big School to the four Houses. Strong support was provided each day by previous Award winners who gave addresses on their own undertakings. These Power Point presentations were made between 8:30 and 9 am each morning.



20 Feb – West House



21 Feb – East House



22 Feb – County House



23 Feb – School House

The applications for the 2012 awards were considered in April by Michael and Martin and by the Principal with his Captain and Vice Captain of School. A letter of congratulation, with the appropriate cheque, is sent to Award winners. Details of the successful applicants will be published in the Autumn issue of The Old Redingensian as usual. Michael Maule will report on the allocation of the awards and the encouraging factors that have emerged from the 5-year review that he has carried out. Those five years have seen an outlay of £23,000 by the ORA (and, of course, considerably more since the award scheme started in 1990) and close scrutiny is maintained to ensure that this major element of OR subsidy is money well spent. KCB

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**2011 Enterprise Award winner, Matthew Popplestone of Form 10C submitted a comprehensive and very well illustrated report of which there follows an edited version.**

Earlier this year, from 20 August to 4 September, I was in Switzerland with my local scout troop, and there I had the most action-packed, fun-filled adventure imaginable. Over 14 days I hiked, climbed, hiked, swam in a mountainside alpine lake, hiked again, traversed, visited a glacier, visited several towns and hiked to the top of a mountain to watch the sunrise. It was incredible.

The first thing that hit me in Switzerland was the warm air. Stepping out of the plane was a complete shock, as the temperature of 34°C was not something I expected, having been in cloudy England the day before. Once outside the shiny, modern looking, ludicrously overpriced post-airport shopping centre, the mountains appeared. As if by magic the entire panorama of the human visual field was given a beautiful backdrop of towering peaks, and vast glaciers. The journey to Kandersteg, home of the international scout centre, was two hours long, but in a coach full of friends on a Swiss motorway it was seemingly over within minutes.

Upon arrival at the Centre we were directed to our accommodation. A kilometer walk from the reception was our block, known as The Tower. It held up to 60 people as did the bunkhouse next to it, and with our numbers peaking at 57 it was quite a cosy fit. The site itself was massive. Over each year around 12000 scouts visit the centre, from over 40 different countries. Activities during the holiday were organised many months in advance. Most of the activities, such as town visits and hikes, were attended by everybody, however there were a number of activities of which each person was allowed to choose only three. My personal choices were the



Dawn Hike, hiking to a mountaintop to see sunrise, the Lötschenpass Hike, which involved a 10-hour day hiking up to a glacier and back down, and; due to one of my activities being cancelled, the High Ropes course, which was good fun (*pictured right: Matthew on the high ropes*).

The Dawn Hike involved getting up at three in the morning and hiking for three and a half hours in the cold night air, but this led to a brilliant climax when, with a view of the stars fit for the desert, we saw the sunrise. It was amazing.

Other activities included a visit to the top of the Jungfrau, rubbing shoulders with the Eiger. It stands not much smaller than the Eiger and is home to a glacier. A train ride transports you up and down the mountain, with two rest stops. In the tourist centre at the top of the Jungfrau is an observation tower. This includes an enclosed space and an open balcony where the wind was strong enough to blow people's hats off and the wind chill factor was  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The town visits were made in two major groups on different days and were a great opportunity for a taste of Swiss culture, including their chocolate and their knives. The town visit to Brig was mainly to see the Brigerbad swimming baths which are a collection of pools, rocks and a large water slide down the mountainside. Thun was more of a Swiss culture visit. There was a castle and museum and we were allowed to roam free in the town.



The other major activity for me was the Lötschenpass Glacier Hike, around 8 hours of hiking, up (and down) a 1100m vertical distance, covering 10km. At the top of the mountain we found ourselves standing upon a glacier, an impressive sight, for while most of it was covered in gravel and shingles, there were large gaps through which layered blue and white ice could be seen.

Other organised activities were also very enjoyable. There was, to use a cliché, never a dull moment at camp. If there was no off site activity we would play games, or be given the freedom to go into Kandersteg. Our final day of activity was at the Oeschinenensee Sommer rodelbahn (a toboggan run). We took a cable car up to the top of the Oeschinenensee, and all enjoyed two runs of the chute. Following this, we hiked a short distance to the beautiful Oeschinenensee alpine lake in which we went for a dip although at around  $7^{\circ}\text{C}$ , it was quite chilly. After two weeks, it was time to go home; it did not seem at all like two weeks had gone. Unfortunately it had, and we were on our flight home the next day. A great experience had been had by all and I certainly will not forget this trip. The site has been booked by our scout leaders for 2016 and by that time I will be old enough to go as an adult leader.



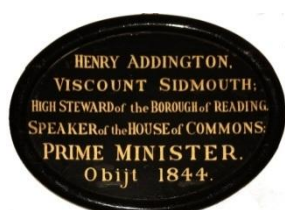
I would like to say thank you for the money which I received from the Old Redingensians. It helped greatly, and I know how much I would have missed out on had I not been able to go on the trip. Thank you again. MP

# Tea Trays Old and New

The following nine commemorative wall plaques have now been hung in Big School completing the current tranche. If any OR would like his name associated with a plaque, some are still available for sponsorship at £100. (Sponsors names will appear in a forthcoming publication about the tea trays.)

<b>Peter Paul Dobree MA</b>	Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, d 1825
<b>John Jackson BA FRS DD</b>	Bishop of London, d 1885
<b>Sir Edward James Dodd CBE</b>	HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, d 1966
<b>Right Rev Arthur Cayley Headlam CH MA DD</b>	Bishop of Gloucester, Principal of King's College London, d 1947
<b>Douglas Albert Guest CVO FRCM Hon RAM FRCO FRSCM</b>	Organist Emeritus of Westminster Abbey (Organist and Master of the Choristers 1963-81), d 1966
<b>Robert Scott Alexander, Baron Alexander of Weedon QC FRSA</b>	Lawyer, Chairman National Westminster Bank, President of MCC, Chancellor of Exeter University, Chairman of the RSC, Trustee of the National Gallery etc., d 2005
<b>Leslie Eric Saxby</b>	England Rugby International, d 1956
<b>Lt Col Dr Martin Edward Meakin Herford DSO MBE MC &amp; Bar</b>	The most decorated doctor of WWII, d 2002
<b>Austin Leonard Reed</b>	Founder of the Austin Reed Group d 1954

## Tracking the Tea Trays No 20: Henry Addington, Viscount Sidmouth



Addington's mother was Mary, daughter of Haviland Hiley, Headmaster of Reading School, 1716 to 1750. He went on to Winchester, Lincoln's Inn and Oxford (where he won the Chancellor's Gold Medal for English Essay). At age 26 he was MP for Devizes and at age 30 Speaker of the House of Commons. In 1801, when he was 44, he became Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was a Tory, and from childhood a friend of Pitt with whom he quarrelled in 1803; one year later he resigned. The next year he was created

Viscount Sidmouth and returned to the Cabinet briefly, as President of the Council, a post he also held in Spencer Perceval's ministry. In 1812, under Lord Liverpool, he was Home Secretary and served until 1821 when he retired from that office. In 1824 he retired from the cabinet but remained in the Commons (he voted against Catholic Emancipation in 1829 and the Reform Bill in 1832). Lord Sidmouth maintained a home in Reading and he gave the land for the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He died in 1844. KCB

## Tracking the Tea Trays No 21: Sir Constantine Phipps



CONSTANTINE PHIPPS won a Scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, but postponed it and was admitted to Gray's Inn. He rose steadily as a lawyer, although hindered by his Jacobite sympathies, and was knighted in 1710 by Queen Anne, the year he became Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His efforts in the Tory cause aroused strong antagonisms in the Whigs who blamed him for disorders and divisions in the realm and accused him of secretly supporting the Pretender. On the death of Queen Anne in 1714 he was removed from Office and returned to the Bar in England. That

same year the University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of DCL. He died in the Middle Temple and is buried in St Mary's Church, White Waltham, Berkshire. KCB

Another tranche of tea trays is planned for Big School, as follows: Sponsors at £100 per plaque are invited. Please contact the Archivist (see rear panel) if you wish to be a sponsor.

<b>Professor Sir Clifford Charles Butler FRS FInstP</b>	Physicist and Educationalist	d 1999
<b>The Hon Lionel Cripps CMG</b>	The first Speaker of the Parliament of Southern Rhodesia	d 1950
<b>Col George Hanger, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Coleraine</b>	Soldier, writer and Regency eccentric	d 1824
<b>William Havell</b>	Landscape painter	d 1857
<b>James Wycliffe Headlam-Morley</b>	Political historian	d 1929
<b>General Sir Havelock Hudson GCB KCIE</b>	GOC 8th Division 1915 GOC Eastern Army 1920	d 1944
<b>Sir Herbert Jenner-Fust PC LLD</b>	King's Advocate General, Dean of the Arches, Master of Trinity Hall Cambridge	d 1852
<b>John Loveday</b>	Philologist and Antiquary	d 1789
<b>Philip Hope Percival</b>	Ernest Hemingway's 'White Hunter'	d 1966
<b>Sir Joseph Prestwich FRS</b>	Geologist	d 1896
<b>Harald James Penrose OBE FRAeS</b>	Aviator and author	d 1996
<b>Richard Evelyn Vernon</b>	British stage and screen actor	d 1997



# The Reading School Observatory

The area at the rear of East Wing is to be a multi-use amenity for learning and recreation, containing a garden, beds in which the boys can grow vegetables, and an outdoor classroom. It is also the site of the new Observatory, funded by a substantial grant from the Wolfson Foundation. Stargazing activities are under the direction Mr T R Tucker (Physics Dept) and the Observatory is now home to the School Astronomy Club, open to years 10-13, run by Mr Tucker and Mrs V Brierley (Physics Dept).



The Observatory was officially opened on Monday, 6 February. Invited guests assembled in the Lecture Room and were welcomed by the Principal who explained that Reading School is a recognised high achieving science school and the new facility will provide positive educational advantages. It also represents a resource for education in Reading as it will be made available to other local schools. Mr Weeds then introduced the chief engineer of the UK Space Agency, Professor Richard Crowther, a Reading School parent (*pictured left*) who provided fascinating insights on his work which includes a role with the United Nations on the peaceful use of space. He emphasised that careers in astronomy and space science are being encouraged by the government as being helpful to the economy and that, as a growing industry in the United Kingdom, it provides a great opportunity for employment.

Mr Tucker then told the audience how the observatory functions. It has one refractor telescope which allows users to view objects such as the Moon and the closer planets and one reflecting telescope which is used to view far away galaxies and nebulae. There are also six other telescopes for general viewing of the night sky. Already, there have been amazing pictures taken including of the Andromeda galaxy (approximately 2.5 million light years away, *bottom left*). Mr Tucker explained that eventually the dome will be robotic, enabling it to be controlled remotely by a computer elsewhere in the School.



In concluding, the Principal looked forward to the first Reading School astronaut. The company then walked to the Observatory Garden where Professor Crowther cut the tap to officially open the new Observatory (*above left with the Principal and Mr Tucker*). The event was organised by Frances Greaney, Director of Development, brought a letter of support from Apollo 9 astronaut, Rusty Schweickart and was well covered by Press and Local Radio (Mike Englefield of Reading Post *above centre* is an OR; the reporter for Radio Berkshire was Maggie Philbin, *above right with Terry Tucker and Vicky Brierley*). KCB



**Left Andromeda  
Right 'Dusk in January'**

Mr Tucker is currently hosting more photos from the observatory on his website at [www.t2landscapes.co.uk/p402120570](http://www.t2landscapes.co.uk/p402120570).



# Events

## Commemoration Service 20 October 2011

Over seven hundred boys and local dignitaries, including The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Reading, Councillor Deborah Edwards and East Reading's MP Rob Wilson (a Reading School parent), attended the Minster Church of St Mary's, in the Butts, to give thanks to the School's benefactors, pray for continued success, and allow the boys to consider their futures and how they might serve their School and community.

The fanfare heralding the entrance of the Mayor and Clergy procession was written and arranged by the School's Director of Music Mr Richard Meehan. The School Chaplain, Rev Chris Evans (OR) oversaw a fine service and gave the welcome and Bidding Prayer. Readings were given by the Principal (wearing an OR tie), the Captain of School Jonathan Stancombe, and Vice Captain William Oster.

A personal tribute to Reading School was paid by Professor Martin Parsons (1963-70) stressing the shortness of life's span and the need to grasp opportunity when it presents itself, particularly if one is to make the contribution to life that a privileged education enables one to do. The Rev Dan Hayward (*pictured right*), curate of Greyfriars Church gave the sermon. He spoke of the character of man – it survives him and cannot be buried. He reminded the congregation that Jesus died for a purpose and that to be great one must be humble and serve – realise that sacrifice and service is all, put others before one's self and not live selfishly, but live for Jesus.



The Rev Canon Brian Shenton, Rector and Vicar of St Mary's, delivered the blessing. I G (Ian) Judd, Master at School and Old Redingensian, leading the bell ringers, and Mr John Oxlade, Organist, ensured that another commemoration service in the long years of the School was accompanied by the sounds of praise. KCB

## Remembrance Service 13 November 2011

The Old Redingensians Association is always in debt to the guest preachers at Remembrance Services and never more so than in 2011. Revd D J (David) Weekes (1947-53) not only travelled from Scotland but gave one of the most compelling and powerful addresses that most will ever have heard delivered in the Chapel. It is reproduced on pp 30-33 under the heading '*Three Questions*'.

At this Remembrance Service three new names were dedicated on the School War Memorials. David did this, and it was fitting that it was him; more than fifty years ago it was his research that brought the names to light. Somehow it slipped from view and only now have the omissions been rectified and the three former Reading School boys have at last been commemorated with their fellows. Each of them may be read about in '*Three Questions*'.

The usual form of the Remembrance Service was otherwise observed, with all its solemn, moving and reflective import, led by the Old Redingensians Association Chaplain Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55).

The lesson (John: 15 v. 12-17) was read by F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60) President of the Old Redingensians Association. The Act of Remembrance was spoken by K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63). The wreaths were laid by Maj Gen M L (Murray) Wildman (1958-65), Capt P F E (Peter) Hurst of the School CCF, and Flt Lt C M P (Chris) Fordham RAF (1994-01). Richard Parkinson (13E) was the organist, Jonathan Munns (13E) the Bugler and Capt Hurst provided a Colour Party from the CCF. All made a substantial contribution to the proceedings.

During the service the congregation sang *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*, *O Valiant Hearts* and *Now Thank We All Our God*. After the National Anthem the congregation repaired to the fine setting of Big School where a light buffet was served. KCB



## Scenes from Remembrance Sunday



1: A table decoration in Big School 2: Maj Gen Wildman 3: Revds Weekes and Hemsley flanked by the Principal, Mr John Weeds, and the President of the Old Redingensians Association, Francis Pocock 4: David Hemsley at the lectern 5: Mrs Patricia Brown and Mrs Elizabeth Pocock 6: R (Bob) Elphick (1936-44) greets Frank and Jean Terry 7: David Weekes with R K (Robin) Edgar (1940-49) 8: Flt Lt N J (Nathaniel) Roberts (1994-01) 9: M J (Mike) van Brugen (1942-53) 10 The Colour Party outside The Chapel.

## 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting 26 November 2011

This year the AGM was held in what is now the School Staff Room, but was once the West Wing Dining Room, commencing at 5 pm. on the evening of the Annual Dinner as is customary. The usual formalities were observed, but as the AGM package was made available online and/or distributed to members, there is no need to repeat the information therein. For the record however, subsequent decisions taken at AGM were:

### Elections:

President for 2011/12	Professor M L (Martin) Parsons FRHistS (1963-70)
Vice President for 2011/12	K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63)
Officers for 2011/12	The existing officers were re-elected en bloc
Council vacancies	M J (Mike) Evans (member of staff 1968-05) agreed to a further 3-year term (seven others are due to retire in 2012 and D B (David) Cox (1951-56) in 2013)

**Appointments:** The Honorary Solicitor, Co-editors of *The Old Redingensian*, and the Auditors all agreed to continue in their roles.

**Other business:** Apart from the usual votes of thanks and presentations this was limited to consideration of gaining greater continuity on Council by extending the period that a President may serve and re-introducing a separate Chairman (the duties of Chairman have been combined with those of the President in recent years).

Under the provisions of the Articles of Association, a President may stand for one second term. A Chairman may be elected for a three year term. It was agreed that the current arrangements will continue with Martin Parsons this year and the incoming Vice President Ken Brown indicated he would wish to do the same the following year. Meanwhile the role of Chairman will be re-assessed with a view to having an extra Officer on the Executive Committee in due course.

KCB

## The Annual Dinner 26 November 2011

Big School looks so fine nowadays and was at its best for the Dinner. It will host it again in 2012, but thereafter the splendid modern facility of the new Refectory will surely be used – the much greater capacity will allow much greater numbers; partners can once again be on the agenda for the format of the dinner, perhaps. Music may be re-introduced.....suggestions will be welcomed.

2011, however, followed the traditional mode but was undoubtedly one of the most satisfying and pleasant of these events in recent years. The meal was very good – surely a prime consideration! – and the caterers, *Mange Bien*, deserve much praise.

Preceding the dinner the bar (once again efficiently run by Redingensians RFC steward Ian Clark), was set up in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Common Room. (The Common Room is where the old West Wing dormitories used to be.) It was rather congested and this year the bar will be sited in the new Refectory which will provide more spacious surroundings to meet and greet one's friends. Another advantage of the new Refectory is its ground floor situation. Some concern has been expressed recently for the more elderly and infirm of the membership, who find the climb to Big School difficult (neither F H (Frank) Terry (Master at School 1946-82) - age 94 - nor D K (Doug) Smith (1931-36) – age 91 - were daunted however!)

Amongst the guests were Mr Keith Dibley and Mrs Sue Dibley. Sue is the daughter of R L (Rex) Bowley (Master at School 1955-70 (see page 46). She grew up in South House where Rex was Housemaster. The Dibleys presence and company was a delight. Other guests were Mrs Jo Parsons and Mrs Sarah Weeds, respectively wives of the Old Redingensians Association President and the Principal of Reading School.

