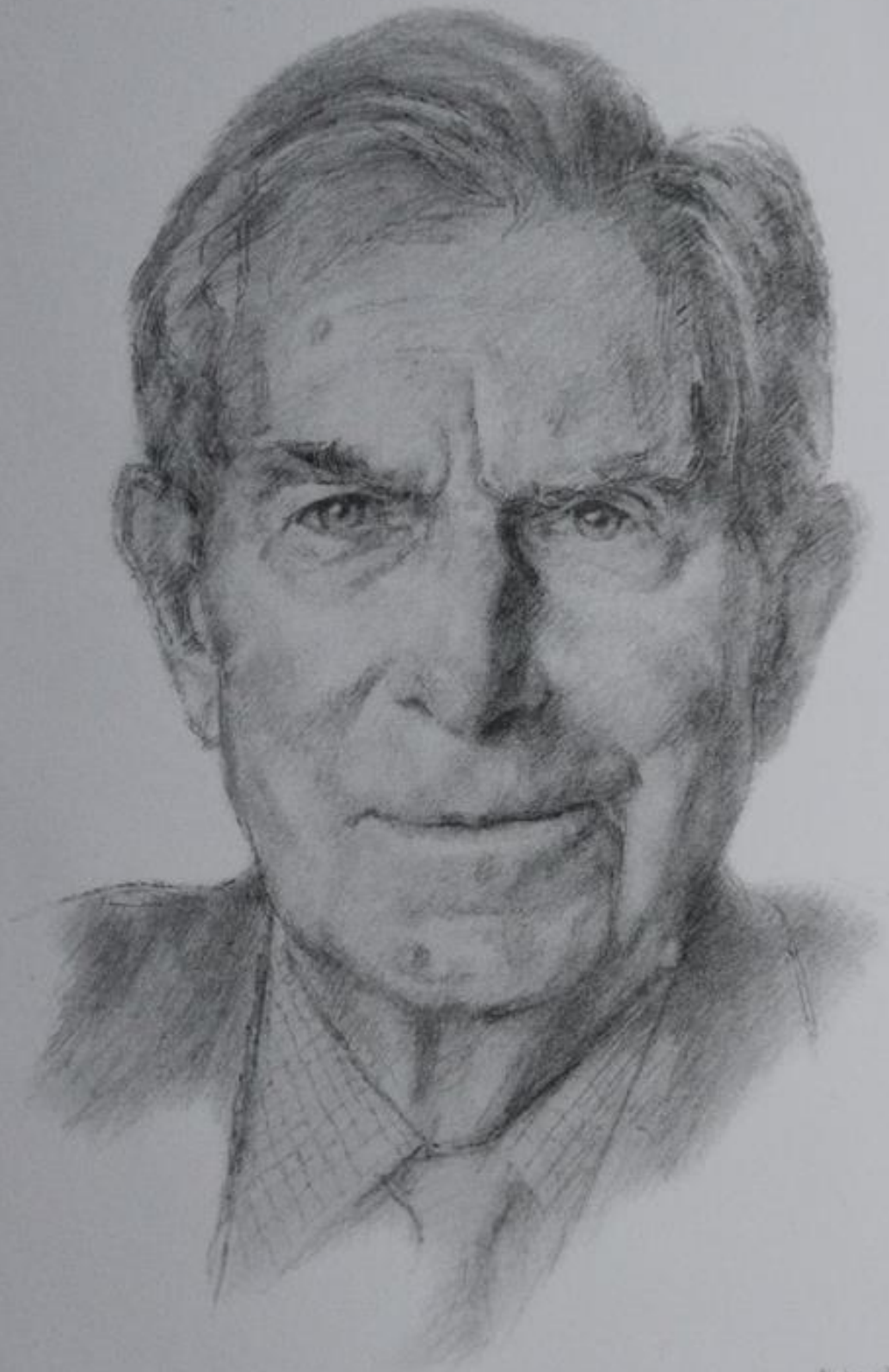


THE OLD REDINGENSIAN

Spring 2013



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Feature Writers in this Issue



A C (Andrew) Bohman (1944-51) writes on Reading Musicians (their links to School and University) on pp 31-33.



E S (Ned) Holt (1966-72 & Staff 1982-12) writes on p 40 in response to David Weekes' (1947-53) article *Three Questions* in the Spring 2012 issue.



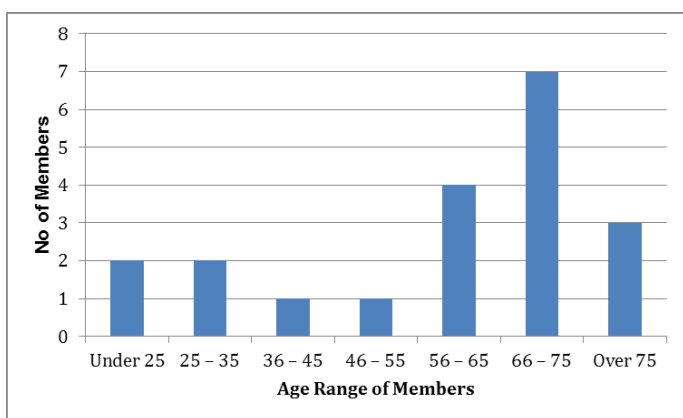
Professor B G J (Brian) Upton (1941-51) provides some reminiscences on pp 36-37.

The Archivist concludes on pp 28-30 his argument for the inclusion in the Bidding Prayer of three further benefactors of the School.

The President's Letter

By the nature of things the President of the Old Redingensians Association's own time at Reading School is usually well in the past. In my case, 50 years; I left in 1963. I wanted to be your President and am extremely proud to be so and delighted that D B (David) Cox (1951-56) has accepted the post of Vice President.

I am also determined to build on what are promising foundations for much greater input into our organisation across the age groups. Currently your Council is 20 strong including three co-opted members. They break down by age (as at 1 January 2013) as follows:



Not difficult to see where more representation is needed! The good news is the keen interest shown by many recent leavers and the tremendous activity on social networking sites where several hundred non-members interact with more hundreds of members. We hope to encourage such developments to mutual benefit.

Meanwhile, the existing Officers of the Association put in a great deal of their own free time and effort to keep everything rolling along. Their names, as usual, are on the back page of this journal and their contribution cannot be over estimated.

My year of office started with an extremely successful Annual Dinner in Big School, following a reception in the Refectory. One third of those present were under 25, incidentally. So successful, that your Council has already voted to repeat the format for the 2013 Annual Dinner on 30 November, with a little tweaking to allow even greater time for socialising.

As they like to do, Council were quickly into their stride spending money to help the School. The Art Department has bought a 3D printer with the assistance of an ORA grant; and £5,000+ has been allocated for the Enterprise Awards made to those boys who 'go for it' this year. The Association is helping with the funding of new hymn books for the Chapel. Amounts have been allocated for



bursaries to be awarded in certain circumstances. We continue to improve the facilities and enhance the appearance of Big School and we expect to have equipped the Kirkwood Room with film screen and projector before I write the President's Autumn letter. The massive task of scanning all the old Reading School magazines (they started at Erleigh Road in 1875) is near completion and R C (Bob) Coombs (1952-60) has worked unceasingly to help this come about. (More information on when and how these can be accessed in the Autumn letter.)

Your Council is always considering new initiatives to aid the School (members' suggestions are always welcome). Under review at the time of writing is sponsorship of the replacement trees on the School Terrace and a scheme to augment the development of truly exceptional talents: rare cases who have outstripped what even a school like ours has to offer. More news in the Autumn on these and other matters under consideration.

Our usual range of social events will take place and details may be found in this magazine and on the OR website. The website continues to develop under the careful guidance of Webmaster and Past President F J Pocock (1952-60).

In the last issue of this journal J W M (Mike) Smith (1937-47) wrote the obituary notice of his old friend, and predecessor (1994) as OR President, D W ('Matt') Mattingley (1936-43). Now Mike himself has departed and we pay particular tribute to him for the dedication and affection he demonstrated to the School and to the OR Association, not least as the organiser and, with Audrey, a genial host of the last 13 (of 20) OR Sussex Reunion Luncheons; much missed and enjoyable events.

To the Farmery, Maule and Gardiner medals, presented on Sports Day, now are added the Towner Medals given by R L (Bob) Towner (1954-61), a notable former Captain of School Athletics who also competed at County level. The Towner medals are for Senior Long Jump and 100 m Hurdles. (The only senior events now lacking an OR medal are High Jump, Triple Jump, Javelin and Relays.)

It is a privilege to lead the Association in the first year of Mr Ashley Robson's Headmastership, a time that augurs well for the future of our School. Mr Robson is a keen supporter of the OR Association and we expect the years ahead to bring a long and fruitful relationship.

Floreat Redingensis!

Ken Brown

Notes and News

G A (Graham) Ireland, former Director of Music at School (Staff 1980-01) gave a Lunchtime Organ Recital to a packed Reading Town Hall on 21 November 2012. The Town Hall's Father Willis Organ was purpose built in 1864, enlarged by Henry Willis in 1882 (with casework designed by Lainson) and restored to 1882 form in 1999 by Harrison & Harrison. It is deemed to be of international significance.

Old Redingensians attending the second annual Sir George Pinker Memorial address at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 5 December 2012 included the President of the Association, the Membership Secretary, Past Presidents G W O ('Buffy') Price and Dr D M (Dudley) Bruton. Sir George, once Her Majesty The Queen's gynaecologist and also a past President of the Old Redingensians Association, is commemorated by a plaque in Big School. The lecture, on the *Fragmentation of Women's Healthcare* was delivered by Dame Mary Archer DBE to a most attentive audience, and was followed by a panel discussion and a drinks reception. The ORs mentioned above are pictured with Dame Mary by Sir George's portrait.



The International Commercial Arbitration Service LCIA – MIAC has appointed D J (Duncan) Bagshaw (1991-98), *pictured*, who was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 2003, to establish and develop their secretariat at the new Cyber City in Ebene, Mauritius. He was previously in the Barristers Chambers St Philips.

T A (Tom) Cappleman's (2001-08), New College Oxford University Team, mentioned in the Autumn 2012 issue, marched on past Honiton College, Cambridge; University of York; King's College, Cambridge and St George's, University of London to reach the semi-finals of University Challenge, the BBC 2 Quiz Show. At that stage they lost a good contest with UCL. Tom's own contribution was outstanding throughout.

G J P (Giles) Hutchins MSc MRICS FRSA (1983-90), *pictured*, has had published *The Nature of Business* (Green Books 2012) and is undertaking a documentary for BBC 2. He is a business change agent with over 15 years experience with KPMG and Atos International (where he was Global Director and Head of Sustainability Solutions). Giles is now with BCI (Biomimicry for Creative Innovation).



The death of 'C M J', Christopher Martin-Jenkins MBE Old Marlburian and long time member of the Test Match Special commentary team on BBC Radio, is mourned by cricket lovers everywhere. On 16 December 2009 he was the guest speaker at Reading School's Senior Prize Giving in the Great Hall of the University of Reading and his warm and witty address on that day will be long remembered.



The appointment of local sculptor Andrew Hood to create a Memorial to those killed in the German bombing raid on Reading on 10th February, 1943, when the People's Pantry in the Market Place suffered direct hits, was welcomed by the Rev B W (Brian) Goss (1939-50), *pictured*, whose father, Ernest, owned Goss & Co Insurance Brokers, next to the People's Pantry. Brian, who was in the cinema with his mother, ignored advice to remain under cover and headed for the Market Place where he found his father alive and well, although the ceiling of his office had been drilled by machine gun fire and he had taken shelter under his desk.

Goss & Co. was founded by William Goss in 1921 and his brother, Captain Ernest Goss, a Master Mariner, took over when he retired from the sea. Neither he nor William were ORs but their brother Stanley's two sons both were; E P (Philip) Goss (1922-31) and S E S (Stanley) Goss (1925-34) both worked in the business until the Second World War. Since then, like so many Reading businesses, ORs have played their part and none more so than M J (Michael) King (1957-63), *pictured*, Chairman for many years, under whom the company became one of the South of England's leading insurance brokers. It is now part of Jelf Group.



In September the Archivist and Membership Secretary again (see Autumn 2011 edition) had the pleasure of the company, at lunch in the George Hotel, Reading, of Ken Wood, great great great grandson of Dr Valpy, Headmaster of Reading School (1781-1830), visiting from New Zealand en route to France and Italy. Ken is the managing director of Wordsell Press, Pakuranga, New Zealand.

There has been dismay locally at the announcement that Reading's oldest independent department store, E Jackson & Sons (Jacksons), is to close this year. Its School outfitting department has supplied uniforms to generations of Reading School boys. With it will pass a little of old Reading and a great deal of individuality. The fate of 'Jacksons Corner' is presently uncertain. E R Jackson (Reading School 1889-93) and R H Jackson (1889-95) each became Chairman of the family owned business, the latter succeeding his brother in 1959.

Professor M L (Mike) Shattock (1947-55), *pictured*, had a new book, *Making Policy in British Higher Education 1945-2011*, McGraw-Hill-Open University Press, published on 6 November 2012. He was also awarded his fourth honorary degree last summer, an Hon DLitt from the University of Leicester (to add to existing Hon LLDs from Aberdeen, Reading and Warwick).



There is news of the three Lee brothers, all currently still at university, and further confirmation of the remarkable standard of lacrosse players that the School has produced in recent years. A J C (Adam), now 22, is due to graduate this year from Bath University. R T M (Richard) and S W D (Stephen), the twins, are 19 and at Hull and Bath respectively. Last summer the twins and S D (Steve) Popplestone (2004-11) **all** played lacrosse for Wales U19s in Turku, Finland in the World Championships. Richard and Stephen continue to play lacrosse for their respective university and city sides and Richard has been selected this year for the Yorkshire President's Squad.

P R (Patrick) Ashcroft (1990-97) is an operatic tenor who trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama after completing a doctorate in mathematics at Cambridge University. He received the John Scott Award in 2009 from Scottish Opera and further details of his burgeoning career may be found on his website patrickashcroft.com.

Sir Clive Sinclair (1955-56) electric three wheeled car the C5, launched in 1985 – with a top speed of 15 mph and sales of just 20,000 – has been voted 'the greatest innovation disaster of all time'. Both another record for an OR and a rare failure from the man whose inventive and entrepreneurial genius was more properly reflected by his work on microprocessors.

The world's longest running stage play, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* is now 60 years old. M D (Michael) Fenner (1964-71), leading actor and winner of the Boulting Medal at School, has been playing the part of Mr Paravicini.

S A (Simon) Coffield (2002-09) and University of Wales Swansea, successfully completed Commissioning Course No 121 at Sandhurst and has been commissioned into the Royal Logistics Corps following the Sovereigns Parade at the RMA on 14 December 2012.

The Reading School magazine for March 1951 contains an article about a visit to the Morris Motor Works at Cowley. A large number of the cars being built were Morris Minors. R C (Bob) Coombs (1953-60), an active member of the Morris Minor Owners Club, finds the article a mine of information and worth sharing with other Club members. The trip was undertaken by twenty eight members of the CCF led by Mr M C Savage, (Staff 1939-76). Does any reader recall it - and who wrote the article? Last year, Nuffield Place, former home of William Morris, Lord Nuffield, was opened to the public by the National Trust. Before the official opening, the MMOC was able to visit; Bob Coombs took the image below.



Enterprise Awards

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

Introduced each day by the Headmaster, at Morning Assembly for West House (4 Feb), East House (5 Feb), County House (6 Feb), Professor M L (Martin) Parsons, Immediate Past President, promoted the 2013 Enterprise Awards and detailed the procedures necessary for entry. For School House (8 Feb) K C (Ken) Brown, current President of the Association, did the same. On each day they were aided by M H W (Michael) Maule, Past President, and C J (Chris) Widdows, Membership Secretary who created film shows of the presentations.



West House listening to Professor Parsons on 4 February in Big School

At Morning Assembly for the four Houses on 25, 26, 27 and 28 Feb the President gave certificates to those successful award winners from 2012 who are still at School. Chris Widdows photographed each recipient (space allows only a few to be shown below).



THE YEAR 7'S GUIDE TO READING SCHOOL APP

I can remember the morning when the Old Redingensian Association came into our assembly. I'd had an idea in the back of my head for a long time and now it just might work. I can remember as we were all filing out some of the boys in my form seemed unmoved. But I was inspired. I kept quiet about it until the moment I got home. It seems that from there on in there wasn't going to be time for much else, I could tell. I was **so** nervous when I pressed the 'send' button to submit my application form. The nail-biting wait was excruciating; there was no other word for it. I checked my emails twice a day until **the day** I got an email. I had the grant! Now all I had to do was await the money and I was set to go! Within a couple of days the envelope arrived. The million dollar question was: how much? Ok, I didn't get the full amount so the next big job was to raise the rest. I was going to do a 16 mile sponsored cycle. Money soon came rolling in until I had well over £100. The day that was chosen for the sponsored ride was perfect; it wasn't too hot and with a McDonalds half way around, we could also have lunch!

I started the project with a 30 day free trial of my chosen software (*LiveCode®*) just to be truly sure that I had selected the right software. I then proceeded to do the *LiveCode Getting Started Course*. The course was roughly five and a half hours long divided down into chunks. The aim of the course was to teach me how to build a full functioning 'to-do list' app called *TickedOff*.

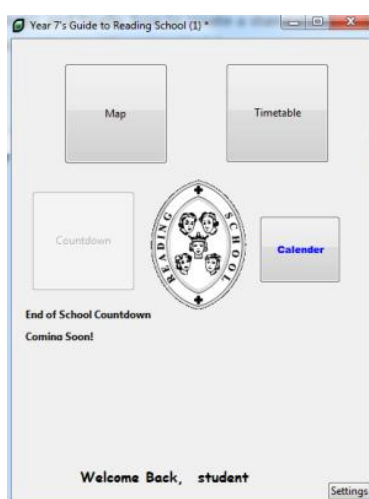
The course taught me everything I needed to know. It was excellent in providing me with coding expertise, and even how to make a nice looking app. The app I have designed has been built entirely without help apart from my mentor Ron Baillie. I sought out mentors early on as I recognised I would need support from the School and in the whole concept of running a project of this nature. I was in new territory and needed people to help me progress on my journey. My mentors throughout this project have been Charlie Harding in 10S and Ron Baillie, a family friend who works in IT project management. Without their input I would not be at the final hurdle now!

Charlie helped me in gaining clarity around the items I could build into my app. The School had some concerns about aspects of my original business plan that could have compromised the School server's integrity, so with Charlie's help I was able to make a start on the design.

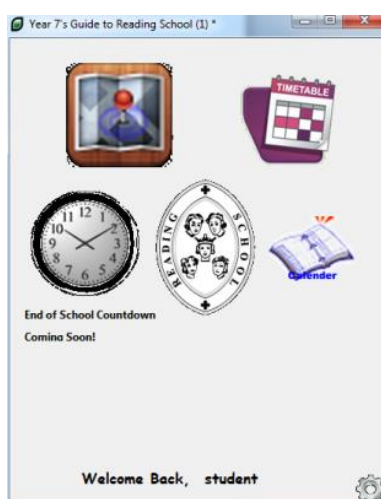
Ron did an exceptional job at helping me throughout. He helped me with a massive amount of coaching around project planning and trouble-shooting. He was also able to advise me on software to use to get the graphics as I wanted them.

Unfortunately due to the risk of compromising the integrity of the School servers, I was requested to cut out some of the big ideas I stated in my business plan. So now my app consists of a map of the School, a timetable, and a calendar. I am working on additional features for the future.

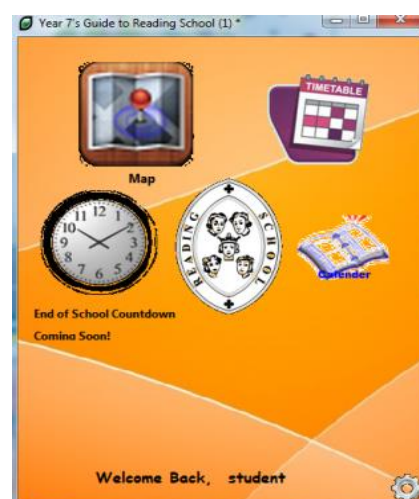
This project has been a long work in progress and here are some screenshots to show how some of the screens of the app came together:



Home Screen without skinning



Home Screen with skinning



Home Screen with background added

Throughout this whole project I have been learning an amazing amount within *LiveCode*. I now know how to create a custom handler (otherwise known as a function); how to create temporary variables; how to make a stack resizable; skinning buttons with custom icons; using custom properties to change the user interface; and

finally, how to create a standalone application (basically making it work on Windows, Android, etc. without *LiveCode*).

I have encountered many challenges and problems which I've had to work out mainly by myself because not many people have heard of *LiveCode*. For instance, making the stack resizable has been a challenge because it is a lot of code to type, so it's time consuming and finding the figures is tedious because there are a lot of figures to work out and they have to be precise; about 3 decimals each. Then for each button it's four lines of code that need figures (or if you're working with text, you have an extra three lines of code).

The app has been great fun to work on and the simulation of the app very interesting, because I've always wanted an Android phone and now I have one, albeit virtual. After working through some errors that I think were caused by invalid code, I got my app up and running on two android simulators.

This project has consumed more of my time than I had ever imagined possible, it's been push push push to get this done and ready on time. Well I can now say I'm very excited and happy to have it finished. I feel confident with the software and am satisfied with how the design and development went. I am pleased with what I have learnt and achieved despite being so pushed for time. I have to say though, if I'd known how long this project was going to take I would have started to get serious about it a lot sooner. I think this app has a great deal of potential for future developments that I can work on in my spare time. I am thankful for receiving the grant and to all who supported me in the creation of *The Year 7's Guide to Reading School*.

I would like to mention David Williams and Neil Rogers of Runrev Technical Support team who have offered me their unstinting support and encouragement as I have got to grips with the *Livecode* software – their patience was as inspiring as their level of knowledge, I am most grateful to them both.