R P (Rodney) Huggins (1944-52) once again magnificently co-ordinated proceedings as Master of Ceremonies and the speeches of the President Prof Martin Parsons and the Principal Mr John Weeds were much appreciated.

The Guest Speaker was I G A (Ian) Hunter QC (1956-63) of Essex Court Chambers, Lincoln's Inn. Ian is a member of the Inner Temple and attended Pembroke College, Cambridge (gaining a double First in Law) and Harvard Law School (LL.M). He took Silk in 1980 and became a Deputy High Court Judge in 1993. His areas of expertise and standing in the legal profession cannot adequately be described in the space here available. Ian's talent was encouraged by that most percipient of Headmasters, Charles Edward Kemp (1939-66), and he repaid that interest by bringing much lustre to the School during an almost meteoric rise to prominence in his profession. The diners in Big School were pleased to see him back there and on good form. He spoke entertainingly and informatively of judicial life.

In the absence of the School Captain, Jonathan Stancombe, the Vice Captain, William Oster, was a more than suitable substitute - indeed a most impressive speaker, who was very well received.

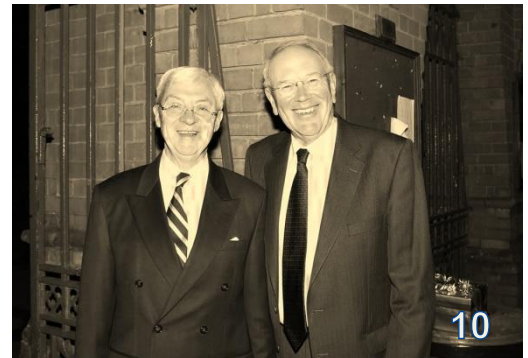
Conversation continued after the tables were cleared until 11 pm., all to the background of a continuous film loop (see below) showing on the west wall above a static display from the archives. KCB







- 1: Big School before the event
- 2: Rodney Huggins writes his speech!
- 3: Sue Dibley
- 4: Peter Chadwick, Mike Calvert, Chris Witcher, John Moody and Bob Brown
- 5: Barrie Shelton & David Hemsley
- 6: Harrison's catering staff
- 7: Frank Terry in anecdotal mode
- 8: Ian Hunter, Martin Parsons, John Weeds
- 9: William Oster, Vice Captain of School
- 10: Ian Hunter & Francis Pocock



## Those present were:

### Members

D K Smith (1931-36)  
J V Martin (1935-44)  
R Elphick (1936-44)  
R E Atkins (1939-44)  
B A Cullingford (1941-47)  
D R T Sherwill (1943-49)  
L Bain (1944-52)  
R P Huggins (1944-52)  
D R Hemsley (1945-55)  
J P Allen (1946-52)  
N E Sutcliffe (1947-55)  
G W O Price (1948-56)  
B Shelton (1950-53)  
W E Lunn (1951-58)  
B T Sarfas (1951-58)  
G Shaw (1951-57)  
D R Downs (1952-59)

A W Jackson (1953-59)  
D G Norris (1953-60)  
F J Pocock (1953-60)  
B J Morley (1954-60)  
K C Brown (1955-63)  
C J Widdows (1955-62)  
R C Brown (1958-65)  
C J Glenn (1958-65)  
J K Moody (1958-63)  
M L Wildman (1958-65)  
P G Wildman (1958-65)  
C R Witcher (1958-65)  
M N Calvert (1959-65)  
A A Glenn (1961-67)  
P G Chadwick (1964-69)  
A Wrenn (1978-85)  
J Anderson (1979-84)  
P A Davies (1979-86)

(1953-59)  
(1953-60)  
(1953-60)  
(1954-60)  
(1955-63)  
(1955-62)  
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(1959-65)  
(1961-67)  
(1964-69)  
(1978-85)  
(1979-84)  
(1979-86)

C S Forrest (1979-86)  
S J Johnston (1979-86)  
S W Lambert (1979-86)  
S J Martyn (1979-84)  
R Miller (1979-86)  
D J Whitwell (1979-86)  
S H Bray-Stacey (1986-93)  
M R Coleman (1986-93)  
N J Hanson (1986-93)  
R J A Lovie (1986-93)  
A Butler (2001-08)  
T A Cappleman (2001-08)  
O J Davidson (2001-08)  
J A Horscroft (2001-08)  
N Mawkin (2001-08)  
A D Truslove (2003-08)  
T V Shore (2006-08)

(1979-86)  
(1979-86)  
(1979-86)  
(1979-84)  
(1979-86)  
(1979-86)  
(1986-93)  
(1986-93)  
(1986-93)  
(1986-93)  
(2001-08)  
(2001-08)  
(2001-08)  
(2001-08)  
(2001-08)  
(2003-08)  
(2006-08)

### Staff

F H Terry (1946-82)  
I G Judd OR (1962-69)  
P F E Hurst (1993-)  
A Beckey (2007-)  
F Greaney (2011-)

### Guests

Mr Ian Hunter QC OR (1956-63)  
The Principal, Mr John Weeds  
and Mrs Sarah Weeds  
Mrs Jo Parsons  
Mr Keith Dibley and Mrs Sue  
Dibley  
The Vice Captain of School,  
William Oster  
Tej Radia (School Prefect)

## The Eleventh 50 Years on Luncheon 17 January 2012

This annual event in the elegant and welcoming premises of the Oxford & Cambridge Club, Pall Mall, is anticipated with much pleasure. It is by private invitation from D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) and P C (Peter) Stevens (1944-54) to their friends and contemporaries. The company usually numbers around 30. This year 28 sat down in the Prince Marie Louise Room. A further 33 were unable to be present this year.

Sadly, since the 2011 Lunch, a stalwart of the occasion, M J (Mike) Oakley (1944-54) has died (see pages 40 and 45). He is much mourned and thoughts turned towards him while the guests stood in silence for a few moments. Also much missed was Peter Stevens himself; temporarily rendered *hors de combat* by Rozia's broken ankle. His ever courteous and kindly presence should once again be in evidence at next year's event.

Grace was said by the Revd. D J (David) Weekes (1947-53) and the serious business commenced of eating the splendid fare provided by the Club, aided by equally splendid wines, and all under the supervision of Banqueting Manager, Mr Joe Inglott. Before the toasts, decanters of port and, once more the gift of the 'Anonymous Benefactor', glasses of Armagnac appeared. Brigadier W A (Bill) Mackereth (1950-56) proposed 'The Queen'. The National Anthem was sung – with a third verse for the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Her Majesty's reign penned by Denis.

*Let us rejoice and bring  
Abundant offering  
Thanks for our Queen  
Proclaim her joyfully  
Affirm our loyalty  
God bless her JUBILEE  
God save the Queen*



Reception in the Drawing Room



J M (John) Perry (1942-49) proposed 'The School' and the School Song was sung with – (yes: it has to be) – gusto! Denis, as is customary, then invited each guest in turn to speak and many fascinating and humorous contributions followed, with a sense of gratitude for the privilege of having enjoyed a Reading School education ever present. R P (Rodney) Huggins (1944-52), Chairman of the Reading Foundation and a School Governor, brought the assembly up to date with developments at Erleigh Road and J (John) Gardiner (1947-55) led them in the usual singing of *For He is an Englishman* to conclude another happy occasion. (The odd Welshman, Scot, Irishman and Italian tolerates this when present – and may even join in). KCB



### The following attended:

Fred Barker (1941-49), Rudolph Bissolotti (1944-50), Ken Brown (1955-63), Dudley Bruton (1948-51), John Childs (1946-53), Michael Duck (1945-55), Peter Fiddick (1951-57), John Gardiner (1947-55), Charles Hoile (1954-61), Rodney Huggins (1944-52), David Jordan (1944-54), Gerry Knight (1943-52), John Luker (1943-50), Bill Mackereth (1950-56), Denis Moriarty (1943-54), Robin Oldland (1941-51), John Perry (1942-49), Gareth Price (1948-56), Dermot Rooney (1946-55), John Roper (1948-54), Anthony Simons (1950-51), David Thomas (1957-61), Brian Upton (1941-51), Chris Webber (1950-57), David Weekes (1947-53), Chris Widdows (1955-62), David Wilkins (1945-55), Chris Yeats (1943-54). **Five on this list are former Captains of School (pictured below)**



A A (Fred) Barker  
(1949-50)



Rev D J (David)  
Weekes (1952-53)



D E H (Denis)  
Moriarty (1953-54)



J D (John) Gardiner  
(1954-55)



D L (David) Thomas  
(1960-61)



# Forthcoming Events



## **CLASS OF 1952 REUNION & GOLF DAY – Tuesday, 19 June 2012**

This event, open to all who entered the School in September 1952 or subsequently became part of that year group at any stage, will have taken place before publication of this issue. A full report will be carried in the Autumn issue

## **SUMMER FESTIVAL & CRICKET WEEKEND 30 June & - 1 July 2012**

All ORs, families and friends are welcome on either or both days. Bring a picnic if you wish, take advantage of the bar in the marquee and meet old acquaintances. On the Sunday there will be a BBQ.

The traditional School 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Old Redingensians XI will take place on the Saturday and this is the last time that Ned Holt (E S Holt, OR and Master at School) will be organising the match before his retirement. To mark the occasion arrangements are being made for extra cricket lunches to be available at 1:30 pm in the new Refectory, at £5 per head, for those who wish to come and have a chat (and drink!) with Ned before he retires. (Advanced booking needs to be made with the Social Secretary Barrie Shelton, on 01491 573431 or [barshel@talktalk.net](mailto:barshel@talktalk.net). On the Sunday, starting at 10:30 am, there will again be the 'all action Six-a-Side Cricket Knockout competition' which is going from success to success. The Bar in the marquee will be open from 1:00 pm onwards until demand ceases, and there will be a BBQ available on the School Field.

## **ROWING: ORS V THE SCHOOL - Saturday, 7 July 2012**

All are welcome to the Thameside Promenade for the 4th Annual Boat Race between the ORs and the School at noon followed by a BBQ. For all information contact Ant Butler [antbutler@gmail.com](mailto:antbutler@gmail.com).

## **CLASS OF 2007 FIVE-YEARS-ON BARBEQUE – Saturday, 14 July 2012**

This is open to ORs who left the School between 2000 and 2007. There will be a BBQ and bar on the School Field or in the Refectory if wet. The dress code is 'Summer Formal' and there will be a charge of £7 (Cheques, made payable to The Old Redingensians Association, should be sent to Beverley Taylor, 16 Lidstone Close, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 4JZ). For further information contact Ant Butler [antbutler@gmail.com](mailto:antbutler@gmail.com).

## **OR GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING – Friday, 12 October 2012**

New players are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn 2012 meeting at Calcot Park Golf Club, Reading please contact **Steve Johnston** by e-mail at [sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk](mailto:sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk) or tel: 0118 9470477 (office).

## **PARSONS LECTURE SERIES No 1 – Thursday, 18 October 2012**

The writer, historian and broadcaster, Julie Summers will present **Everest Needs You, Mr Irvine** at 7 pm in Big School. The subject is her great-uncle, Sandy Irvine, who disappeared with George Mallory on the Everest Expedition of 1924 and was last seen going for the summit. Tickets for this illustrated talk cost £5, include a glass of wine and are available from [events@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:events@reading-school.co.uk). Proceeds will go to the 1125 Fund.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 11 November 2012**

The guest preacher will be The Revd K V G (Ken) Smith BD OR (1948-55), former Chaplain of Whitgift School. As usual all ORs, and their families, are welcome in the Reading School Chapel and for light refreshments afterwards.

## **AGM & ANNUAL DINNER 2012 - Saturday, 24 November 2012**

The Bar and Reception will be in the new Refectory; a first opportunity for many to see this exciting new facility. The Dinner will be held in a resplendent Big School, again, and organised into tables of 8, so friends and contemporaries will have the opportunity to sit together. For provisional bookings, please contact **Barrie Shelton**, Social Secretary, at **Underwood, White Hill, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3AA** tel: 01491 573431 [social@oldredingensians.org.uk](mailto:social@oldredingensians.org.uk). Tickets will be £36 (£30 for students) and dress lounge suits. After the dinner the bar will remain open until 11 pm.

The event this year is restricted to ORs, Reading School staff and former staff. The bar will open at 6.00 pm and Dinner will be at 7.00 pm. (The Annual General Meeting will be held at 5.00 pm, for the information of those members wishing to attend.)

# 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, Pearmain, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, READING, RG4 8UY, Tel: 0118 327 9917 or email: [kcbrown11@aol.com](mailto:kcbrown11@aol.com).

## **P B L BADHAM (SOUTH HOUSE 1954-62)**

While some will remember him for winning the pole vault, more significant for the future Revd Professor Paul Badham's career was his appointment, whilst at School, as a British CEWC representative on the Council of Europe. After Jesus College, Oxford where he gained a Theology degree he became divinity master at Churcher's College, Petersfield and then trained for the Ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge. He took a First in a second degree at Jesus College, Cambridge. He was ordained to a parish in Birmingham and at Birmingham University studied for his PhD in Philosophy of Religion. After five years Paul switched to university teaching. He spent 30 years at Lampeter becoming Head of Theology and Religious Studies and is now Emeritus Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Wales. He is a Vice President of Modern Church, a Patron of Dignity in Dying (his book *Is there a Christian Case for Assisted Dying?* was published by SPCK in 2009 and he has many more publications to his credit). Amongst other appointments he has been Director of the Alister Hardy Religious Experience Research Centre and a Senior Research Fellow at Oxford. He is deeply concerned with Medical Ethics and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine. Paul is married to Linda, a senior educationalist, and their son, Dominic, is an actuary.

## **M I BURKHAM (EAST WING 1947-51)**

Michael came to School from Newbury GS. He became Captain of Rowing; a King's Scout; gained Initials for Drama, Elocution and the Opera. He was also the School CEWC representative. His Welsh roots were appropriately reflected with a commission in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, after Sandhurst, and service followed in Germany, Malaya and Cyprus – where he married Diane which led to two sons and three grandchildren. He has lived in the basement of 10 Downing Street; worked in the MOD during the Ulster troubles, commanded a battalion, taught at Staff College and much else. In retirement research for CCG led to Guinness recruiting him and there he set up an Archive and, after that, rebuilt the Museum Exhibition of his old regiment in Caernarvon Castle. Michael and Diane live in Beaumaris on the edge of the sea.

## **S G COOK (COUNTY 1966-74)**

Simon was a prefect, Captain of Rowing, Hon Sec of Shooting and, very appropriately, CSM of the Corps. From School he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. He served with the Regiment and its successors in Cyprus, Germany, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, South Africa, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania and saw active service in both Northern Ireland and Afghanistan. He commanded an infantry company in 1990-91 and in 1993 was battalion 2 i/c in Northern Ireland. His final appointment, before he retired from the Army in 2010 was as Chief Instructor Communications and Information Systems Wing at the Support Weapons School, Warminster. Simon is now the Manager Curator of The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum in Salisbury (see page 25). He is a keen sailor and student of military history.

## **D R HOLLOWAY (COUNTY 1939-41)**

Douglas, a relative of the distinguished academic W C Costin (1906-12), arrived at School with his friend, J V (John) Roderick (1939-42) from Haberdashers' Aske's. He was in the Corps and the School Shooting VIII and left to volunteer for the Royal Navy in which he became a Midshipman on minesweepers in the Mediterranean. His first ship was HMS Sharpshooter which assisted in the rescue of surviving members of the crew of Hebe, when it was blown up outside Bari harbour. Douglas had been off duty on the quarterdeck with a camera and his photographs of the explosion were sent to the Admiralty for analysis. He remained in the Navy for a year after the war, clearing anti-submarine mines around the British coast and then studied at the Royal West of England Academy School of Architecture for six years before beginning his career as an architect with Burrough & Hannam in Bristol. He was subsequently employed by the Ministry of Works, Kent County Council and Lancashire County Council, having developed a particular method of building large textured concrete panels. Douglas is a well known painter in watercolours and has exhibited both in the UK and New York. It was his watercolour of the River Hodder that was presented to HM Queen on her Golden Jubilee visit to Preston in 2002, on behalf of the people of Lancashire. Douglas married Marjorie in 1952 and they have three sons. He and Marjorie live in Longton near Preston.

**M J (MICHAEL) WILD (1940-48)** seeks news of **M (MICHAEL) WADHAMS (1940-50)**. Can anyone help?



# The Principal's Letter



It is with a somewhat heavy heart that I begin this letter to the Old Redingensians, for it is my last one before moving on to pastures new at Cranbrook School. The ORs have been a tremendous source of support and encouragement during my time as Head. Without your backing as an organisation and the dedication and the generosity of particular benefactors, I doubt whether some of the recent wonderful developments at School would have taken place.

It is just a year since we received the news that the 1125 Development Board had been waiting for – we had received that all-important final donation which made the Refectory a reality rather than a dream. We are delighted too that the focus of fundraising, with your help, now incorporates support for students themselves and potentially high achieving primary school pupils who want to find out more about us. The ORs are truly helping Reading School build for the future in every sense. Professor Parsons is to be congratulated for helping us cultivate our links with Shanghai High School and Neil Thomason also for helping us establish an endowed fund for Sixth Form enrichment and the Primary Gifted and Talented Academy. I look forward to hearing of the success of these schemes in the future.

It is all the more pleasing then that the new archive and conference room being developed in the Cloister will help us celebrate our illustrious past more visibly and with a wider audience. It hardly needs saying that the Refectory has been a success – it has transformed the environment of the School very much in the interests of all our staff and students. I do hope you have a chance to come and enjoy it with us before long.

I have said on many occasions that Reading School is one of the great old schools of England. Where many of its antiquity became Public Schools, Reading chose not to. We should all be proud of this fact because it means that, whilst we perform as well as any in the independent sector, we have remained genuinely meritocratic. Reading School, along with the other top grammar schools, is a model for the rest of the country. There have been several accolades and highlights in the last few years, not least the Sunday Times award and the successful conversion to Academy status. At heart though, Reading School remains a fine academic institution with a warm family ethos. The ORs are a major part of this and long may it remain so.

I am sure you will wish Ashley Robson, the School's new Head, every success in continuing this fine tradition. Congratulations to him on his appointment.