As a direct result of this project I have learnt how to program and design an app, developed more confidence in dealing with problems and feel more confident in working with adults who have helped me along the way.



By the time this magazine is issued applications for the 2013 Enterprise Awards



will have been received, assessed by the panel and cheques issued to the successful candidates. A full list of the awards will appear in the Autumn issue. The poster for 2013 (see left), procedures and timetables were once again masterminded by M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), Past President of the OR Association, in coordination with Frances Greaney, the School's Director of Development. Michael, pictured above, is stepping down this year (although he will remain available for help and advice) after having given exceptional service over many years to the scheme. This will be expanded upon in the next issue when the new Enterprise Awards team and their responsibilities will also be explained.

Tea Trays Old and New

Tracking the Tea Trays No 24: Rt Rev Arthur Cayley Headlam



Arthur Headlam was born in County Durham and came to Reading School with Rev Dr Thomas Stokoe when the latter was appointed as the first Headmaster at the current premises in Erleigh Road. He went on to Winchester as a scholar and New College, Oxford (ditto) achieving First Class in his finals. From 1885-1897 he was a Fellow of All Souls and again from 1924 until his death. He lectured in Theology at both Oxford and Cambridge; and at London University where he became a Fellow of King's College. From 1901-21 he was editor of *The Church Quarterly Review*; from 1903-12 Principal of King's College, London; from 1918-23 Professor of Divinity at Oxford University and a Canon of Christ Church; and from 1923-45 Bishop of Gloucester. He became a Companion of Honour in 1921. Headlam was the author of many books on theology and,

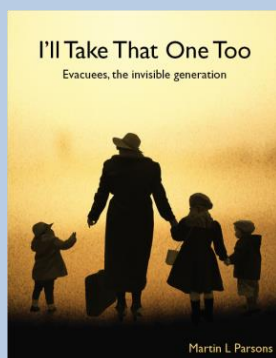
as a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, was well qualified even for his favourite recreation – gardening. He was a Yorkshireman and descendant of Oliver Cromwell. His younger brother, the historian Sir James Wycliffe Headlam (-Morley) is also commemorated on a Tea Tray in Big School. KCB

Tracking the Tea Trays No 25: Philip Hope Percival

Philip Percival was in West Wing under R F L Holmes and entered the School in 1896. He left in 1901 and was commissioned into the Somerset Light Infantry. By 1906 he was an ostrich farmer in Africa and in 1909-10 he ran the transport for Theodore Roosevelt's well known safari, gaining a considerable reputation for his accomplishments in the process. Roosevelt wrote about Percival in his account of the safari *African Game Trails* describing him as 'a tall sinewy man, a fine rider and shot'. Philip's elder brother, Blayney, became Kenya's first game warden and Philip one of the earliest and greatest of established professional hunters, respected by all for his abilities. In the early years a partner in his ventures was Blor Blixen, the husband of Karen ('*Out of Africa*') Blixen. Philip became the doyen of professional hunters and was the founding President (and served in that position for 15 years) of the East African Professional Hunters Association (EAPHA) which had been created in 1934 to regulate the hunting industry. EAPHA introduced the most stringent game laws in the world in their successful attempt to create conservation areas for East African wild life. It became one of the most admired societies of its kind and lasted until 1977 when Kenya outlawed all big game hunting. Ernest Hemingway immortalised Philip Percival as the character 'Pop' in *The Green Hills of Africa* (1935), having employed him as his safari guide in 1934. Twenty years later Hemingway again hunted with Percival, recording his adventures in the posthumously published *True at First Light*. KCB



Advertisement



In 1998 Professor Martin Parsons, Past President of the OR Association, had his book *I'll Take That One* published. Subtitled *Dispelling the Myths of Civilian Evacuation, 1939-45* it was an in depth examination of *Operation Pied Piper*. For the past 15 years Martin has carried out further extensive war-child research in the UK and overseas and has gained access to previously closed documents and private papers. As a result he has produced a new extended edition entitled:

I'll Take That One Too

The book is available at £18.99 from bookshops or direct from the publishers DSM.

There was a book launch in Big School and a report will appear in the Autumn edition of *The Old Redingian*.

Events

Class of 1958 at The Bull 3 September 2012

J K (John) Venn (1958-65) retired from the British Army as a Major in the Legal Service in 1989 and emigrated to Canada, where he practises as a lawyer in Hamilton, Ontario. (Incidentally, and with reference to the mention of Tom Cappleman in *Notes and News*, John is another former contestant on *University Challenge* – for Keble College, Oxford, in the 1960s). He, his wife Geraldine and sons Jamie and Alistair, visited the UK last September and, into a busy schedule including many counties and countries, he fitted a tour of the School and a very pleasant few hours, on a sunny day at The Bull, at Sonning, where a few of his contemporaries gathered, plus Chris Widdows (who took the image below) and the writer.

John has perhaps started something: a lively correspondence has commenced amongst that year group and the list of those attending the Annual Dinner, reported elsewhere in this section, shows a tableful of them. Hopefully, momentum will gather for group re-unions, large or small of the 58ers; quite a few suddenly have more time on their hands!

KCB

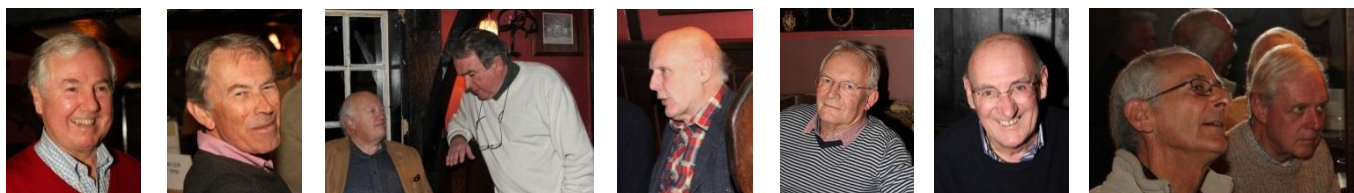


Clockwise from left: John Venn, John Taylor, Julian Pollock, Chris Witcher, the writer, Bob Ballard, Roger Howes and Geraldine Venn

Class of 1955 at The Stag and Hounds 27 November 2012

Another pleasant evening gathering (the 7th) took place at the tried and trusted venue of The Stag and Hounds, Binfield, once again ably arranged by John Prince and Gordon Wyard

Those attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves but all regretted that there were no new recruits present. The preference is to maintain informality and not become too organised, and others of those who entered the School in September 1955 (or subsequently joined that year group) are welcome without preamble. Those present were:



*Tony Glover, Gordon Wyard, Mike Black & Ken Brown, Mike Viney, Richard Vincent, Bob Ross, John Prince & David Pollock
(also present Terry Cartwright and Chris Widdows)*

(The 6th reunion took place on 23 January 2012 also at The Stag and Hounds but limited notice meant that only David Pollock, John Prince, Bob Ross and Gordon Wyard were able to attend.)

KCB

Commemoration Service 28 September 2012



Once again the School flag fluttered over the Minster Church of St Mary-the-Virgin, in the Butts, and the bells rang out for the annual service of praise and thanksgiving in commemoration of the founders and benefactors of the town's great School.

The organist was Mr John Padley, Director of Music of Queen Anne's School, Caversham. The entrance of the Mayor and Clergy, Headmaster and Chairman of Governors was to a Fanfare written and arranged by Richard Meehan, Director of Music at Reading School, and performed by the Reading School Festival Brass.

The School Chaplain, Rev Chris Evans, (OR) gave the Welcome and read the Bidding Prayer. The bible readings were by the Headmaster (Ecclesiastes: 3.11 NIV) and Captain of School Matthew Greaves (Hebrews: 12.1.3 GNV). The Preacher, Rev Robert Weston, Minister of Park United Reform Church, Reading, took as his theme *The Point of Life*. Jesus asks us to love both others and ourselves, so it does not have to be a choice of selfishness or making a difference; best to live life as a race, do your best, and fulfil your potential. Those who do so may count their lives successful.

Each hymn was joyfully sung by the congregation and the choir gave a poignant performance of the anthem (*Greater Love Hath No Man*)

The Blessing was given by Rev Canon Brian Shenton, Rector and Vicar of the Minster whose kindness in allowing the School to use the church was, as ever, much appreciated.

The bell ringers were under the direction of Mr Ian Judd (member of Staff and OR) and a retiring collection was taken in support of Grace Christian Academy, Siyabuswa, South Africa. KCB

Remembrance Service 11 November 2012

A bright sunlit day saw a slightly disappointing attendance in the Chapel this year, not many more than fifty venturing out and with more than usual laid low, or committed elsewhere (always a factor on Remembrance Sunday). Those present heard an excellent sermon from the guest preacher Rev K V G (Ken) Smith (1948-55) on the theme of sacrifice; a fine reading by D B (David) Cox (1951-56) (Paul's Epistle to the Philippians Ch 4 v. 4-9 KJV) and witnessed some faultless drill from the members of the CCF forming the escort.

Ken Smith's message was illustrated vividly by recollections from his childhood and the experience of his long ministry; the message was that without massive sacrifice neither a peaceful world nor the common global humanity, which has to be the Christian objective, can be achieved.

The service was led by OR Chaplain Rev D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55), the organ played by Mr Richard Meehan, Director of Music at the School and the bugle sounded by J P (James) Popplestone (Year 9). After K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63) had spoken the Act of Remembrance the wreaths were laid by Sgt Ka Lok Cheung of the School CCF, W E (Will) Lunn (1951-58) and Prof M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70) President of the OR Association. As usual the Order of Service was prepared and all arrangements co-ordinated by C J (Chris) Widdows (1955-62). After the service light refreshments were served in the new Refectory which is proving such a fine facility for these occasions. KCB



On the left Rev Ken Smith and on the right Rev David Hemsley



Two senior CCF officers Captain Peter Hurst and Wing Commander Tom Walter greeting Frances Greaney, School Development Director



The Lord loves a cheerful giver...Past President G W O (Buffy) Price (1948-56)

124th Annual General Meeting 24 November 2012



For the first time the commodious space provided by the new Refectory was used to host the AGM which commenced at 5 pm. The usual formalities, including apologies for absence, and reading the names of deceased ORs since the previous AGM - thirty known - were observed.

The Minutes of the 123rd AGM were approved. Annual reports were delivered; written reports from the Officers, plus an Enterprise Awards Report from Past President Michael Maule, and oral reports from the Sports Representatives for Athletics, Cricket, Football, Golf, Rugby and Rowing plus reports on the Development Board and the Reading Foundation by the representative present.

As the AGM package was made available online/or distributed to members, the detail therein is not repeated here, however, the following elections and appointments were made:

President for 2012/13: K C (Ken) Brown (1955-63)

Vice-President 2012/13: D B (David) Cox (1951-56)

Officers for 2012/13: The remaining Officers were re-elected en bloc
NB1 the new Headmaster replaces the previous incumbent.
NB2 M L (Martin) Parsons (1963-70) becomes Immediate Past President

Council vacancies (7):	1 A (Ant) Butler (2001-08)	Re-elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	2 Rev. D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55)	Re-elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	3 E S (Ned) Holt (1966-72)	Re-elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	4 H (Haris) Hussain (1995-00)	Re-elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	5 A (Alistair Wrenn) (1978-85)	Re-elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	6 F J (Francis) Pocock (1953-60)	Elected (3-year term 2012-15)
	7 A (Alex) Becky (Staff)	Elected (vice D B Cox) until 2013

Balance of Council (2):	1 P G (Peter) Chadwick (1964-69)	Due to retire at AGM 2014
	2 M J (Mike) Evans (Staff 1968-05)	Due to retire at AGM 2014.

The **Honorary Solicitor**, the **Co-Editors** of *The Old Redingensians* and the **Auditors** all agreed to continue in their roles. The usual votes of thanks and presentations were made and it was re-iterated that Council intend to separate the role of President and Chairman, to augment the Officers, at their first meeting in 2014. KCB

The Annual Dinner 24 November 2012

The attendance at the 2012 Dinner was the highest for many years, and a further 18 apologies were received. Big School again proved a most suitable, attractive and popular venue. Cramped bar space is now a thing of the past as the reception was able to be held in the new Refectory - where Council member Ant Butler played Mine Host and also arranged for table wine orders to be delivered directly to Big School; and for a mini bar to operate there until close of proceedings. The caterers, Mange Bien, again provided excellent fare and the continuous film loop playing in the background was the cause of both speculation and amusement.

Rodney Huggins once more officiated as MC and found himself the recipient of a gift (a Tankard) for his benevolent and cheerful delivery in this role over a number of years (and indeed for his outstanding service generally to the Association). The President spoke of past Dinners, of the work of the present Council, and of the cheerful mood and optimism that has attended the appointment of the new Headmaster. The guest speaker, John Oakes (Staff 1971-1997) was witty and weighty and informative and took the opportunity to praise outgoing President Martin Parsons' academic achievements at some length.



(The speakers are shown above: far left John Oakes; standing Rodney Huggins; Matthew Greaves; Ken Brown; and right Ashley Robson)

The company had been eager to hear Mr Robson's first speech at an OR Dinner and he did not disappoint; indeed the positive feeling for the School's future, that his assumption of the Headmaster's mantle has engendered, is very high indeed.

The Captain of School, Matthew Greaves, was presented with the cheque that has now become the custom and made an eloquent reply. The School Song was sung, and eager exchanges were made until the last diner departed before the gates closed at 11.30. More time is needed for such socialising, said some – and they will have it in 2013 with an extension until midnight chimes.

The organisation of the Dinner is always challenging and though many contribute, the weight falls upon Social Secretary Barrie Shelton (*far right, below right*) (*on left Big School in preparation*) who co-ordinates and implements with great efficiency year in, year out. Very considerable thanks are due to him. KCB



Those present were:

Members

J V Martin (1935-44)
R Elphick (1936-44)
R E Atkins (1939-44)
A A Johnson (1940-49)
M J Wild (1940-48)
G F R Barnett (1941-47)
B A Cullingford (1941-47)
G C Freer (1942-46)
K S Mills (1942-47)
D J B Potter (1942-52)
R B Willes (1942-48)
L Bain (1944-52)
R P Huggins (1944-52)
D R Hemsley (1945-55)
J P Allen (1946-52)
G W O Price (1948-56)
K V G Smith (1948-55)
B Shelton (1950-53)
D B Cox (1951-56)
B T Sarfas (1951-58)
G Shaw (1951-57)
A J S Brown (1952-60)
D R Downs (1952-59)
C A Scroggs (1952-59)
B A Wallis (1952-58)
J S Evans (1953-60)
J B Hickey (1953-59)
F J Pocock (1953-60)
R L Townner (1954-61)
K C Brown (1955-63)
C J Widdows (1955-62)
M H W Maule (1956-59)
R H Carr (1957-63)
G M Martin (1957-63)
I R Brown (1958-65)
R C Brown (1958-65)
C J Glenn (1958-65)
J L Pollock (1958-65)
M L Wildman (1958-65)
P G Wildman (1958-65)
C R Witcher (1958-65)
M N Calvert (1959-66)
A A Glenn (1961-67)
M L Parsons (1963-70)
P G Chadwick (1964-69)
D R Farmery (1964-71)
J V Haworth (1966-73)
D J Robottom (1967-74)
N A Jouques (1978-85)

A Wrenn (1978-85)
S H Bray-Stacey (1986-93)
C I Cater (1986-93)
M R Coleman (1986-93)
N J Hanson (1986-93)
R J A Lovie (1986-93)
T J Watsham (1986-93)
M D Bunn (1998-05)
J D Fulwell (1998-05)
R W A Halsall (1998-05)
P Jones (1998-05)
M D Jubb (1998-05)
M J Tilbury (1998-05)
P M Wyatt (1998-05)
S V Bowcock (2000-05)
A Butler (2001-08)
D D Faria (2001-08)
J A Horscroft (2001-08)
J M Kennedy (2001-08)
N Mawkin (2001-08)
G T Pointer (2001-08)
M B Tayler-Grint (2001-08)
A D Truslove (2003-08)
T V Shore (2006-08)

Staff

F H Terry (1946-82)
J M Evans (1968-05)
B S Turnbull (1969-03)
R F Perkins (1973-02)
I G Judd (1975-)
(OR 1962-69)
E S Holt (1982-12)
(OR 1966-72)
I R Moore (1992-05)
P F E Hurst (1993-)
A Beckey (2007-)
Miss Frances Greaney (2011-)

Guests

J V Oakes (Staff 1971-97)
A M Robson (The Headmaster)
M C Greaves (Captain of School)
D L Brock (Vice Captain of School)
Mrs Jo Parsons



Above, some table images and bottom right the brothers Brown: A J S (Tony); K C (Ken) and I R (Ian)

The Twelfth 50 Years on Luncheon 15 January 2013



'Friends of the fifties' it has become and reaching, indeed, either side of that decade: a number this year have passed their 80th birthdays, even if appearances belie the fact. The formula is tried and tested; it does not need variation for it can scarcely be bettered. Pall Mall and the splendid premises of the Oxford and Cambridge Club, the reception under the glittering chandeliers of the drawing room – our host, Denis Moriarty, issuing warm welcomes and orders of the day. Scanning the menu card and table placings, eager anticipation of newcomers to the gathering (only Keith Annand this year though some hoped for initiates had regretfully declined, so perhaps in 2014.....) then a splendid luncheon in the Princess Marie Louise Room (pictured left), supervised by the cheerful and unflappable Joe Inglott and served by

his charming and efficient staff.

It was preceded by Grace said by Rev David Weekes and concluded with the loyal toast proposed by the Lord Roper, the toast to the School proposed by Christopher Smallbone and a rousing rendition of the School Song. All was accompanied by an endless supply of port, and the anonymous gift of Armagnac, as stories were told around the table, and the state of the School examined and reported upon.

There is, of course, reminiscence; but issues of the day are the greater concern – and where better to discuss this than amongst many who are, or who have been, firmly in the mainstream of British life.

Peter Fiddick is now giving valuable assistance to Denis in organising these events. During the year, four who were regulars at the luncheons have sadly died – John Lambourne (1944-52), Bernard Messias (1939-47), David (D O P) Thomas (1942-52) and David Wise (1949-52). Amongst those who sent apologies were Peter Stevens and Chris Yeats, co-founders with Denis of this marvellous annual event. Peter's courteous presence and Chris's ebullient ditto were both much missed this year. Of the 60 invited, 31 accepted. Those who were present were:

Bob Alexander (1948-55); Keith Annand (1946-54); Tom Arie (1943-52); Fred Barker (1941-49); Rudolph Bissolotti (1944-50); Philip Blunt (1946-51); Ken Brown (1955-63); Dudley Bruton (1948-51); 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); Denis Moriarty (1943-54); Robin Oldland (1941-51); John Perry (1942-49); Gareth Price (1948-56); Dermot Rooney (1946-55); John Roper (1948-54); Mike Shattock (1947-55); Chris Smallbone (1944-54); John Stevens (1952-59); Brian Upton (1941-51); Mike van Brugen (1942-53); Chris Webber (1950-57); David Weekes (1947-53); Chris Widdows (1955-62); David Wilkins (1945-55). KCB



Above left: Philip Blunt; Rudolph Bissolotti; Dudley Bruton; Brian Upton. Centre: Fred Barker; Peter Fiddick; Bob Alexander (in front of Charles Hoile); Mike Shattock (with back to camera); Chris Webber (in front of Gerry Knight); John Roper; Keith Annand (obscured); Rodney Huggins; David Wilkins; David Jordan; Dermot Rooney. Above right: Keith Annand; Bob Alexander; Dermot Rooney; Michael Duck.



Above l to r: Denis Moriarty; Peter Fiddick; Mike van Brugen; David Weekes; David Jordan; John Roper; Chris Smallbone.

Forthcoming Events



SUMMER FESTIVAL & CRICKET WEEKEND - 29 & 30 June 2013

ROWING: ORS V THE SCHOOL - Saturday, 13 July 2013

CLASS OF 2008 FIVE-YEARS-ON BARBECUE - Saturday, 13 July 2013

These three events will have taken place by the time this issue goes to press and full reports will appear in the Autumn edition.

LONDON DRINKS PARTY - Thursday, 5 September 2013

All are welcome to drop in for a drink and a chat from 6 pm at The Ship Tavern, Holborn. No need to book, but Peter Chadwick (peter@kievsky.plus.com) Tel (home): 01590 683505 (mobile): 07866 091306) will answer any queries. It is hoped that those who have attended Ned Holt's monthly reunions at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese in Fleet Street so far this year will migrate to The Ship for September and that other London area ORs of all vintages will join the company!

10TH OR FESTIVAL OF RUGBY - Saturday, 7 September 2013

Come and support this ever popular event on the School Field, which attracted over 100 ORs, either players or spectators last year. Everybody is welcome. The tournament commences at noon and the presentations are expected to take place at around 4 pm. Contacts for information: **ORs** Alistair Wrenn alistairwrenn@ntlworld.com Home tel: 0118 956 7741 Mobile tel: 07793 059497 and **School** Mr Alex Beckey abeckey@reading-school.co.uk Mobile tel: 07702 125833 or Ms Frances Greaney fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk Mobile tel: 07944 330618.

CLASS OF 1952 REUNION & GOLF DAY - Tuesday, 10 September 2013

This event, open to all who entered the School in September 1952 or subsequently became part of that year group at any stage will be at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath, Mapledurham, RG4 7UT. For full details please contact D F (Duncan) Sturrock on email: duncansturrock@btinternet.com Tel: 01279 793944 (home) 07746 986697 (mobile).

OR GOLFING SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING – Wednesday, 25 September 2013

New players are always welcome. If you think you would like to play in the Autumn 2013 meeting at Badgemore Park Golf Club, Henley-on-Thames. Please contact **Steve Johnston** by e-mail at sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk or Tel: 0118 9470477 (office).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 10 November 2013

The OR Chaplain, Revd D R (David) Hemsley (1945-55) will preside, and the guest preacher will be Revd D T W (David) Salt OR (1941-50). As usual all ORs, current pupils, staff and **their families**, are welcome in the Reading School Chapel and for light refreshments afterwards in the Refectory.

AGM & ANNUAL DINNER - Saturday, 30 November 2013

As in 2012 the Bar and Reception will be in the Refectory, the Dinner in Big School (again 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. Tickets will be £36 (£30 for students) and dress lounge suits. After the dinner the bar will remain open until midnight. The Annual General Meeting will be held at 5.00 pm, for the information of those members wishing to attend. The bar will open at 6.00 pm and diners are requested to be at table in Big School **promptly at 7pm**. The event is restricted to ORs, Reading School staff and former staff.

Details of all of the above will also be posted on the website www.oldredingensians.org.uk. The Old Redingensians Facebook group is a further source of information for its members. The editors are always pleased to hear of, and give publicity to, informal or other gatherings of OR age groups etc.

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.



D M [LESTER-] POWELL (WEST HOUSE 1973-1980)

David, a keen member of the School CCF RAF section, was awarded a University Cadetship in the RAF Supply Branch in his final year at School in 1980 and was commissioned into the RAF that September before going on to study Geography at University College Swansea. Here, he served as a member of the University of Wales Air Squadron where his first Officer Commanding was to be a certain Squadron Leader Peter Wildman (South House 1958-1965) who, unbeknown to David, was an OR. David was only to learn of this from an article in *The Old Redingensian* some five years ago and was at last to know the reason why he wasn't sacked when a student all those years ago!

Following university and both Initial Officer and Supply Officer training, David went on to complete a number of unit, principally air movements, tours as a junior officer, including at RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland and RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands. Promoted to Squadron Leader in May 1994, he was posted to a staff appointment at HQ Strike Command, High Wycombe before going on to command the Air Movements Squadron at RAF Bruggen, Germany during which time his Squadron

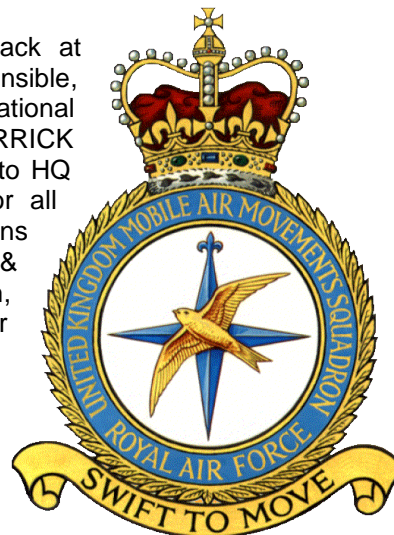
played a significant role in supporting the deployment of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps to Bosnia for Operation RESOLUTE. In January 1997, David joined the Joint Force HQ Staff at Northwood deploying on a number of overseas operations, including to Sierra Leone and Guinea where he was to find himself working with the sister of John 'JVO' Oakes (*Master at School 1971-97 - Ed*) who was the then British Honorary Consul to Guinea.

September 1999 saw David promoted to Wing Commander and, alas, a second tour at HQ Strike Command. Staff College followed and then a tour as Officer Commanding 85 (Expeditionary Logistics) Wing deploying in 2003 to Kuwait for Operation TELIC, initially with HQ 101 Logistic Brigade, the Joint Force Logistic Component, and then later as one of the Brigade unit commanders with two transport squadrons under command and operating in both Kuwait and Iraq. He returned to Staff College in November 2004 but, this time, as a member of the Directing Staff.

Promoted to Group Captain in January 2007, David found himself back at Northwood working within the Permanent Joint HQ, where he was responsible, principally, for overseeing the strategic air and sea bridges to the operational theatres. From here, in October 2008, he was to deploy on Operation HERRICK as Deputy Commander Kandahar Airfield (Support) prior to being posted to HQ Air, High Wycombe as the Command senior Subject Matter Expert for all operational logistics issues at a time dominated by supporting air operations over Libya. He became the Deputy Director of the Advanced Command & Staff Course, at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, in October 2011 and took early retirement from the RAF last Christmas after 32 years service.

David married Paula in 1988, they have two grown up children, Luke and Yasmin, and live near Cirencester.

David may be contacted on d.lesterpowell@btinternet.com



The Headmaster's Letter



Our shared values emphasise excellence, integrity and leadership. Relationships are the key to ensuring that we continue to flourish. The leadership of Ken Brown has ensured that the ORs continue to play a crucial role in supporting the School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OR council for their continued support. It is through working in partnership that sustainable progress can be made.

During the academic year we have continued our quest for excellence through encouraging creativity and the enterprise of our boys. This determination that learning should be inspirational and take place both inside and beyond the classroom is undoubtedly shared by the Old Redingensians. We value greatly the Enterprise Awards, and your continued commitment to support opportunities for Reading School boys to flourish.

We seek to nurture boys who will develop into fine young men of integrity, principle and character. We believe that the quest for excellence can best be achieved working with, and for, others. Undoubtedly, we can benefit mutually through close ties with the Old Redingensians Association.

In my first year in post, I am heartened by the support I personally have received from ORs. As a believer in talent, I am pleased to say that we have employed three ORs this year, Mr Haris Hussain as Head of the new department, Computer Science and Engineering, Mr Charles O'Halloran, who has been employed as an Intern before taking up a post as an Auditor in the City and Mr Harry Campbell who supported some of our students. We are always on the look out for talented people and I know that we are fortunate to have a reservoir of skills, knowledge and positive attitude in the Alumni body.

Indeed, one of the key aspects that I appreciate even more this year has been the importance of community engendered by being associated with Reading School. This community is superbly illustrated by the boarding community, both past and present. We are currently developing plans to improve facilities in South House and East Wing and would value the participation of old boarders to develop our capacity to improve boarding at Reading School.

At Reading School we continue to strive to be an academic school, a place of learning and indeed scholarship. In addition, we aim to ensure that Reading School boys leave as young men that are emotionally and intellectually prepared for university and the world of work.

Clearly, funding from the government does not cover the costs of the extensive range of activities that we like our boys to participate in and I would like to thank you for your continued support, both in terms of time and of a financial nature, to ensure that the experience for boys at Reading School is a positive one.

The 2013-2018 Reading School Strategic Plan states as a key priority the need to 'develop further the partnership with the ORA and the involvement of alumni by promoting a strong sense of cohesion and belonging'. I fully endorse this and hope that our relationship and partnership goes from strength to strength.

Ashley Robson
Headmaster
Reading School

The 1125 Fund - Update



Frances Greaney (pictured) School Director of Development writes:



The 1125 Fund is Reading School's campaign to improve teaching facilities and resources, so that we can continue to provide a world class education for current and future generations of students. The opening of the Refectory in May 2012 marked the completion of the first major 1125 Fund project. During its first year of operation, it has become an essential part of school life- a place for learning and social activities, as well as for eating. So far, we've hosted alumni reunions, receptions, lectures, concerts and award ceremonies, as well as the OR Association AGM, and fed 900 boys on each school day!

Our priority for 2013 is to make major improvements to classrooms and laboratories in Science and Technology. Starting this summer, we will upgrade facilities and equipment in four laboratories -physics, chemistry and technology (including computer science and electronics). We will also complete a major upgrade of the Physics Lecture Theatre, which will enable us to deliver university-style teaching for large groups of students. The most ambitious part of the project will be the conversion of the woodwork shop into two computer science laboratories and a staff preparation area, and the creation of a new teaching workshop in the Estates Workshop next to the Music School.

The decision to make this a priority for this year was due to the scarcity of teaching and preparation space across the School, and the need to introduce an improved curriculum, in **computer science and electronics**. With computing and electronics increasingly prevalent in the modern world, all of our students will benefit, even if they do not specialise in these subjects at A Level or GCSE. They will also benefit from additional well-designed classrooms. Teachers will also be able to prepare lessons away from the classroom, and to share resources across departments.

The entire cost of the project, including building work, furnishings and equipment is going to be close to £500,000. We already have most of the funding in place, as a result of the generosity of alumni and parents who have donated or left bequests to the 1125 Fund in recent years. Recently, we have also secured a major grant from the Department for Education towards building costs. However, we still need to raise around £70,000 to buy all of the equipment we need. We would really appreciate the support of more Old Redingensians, as it would make a tangible difference to all of our students.



Can you help us by making a donation of £100? This would enable us to buy essential items such as computers, oscilloscopes, and audio-visual equipment. As we can reclaim Gift Aid on donations from UK taxpayers, your donation will be worth even more to us.

Please contact me, if you are interested in making a donation or need to know more. I shall be happy to let you have more details and to discuss recognition of your gift. You can contact me at fgreaney@reading-school.co.uk or phone me on 0118 9015600 ext 272.

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 Charitable Fund and Bank transfers made to Sort Code: 30-67-99 Account No: 40733560. Donation forms are available from Frances Greaney (contact details above).



School News

Sandra Provan left the School's employ at the end of Michaelmas Term 2012. On 18 December she was given a farewell dinner at The Spice Oven in Caversham attended by 50 of her friends and colleagues. Earlier in the day she was presented with flowers, champagne and a card on behalf of the OR Association (*see image right*). Sandra was 25 years at Reading School arriving in 1987 as Headmaster's Secretary in which capacity she served Messrs Bristow, Mason, Linnell and Weeds and also worked for Mrs Daniels during her interim appointment). In 2001 she also became Clerk to the School governing body before stepping down three years ago to take a part-time job in Reception, where she is seen in the picture. Throughout this time Sandra was unfailingly helpful to the ORs, ever cheerful and efficient and a most popular member of the School staff.



National Schools Chess Championships: Daniel Noel (12E) is Captain of Chess. The School convincingly beat Wellington College in the first knockout round of the National Schools Chess Championships, with all six of the School Team winning their matches. After a third successive victory (against RGS Guildford) they have reached the last sixteen. Matthew Wadsworth (8E) finished fifth in the U/12 section of the World Youth Chess Championships (the highest placing of any England Team member at the Championships).

Public Speaking: Debating takes place every Thursday lunchtime in Room 3. Nikolai Ciecierski-Holmes (13S) is Public Speaking Captain. Aleksandr Stepanyan and Jacob South-Klein (both 11C) represented the UK in the World Individual Debating Public Speaking Competition in South Africa. Teams were entered in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition and the ESU Mace Debate Competition. Harry Gosling (12C) and Bramman Rajkumar (12C) took part in the mock EU Debate at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office representing Eire to great effect! Forty nine boys entered the Autumn LAMDA Examination and secured twenty six distinctions and twenty three merits. Three boys have been on ESU Debating courses. In the final debate of 2012, Staff v. Boys the motion *This House believes History has no place in the classroom* was soundly defeated before 100+ gathered in Big School. The School won in the first round of the ESU Public Speaking Competition and were runners up in the branch final at Maidenhead Town Hall.

Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz: The School became local area champions for the second year running when sixteen schools competed for the title in Big School (venue for the event for the 7th time). Edward Clennett (11W) has been selected for the UK International Geography Olympiad Team this summer.

Sport: Jonathan Davies (13E) won the Berkshire Schools U/19 Cross Country Championship. He is also English Schools Cross Country Champion and English Schools 3000m Champion. Cameron Ward (10S) is currently 20th in the England U/15 Squash rankings. Joseph Taylor and William Denham (both 10C) have met with success for, respectively, the Wraysbury Skiff & Punting Club and Wargrave Boat Club. At the second annual Reading School *Sports Personality of the Year Awards* Jonathan Davies was runner up to Tom Henderson (9C) U/15 British Trampolining champion. Third place went to Harrison Phillips (13SH) who plays lacrosse for Reading Wildcats and has received two trials for England. C D (Chris) Lloyd OR (1989-96) was the guest speaker.

Combined Cadet Force: Cadets represented the CCF at both the School's Act of Remembrance and at the ORs Service of Remembrance and Sgts Ka Lok Cheung and Owen Wesley (both 13C) laid a wreath at the first *Innocent Victims Memorial Service* (an initiative of Prof M L (Martin) Parsons OR (1963-70) Past President ORA) at Westminster Abbey. RAF section cadets have taken instruction in Vigilant motor gliders at Abingdon and in Tutors at RAF Benson. The Army section undertook an overnight exercise in the grounds of Bearwood College, on a wintry

night last November. Pirbright Ranges were visited in December for weapons training. Christmas Dinner in the Refectory on 14 December was attended by more than 40 past and present CCF personnel.

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge 2012: 4,300 students from 300 schools took part in this year's competition. Amongst the 39 students achieving the highest marks was A (Andrew) Raison (13E).

Charity Concert: Over £2,500 was raised for *Daisy's Dream*, which helps children overcome bereavement, through a concert put on in Big School by students of Reading, Abbey and Kendrick.

UK Biology Olympiad: Five Reading School students received gold awards, four more silver, and three bronze. Robert Starley, who left in 1912, represented the UK at the International Biology Olympiad in Singapore and gained silver.

The British Maths Olympiad: Nine RS boys sat the paper and two have progressed to the next round.

The UK Children's Fine Art Competition: has been won by Adhav Radhakrishnan (8W).

Lecturers visiting the School: recently have included the poet Simon Armitage and the author Tim Bowler, both under the auspices of the *Reading Generation Project* which is funded by the Parents Association. Prof G W (George) Bernard, OR (1961-68) prominent Tudor historian, and N R A (Nick) Bion, OR (1969-76) leading business man, have also spoken. In the *Inspire* series of lectures funded by N R (Neil) Thomason, OR (1966-73), Past President of the OR Association and a generous benefactor of the School, Dr Gary Sheffield, military historian and Andrew Lebrecht (late UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU) have given addresses.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE 9 NOVEMBER 2012

The School's Act of Remembrance again took place in the Chapel where, after some years in the open air of the quadrangle, it has perhaps settled. After a welcome by the Headmaster, the School Chaplain, Rev C J Evans, OR, led the opening prayers. The singing of *Abide With Me* was a little hesitant, but Stanley Glendinning (10S) gave a spirited reading of *In Flanders Field*. Rev Evans' excellent address drew upon the wartime fates of some past members of South House (he is the present House Master) which illustrated why Remembrance Services are held: not to celebrate sacrifice but to pay tribute to the faithful obedience and character that led to such sacrifice. Daniel Brock, Vice Captain of School, read the *Ode of Remembrance*; representatives of the four Houses laid wreaths as did the CCF detachment – which executed a very smart slow march on entry and exit of the Chapel. Matthew Greaves, Captain of School, led further prayers and after *I vow to Thee My Country* Rev Evans gave the Gaelic blessing in conclusion.

KCB

INTER HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION 13 NOVEMBER 2012



Above left: The West House Large Ensemble prepares to play *Barcarolle* (1864) from *The Tales of Hoffman* by Jacques Offenbach. Above right: Best Solo Winner Anthony Tat

The Old Town Hall was again bursting at the seams for what is now one of the highlights of the year. East House retained the Cup but sparkling performances were on show throughout the evening – not least from the accomplished Irish Band who played after the competition itself had concluded. The Director of Music, Richard Meehan, introduced the evening and the adjudicator, Simon Williams, Director of Music at Wellington College. Each House then performed their programme of Large Ensemble; Small Ensemble; Band; Junior Solo; Colt Solo, and Senior Solo. (The regulations for which, common to all, were helpfully explained in the excellent programme produced by Caroline Hoyle of the Development Department.). Anthony Tat (11E) again won the prize for the Best Solo; he performed Chopin's *Etude Opus 10, No 12*. Harry Davidson (13C) was the highly commended Runner Up. The *Ensemble Cup* (donated by Clive Cousins, Former Master at School (1972-09) went to County House. Sustained applause greeted the Headmaster's vote of thanks and Mr Meehan's closing words.

KCB

CAROL SERVICE 17 DECEMBER 2012

The Service this year was once more in St Luke's Church, Erleigh Road and based on Archbishop Benson's service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The School Chaplain Rev C J (Chris) Evans, OR, presided and the organ was played by Mr R J (Richard) Parkinson, OR. The Lessons were read by Oliver Mead (Year 8), John Livesey (Year 10), Mr P Teixeira (Staff), Mr K C Brown OR (President OR Association), Mrs M Horton (Chair, RS Parents Association), Prof M L Parsons OR (School Governor), Matthew Greaves (Captain of School) and Mr A M Robson (Headmaster).



St Luke's was thronged, with the majority of the congregation being parents, and the familiar Christmas carols worked their magic around the great story.

The musical arrangements were sometimes too ambitious for a choir not as assured as in recent years, and perhaps a little self-indulgent for a service that is fundamentally participatory but, praise is due for the time and effort that had clearly been devoted to their preparation.

The retiring collection for the SACHIN Trust (Support a Child in Need) raised £409.

KCB

SENIOR PRIZEGIVING 20 DECEMBER 2012

The familiar surroundings of the Great Hall of the University of Reading held, as usual, a capacity audience. They faced the staff of the School seated on tiers behind the presentation party, which this year was unusually significant in that it marked the first appearance at 'Speech Day' of Mr Robson as Headmaster and also of Sir David Bell, the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University. Sir David is a Scotsman with wide experience of teaching, local education authorities, and academic education who became HM Chief Inspector of Schools in England in 2002 and Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Skills in 2006, serving four Secretaries of State and three Prime Ministers.

Dr Mitchell, Chairman of Governors, welcomed the assembly, Councillor Jenny Rynn, Mayor of Reading, presented the Headmaster with the traditional £10 Annual Stipend and Mr Robson responded with a report on the School's progress and achievements in the last year which are, once again, most impressive and reflect the very high standards of teaching at the School.

Sir David's address was inspiring and compelling. His understanding of the human boy is comprehensive and he won the warmth and respect of his audience in full measure. After Sir David had presented the subject and endowed prizes, the writer, as President of the Old Redingensians Association, presented those Prizes funded by the Association. There followed an organ recital of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's Fantasia in D Minor played superbly by R J (Richard) Parkinson OR (2005-2012) before Sir David presented A Level Certificates and received the vote of thanks from Matthew Greaves, Captain of School. Dr Mitchell closed the proceedings.

KCB

Top row l to r:

*The Chairman of the Governors, Dr Mitchell;
The Headmaster, Mr Robson, receives his stipend from The Mayor, Councillor Rynn;
Sir David Bell presenting prizes.*



Bottom row l to r:

*Ken Brown presenting OR prizes;
Richard Parkinson departs the organ console;
The Captain of School delivers the vote of thanks.*



Sport

OR Golfing Society Spring Meeting 16 April 2013

The spring meeting was held at Reading Golf Club – the day was fine and the greens were in surprisingly good condition after so much wet weather! Although missing some of our regular members we welcomed 3 special guests to the lunch: OR President Ken Brown, Past President Dudley Bruton and Chris Widdows, Membership Secretary. Ken Brown kindly gave us an insight into the history of OR golf and afterwards presented the prizes.

Results were as follows:

The President's Trophy (and medal)	Buffy Price 33 points
Runner up	Jack Holt 31 points
Tankard for the longest drive	Adrian Glenn
Nearest the pin	Neil Hunt
Lunn Trophy (best stroke score)	Adrian Glenn 89 strokes



Pictured above: Buffy Price (1948-56) receives The President's Trophy and Medal.

WEL



Pictured left to right: The OR President, Will Lunn (1951-58 Secretary OR Golfing Society), Dr Dudley Bruton (1948-51), Frank Brazier (1955-62) and Dr Chris Quartly (1970-75). (Players not appearing in either of the pictures are: Nick Burrows (1969-76), Paul Falinski (1960-67), Adrian Glenn (1961-67), Jack Holt (1948-53), Neil Hunt (1977-84), Steve Johnston (1979-86) and Alistair Wrenn (1978-85).

Apologies for absence were received from Rudolph Bissolotti (1944-50), Rodney Huggins (1944-52) and Tom Demetriades (1998-05).

All enquiries for the Autumn meeting should be made to Steve Johnston (new recruits are always welcome!) Email: sjj@keithjohnstonandpartners.co.uk

9th OR Festival of Football 2013

The Festival was scheduled for 23 March but had to be cancelled due to severe weather conditions. There is a possibility of it taking place later in the year, otherwise the sequence will resume in 2014 with the 10th OR Festival of Football.

KCB

Redingensians RFC Limited



Once again a good all round season for the club and although the 1st XV fell short of their promotion ambitions, finally finishing fifth, next season's prospects are encouraging both on and off the field. The initial hurdles have been cleared as far as planning permission to enhance the pavilion goes. The matter of funding is now being examined and when a final specification has been produced by structural engineers, tenders will be sought and, all being well, work will commence at the end of the 2013/14 season. There is a new facilities manager in post and working parties have been hard at it improving the ground. The Gwyn Francis Room will receive a major makeover and the façade of the clubhouse will have a new window arrangement.

KCB

Annual OR Prizes at School Sports Day 10 May 2013

Sports Day at Palmer Park was blessed with good weather and, under the direction of Clerk of the Course Mr Alex Beckey (Director of Sport) and his team, ran like clockwork. Nine new School records were set including the Senior 1500 metres (Jonathan Davies, East House, an impressive 4.02 minutes) and the Senior 800 metres (Dan Brock, East House, broke his own record). They both won their senior events for the second year running as did their fellow East House athlete Charlie Oakley (400 metres), all contributing to East House winning the Senior Championship this year.

We are grateful to Mr Terry Tucker and to Ms Frances Greaney for the photographs that appear below.

The OR President, Ken Brown, presented the Farmery, Gardiner and Towner OR medals and former President Michael Maule the Maule Medals.