With very best wishes for the future,

John Weeds, Principal  
Floreat Redingensis



*Inside the new Refectory*

# The School Campaign for the 1125 Fund - *Update*



**Frances Greaney (pictured), Director of Development writes as follows:**

The Refectory, which is the first major project of the 1125 Campaign, was completed in April. It opened for use on 8 May, and it has been a fantastic hit with students and staff alike. Despite coming into use during the examination period, it is regularly full at break and lunchtime, and the feedback has been universally positive.

The Refectory is situated in the Quad and has seating for 300 students in a light-filled building with glass walls on three sides. It is open all day from 8am, and students are able to buy cooked food to eat in, or they can buy snacks from the "eat and go" area at the back. Alumni will have a chance to see the Refectory for themselves during the OR Cricket on 30 June and 1 July.



The cost of building the Refectory was met through the 1125 Campaign, which started in 2009. It has been generously supported by many alumni and parents. The conversion to being an academy also enabled us to obtain government funding through the Young People's Learning Agency.

Governors are already planning the next phase of the 1125 Campaign. They recently had the results of a feasibility study conducted by David Morley Architects, which looked at options to provide significant improvements to science and sports facilities.

The plan for *Science* is to provide more laboratories with improved preparation areas in each of the subject areas, and more shelter for students moving between classes. It is hoped that we will eventually have four laboratories each for Biology, Physics and Chemistry, instead of only three each currently. This will free up classroom space currently used for science, for teaching other subjects.

For *Sport*, the plan is to build better indoor facilities at Morgan Road and on the main School site. These will incorporate a sports hall on the School site, as well as changing rooms, covered spectator areas and teaching space on both sites. We also hope to improve outdoor play areas at Morgan Road, including possibly an all-weather pitch. Having a better sports hall will have significant benefits for the School as a whole, particularly as it will accommodate some of the larger School events for which we currently have to hire external venues.

The Governors will soon be commissioning architects to produce designs with the aim of seeking planning permission in 2013.

FG

*Anna Fowler has left the staff and Caroline Hoyle (pictured) is now in post as the Development Assistant.*

*The President and Council of the Old Redingensians Association continue to 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.** Donation forms are available from Frances Greaney ([fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk)) at Reading School, Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW (tel: 0118 901 5600 ext 264 or may be downloaded at <http://www.reading-school.co.uk/14/document-zone>).

## **Some forthcoming events for your diary**

**25 September** - Reading School Golf Day will be at Sonning Golf Club, and will raise funds for the 1125 Campaign. The inaugural event was a fantastic success last year. We are still seeking sponsorship and items to auction at the event dinner, so if you or your company can donate any items, please let us know.

**18 October** - Reading School Lecture - *Everest Needs You, Mr Irvine*. This will be given by historian and broadcaster, Julie Summers, who will be speaking about her great-uncle, Sandy Irvine who accompanied George Mallory on his ill-fated expedition to Everest in 1924 (see, also, p 15).

**If you are interested in participating in either of these events, or wish to be involved in the 1125 Campaign, please contact Frances Greaney, Director of Development on 0118 901 5600 ext 264 or email [development@reading-school.co.uk](mailto:development@reading-school.co.uk).**



Reading School

Erleigh Road, Reading, RG1 5LW.

## School News

The School has a new website [www.Reading-School.co.uk](http://www.Reading-School.co.uk) with links to their Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and LinkedIn sites.

Stuart Parsons (13W) was the inaugural winner of the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the highest score by a school batsman against the MCC. It was awarded to him by former England Cricket Captain Michael Vaughan at a Presentation Dinner in the Long Room at Lords, together with £250 and a special medallion (see picture right). Stuart won for his sensational unbeaten 212 for Reading School against MCC reported in the Autumn 2011 issue of this magazine. His was the highest score ever by a schoolboy batsman against the MCC and only the second schoolboy double century against them.



A School Book Club meets in the Learning Resource Centre on Tuesday lunchtimes, with a rolling three week programme; two weeks to read/discuss books and a quiz or competition on the third. Book Club member Daniel Salter (7S) entered the Berkshire ELS Book Report Competition and his review of *The Enemy* (Higson) won the secondary school category (which had 1,700 entries).

William Foo (9W) was selected as England's representative in the under 14 Open section of the World Youth Chess Championship held in Brazil last November.

The Parents Association have raised money towards creating the new garden at the rear of East Wing (see p.9) which is part of the School's drive to achieve Green Flag status; continue to run the uniform shop; once again held (in March) a Barn Dance in Big School; and a Spring Fair (May). They also held another successful Careers Convention in Big School last November, providing advice from over 50 stands. Advisors included Old Boys Tom Whipple (The Times), Oliver Shah (Sunday Times) and Max Sloper (Royal Navy), parents in the professions and representatives of local organisations.

Parents of former pupils support the School through *The Friends of Reading School*. For further information contact Mrs Marjorie Briggs Tel: 01344 485273 Email: [marjoriebriggs@tesco.net](mailto:marjoriebriggs@tesco.net).

Residential Geography field trips were made last year to Slapton Sands (26-28 April) and Leeson House, Swanage (3-5 October).

Reading School beat Wellington College to win the Geographical Association World Wide Quiz for local schools and now go forward to represent the region in the National Competition

Nine boys from the School were confirmed by The Rt Revd Andrew Proud, suffragan Bishop of Reading, in the Chapel on November 23, after two months preparation with the School Chaplain, Rev C J (Chris) Evans, OR.

Dan Richman (13E) was one of 30 out of a national field of 3,000 who received an award in the Cambridge University Challenge. He received his trophy at an event held in the Houses of Parliament.

School Rugby had a generally successful season. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV won four out of its nine fixtures but over all the 7 School representative teams, the record was P62, W34, D1, L27. Good showings were made in cup competitions with the U/12 XV winning the Berkshire Trophy and the U/13 XV the Berkshire Cup. (Kene Obieniu (8S) scored four tries for the U/13s in the final).

Football, the following term, saw over seventy competitive fixtures played, with the U/15 XI making the quarter finals of the County Cup and the 2nd XI winning their league competition.

Roy Zhang (10S) was runner up in the 2012 Berkshire Closed U15 Boys Single Badminton Tournament.



Mr Alex Beckey, Director of Sport, has re-introduced the Colours System, the operation of which will be detailed in a future issue.

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CCF Summer Camp this year will be at Catterick (Army Section) and Shawbury (RAF) from 7-14 July. (Sqn Ldr T M (Mike) Jordan (1988-95) is OC CFS (H)) Squadron at Shawbury.)

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The remarkable Jonathan Davies (12E) goes from strength to strength as an athlete and achieved the following results in the Lent term:

7 Jan	Berkshire Cross Country Championship	1st
15 Jan	McCain UK Cross Challenge, Cardiff	1st
22 Jan	EAA Cross Country Permit, Spain	5th
28 Jan	South of England Cross Country Championships, Brighton	1st
4 Feb	South East Schools Inter Counties, Basildon	1st
25 Feb	English National Cross Country Championships, London	6th
10 Mar	McCain UK Cross Challenge/UK Inter Counties, Birmingham	1st
17 Mar	English Schools AA Cross Country Championships, Taunton	1st

The Spanish event marked the first time that Jonny has run in a *non-schools* international for England. He was the second English runner home. In the National Cross Country Championships he ran for Reading Athletic Club and was disappointed with his placing – but gained much experience. In the English Schools he beat many older athletes including some regular internationals.

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#### ACT OF REMEMBRANCE 11 NOVEMBER 2011

On a grey November day the Chapel was filled to hear the Principal's address on the Fallen including the many ORs who died in the two World Wars. Prayers were led by the School Chaplain Rev C J Evans OR who spoke of the three new names inscribed on the Chapel War Memorials and of the 14 villages in England which have **no** memorials - the **only** communities to have lost nobody. The Last Post was sounded by Jonathan Munns (13E) and after the two Minutes Silence the Ode of Remembrance was read by the School Captain Jonathan Stancombe. The wreaths were then laid and the Kohima Epitaph recited by Vice Captain William Oster.

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#### INTER HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION 15 NOVEMBER 2011

Once again at the Old Town Hall this was one of the best yet, East House coming out on top but featuring fine performances and a great deal of effort from all four houses, each of which presented a 25 minute programme.



*The East House Choir singing 'I'll be there for you'*

East House (Music Captains Richard Parkinson and Jonathan Munns) also won the award for best ensemble performance (a Barbershop rendering of *Bleeding Love*) and, through Anthony Tat, the prize for best solo performance. Anthony played Poulenc's *Piano Toccata*. A mention should be made of William Oster's (West House and Vice Captain of School) entertaining and professional rendering of *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*.

The Adjudicator was Edward Goater, the tenor, and he gave an in-depth analysis of each House's performance before delivering his final order: East, West, County, School. This was the first competition under the aegis of new Director of Music, Richard Meehan and he followed this success with a stunning Michaelmas Concert.



## SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS 12 DECEMBER 2011

After the Michaelmas Concert came the now established Carol Service in St Luke's Church, once again conducted by the School Chaplain Rev C J (Chris) Evans. Readings were by boys, staff, parents and the ORA President Professor Martin Parsons. The choir, under School Director of Music, Richard Meehan gave a fine performance with consistently clear diction and a particularly jolly rendering of *Ding Dong Merrily On High*. The organist, John Oxlade, and congregation combined to stirring effect especially in *Stille Nacht*. After the event the congregation were invited to mulled wine and mince pies along the road in 'Junior School'.

## SENIOR PRIZEGIVING 13 DECEMBER 2011

Held in the Great Hall of the University of Reading, there were two new prizes this year: the Sidwell Organ Prize given in memory of the late David Sidwell (1963-70) and the Parsons Prize for Historical Research, donated by current ORA President Professor Martin Parsons (1963-70).

The proceedings were opened by the Chairman of Governors, Dr P C H Mitchell. In accordance with the centuries old tradition, the Mayor of Reading, Cllr. Deborah Edwards presented the Principal with his annual stipend of £10. Mr Weeds's annual report was on another year of outstanding achievement including twenty three places at Oxbridge and sixteen at medical schools.

An organ recital was given by Richard Parkinson (13E). The Subject Prizes, Endowed Prizes, and A Level Certificates were presented by the guest speaker, Captain Bjorn Rose. The Old Redingensians prizes were presented by Professor Martin Parsons, President of the Old Redingensians Association. Martin is seen, *right*, giving 2010/11 Captain of School, Anurag Aggarwal, the Kerr Kirkwood Bursary for all round contribution to School life.

Captain Rose is a Danish national who went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. He spoke movingly of his service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bjorn Rose is now a history master at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. A vote of thanks to him was proposed by Jonathan Stancombe, Captain of School, and Dr Mitchell then made the closing remarks.



## STOP PRESS

William Foo (9W) has again been selected to play in the World Youth Chess Championships (to be held this year in Slovenia in November). But not only William; Matthew Wadsworth (7E) and Roy Zhang (10S) have also been invited – an amazing achievement. That is not all, Matthew is now the highest rated U/12 player in the country and the School have another prodigy – Alex Vanlint (7S) this year represented England at the World School Individual Chess Championships in Romania. Captain of Chess at School is Ben Vanderluis (13C).

For the second year running the CCF has won Exercise 'Rolling Thunder' at Blandford Camp – the National Cadet Signals Competition. Congratulations to Sgt Coombes, Sgt Munns, Sgt Matthews, Cpl Phillips and L/Cpl Sullivan – and to Capt Hurst - for the achievement. Next year the School will not be eligible, victims of their own success, but they have been invited to help with the running of the event.

The official opening of the new refectory (*pictured below*) took place on Thursday, 28 June and a full report will appear in the next issue of The Old Redingensian.



# Sport

## OR Golfing Society Spring Meeting 30 March 2012

The Spring Meeting was held at the Sonning Golf Club.

The day was cold and damp; nevertheless our party of 16 ORs faced this with their usual fortitude and were soon tackling a testing tree-lined course. The weather later improved considerably.

### The President's Trophy

### Runner up

### Tankard for the longest drive

### Nearest the pin

### Lunn Trophy (best stroke score)

Neil Hunt 37 points

Paul Falinski 35 points

David Staton

Alistair Wrenn

Neil Hunt 85 strokes



The prizes were kindly presented by Rudolph Bissolotti (pictured right with David Staton (1983-90)).

WEL



L to R: CA Hubbard (1961-68), A J Downes (1947-52), C A Scroggs (1953-59), G W O Price (1948-56), W E Lunn (1951-58), N C Burrows (1969-76), T A Demetriades (1998-05), R J Hunt (1976-81), S J Johnston (1979-86), N A Hunt (1977-84), A Wrenn (1978-85), A A Glenn (1961-67), J Holt (1948-53), R A Bissolotti (1944-50), P E Falinski (1960-67).  
(Also played D Staton (1983-90))

***New members of the Golfing Society are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn meeting at Calcot Park Golf Club on 12 October 2012 please contact Steve Johnston by e-mail at [sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk](mailto:sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk) or tel: 0118 9470477 (office).***

## 8th OR Festival of Football 30 March 2012

In a departure from the usual venues of either the School Field or Morgan Road, this year the competition took place on the Whiteknights Campus at the University of Reading utilising the purpose built astroturf facilities in the *SportsPark*. The President's Shield was contested for the shorter version of the game, entries from four Old Boys' teams, two teams from the current 6<sup>th</sup> (Year 13) form and a staff team having been received for a 5-a-side round robin tournament. An action packed afternoon of 8 minutes long matches followed. In the final, the ORs of 2009 emerged victorious over Year 13 A. The tournament was organised by Director of Sport, Alex Beckey, the weather was kind and the new surroundings made for a most successful event. KCB





1: The winning team top row: l to r David Bellis; Sam Green; Hentai Fhan: bottom row l to r Charles Alexander; Kryshnan Patel-Parker (Capt); Lorcan Malone  
 2: ORA President, Martin Parsons, presents the President's Shield to Krysh Patel-Parker.

## Annual OR Prizes at School Sports Day 11 May 2012

Sports Day this year reverted to Palmer Park for all years. A sunny, breezy, day saw 11 new records, two of them in OR medal events: the outstanding Jonathan Davies (*pictured below*) took 9 seconds off the 1500 metre record set in 2004 and Daniel Brock broke Max Almond's 1998 record for the 800 metres. School House won overall, with five of the new records being set by boarders of East Wing or South House. Once again the organisation of the day, under clerk of the course Alex Beckey, was impressive. The OR medal winners are pictured overleaf with details of their events given in the panel. KCB







*Dan Brock 800 metres*



*Jonathan Davies 1500 metres*



*Nick Qiu 100 metres*



*Will Lamptey 200metres*



*Charlie Oakley 400 metres*



*Josh Taylor Shot Putt*

Farmery Medal	800 metres Seniors	D C (Dan) Brock	East	2m 01s
Farmery Medal	1500 metres Seniors	J S (Jonathan) Davies	East	4m 05s
Maule Medal	100 metres Seniors	N (Nick) Qiu	School	11.63s
Maule Medal	200 metres Seniors	W J (Will) Lamptey	East	23.78s
Maule Medal	400 metres Seniors	C E (Charlie) Oakley	East	55.40s
Gardiner Medal	Shot Putt Seniors	J J (Josh) Taylor	West	10.??m

## OR Barbarians (Rugby 7s)

Once again there is nothing to report

## Redingensians RFC Limited

Another very successful season for the Club has been completed. Five senior sides were fielded, eight junior teams and six mini teams – a demonstration of the substantial commitment that Redingensians RFC makes to the community.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV (Redingensians Rams) narrowly failed to gain promotion from RFU National League 3 South West in what was a three horse race for much of the season. Bournemouth were champions with 120 points, Chinnor gained promotion with 114 points and the Rams finished 3<sup>rd</sup> on 112 points. This was their best ever placing and their total points scored over the season (952) was their highest ever. To cap it all, they registered their biggest ever league win in the final game, scoring 85 points without reply from Bridgwater & Albion. It was regrettably to no avail as Chinnor also won their final match to clinch second spot.

The Rams Academy, run in concert with the University of Reading is also proving a great success.

KCB

### Advertisement

## Looking for a Venue?

The Redingensians Club House has a large hall, available for hire in the day or evenings, conveniently located just off the A4.

**Licensed bar and kitchen facilities**

**\* PARTIES \* MEETINGS \* TRAINING \* COURSES \* DISCOS \***

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





# The Royal Berkshire Regiment



On Tuesday, 21 May Major S G (Simon) Cook, the Curator of The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum – The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EX – received The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh as part of Her Majesty's visit to the South West in her Diamond Jubilee Year tour (see picture right below).

The Rifles Museum is the repository for the archives and history of the Royal Berkshire Regiment and was officially opened in 1982 by HRH Prince Philip. Simon Cook, who was appointed in 2011 in succession to Colonel Michael Cornwell, is an Old Redingensian (see *Where are they now?* p16) and thus a further link between the School and the Regiment.



The Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) were amalgamated in 1959 to form The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. In 1994 DERR merged with the Gloucestershire Regiment to form The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. As part of the Future Army Structure review undertaken in the last decade RGBW joined with The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry, The Light Infantry and The Royal Green Jackets to form The Rifles in 2007.

The Museum is extremely well laid out and, as it is situated in what is generally regarded as the finest cathedral close in the Kingdom, is doubly attractive to visit. The collage below shows some of the exhibits: look closely in the cabinet displaying general memorabilia – a copy of an old Reading School magazine can be seen, and the photograph of 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion RBR Officers at Portland in April 1944 includes R H C ('Monkey') Fowler (West House 1916-25) top row fourth from left, a former CSM of the Corps KCB



# An Olympic Year

## The 1948 Olympic Games - An OR Remembers (G M G Knight (1943-52))



The first of my nine years at Reading School began memorably. It was 1943 and I was ten.

Two years earlier, just as the first bombs started to fall, nine of us, seven adults and two children, had moved from two east London homes to a three bedroom semi in Tilehurst. It had been a difficult decision, other family members opting to stay put - a tragic mistake as later events proved. Relief at having escaped the bombing was short lived; cramped conditions, unknown surroundings in wartime conditions together with employment difficulties were soon challenging everyone's emotional resilience. Certainly, it was not the best of times.