Dan Brock 800 metres



Jonathan Davies 1500 metres



Will Lamptey 100 metres



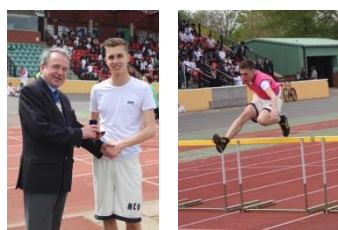
Rory Bird 200metres



Charlie Oakley 400 metres



Nick Qiu Long Jump Seniors



Sam Day 100 metres Hurdles



Edwin Lam Shot Putt



The Maule Medals

A note on the Old Redingensians Association prizes (*three of the medals are shown above*):

The **Farmery** medals commemorate the outstanding athletic achievements at School of H R Farmery (1927-36), the first boy to win the Open Mile, Half Mile and Quarter Mile in the same year. His son, D R (David) Farmery (1964-71) was also an outstanding Reading School athlete. In 2006 these two medals were joined by the three **Maule** Medals in memory of another remarkable athlete, E H Maule (1926-35), Captain of Athletics and twice Champion of the Sports. His son, M H W (Michael) Maule (1956-59), was another fine School athlete and Hon Secretary of Athletics. J D (John) **Gardiner** (1947-55) a School Athletic Colour and Shot Putt record breaker added a medal for that event the next year. The latest outstanding School athlete to sponsor medals is R L (Bob) **Towner** (1954-61), former Captain of Athletics. His medals for Senior Long Jump and 100 metres Hurdles were first presented at Sports Day this year.

KCB

Farmery Medal	800 metres Seniors	D C (Dan) Brock	East
Farmery Medal	1500 metres Seniors	J S (Jonathan) Davies	East
Maule Medal	100 metres Seniors	W J (Will) Lamptey	East
Maule Medal	200 metres Seniors	R A (Rory) Bird	County
Maule Medal	400 metres Seniors	C E (Charlie) Oakley	East
Gardiner Medal	Shot Putt Seniors	E (Edwin) Lam	School
Towner Medal	Long Jump Seniors	N (Nick) Qiu	School
Towner Medal	100 metres Hurdles Seniors	S J A (Sam) Day	East

The Mcllroy Prize



W E C Mcllroy in his Mayoral robes

W E C Mcllroy was at Reading School from January 1904 until 1910 with his two younger brothers L G (1904-09 who died at the age of 17) and R F (1908-1915). They were the three younger of five sons of an Irishman, William Mcllroy, who opened his eponymous department store on Oxford Street, Reading, in 1903.

In the First World War both W E C and R F were wounded, the latter at Gallipoli and W E C, as a Lieutenant in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, in France. (W E C's elder brother H G P, not an OR, was commissioned in the same Regiment and became a Major in the Machine Gun Corps).

William Mcllroy Snr died in 1915 and after the War W E C returned to the family business and, in 1920, married Jeanne Smith.

The fantastic building that housed Reading's largest department store had been designed by Frank Morris '*an affair of stepped gables and corbelled balconies in red and yellow glazed brick and granite, all resting, apparently, on two tall storeys of plate glass*' (John Betjeman and John Piper, *Murray's Berkshire Architectural Guide*, 1949). The store, known as Reading's Crystal Palace because of the sheer amount of large windows and particularly for the effect that the fine plate glass of the first floor created, occupied most of Oxford Street (opposite to the now Broad Street Mall) between West Street and Cheapside (down which the sunblind shaded sweeping frontage continued).

A large clock – high street clocks worked in those days – protruded over Oxford Street and the vast legend '*Mcllroys*' picked out on the brick of the eastern upper storeys was visible

from far down Broad Street. The building remains, though shorn of some of its gables, cornices and turrets, and the once grand façade is now a hotchpotch of small shops with apartments above.

Mcllroys eventually closed in 1955, but W E C Mcllroy had long before that achieved great personal status in the borough. He was elected to the Town Council in the 1930s and from 1938-43 served an unprecedented and still unequalled five terms as Mayor. The following year he was Deputy Mayor and then stood, confidently as a Churchill candidate, in the 1945 General Election. A parliamentary career was not to be; he fell victim to the Attlee led Labour landslide and his star began to wane.

On the completion of Mr Mcllroy's mayoralty there was a public appeal for a fund to make him a presentation. Mr Mcllroy asked that the fund be used for the benefit of Reading School and it was decided to establish the Mcllroy Prize.

The **William Ewart Clarke Mcllroy Prize** was set up in 1945 '*by men and women associated with him during his mayoralty, to express their appreciation of his leadership, and the sense of his eminent public service in a time of national danger*', and this wording was included on the bookplates within the prize books presented on Speech Day.

The Prize was awarded for an examination designed to test intelligence, reading, general knowledge, and knowledge of affairs including local affairs, rather than of close study of the normal school subjects. At Speech Day 1945 K B D Cooke, of West Wing, was the first winner of the Prize, receiving it from J Coatman Esq CIE MA, North Regional Director of the BBC.

W E C's service to his town was distinguished. He was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough and appointed CBE for services to Civil Defence. He was a loyal OR and President of the OR Club in 1947, '48 and '49 (and in the 1930s had served as Chairman).

The Reading Foundation has now funded a revival of the Mcllroy Essay Competition (which had not been held for some time) with a single £250 Prize for a 1000/2000 word essay displaying the best combination of '*flair, argument, verve, passion and ingenuity*' in answer to one of a choice of questions posed by each of the School's academic departments. Twenty entries were received by the closing date in mid-May and the winner was Adam Weller (12E) with 2,000 words on *Maths: Are the Golden Ratio and Fibonacci Sequence Relevant in our Lives?*



An artist's drawing of McIlroy's Reading premises. The firm had an extensive branch network with stores in Aylesbury, Bath, Brentford, High Wycombe, Maidenhead, Newbury, Southampton and Swindon.

Winners of the McIlroy Prize Essay

1945 K B D Cooke	1968 D Burningham	1991 M R Mackenzie
1946 I E J Sainsbury	1969 R M Reynish	1992 B P Willems
1947 D N E Cooper	1970 N G Trent	1993 B P Willems & N H Waddell
1948 M J Moriarty	1971	1994 R D Wall
1949 R E Gregory	1972	1995
1950 J B Barnard	1973	1996 M G Booth
1951 J M Murray	1974	1997
1952 M J Oakley	1975	1998
1953 M J Van Brugen	1976	1999
1954 J M Wilding	1977	2000
1955 M D Slater	1978	2001
1956 M Wolfers	1979 M J Hardy	2002
1957 P R Fiddick	1980 J M Johnson	2003
1958 J R Tyler	1981 P A Hardy	2004
1959 C A Scroggs	1982 M C Field	2005
1960 P G W Keen	1983 D I McAllan & M C Field	2006
1961 T J Moran	1984	2007
1962 M R Baron	1985 R M Hall	2008
1963 J C S Frood	1986 S L Bryden	2009
1964 M Lehmann	1987 S L Bryden	2010
1965 C J Wright	1988 V K H Santani	2011
1966 W G East & J S Slade	1989 I H O Price & J K Sansum	2012
1967 G W Bernard	1990 J C B Joseph	2013 A J Weller

The above panel has been compiled from Speech Day programmes and from School magazines but is sadly incomplete although it is unlikely that awards have been made since the mid-90s. If anyone knows better or can fill in the gaps before 1996 please make contact as we should like to publish a complete list to set the record straight. Now that the William Ewart Clarke McIlroy Prize has been reintroduced it will hopefully feature on Senior Prizegiving Day for many years to come. KCB

The Royal Berkshire Regiment

The article in this issue was intended to be about Major D J (Denis) Savill (1934-38), who the co-editors were looking forward to interviewing at his home in Chichester. Before they could do so Denis died, at the grand age of 93, and his obituary will appear in the Autumn 2013 issue. The Savills were a remarkable army family and we have decided to make these pages a photographic tribute to them.



Melville



Harry



Reggie



Denis



Peter

Major Harry Savill MC DCM enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers in 1903, serving throughout the Great War during which he was also twice Mentioned in Despatches, and transferred to the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1922. He finally retired in 1940 leaving a widow, Gertrude (Gertie) and four sons – all of whom became regular army officers. The two eldest, Melville and Reggie, went to Sandhurst. Melville became a colonel and Reggie was killed in Palestine as a captain. Denis was the third son and he and his younger brother, G P (Peter) Savill (1934-39), were both at Reading School. Peter retired from the army at the age of 36 in 1958 in the rank of captain. He pursued a successful career in Civvy Street and in retirement was asked to lead the Berkshire Regiment Old Comrades (see final image). Peter died in 2004.

In 1948 His Majesty King George VI visited Brock Barracks having consented to become Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. He was received by, amongst others, General Sir Miles Dempsey KCB KBE DSO MC Colonel of the Regiment, and after inspecting the Regimental War Memorial (which is a replica of the Whitehall Cenotaph) and the men of the Regiment drawn up on the Barrack's Square opposite 150 members of the Old Comrades Association, His Majesty talked to many of those present and also shook hands with several of the wives present for the occasion. The image below shows the King at this stage of the day and identifies those female members of the Savill family in the assembly.

We are most grateful to the Savill family, particularly Denis's son, Bob, Peter's son, Geoff and Melville's son, Tony (and also Simon Cook OR - see panel) for the information and photographs used on these pages. KCB



I to r: 1 June (Mrs Peter Savill) 2 Gertrude (Mrs Harry Savill) 3 Pat (Mrs Denis Savill)



Peter Savill laying a wreath in the early nineties at The Battle of Maiwand Memorial in the Forbury Gardens.



THE RIFLES (BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE) MUSEUM

The repository of archives and history of the Royal Berkshire Regiment can be found at:

The Wardrobe, 58 The Close, SALISBURY, SP1 2EX

A visit is highly recommended. The curator is Major S G (Simon) Cook OR (1966-74)

www.thewardrobe.org.uk

The Bidding Prayer Revisited

In the Spring 2011 issue of *The Old Redingensian* the claim for Henry Beauclerc, (**King Henry I**), pictured right, to be included in the Bidding Prayer, was surely vindicated. He founded Reading Abbey and thus the School (see note 1 - Ed). Why, it may be asked, was he omitted in the first place? The answer is that Frances Pierrepont Barnard, Headmaster from 1888 to 1894, the originator of the Bidding Prayer (see Appendix 1 - Ed) was not a local man and traced the School's history only to 1486, naming Henry VII as a founder of the School (not, as has been subsequently shown, the instigator of its 'refoundation' or more properly, 'reconstitution'). Barnard's Bidding Prayer refers (as indeed did the School Song when it was written) to '400 years' – not the '800 years and more' that ORs have been familiar with since 1913 when the Bidding Prayer and the School Song were both amended. So there can be no valid case for continuing to exclude Henry I. He ruled from 1100 to 1135 and was the first English born King of the Norman Dynasty; that he preferred negotiation to the sword, was literate, wise, and considered one of the greater Kings of England, adds lustre.



If Henry's name is added then there is also a case for **Hugh de Boves**, the first Abbot of Reading, as it was under his abbacy that the School began to operate as one of the secular functions of the Abbey. He held office until he became Archbishop of Rouen in 1130. As that later Abbot, John Thorne, is coupled with the 'refounding' King, Henry VII, then so surely should the name Hugh de Boves be coupled with that of the 'founding' King, Henry I.

There have been both additions and deletions since Barnard's original version of the Prayer. Sir Thomas Pope, whose scholarships to Trinity College, Oxford, for Reading boys had lapsed long ago, is no longer included. William Kendrick was supplanted by his brother, John. Headmaster Robert Appleton was added as were George Palmer and Joseph Wells. The Prayer, of course, refers to 'All.....benefactors of the School' and that those 'especially' named should change from time to time, due to reassessment of their place in the scheme of things is perfectly reasonable. (For further detail of those named in versions of the Bidding Prayer, see *The Reading School Bidding Prayer* by John Oakes and Chris Widdows, in *The Old Redingensian*, May 2004).

In the April 1914 issue of the *Reading School Magazine* a letter appears drawing the attention of the Editor to the omission of John Thorne and Henry VII in the 'revised form of the Bidding Prayer' and pointing out that though it was now known that they were not the actual founders of the School, they very definitely had been benefactors. They were both reinstated in the Prayer.

Over the years not only names have been added and deleted but the form of wording used often tinkered with to a lesser or greater degree. Appendix 2 shows a 'received' version that will be recognisable to most ORs since Elizabeth II ascended the throne.

In 2010 the current School Chaplain, the Rev C J Evans OR (1990-97), offered a version of the Prayer for the modern day (see Appendix 3 -Ed). The aged writer of this article, not surprisingly, prefers the traditional form of wording, but the purpose of this article is to suggest to the Headmaster and the Chaplain that the names in the Prayer, whatever the form of wording containing them, be augmented by Henry I and his Abbot, as argued above, and by two others.



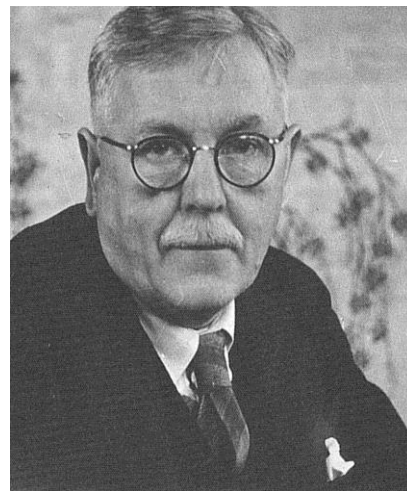
The first is **Alfred Edgar Milward OBE**, left, whose case was presented in the Autumn 2012 issue of *The Old Redingensian* (see *The Legacy of Edgar Milward* pp 28-30). His claims may be contended by some, but the scale of his benevolence to the School over forty years and the help that he gave to enable pupils to both enter the School, and enter employment after it, should not be underestimated.

The second is **William Conrad Costin OBE MC MA DLitt**, below. If Joseph Wells deserves his place in the Bidding Prayer (and his lifelong support of the School and involvement in its governance render that indisputable) then so, surely, does W C Costin. The parallels between the two men are interesting. Both were ORs. Both were Captains of the School. Both were Heads of Oxford Colleges (Wells, the Warden of Wadham and Costin the President of St John's). Both became Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Both were Presidents of the Old Redingensians Club. Both were long time Governors of the School, whose interests and independence they guarded fiercely. Both have commemorative wall plaques (tea trays) hanging in Big School.

Wells's career was largely within Oxford. Costin was a distinguished academic as was Wells, but he was a far more influential man outside the sphere of the University and his wide experience was a considerable asset to the School Governing Body, on which he served from 1934 until his death in 1970. Because he had come to Reading School in 1906 as a Council Scholar from Kendrick Boys School, which was absorbed by Reading School in 1916, he had a particular understanding of the consequences of that significant event in the Borough's history.

Having served on the Reading Education Committee for more than 30 years his influence in the Town was considerable. He was able to 'hold the ring' when School Governors clashed and, indeed, the School owes a very great debt to Costin. Had it not been for him, Headmaster C E Kemp's influential reign from 1939 to 1966, (Mr Kemp could be considered a candidate for the Bidding Prayer himself) might not have extended beyond its first decade. An exchange of letters reveals that Costin intervened when Mr Kemp was close to resignation due to the intransigence of certain Governors with whom he felt he could no longer work. Costin saved the day through his deployment of diplomacy and force of personality over a period of some months.

Both Palmer and Wells, the most recent names to be added to the Prayer were products of the Victorian age. Messrs Costin and Milward are very strong candidates to represent the twentieth century, the former living until 1970 and the latter until 1986. The writer hopes that the Headmaster and the Chaplain will look favourably at amending the Bidding Prayer to include the proposed (highlighted) additions shown in Appendix 4. KCB



Note 1: *There are claims that the School existed before the Abbey but there is currently insufficient evidence to supplant Henry I as the effective founder – Ed.*

Appendix 1

Dr Barnard's Bidding Prayer



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen.

Appendix 2 ‘Received’ Version

Ye shall pray for Christ’s holy Catholic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the world, and herein especially for the Queen’s most excellent Majesty; for the Ministers of God’s Holy Word and Sacraments; for the High Court of Parliament, and Magistrates, especially those of this Borough; and for the whole Commons of this realm.

Ye shall praise God for the pious and charitable memories of the founders and benefactors of this School:

Of John Thorne, Abbot of Reading; Of Henry VII, King of England; Of Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London, the founder of Scholarships to the College of St John Baptist in the University of Oxford; Of William Dene; Of Elizabeth I, Queen of England; Of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury; Of John Kendrick; Of Richard Valpy and Robert Appleton, sometime Head Masters; Of George William Palmer, Privy Councillor; Of Joseph Wells, Warden of Wadham College in the University of Oxford;

And of all other benefactors, who, during more than eight hundred years have laboured, each in their generation, to provide opportunities in the School of this Town for growing in Godliness and sound learning.

Finally, let us praise God for all those who have departed out of this life in the faith of Christ, and pray that we may have grace to direct our lives after their good example; that, this life ended, we may be partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting.

Amen.

Appendix 3: ‘Revd Evans Commemoration Service Version’

We pray for the Church universal, for Christian people throughout the world, and for those of goodwill in every land. We pray most especially for Her Majesty the Queen; for our leaders in Parliament, and for all who labour in this realm for the sake of your Kingdom. We give thanks for civic officials, Magistrates of this Borough, and those who uphold justice, liberty and peace in our town. On this day particularly, we praise you, Lord, for the generosity, witness and vision of the founders and benefactors of this School:

John Thorne, Abbot of Reading; Henry VII, King of England; Sir Thomas White, founder of the College of St John Baptist in the University of Oxford; William Dene; Elizabeth I, Queen of England; William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury; John Kendrick; Richard Valpy and Robert Appleton, sometime Head Masters; George William Palmer, Privy Councillor; Joseph Wells, Warden of Wadham College in the University of Oxford; And we remember all other benefactors, who during more than eight hundred and fifty years have laboured, each in his generation, to provide opportunities in this Town, and through this school, for sound learning and growth in Godliness.

Finally, we praise you, Lord, for all those who have departed this life in the faith of Christ, and pray that we have grace to imitate their good example; that this life ended, through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, we may share with them the glorious resurrection and all the fullness of life everlasting.

Amen.

Appendix 4: Proposed Version

Ye shall pray for Christ’s holy Catholic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the world, and herein especially for the Queen’s most excellent Majesty; for the Ministers of God’s Holy Word and Sacraments; for the High Court of Parliament, and Magistrates, especially those of this Borough; and for the whole Commons of this realm.

Ye shall praise God for the pious and charitable memories of the founders and benefactors of this School:

Of Henry I, King of England; Of Hugh de Boves, Abbot of Reading; Of Henry VII, King of England; Of John Thorne, Abbot of Reading; Of Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London, the founder of Scholarships to the College of St John Baptist in the University of Oxford; Of William Dene; Of Elizabeth I, Queen of England; Of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury; Of John Kendrick; Of Richard Valpy and Robert Appleton, sometime Head Masters; Of George William Palmer, Privy Councillor; Of Joseph Wells, Warden of Wadham College in the University of Oxford; **Of William Conrad Costin, President of St John’s College in the University of Oxford; Of Alfred Edgar Milward**

And of all other benefactors, who, during more than eight hundred years have laboured, each in their generation, to provide opportunities in the School of this Town for growing in Godliness and sound learning.

Finally, let us praise God for all those who have departed out of this life in the faith of Christ, and pray that we may have grace to direct our lives after their good example; that, this life ended, we may be partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting.

Amen.

Note 2: *the Lord’s Prayer is usually appended to, or follows immediately after, The Reading School Bidding Prayer – Ed.*

Some Reading Musicians....

(and important links between School and University)

By Andrew Bohman



School – West Wing Frontage



University – London Road Frontage

It is not generally known what a potent force Reading has been during the last hundred and twenty-odd years. Speaking with Ken Brown recently he reminded me of Reading School's production of organists, in particular. When I look back at that wheezy old contraption in the chapel, since then restored, I am mildly surprised that young players of the calibre of, say, Douglas Guest (1930-33) and Geoffrey Tristram (1924-34) did not switch to another instrument with a sigh of relief!

The same could be said of pianos. The old grand piano in my day was an ancient Broadwood, in Big School, which left a lot to be desired. True, the Timms' (*S G Timms was a master at School 1928-68*) owned a fine Bechstein upright upon which I was allowed to practise in the lunch-hour, while they drank their coffee. What saints they were! I vividly remember Timmy, his wife, Benny Dowse (*B L R Dowse Master at School (1930-71)*) and Gwyn Francis (*D G Francis Master at School 1921-61*) sitting there trying to talk normally in the gaps between my fortissimos, which were sonorous and meaningful. Once, goaded beyond endurance by a piece set mainly in the top regions of the instrument, Fanny (*Gwyn Francis*) came over and asked if it was called *The Monkey's Scream*. I doubt if Franz Liszt would have been amused!

The University was granted its Charter in 1927, and could then, in theory, accept music as part of a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Before then a full score of music existed, with instrumental and vocal teachers led by a number of visiting Directors, all part-time. Our own Frederick Griffin (*F C Griffin visiting Master at School 1945-70*) was taught there in the 1920s. From a remark by the third Vice-Chancellor, Sir Frank Stenton (1946-50), some of whose lectures to which Michael Hinton (*M G Hinton Master at School 1949-53*) took his 6th Form Mediaeval group, it appears that Sir Walter Parratt, the undoubted 'Father of English Organists', was the first Director (*unverified, but Sir Hugh Allen – see below – was Director of the School of Music 1908-18*).



Parratt was the teacher of practically all organists of special ability at the Royal College of Music; such names as Harold Dark, W H Harris, Henry Ley, G D Cunningham, Sir George Thalben-Ball, leap from the pages as proof of his remarkable powers. They all inherited his style, one of clarity, purity, and classical attention to detail. An irascible, near genius, Parratt had the highest standards. Sir Hubert Parry called him 'A most sterling high-class creature'. He and Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, another giant, were often at loggerheads, understandable when you know of their fierce devotion to their art.

Parratt was followed by Sir Hugh Allen (*pictured left*) in 1908, by repute 'the finest choral conductor Oxford ever had', Gustav Holst, no less, in 1919, W H Stanton in 1927, Reginald Jacques for a year 1937-8, and Charles Thornton-Lofthouse, until Harold Woodham took over as the first holder of the Chair in 1951.

The visiting teachers included Campbell McInnes, a well-known baritone, who may well have taught our Andrew Kelson (*A J Kelson Master at School 1920-49*), who read for an Arts degree at Reading, Dorothea Vincent and Winifred Gaskell (who were pupils of Evelyn Howard-Jones, one of the most influential pianists and piano teachers of the period) and Osborne Peasgood, sub-organist of Westminster Abbey. Fred Griffin would send me to play to Miss Gaskell from time to time, to check on progress I suppose. In 1949 I was invited to give a piano recital in the Great Hall.



My reading recently has led to the surprising discovery that Hugh Allen, born in 1869, was a pupil at the old Kendrick Boys School which amalgamated with Reading School in 1916 (see *Philip Mortimer's article on Sir Hugh in The Old Redingian Autumn 2012*). Moreover, he was a boy organist at St Michael's Church, Tilehurst, at the age of 14, forerunner of our own Charlie (*F C H Davis Master at School 1907-52 pictured left*), and where my contemporary Denis Moriarty (*D E H Moriarty 1943-54 Captain of School*) sang as a boy chorister.

Allen's mother was a Stevens, of the firm Huntley, Boorne & Stevens, and his father ran the export side of Huntley & Palmers factory. (Many years later I won a Palmer Scholarship to the Royal College of Music). Allen was more than a musician. He had an extraordinary ability to motivate people and was hugely influential. Indeed the saying in Oxford was 'when Sir Hugh frowns Oxford quakes', and the same, I feel, could be applied to the Allen years at Reading University. One eye was said to be ferocious, the other twinkling. A quick and

violent storm would be swiftly followed by a return to normality.

Of course, many especially effective musicians of the past were similarly given to spectacular rages, think of Adolf Brodsky, Theodor Leschetizky (my 'grand' teacher) - and indeed, of our own Charlie and Fred, to say nothing of Bonk (pens down everybody, PENS DOWN EVERYBODY) (*F H C Redington Master at School 1922-59*). Perhaps we children of the Thames Valley can be somewhat bovine at times? (Apparently another approach to extreme irritation was adopted by Sir Walford Davies. When crossed he would sink to his knees, we are told, and start to pray. Now **that** must have been a problem to deal with.)

Fred Griffin (*pictured right*) was a pupil during Holst's years, and often told me of his devotion to pupils, attention to detail, and ferocious attitude to work. Holst gave his life to teaching, always part-time, at schools like James Allen's School for Girls, Wycombe Abbey where he was known as Von Schloss (in early days he used his full name of Gustav von Holst - Vaughan Williams being known to his girl pupils as the 'Nut-brown maiden': how could you possibly improve on that?) - St Paul's Girls School, Reading University, Morley College, and the Royal College of Music, most of these simultaneously. The travelling involved is breath-taking to contemplate nowadays; it all had to be mainly by bus, train or walking.



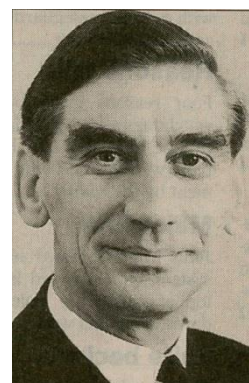
Gustav Holst

Fred remembered Holst falling off the platform on to his head at a rehearsal, an accident that plagued him for the rest of his life. Despite Fred, or because of him, Holst has always been a special hero of mine. He, and his great friend Vaughan Williams, used to take enormous walks together. I would have loved to have heard their talk, but not their walk. There is no doubt that he could be a tough nut as a teacher. Sir Thomas Armstrong relates how, at a composition lesson, Holst was so keen to eradicate unnecessary notes that you were lucky to emerge with anything left on your paper.

Fred Griffin also told me of a story which illustrates Holst's humanity. A girl pupil was sent down for being too familiar with the male students. She was engaged to play in Woolworths in the town, and Holst used to walk into town to talk to her in the shop, in his lunch hour. ORs who can remember that store in the 1930s or 40s, will recall a small platform on the left wall where an ice-cream machine supplied cornets to customers. I expect it was there that the unfortunate young pianist performed and

where she and Holst enjoyed a brief snack together; perhaps, even, an ice-cream cornet!

To return to School: Douglas Guest (*pictured right*) eventually became organist at Salisbury and Worcester Cathedrals before Westminster Abbey. His is an impressive career, solidly building up to the plum job, and incorporating teaching at the Royal College of Music, conducting at Three Choirs Festivals (and all having had its beginnings in Chapel at that frightful organ).



Another star was Geoffrey Tristram (*pictured right*), a broadcasting soloist and organist, at Christchurch Priory, Bournemouth. Blessed with a virtuoso technique, Geoffrey was full of music and laughter. He invited me, as a school boy of, I think, fourteen, to give several piano recitals in Christchurch. I stayed with him and his charming wife, Rene, at Church Hatch, and we had three hilarious days of music making, and humour. He was fascinated by the Debussy I was playing then, and sat watching me practising, as I did, inspired by his lovely playing in the organ loft. I sat for two weddings, in that loft, and admired his deft playing. Can I really have heard echoes of *Golliwog's Cakewalk* and *The Teddy Bears' Picnic* in his improvised Voluntaries? Surely not, I reassure myself.



Geoffrey was a private pupil of Thalben Ball who was organist and director of the Temple Church Choir for nearly sixty years (evoking memories of the choir singing Mendelssohn with Ernest Lough as the treble soloist). Herbert Howells told me he had taken his new sonata in manuscript to show Thalben Ball who placed it on the music stand, looked at it for a few moments, silently turning the pages, then played it. Howells said it was well-nigh perfect, and called it 'super sight-reading'. He was obviously amazed by this feat.



The first Music Master at Reading School of whom I am aware (*but not the first to hold that appointment – see note below*), was Osmond Daughtry known as Draughty (*E O Daughtry Master at School 1911-43 pictured left*). He had been a House Master at the Leys School, and had come to Reading to teach at School, and to lecture at the University, both part-time appointments. Dr Daughtry was a competent organist and directed the Gilbert & Sullivan operas with Birdie Nightingale (*C A Nightingale Master at School 1920-60*), before Charlie Davis took over both functions in the early 1940s.

Charlie was a gifted violinist, leader of the Reading Symphony Orchestra, led by John Fry. David Wise (*D Wise 1949-52*), Edmund Hey (*E N Hey 1942-53*) and Derek Brown (*D S Brown 1942-49*) were pupils who particularly valued his teaching in my experience as their contemporary. The Reading Youth Orchestra served to develop their talents as the School Orchestra, then, was in a pretty disorganised state, with Charlie doing his best to keep it together. Mainly, I think, because of Charlie and Fred's part-time 'visiting' appointments, the music in School, though enthusiastic and 'doing its best', left a lot to be desired and needed the leadership and support of a full-time Director of Music.



Andrew Bohman, left, with David Wise

Those who followed did splendid work in a more organised way Geoffrey Moore (*G C Moore Music Master at School 1954-60*), Barry McBeath (*B M McBeath Music Master 1962-71*) and others before the special force and authority of Graham Ireland (*G A Ireland Director of Music at School 1982-01*) started to put it really on the map. The organ was restored, a Bechstein grand bought, followed by a Yamaha, recently inaugurated - and there is now a vigorous curriculum. We pupils of the past are delighted at this renaissance over the last thirty years and know, all too well, what incredibly hard work has been done to effect it.

ACB



NB1: Editorial notes appear in italics

NB2: Those mentioned in Andrew's article are necessarily a selective list; other notable organists produced by the School include for example H R Lindars (1909-16), W E Masser (1916-18) and H G Hands (1928-35) from years past and a number of pupils of Graham Ireland (*pictured left*) and his successors currently occupying cathedral and other positions.

NB3: Dr Daughtry's immediate predecessor as music master at Erleigh Road was W A Boggiss, appointed in 1905. He was an OR, at School from 1891-94, and while at New College Oxford he became Doc Mus at the early age of 20. William Boggiss was organist at Sonning and at St Mary's in The Butts. He was considered as something of 'a musical genius' but tragically drowned in the Thames on 1 October 1911 aged 32.

Commentary

The Old Redingensian Autumn 2012

With reference to the item in **Notes & News p 4**, M R (Michael) Naxton (1959-67) reports that W A Saunders' Second World War service medals sold for £420 (hammer price) against a pre-sale estimate of £180-220. This was indicative of the success of the auction as a whole which raised a grand total of £710,580, a useful percentage of which went towards the current appeal to restore (and open to the public) Bentley Priory, the wartime home of Fighter Command and the place from where Lord Dowding masterminded and directed our victory in the 'Battle of Britain'.

Michael was present at this memorable auction in his capacity as Curator of the Ashcroft Trust Medal Collection and he made several notable purchases. The Ashcroft Collection contains the unrivalled holdings of Victoria Crosses (181 to date), George Crosses and many other exceptional awards for gallantry won either by airmen or by the men of the 'Special Forces' (e.g. S.A.S., S.B.S. & Commandos), all of which Lord Ashcroft has collected avidly since 1986. Ever since his very first purchase however (a 1945 VC group to a submariner), he has been expertly advised and assisted by Michael, and this remarkable collection is now regarded as by far the greatest in the world by a very considerable margin.

Michael Naxton also wrote to express his sadness at the premature death of his school friend **Christopher David Nickolls (1959-66)** of which he was unaware until seeing Chris's obituary in the last issue. He would like to share this little reminiscence with other ORs for their amusement.

Chris and I were close friends, having started at primary school together in Tilehurst, and we enjoyed 'many a lark' as our year group progressed upwards through Reading School. However, one particular escapade remains seared into my memory and is as vivid today as it was on the day that it occurred.

It was the summer of 1964 and the intake of '59 were taking their 'O' levels. On a baking hot June day, neither Chris nor I had a morning exam but were both needed for an afternoon session starting at 2.00pm. Fellow ORs of my vintage will recall that virtually no Upper School boys had the use of cars then, let alone owned them; however, Chris Nickolls was lucky enough to own a Lambretta scooter, on the back of which many of his friends were able to 'cadge' lifts from time to time. That particular afternoon it was my turn so I arrived at Chris's home at the pre-arranged hour we had chosen so as to allow enough time to get to School without having to rush.

Whether it was the blistering heat or some other malign cause I do not know, but the wretched scooter would not start and refused all Chris's efforts to coax it into life. All the while however, a sense of panic was beginning to take hold of us as we awoke to the realisation that time was against us; we had allowed ample time to nip across town on a scooter but not to get to School by public transport. When it became clear that the scooter was most definitely a 'non-starter', we belted to the nearest bus-stop to catch a trolley-bus into town. The journey seemed interminable but we eventually made Broad Street and changed buses for Erleigh Road. Another shorter, but still agonisingly slow, journey then took us to the bottom of the drive where we leapt out of the bus with literally seconds to spare.

We ran through the drive gates and looked across the field to where Big School and the whole of the main frontage shimmered like a mirage in the heat. A First XI match was in full swing on the main square but there was nothing for it; time was so desperately short that we had no alternative but to sprint in a straight line for our goal, scattering fielders and umpires in our wake. The ever-present Len Muncer, incandescent with rage at this sacrilege, was shouting and waving his arms at us but we paid no heed. After undoubtedly setting a new record time for a diagonal dash across the School field, we fell up the stairs and onto that cool stone landing outside Big School just as the doors were closing. A bemused monitor heard us, allowed us in and, finally, we collapsed into our chairs gasping for breath and perspiring as if we'd just run through the fires of Hell itself. The whole afternoon remained a blur thereafter and, needless to say, the next time Chris offered me a lift for an exam, I declined!

M J (Michael) Wild (1940-48) was grieved at the death of his old friend **T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50)** – see *In Memoriam* in **this** issue and says *I probably knew Trevor longer than anybody as we met in 1936 as preparatory pupils at St Joseph's Convent, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. As I lived in Marlborough Avenue and he lived in Wantage Hall he often called for me and we walked together to school (later on with gas masks over our shoulders). We, of course, met again at Reading School. I have to say that Trevor's unique personality of kindness, fun, charm, down to earthness never changed throughout his entire life. At the Convent he was furious when we lost the three-legged race – despite the fact that I believe we cheated (though I cannot remember how!). He could stamp his foot with the best of them. His anger was only equalled when our football side was easily winning and fortunes were reversed when Miss Jones (the hearty sports mistress) attached herself to the losing side and immediately scored **four** goals to win for them. We were on the verge of a national strike! Trevor's luck was in finding a partner in Christine – surely the best thing that could have happened for him. Rest in peace, dear Trevor. The world was a better place for your presence here.*

Professor M D Slater (1953-55) – see **The Charles Dickens Bicentenary** – has kindly donated two of his scholarly works on Dickens, suitably inscribed, to the School's Learning Resource Centre (the Library). Arising out of the article came further claims for Reading School's connection to *David Copperfield*. P F Skottowe, in his article *Thomas Talfourd and David Copperfield*, which appeared in *The Dickensian* Vol 65 1969, writes that 'the present writer has no doubt whatever that Doctor Strong's school was based upon Talfourd's old school, Reading.' He then presents his argument on the claim and draws some parallels between the fictional Doctor Strong and Doctor Valpy, Headmaster of Reading School 1781-1830.

Geoff Wilkins (**The Wilkins of Reading School**) wrote denying that he had been a vicious tackler but conceding he was a *vigorous* one (his memory of putting Ray Cartwright (**The Royal Berkshire Regiment**) in the School Sanatorium for a couple of days notwithstanding....). He went on to say: *Speaking of rugby, the two sections on Mattingley (Commentary and Obituaries) reminded me he did pretty much the same thing to me that same year. He was then playing for Bath and, in need of a workout, he had come to exercise with the first and second XV's. During a scrimmage he ploughed his way through my team, boys bouncing off him in all directions. That left me as the last line of defence before the try line. So, outweighed by a factor of two, I tackled him, bringing him down, but finding myself under him as he hit the ground. Needless to say, I was in bad shape. Inspecting the near corpse, Mr Lethem (J (Jimmy) Lethem (Staff 1948-76)), who was coaching, enquired, "Why ever did you do that, Wilkins?" "Because he was going to score a try, sir." He apparently didn't think my 'they shall not pass' philosophy applied to practice sessions, and, rolling his eyes, said nothing.*



The Legacy of Edgar Milward brought a number of responses, mostly (but not all) in favour of his name being included in the Bidding Prayer. John Perry wrote: *I can't remember why, but I found myself invited to Southfields on two or three occasions, and one particular conversation with Edgar Milward remains clear, concerning the meaning of 'cordwainer'. I knew my great-great-grandfather had been one, but as an eleven-year-old with a father away supplying water to the Long Range Desert Group, had no-one in the family who knew what cordwainers did. EM, I think, was delighted at the chance of filling a gap. I would love to hear his name in the Bidding Prayer.*

This statue of a cordwainer may be found on Watling Street in Cordwainer Ward, one of the smallest of the 25 wards in the City of London at 270 metres long and 130 metres wide (bounded by Cheapside and Poultry to the North, to the South by Cannon Street, to the West by Bread Street and to the East by Walbrook – part of Watling Street runs East-West through the Ward). -Ed

Erratum Autumn 2012

Code: (c) = inconsistency of expression; (e) = factual or grammatical error; (v) = error in layout

Page 2	(v)	alignment of page numbers should be consistent
	(e)	should read Officers 2013 / Rear Cover
Page 4	(c)	should read Master at School (1953-57) M J M (Mike) Brown
	(e)	should read William Anthony Saunders' medals
Page 6	(e)	Matt Dupre should read Matt Dapre
Page 8	(c)	photo caption should read <i>Wing Commander Walter</i>
Page 11	(e)	Ned Holt's report appears on p 21 not p 22
	(e)	Ned Holt's initials are E S not E J
	(e)	comma omitted afterClark (Steward at Redingensians RFC)
Page 16	(e)	<i>(see p 19 – Ed)</i> should read <i>(see p 18 – Ed)</i> .
Page 17	(c)	events at the school should read events at the School
Page 20	(e)	Cover Supervisor should read Cover Supervisors
Page 32	(e)	School Elocution should read House Elocution
Page 34	(e)	Huntley, Bourne & Stevens' should read Huntley, Boorne & Stevens'
Page 34	(e)	para 2 last line should conclude then at Eversley Church, where Charles Kingsley had recently been the Rector.
Page 40	(v)	there should be a letter space between of and The Importance of Being Earnest
Page 47	(e)	died on active service should read killed in action
Page 52	(e)	there should be no and before Tamsin
	(e)	fifth para last line delete spent before battling
Page 53	(c)	acknowledgment paragraph should append OR to Patrick Ashcroft
Page 55	(e)	Lord Williams' School should read Lord Williams's School

A very educational establishment!

By Brian Upton

(Brian, below left, is better known nowadays as Professor B G J Upton BA MA DPhil FGS FRSE. He is Emeritus Professor of Petrology and Senior Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. –Ed)



JUNIOR SCHOOL In 1941 I started in the first form, after an interview with Mr Peach, Master at the Junior School, and began my three years at the bottom of the drive before spending another seven at the top of the drive. Form IA was under the charge of Mr Timms and Form IB was presided (or ruled) over by a small but indomitable lady, Miss O'Reilly. To me she was very old, possibly over 40!

Her class was housed in a shed with a corrugated iron roof alongside the main Junior School building. Miss O'Reilly called the shed 'HMS Tin-Tab' (the Tin Tabernacle). (See page 36 in this issue - Ed.) In it she had various exhibits including a piece of coral, a (dried) puffer fish, a green wood-pecker and a model of a bridge made out of, not match-sticks, but tiny slivers of wood. She had two canes above her desk, *Tickling Tommy* and *Whispering Willy* and a victim could choose which to be beaten with. Miss O'Reilly took us on nature walks and I learned about autumn leaves and fungi. The Tin-Tab had a wooden plank floor and was heated

by an old coal stove. When she was away, we would heat the poker red-hot and use it to burn and drill holes in the floorboards. My classmate would give me a penny for right answers to sums: thus was I introduced to corruption. So, as I look back, I realize what a lot I learned at this very educational establishment!

In due course I was elevated to Lower IIB, taken by a young teacher, Miss Bailey. I remember her as a kind woman. Among homework projects we had to draw Drake's ship, the *Golden Hind* and, I think, a Viking ship. I always liked the drawing jobs best! It must have been Miss Bailey who, in geography lessons, introduced me to New Zealand and South America and I learned about volcanoes. Lower IIA was Mr Poole's form

School lunches were brought by the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS). Trestle-tables and benches were erected every lunch-time. The food was awful but we were obliged to eat everything. When men were dying daily at sea trying to supply the desperate country, the idea of leaving food uneaten was regarded as criminal. But once, when a meal of fish stank too abysmally, it was ordered to be scooped up into the salvage bins!

We went to 'big school' for art. The assistant art master, Mr Rolfe (pictured right), visited the Junior School from time to time to draw on the blackboard, on one occasion, a Spitfire and, another time, a destroyer. These were in aid of public subscriptions for money. For the destroyer I think Reading School was trying to raise the price of a search-light. To me, Mr Rolfe was a genius with sublime artistic talent and I spent much time trying to make drawings as good as his.



Small misdemeanours were punished with 'detention'. This entailed having to run around the playground for 30 minutes – closely supervised to prevent escape or slacking. 'Double detention' meant staying another 15 minutes, 'running on the spot', knees up high. Agonising! I think it was Mr Dowse who was officer-in-charge of these punishment sessions. He left, called up into the RAF. Really bad boys (three detentions) attended Mr Peach's study of Saturday morning for caning. (We had classes every Saturday until 1 pm.) On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons there was compulsory sport. (Ugh!!).

In Class Upper II (1943-44), we were under Mr Peach. He was generally loathed by the boys and I suspect that these days his behaviour would not be tolerated. He took us for Maths and Latin. I recall the humiliation of the times when he would hurl my answer book through the fan-light to fall onto what, in memory, was always a rainy playground; and of holding my hand out to be hit with a ruler when my Latin declensions or conjugations did not attain the requisite standard.

Mr Peach made announcements at morning assemblies. I recall on one occasion (I was about 9 years old) that he announced that 'odious and unspeakable' boys had been 'making water' on the floor of the toilet. I think this announcement stimulated a hitherto latent interest in molecular synthesis. Never before had I thought about how water was made and I was left thinking how clever these boys must have been.

A parent had complained to Mr Peach that his/her son had used some swearword at home. Mr Peach promptly instigated a reign of terror to stamp out this evil. Not only were those caught swearing caned, but boys were invited to grass on anyone they heard using a naughty word. I recall walking up the drive, to the swimming baths, with a boy still sobbing from a caning. I asked him what he had said to earn the punishment. He told me that he had only said "juice" – which seemed a disappointingly tame word to me and made me extremely careful about opening my mouth about anything. But during the week I learned several words entirely new to my vocabulary.

However, on Fridays there was a happy break when boys could use the school library in Mr Peach's classroom. (*Mr Peach is pictured below left.*) 'Biggles' books by W E Johns were favourites. One day he had a sale of (presumably old and tatty) surplus books and I bought my first book, - Jules Verne's *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* - I think for ninepence. I think this too was a critical step in my becoming a geologist. When I was 21, I led an expedition to Iceland, to climb the Snaefellsnes volcano to see where/how Jules Verne's heroes found their way to the centre. Alas, no way down: life is full of disappointments!



For some years during the second world war every school-child went to school carrying not only a satchel but a leather box containing a gas mask. Gas attacks by the Luftwaffe were fully expected (but never came). Once, a bus pulled into the Junior School yard and we all had to put our gas masks on and sit in the bus. Gas was released – tear-gas I suppose. We had to put a finger under our masks so that we would get a whiff of gas. I wonder what was the purpose? Generally of course it was to give us practise in gas mask use and to check that they worked.