Against such a background did I set off for my first day at Reading School, nervous and unsettled. Had I known what awaited me.....A trolleybus took me from Tilehurst to the Huntley and Palmers bus stop, a short walk via Eldon Road completing the journey. Approaching the School gates I became increasingly aware of a high pitched screeching sound. With mounting apprehension I rounded the Porter's Lodge when suddenly, in front of me on the grass was a chilling sight: a heaving mass of boys, arms and legs flailing, hell bent on injuring each other. In hindsight, a St Trinian's moment, but at the time immediate retreat was the only thing on my mind. Transfixed, I was on the point of turning when one of the larger boys broke loose, ran to where I stood, and with a friendly smile breathlessly welcomed me with the words '*I'll fight you lunch time*'. As an introduction to Reading School life it approximated to my worst nightmare. Naturally I was unavoidably detained indoors at lunch time but Chris Ball (*C H Ball (1941-51 - Ed)*), he of the kind offer and friendly disposition, became a firm friend and remains so to this day, some seventy years later. (It was no surprise when Rugby became his sport of choice, playing with distinction for the OR Rugby Club during six decades.)

Early in 1948 a notice appeared on one of the School boards offering the '*experience of a lifetime*'. It was an invitation to purchase tickets for the forthcoming Olympic Games and so worded as to suggest that such an opportunity might not come our way again. While doubting the claim, Chris and I decided to apply. A book of tickets allowed entry to every athletic session for the entire period of competition and when a kindly aunt of mine living in Harrow, a short ride from Wembley Stadium, offered us free accommodation we were ready to go. Today such a complete set of tickets, if available, would be affordable only to oligarchs and bonus addicted City gamblers and company directors.

The Games were returning to London after an absence of forty years, albeit by a circuitous route. Following the Berlin Olympics of 1936, those of 1940 were to be staged in Helsinki and those of 1944 in London. Not his most notable claim to infamy, but Hitler did attempt to reduce one Olympic Games to the level of propaganda and succeeded in causing the cancellation of two others.

Many thought the 1948 award to London a poisoned chalice. It was not a good time to be undertaking the mammoth task of mounting an Olympic Games; Britain had emerged from the war exhausted in every sense and sport did not figure on many lists of priorities. The euphoria of three years earlier had long since succumbed to reality; rationing persisted, unemployment remained high and living standards remained low. These were the days when socks were darned, plates always cleared and nothing ever thrown away. Looking back at these pre-Olympic days it is not easy to detect the normal rosy glow of nostalgia, rather a sombre greyness pervades. It was a brave and, as it turned out, a wise decision to apply for the Games and an equally brave one to award them to London. Four other cities had applied, three from America and one from Switzerland, all better able to afford them.



Inevitably dubbed the '*Austerity Games*', they had to be organised on a budget unimaginable today. No new venues were built, athletes and officials were housed in existing buildings and teams were required to bring their own food. One newspaper story at the time had it that the laying of Wembley's temporary running track was possible only because housewives in the Midlands had donated cinders from their spent sitting room fires, a tale worthy of today's popular press.



Joining the throng walking the length of Wembley Way (*pictured above in 1948*) and being a part of crowds daily exceeding 80,000 was exhilarating. For a brief moment Wembley was the centre of the universe and it was inspirational. Sporting ambition entered my life in 1948 and my love of sport, athletics in particular, has never waned. The intense disappointment at ultimately failing to become an Olympian myself is with me still and watching Olympic Games remains a bitter sweet experience.

Not wishing to miss anything, Chris and I attended all sessions, morning and afternoon, following every stage of all events. Such dedication was well rewarded: having witnessed all the preceding drama, later heats and finals became ever more exciting. 2012 spectators, with their one-day ticket allocation, will be denied such mounting involvement.

As with all international sporting events the Games produced their upsets but, because of the twelve year gap, introduced more than the usual number of unheralded stars, two of them destined for sporting greatness. Although I now have trouble recalling in detail what happened yesterday, many 1948 memories remain clear.



Emil Zatopek (*left*), an officer in the Czech army, was the greatest male talent to emerge, easily winning the 10,000 metres and coming second to Gaston Reiff of Belgium in the 5,000 metres, a memorable race he could have won had he not through inexperience mistimed his finishing sprint. With one lap to go Reiff was so far ahead as to be uncatchable but had the race been over 5,001 metres Zatopek would have triumphed, such was his closing speed. His tortured expression and pumping right arm are not easily forgotten. In the following Games, held in Helsinki, he became one of the all-time greats, winning not only the 5,000 and the 10,000 metres but also the marathon.

Fanny Blankers-Koen (*right*), the Dutch mother of three, won four gold medals and could have won more had the rules not prevented women entering more than three individual events. At the time she was the world record holder in the high jump and the long jump, two events she had not been allowed to contest. Had she won these she would have claimed every available running and jumping gold medal, a record that would have stood for all time. In 1999 she was voted female

athlete of the century by the IAAF.



Whereas today women run marathons, throw the hammer, play rugby and, as far as I am aware, toss the caber, it is startling to recall that in 1948 any race for women longer than 200 metres was considered too stressful. As an illustration of women's changed status this is hard to better.



At the time it was reported that Arthur Wint (*left*), the Jamaican athlete, had the longest stride ever recorded. He won the 400 metres in majestic style and was placed second in the 800 metres, narrowly beaten by Mal Whitfield of the USA. He would have gained another gold medal had not a member of his 4 x 400 metre relay team pulled up injured when well ahead in the final. Later he returned to London as a diplomat. One of my valued possessions is a London University Athletic Team photograph in which I stand next to the great man. To this day I do not know why he was there, he was not a member of the team, but I prize the photograph none the less.

Harrison Dillard of the USA held the world record for the high hurdles but had not been chosen for this, his specialist event. Selected instead for the 100 metres he surprised everyone by taking the gold medal. Our hope was McDonald Bailey, the UK record holder. He made the final but could finish only sixth. It illustrates the amateur ethos of the time that I was able to obtain his autograph when queuing behind him at a bus stop on the day of the 100 metre final. I feel confident in predicting that such a happenstance will not occur in 2012. Bailey later tried his luck at rugby league but with limited success; he was a lightweight and not built at all like many of today's muscular powerhouse sprinters.

The decathlon star was Bob Mathias of the USA, at the time the youngest ever to win an athletics gold medal. He was seventeen and when asked what he planned to do next, after his triumph, is said to have replied 'Guess I'll start shaving.' He went on to win again in 1952 and later became a US Congressman, representing California.

Not all heroes of mine proved so worthy. The Rev Bob Richards of the USA, the 'Vaulting Vicar', was placed third in the pole vault competition and later won gold in 1952 and 1956. I recently learned, with some surprise, that in 1984 he had run for the Presidency of the USA but had been unsuccessful, largely because of his extreme right wing views, unexpected in a man of his calling.

Our entry in the high hurdles was the team captain, Wing Commander Donald Finlay, a wartime pilot. He had previously won bronze in 1932 and silver in 1936. I clearly remember his silky smooth technique, beautiful to watch but unfortunately, in 1948, lacking the speed necessary to challenge for a medal.

To us youngsters the men's discus caused some amusement. It was won by the Italian Consolini, the silver going to another Italian, the aptly named Tosi. (Although Italy had been invited to the Games, unsurprisingly Germany and Japan had not.)



Great as Fanny Blankers-Koen undoubtedly was, to this impressionable young teenager Micheline Ostermeyer (*right*) of France was the ultimate star. She appeared the embodiment of romantic womanhood, beautiful and gifted but remote and mysterious. She won gold in the shot, gold in the discus and bronze in the high jump, a combination of medals unlikely ever to be repeated. Learning that she was also a concert pianist, having treated her fellow athletes to an impromptu Beethoven recital after winning the shot, I was smitten. What an irresistible combination to parade before a developing adolescent, particularly one with a growing interest in athletics and a lifelong love of music. In Wodehouse speak she started my bosom heaving and released in me a not unmanly emotion. News of her death, in 2001, was strangely moving.

The Games had acted as a catalyst, helping to ease the post war gloom. There was a relaxed informality and a general sense of goodwill and camaraderie evident at Wembley, as if a communal sigh of relief had cleared the way for better times. The festival atmosphere affected everyone, even the officials: athletes were allowed to linger and socialise

within the arena, some standing others sitting, long after competing. (Today they are ushered in and escorted out with military precision.) There was also no doubting that medals had been won on merit, determined by talent and endeavour alone. The Corinthian spirit lingered and professionalism had not yet taken over and changed perceptions of what constituted acceptable behaviour in sport. Perhaps they should be remembered as the 'Innocent Games'.

The School had been right: it had proved the 'experience of a lifetime'. The Games had been as much a celebration as a competition and we had been privileged to be part of it. There will never be an Olympic Games like those of 1948, nor one as significant.

I remain forever grateful to those who posted the original notice and arranged the tickets. Unfortunately, because of demand and the price of tickets, 2012 will not afford current pupils the chance to enjoy the same experience, unless of course their parents are .....  
GMGK

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**On receipt of Gerry Knight's excellent article above, the co-editors asked if he would pen a little about his own sporting career and life. He writes as follows:**

## **SPORT**

My representative sporting career began with the Berkshire U/XV rugby team and concluded with my playing first string for its over 45 squash team. I played squash until the age of 72.

**At School** (West House 1943-52) I was a member of the Junior School 1<sup>st</sup> XI football and cricket teams and in the Senior School played for the first teams at rugby, cricket and tennis and was a member of the athletics team (*Gerry gained full School Colours for Rugby, Athletics and Tennis and Rep Colours for Cricket - Ed*). In addition to being a member of the Berkshire U/XV rugby team I represented the county in the junior high jump at national level and also, during my final year, won the British Schools pole vault title at the White City (*Gerry established a new record - Ed*) and became county champion, at junior and senior level, in this event.



When told in 1952 that I had been entered for the pole vault at the British School's athletic championships, I was nervous. My winning vault of 9 feet 1 inch on sports day would be an embarrassment at national level (*nonetheless it was a new School record – Ed*). Armed with the only how-to-do book I could find in the Reading Town Library, I think it was Swedish, I returned to School and practised on my own, morning and afternoon, for a week. It must have been a School holiday. On the day I was able, with a borrowed wooden pole, to clear eleven feet and take the title. (I believe this was the last time wooden poles were used and soon after shallow sand landing pits were replaced by large inflated cushions allowing new, previously dangerous techniques to be developed. Some years later, after my time, the catapulting fibreglass pole was introduced from America, changing the event beyond recognition.)

**After School**, I became London University and then British Universities' pole vault champion. (*Below is the photograph of the London University Athletic Team that Gerry refers to on page 27.*)



Because of an invitation from Chris Chataway, asking me to spend my two years national service in his regiment, I opted, reluctantly, for the Army in preference to my first choice, the RAF. Sadly, his regiment was disbanded the day I arrived. However I did manage to become British Army champion twice, and then, representing the Army, twice won the Inter-Services title, greatly easing the mind-numbing tedium of national service.

Later the Amateur Athletic Association asked me to represent it on a number of occasions including two at minor international level.

After years struggling without a coach, Franz Stampfl, the man who coached Roger Bannister to the first four minute mile, was to take over my training. However, within days he was offered the position of Australia's national coach. I knew of only one other coach in the country and he was occupied with the British record holder. At this point accumulated frustration tipped the balance away from athletics and in favour of building a business career.

## BUSINESS

Some twenty years later I was able to sell the company my brother and I had developed, and retire. Determination, it seems, will overcome most shortcomings.

It was at this time, in my mid-forties, having taken no exercise for so long, that I decided to try squash. How I wished I had done so earlier.

My early upbringing in a two bedroomed council house in an east London suburb perhaps helps explain a lifelong fascination with domestic architecture. Now able to indulge this interest I bought and experienced life in a number of listed buildings, some previously destined for commercial use, spending about four years in each, moving on when modernisation was complete and their domestic future assured. Subsequent buyers have included a number of internationally known individuals and families, including a Saudi prince, a Swiss gentleman, two Americans, one a Getty family member, a South African, a Russian and two English people, one the sister of the Duke of Westminster.



Three years ago, aged 75, I thought it time, to settle down and put this experience to some use by designing and building a permanent family home. The photograph shows the finished product. Such satisfaction as I feel is due entirely to not having totally squandered the Reading School education for which my parents sacrificed so much.

GMGK

# Three Questions

An Address given on Remembrance Sunday by David Weekes

Remembrance is not a normal Chapel occasion and the Address is not a conventional sermon. Here are three questions. What of these men? What of their School? What of ourselves?

## What of these men?

Today we add three names to the War Memorial. Two died in that War which I remember, and one in that earlier world war in which my father and many of our masters here had fought. I think of 'Bonk' Redington with his Military Cross and odd mannerism, 'Stret' with his obvious shell shock, and the equally eccentric 'Birdie' Nightingale sometime of the Cyclists Battalion (*l to r below*). Those from the First World War bore their scars more clearly than did those who had so recently returned from surviving the Second.



None of the three especially remembered today was killed directly by enemy action, yet each truly gave his life in the service of his country. I believe that it was George V who said that these Memorials should commemorate all who died, whatever the circumstances, wearing the King's uniform during the period of hostilities. How right he was.

It is an unimaginably big thing to give one's life. These three gave their lives just as much as any who were mown down by bullets, buried alive, drowned or blown apart. Their loss was as great, their service less dramatic in its ending, but just as true. And so we add them here in reverence and respect.



We know most about **GENERAL DE GEX**. I enjoyed researching him. A bit of a martinet perhaps, but my oh my! how well he trained his regiment for the coming war. I have read of the advantage that such units had over newer ones because of their nucleus of leadership and men who knew each other well and had drilled together over the years of peace – the better trained, the less likely to be killed.

In a sense he can stand for all. Every six months the Commander-in-Chief mentioned in his despatches some who had done '*gallant and conspicuous service*'. Our General was mentioned on **four** out of five lists published by the time of his death. On the one that he wasn't mentioned, he was made CMG. Over age, and no doubt worn down by this extraordinary record of dedicated service, though feeling ill he carried on until his body gave out, and he collapsed suddenly and died on active service having given his all.



**FLYING OFFICER DAVIES** had held a short service commission in the late 1920s during which, after a forced landing, he had been captured by tribesmen in Afghanistan and survived. In 1928 he was one of the few pilots engaged in the world's first ever air lift. The RAF had no suitable planes nearer than Iraq, and these were sent to India to effect the hazardous escape from Kabul. Young Davies was co-pilot of a troop carrying Vickers Victoria, a fragile biplane held aloft by little more than canvas, wood and wire. These pilots braved freezing temperatures, without insulation or heating, and crossed and re-crossed the snowy, 10,000 foot Hindu Kush which offered nowhere for a forced landing should that become necessary. Yet over two months that small group of pilots carried nearly 600 civilians back to safety in Peshawar, without a single loss of life, flying the equivalent of twice around the world. A decade later, and having returned to service, he met his death accidentally in London.



**COLONEL LOWSLEY** came of a family, who in their generations had long been connected with the School. Grandfather, father, uncles were all here. He must have cut a bit of a dash when he arrived in School House in 1910. He had grown up in East Africa where his father was one of the early medical officers in the small up-country Ugandan town where I later spent some formative years. Dr Lowsley's predecessor had been killed by an elephant, a distinguished enough accolade for his young son, not to mention venomous snakes, naked natives with their spears and shields and poisoned arrows, and the newly built Uganda Railway. WOW! A regular officer, he was accidentally killed on active service in 1944, deeply regretted by all ranks of the first battalion of the 4th



Prince of Wales' Own Gurkha Rifles, of which he was then the commanding officer. Most of his service over a quarter of the century was with that regiment into which he had been commissioned, with some secondment to the Burma Rifles. I have been reading in his confidential file where all the assessments are favourable. He became *'experienced', 'energetic', with 'a confident and pleasant personality'. 'Hard working and loyal', and with 'tough physical endurance above average', 'entirely temperate in habits', 'above the average for command.'* The one critical comment, which is said not to be negative:- he *'would be well advised to obtain more leisure from his work.'* Here is another senior officer of whom the School can be justly proud.

I have one last sad thought about these men. Were Britain faced with the Nazi threat in Europe today, we could not now stand alone against the threat, as we did in 1940. Probably we would not have the moral unity, but men feared that in the 1930s and were proved wrong. Rather it would be because we do not have the Empire. Despite all the disparagements of today, despite all the lapses, errors and human sinfulness, the Empire brought great good to the world. Many will deny it, but my own experience of Uganda is against them. Britain's Protectorate there lasted less than seventy years, yet the primitiveness of Stone Age barbarity was turned into a peaceful democracy in less than a single lifetime. What happened later was not the fault of Britain, I was there. These three had all served within that Empire. The General in India, Aden Malta, and the Cape. Lowsley had grown up in Uganda and served in Burma and in India, just as Davies too had done.

It has been a long time coming, but now at last the names of these three are commemorated here. We will remember them.

### What of their School?

I cannot say what the School is like today, but in our day this was much the same School as it had been for those who we commemorate. For many of them, it was even much the same staff.

Julius William Saunders (*pictured*) was not the most obviously heroic of them, but how much I owe that man! As a teacher his methods would probably not be tolerated today, yet he got us through our academics and into Oxbridge, but he was a natural educator, and young bloods today could still learn from him. He was born with a withered right arm and hand, educated along the road at Marlborough, and he graduated up the river from Oxford with First Class Honours in History. For so many of his contemporaries, remembered now on memorials such as ours, *'all the rest is silence'*. For Saunders truly *'all the rest was Reading School'*. He came here as a young master in 1915, hence perhaps his rather cruel nickname for he could not fight. We



knew him in his age, his life work nearly done. Yet undimmed, how very much he was still giving to us all in his sixties.

I was fortunate to come here from a London grammar school. A few months later I was astonished to be summoned by Mrs Graeme-Brown (*Headmaster's Secretary, pictured*) to the Head



Master's study. Nothing could have prepared me there to meet with Mr Pritchard, a master who I had lately left and thought I hardly knew. Yet here he was, attending a conference, remembering me and where I had disappeared to and taking a kindly interest in how I was getting on. As we chattered, and walked up and down the Terrace, he suddenly stopped and said, rather wistfully perhaps, *'You have it all here.'* I did not understand then how right he was.