SENIOR SCHOOL. Sometime in 1944 we were liberated from Peach's custody and promoted to the awe-inspiring building on the far side of the playing field. I went into Lower IIIA, with a pleasant, good humoured class teacher. He taught French but alas, now suffering alcoholic amnesia, I cannot remember his name (*A J Kelson – Ed*). I know he served in the Home Guard with the same anti-aircraft rocket battery

as my father. Most of the classes were enjoyable, other than maths and physical training (PT). Our maths teacher, whose name also escapes me (*W J Streather? –Ed*), probably suffered high blood pressure. He had a very red face, an evil temper and could not stand boys as stupid as me who were so miserably incompetent at mental arithmetic (If a dozen eggs cost 3 shillings and 11 pence, how much would two and a half dozen cost?). He died of a heart attack. I thought it was probably a result of my curses!

Across our road in Caversham, the three Hemmings brothers lived, all attending Reading School. Their father was general manager at Vickers Engineering, beside the river. His factory was manufacturing Light Infantry Landing Craft. Each night flotillas of these would proceed down river to the Thames estuary in anticipation of D-Day. After production of a batch, these had to be 'road tested' on the Thames. Michael Hemmings (*M A Hemmings 1942-50*), in my class, would be commissioned to round up a gang of boys to make up a boat-load. The landing-craft were tested, at full-throttle, with a wake crashing along the tow-paths flooding fishermen and women out pram-pushing. Oh what joy! A smart block of river-side flats stands there now and no-one has heard of Vickers Engineering.

Reading was filling with troops in 1944, Americans and Canadians. One of my school chums was Christopher Ball (*C H Ball 1941-51, right*) whose mother ran the Oasis Restaurant in Minster Street. Her quiet hen-pecked husband worked the till. Their eldest son (I believe also an old Redingensian) went to fight with the Republican army in the Spanish Civil War about six years earlier. He was killed. (*W H (Bill) Ball 1929-34 died in 1937 fighting with the International Brigade - Ed*). I played upstairs and in the back-yard of the Oasis with Chris, making model aircraft which we lit and flew them down onto Minster Street. Mrs Ball would tell horror stories of Saturday-night fights in the restaurant involving the French Canadians who regularly trashed the place.



One night, I guess in June, Mum and I had been to the pictures in Broad Street, leaving our bicycles in a car-park off Minster Street. As we walked in the black night down the narrow winding road to the car-park a convoy of large American army trucks started to drive in. Walking back up the road, with our bicycles, I realised that I was caught at a narrow spot with a large truck about to crush me against the wall. I let go my beloved bike and hoisted myself upon a convenient drain-pipe as high as I could to escape the wheels. I heard my bicycle scrunched beneath the wheels. For me, I think I sacrificed another of my nine lives that night! Still shaking I accompanied Mum back to the car-park and eventually found the officer in charge. Mum explained my loss and he listened sympathetically, took our name and address and promised restitution. Surprisingly (!) we never heard a word again. Possibly he died on the Normandy beaches.

I recall some bullying at School. The penalty for sneaking was to be put behind a door and squashed by the rest of the class leaning on it and shouting "Sneak". But I once saw the Second Master, Mr Meads ('Archie') walking around the quad holding a snivelling boy in front of him and bringing his knee up sharply into the boy's bottom at every step. I forget how/why I asked but Archie explained that the boy had been bullying and he was giving the boy a taste of what bullying was all about.

The prefects' executive committee, holding court in the Wells Library, could guarantee to reduce any delinquent to tears by sarcasm – thus saving them the penalty of being sent to Mr Kemp for a beating. Being totally useless on the playing field or at any sport, team or other-wise, it was long before I was promoted to be even a milk-monitor. Only when I was awarded a Sir Thomas White Scholarship was I deemed worthy of being made a prefect.

BGJU

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."

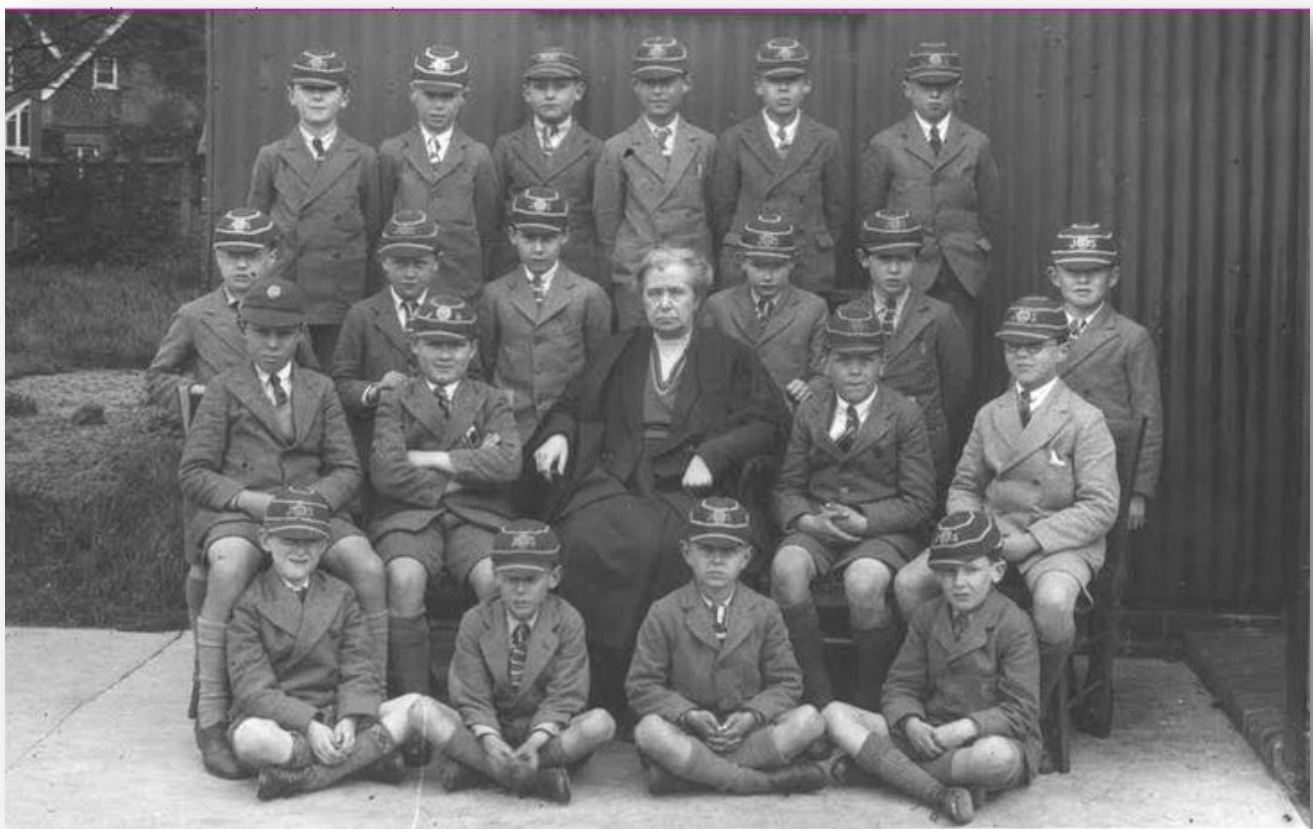
Mary Russell Mitford
writing in *Belford Regis*
(which was her fictional name for
Reading).



An image of the 'Tin Tab' has long been sought for inclusion in the electronic archive of the School Buildings. This adjunct to the main structure of the old Junior School (now the Music School), at the foot of the Drive, has been enshrined in fable but photographs have been elusive. Now we think we have one, and reproduce it below. The redoubtable Miss A S O'Reilly BA Royal University Dublin (Staff 1912-44) is with Form 1B of 1931. The School List for that year shows the members of the form to be (in alphabetical order):

Adams J, Burrows G A, Catley D, Chandler D G, Ellerman R W, Mathey G A P, Mosdell J P, Raper R P, Sewell G W, Spurgeon D H, Taylor R H, Watkins J R, Weeks J G, Wellings A C and Wright V W G

Can anyone put the names above to the faces below - and does anyone possess other images of the 'Tin Tab' that we may have, or scan and return?



Adams, Burrows and Taylor became School prefects, the latter also captaining the XI; and playing in the XV, as did Wright. Spurgeon and Watkins had left School in 1932, Chandler in 1933, Mosdell in 1933, Mathey in 1936 and Raper in 1937.

The Second World War claimed Ellerman, who had been a prefect and Captain of South House. He had served in the US Army and died at sea shortly after being medically discharged: Sewell, a pilot officer in the RAF was killed in action as was Wellings (seaman RN) who had also been in South House before leaving for St Edwards, Oxford in 1936. Of the others Burrows and Chandler served in the army, Wright in the navy, Catley, Mathey, Mosdell, Raper, Taylor, Watkins and Weeks in the RAF.

Post war the Old Redingensians Club learned that Burrows, Weeks, Wright, Taylor, Catley and Adams all married; Burrows studied Law, Weeks had a retail grocery business, Wright stayed in the navy and Adams became a chartered surveyor; also that Weeks died in 1970, Wright in 1990 and Adams in 2004.

Miss O'Reilly died in 1950.



Above is shown a relay on Sports Day March 1949. T H D Arie (now Arie) is handing the baton to his County House team mate H B Carr on the left. No sign of Boarders shirts so centre and right are West and East (or possibly the other way round). Who can identify the event and the runners rounding the track at the East Wing end of the Terrace? (And who were the owners of the two Austins parked behind the sight screen.....?!)

The Electronic Archive now contains a number of films of one sort or another but an enquiry from G V (Geoff) Bevitt (1957-64) recently, seeking a recording of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* performed at the School under the aegis of the music master G C Moore in Geoff's time (he sang Dido), has pointed to a glaring omission in the Archive viz music recordings. If anyone has any, including the elusive *Dido and Aeneas* please let the Archivist know and if they are prepared to allow copying of the item(s).

The scanning of the School Magazines is referred to in *The President's Letter* (p 3) and R C (Bob) Coombs (1952-60) has now moved onto scanning School group photographs etc, commencing with the Dramatic Society and Operatic Society images that once hung in the Lower Corridor. All these will be accessible on the Archive Section of the OR website before long. Our gratitude to Bob is considerable indeed!

The two items signed by Fred Griffin given by Alan Johnson (see panel below in the Autumn 2012 issue) were a Reading School Christmas card showing Fred's usual signature and a volume of Mozart sonatas showing his musical signature – we will try to reproduce both in the next issue.

We thank the following for additions to the Archive

Prof T H D Arie (1943-52)	For School lists of 1948 and 1950, a prefect's cap and the image above
Dr D M Bruton (1948-51)	For a substantial archive of items related to his School career and presidential year
T L Cartwright (1955-62)	For team photographs; U/15 XI 1958 and Senior Colts XV 1959
M H W Maule (1956-59)	For 'The Enterprise Awards' records and archive
Mr J A Morgan	For a copy of <i>Short History of Reading School</i>
S R (1951-53) and Mrs Stafford	For <i>A History of the Town of Reading</i> by M G Hinton (Staff 1949-53)
J P Tarry (1937-43)	For School magazines; of January and July 1966

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, 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.**

Three Questions – a Partial Reply

by E S Holt (1966-72) (Staff 1982-12)



David Weekes

I read Rev David Weekes' powerful remembrance address, *Three Questions*, in *The Old Redingensian* of Spring 2012, with more than passing interest. Two of his questions were certainly beyond me, but after six years in the School as a student, and thirty as a teacher, I felt I ought to be able to order my thoughts on the third, *What of their School?* It is some challenge, but worth

the effort, for Reverend Weekes' own observations suggested some concerns.

He refers to *'the oft repeated mantra of the great academic reputation now achieved, but is it all?'* The fear that in improving its academic performance so markedly, the School has lost something, perhaps something of its soul, is an understandable one, and I suspect present among many of us as ORs. However in defence some remarks need to be made in relation to the context in which the School exists. Since the 1960s the comprehensive ideal has held sway. This is often now seen as a party political issue, but in fact at the time it was not. The Labour legislation of the 1960s received little resistance from the Conservative opposition. The Secretary of State who agreed to the closure of more grammar schools than any other, was, of course, the ex-grammar school girl Margaret Thatcher. Whatever argument may exist today about the outcomes of the policy, the selective system was widely seen as out-of-date, and to a considerable extent inefficient.

There were many results of this, but one is that for the small number of surviving grammar schools, academic excellence is an absolute necessity in a way which was not the case a generation ago. Reading School no doubt means different and very distinctive things to all of us as ex-pupils or teachers, but it is only unarguably distinguished from the mainstream by its intake. This is a school for able – nowadays for highly able – young men. If it does not achieve standards which show that the exercise of collecting those talents together for seven years has had an academic value, it cannot survive, nor justify its survival. In an increasingly competitive world, it is also what parents take for granted in choosing the School for their sons. No number of comic opera or debates, however stimulating, could compensate for mere adequacy in academic performance. I am no lover of either league tables or Ofsted reports, but they have forced us to address this question: does the School justify its existence and its removal of the highly able from the mainstream? A selective school which is not showing that it is first and foremost an

academic challenge for its students, and where the results do not show that they achieve more highly for being there, is labelled by Ofsted as 'coasting'. It might perhaps be better described as 'complacent'. Inspectors have already given these verdicts in relation to other grammar schools, and the impact on those communities is devastating.

Reading School has met these increasingly challenging demands. The educational world now drowns in a sea of data. I regret that. However it is not all valueless. It is now possible to state clearly, not from individual personal experience, but from data collected over years and compared with national statistics, that students at Reading



Ned Holt

School do very well indeed, most importantly in comparison to students of similar ability elsewhere, whether in selective or comprehensive schools. Other selective schools may be 'coasting'. This one is not.

However Reverend Weekes is absolutely right in suggesting that if that was all the School now achieves something crucial would have been lost. It is not all. The pastoral care of pupils has developed beyond recognition – indeed in my day I doubt if we would have recognised the term. Ross Brawn, perhaps the most markedly successful ex-pupil in work today, was told it might be better for him to leave the School at the age of fifteen. He has been generous enough to say that the advice may have been warranted, but it would be very hard to imagine such an outcome today. The pastoral work of the last twenty years, led by Mike Evans (*J M Evans Staff 1968-05 - Ed*) and Bob Lewis (*R W Lewis Staff 1976-10 - Ed*) as senior staff, but involving just about every teacher in the School, would make that practically impossible.

'Is that all?' however remains a valid question. It is not all. Alongside this achievement, non-academic activities have flourished, a remarkable testament to the strength of the School's traditions in a world where students can now find lucrative employment in their evening and week-end hours. Look at the breadth of activity, often at the highest level, reflected in the recipients of OR Enterprise Awards. Particular pleasures have disappeared, certainly one or two of mine have done so. The comic opera which Reverend Weekes singles out, is indeed a thing of the past, though since they ceased to be an annual feature, there have been excellent productions of, for instance, *The Mikado*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Curse of the Werewolf*, and *Les Misérables*. His other reference however, to debating, chooses an activity that continues to thrive. What matters is surely not whether one tradition of extra-curricular vitality or another has survived, but that the vitality itself has done so. The musical life of the School is stronger

than at any time I have known it; the house music competition is so successful its audience can no longer be accommodated in Big School, and the event has had to move to The Concert Hall in The Town Hall, Blagrove Street. New activities have emerged. Cricket teams have travelled to the West Indies, football teams to South Africa, and rugby teams to New Zealand. The Chess team takes on, and defeats, some of the most high powered independent schools in the country, and is annually in with a genuine chance of being national schools champions. Last summer dedicated young staff took a group of students to Tanzania, by no means the first such visit. They climbed Kilimanjaro, but what

they talked about most on their return was the time they spent working in a local village school.

Whether in the class-room or outside therefore, the School is in excellent health. It is a happy community as well as a vibrant one. Like Reverend Weekes I owe it a massive debt. Those who taught us both in our different decades created a wonderful environment in which to learn and to live, but they achieved something even better. They left a School which could become even greater after they were gone. The colleagues I have left behind make me confident that that is again the case today. ESH

Ned Holt, writer of the above article, was a 1st XI stalwart, and Hon Sec of cricket when at School. His involvement with Reading School cricket then continued over the 30 years that he spent on the staff and readers of this magazine will be familiar with his many contributions on School cricket. This seems an appropriate page to hark back to the Archivist's article in *The Old Redingensian* Autumn 2009 *First XI Cricket at Reading School*. The history of the Pavilion recorded therein included the phrase that it had 'its lowly beginnings as a shed in 1876'. A picture of that shed, dated 1877, has now come to light and is shown below.



Those shown are thought to be (l to r) (1) not known; (2) A Stehn; (3) C W Tribe; (4) not known; (5) H F Easton; (6) H R Stokoe; (7) not known; (8) T Hall; (9) R D Proud. The foregoing received 'characters' as did G D Leslie, H Balmain, G L Stevens, N Gourlay and J J Whiteley. Prize bats were awarded to Easton (Captain of the XI) for his play in the six away ('foreign') matches, Hall for home matches and Balmain for bowling. Gourlay was ill for the second half of term. Although the weather was cold and rainy it was a successful season in terms of results and included the School's first victory over the Town (ie Reading Cricket Club). The only substantial reverse came against Keble College. (The match against Old Redingensians, incidentally, was drawn.) KCB

Overseas Branches

USA

US Organiser – Roy Seymour (1952-57)

R F Seymour (Hon Sec, US Branch)
15 Westgate Drive
ANNANDALE
NJ 08801
USA

Tel: +1 908 238 1020
Email: 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



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



Roy Seymour writes as follows:

The West Coast USA Branch held the biennial dinner and reunion on Thursday, 21 February 2013 at Skates on the Bay at the Berkeley Marina.

Traffic defeated a valiant effort to make a necessary exit ramp from the freeway which caused Roy Seymour and Jenny (image right) to take a scenic detour across The Bay Bridge to Treasure Island, pay a toll and still make it back to the Marina late by only four minutes. This magnificent feat was kindly rewarded by Ray Braham in just manner – a fine whiskey. It should be noted however that a confession was later delivered by Ray that he and Natalie (image centre) had also made an unplanned diversion during their journey. Again this year, the other member of our Executive Committee Richard Lindsay, and Claudia (image left), arrived without incident. Is he more clever or simply just luckier?



Fine dining, good wine and great company has always been the hallmark of these events and this year was no exception.

The toasts to The Queen, The School and The ORs were delivered with vigour, followed by remembrance of departed and absent friends. A message of good wishes from Ken Brown, President of the ORA was read, and an informative update from Chris Widdows was also well received. We were glad to hear that Ashley Robson is settling in well as the new Headmaster, and appears to value input and interest from the ORs. Anything that works to help maintain the high standards of the School along with keeping its independence is certainly welcomed.

Our evening together always seems to fly by and we broke up at about 10.15pm after more than three hours of conversation, jokes and sentimental memories.

Roy particularly requests that he is advised of all new or updated email addresses. The USA is a big place to track down people, and he wants to have contact with as many interested ORs as possible.

Mike Jones writes as follows:

Tourism Queensland has advertised the State as 'beautiful one day, perfect the next'. As our recent Noosa weekend OR re-union proved, when you double these 2 daily forecasts, some 4 days of superlative winter weather was to be enjoyed by the 5 OR families participating in an extended weekend function. Even the tides were low for the weekend afternoon walks.

Friday afternoon was allocated to welcoming first

David and Joan Wiffen (image left) from Adelaide, then Clive and Jan Nealon (image second right) from



Perth. Introductions were completed during a curry dinner. For the Saturday lunch on 15th June, 2013, we returned to Trios at Tewantin, where the table for ten enjoyed sparkling views across the Noosa River to Cooloola National Park. Queensland was represented by Mike and Alison Jones (image right), Roy and Sian Pyke (image

second left), plus Ted and Marguerite Webber (separate image). With Roy's presence, a former prefect was again included among our attendees.



The Ted Robson pewter for 2013 was awarded to Clive, as the most travelled attendee.

The Nealons were also fortunate to sight migratory humpback whales from Point Perry.

On the Sunday morning, the Wiffens attended a book revue at Noosa's Long

Weekend Arts Festival, while the Nealons went birding in Noosa National Park. The resort's spa, sauna and pool were utilised that afternoon, before Mike and Alison were treated to a riverside dinner at Noosaville. On the Monday, the Nealons drove north towards Cairns for a 4-weeks vacation; while the Wiffens headed for Brisbane and the Gold Coast to complete their short week's vacation. Numerous apologies were received, as distance really does hinder attendances at such re-unions. There is much to be recommended in such a relaxed, holiday approach to future re-unions in any Australian State.

Mike's Australasian membership list hovers around the 50 mark. He feels the chances of local annual ORA reunions in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney remain above average and are potentially lively gatherings when partners are added to the invitations. Should a locally based OR offer to have a go at organising a get together in their area Mike will be delighted and can supply addresses.

The demographic spread of members of the Association, excluding the United Kingdom, currently covers Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA and the West Indies –Ed.



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

Obituaries

HIS HONOUR SIR FRANK (JOHN) WHITE (1937-44)



Sir Frank White was a much respected Senior Circuit Judge. It is unusual for a Circuit Judge to be knighted but his was an exceptional career and he was an exceptional and much loved character. He was largely responsible for setting up a series of courses and training seminars when he was a member of the Judicial Studies Board (1985-99) that continues to this day. He wrote the first Training Manual for the judiciary, *Bench Notes and Exercises for Assistant Recorders* (1988, and later expanded to cover the work of full time Judges): he became President of the Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges (1990): Chairman of the County Court Rules Committee (1993), senior circuit judge at the Central London County Court in 1994 and persuaded the Lord Chancellor to allow the first Court Mediation Service to be set up. He was Chairman of the London County Court Group of Judges. On retirement in 1997 he was elected a Bencher of Grays Inn and a Fellow of King's College, London. Away from the legal profession he was President of King's College, London Association, President of the Franco-British Demi-Siècle, a Governor of Glendower School and Chairman of the Barnes Workhouse Trust.