As I look back, what was it that I had here and not there? Well for a start, there was the wide expanse of the playing fields stretching before the Waterhouse building. There was the Headmaster's house through the door in the wall, where one day I would enter freely and play croquet on the lawn. There was Saturday morning school, and with that Saturday afternoon games, and with that again Saturday evening activities – not just on the big occasions for the Operatic and Dramatic Societies, but every week. There were three full and flourishing Boarding Houses and some at least of masters and pupils worshipped every Sunday here in Chapel, as they had done since 1871, and before that in St Lawrence's. My grammar school had none of this. At Reading, such fixtures had been in place throughout the School's long centuries.

My later experience of the teaching world gives me some right to make comparisons. I believe the educational opportunities open to us here in my generation and those immediately before us, were quite superb, and if you had the wit to grasp them



they were round the clock. As a day boy in my own 'rake's progress' up the School from Upper III B it became increasingly common for me to be here from soon after eight in the morning until ten o'clock at night. The richness of the so called out of school activities and leisure pursuits provided here I have never seen replicated in any other school. In the event we were not slouches at academic success, but how much I learnt outside the classroom in those Big School Debates, meetings of the Seekers, rambling the Berkshire Downs, on the river, on the field. or in the multifaceted opportunities provided by the training Corps - where I learned to type! - and in the enduring friendships.

Is it well with our School? I know nothing of it now, beyond the oft repeated mantra of the great academic reputation now achieved, but is it all? A good school is engaged in education, not simply academic success. Those who are charged with the temporary custodianship of a good school have a great responsibility, and this stretches right down to a mere Captain of the School and his Prefects. But Governors and Head Masters of the time have the greatest onus on them. I knew nothing of one



great dereliction which occurred some forty years ago until I chanced upon it in an article by Frank Terry (pictured). It was decided to end the great tradition of comic operas because it interfered with 'A' levels. Of course there must be change, but only if it enhances the educational opportunities for every boy here. That is the bottom

line in every decision. It can never be right to end something which is good within a school because it has become a little local difficulty. The challenge is to find another way forward, and it's blindingly obvious that that could have been achieved. Instead, the easy option and future generations are deprived. All wrong! Those who made that decision failed badly in their stewardship and in saying that, I, unlike Frank Terry, have no vested interest. Except for the sheer enjoyment, my only part in any Opera was to announce what happened in the interval.

Let me return to Julius William for a moment. His teaching methods were eccentric and very unprogressive, but he got us into Oxbridge. So much for the academics, but what of the education of the boys? Every Saturday evening of term there was a debate in Big School. Oh yes, we did it, provided all or most of the speakers, ran the show with our Junior Ordinary Member, Senior Ordinary Member, Secretary, and what have you, but there too was 'Sugar' always quietly presiding by his very presence.

What of Thursday evening (I think it was). Whenever there was a paper ready, and it was

pretty regular in our day, whether by pupil or Staff member, we would gather in a form room off the cloisters. There for 30-40 minutes we would listen as a topic was expounded, be it politics, science, history, what you will. Then the speaker would take questions, and the discussion would begin. Could you possibly beat that as a means of education? And there was always 'Sugar' quietly presiding, contributing if asked.

Not thinking of his own convenience, but committed to his calling, there were other sides to this dedicated, rounded educator. He was a House Master (*West – Ed*), and then again he coached a very junior rugby game right to the end. Well certainly the last time I saw him do it he was 63, shambling around the field at Morgan Road as he followed the play, waving his stick, blowing his whistle, occasionally being knocked over in the mêlée, then regardless of the withered arm, up and dusted, off again, scarf flying, stick flourishing, play resumed - 'Woof!' 'Woof!'

In term time, the School I knew was 24/7. Is Reading School still the rich and varied seat of education that we knew and loved so well?

#### What of ourselves?

*'O have you built your ship of death, O have you? O have you built your ship of death for you will need it?'* Well, those men who we recall today needed theirs when they *'went with songs to the battle'*. Many of them were young, still with a rather careless sense perhaps of their own immortality.

I do not know that Reading School is noted for its war poets, but one of its young men wrote very movingly in prose of his own near death experience and previously had certainly made quite certain of his ship of death.

As we remember them, their dedication, their self-sacrifice, their courage, their example - we are challenged to think of ourselves. On many Speech Days past, certainly on those in my time here, and perhaps still, the choir has sung the anthem, by Vaughan Williams *'Let us now praise famous men'*, but the most haunting verse is - *'And some there be, which have no memorial, who are perished as though they had never been'*. Soon such will most of us be. Our names will not appear on any memorial such as this, or on the plaques in Big School. Future generations will have no cause to remember us.

Such, too, were the thoughts of Anthony Babington, sometime of this chapel and South House, when he wrote his first book, *'No Memorial'* in the early 1950s. But young as he was, he had long had his ship of death which had not failed him.

We did not expect our masters to write books - though 'Sugar' edited one volume of Gibbon which

was published by his pupil Harrap. Up in the Fens we had a Fellow of Trinity (G S R Kitson Clark) who taught us Constitutional History. He was a flamboyant looking character who I can still see striding into the Lecture Room, with his bushy side whiskers and his gown billowing out around his powerful, commanding figure. One of his books was about the West and the plight of the countries then behind the Iron Curtain. He had this extraordinary ending, his final word in a book, mark you, about contemporary politics which this good man had the wit to see from the eternal dimension: *'And so we have come to the end of our journey, and we have arrived at no pleasant place. Indeed it is a place of public execution. Yet all human roads meet here in the end. This is the capital of the Kingdom of Free Men, and there, ruling from the gallows is the King.'* What a marvellous testimony to his conviction that the Cross would overcome the hammer and sickle behind the Iron Curtain, and what a testimony that he had his ship of death.

But best of all today, I think of our own, a little ahead of us in our generation at School. They were called upon *'to fight, perchance to die'* for our freedom. Babington (pictured) fought and surely



came as near to death as it is possible to be. With half his brain shot away, it was doubtful that he would speak or walk again, even if he lived. After heroism on the battlefield, he had a far longer heroic battle to fight before he was well enough to train for his chosen profession. Again he was stricken by severe

0 fight another battle. Then, still a young man, and overcoming every obstacle, he qualified as a barrister, and wrote the first of his books *'No Memorial'*. He had no thought then that he would achieve a certain fame and rise to become a judge. Even when he wrote, expecting like most of us one day to perish as though we had never been, he had seen through the falseness and fleeting nature of worldly fame. Even if it were to come to him, it would be unimportant. For even before those terrible battlefield wounds had crippled and nearly killed him, he knew what the end of his journey would be. That certainty sustained him through the darkest hours of his suffering.

No matter how many times you have read his book, let's hear him again. He has just won his first legal

case for the defence. Soon after three o'clock on a weekday afternoon he entered the Church of St Martin's in the Fields where a service had just begun, and then he writes, *'I knelt down and thanked God for bringing me through my illness and my operation....Then I realised how a phase of my life was now completed. I had suffered disablement and I had over-come it. I had undergone a critical operation and I had survived it. I had always had faith in the Lord...Other struggles lay ahead, further setbacks, further achievements. But the most important part of my life was over. I had demonstrated to myself, and to any others who wished to observe, that the love and mercy of God is boundless and infinite for all those who seek it.'*

He goes on, *'My story was indeed only half written.... Probably I was never destined to make any mark in the world; probably the fickle, shifting sands of time would efface my footsteps altogether in the moment when I had passed by...[But] the rest did not really matter....'*

*I know for an absolute certainty that the same fount of love and assistance which was ready for me in my hour of need is also accessible for all people on earth, no matter how great are their troubles.....'*

*In the outside world ambition, covetousness, avarice and pride are constantly shooting their poisoned arrows into our hearts. If only we could remember how very little it all matters, and how dimly the lights of our individual successes shine amid the whole vastness of the firmament. The only acquisition in life which is worthwhile is peace of mind, and the great and unique happiness which flows from its possession.... how false and how ephemeral are our manufactured happinesses.... [compared with] the marvellous, lasting peace of God – the peace which passes all understanding.'*

Then came the final hymn, and Babington says, *'The words seemed strangely in accordance with my thoughts':*

*When I survey the wondrous Cross,  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride,  
Thus wrote a true Redingensian, and a true believer  
in the Risen Christ.*

What about us?

DJW





# The Last Abbot of Reading

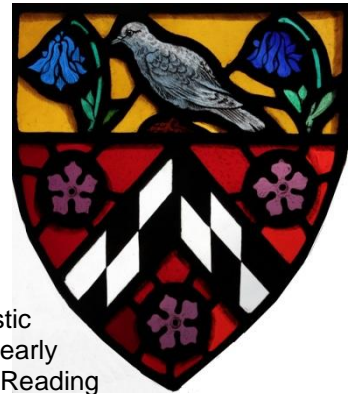
By Ken Brown

That Old Redingensians have played a part, and a good one, in the shaping of the nation over the centuries is undeniable. There have been, and still are, ORs in both Houses of Parliament, sometimes amongst the most powerful in the land (for example Henry Addington, Speaker, Prime Minister, and long serving Home Secretary) and in one case, Archbishop Laud, supremely powerful excepting his King, Charles I.

Reading School has also produced a remarkable number of Bishops, (worthy of an article in this journal that is already forming in the writer's mind) and those who qualified as Lords Spiritual have all had seats in the House of Lords.

There is another category who once sat in Parliament; Abbots of the great monastic foundations were Peers of the Realm until the Dissolution (as indeed were Priors: in the early days Lords Spiritual outnumbered Lords Temporal in the House). It is probable that Reading School produced a number of such Peers of whom it is entirely unaware, because, of the circa thirty Abbots during the 400 years that *The Abbey of Reading Dedicated to the Virgin and St John the Evangelist* flourished, a number, particularly in the final 100 years or so, were local men; and some at least must surely have been educated within the Abbey precincts.

What of Hugh Cook Faringdon, a Lord Spiritual who sat in Parliament from 1523 to 1539? He was the last Abbot (elected in 1520), and chose martyrdom over his friendship with King Henry VIII and his comfortable existence. A mockery of justice condemned him to a traitor's death in 1539 and by all accounts he died bravely, aided perhaps, by his motto *'In te, Domine, speravi'*: the strength of his faith robbing death, hopefully, of some of its terror.



He became Hugh Cook Faringdon when he entered the Benedictine Order, and the Monastic surname of *'Faringdon'* that he adopted is assumed to be a reference to where he was born; but this is not proven. Later in his Abbacy, he was granted the Arms of the family of Cook (pictured left, suitably adorned for a mitred abbot, and above, as they appear in one of the stained glass windows in St James Church, Reading), which has connections to Kent, though in Hugh's case this may have no particular relevance.

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography states that Hugh *'seems to have received his education entirely within the Abbey'*. Certainly he rose to become Abbot from within the Abbey (having previously been Sub-Chamberlain).

Dr Jamieson Hurry, in his writings on the Abbey, speculates that Hugh *'probably belonged to the Gentry who so often sent their children to a Monastery for their education'*. There were plenty of religious establishments in the Thames Valley but perhaps it should be borne in mind that Reading was a Benedictine Abbey. The founder of the Order, Benedict, had grown dissatisfied with the schools in Rome. The Monasteries he founded were religious colleges that, in addition to the usual religious exercises, directed that the monks should **impart instruction to youth**. So perhaps Hugh as a boy was educated within earshot of *'Harry'*, the great bell of St Lawrence's Church, Reading. Certainly by 1520 his mother must have been living in the town for, seat rents having been introduced, it is recorded that Hugh paid for his mother's seat in that Church. No mention is made of his father, and it is possible that Mistress Cook had resided in the area for many years – it is certainly unlikely that she would have travelled the thirty miles from Faringdon to observe her religious obeisances on a regular basis.

Dr Hurry also reports a description, by the Chronicler Edward Hall, of Hugh as a *'stubborn monke, and utterly without learning'*; that certainly would not chime with any suggestion of a gentry background – but then Hall was a promoter of Government policy (today *'spin'* might spring to mind). Admittedly, Hugh wrote to the University of Oxford, speaking of himself as having no pretensions to be considered learned – though that may be simple modesty (or even a medieval version of *'I am just a poor boy from the wrong side of the tracks'*, the kind of statement which is usually employed to exaggerate the immensity of the speaker's achievements!

We cannot be sure that Hugh was at School, but equally the possibility should not be dismissed. Certainly he encouraged the School and is said to have *'attracted better staff and noble pupils'* (for example, Arthur Plantagenet, Lord Lisle, a natural son of Edward IV, sent a stepson there and letters between Lord Lisle and Hugh are said to reveal the latter's kindly nature and fluency in languages – if the last is true, it is something of a contradiction to any suggestion that Hugh lacked learning).

Hugh Cook Faringdon was thought of so highly by Leonard Coxe, the distinguished European scholar and Headmaster of the School from 1530 to 1547, that Coxe dedicated his book *'The Art and Craft of Rhetoryke'* to him, in fulsome terms. (See the article on Coxe by G M (Martin) Murphy FRHistS, OR (1941-45) in *The Old Redingensian* October 2004 - Ed). Coxe, incidentally, is an important figure in the continuity of the School. He was the last Master of it in its monastic guise and the first Master under its municipal re-incarnation two years after the Abbey was suppressed. His scholarship and the reputation he earned perhaps surpasses that of any Reading School Headmaster – bar none.

The oldest portrait known of Hugh (pictured below and also showing his autograph) was formerly in a window of his summer residence at Bere Court near Pangbourne (where he was said to be when arrested). It shows the countenance of a determined man and, though Hugh maintained strict discipline, it is a mien not without humour and by no means overly stern. His determination was amply demonstrated when he refused to surrender his Abbey to the King.

Henry VIII's main aim in suppressing the Abbeys and Priories *'was to replenish his treasury while reinforcing his claims of supremacy over the Church'*. Few of his subjects were prepared to take issue with him and Hugh was the only head of a religious house in the Thames Valley to do so. He was not opposed to Henry's plan to marry Ann Boleyn; indeed he was one of those who signed a petition to the Pope urging him to announce an annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He was on good personal terms with Henry and (a keen huntsman himself), hunted with him. He became a Royal Chaplain and twice took the Oath of Supremacy which acknowledged Henry as Supreme Head of the Church of England; but he refused to surrender Reading Abbey to the agents of the Crown. The apparent contradictions must surely mean that Hugh drew a distinction (as Hurry suggests), between the Church of England and the broader Catholic Church, giving him little difficulty in acknowledging Henry as Head of the temporal Church in England - but not of the spiritual, which authority he believed remained with the Pope in Rome.



Hugh was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and indicted on a charge of treason which alleged that he had spoken three times against the Royal Supremacy. Though, as a mitred Abbot, he was entitled to be tried by Parliament, Henry's Chancellor, Thomas Cromwell, simply ignored this and had passed the death sentence before Hugh was even sent for trial at Reading. No defence was allowed and he was executed together with Father John Eynon, the curate of St Giles, Reading, and Father John Rugg, a prebendary of Chichester Cathedral, who had retired to Reading Abbey.

The three were hanged, disembowelled and cut into quarters on 14 November, 1539 and their remains hung up in chains. Before their ghastly end (outside the Abbey's main gateway, it is said) they had been dragged through the streets of Reading on hurdles.

Was an Old Redingensian executed on that day?

KCB



Hugh Cook Faringdon was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1895 and the picture left shows him on a stained glass window in St James Church, flanked by his arms (on the right) and a memorial to the two monks who died with him (on the left). Although some authorities have given the date of the executions as 14 November, 15 November is the more probable date. It is the day on the Calendar of Saints that the Roman Catholic Church records the martyrdom of the three.

With due acknowledgments to all sources consulted and with particular thanks to Reading Museum for permitting the reproduction overleaf (one of a series of ten paintings especially commissioned by Dr J B Hurry early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the originals of which hang in the Museum).





The Martyrdom of Hugh Faringdon, last Abbot of Reading, on 14 November 1539 Painted by Harry Morley (1881 – 1943) in 1917



# The Reading Old Boys Lodge Centenary Part Three

By Simon Oliver

To close my commemoration of the Reading Old Boy' Lodge first century, here are photographs taken in Big School one hundred years apart.

The Masonic Banquet, above, took place on 24th October, 1911, the day the Lodge was consecrated. It includes the first Master of the Lodge, Captain Warren Hastings, and the other founding members, amongst whom were Rev. W. Charles Eppstein, DD, Headmaster of the School, who was instrumental in obtaining permission to use No. 12 class room as the Lodge Temple and No. 11 as an anti-room. (Ken Brown, OR Archivist, plans an article in the future about those 15 founders).



Above are further images of the 2011 Centenary Meeting in Big School on 29 October last (described in "Part 2" in the Autumn 2011 issue of The Old Redingensian) and below the photograph shows the diners at the Festive Board at Sindlesham, where a momentous day in the history of the Lodge was concluded!



Now we have confidently entered our second century.

In June 2011 the lodge website: [www.readinggoldboys.org.uk](http://www.readinggoldboys.org.uk) was launched. There is a Facebook page (readinggoldboys). To find out more about Reading Old Boys' Lodge, contact Simon Oliver at [sj-oliver@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sj-oliver@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07545 521801. SJO



# 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).



In June 1909 the Reverend James Chesterton Bradley - *pictured left in an oil painting courtesy of the Brontë Parsonage Museum* - was amongst the visitors to the School. This was recorded by the editor of the School Magazine who commented that, at the age of 92, Bradley (who was born in 1818) was perhaps the oldest OR at that time. He had entered the School in 1831 under Dr Valpy. The editor went on to say that Bradley *'in spite of his great age appeared to be in excellent health and vigour and had recounted several amusing stories of his school days'*.

What the Reverend Bradley evidently did **not** reveal was that he had a singular claim to fame. He was the original of David Sweeting 'the curate of Nunnely' in Charlotte Brontë's *Shirley* (1849). He was known to the Brontës when curate of Oakworth (an outlying portion of Keighley Parish) from 1844-47 – indeed whilst there he conducted the funeral service of Elizabeth Branwell, 'Aunt' Branwell, who brought up the Brontë children after their mother's death.

Sweeting is the most respectable of the three assistant clergy described in the book – he is portrayed as a smart sensible little man who kept out of political storms and shone more in the parlour than in the drawing room *'he played the flute and sang hymns like a seraph'*. Bradley was instantly recognised in the Haworth area as Sweeting, not least because of his own flute playing; he remained rather proud of the depiction.

James Bradley was born in Reading and after Reading School attended Queen's College, Oxford where he graduated BA in 1841. The following year he was ordained Deacon and in 1843 Priest.

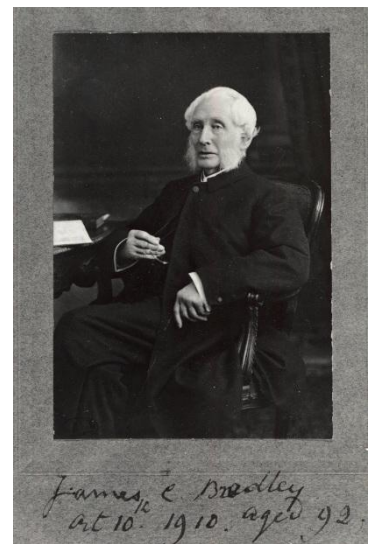
In 1845 Bradley was appointed perpetual curate of Oakworth, then only recently formed into a parish. It is said that he worked assiduously to organise the parish and build a church but over work and exposure to damp brought on an illness and he had to resign his charge. He was not even able to be present at his own church's consecration.

After a long rest he was appointed curate of All Saints, Paddington, where he served from 1847 until becoming curate of Corfe Castle, Dorset in 1856, and then from 1866 holding the living, as rector, of Sutton-under-Brailes, in Warwickshire, until retirement in 1904.

Until his death in 1913 he lived at 8 Cardigan Road, Richmond on Thames, with his third wife, Elizabeth.

Reverend Bradley had married firstly, on 13 May 1856, Caroline Rumsey, in Kensington. Mr Sweeting in *Shirley* marries Dora Sykes and *'they lived long and happily together'*. That was not repeated in Bradley's case as Caroline died in childbirth the following year, leaving him with a daughter, Caroline Spencer Bradley.

In 1863 he married again, to Isabella Louisa Goolden; she also died in childbirth, at the age of 27 in 1868 leaving him with a son James and daughters Ethel and Isabella. Then in 1876 he was married, for the final time, to Elizabeth Willoughby and they had three children Margaret, Gertrude, and Gerald.



Shown on the right is a photograph of James Bradley in old age (acknowledgement, again, to the *Brontë Parsonage Museum*).

James Bradley was not the only one of Dr Valpy's pupils to serve as a model for a fictional character; one year after *Shirley* was published came Dickens' *David Copperfield* in which the character of Tommy Traddles is based on Valpy's pupil Thomas Noon Talfourd.

KCB

In the Autumn 2011 issue attention was drawn to the facsimile reprint now available of *Our School*, by Oliver Oldfellow, that has useful annotation in ink by Richard Hooper a contemporary of the Author (whose real name was Benjamin Bradney Bockett). The Archivist has now identified the annotator as Reverend Richard Hooper OR, rector of Upton and vicar of Aston Upthorpe, Berks, who died aged 73 in 1894. He was at School under Doctor Valpy, graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, was ordained in the diocese of Exeter, and was eventually presented to Upton in 1862. Hooper was a considerable scholar; he edited Chapman's Homer, Michael Drayton's works and other English classics of the time. Some of his sermons and reviews were also published and he wrote the life of Dryden prefixed to the Aldine edition of that poet's works.

Kessinger Legacy Reprints can also supply a hard bound facsimile, at £15.48 post free, of *Two Sermons Preached to the Young Gentlemen of Reading School (1807)*, by Reverend George Gleed, an OR who matriculated at St John's College, Oxford, in 1797 graduated BA in 1801, MA in 1806, and BD in 1810. He was a Fellow of St John's until 1831, and Vice President 1827. From 1831 to his death in 1863 he was vicar of St Peter's, Chalfont, Bucks. He tells the boys '*Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting, get understanding*'.

Scanning of the School magazines has commenced and these will eventually be put online. R C (Bob) Coombs (1953-60) kindly agreed to undertake the initial scanning (we are starting with the decades from 1960s onwards). Eventually all magazines from 1871 to 2000, when the last School magazine was published will be included (the final four magazines were annual A4 size publications, not the termly A5 size productions most members will recall).

The study room in the East Cloister has been fitted out by Harrison Display Systems with display and storage facilities for the archive which the Archivist is currently installing. The room will be known as *The Kirkwood Room*, in memory of J K (Kerr) Kirkwood (1937-44) and a report and pictures will appear in the Autumn. (See President's Letter p 3 and Editorial p 35.)

## We thank the following for additions to the Archive

<b>A A Barker (1941-49 )</b>	For a Reading School OTC cap badge
<b>G Broadhurst (1957-62)</b>	For two books of 'Quincentenary' matches
<b>M I Burkham (1947-51)</b>	For six group photographs (including rowing items of particular interest)
<b>Ven P B Coombs (1939-47 )</b>	For further material relating to the School
<b>R C Coombs (1953-60)</b>	For Reading Youth Orchestra photographs
<b>T C D Gadsby (1943-50)</b>	For 15 group photographs formerly belonging to the late Ken Rhodes
<b>Frank Hilton</b>	For a video of the funeral service for M J (Mike) Oakley (1944-54)
<b>D J Jordan (1944-54)</b>	For a Denys Hinton print of the School
<b>Mrs H C Malkin</b>	For various papers kept by her late husband G (Gerald) Malkin (1938-39 and 1943-47)
<b>M H W Maule (1956-59)</b>	For a splendid collection of photograph and news cuttings
<b>Mrs Sally Metianu</b>	For the A E Wardle etching of the School that belonged to her father Wg Cdr R F B Guy (1924-29)
<b>G M Murphy (1941-45)</b>	For <i>A Biographical Register of St John's College, Oxford 1555- 1660</i> (Hegarty 2011)
<b>Prof M L Parsons (1963-70)</b>	For a School blazer and fencing colours initials
<b>Mrs Jo Rado</b>	For a large cache of items from her husband's schooldays (P A Rado (1954-62))
<b>A R Richardson (1942-48)</b>	For the <i>Reading Review</i> of January 1948 with Reading School articles therein
<b>G Shaw (1951-57)</b>	For five rowing photographs (scanned and returned)
<b>R C Sterry (1962-68)</b>	For 12 School magazines and a Reading School prospectus
<b>A R Waring (1940-46)</b>	For a wealth of material on ORA initiatives and projects

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, Pearmain's, 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](mailto:kcbrown11@aol.com).**



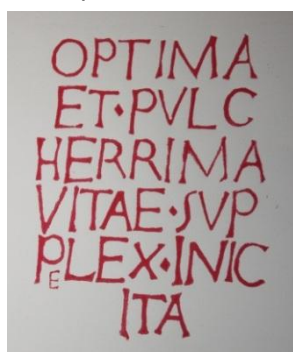
# Mike Oakley - An Appreciation

by Peter Stevens

In the McIlroy Prize Competition of 1952 (*an examination designed to test knowledge beyond normal school subjects – see article in next issue of this journal - Ed*) Mike and I tied for top marks, and Head Master Kemp decreed that there should be a 'write-off' between us on the following Saturday morning in the Wells Memorial Library. As we met on the Library steps beforehand, we shook hands and said "May the best man win" - which Mike very properly did. So began a 'friendship of opposites' which taught me the valuable lesson that one doesn't have to share a person's views in order to respect and admire him.

By this time Mike's horizons had extended widely beyond the conventions of the School 'Establishment' by which I was constrained: he had no ambition to join the Corps or to become a Prefect, but rather to explore the avant garde in transatlantic and continental culture. While I was 'Ancient', Mike was definitely 'Modern'. One interest which we shared was painting, and I clearly recall his superb watercolour of the 'prefab' classrooms (*variously known as the new buildings/Horsa Huts till they were demolished in 2001 - Ed*) under snow, in which the roofs and snow-laden tree branches were left as areas of white paper above the dark windows and tree-trunks, and the deep blue-purple and sepia of the shadows.

Mike continued to paint, and more recently sent me a colour photograph of his oil of a view on the Kennet and Avon Canal at Kintbury. We corresponded about the use of red, blue, and yellow to bring light into a painting, as practised by John Piper among others; and about our memories of Harry Weinberger (*Art Master at Reading School 1954-58 -Ed*). Mike brought a selection of his own oils and other works including lino cuts to the unofficial OR lunch in London in January 2011, and I am honoured to have been given an artist's proof of an inscription which is pictured left. His widow Sue tells me he was painting fervently until the end.



In December 1953 Mike and I went, separately, to sit the Scholarship exams in Cambridge, spread over several days and nights of essay papers and interviews, he in Christ's College, I at Trinity Hall. In the free time in between I called on Mike in his temporary College rooms, where he took from the term-time occupant's bookshelves a slim volume, saying "Here's something that should appeal to you". It proved to be

*Selected Poems* by John Betjeman, hitherto unknown to me. I am thus indebted to Mike for introducing me to what became a lifetime's enjoyment. He also introduced me to Heffer's Bookshop, in whose second-hand department I found another life-long literary hero - in fact two, as it turned out - in the shape of Anthony Powell's *John Aubrey and his Friends*, which I devoured avidly. Mike departed from Cambridge with the honour of an Open Scholarship (I later found my 'spiritual home' at Oxford).

In our last year at School, Mike and I met occasionally to explore the enjoyment of beer in the Snug (I think it was called) at 'The George' in Broad Street. We both, conscious of literary aspirations, assiduously avoided sitting in the corner chair reputedly once occupied by Charles Dickens. Mike expounded from his greater breadth of reading - and experience of life - to my benefit.

Our next encounter after leaving School was a chance meeting on the High Bridge in Reading, probably in 1960: mutual enquiries as to "What are you doing now?" produced from MJO "I'm writing the scenario for a film": from PCS "I'm just off to Tanganyika in the Colonial Service". And so we went our separate ways. I did not meet Mike again for many years, though I read of him from time in the old School Magazine's OR Section. When I went to work as an administrator in Further and Higher Education at the City and Guilds of London Institute I heard that he was teaching in the same field, but our respective involvements with the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions (later the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education) sadly did not allow our paths to cross.

When Denis Moriarty (*D E H Moriarty (1943-54) -Ed*) and I decided to inaugurate the 'Fifty Years On' unofficial OR Lunches at our Club, the Oxford and Cambridge, it was a very great pleasure to find that Mike accepted our invitation to the first - and all possible subsequent - reunions. In my mind's eye I can see him now, with yellow-tinted glasses above his drooping "Zapata" moustache, and his tie bestrewn with golden dogs' heads - no doubt

retrievers - signalling his interest in breeding them (*Mike became nationally known as a breeder of Irish Setters and Salukis -Ed*).

His untimely death has affected me deeply.

PCS

*Mike Oakley's obituary appears on page 45. P C (Peter) Stevens OR (1944-54) became Captain of East House, Captain of School Rowing and played a very full part in School life.*

# Commentary

## The Old Redingensian Autumn 2011

*Semper verificare tua fontes* is the editorial motto (Dr Routh's 'always verify your sources') but nonetheless we fall short...

For the many kind words expressed about the last issue, the editors are extremely grateful but, truth to tell, your humble servants made something of a pig's ear of it; the layout was adversely affected at an advanced stage when certain major revisions had to be made. The result was a regrettably late publication and a rather depressing error rate; here are some of them, for which our apologies:

- p 02: Simon Oliver's initials are S J O **not** S O O
- p 10: R I C (Robert) Halliday was incorrectly rendered R I H (Robert) Halliwell
- p 16: Apparently it is **not** Len Cheyney in the photograph...(so who is it?)
- p 23: Omission of a heading **Teaching staff who have joined are:** between the third and fourth lines.
- p 39: Charles Dickens dedicated *The Pickwick Papers*, not *David Copperfield*, to T N Talfourd (and a more fulsome dedication it would be hard to find – this being Dickens' bicentenary year, it will be printed in the Autumn issue.)
- p 53: The second line should have referred to Joyce (Joy Prince) and not to Eric's late sister, Molly.
- p 55: 'added should read 'aided' and 'Bristish' 'British', of course.

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Re the mention of Trooper Potts in *For Valour* (p 26 in the last issue) Ron Kellman (1939-44) wrote recalling that, whilst on fatigues in the School Armoury one day in 1943, there was a meeting of the Home Guard at School. RSM Rollings pointed out a tallish Lieutenant and said to Ron that the officer was "*Trooper Potts who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli in a real army*". R R (Roy) Green (1940-45) also remembered that Fred Potts paraded with The Home Guard in the School Quad and, as did Ron, recalled that sadly he died of cancer, late in 1943 (*18 November aged 50 – Ed*).

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Joy Prince (widow of Eric, obit p 52, Autumn 11 issue) was sad to read of Jim Carey's death (*A Scattering of Ashes* p 13 and obit p 47 in the same issue). *'A wonderful man'*. The Princes knew the Careys and Mary borrowed Joy's wedding veil when she married Jim.

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Lt Col (retd) M I (Michael) Burkham MBE (1947-51) wrote about the Monitors (*The Archive* p38). The Senior Monitor, in his time at least, was also 'Pound Monitor' – readers will remember 'The Pound', near the Quad Library and administered by 'Timmy' (S G Timms Master at School (1928-68)). Any item left lying around could be impounded by the Senior Monitor and redeemed by a small payment. Michael was Senior Monitor, succeeding D T W (David) Salt (1941-50). The Archivist will see if he can compile a list of all who held that post, for the record.



put out a team. (*The answer seems to be that whilst RS remained a top swimming school until the end of the 1990s, the pool is now deemed inadequate for modern competition- Ed*)

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M J (Michael) Culham (1943-52) responding to the Royal Berkshire Regiment (page 9 in the last issue) recalled that 'Sarge's' method of teaching novices to swim involved a long pole with a rope suspended from the end and a loop at the end of that. The loop was put round the swimmer's waist and gradually Sarge would relax his hold until the boy found himself swimming unsupported. Michael was taught to swim in this way (*and became a School Swimming colour and Hon Sec of swimming – Ed*) and wonders why the School, so successful in competitive swimming over the decades, no longer



# Overseas Branches

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## USA

### US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

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

Tel: +1 908 238 1020  
Email: [yors862@cs.com](mailto:yors862@cs.com)



## Europe

### European Organiser – Peter Wildman (1958-65)

P G Wildman  
La Valette  
81430 VILLEFRANCHE D'ALBIGEOIS  
France

Tel: +33 563 79 55 23  
Email: [wildthings81@gmail.com](mailto:wildthings81@gmail.com)



## Australasia

### Australasian Organiser – Mike Jones (1957-64)

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

Mobile: +61 (0)428 440 029  
Email: [specialty@bigpond.com](mailto:specialty@bigpond.com)



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There is nothing to report from France. There will be a West Coast USA reunion in early 2013. We print below details from Australasia of their 2012 Reunion. As the *In Memoriam* page shows, the Australasian domiciled ORs are sadly reduced by three since the last issue of this journal with the deaths of David Muir, Charles Tice and Dr David Cousins.

## OR Noosa Reunion Lunch 16 June 2012

This year's Noosa re-union for Australian ORs was held on Saturday, 16 June 2012, in a jetty restaurant at Tewantin, the original logging port on the Noosa River from which Noosa Heads was first settled. Six couples attended, representing New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. There were two new attendees at the lunch, Paul Judge and David Wiffen. The former brought along his original school reports; the latter his Adelaide wife. This is a dinky di connection which he shares with Peter Webb, who also married an Adelaiddian. For his continuing support of these re-unions, Peter was awarded the Ted Robson pewter for 2012. John Wilson made a colourful appearance, along with some interesting photographs of his time at School, after a few years absence and a couple of interstate relocations.

During coffee, the pick of three apologies for absence, sifted from over twenty, were read aloud. Voting took place. While we do not want to encourage any escape from future attendances, Tony Maskell's (*Capt W A Maskell (1948-49) – Ed*) trip to Portsmouth for The Association of Old Worcester's Reunion marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is now the Thames Nautical Training College was adjudicated the winner. Tony has still to present his note from HRH the Princess Royal to testify his detention overseas.

After lunch, an attempt at all three verses of the School Song was made. It was again received by the ladies with derision. Nonetheless, to conclude a successful event, we said farewell to the two engineers, Ted Webber and David Wiffen, as they boarded the Noosa ferry with their wives. During the journey downstream to Noosa, they discovered a 'Khartoum connection' from their multi-national pasts, which involved David's American employer Halliburton/KBR acquiring Ted's British employer Howard Humphreys & Partners in order to improve Halliburton's access to Arab contracts.

From the organiser's view-point, over a hundred 'phoned calls were added to the original forty plus emailed invitations. This allowed Mike Jones to keep in contact with other ORs such as Laurie Housden (*L P Housden (1958-64) – Ed*) and Mac Evans (*M D Evans (1947-53)*), a welcome visitor to the Summer Festival at School this year – Ed) - who, like Mike, have had recourse to hospital accommodation during the past twelve months; plus chat with that infamous score or more whose collective absence was sorely missed. A similar Noosa reunion will be attempted on Saturday 15 June 2013.



#### AT TRIO'S ON THE RIVER, TEWANTIN

##### **Pictured left: singing the School Song are:**

I to r: J F (John) Wilson (1961-68), E S (Ted) Webber (1942-49), P M (Peter) Webb (1950-55), M M (Mike) Jones (1957-64), P M (Paul) Judge (1966-70), D J (David) Wiffen (1952-59) **and above at the luncheon table with their wives:** (Mel Wilson, Marguerite Webber, Colleen Webb, Alison Jones, Simone Judge and Joan Wiffen).