He was born in 1927. His father was a schoolmaster in Reading who had met his French mother, Renée, whilst she was a Toulouse University student. At Reading School Frank

was in East House, Captain of House Chess, a House Athletic Colour, in the ATC and a School Monitor. At Speech Day in 1944 he was awarded the 6th form history prize (the Old Kendricks Prize) and he was a member of the Debating Society, of Seekers, the Music Society, and also a librarian. Additionally, he ran that useful lost property organisation *The Pound* – which he proclaimed, in a nod to his future career, was 'Pro Bono Publico'.

He left in July 1945, before his final year, to take up a combined University and Naval Course. At the age of seventeen and a half he was an ordinary seaman, becoming a midshipman the following year, and leaving the Service in 1947 as a sub-lieutenant. His main posting had been on *HMS Berwick* bringing troops back from the Far East at the tail end of the war. A love of the sea remained with him. Frank then went on to complete his education at King's College, London (gaining an LLB and later at the London School of Economics an LLM). At King's he was President of the Students' Union and met his future wife, Anne Rowlandson Hewitt, whom he was to marry in 1953.

He was called to the Bar by Grays Inn in 1951 and from chambers at 2 Garden Court, built up a mixed Common Law Practice in London and on the Oxford Circuit. He served on the Bar Council from 1969-73. In 1974 he became a circuit judge and was soon appointed senior judge at Wandsworth County Court. In 1977 he became a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Aid.

Frank White was brought up as a Catholic and remained a quiet, committed, Christian. He had many interests: walking, reading, gardening and photography (at which he excelled and had converted the basement of the family home in Barnes to a photographic studio). The French side of his family was very important to him and from 1971 he and Anne maintained a house in France.

St Mary's, Barnes, was crowded at the Memorial Service on 10 November, and Lord Woolf, in his tribute, stressed that if Frank White had wanted he would have been a High Court Judge – but he had made the right decision. He agreed with the words of Lord Irvine of Lairg who had said to Frank White that he was: 'an original. There is no copy. Your position can be filled, but you cannot be replaced'. Sir Frank's lifelong friend J M H (John) Lee OR (1935-45) was amongst ORs present. Lady White survives her husband together with their children, Stephen (who gave a most moving tribute at the Service), Theresa, Louise and Simon and eight grandchildren.

Sir Frank White died on 23rd October 2012 aged 85.

KCB



BASIL KEITH COOPER MBE (1930-41)



Basil Keith Cooper, always known as Keith, was the son of Basil Cooper, who was at School from 1906-12, severely wounded in the First World War, a Director of the Reading and Caversham Laundry and became Chairman of Committee of the OR Club for many years. The Coopers were indeed a 'Reading School family', a number of them attending over the generations.

He had an outstanding career at Reading School, starting in the Junior School. He became a School Prefect, Captain of East House, Captain of School Athletics (Victor Ludorum 1939 and 1940), won the Long Run in 1940, a School Athletic Colour for three years, Hon Sec of School Cricket (2nd Colour) and a 1st XV player (2nd Colour). He was a Lance Sergeant in the OTC, Senior Ordinary Member of the Debating Society, Hon. Sec. of Seekers, a member of the Chess Club and of all the major School committees.

On leaving School he joined the Royal Corps of Signals. Under an army scheme he was sent to Trinity College, Oxford to prepare him for special overseas postings. Whilst there he ran for Oxford, though no Blues were awarded for such wartime events. By the end of the war Keith held the substantive rank of major and was demobilised as a lieutenant colonel.

Keith married Patricia Fourte, an air force staff officer and former Kendrick pupil, at St Peter's, Earley, on 1 March 1947. He then left for Nigeria to serve as an Administrative Officer for the Colonial Office, Patricia joining him in August of that year.

He served in Ibadan and, in 1954, during a tax riot in Eruwa he was wounded, his subsequent actions leading to the award of an MBE. Other postings followed and whilst a district officer in Ijebu-Ode Keith and Patricia were presented to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh during the royal visit to Nigeria. Finally, Keith returned to the Western Secretariat, Ibadan, where he became Assistant Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and, latterly, in the Ministry of Finance. Late in 1960 Nigeria gained independence and despite the opportunity to stay on Keith decided to retire from the Colonial Service in 1962. In 1961 he had written, with I D Cameron, *The West African Councillor* (OUP).

The family returned to the United Kingdom and settled in Weymouth and Keith took a post with the Home Civil Service in Dorchester. He then spent some years at Somerset House before joining the Barnstaple office, when the family moved to Croyde. In 1982 Keith again retired, by then head of the Exeter Tax Division of the Inland Revenue.

In the following 28 years Keith and Patricia spent most winters in Portugal. At home in Croyde they were enthusiastic gardeners, both played golf (Patricia is a former County Captain) and they delighted in their growing grandchildren. Keith is survived by Patricia, their sons, Nicholas and Jeremy and four grandchildren.

Basil Keith Cooper died on 18 January 2012 aged 89.

KCB

JOHN DAWKINS (1939-46)



John was in East House at Reading School, on the House Committee and won House Colours for Rugby, Swimming and Boxing (he was awarded the Best Junior Boxer Cup in 1943 and became Captain of East House Boxing): he also captained the East House Chess Team and gained School Chess Initials in 1946. He was a Sergeant in the JTC (and by 1947 a private in the General Service Corps).

From 1948-49 he studied at Reading University and after National Service pursued a career as a mechanical engineer. Until 1956 he worked for Sigmund Pulsometer Pumps, and after that for Westons Engineering in Woodley until 1962. He then joined the National Institute for Research in Dairying and there he remained until his retirement in 1989.

John played a considerable part in local life: he had been a Berkshire County Councillor, a school governor at both Rivermead and Waingels Copse and was involved with the Woodley Carnival from its outset.

In retirement he lived with his wife, Marion, in Weston-Super-Mare, where the funeral service took place. He is survived by Marion and by their son, Charles (C J Dawkins, OR 1965-70) and grandson, Connor.

John Dawkins died on 2 September 2012 aged 83.

KCB

PROFESSOR EWART ALBERT VINCENT (1930-36)



Ewart Vincent held the Chair of Geology at Oxford from 1967 until his retirement in 1986: only the eighth holder since its establishment, but, remarkably, the second OR – the first was Sir Joseph Prestwich, who was at Reading School from 1774 -1787.

He grew up in Shinfield, a neighbour of the Aust family of ORs, and at Reading School was in County House. He took prizes for French and German, appeared in *Abraham Lincoln* for the Dramatic Society and became a Corporal in the OTC.

At Reading University he studied geology under another OR, Professor Herbert Leader Hawkins (1895-04): graduating in 1940. He spent the War in research on the analysis and testing of explosives. In the laboratory in Scotland, he met and married Myrtle. She had proclaimed that she loved him but not his given names - and ever after called him 'David', by which he became generally known.

He was a lecturer and Reader at Durham and then at Oxford between 1951 and 1962 (where a pupil was B G J Upton (1941-50), White Scholar who, as Professor Brian Upton, is another distinguished OR geologist, and remained a good friend of David). During this period it has been said that David became possibly the finest of all analysts in the field of geological and mineralogical research. He moved to the Chair of Geology in Manchester, where administrative duties began to take priority, as they inevitably did when he returned to Oxford in 1967. During his time at Oxford the foundations of the present Department of Earth Science were laid, and there is a room in the new building that bears his name.

David Vincent was a cultured man of great ability and attractive qualities, who possessed a considerable hinterland. He was a photographer of exceptional skill; had a deep love and knowledge of classical music; was a bibliophile and a linguist. He wrote a fine book about his department at Oxford, *Geology and Mineralogy at Oxford 1860-1986*, and also translated, from the German, the vulcanologist Alfred Rittman's book *Vulkane und Ihre Tätigkeit*.

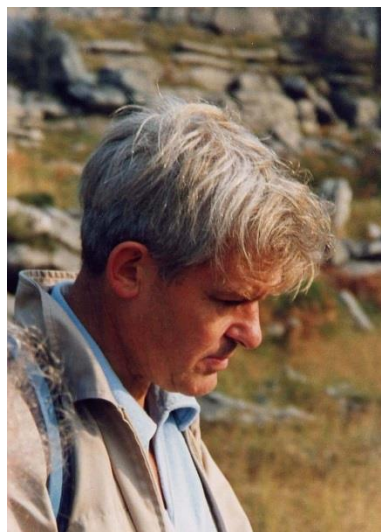
The funeral took place, on a rainy day, at the charming All Saints Church, in Wytham. An outstanding tribute was paid by Dr David Bell, former student and colleague, and in the capacity congregation was Miss Evelyn Aust, last surviving sibling of the Shinfield Austs.

Myrtle died just after their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2004 and David is survived by their daughters Jenny and Polly, three grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

David Vincent died on 24 December 2012 aged 93.

KCB

MURRAY MITCHELL (1941-51)



Murray, younger brother of P R (Peter) Mitchell (1940-49), was born on 15 June, 1933. He was in County House at School, became a School Monitor, gained School Representative Cricket Colours and School Representative Chess Initials. He captained County House at both Cricket and Swimming and also represented them at Athletics, Rugby and Gymnastics.

In 1952 he won the 6th Form Geography Prize, an indicator to his future career as a geologist. His father had worked as a geologist in the Lake District as Murray was to do.

He did his National Service in the Royal Signals during which he marched in the 1953 Coronation Procession. He graduated from Magdalene College, Cambridge and became a palaeontologist.

He worked for 30 years in the Civil Service on fossils found in carboniferous limestone for the British Geological Survey. He took early retirement in 1986, and then became a visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences (later known as the School of Earth and Environment) at the University of Leeds. In 1996 he published, with F G Dimes, *Building Stone Heritage of Leeds* (2nd Edition 2006) and in 2004, with Michael Dewey, *Geology, Scenery and History: a Walk in Yewdale, Northeast of Conistone*. From 1995-2000 he worked on a National Trust project to report on the building stone of National Trust Lake District Buildings. He worked also on the Yorkshire Quarry Arts Project (2003-11) and the Ruskin Rocks Project.

Murray is survived by his wife Lesley, son David and three grandchildren, and by his brother Peter. On the day of his funeral Leeds University's Parkinson Building flew its flag at half-mast.

Murray Mitchell died on 26 March 2012 aged 78.

KCB

MICHAEL HARMAN CRISP (1936-44)



Michael Harman Crisp was in East House (he lived in Whiteknights Road) from 1936-43 and a boarder in South House during his final year. His brother Trevor (whose obituary appears below) had a similar journey, some years later, from East to South House. Michael became a School Monitor, a Corporal in the JTC, won House Swimming Colours and was in the Boarders House Shooting VIII. From School he went to Loughborough College of Engineering to study Civil Engineering.

His National Service was with the Royal Engineers where he served as a Second Lieutenant. For a year he worked on the development of Harlow New Town but his career was to be spent with Trinity House and lighthouses were to become his passion.

He joined the Service in 1951 in the Engineer-in-Chief's Department. In 1963 he was chosen as the Project Manager for the Design and Construction of Tater Du Lighthouse, which is considered a monument to his ability as a dedicated and capable civil engineer (and where his ashes have been scattered). Tater Du was the last new lighthouse built in England.

Michael became Assistant Engineer-in-Chief and while in this post accepted on behalf of Trinity House, the *Structural Steel Design Award*

which was given for the design and construction of helipads on Rock Tower Lighthouses. In 1980 he transferred to the Penzance Depot as Inspector of Works and became a significant figure in the development of the Lighthouse Museum. He retired from the service as District Maintenance Manager, Penzance, in 1989.

Despite the differences in their ages Michael was close to his brother Trevor and shared with him a passion for cars. He was considered an excellent driver and had competed in various rallies.

Michael developed Alzheimer's disease and for his final eighteen months was in a care home near to the family home in Camborne. He is survived by his wife Margaret, their sons Adrian and Andrew and seven grandchildren.

Michael Crisp died on 4 September 2011 aged 84.

KCB

TREVOR NIGEL CRISP (1945-54)

Trevor Crisp was nine years younger than his brother Michael (whose notice appears above) but the family home was still in Whiteknights Road when he entered the Junior School as a member of East House. Like Michael, he later became (during School year 1950-51) a boarder in South House.

Trevor won House Athletics Colours for Boarders in 1953 and represented them at Cross Country and in the Mile. His outstanding design ability was signalled at Speech Day in 1946 when he won the Junior School Art Prize, which he also did in 1947, and in 1953 when he received the GCE Technical Drawing Prize.

From School Trevor joined Jaguar Cars and combined an engineering apprenticeship there with a degree course at the College of Technology, Birmingham (now Aston University) from 1956-60.

He worked on the development of Coventry-Climax (a subsidiary of Jaguar) Formula One engines and, amongst others, the Jaguar V12 and XK six-cylinder Jaguar units. Trevor was extremely successful in his field and from 1981 to 1991 was *Chief Engineer, Power Train, Jaguar Cars*. When Jaguar's owners, Ford, announced the Jaguar Formula One programme in 1999, Trevor became Managing Director of their subsidiary, Cosworth Racing, to head up the engine development for the programme.

Trevor's interests were car centred. He was an amateur rally driver (competing with his brother) and also did some club racing with a Mini, and an A35 – and a Daimler Dart.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, and by their children Emma and Charles.

Trevor Crisp died on 29 October 2011 aged 75.

KCB



DAVID ORLLWYN PEARCE THOMAS (1942-52)



D O P (David) Thomas, and his elder brother G R P (Raymond) (1940-50), entered East Wing in April 1942, as members of the Junior School. When the time came for them to enter the Senior School, it was to South House that they went but, finally, in 1949, both returned to East Wing, imported by the new House Master, F H (Frank) Terry (Staff 1946-82), who needed House Monitors.

David was a chap who had a go; always trying to the best of his abilities and this resulted in an impressive contribution to School life, and to Boarders in particular. He became a School Monitor, Captain of East Wing, a Lance Sergeant in the CCF, Senior Ordinary Member of the Debating Society, gained School Representative Colours for Cricket, School Representative Initials for Chess, played in a host of House Teams, and on stage for the Operatic and Debating Societies: additionally, he was a member of many School Clubs.

During National Service he was commissioned into the Education branch of the RAF. He graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and commenced a career teaching geography at schools in Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk and, latterly, Cardigan. In 1971 he became a lecturer at a teacher training college in Salisbury and when that closed in 1977 he retrained, at

Portsmouth Polytechnic, as a personnel officer. Part of his retraining was spent at Pains Wessex fireworks business. They offered him a permanent position and he eventually became safety officer at the factory.

David Thomas was an active member of the Liberal Democrat Party, served as a town councillor and school governor, and was a strong supporter of Amnesty International, Oxfam, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth. All his life he loved sport: two future Welsh Rugby Internationals (Brynmor Williams and Paul Ringer) were taught Rugby by him. Having previously played for the University of Wales he played village cricket until the age of 50, and badminton socially.

After retirement in 1994 the family moved to Swansea where David added Swansea Bowling Club to his many social interests.

Amongst ORs at the funeral was David's contemporary in East Wing, P R (Philip) Blunt (1946-51). David is survived by Iona, his wife of 54 years, and by their children Rob and Janet, three grandchildren and his brother Raymond.

David Thomas died on 30 July 2012 aged 78.

KCB

KENNETH ROY FLETCHER GEORGE (1931-37)



Ken George's parents had a furniture store in Oxford Road for many years. He was born in Reading on 4th December, 1919, and entered School in West House. Both his brothers, W A F (1928-30) and R J F (1931-40), were at School. Ken was in his House XV in 1936 and '37, and later played for the Old Redingensians. He served on his House Committee, was a King's Scout and School Monitor.

He joined Cook, Sutton & Co. in the town and embarked on a career in accountancy although it was soon interrupted by the Second World War. Turned down by the Royal Navy because of poor eyesight when he volunteered, he was subsequently called up by the Army and served overseas for four years rising to the rank of Captain.

On demobilisation he resumed his accountancy career and in 1957 married Winifred Hedderly at St Mary's in the Butts. B G (Bruce) Robinson, (1929-36) was best man. Their long and happy marriage included a shared love of music which was one of life's joys to them.

Ken led a quiet and decent life, helping many along the way, and retired in 1979. He devoted his retirement to music, his garden and above all, to Winnie. He did continue to actively manage their financial arrangements and indeed 2012 was the first year that he turned to another advisor and

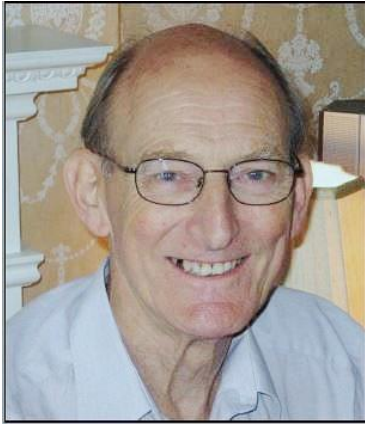
that only because his eyesight was no longer up to the job. Failing eyesight and a severe respiratory condition complicated his last years, but he was stoical and his natural cheerfulness did not desert him.

Winnie survives Ken, as does his nephew Dr Robert George, who paid warm tribute to them both at the funeral service.

Ken George died in the Royal Berkshire Hospital on the 9 August 2012 aged 92.

KCB

DAVID WILSON (1942-50)



David Wilson was a man of exceptional talent and rare modesty; in the words of his School friend T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50) – ‘He had a dazzling intellect, was a fine athlete but always extremely modest and charming’.

He entered Reading School in September, 1942 and left in March, 1950, from Science VIIth Form. He was in West House until 1944 when he was transferred to County House. David became a School Prefect and an exceptional sportsman. Apart from representing his House in at least five disciplines, he was a School Cricket Colour (Hon Sec School Cricket) and a School Rugby Colour. As an opening bowler for the XI and a centre three-quarter in the XV, he was an heroic performer; David did not make up the numbers in the teams he played for!

He was a Lance Sergeant in the CCF and a member of the School Debating Society. Amongst several appearances at Speech Days, he won the Monck & Palmer Physics Prize twice and the Robert Newport Memorial Prize for

Mathematics. David eventually outstripped all his maths teachers and the Headmaster arranged for him to go three times a week to London University for tutoring by dons there.

From School he went to Downing College, Cambridge, laden with scholarships, took a First Class in Natural Sciences Part I, and graduated in 1954.

Between School and University, when in the RAF, David contracted polio, losing all the muscles in his right leg. His sporting career was ended; his family never heard this pragmatic man complain – and perhaps never knew the extent of his sporting abilities.

Rejecting a possible career in nuclear research on moral grounds, he chose textiles as his field of future expertise, working primarily for Courtaulds. He rose to become Director of Research and in later life became an internationally sought after consultant. His main legacy, however, was in his inventions; he patented five of these, most notably the design of a compression bandage that revolutionized the treatment of muscular and ligament injuries. He also created a type of synthetic mattress – an early forerunner to the memory foam of today.

He had a love of classical music particularly the works of Wagner, Sibelius and Mozart and he followed Test Cricket and Rugby Internationals. He was very much a family man, never happier than when at home or in the garden with his children and grandchildren. David was a man of great patience, understanding and courage. A caring nature was central to his being and even in his final year, when struggling with his own illness, his first thoughts were always for his wife who suffers the crippling effects of arthritis.

He is survived by Adrienne, his wife of 55 years, two sons and two daughters. The input to this notice from his son, Nick, is greatly appreciated.

David Wilson died on 30 November 2012 aged 80.

KCB

ANTHONY JOHN COLLINS (1952-56)

Tony Collins was the only boy from Battle Primary in the 1952 Reading School intake. He was in County House, played House Rugby and Cricket, was in the School U/16 XI, and a goalie for the U/13 Football XI. (All his life he followed Reading FC and would try to stay at the Madejski Millennium Hotel two or three times a year for home games, making the long journey from Scotland).

Tony left School after ‘O’ Levels and spent his career as a Civil Servant in Customs & Exercise, almost entirely in the North of Scotland, until taking early retirement in 1995. Since then he had been a member of the local Health Council (Aberlour, Banffshire) and a Lay Reviewer with the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland/NHS Quality Improvement, Scotland.

He attended the Class of ’52 Reunion in 2010 and was fondly regarded by his fellows as a likeable character. (His nickname, Urnal, is probably best left unexplained!) When first in Scotland, his work sent him to the Speyside distilleries and whisky, particularly Glenmorangie and Knockando, remained one of his pleasures and great interests.

Tony is thought to have suffered a heart attack causing his car to hit another and then an articulated lorry; he was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident but, luckily, no one else was injured.

He was a widower, his wife Marie (née Skene) having succumbed to cancer and predeceased him some years ago. There were no children but Tony is survived by his sister.

Anthony Collins died on 2 October 2012 aged 71.

KCB



DERRICK THOMAS HUGH FISHER (1936-43)



Starting in the Junior School, Derrick was in West House, for which he gained Athletics and Rowing Colours, in the Cadet Corps, and manifested his lifelong love of music in both the Opera Society and the Music Society. He also sang in the choirs at London Street Methodist Church, and Wesley Church in Queen's Road, with his schoolfellow George Pinker (1935-42) – later to be Sir George, Surgeon Gynaecologist to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – who was a friend for over 80 years.

He left School aged 16 and served in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps, from 1944 to April 1948 leaving in the rank of lieutenant. The major part of Derrick's civilian career commenced the day after his honeymoon, when he joined Cooper's of Berkhamsted. Cooper's was taken over by The Wellcome Foundation Ltd in 1959 and Derrick continued with Wellcome, for which he was a Divisional Manager, until his retirement in 1984.

Derrick had a strong religious faith of which choral singing and playing the organ was an integral part. For over 60 years he sang in choirs with his wife Daphne (nee Hallows); they were married on 12 June 1954 in Chesterfield. After happy

spells in Berkhamsted, Nantwich and Llangollen they moved to Oswestry in 1998 and he and Daphne became ever greater mainstays of the choir and life of St Oswald's Church there.