**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





Above is the boat *JUANITA* in 1988 with Secretary of Boats J A (Julian) Sansum (1982-89) at stroke and Captain of Boats J E (James) Tong (1982-89) at bow. The coxless pair was acquired in 1988 through the generosity of T (Tom) Bucknell (1951-58). Tom, foreground, was a well-known local farmer involved in many spheres of Berkshire life. At School he was a fine all-round sportsman, a School rowing colour for three years and Hon Secretary of Boats. Tom's election as President of the Old Redingians Association was prevented by his sudden death in 2002 at the age of 61.



# Obituaries

## MICHAEL JOHN OAKLEY (1944-54)



Mike Oakley, as can be deduced from the appreciation on p 40, was his own man. The purity of his beliefs certainly reflected his idealistic nature, but experience proved that his views, passionately held, were rational, fair and hard to dispute. He was unusually gifted and able.

Mike grew up in Tilehurst and, like many ORs of his generation, attended Highlands School before moving to Reading School. One of these, Col. B J (Brian) Thompson (1944-54) spoke at Mike's funeral service of their happy wartime childhood together.

D E H (Denis) Moriarty (1943-54) remembers that Mike was a somewhat enviable schoolboy, seemingly at once more sophisticated, mature, intellectual (and effortlessly at ease with the girls of Kendrick and Abbey) than his fellows. Somehow he managed to completely avoid conventional School activities, such as CCF (he was a lifelong CND supporter) and Scouts. He eschewed School sport – but was a keen racing cyclist with early ambitions to be a professional.

Mike believed he owed a great debt to Art Masters John Liddell and Harry Weinberger. In the Art Room he blossomed, embracing calligraphy italics and producing for School plays, Denis recalls, scenery with echoes of cubism. Whatever next? Well, a very good open scholarship in English to Christ College, Cambridge where, his contemporary and best man, David Jeffreys QC recalled Mike's activities multiplying. Their shared interest was Jazz and Mike was an accomplished guitarist (playing electric guitar, rare in those days) and becoming part of the Cambridge University Band of 1955 and 1956 with which he toured Europe. He sang, he wrote poetry for Granta. David thought that the 2:1 degree that Mike obtained '*in the circumstances was no mean achievement*'.

Tributes at Mike's funeral service in Reading abounded. David Jeffreys noted that all had a common reference to the essential strands of Mike's character: intelligence, humour, artistic temperament, not suffering fools gladly, organisational ability, passion for justice and the underdog, warmth and humanity.

Michael's academic career was largely spent lecturing at the Central School of Art and Design (now Central St Martin's College of Art and Design) where he was Acting Principal when he retired. Frank Hilton, long term colleague and friend since 1959, described Mike as '*astronomically multi-talented*' '*a renaissance man*', adding major talents as an administrator, and as a consummate speaker, to his abilities as a painter, woodcut producer, etcher, poet and musician; brilliant teacher, merry (if sometimes caustic) wit and warm, loyal friend.

Mike also became a trade union representative from 1968, representing the College on the Teachers Union. The intellectual abilities that backed his negotiating skills left opponents floundering. At this time he met Sue. There were no children, but Mike spoke of the sustenance and joy his long marriage brought him.

There was yet another major interest. He and Sue bred Irish Setters – Mike became Chairman of both national clubs and the Oakley's '*Caspian*' affix has passed into the history and records of the breed. They bred champions (*Caspian Intrepid* indeed becoming Best of Breed at Crufts). They were responsible for the Irish Setters' Clubs book of champions, that is updated annually, and in which Mike's skill as a photographer is abundantly demonstrated. He wrote as a breed correspondent for '*Our Dogs*'. Salukis were the Oakley's other great favourites. Mike Townsend, Vice Chairman of the Kennel Club, James Smith of Reddins Irish Setters and Michael Williams, Saluki Club Chairman, all spoke at Mike's funeral service.

Mike's passion for art remained undiminished. He was prolific, and those who, after the service, were fortunate to be invited to his home in Aldermaston saw many reminders of that passion in his studio/study where the paint was scarcely dry on several canvases. In Mike's youth the word to describe his life style and sometimes anarchical beliefs was, perhaps, '*bohemian*'. Nowadays, it would be '*cool*'. Neither conveys the extraordinary range or depth of his abilities, the strength of his commitment to his beliefs or his sense of fair play and justice. His generally nonconformist approach never prevented his service to a worthwhile cause, nor of helping when needed – for instance, he became a Parish Councillor. He remained loyal to his beliefs and did not sacrifice his integrity, but beneath the sharp wit and keen intelligence there was always warmth, sensitivity and a gentle spirit.

Michael Oakley, who is survived by Sue, died unexpectedly on 22 October 2011 aged 76.

KCB



## REX LYON BOWLEY (1955-70)



Rex was born in Exeter on 27 July 1925 the only child of a civil servant, Ernest Bowley, and his wife, Janet. During Rex's childhood, his parents bought Star Castle (built in 1593 by Francis Godolphin) on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly and turned it into a hotel. Ernest also became an author, writing on the history and topography of the Islands, and thereafter the Scilly's were part and parcel of Rex's life.

After prep school Rex attended Whitgift and in 1944 he was called up to be trained as an airman/navigator in the RAF. Whilst Rex was taking his final exams in Canada, Japan surrendered. The disappointment he felt at the time turned later to the realisation that his life may well have been saved (the mortality rate amongst bomber crews in the final years of the war was very severe).

Rex, out of uniform, went to Trinity College, Dublin, studied political history for four years and also took a teaching certificate. Summer holidays continued to be spent at Star Castle and it was there that he met his future wife Joan, whom he married in 1950.

He taught maths (his RAF studies had not been wasted!) in Exeter and Weymouth before coming to Reading. Rex's grandfather's older half-brother was Arthur Lyon Bowley, a distinguished mathematician and economist who had lectured at University College, Reading from 1900 to 1907 – and lived in Northcourt Avenue – so Rex had a vicarious connection with the town when he joined the Reading School Staff in 1955. He came to teach history in Frank Terry's department and also taught maths. In the early years Rex coached rugby and cricket. He started badminton at the School and entered fully into School life. Frank remembers that it was Rex who started the Bridge Four that met in Frank's East Wing study once a week during the lunch hour. The other members were Michael Holmes and Norman Wiseman and whilst Frank was to remain the only original member, that Bridge Four continued to meet for forty years.

Rex was appointed House Master of West in 1959 and then from 1960-70 ran South House, with Joan managing the catering and domestic arrangements. There his daughters Sue (born 1951) and Carol (born 1955) spent many of their formative years.

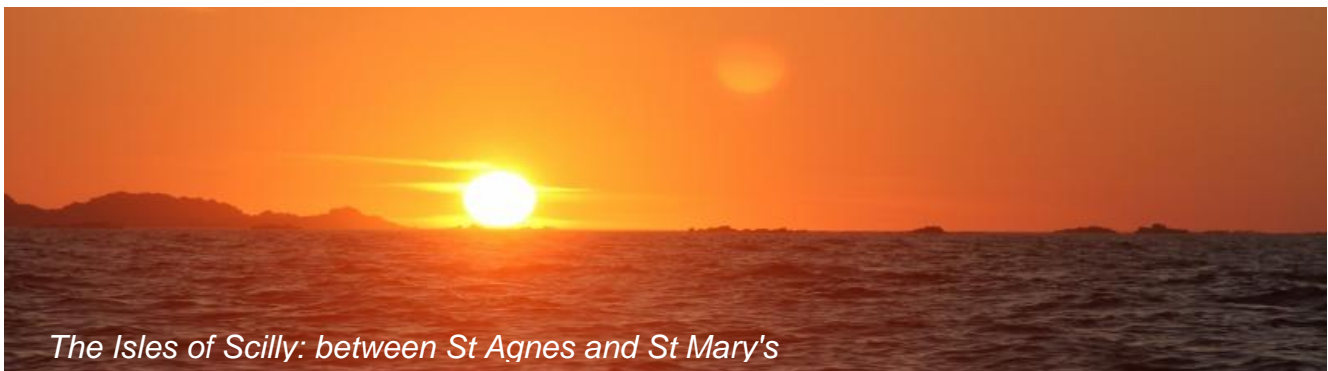
Rex pioneered new methods in teaching, using film and tape-recording, designing and constructing teaching aids and was seen as a wise and humane administrator. P B L (Paul) Badham, South House (1954-62) wrote of the valuable blend of freedom, responsibility and opportunity which Rex provided.

After 15 years at School Rex left, in 1970, to take over the History department at Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, Essex, where he taught until 1985. In retirement he and Joan moved to Penzance, from where he continued to run the company he had established, Bowley Publications Ltd, immersing himself in Scillonian history and regularly updating his father's works *'The Fortunate Isles'* and *'The Scilly Guide Book'*. Rex had early success with a guide to teaching techniques: *'Teaching Without Tears'* (Centaur Press 1961) which gave practical advice to the inexperienced school teacher, and later wrote *'Chess for Everyone'*, *'Readings for Assembly'* and *'Scilly at War'*.

After sixty years of marriage Joan died in 2010, followed a few months later by Rex. He is survived by his daughters Sue (now Mrs Sue Dibley and a most welcome guest at the OR Annual Dinner of 2011 with her husband Keith), Carol (now Mrs David Rogers) and 4 grandchildren.

Rex Bowley died on 5 October 2010 aged 85.

KCB



## JOHN ILLMAN CMG (1951-59)



Throughout a career that took him all over the globe, John Illman always had a house in Reading, the town where he was born on 26 October 1940. After Caversham Primary School he made a considerable impact at Reading School, becoming Vice Captain of School and Hon Sec of Rugby (School Colours). He also played in the School First Teams at Cricket (Rep Colours), Soccer (Rep Colours), Hockey and Table Tennis (Captain). He was a Sergeant in the CCF and a member of a number of School societies and clubs. He gained School Initials from the Dramatic Society. For County House he was a very considerable all-rounder, and Captain in his final year when he left from Form 75 to enter St Andrew's University.

He did not complete his degree and in 1961 joined the Foreign Office. Over the next four decades (with periods back in London at what became the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) he had postings to the Congo, Ireland, France, Argentina, Nigeria, Algeria (as Consul General Algiers). France again (as Consul General Marseille) and finally, from 1995 to 1999, he was in Lima as Her Majesty's British

Ambassador to Peru. This period included the extended occupation of the Japanese Ambassador's residence by the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) minutes after John had left a reception there. The terrorists held 72 hostages in the building for more than four months

He became Commander of the Order of St Michael & St George in the 1999 New Year Honours List and a Freeman of the City of London in 2000.

In 1962 John had married Elizabeth Hunter Frame and they had three children, Sarah, Claire and Jonathan, who, in turn, gave them five grandchildren. Whilst in Peru, Liz Illman established The British Community Trust, Peru, and in retirement in Reading John continued to serve as Chairman of the Trust, as a Trustee of the MS Yavari Trust and as a member of the Anglo-Peruvian Society (of which he was Chairman in 2003). John was also elected to the Council of the Old Redingensians Association and became President of the Association in 2003 (as Appeals Director he completed the Big School Project initiated under A R (Tony) Waring) and served thereafter as Chairman of Council.

John suffered a severe stroke in 2007, recovered steadily over the next years, but was re-admitted to hospital for the last time on 3 August 2011.

His funeral service, led by the Peruvian priest, Rev Eddie Marquez, attracted a large congregation that included the Peruvian Ambassador to the United Kingdom and very many Old Redingensians. In the words of Rev. Marquez, John, *'Loved God, Loved his country, Loved his family'*. He is survived by Liz, his children and grandchildren.

John Illman died on 4 August 2011 aged 70.

KCB



*Floreat Redingensis!*



**Shown right** is the Reading School Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV of 1958, John's final year in the team when he became Hon Secretary. Those pictured are -

**Back row l to r:** Evans D W; Vaughan R E F; A P Brown; F A Moreland; Hill D I; Brindley J F; J B Hickey; Maule M H W

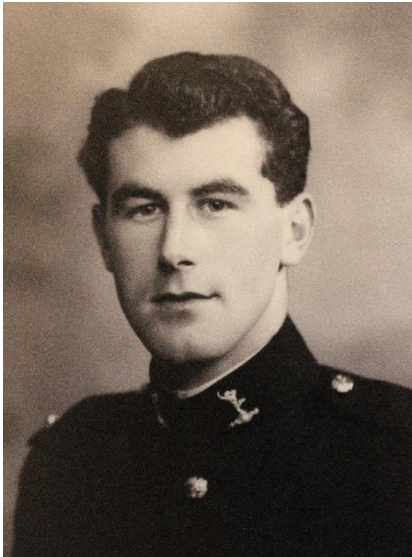
**Front row l to r:** R E Pyke; C D C Councill; J Illman; A D Rowland (Capt); A Cooper; T Bucknell; N G Sharp

(Initials after a name indicate the player had gained School Representative Colours. Initials before the name indicate full School Colours)





## MARTIN EDMUND HOWE-JONES (1944-53)



*"Sitting on a bench on the terrace waiting to be called for my interview for one of the greatest opportunities of my life, I happened to see M E Howe Jones and H B M Birtchnell playing for the 1st XI. They would become two of my heroes. Not only did they look the part they played the part so magnificently. I wanted desperately to be part of this.....".* (R F (Roy) Seymour (1952-57) writing in *The Old Redingensian* of April 2002).

Charisma is a rare blessing; Martin Howe-Jones possessed it. He had a younger sister Rosamund who was very proud of her brother's good looks – he was compared to Stewart Grainger and the girls at her school were ever eager to see him. Add to these attributes considerable charm, and it is no doubt as well that they were counter-balanced by kindness and an unassuming modesty.

His father ran an engineering company in Monmouthshire. An old friend was D G (Gwyn) Francis (Master at School (1921-61) and Martin's godfather was S G ('Timmy') Timms (Master at School (1928-68) – so choice of school was almost preordained.

At Reading School he became Captain of East Wing, Captain of Boarders and Vice Captain of School. He played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, and was a School Athletics Colour who repeatedly broke the School record for the javelin and competed in the National Youth Championships at White City. Indeed he was prominent in many School activities, but he will be best remembered as an elegant and exceptional cricketer who was captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI for two years and scored a notable 113 against Emanuel in 1952 (breaking a drought of eight years for 1<sup>st</sup> XI century makers). He topped the batting averages in 1952 and the bowling averages in 1951 and 1953. Martin's cricketing career was to extend to the Glamorgan 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, playing for The Authentics and captaining The Queen's College, Oxford.

National Service was spent in the Royal Corps of Signals where he gained a commission (later in life his son, Jonathan, when he served in the regular army, rose to outrank his father and was not above teasing him by addressing Martin as 'Lieutenant!'). Going up to Oxford he studied Geology, gained his degree, and pursued a career in oil exploration which took him to Qatar, the Persian Gulf and New Guinea.

He had met his future wife, Helen, in Oxford, when she was at Lady Margaret Hall and they had three children, Vanessa, Jonathan and Duncan. When Martin's father died, he moved to Monmouthshire and took over the running of the family company as Managing Director. In 1972 Helen and Martin divorced – only, years later, in 2005, to remarry. Not very long afterwards, Duncan had a serious accident in Cornwall which entailed a stay at Stoke Mandeville Hospital for nearly two years and the decision was taken to move to Oxford.

Martin was serious about his hobbies. He was an ornithologist, greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of beer drinkers and of the card table. Above all he was a fine golfer (and indeed was buried in his golfing outfit). He is survived by Helen, his three children, his granddaughter Veryan and by his sister.

Martin Howe Jones died on 11 August, 2011 aged 77.

KCB

**Shown right** is the Reading School Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI of 1953, Martin's fourth year in the team and his second as captain. Those pictured are -

**Back row l to r:** Digby J R; Barker A W; W S Blunt; Trower J P; Dominy D N; Oster D W J; Mr L F Muncer (cricket professional).

**Front row l to r:** D F Shelmerdine; H B M Birtchnell (Hon Sec); M E Howe-Jones; R B Steward; M D Evans

(Initials after a name indicate the player had gained School Representative Colours. Initials before the name indicate full School Colours)



## COLIN CLIFFORD STAMP (1938-44)

Colin was a large man of impressive appearance. A slightly predatorial air was dispelled by the bonhomie that characterised him and his mischievous sense of humour.

He was the only child of two Huntley & Palmer's employees – Fred and Mary Alice – and lived in Liverpool Road, Reading and then Manchester Road. He attended Alfred Sutton, the fine primary school that sent so many of its boys to Reading School, which Colin entered (in East House) during September 1938. Though he left in the fifth form, he had already made his mark as a cricketer, rugby player and athlete, gaining Representative Colours in the former, and School Colours in the latter for his prowess at putting the weight.

He worked at Barclays Bank for two years prior to his National Service which was spent in the Royal Navy. Colin's fine physique was wholly suited to an able seaman's uniform and Marion Hardman was not the only young lady to think so. But it was she who Colin wanted to dance with in the old Majestic Ballroom and it was she that he married in 1952.



After the Navy he returned to Barclays Bank where he spent his career – a very successful one which encompassed thirteen promotions including a six months spell in Ghana.

His final post was that of senior director responsible for all regions in London. He retired at age 57 and started a successful financial consultancy. Colin was a founder chairman of Wokingham Round Table and continued with the Wokingham 41 Club. He was a man with a positive attitude to life who commanded respect and was extremely popular.

In retirement Colin and Marion enjoyed walking and climbing in France. At the age of 79 he experienced a bad fall from which his health did not fully recover over his final years although he remained active.

ORs were well represented at Easthampstead Crematorium: A A (Fred) Barker (1942-49); D H (Denis) Easby (1934-42); D H (Denis) Jones (1940-49); C R J (John) Kirby (1940-48); E G L (Errol) Mackie (1939-49); A R (Allan) Richardson (1942-48); G (Graham) Shaw (1951-57); B (Barrie) Shelton (1950-53); A R (Tony) Waring (1940-46) amongst them. Colin is survived by Marion, by son Neil and granddaughter Elizabeth May.

Colin Stamp died on 27 September 2011 aged 83.