Derrick passed away peacefully having made breakfast for Daphne and read the newspaper. He was the brother of the late P D (Philip) Fisher OR (1936-41) and he is survived by Daphne and their children, Mark, Charlie and Katie, and by seven grandchildren.

Derrick Fisher died on 7 November 2012 aged 85.

KCB

JOHN L VAUGHAN (Staff 1970-2003)



John was a Welshman, born on 31 August 1948 in Gorseinon, West Wales. He attended Gowerton Boys Grammar School, where he captained both the XV and XI, and was selected to play for Wales U18 XV. Gowerton was also the Alma Mater of his friend R W (Bob) Lewis (Staff 1976-2010) and, of course, D G (Gwyn) Francis (Staff 1921-61) Gowerton's first ever Welsh International Rugby player.

John studied physical education at St Luke's College, Exeter from 1967-70 and there he was a member of the 7-a-side rugby team which won the Middlesex 7s. Armed with a Dip.P.E. he arrived at Reading School in September 1970 and married Sue Francis in December of that year. He was already established in the Llanelli back row and travelled back and forth from Reading to play for them for a further two years before joining London Welsh, then a very successful outfit, eventually becoming 1st Team Coach from 1981-85. He coached Welsh to a John Player Cup Final at Twickenham in 1985. His own pinnacle as a player was perhaps captaining Southern Counties against the All Blacks in 1972. He also played for and captained the Berkshire XV.

In 1975 John became Games Master at School, succeeding J (Jimmy) Lethem (Staff 1948-76). The post was later designated Director of Sport, which it remains to date.

John was an extremely gifted teacher of physical education, respected, admired and liked by his pupils. He encouraged leadership; he was the driving force behind the institution of regular team tours - whether rugby, cricket or tennis - all over the globe; he introduced Reading School to *World Challenge*. Ofsted inspections attested to the quality of John's teaching over his long period at the School. In 1986 he and Sue (and their German Shepherds, Bodie and Doyle) moved into West Wing, where John was the last House Master before it closed as a boarding house.

John left Reading School to focus on sports coaching – he was in great demand as a top RFU coach (he had qualified as an English RFU coach in 1980 and as a Welsh RFU coach in 1981) - but was often seen at the School, and at the Redingensians RFC ground. His early death from cancer is a sad reminder that even the seemingly indestructible (and John had the most impressive physical presence) are mortal.

A very large crowd gathered inside and outside Reading Crematorium on 17 October last with numerous former players, colleagues and ORs amongst them. He is survived by Sue.

John Vaughan died on 29 September 2012 aged 64.

KCB

EDWARD STEPHEN HUGHES (1934-37)

Eddie was born on 24 October 1924 to Fred and Sadie Hughes. His father was a Methodist Minister and Eddie had two elder brothers and two elder sisters.

At School he was in County House, spending two years in the Junior School and one in the Senior School, at the end of which he left (from Lower IIIB) having tragically lost both his parents in the space of two years. He was still in his 13th year and spent the next two years in children's homes until his elder brother Norman arrived to bring him back to Reading.

When he was 15 he joined Sigmund Pulsometer Pumps, on an apprenticeship, but was soon in the Royal Navy where he served in the Second World War, both on surface ships and submarines, in the Indian Ocean and elsewhere.

Eddie returned to Pulsometer after the War but he was restless and moved first to Marley Tiles and then to Nuclear Enterprises Ltd, Beenham, where he found his niche and greatly enjoyed his work on radioactive isotopes.

He had many interests, cars (owning, amongst others, two Porsches over the years) and motorcycles (he kept a Norton International until he died) and he was a renowned skydiver, part of the display team Red Squirrels, making hundreds of jumps. He built his own house and one next door in Reading Road, Padworth, where he lived.

Eddie's skydiving came to an end when he was involved in a road accident which killed his wife Elsie; their car was hit by a vehicle containing USAF personnel, who were found responsible. Eddie suffered permanent damage to a leg.

In later years he developed heart trouble; he was due to come to the OR Annual Dinner (with Dr C I (Carl) Cater (1986-93)), son of Eddie's friend and neighbour, Captain John Cater, last November, but passed away earlier that same month.

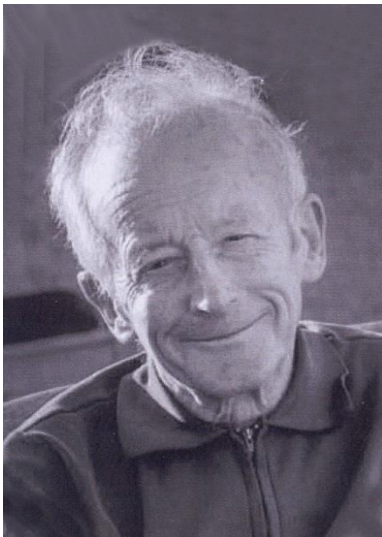
There were no children of his marriage and he was predeceased by his four siblings but he leaves 12 nephews and nieces – we are particularly grateful to Jim McBride, the son of Eddie's sister Mabel, for help with compiling this notice.

Edward Hughes died on the 5 November 2012 aged 88.

KCB



DAVID BRIAN SUMPSTER (1938-45)



David attended primary school in Tilehurst. At Reading School he was in County House until 1942 when he was transferred to West. He was a Corporal in the ATC and a member of the Gramophone Society and left School from VIth Sc.A with his Higher Certificate.

In June of 1945 he qualified under the 'Y' Scheme for school leavers (which combined a university place with flight training) but the Scheme ceased with the end of the War and instead he joined the Royal Navy as a Radio Mechanic for his National Service.

He was awarded a scholarship at the Bartlett School of Architecture (a faculty within the University of London) in 1947 and commenced his undergraduate course in 1948. Towards the end of the course The Goldsmith's Company awarded him a travel bursary and his subsequent trip to Italy marked the beginning of his lifelong interest in historic buildings. In 1953 he started work for the Historic Section of the London County Council and in 1960 became an architect within the Ministry of Works. For the Ministry and its successors he surveyed and reported upon historic buildings across the UK; at one stage having responsibilities for Stonehenge.

Eventually that government entity became English Heritage and he continued to work for them until retirement.

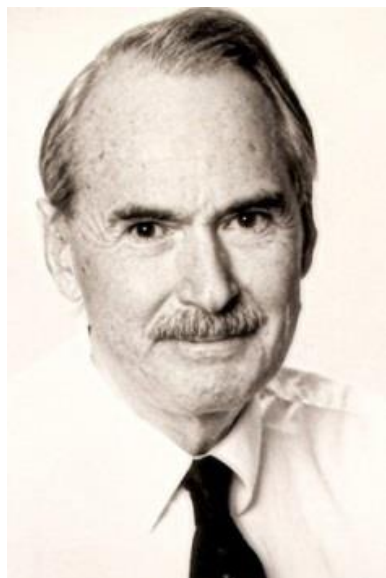
In 1988 he married Stella, a fellow architect with English Heritage and they enjoyed 14 years of happy married life sharing their mutual interest and living in the same house in Tilehurst where David was born and where he continued to live after Stella's death.

David had a passion for history and architecture, a considerable sense of fun and a deep love of his large family, who, with many friends were present in force for his funeral service at Tilehurst Methodist Church.

David Sumpster died on 7 November 2012 aged 85.

KCB

MICHAEL REX TURNER (1944-53)



Michael Turner was the son of a Mathematics and Physical Education teacher. He was in East House at Reading School, arriving in the Junior School, and by the time he left, from 64, was a School Prefect, an Under-Officer in the CCF, was in the 1st XV and had played for Berkshire Schoolboys, had School Rowing Colours, was Captain of East House Cricket, and Music, and had represented them also at Athletics, Swimming, Tennis and Chess. He was an Assistant Librarian, a member of various School Societies and in addition he gained 2nd Initials from the Operatic Society (appearing in productions from 1949-53) and was the C.E.W.C. School Representative.

Michael continued rowing at University College, London, and gained a BSc Physiology and Nutrition 1956. During his two years of compulsory military service, he passed out first at Mons Officer Cadet School, was posted to Hong Kong for a year, then to the Junior Leaders Regiment RA.

First working as a technician for the National Blood Transfusion Service, he then became a research scientist with the Medical Research Council. Gaining his MSc Nutrition 1962 and PhD Nutrition 1966, he pioneered nutrition teaching and research at Southampton University.

He was for five years Director General of the British Nutrition Foundation. He conceived, set up and served on the National Advisory Committee for Nutrition Education, whose 1983 report was a vehicle for the mass media to promote public awareness of the importance of good nutrition for health. In 1993 he was Chief Executive of the Family Heart Association.

Michael became known as an author, as a contributor to scientific journals, and was elected FRSH. He was also a Freeman of the City of London.

In retirement he lived a somewhat reclusive life in a French hotel. His plans to settle back in England were ever alive but never fulfilled, as he found himself (he freely admitted) becoming ever more indecisive.

Michael had two failed marriages, and with increasing difficulty had to cope with health problems. Due to general debility, he could not make a recovery following hospitalization for surgery on a leg fracture sustained in a fall. He is survived by his sister, Pauline Thwaites whose input to this notice is greatly appreciated.

Michael Turner died on 6 November 2012 aged 78.

KCB

BRENDAN MAURICE COAKELEY (1935-44)



Brendan, born in 1927, was the youngest of five brothers at School, all in East House. His elder siblings were: B F (Bernard) Coakeley (1935-36) born 1920, D A (Desmond) Coakeley (1935-39) born 1923, P R (Peter) Coakeley (1935-43) born 1926 and M J (Michael) Coakeley (1938-44) born 1930. Lieutenant Desmond Coakeley, Northants Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps, was killed in action during the Second World War.

At School, Brendan became a School Prefect, a Sergeant in the ATC, was on the East House Committee, gained his Bronze Life Saving Award and took part in the Dramatic Society, Operatic Society and Seekers. He was also a School Librarian. At Speech Days he received no less than nine prizes, starting with his form prize in 1936 and culminating with the Haynes Memorial Prize for French in 1944. In between, he had won prizes for Latin, English, Mathematics, Chemistry and Elocution.

Leaving School in November 1944 he went straight into the RAFVR as an A/C2. By his early twenties, he was living in Portugal where he became fluent in the language, in which he delighted. Most of his working life was spent in London lecturing on accountancy and he was able to spend the long holidays on foreign travel. He was a good classical pianist, an

aficionado of opera, a gregarious and convivial man who enjoyed entertaining, particularly in his Kendrick Road garden; he had a considerable knowledge of botany.

In recent years he had been seriously ill on several occasions and had three spells in residential homes; always he recovered and returned home, where he remained until the end, albeit with a team of carers, with him night and day. Brendan was unmarried and pre-deceased by all his brothers; he is survived his many nephews and nieces.

Brendan Coakeley died on 6 October 2012 aged 85.

KCB

KENNETH BRUCE ANDREW CULLEN (1970-77)



Ken Cullen ('Kendo') was in West House at School and represented them at Bridge and Swimming. He was also in the School Bridge Team and Hockey 2nd XI for which he gained Colours. He became a School Prefect.

From School he went to Bristol University, graduating in 1980 with a BSc Engineering and then spent a further three years at the University of the West of England, obtaining a further BSc in Engineering, while employed as a Stress Engineer by Bristol Composite Materials Engineering Limited.

Kendo moved to Bristol Aerospace Airbus in 1985 as a loads and dynamics engineer leaving in 1996 for three years at Boeing Commercial Aircraft, working on aircraft loads and dynamics.

He married in 1999 before emigrating to the USA, settling in Seattle. He joined the Microsoft Corporation, where he was a software test engineer. Amongst other things, he was heavily involved testing the Windows Vista

and Windows 7 operating systems prior to launch. His final career move was as a structural analysis engineer to CTS International in January 2010, working on the new Boeing 787. Kendo was granted USA citizenship in March 2011.

Aside from his son, Blayne, Kendo's other passion in life was Liverpool FC. He was an avid follower of their fortunes, even on the other side of the Atlantic. Whilst in the UK, (and when the body was younger and leaner!), he played rugby with a number of ORs, was a very good squash player, and invariably ended up on the winning team when he met up with ORs for Sunday afternoon bridge sessions.

Kendo was an accomplished musician, equally at home in classical or rock environments. He played violin in the Reading Youth Orchestra, alongside future ORs, as well as playing bass guitar in a number of bands, again with former ORs. He would also often accompany his father in musical ensembles for charitable and other events.

His last visit to the UK was in April 2009, when it was clear that his health had deteriorated. After a long illness, Kendo suffered multiple organ failure whilst in Washington University Medical Centre, Seattle. He is survived by his son Blayne and step-children Samantha and Harrison. The input to this notice from Nigel Meeks and other OR contemporaries of Kendo is greatly appreciated.

Kenneth Cullen died on 16 August 2012 aged 53.

KCB

BERNARD MESSIAS (1939-47)



Bernard was born on 10 June 1933 in Reading, where his parents had a wholesale fruit and vegetable business. He left Reading School at age 15 to join that business and then spent his National Service with the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. In the 1950s he joined Prudential Assurance where he worked in the pensions sector, living for many years in the South Mimms/Potters Bar area. In 1955 Bernard married Jessie Brandon.

From the age of 11, Bernard's consuming interest had been photography. No doubt Mr A T (Decca) Records, the master who was Vice-President of the Photographic Society at School, of which Bernard was a member, nurtured that interest. He became a Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society and a stalwart of the Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club (of which he was Vice-Chairman). In retirement he set up as an Independent Photography Professional with a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Bernard was a regular attender at OR Dinners, and the Pall Mall Luncheons organised by Dennis Moriarty.

In his later years he lived in Westcliff-on-Sea with his partner, Betty Presky. Betty died in 2012 and Bernard is survived by Jessie and their son Craig. In accordance with Jewish custom he was buried shortly after his death.

Bernard Messias died in November 2011 aged 78.

KCB

We are grateful to all who have contributed material for the notices in this section, particularly to:

Dr David Bell, Paul Butler, Mrs Patricia Cooper, Chaz Dawkins OR, Mrs Margaret Crisp, the late Trevor Gadsby OR, Bob Lewis (ex Staff), Jim McBride, Nigel Meek OR, Mrs Lesley Mitchell, Mrs Katie Morris, Roz Penney, Rob Thomas, Mrs Pauline Thwaites and Lady White.

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 over the next two issues, are invited.

P H (Peter) Anderton (1953-60)

Business Development Manager

Died 19 April 2012 aged 70

D S (Donald) Clarke (1934-40)

Bank Manager

Died 4 July 2012 aged 89

G A T (Geoffrey) Groombridge (1938-41)

Company Director

Died 24 September 2012 aged 88

Lt Col S C (Simon) Freeland MBE (RE) (1969-76)

Army Officer

Died 22 October 2012 aged 55

P G (Philip) Sizer (1928-31)

Managing Director and Past President ORA

Died 26 December 2012 aged 94

K P (Ken) Stevens (1927-32)

Bank Manager

Died 28 December 2012 aged 97

K G H (Keith) Tomkins (1937-42)

British Telecom

Died 2 January 2013 aged 86

G S (Geoff) Lambourn (1940-48)

British Rail, Pulsometer, National Grid &c

Died 4 January 2013 aged 81

K G (Kenneth) Smith (1927-36)

Actuary

Died 7 January 2013 aged 93

J W M (Mike) Smith (1937-47)

Teacher, Lecturer, Author and Past President ORA

Died 29 January 2013 aged 84

J (John) Periton (Staff 1959-71)

Schoolmaster

Died 8 February 2013 aged 83

A G (Alec) Parsons (1925-30)

Senior Area Manager Milwards and Sons Ltd

Died 17 February 2013 aged 98

I H (Imran) Contractor (1994-01)

Swaps Trader Royal Bank of Canada

Died 18 Feb 2013 aged 30

T C D (Trevor) Gadsby (1943-50)

Banker

Died 21 February 2013 aged 81

Col D U (David) Pollitt (RA Rtd) DL (1943-49)

Army Officer

Died 24 February 2013 aged 84

D A (David) Cherrett (1952-58)

Schoolteacher

Died 9 March 2013 aged 72

J J (John) Shorter (1945-49)

Director Blatchford

Died 13 March 2013 aged 76

G L (Lionel) Harvey (1945-55)

Director Lex Services

Died 16 March 2013 aged 76

Lt Col P R (Pat) Hemsley (REME Rtd) (1943-51)

Army Officer

Died 27 March 2013 aged 80

P V (Pete) Earthy (1936-45)

Electrical and Mechanical Engineer

Died 22 May 2013 aged 85

Major D J (Denis) Savill (1934-38)

Army Officer (Rtd)

Died 23 May 2013 aged 93

Gp Capt R (Ron) Whittam (1930-38)

RAF Officer (Rtd)

Died 23 May 2013 aged 91

R (Dick) House (1953-60)

Industrial Chemist

Died 21 June 2013 aged 70

Cdr M G K (Mike) Evans (1951-55)

Royal Naval Officer (Rtd) and Company Director

Died 15 July 2013 aged 76

J B (John) Levien (1928-34)

British Airways

Died 30 July 2013 aged 98

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



From the Editors



Whilst the future of this journal beyond 2014 remains unresolved, that old Phoenix, the **Reading School Magazine**, is making yet another attempt to rise from the ashes – which is most welcome news. Readers should have received *Floreat Redingensis* either in hard copy or email format. The current plan is for an annual production supported by two supplementary newsletters during the year. The latter, based on the increasingly comprehensive online School Newsletter, has recently had a trial in-house hard print run under the title *Floreat*. Discussion as to the amount of OR contribution is underway and,

meanwhile, Council has given authority to co-opted member **A D (Arthur) Truslove** (2003-08) to have a free hand as OR correspondent gathering news to go in the proposed new publications. The early emphasis will be on recent leavers and social networks are expected to provide a major source of information. However, Arthur will progressively seek all and any OR news and such recently neglected but traditional items such as weddings, births etc are expected to be included

Dr Edward Norman Morgan died at the age of 91 last November. He was the father and grandfather of ORs but Norman Morgan's own beginnings were in the valleys of South Wales, and his education via grammar school and Cardiff University took him to the eminence of the distinguished research scientist that he became.

He was a governor of the School for many years and a member of the Friends of Reading School. He was also a founder member of the Reading Foundation, but in addition to these sterling services, he rendered one greater still. As Chairman of the Parents Association he was instrumental in resisting the attempt of the ruling Labour Council in Reading to bring the School, and Kendrick, into the comprehensive system in the 1970s. He organised the petition of 53,000 local signatures that was presented in Downing Street and won the day.

Earlier in the year **Mrs Fay Carter** also died. She it was who was responsible, with Dr Morgan, for handing in that petition to Downing Street. Mrs Carter was another fighter for causes, as was her husband of 59 years, Peter, who died at the age of 88 a few months before her. He was the tireless campaigner for the victims of Thalidomide who won national recognition. To their son, Nick Carter, OR (1970-77) and to Dr Morgan's sons, Jeffrey Morgan (1967-74) and Howard Morgan (1969-77) we send condolences. They must surely all be very proud to have had such parents.

In applauding **Mr Ashley Robson's** appointment as Headmaster, on this page in the last issue, we referred to his schooling at Lord Williams' School, Thame. That should have read Lord Williams's School – a common error we understand, but do not excuse ourselves on that score. We also coupled Mr Robson's name with that of Dr Eppstein, because he, like Mr Robson, was already on the staff at Reading School when he was appointed Headmaster in 1894: the last such internal appointment. There is, it transpires, a remarkable coincidence; Dr Eppstein was also educated at Lord Williams's and, indeed, was the first president of The Old Tamensians Association when it was established in 1909.

Almost half a century ago, 1965 to be more precise, **F H (Frank) Terry** (Staff 1946-82) wrote, as Editor of the Reading School Magazine, *'Every attempt is made to keep track of ORs and their doings. Despite this, we are sometimes reproached by people who say 'There was nothing about it in the Magazine.' This is almost always because nobody told us. All ORs are cordially invited to write and tell the Editor of their doings and achievements, and we shall try to publish such news – so long as it is not downright discreditable!'* Thank you, Frank, for supplying a wording that is just as relevant to *The Old Redingensian* today (though even the discreditable might get a mention in these less upright times). We commend it for use by whoever the Editors may be in another fifty years time!

Writing in the School Magazine 22 years later, **H E J (John) Bristow**, Headmaster 1980-90, concluding a powerful piece on some who had devoted much to Reading School said *'there is one duty, to find something to serve greater than our own appetites. In the short time allotted to us here, we could do a great deal worse than serve Reading School'* To which we say amen.



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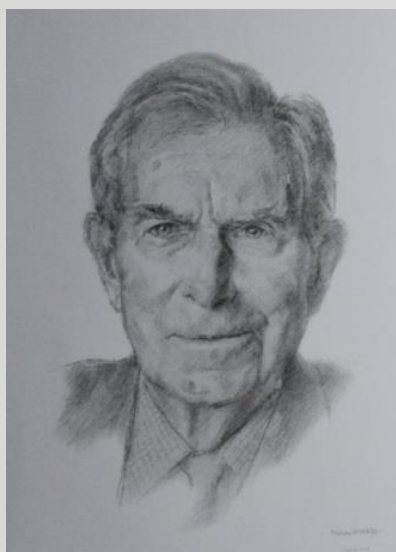
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The portrait of Sir Frank White (see p 44) on the front cover is by Michael Noakes, the distinguished Malvern-based English artist and portrait painter, who captures both likeness and character superbly in his portrayal. Michael Noakes was born in 1933 and educated at Downside School, Somerset (where the Headmaster from 1940-46 was Bishop Butler OR (1911-21), later Abbot of Downside) and the Royal Academy Schools, London. He has been President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and Chairman of the Contemporary Portrait Society. He is a Member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and a Freeman of the City of London. He has painted many of the world's leading figures. Among those who have sat for him are the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, as well as most other members of the Royal Family. We are grateful to Lady White for permission to reproduce the portrait of Sir Frank.