KCB

**Shown right** is the Reading School Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI of 1944 in which Colin played as a 16-year old fifth former. Those pictured are -

**Back row l to r:** Mr W G Bott (cricket professional); Duggins M L; Martin E A; Stamp C C; Francis E W R; Ware K W; Burgess P J

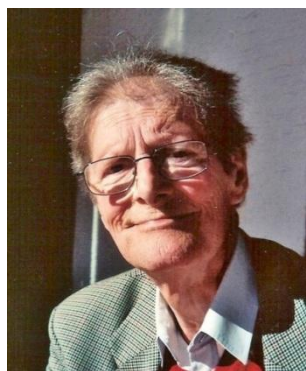
**Front row l to r:** J V Martin; P Lincoln-Gordon; L A Sears (Capt); G E J Grant; Taylor G H

(Initials after a name indicate the player had gained School Representative Colours. Initials before the name indicate full School Colours)





## RODNEY DAVID GOODALL (1945-50)



Rodney Goodall was born on 30 June 1934 in Reading and was in East House at School, gaining Cert A Part I, joining the Debating Society, the Natural History Society, the Dramatic Society, appearing in several productions by the Operatic Society and developing his lifelong love of music.

After leaving School he pursued a career as an architect specialising in the conservation of historic buildings. He was articled to Lassiter & Judd (Mr Judd was the father of I G (Ian) Judd, OR (1962-69) and current Master at School), trained at the Oxford School of Architects and when working in London took a further course at the University of London. National Service was spent in the Royal Engineers and then, in 1963, he moved to Frome, where he married Lesley and together they had two children, Tim and Rachel.

Rodney served successively on the Urban District Council, on Frome Town Council, Mendip District Council and in 1977 and 78 he was Mayor of Frome. For a short period he also served on Somerset County Council. He was a member of Frome Society for Local Studies and had an unparalleled knowledge of Frome history, wrote books on Frome buildings, on Frome industries and delivered numerous public lectures on these subjects. He was involved in a successful campaign to save a historic area of Frome and in its subsequent restoration.

Rodney was a member of Round Table and Rotary, amongst other clubs and societies, and deeply involved with his local church; he was a Churchwarden, a Lay Reader, and the Church's architect. He sang bass in the choir. He appeared in many productions of the Frome Amateur Operatic Society and, with Lesley, directed and produced *Iolanthe* for them (at School he had been a stalwart of East House Music and his first experience of *Iolanthe* was, perhaps, the School production of 1950).

Rodney's partner in his final years, Ursula, was an Austrian, and they divided the year between Innsbruck and Frome. Rodney is survived by Ursula, and by Lesley with their two children and four grandchildren.

Rodney Goodall, who had suffered with cancer for eighteen years, died on 2 June 2011 aged 76.

KCB

## NOEL JAMES DISERENS (1943-48)



Jim was born in Brighton, in 1931, the second of four children of bell ringing parents who moved the family to Reading in 1939. With his brothers J N (Neville) (1945-52) and R F (Ronald) (1947-52) he attended Reading School, leaving from ScVI with CSC (Matric Exempt). His career was spent in science research, largely at AERE Harwell and the Rutherford Laboratory in Chilton but it was as a very accomplished bell ringer that he gained renown.

His ringing career spanned 70 years from weekly wartime hand bell sessions until the ban on church bells was lifted in 1943 (when he began to handle tower bells at St Laurence's) and through his long association with the Reading Minster of St Mary The Virgin from 1948. His peal ringing career included many records, he was a noted heavy bell ringer and a member of many well-known societies, bands and groups in the bell ringing world. Jim became a very good conductor, an able composer, and was amongst the first to write computer software programs to aid bell ringers in proving peals. He was deeply involved with organisation, administration and education through both the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. Jim's own final peal total was 1253.

In 1958 he married Helen, whom he had met at St Mary's where all the events of their life together were to be marked by peals. They had four sons together, all of whom were taught to ring and became part of the Diserens' Reading ringing dynasty. From the 1970s the family lived in Wallingford, apart from six years in Canada when Jim worked at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and was able to indulge his love of the outdoors before final retirement. He had always kept fit, cycling, running (London Marathon at age 50) and canoeing. He was a chorister, a beekeeper, a tenacious and independent man with strong views on morality.

Jim died of a heart attack whilst visiting his son, Brian, in Germany. He is survived by Helen, three of his four sons and nine grandchildren. Canon Brian Shenton presided at the Service of Thanksgiving held in St Mary's on 4 November 2011 which was attended by a large congregation.

Jim Diserens died on 7 September 2011 aged 79.

KCB

## DAVID RODNEY HILL (1946-57)

David was in East House, starting in the Junior School. He became a School Prefect, Captain of House Boats and House Elocution, Hon Sec. of East House Committee, a Queen's Scout, an Assistant Scout Master, JOM of the Debating Society, Secretary of the Philatelic Society and a member of numerous other School societies. In 1953 he scored the highest marks nationally for 'O' Level Latin.

Michael Wolfers, recalling their lifelong friendship and shared interests, wrote that, even at School, David stood out for exceptional qualities of selfless care and concern for others, a patience and altruism that continued all his life. Such sentiments were repeated in the many tributes paid by former colleagues on hearing of David's death, painting a picture of a courteous and erudite man, supportive, mildly eccentric, good humoured, popular and pleasantly subversive. 'Integrity' was a word that frequently occurred as did reference to David's willingness to fight injustice when he perceived it – and the mountains of books which always surrounded him in his study!



In 1957 he gained a State Scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford, graduating in 1963 with a degree in theology. His two years National Service had been spent with the Army in Germany, where he rose to the rank of Sergeant.

David's career commenced properly in 1965 when he was appointed to the staff of Southlands College, in Wimbledon, moving with them a decade later to Roehampton and remaining through the College's various incarnations, until it emerged as Roehampton University and David as Principal Lecturer, and then Reader, in Theology and Religious Studies.

His initiative led to the Honours Degree and the Doctor's Degree programmes in Philosophy being established at Roehampton. Additionally he worked as a chief examiner of 'A' Levels and an Inspector of Schools. He had gained a high reputation as a teacher and pastoral mentor well before his retirement in 2002.

David had married Roslyn in 1969 (Richard Brake, an OR, who spoke at the funeral service was his Best Man and David was his, when Richard married Jean) and the marriage produced a daughter, Olivia, and three sons, Jocelyn, Julian and Jeremy (David successfully coached all three for Common Entrance to KCS, Wimbledon). David and Roslyn divorced in the 1980s and David added 'single father' to his roles, teaching himself to cook (he became a very good one) and completing the upbringing of his children. Roslyn kept in touch and was present at the funeral service.

David was a lover of the Arts, music particularly being one of the great joys in his life. He had a special interest in the English anchoress Julian of Norwich, and was a respected connoisseur and collector of wine.

At the well attended service in the Church of St John the Baptist, St John's Road, Wimbledon (where David worshipped) there were three other ORs besides the co-editors of this magazine; M (Michael) Wolfers (1950-57), R J (Richard) Brake (1951-57) and K (Kurt) Ryz (1954-57). David is survived by his daughter and three sons.

David Hill died on 6 September, 2011, aged 73.

KCB



David Hill had the remarkable record of stepping up at Speech Day in ten of the 11 years that he was at School

1947	Junior School Form IA Prize
1948	Second (to D N Dominy) Junior School Form Lower IIB Prize
1949	Second (to D N Dominy) Junior School Form Upper II Prize
1950	Second (to D N Dominy) for the IA Form Prize
1951	Second (to D N Dominy) for the IIA Form Prize
1952	Second (to D N Dominy) for the Form 34 Prize
1953	GCE Latin Prize and the Stanley Maxwell Prize of the Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate for the premier position nationally in Latin GCE.
1954	GCE English Prize.
1955	-
1956	The Monck and Palmer Chemistry Prize
1957	Special prize for Greek.



## WILLIAM NOEL CAMPBELL WIGGINS (1935-39)



Noel was brought up in Reading; his father's career was spent in Lloyds Bank. He entered the School at age fourteen and when he left with his School Certificate, he had played two years in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV (for which he gained School Colours), was a L/Cpl with Certificate A in the OTC, a School Monitor and a stalwart of West House, having boxed, played rugby and cricket for them and represented them on the running track. He won the Dollery-Noyce Cup in 1936 and the Wooldridge II in 1939.

The day before the Second World War broke out, Noel turned eighteen. He was immediately drafted into the Royal Berkshire Regiment and spent the entire war on active service in the Far East (Singapore, India and Burma) starting in the ranks and finishing as a major.

In 1947, after he was demobilised, Noel, too, joined Lloyds Bank in Reading and trained as an accountant. The work bored him but he recognised the security it offered. He met Jacqueline Mary Nicholson and in 1954 married her at St John Bosco Church, Woodley. Knowing he disliked his job she encouraged him to apply for a post in the Ugandan Treasury. He secured it and they spent twelve extremely happy years there, Noel extending his sporting career with Kampala Rugby Club.

Returning to the UK after independence, Noel joined the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), and he and Jackie settled in Carshalton where they brought up their two daughters, Fiona and Clare. He was active in the Catholic Church, for the Catenians, and as a School Governor. Summer holidays were spent in France, at first in a dormobile and, later, in the mobile home that they bought in Agay.

After Noel's retirement they moved in 1996, to Hassocks in Sussex. Sadly, Jackie died in 2000 and for eleven years Noel lived alone. He enjoyed good health until the year of his death, continuing to live life to the full.

His son-in-law, Charles Wookey, found Noel to be a man always learning, always interested in the world, a thorough going extrovert with endless time for people and particularly for his family. He had a deep and sustaining faith and was at ease with himself and with the world. He is survived by his daughters and five grandchildren. Amongst ORs at the requiem mass at the Church of St Edward the Confessor in Keymer, was J W M (Mike) Smith (1937-47) with his wife Audrey.

Noel Wiggins died on 21 June 2011, aged 89.

KCB



**Shown left** is the Reading School Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV of 1937, Noel's first year in the team. Those pictured are -

**Back row l to r:** D J Hinton; H Wellings; R J Barlow; C R Tice; J W Warsap; Robins P; W N C Wiggins; Wright V W G

**Front row l to r:** S G Rudge; J A Reynolds; H C Aust (Captain); K E Hartley; P B Excell

**Seated l to r:** J H Glanville; Scammell O H

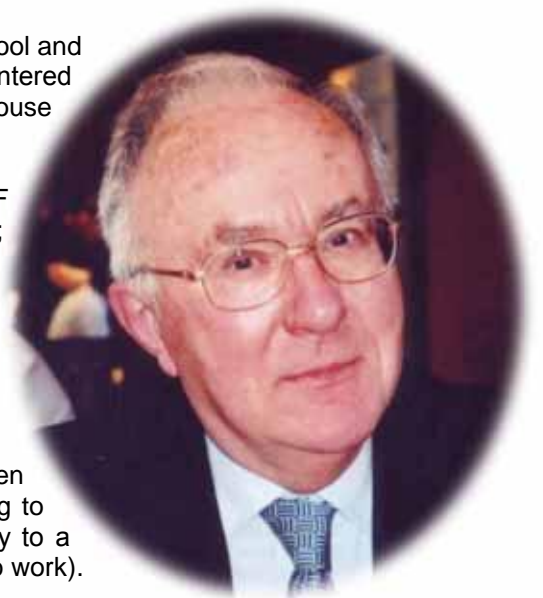
(Initials after a name indicate the player had gained School Representative Colours. Initials before the name indicate full School Colours)

## ROBERT JEFFREY BRIAN BROADHURST (1943-49)

Jeff Broadhurst grew up in Tilehurst, where he attended Park Lane School and was a choir boy and server at St Michael's in Routh Lane. He entered Reading School in September 1943, joined the JTC, was in the West House Shooting Team and sang in the chorus of the Mikado in 1946.

When he left School he joined the Meteorological Office at RAF Abingdon, travelling back and forth from Reading on a BSA Bantam; motorcycles remained a great love. National Service was spent as a Meteorological specialist in the RAF, a happy progression, and Jeff served in Aden, Ceylon, Singapore and Hong Kong, and also Car Nicobar, a tiny island in the Indian Ocean.

Out of uniform, Jeff joined the National Provincial Bank, passed out top in the Institute of Banking examinations and was already a Branch Manager by the time of the merger with Westminster Bank in 1968. Then he left to join the Butterfield Bank in Bermuda for five years, returning to manage the Hill Samuel Bank in St James's (the BSA had given way to a 250cc AJS years before and by now there was a 650cc Honda to ride to work).



Jeff met Judy at the Derby and in due course he left banking and joined the legal practice in Tunbridge Wells that had employed Judy. Eventually Jeff and Judy married and lived in Burgess Hill before settling in Mayfield, Sussex.

All his life Jeff loved sport, perhaps fired by attending all eight days of the athletic events at the 1948 Olympics, travelling up from Reading each day with his friend, Brian Kelly. Rugby and cricket were particular passions but first in his heart lay Reading Football Club, following them all his life and holding a season ticket in recent years. With his brother G (Graham) Broadhurst OR (1957-62) he was at Wembley in 1966 to see England win the World Cup.

Friends spoke of his kind and generous nature and the keen sense of humour that characterised him. He is survived by Judy, by Graham and by a well-loved extended family.

Jeff Broadhurst died on 24 September 2011 aged 78.

KCB

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**We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to John Acton, Richard Brake OR, Mrs Rachel Button, Graham Broadhurst OR, Rev Adam Carlill, Mrs Sue Dibley, Tony Diserens, The Hill family, Frank Hilton, Jonathan Howe-Jones, David Jeffreys QC, Denis Moriarty OR, James Smith, Mike Townsend, John Wells, Michael Williams, Michael Wolfers OR and Charles Wookey.**

**We invite others to send in their reminiscences for inclusion in future issues of the Journal.**





# In Memoriam

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

**B G (Barry) Wigmore (1957-62)**

Journalist

Died July 2011 aged 65

**D M (David) Muir (1956-63)**

Research Scientist

Died 16 September 2011 aged 66

**B H (Brian) Webb (1941-47)**

Insurance

Died 7 October 2011 aged 80

**Dr D T (David) Cousins (1939-43)**

Doctor

Died 2 December 2011 aged 86

**D W ('Matt') Mattingley (1936-43)**

Schoolmaster and former Captain of School

Died 9 December 2011 aged 86

**A (Alan) Dines (1947-48)**

Architect and Table Tennis Coach

Died 6 January 2012 aged 79

**Mrs F M (Nuala) Ashcroft (1981-2006)**

Language Teacher at Reading School

Died 12 January 2012 aged 65

**B K (Basil) Cooper MBE (1930-41)**

HM Colonial Admin Officer and Home Civil Servant

Died 18 January 2012 aged 89

**B T (Brian) Robbins (1947-55)**

Electrical Instrument Engineer

Died 18 January 2012 aged 75

**D (David) Wise (1949-52)**

Musician

Died 30 January 2012 aged 78

**C R (Charles) Tice MBE (1931-38)**

Oil Executive and former Captain of School

Died 8 February 2012 aged 92

**C D (Chris) Nickolls (1959-66)**

Educational Psychologist

Died 10 March 2012 aged 63

**D H G (David) Millar (1947-53)**

Insurance

Died 27 March 2012 aged 75

**Major S (Sidney Vidcosky) Vines (1930-39)**

Soldier, fisherman and writer

Died 18 April 2012 aged 90

**M J (Mark) Reece (1990-97)**

Veterinary Serologist

Died 14 April 2012 aged 32

**The Reverend J B (John) Lambourne (1944-52)**

Clergyman

Died 3 May 2012 aged 76

**R A de G (Robin) Sewell (1936-39 and 1942-44)**

Senior Export Sales Executive

Died 5 June 2012 aged 84

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



# From the Editors



Always conscious of the writing on the wall, the co-editors thoughts have turned to the question of their successors. They propose to relinquish editorial duties at the end of 2014 by which time they will be in their ninth year as a team.

Giving adequate notice is one thing but, if there is to be a seamless handover, it is clearly necessary for others to come forward as soon as possible. Ideally a number of ORs should signal, at this stage, a wish to either edit, contribute or be part of a management team to continue the journal. The Association's membership contains former professional journalists, existing professional journalists, many who contribute writings here and there –

and many who proved themselves on or in the old *Reading School Magazine*. It is time for deep breaths to be taken and declarations, of at least provisional interest, made to set the ball rolling!

The editorial in the Autumn 2011 issue asked for information about the late Edgar Milward and the editors are most grateful for an excellent response and a wealth of material supplied, all of which will be suitably acknowledged in the Autumn 2012 magazine, which will contain an article about Mr Milward that has been made possible by the first-hand knowledge supplied

The case for the inclusion in the Bidding Prayer of King Henry Beauclerc was made in the Autumn 2011 issue: perhaps a case for A E Milward will also be made.....

Martin Parsons, in his President's letter on page 3, has made reference to substantial changes at School, including the departure of Mr Weeds and the accession of Mr Robson later this year (appreciations of both will appear in the Autumn issue). That issue will also carry reports on the opening of the new Refectory and of The Kirkwood Room (the large room in the East Cloister which has been fitted with cabinets to display the Archive as a backdrop to its use as a meeting/conference room). Martin writes also of the Chinese scholarship and the proposed series of lectures. Both are Martin's initiatives so perhaps the latter should become known as *The Parsons Lectures*.

In the Autumn 2012 issue we also expect to feature an *Oxford Letter* about many of the ORs currently in residence. If anyone wishes to compile a similar letter from any of the universities, medical schools, service establishments etc the co-editors will welcome it.

This issue was somewhat delayed and, as we go to press, we apologise in the knowledge that some of the 'forthcoming' dates mentioned in the magazine have been overtaken in the production process. Electronic notification of the events concerned has, of course, also been made (although we appreciate that does not reach the whole of the membership).

Finally, a plea to our readers. Reserves of the Spring 2011 issue of *The Old Redingensian* have been exhausted. The co-editors would be particularly grateful for any copies of that issue now deemed surplus to requirement, so that future requests can be satisfied. (The Archivist, of course, is always eager for **any** RS material for which members have no further use).





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In this year of the Olympics the front cover of this issue shows the Olympic Truce Symbol, designed by William Brahms for Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic movement. It consists of the Olympic rings within the wreath that is on the emblem of the United Nations (but rendered in blue). The motto of the Olympic Movement is *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Swifter, Higher, Stronger). Baron de Coubertin considered that *'the most significant thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.'*